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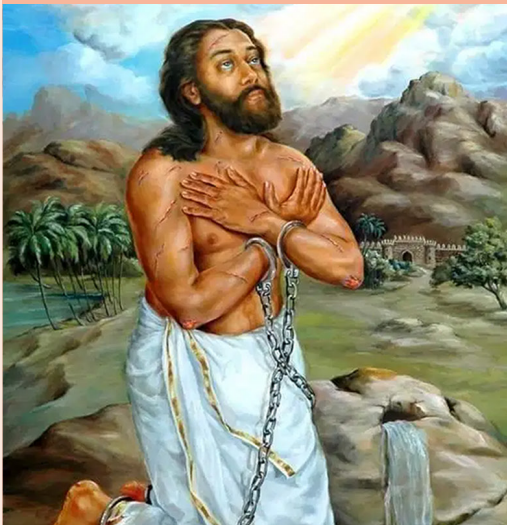


Our Lady of the Way

MAY 2021

CHENNAI JESUITS NEWS

VOLUME 02 | NO. 05



St. Devasahayam



Covid Swallowing People

Provincial's Message



To See All Things New in Christ

20 May 2021 is to hallmark the commencement of the 'Ignatian 500' celebrations globally. Fr. General invites all the Provinces to begin the Ignatian year 2021-2022 on that day, having the central theme of 'Seeing all things new in Christ'. According to him, the fruit that we desire in this Ignatian year is to take on the way of seeing of the Lord Jesus and adopt his poor and humble style of living. As individual Jesuits and as communities, we are invited to express our togetherness and our love for our Master on that day. If 'that day' had not been deigned and designed by God, history of humankind would have not come to know of an exemplary man and the Church would not have been gifted with a paragon of loyalty.

That one person himself (continues to make) made history and the legend goes on and on. By being part of the least Society of Jesus that he established, we become part of the great historic and legendary wisdom that he ignited. What was different in him that many others did not possess was his creative fidelity to God that was vividly expressed through tangible love for the poor. We know, how a cannon-ball transformed the chivalrous 'Íñigo López de Oñaz y Loyola' into St. Ignatius of Loyola. By hitting Ignatius, it actually hit the history. His personal conversion did not confine within himself, it led him to convert everyone who was around him, leading to communitarian conversion.

Keeping the imbibing of the Ignatian values at the centre, Fr. General also calls for a celebration of conversion at Individual, Communitarian and Institutional levels. As an apostolic body, facing new challenges today, this conversion ought to impel us to see all things new in Christ at all these three levels. We realize that this conversion needs to affect heavily our personal life, our community living and our apostolic activities. In this context, the invitation of Fr. General, to see all things new in Christ, gives us a new perspective to face the challenges by living out with courage and commitment. The inner struggle and conversion of St. Ignatius led him to a very close familiarity with God with the intense love which enabled him to find God in all things and to

face the challenges together with his companions as an apostolic body with a new vigour.

The second wave of Corona heavily pinches us. We have lost many of our Jesuit companions in our South Asian Conference. The pandemic has drastically changed our daily life and suspended many of our programmes and plans. It has started affecting the poor and the marginalized and it looks, as if it is going to be beyond our imagination. Through the mounting tensions, anxiety and fear of the Pandemic, God calls us to have the compassionate heart to be with the victims of Corona and to find the best possible ways of

comforting them. Let us faithfully place ourselves in the hands of Jesus, and move forward into an uncertain but hopeful future, confident that He is with us and that His spirit is guiding us to see all things new in Him.

The State Assembly election results have given us some relief. They confirm that darkness is not permanent. There will be always ways of experiencing light. Let us continue to be part of people who bring light to dispel the darkness of all kinds.

Jebamalai Irudayaraj



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

MAY 2021

- 03 Southern Provincials' Meeting - Online
- 05 Province Consult - Online
- 07 Governing Body Meeting, Loyola College, Chennai - Online
- 09 Superiors/Team Leaders Meeting - Online
- 11 A COVID-related Prayer Service/Adoration at each Community/Team from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm
- 13 Webinar on Appointments and Developments of Teachers in our Schools
- 15 Coordinators Meeting - Online
- 18 PAYANI - Scholastics Summer Meet - Online
- 20 10.30 am Online - Province Inaugural Programme of Ignatian Jubilee Year
06.00 pm Eucharistic Celebration at each Community

JUNE 2021

- 12 Blessing of the New LIBA Building
- 13 Province Consult
- 14 PALAVAI

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK THE WORLD OF FINANCE

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IGNATIAN YEAR PRAYER EVENT

General Curia in Rome informs that a prayer event for the Ignatian Year will be held on 23 May 2021 (Pentecost Sunday). Indian time 11.30 am. You are welcome to join in.

INAUGURATION OF IGNATIAN YEAR 500 : Due to the escalating situation of COVID-19, we change the mode of inauguration of 'Ignatian Year 500' and the Scholastics meet to online with a revised schedule. Province celebration of Jubilarians is postponed to a later date (probably in December) as normalcy returns.

COVID GUIDELINES : Friends, you are reminded to follow the covid guidelines given by Fr. Provincial (circular dated 6 May 2021). As on 5 May (from the month of April) about 35 CEN MDU Jesuits have contracted corona virus and are under treatment or home quarantine. Let us remain united in prayer.

TRANSFERS :

All the transfers are to be effected by June 1 at your convenience considering the lockdown situation. Kindly inform the Superior concerned.

Fr. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Marianathan C. as Coordinator : Pastoral Commission

ADDITIONAL MOBILE NUMBER

Fr. Lawrence Amalraj G. (USA)

Common Phone Number : 001 203 426 1014.

Address : Associate Pastor, Church of St. Lima of Rose, 46, Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470 USA

TRANSFER LIST - III

TRANSFER LIST – APOSTOLIC 2021-22		
NAME	FROM	TO
Fr. Albert William M.	LC, Vettavalam	St Mary's, Madurai
Fr. Arul P. Stanislaus	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Minister & Spiritual Dir., Satya Nilayam
Fr. Benedict Santosh V.	Anugraha, Dindigul	LC, Vettavalam
Fr. Dominic Jayakumar M.	LHSS, Kuppayanallur	Treasurer, Dhyana Ashram (PhD + Additional)
Fr. Joseph Antony Jacob M.S.	Canisius House, Myanmar	LC, Berchmans Illam
Fr. Leo Anand M.A.	Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam	PP, Thirumanur
Fr. Richard Hiruthyaraj John	SJC, Trichy	Dhyana Ashram, (Preparing to go to USA)
Fr. Sebastian Crossian	Vidyajyoti, Delhi	Arulagam, Harur + Tertianship (Sri Lanka)
Fr. Selvaraj Arulnathan	LC, Vettavalam	Secretary, LCV (additional)
Fr. Velankanni Arockiasamy S.	JMMEx, Kasthambadi	Dir: JMMEx, Kasthambadi

REPORTS**SUPERIORS/ TEAM LEADERS, COORDINATORS
MEETING – 08 & 09 APRIL 2021**

On 08 & 09 April 2021, the meeting of our Superiors/Team Leaders and coordinators was held online with the purpose to get the feel of the Chennai Province amidst all hardships, by sharing the achievements registered and the challenges encountered by the communities and commissions. It began with a prayer conducted by Mettala Team. Fr. Socius welcomed the gathering and Fr. Provincial greeted everyone and gave the dynamics.

Fr. Selvaraj who moderated the session invited Superiors, Team Leaders and Directors from social action committees to present the achievements and challenges of the communities. At end of their sharing, Fr. Selvaraj, requested the floor to share their observation about how province goes on.

Involvement of youngsters in the social action ministries was appreciated. The province members rose to the occasion to help out the needy during the COVID-19 pandemic which created tremendous impact among the people. There is a great joy in doing varieties of mission with limited resources. All the communities show progress in implementation.

We need to spell out the holistic approach based on the Apostolic Progress.

To the concern raised, how to make known the works done in each community, it was reminded that the Chemmadal would serve the purpose. To the clarity sought about the future master plan for the Province, it was said that the entire UAP and PAPs are our discerned apostolic plan till 2029.

The following questions were raised and left for later discussion:

- o Is there clarity at the Province level of Ideological, Strategic and Programmatic policies so that the issues are addressed in a systematic way?

- o How long will we be able to do our good works in a sustainable and systematic way? For this, are we preparing the personnel?

- o How have we spread geographically our mission? How are we facing financial constrains - any way of sharing of resources with other communities?

We had noon examen guided by Fr. Antony Robinson and the sharing of LS/TL was over by tea time.

At 6 p.m. Fr. Joe Arun moderated the session on sharing of Commission Coordinators. Our 11 commission coordinators and two committee directors presented their achievements and challenges reports.

The participants appreciated the good works of the commissions and their efforts to implement the PAPs in their respective commissions.

Concerns expressed:

- Life-threatening projects given to Adani group at Pazhavercadu / Pulicat area are dangerous and as our response we need to study the matter and offer adequate information to people.
- As the use of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is confusing, creating awareness regarding revival of ballot system.
- Fr. Arokia Dass presented five challenges for Spirituality Commission: Gender sensitivity, Spirituality does not attract, Charismatic Programme, Spiritual Exercise in secular forum, and need volunteers for 19th Annotation. Is there any way to go deeper and make it more popular by involving lay women to give 19th Annotation Retreat?

Fr. Marianathan conducted evening prayer wherein he helped the members to reflect the Emmaus experience of the Jesuit Chennai Province. Thanks to the moderators, and Secretaries Frs. Prabu and William.

Second day meeting began with a prayer by Fr. Darwin. Fr. Raj Irudaya moderated the session. Revision of Pay Scale of Domestic Employees was presented by Fr. Rayappan Innasi. He explained Rationale of Revision, Terminologies, Grades & Promotion, Annual Increment, Allowance, Employees State Insurance (ESI), Deduction, Gratuity and the Working conditions. And Fr. Jeyaseelan T. (MDU) clarified the doubts raised.

It was recommended to bear the education expenses of the domestic employees' children by the institution. Concern was expressed over the status of the campus sweepers and scavengers that they have to be given special privileges and their children's education has to be supported by the institution. Is there a possibility of clubbing of Grades to reduce discrepancy among skilled / semi-skilled / unskilled categories? Regarding offering of privileges we need to use our discretion without any bias.

Report of the Committee for pay revision of Management staff (Both teaching and Non – teaching of LC, Mettala and LC, Vettavalam) was presented by Fr. L. V. Kumar (MDU). As per the mandate given to the committee by Fr. Provincial, he presented on the present and future financial situation of these two colleges; reasonable and equal salary system based on their financial position; the pay revision for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

Clarity was sought on Points like variation between the qualified and unqualified teaching staff, the terms and conditions for the increment, period of revising the salary were raised. The committee will rework the regulations considering all the recommendations. “*Relationship with the management*” could be considered in the ‘*Terms and Conditions*’ for promotion; regarding increment amount it was suggested to fix in terms of percentage. Finally, it was decided that the two college officials and the community members will sit with the committee to rework and revise the staff salary scale. The revision of the new pay scale will be implemented from month of June 2021.

Fr. Paul Benedict moderated the following sessions. Fr. Yesumarian, presented the report of IACM and Paathaigal, the activities based on the PAP and planning of the Ignatian Year Celebrations.

Fr. Jerry shared the process of the planning for the Ignatian Year 500 Celebrations. The inauguration of the Ignatian year celebration will be on 20 May at San Thome Church. Then we gather at Dhyana Ashram for sharing and Province Jubilarians day. He shared about Common Programs between MDU & CEN such as, retreats, one day Ignatian seminar for IGFA, Publications etc. Suggestions came about encouraging philosophers and theologians to write and to have celebration with our parents in our communities.

Fr. Joseph Ignaci, presented the 2020 – 21 financial status and the expenses and the incomes both in local and FC accounts. Most of the communities have gone beyond the budgeted limits, and always the expenses increase, incomes remain the same. It was suggested to create Corpus Fund for every institution. Regarding the Mother Theresa Women Empowering Centre, it is good to continue as it is the only acceptable and possible ministry in Pondy. The ‘*non-cost-effective*’ expansion of JPLI building was done based on need to accommodate about 20 candidates.

Fr. Vasanthakumar explained the way he has got into work and the progress of the works. In spite of the unexpected pandemic he was able to keep in touch with the donors thorough the means like Flyers, Whatsapp messages, brochures.

Fr. Provincial thanked all the Participants for taking care of the communities and the institutions and for being the co – responsible persons in the administration of the province; he appreciated them for implementing the PAP effectively and their planning for the Ignatian Year Celebration. He was

proud of the efforts taken during corona lock-down to express our solidarity with the suffering people, to stand with Fr. Stan, organizing online programs and webinars, GBMs and publishing. He cautioned all of us to take care of ours from the second wave of pandemic.

Some useful takeaways from his Visitation experiences: openness and frank sharing, deep love for the Society of Jesus, Faith conviction, availability for any mission at any place, Systematic planning, Being responsible towards the work, and keeping the communities happy. Appealed to the leaders to take care of the persons, apostolate and community and to keep expenses within the budget; to share the information in the community; to avoid public comments on somebody; to keep updating Fr. Provincial on the works of the institutions and communities.

Shared the highlights of the JCSA meeting (online): changing scenario of the south Asia; Farmers strike, Privatization and religious intolerance etc; we need to reserve 5% of the personnel for the Conference level and 5% for universal Society; planning for the Ignatian year celebration with focus on the theme: To see all things new in Christ; addressing the abusive cases; Solidarity fund for formation; the role of women in our mission etc.

He appreciated all the achievements made last year and Fr. Joe Arun for coordinating the commissions and bringing out the implementation of PAP in a book format.

He opened a deliberation on the Province Patron Saint. Many are for St. John De Britto as our patron saint as he was working in our area and identified with our people. Final decision was left to the consult. Fr. Michael Ansaldo SJ will be announced Servant of God on 24 April at Pondicherry. This forum is of the opinion to initiate the process of conferring sainthood on Fr. Constantine Joseph Beschi SJ. A committee will be formed by Fr. Provincial.

Fr. Provincial gave a list of directives and updates of events. The province congregation will be invoked in the month of June end or July first week. Province congregation will take place in the month October from 14 to 17 Oct 2021. From 24 to 29 Oct 2021 JESA convention will be held at Shembaganur.

He thanked all Superiors and Team Leaders and Coordinators, Conveners of Various committees, Curia members, Loyola Community (Chennai), and Province officials.

The Socius thanked the moderator Fr. Paul Benedict, secretaries Frs. Antony Robinson and Kennedy. He thanked all who presented on various themes today

and all the members for their active participation. He also apologized for exceeding the scheduled time against our decision made in the last April meeting.
Socius

Final Vows at Christ the King Church, Loyola Campus, Chennai



10 April 2021 was a joyous day for our Mother Society, as six of (OUR BRETHREN) her sons (Frs. Antony Robinson J., (Berchmans Illam), ArokiaDass J., Baskar Antony S., Sahayaraj John Stanley (MDU) (Arul Kadal), Maria Packiam S., and Victor Roch G., (Loyola Community) pronounced their final profession. Fr. Ilanko Xavier, Socius, welcoming the gathering (the Jesuits residing in Chennai and a handful of lay guests), highlighted the importance of the Final Vows in the Society.

The six vovents were at the Altar joining Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial, presiding over the Eucharist with the theme “இயேசுவின் வழியில் இறைபாட்சியு பணியில்”. Fr. Baskar Antony S., in his homily, referred to the history of ‘New Jesuit Madura Mission’ and the need for continuing to hold the people in our heart and thus remaining grateful to God. The offerings of the vovents signified the Province Apostolic Preferences and the quality of life, we, Jesuits should have in and through our mission. As they pronounced their vows to the Lord, those assembled must have rededicated themselves to lead our consecrated life. At the end of the Mass, the entire congregation joined the melodious choir headed by Fr. Wenishraj Rayappan in singing our traditional “Take and Receive”. On behalf of the Vovents, Fr. Sahayaraj John Stanley thanked the gathering. The dinner arranged by Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan, Director of Loyola Hostel, was sumptuous and Loyola and Berchmans community deserve to be appreciated for making all the necessary arrangements under the able coordination of Fr. Sahayaraj Vijayan.

Zenith

CHENNAI: BERCHMANS ILLAM

With the rise in COVID-19 cases all the educational institutions resorted to online learning, the final year UG & PG scholastics started their classes in virtual mode. The newly ordained deacons exercised their spiritual duties by offering their services during the Holy Week, and then they went for their home visit. On 10 April, Fr. Antony Robinson professed his final vows. Four of our Scholastics donated blood.

On 25 April, we gratefully celebrated the 88th birthday of Fr. Rodrigues James. After the Spanish



course at Loyola College, Mettala, the first year theologians arrived at Berchmans Illam. Fr. Prabhu (AND) of Viscom Department and Sch. Biren (JAM) of Zoology Department brought laurels by securing 1st rank in the PG and UG courses respectively.

Vimal

CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE

LCC: Fr. Francis Xavier P. delivered a series of webinars: Two-day animation programme for the international administrators of Apostolic Carmelites on Biblical Leadership, Religious Life, Apostolic Priority, and Spiritual Conversation. He gave an online talk on “*Migrants in the time of Pandemics*” for an international conference conducted by the Commerce Dept. of Loyola, Chennai. He was invited to offer a webinar on Stress Management for the faculty improvement programme jointly organized by AICTE and Easwari Engineering College. Under the auspices of Jesuit Webinar, Fr. Maria Arul Raj A. and Fr. Francis Xavier P. delivered a well-attended talk on ‘*Chennai-Based Gana Songs*’ and ‘*Healing the broken World: Ignatian Leadership Perspectives*’ respectively.

LCAS: On 15 April, Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE) established by Fr. Francis Xavier P. (Founder-Director of LIFE) celebrated its silver Jubilee with Prof. Dr. S. Gowri, Vice- Chancellor, University of



Madras as the chief guest. Frs. Danis Ponniah, Provincial (MDU), and Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial (CEN), were the special guests of honour.

On 15 & 16 April, Fr. Louis Arockiaraj, Director, outreach department of service-learning organised webinar on the topics “*Plight of Farmers and Our Response*” and “*Influence of Media and Its Impacts*”, respectively.

On 17 April, the Jesuit Management, staff and students of Loyola College, Chennai celebrated the



96th College-Day, where Padma Shri Dr. V. Mohan, Chairman and Chief of Diabetology, Dr. Mohan’s Diabetes Specialties Centre, Chennai was the chief guest. Dr. C. Jayakumar, Vice president and Head, Corporate Human Resources, Larsen and Toubro Limited, Mumbai was the guest of Honour.

Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after the assembly Elections on 6 April for six constituencies of Chennai, are being safeguarded in Loyola Campus.

LICET: On 8 & 13 April, LICET has organized orientation on Fablab to all II and III year students. On 12 April, LICET pattarai- the students club conducted the ‘*Mentee Conclave*’ to recruit the freshers for mentorship programme.

On 16 April, Mr. Sivaraja Ramanathan, Founder and CEO of Nativelead was the resource person for the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme for I and II year students organized by the Entrepreneurship Development Cell in association with the Institution’s Innovation Council.

As part of Industry Academia Conclave, the departments have conducted panel discussions on various topics such as, Technology in Nation-building, Technology in Service Delivery, Passion- How does that drive us, Women in Mechanical industry etc.

On 22 April Fr. Francis Xavier P. launched the revamped website of LECET. The design and maintenance of the website was done by a LICET alumnus and current students. Six faculty members and three students were trained on 3D printing by RémyDucros, ICAM Fablab Manager. LICET Turbonites secured 5th place in Mega All-Terrain Vehicle (electric and combustion) championship held in Goa.

LIBA: On 27 March, at our “Annual Convocation 2021” with Mr. K. Moses, Managing Director, Allison Transmissions as the Chief Guest, 135 graduands received their diplomas. Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial, felicitated and blessed the new graduands urging them to develop competence, professionalism and the right attitude to excel in their lives.

On 14 April, Fr. Joe Arun, Director -LIBA launched the online ERP portal marking a historic milestone in the process of automating systems across different internal departments. This would significantly enhance availability of data for decision-making and accreditation purposes and materialise the vision of building dashboards in future with analytics developed from the data captured by the ERP system.

On 21 April, LIBA organized an online FDP on “Thesis Writing” in collaboration with Assumption University, Thailand. More than 77 participants attended from different national and international academic institutions.

IDCR: As part of the Global Dialogue between Franciscans and Jesuits, a talk was arranged on the Challenges Encountered by St. Francis and St. Ignatius. The resource persons were Fr. Christopher John, Minister General, Anglican Franciscan Order and Fr. Ilanko Xavier, Socius to Provincial.

Zenith

JESUIT MIGRANTS SERVICE (JMS) & LOYOLA RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICE (LRRS)

Palm Sunday and Easter Masses were arranged for the migrants at Mannurpet and Marimalai Nagar with Frs. Henry (JAM) and Amal (DEL). There was a good participation. As the Migrant children were not able to attend their regular classes, tarpaulins and blackboards were distributed to our evening tuition centers for facilitating the learning process.



Medical Aid was provided to three migrants for treating brain hemorrhage, operation of Cybacious cyst and the intensive care on delivery case through the generosity of BATCF.

Loyola Shelter Homes: On 3 April, SMC meeting was organized at both the shelters at Koyambedu and Chepauk in order to give them awareness about their rights to vote. The demerits of alcohol addiction were explained and they were requested to follow the rules of the Government in fighting against corona in their work places. In the month of April, six of the residents got reintegrated, six rehabilitated, three got Aadhar and 3 employment linkage.

William

HARUR: ARULAGAM

Community: On 5 April, Fr. Ignatius Britto, our Team Leader, conducted a month-long Ignatian retreat to the Tertian Sisters of the Congregation of Coimbatore Presentation at Coimbatore. On 22 April, with the view to improving the network with the social service instituted and conducted by Mr. Kulandai Francis, the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee of 2012, the founder and director of Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP) Krishnagiri, donated a generator for the school. Fr. Paul Benedict, the Headmaster, presented the short history of Jesuit Harur Mission to him.

Parish: For the First Time, the Jesuits at Harur, celebrated the Holy Week in the Parish. On Maundy Thursday, the washing of feet was done with both men and women. On Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross



were enacted by more than fifty parishioners. The entire Jesus' passion narrative moved the hearts of people and brought them to tears. The faith of the parishioners was made more visible in their observing a traditional parish custom of grand silence till Easter. On this day, twenty children received the First Holy Communion and seven children were baptized. The whole ceremony of the Holy Week celebrations was recorded and telecast to the parishioners later.

On 05 April, three of our novices Immanuel, Prince and Kalai (MDU) returned to our novitiate, after completing their pastoral experiment.

School: The practical exams were conducted for the class 12 students. A moving and meaningful farewell function was organised for the out-going students of our school, who in turn expressed their gratefulness to their alma mater. The event was marked with planting of saplings in the campus to remind them



of their student-life. It is a fine gesture practised by late Tamil comedian Vivek. As per the directives of School Education Department we have suspended classes held on offline mode. Our hostel students were sent home.

Farm: While Fr. John Paul blessed the renovated workers' quarters at Allalapatti, Fr. Mag Bay de Lawrence declared it open. A sumptuous meal was prepared and served to our domestic workers appreciating their services to the community.

Tony Ajit

KILPENNATHUR: AHAL CENTRE

On 14 April, we celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti to commemorate the birth of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, gratefully recollecting his contribution to the nation, especially to the marginalized. Several sections of people, such as Indian Polymath, Civil Right Activists, officials of Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangams, Animators of Social Education Centres, and coordinators of contact villages participated. They pledged that they would follow the path of



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in working for the empowerment and liberation of their own people. Such celebrations we plan and perform are sure to instil in the assembled the responsibility to act against the social evils like casteism. At few villages like Reddiyarpalayam and Poyyanandal, the members of Arunthathiar Makkal Nala Sangams held the celebration among themselves.

On 12 April, with the view to encouraging the students, members and animators of Cultural Troupe, Skill Development Centres, Social Education Centres, Parish Choir and AHAL to contribute more to the growth and welfare of the AHAL Centre and its initiatives, an exposure tour was arranged to Pichavaram mangrove forest, Chidambaram Natarajar Temple and Cuddalore Silver beach.

Raja Jesu Raj

PALAVAI (JESIM): TINDIVANAM

On 14 April, the village animators, participating at the one-day seminar we organized to celebrate the birth of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, benefitted by the talk of Fr. Antony Anand on 'Ambedkarum Adithattu Makkalin Viduthalaium' and the presentation by Sch. Michael Sudherson on 'Ambedkar Anaivaru kumanavar'. A picture of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was given



to each participant. On 15 April, the village animators of PALAVAI celebrated the birth of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at our Evening Study Centres. At a three-day (from

16 to 18 April) orientation to the arts of our culture, Mr. Lawrence from Tiruvallur taught the members of our PALAVAI Velicham Cultural Troupe, some new steps of parayattam, aruvadaioyil, parai beats etc.

Michael Sudharson

METTALA: LOYOLA COLLEGE

On 22 April, on the Feast Day of Mary, Mother of Society of Jesus, our community members planted saplings in front of the main building, adjacent to the playground and College canteen. On that day we had unexpected shower for nearly 30 minutes.

On 24 April, Fr. Thangadurai, now in-charge of the Mullukurichi Church, a sub-station of Koneripatty Parish entrusted to us, Jesuits at Loyola College, Mettala, by the Salem Diocesan Administration, makes all the necessary arrangements to have a Holy Mass conducted by Frs. B. Jeyaraj, Poondy Rajan, Rajarathinam and



Pon Ruben. It is an important spiritual event where 13 children received their First Holy Communion. Further, it is the first major spiritual celebration, after our taking charge of this sub-station.

Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam, Province Coordinator for Higher Education Commission completed the process of recruiting staff for three colleges of the Province. 16 newly recruited teaching staff will join Loyola College, Mettala, for the academic year 2021-22.

Maria Joseph Mahalingam

METTUPALAYAM: ARRUPPE IILAM

PARAN: MAKKAMPALAYAM

Parish: From 10 to 12 April, we celebrated our parish festival. On the final day, all our parishioners took part at a grand festival Mass and at the lunch arranged. Fr. Maria Joseph, VF, was the main



celebrant. The local parishioners, priests and religious participated. Fr. Rajarathinam, Treasurer, Loyola College, Mettala blessed the festive cars. The presence of Jesuits from Mettala doubled our joy. The car procession was limited to the church campus.

PARAN: On 10 April, at a meeting cum training for the staff of Evening Study Centres, Sch. Vivekraj was introduced as the new coordinator for Evening Study Centres. He succeeds Sch. Naveen Kumar moving to Loyola College, Chennai. Creating awareness on COVID-19 was an item discussed at the meeting.

On 21 April, Priests and religious were present in good number as Most Rev. Dr. Amalraj, Bishop of



Ootacamund blessed and declared open the new bell-tower at the Parish. During the Mass three people (a young girl and 2 boys) received their first Holy Communion. We thank Fr. Provincial and Team for their contribution and support for the bell tower.

On 22 April, we organized a meeting for the community leaders of Urali Makkal Sangam and discussed the process of getting welfare cards for the tribal people. Mr. Edwin, PARAN staff gave an awareness talk on the ill effects of New Farm Laws. Soon after the meeting, the leaders and PARAN staff met the special Tahsildhar, at the taluk office, in view

of welfare cards for the tribal community.

Rural students are helped to attend the online classes by accommodating them in Don Bosco Hostel, Kadambur. PARAN has been accompanying 31 women Self Help Groups. In 2020-2021 financial year, we have encouraged women to repay the loans of about Rs. 1,55,000/-. Women are encouraged to get loans from SHG and repay them regularly to free them from the traps of money-lenders in the hills.

Vivek

VADAMELPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY

True to the maxim “Generosity is the hallmark of our Ignatian Charism”, we, the Jesuits of LAV, provided especially during the Holy Week our generous support to the spiritual needs of the parishioners of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Maraimalai Nagar. Fr. Paul John, the Parish Priest, appreciated in public our availability to provide spiritual and liturgical services to the laity, especially during the Corona lock-down days.

On 15 April, with the rich experience gained in conducting the online classes, necessitated by the spread of corona virus, and equipped with the tools of teaching-learning process through virtual platforms, we began our academic year 2021-22 for the classes from Kindergarten to class 12.

On the same day, we had a memorable farewell function for Sch. Frankly who proceeds to the



Gregorian University, Rome for his theological studies; and also for Ms. Merlina, who has resigned as PG assistant in our Academy after eight years of service, in view of her marriage in May this year.

On 24 April, we conducted the recruitment and selected four new staff members. Fr. Paul Benedict,



the Province Coordinator of the Secondary Education Commission guided the whole process. Sch. Hansel due to join our community this year, came here en route to his home visit to deposit his luggage. He is expected back here on May 4.

Frankly

New Books



ஜெரி
நேசயித
யோசேபு
வைகரை பதிப்பகம்



ஜெரி
இன்றும்
என்றும்
வைகரை பதிப்பகம்

- Fr. Philip Crotty** (89/71 HAZ) passed away on 06 April 2021 at Sydney, Australia.
- Fr. Varghese Paul Chollamadam** (77/56 GUJ) passed away on 10 April 2021 at Vadodara (COVID related).
- Fr. John Joseph Amaladoss** (75/58 AND) passed away on 14 April 2021 at Guntur.
- Fr. Jesuraj Arputham** (60/39 GUJ) passed away on 16 April 2021 at Dindigul (COVID-related).
- Fr. Erwin Lazarado** (58/37 GUJ) passed away on 17 April 2021 at Vadodara (COVID-related).
- Fr. Jerry Sequeira** (73/54 GUJ) passed away on 18 April 2021 in Ahmedabad (COVID-related).
- Fr. Sylvester Kerketta** (62/42 DUM) passed away on 18 April 2021 at Dakaita, Jharkhand (COVID-related).
- Fr. Francis Guntipilly** (72/54 KAR) passed away on 18 April 2021 in Bengaluru (COVID-related).
- Fr. George Karamayil** (75/53 PAT) passed away on 21 April 2021 at Patna (COVID-related).
- Fr. Severius Ekka** (82/60 RAN) passed away on 22 April 2021 at Mandar near Ranchi.
- Fr. Srinivasan T. Joseph** (89/69 MDU) passed away on 22 April 2021 at Dindigul (COVID-related).
- Fr. Panoor C. Joseph** (85/66 MDU) passed away on 22 April 2021 at Dindigul.
- Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj** (41/22 KAR) passed away on 22 April 2021 at Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, Bengaluru.
- Br. Clestus Baxla** (53/30 MAP) passed away on 24 April 2021 at Mandar (COVID positive).
- Fr. Samuel Marandi** (56/32 DUM) passed away on 24 April 2021 at Dakaita, Jharkhand (COVID positive).
- Fr. Augustine Peedikamala** (82/60 DEL) passed away on 24 April 2021 at Delhi.
- Fr. Sushil Kujur** (58/35 DUM) passed away on 24 April 2021 at Dakaita, Jharkhand (COVID positive).
- Fr. Sushil Sah** (67/47 PAT) passed away on 24 April 2021 at Patna (COVID positive).
- Fr. Peter Terrence Jones** (90/66 HAZ) passed away on 25 April 2021 at St. Stanislaus College Sitagarha, Hazaribag.
- Fr. Royce Wenceslaus Macedo** (89/71 AND) passed away on 25 April 2021 in Secunderabad.
- Fr. Mangal Kerketta** (46/23 DAR) passed away on 25 April 2021 at Siliguri (COVID positive).
- Br. Modestus Tirkey** (72/53 RAN) passed away on 25 April 2021 at Namkum (COVID-related).
- Fr. Hilary Lobo** (80/59 JAM) passed away on 26 April 2021 TMH, Jamshedpur (COVID-related).
- Fr. Joy Karayampuram** (65/41 PAT) passed away on 29 April 2021 at Patna (COVID-related).
- Fr. Thomas Thekkethala Joseph** (74/56 HAZ) passed away on 29 April 2021 at Ranchi (COVID-related).
- Fr. John Tirkey** (59/35 RAN) passed away on 29 April 2021 at Ranchi (COVID-related).
- Fr. Christopher Kerketta** (68/45 HAZ) passed away on 29 April 2021 at Ranchi (COVID-related).
- Fr. Gyan Prakash Minj** (46/25 RAN) passed away on 30 April 2021 at Ranchi.
- Fr. Saju Bastian** (59/37 HAZ) passed away on 03 May 2021 at Samford Hospital at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Fr. Cyril Rajesh Tigga** (84/62 MAP) passed away on 05 May 2021 at Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur.
- Fr. Ramesh Tribhuvan** (49/25 PUN) passed away on 06 May 2021 at Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar.
- Fr. Isaac Tete** (66/46 RAN) passed away on 6 May 2021 at St. Anne's Hospital, Ulhatu, Jharkhand.
- Fr. Anil Dayal Kujur** (60/35 HAZ) passed away on 10 May 2021 at Holy Cross hospital, Ambikapur (COVID-related).
- Fr. Antony Raj Perinbam** (76/57 MDU) passed away on 10 May 2021 at Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai (COVID-related).
- Mrs. Celine Victor** (80) elder sister of Fr. Lourduraj Arokiasamy, passed away on 14 April 2021 at Chennai.
- Ms. Josephine Sundari** (72) eldest sister of Fr. Dominic Royce (MDU), passed away on 01 May 2021 at CMCH, Vellore.
- Mr. Paul** (63) elder brother of Fr. Dominic Jayakumar, passed away on 04 May 2021 at Villupuram.

FR. SRINIVASAN T. JOSEPH (1931-2021)

Fr. Joe Srinivasan (90/70) was born on 19.09.1931 in Tiruchirappalli as the second child (first son) in a family of five. His father was Prof. Thomas Srinivasan of the Economics Department of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, who served as MP (Rajya Sabha) for one term when Mr. K. Kamaraj was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. His mother was Mrs. Martha Srinivasan. Coming from a family of educators, Fr. Joe and all his siblings were teachers and professors in schools and colleges. He himself was an alumnus of St. Joseph's, Tiruchi (secondary and Bachelor's level), Loyola, Chennai (PG studies), St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai (B.Ed.), Boston, Massachusetts (Masters and Ph.D.).

Fr. Joe entered the novitiate on 11.06.1951 and was ordained a priest on 24.03.1965 in Pune. His first assignment, after ordination was to teach in St. Xavier's College of Education (SXCE), Palayamkottai from 1971 to 1973. He then became the Principal of the college and served there from 1973 to 1985. As Principal, he was the first one to introduce social work for the B.Ed. students and he, himself, used to accompany the students to work with them in the villages. He was the one who built up SXCE into a premier institution for teachers' education in Tamil Nadu, much sought after by the youth who opted for teaching as a profession or a vocation and by the schools which were looking for competent and committed teachers. He was always ready to help the poor students. He would personally identify the deserving and help them. He would arrange for jobs in schools for the deserving students after they got their B.Ed. degree. He was a strict disciplinarian, imparted good qualities and moulded thousands of excellent teachers with a high sense of social responsibility.

Fr. Joe was also the Rector of St. Xavier's Institutions, Palayamkottai, from 1973 to 1978. As the Rector, he never hesitated to get help from others to manage problems that the campus had to face in the 1970's.

He was the pioneer and founder of Pope John

Paul II College of Education (a diocesan institution) in Pondicherry and served there as Principal from 1987 to 1992. He served also as Principal of Loyola College of Education, Namachi, Sikkim (1994-1995). He worked as well in Kohima Region (1996-1998) first at St. Paul's Teachers' Training Institute, Phesama, and then at St. Joseph's College, Jakhama, both in Nagaland. In the northeast, besides his college work, he was available for any ministry in the parishes or religious houses. Everyone there was impressed and edified by his desire to serve at that age and adjust with the new situation which he found pretty difficult.



Coming back from the northeast, his main ministries included being the Secretary and later Controller of Examinations in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, teacher in Vidyaniketan, South Indian Common Juniorate, and teacher of English in the pre-novitiate at Vilangudi. He also had short stints in DACA and St. Mary's, Madurai. Finally, he was sent to Beschi Illam in 2016 to

begin his real retirement from service.

Fr. Joseph Srinivasan suffered from severe fever on 7 April 2021. When diagnosed with COVID symptoms, he was admitted to COVID ward in St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul, for further treatment and had intensive care from 8th to 15th of April. Though discharged, he was quarantined and under treatment. His condition was in constant fluctuation as the days progressed. Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj administered to him the Sacrament of the Sick on April 20. In the early hours of April 22nd, Sr. Kiran, attended to him as he suffered from an acute difficulty in breathing and put him on Oxygen support. It was to no avail and he passed away peacefully at 8.25 a.m. Since he was in his post-COVID recuperation, it was decided to organize a funeral following COVID burial protocols on the same day. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Beschi cemetery, after the prayer of committal by Fr. Provincial. R.I.P.

S.M. John Kennedy

FR. PANOOR C. JOSEPH (1935-2021)

Fr. Panoor C. Joseph was born the eldest in a family of four children to Mr. P.F. Chacko and Mrs. Mariamma on 14 August 1935 at Karikkattoor in the Diocese of Changanasery, Kerala. He grew up



in a very pious Siro-Malabar Rite family. After completing schooling in Kerala, his father wanted him to become a Diocesan priest, but he decided to become a Jesuit and joined the Pre-novitiate in 1953 at Alleppey, followed by the first year Novitiate at Shembaganur in

1954. He continued his second year Novitiate at Beschi, Dindigul. He belonged to the first batch to inaugurate the Novitiate at Beschi in 1955.

After his Ordination in 1969, he had spent most of his life in the parishes engaging in the integral Socio-Pastoral and Spiritual ministries. When he took up the office of Parish Priest at Alavanthankulam in 1973, the people in and around the village were worst affected by a severe drought. He with the support of the Tirunelveli Social Service Society distributed wheat and oil for work to the people of different religions and castes and protected them from hunger and malnutrition. Fr. Francis P. Xavier, as Provincial, in his letter to Fr. Panoor dated 24 July 2000 wrote: "You built up the unifying spirit among the people and were able to get things done with the support and cooperation of the people." He helped them all to become economically independent through his innovative ideas. One such idea was to introduce Jasmine flower cultivation in and around the village.

In Alavanthankulam, he built a big church with the generous contribution of parishioners from 1983 to 1984. Even today the church stands as a second biggest church in Palayamkottai Diocese. He also built another beautiful church in Viragalur during his stint there as Parish Priest (1984-1991). Practically every day before Mass, he used to sit in the confessional and help people experience the

love and mercy of God. Through his simplicity and holiness of life, he promoted nearly 50 vocations from Alavanthankulam to different religious orders (including eight Jesuit vocations).

He also established a dispensary with the support of CIC Sisters to provide health care services to the neighbouring villages and named it after Fr. Leveil, the servant of God who was his role model in pastoral ministry. He strived hard to empower the poor particularly the Dalits in and through education. As Parish Priest in Alavanthankulam, he upgraded the Middle School to High School in 1996 and to Higher Secondary in 1999, getting the necessary government recognition.

Today, the people of Alavanthankulam and Viragalur look up to him as a great prophet, missionary and visionary who promoted self-sufficiency, self-respect and self-governance. Fr. M. Devadoss, as Provincial, in his letter to Fr. Panoor dated 29 April 2010 wrote: "You truly upheld the dignity of your parishioners by promoting self dependence and Yes, we can attitude."

After completing 40 successful years of pastoral ministry, he was assigned for spiritual ministries in Palamalai, Manalur and Sirumalai estates before being transferred to Beschi in 2018. From February 2021 onwards, on and off he was taken to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment before his health began to deteriorate rapidly and he breathed his last on 22 April 2021 at 10.20 a.m., barely two hours after Fr. Joseph Srinivasan had passed away at Beschi Illam.

On the same day in the afternoon, after the funeral Mass presided over by Fr. Danis Ponniah, our Provincial, the mortal remain of Fr. Panoor were taken to Alavanthankulam where they were received and taken to the church led by 60 motorcyclists in two rows with the Church bells announcing his return to his final resting place. On the following day, after his body was taken in procession through the streets and a solemn funeral Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy, Bishop of Palayamkottai, with all the parishioners and Fr. Panoor's family members in attendance, the mortal remains of Fr. Panoor were laid to rest in front of the Church built by him.

John Michael & Vargheesh Antony

**TO SERVE BEYOND BOUNDARIES...
(HOMILY OF FR. AROCKIASAMY ANTONY S. ON HIS FINAL VOWS DAY)**

'To serve beyond boundaries...' is not about the geographical boundary alone. There are plenty of boundaries around us in the name of caste, creed, culture, religion, social status, etc. Unfortunately we don't want to go beyond them as we want to lead a 'so called' comfortable, undisturbed and tension-free life. Our Master and friend, the Lord Jesus was very different and unique. He broke all boundaries possible to implant the love of God in every human being. Our founder and all our forefathers reached out to the people according to the signs of the time breaking all barriers. That fire has been kindling me too, to go beyond boundaries last 27 years.

During my pastoral experience in 1996 at Sirugambaiyur, one of the substations of Oriyur parish, I was under police custody in Thiruvadani police station when I joined the village women to demand drinking water for the village. As it was getting dark, the police tried to send away the women from there; but they refused to move saying, 'we will leave the place if only you send our brother, our son'. Jesuits from Oriyur came to my rescue after knowing the incident. Thus I personally experienced the love of the mother Society in the novitiate itself. I have got the best treatment whenever I was sick. My provincials, superiors and friends have been encouraging, supporting and travelling with me to be fruitful in my mission. Unfathomable love of my Jesuit friends and the faith sharing among us lead me closer to God and His people. Starting from Sirugambaiyur, I continue to cherish the love of people with and for whom I work. My journey with the children and students from the periphery and beyond shapes me to cross many borders.

Is 11:6-8 invite us to break all kinds of barriers in our daily and routine life. It may sound utopian to think of the rivals coming together; but do we not see it happening occasionally in some places. It may be normal for a cat to hide itself from a dog; but we witness that some dogs and cats eat together; even they feed each other. Yes, if we think and go beyond our limitedness we could treasure the differences among us.

The Good Samaritan in Lk 10:25-37 invites us to transcend ourselves. He not only gives first-aid to the wounded man but also stays for the night and cares for him; he still goes further to care for him even in his absence and gives money to the innkeeper and promises to pay him more if necessary. What prevents me to go beyond? Is it my own selfish motives, likes and dislikes or even well admired principles, rules and regulations? The Good Samaritan challenges me not only to go to the boundaries but also to go beyond the boundaries.

I wondered at the gypsies (Narikuravars) selling beads and living in the bus stands in my childhood. I also observed from my childhood that some people lived at the boundaries of the villages. I was asking myself and others, 'why should some people live in such a condition?' Society's formation enabled me to find answer for those questions. Society of Jesus challenged me to do what others cannot do, go where others cannot go and be the face of the faceless people. Ignatian 'Magis' also means to go beyond. Even if my own principles are against me to serve beyond boundaries, I feel that I am invited to break them also through this final commitment.



Ignatius 500

500th Anniversary
of the CONVERSION OF
ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

400th Anniversary
of the CANONISATION OF
IGNATIUS & FRANCIS XAVIER

Focus : To See All Things New in Christ
From 20 May 2021 to 31 July 2022
JESUIT CHENNAI PROVINCE



Ignatius



To see all things NEW in Christ



FR. GENERAL, 29 SEP 2020

“...It is my desire that at the heart of this Ignatian year we would hear the Lord calling us, and we would allow him to work our conversion, inspired by the personal experience of Ignatius”

St Ignatius underwent conversion not once, but many times in life.

Listed below are four 'cannonball experiences' that called for his conversion at different moments

1. THE PAMPLONA BULLET

● Reminds us of his first conversion after his leg broken was at Pamplona, and this invites us to give our **CONSENT TO REALITY** - 'When what I imagine collides with the reality I face, do I think the world has ended?'



2. THE INQUISITION BULLET

● Reminds us of how he was forbidden to give the Spiritual Exercises and to complete his studies in Spain, because of the suspicions of the Inquisition, and this invites us to give our **CONSENT TO TIME** - 'Do I have the patience to move forward step by step in the divine plan entrusted to me?'



3. THE VENETIAN BULLET

● Reminds us of how he and his companions were prevented from going to Jerusalem because of the war with the Turks, and this invites us to give our **CONSENT TO SITUATION** - 'Do I learn to be open to anything that the Spirit accommodates, even in the face of my well-established projects?'



4. THE ROMAN BULLET

● Reminds us of how Ignatius, the indefatigable pilgrim, accepted to remain sedentary in Rome, at the service of an expanding religious body, and this invites us to give our **CONSENT TO FIND GOD IN WHAT I AM ASSIGNED TO** - 'Do I accept what He wants to give me and not desire for what I want to possess?'



What are the cannonballs in my life today that call my attention for conversational experiences?
What newness that I wish to see in my own self as a result of these moments of conversion?

Courtesy: Sahayaraj Vijayan



Two things played a pivotal role in the conversion of St. Ignatius: Cannonball took Ignatius to experience conversion from worldly things and the books, the life of Jesus and the life of saints for the mission of God. Ignatius experienced a self-renewal with the effect of changing inwardly. He began to see all things new in Christ. This entire process was initiated and handled by the Lord Himself.

From history, we learn that the conversion of Ignatius is a learning experience for all of us. In that episode of the life of Ignatius, we could envisage the image of ourselves. The cannonball-hit Ignatius' life teaches us that our plans, dreams and hopes can be shattered by an unexpected coincidence but there is always a way forward with the master plan of God. For Ignatius, the cannonball moment proved to be a call for a new path not as an abrupt end of the old but of the beginning of the new beginning.

This Corona pandemic has put forth in front of us an unprecedented uncertainty about the future. This Corona cannonball situation in a way has shattered the vision of every individual, but amidst this disappointment and frustration, we are called to see the marvels of God. We need to understand that

there is a new future and a new hope for us even in the midst of tragedies.

The call to conversion is the opening scene of the Gospel (Mk 1:15). St. Ignatius endured conversion of both mind and heart and thereby found the way to eternal life. This is reflected in the Kingdom exercises of the Spiritual Exercises where the Eternal King calls for further conversion of those listening to him. Their choices must be based on their listening to the King and these choices paved the way for a new life, the life in fullness.

St. Ignatius' conversion becomes a very significant one owing to the U-turn that happened in his life at Pamplona. His vision and dream got a total change. He never sought to impress the princess or any other ladies but Our Lady. He never sought his glory but always the Greater Glory of God. His entire life became anew, a new life that he had never thought about or even imagined earlier; all because of that one choice that he made to follow the Lord, letting the spark within his heart turn into a rage of fire that enkindled other fires to set the whole world on fire with love. Let us imbibe the same spirit that St. Ignatius had.

Jayaraj, Manickam, Williams