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Fr. Louis Marie Léveil



St. John Berchmans



Fr. Pedro Arrupe

NOVEMBER 2019

# MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

## From the Provincial's Desk



The JCSA meeting (Ranchi, October 21-29) began in the evening of October 21st with a traditional tribal dance performed in front of Manresa Jesuit House by the students of Jesuit institutions to welcome the JCSA Major Superiors. Most Rev. Felix Toppo, S.J., Archbishop of Ranchi, a special invitee to this event, welcomed and felicitated the Major Superiors and urged the Jesuits to a greater commitment to the cause of the poor.

Presentations followed by deliberations among the Zonal Provincials on the following issues formed the main items on the JCSA Ranchi agenda.

- (i) Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults: Spirituality of Care with a special focus on the findings of the 'Baseline Global Online Survey' and with a particular reference to South Asian reality by Fr. John Guiney and Ms. Michelle Hennessy from the SJ-Safe Desk recently created by Fr. General under the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat in the Roman Curia
- (ii) REGAE-II: The consolidated report with the conclusions of the Bengaluru Meeting October 2019, by Frs. Franco Fernando, Wendell D'Cruz and Siji Varghese
- (iii) Apostolic Planning and JCSA Networks
- (iv) JCSA/JRS Mission Outreach: Afghanistan by Fr. Stan Fernandes, Country Director, JRS-Afghanistan
- (v) Jharkhand Socio-Political Situation Today: Response of the Society and the Church by Mr. Benjamin Lakra, retired IAS officer, and Mr. Sanjay Basu Malik who works with Jungle Bachao Andolan, an NGO.

All these presentations were followed by Spiritual Conversation in mixed and zonal groups and subsequent deliberations in the plenaries.

On the basis of REGAE-II recommendations, the JCSA approved and decided on the following:

1. The Conference Apostolic Challenges/Preferences which include a. Peace and Reconciliation, b. Quality Education in accordance with the Jesuit Tradition, c. Ecology and Justice, d. Ignatian Spirituality, and e. Accompanying Youth
2. Role and Function of JCSA
3. Role of the President of JCSA
4. Restructuring of Secretariats
5. Zonal Apostolic Preferences
6. Redrawing of Province Boundaries
7. Restructuring of Province Apostolates
8. Apostolic Planning in the Provinces which are yet to start the process

One of the memorable and inspiring moments was the Eucharist celebrated to commemorate the death anniversary of Fr. A. T. Thomas, S.J., who suffered martyrdom in a location in the Hazaribag jungle called 'Punya Bhoomi' where his decapitated body was found. It was presided over by Fr. Marianus Kujur, Provincial of Ranchi, and attended by hundreds of Dalits. This spiritual event was very inspiring and touched the hearts of all of us. What struck me very much was the fact that even 22 years after his death the martyr is still very much alive in the hearts and minds of the afflicted Dalits, constantly animating and reenergizing them with the needed courage to fight against oppressive forces.

Two important highlights worth mentioning are: The presence of two new Provincials, Fr. Ranjit Tigga (MAP) and Fr. Durai Fernand (GUJ) and the Farewell Masses presided over by Fr. Lisbert, the outgoing Regional Assistant, and Frs. P.S. Amalraj and Francis Parmar, the outgoing Provincials.

Fr. Marianus, the Provincial of Ranchi, and his entire Jesuit team, were on their toes to attend to every detail of the meeting and thus made us feel at home and our stay comfortable. Congrats and heartfelt thanks to the host Provincial and Province.

*Davis Ponniah, S.J.*

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### NOVEMBER 2019

- 01-02 Province Office
- 03-04 Extended Consult
- 05 Canonical Consult
- 06-10 Province Office
- 11-12 GBM: Communication Commission, LTI, Madurai
- 13 Province Office
- 14-15 GBM: Dalit Commission – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 16 Province Consult – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 17-18 Province Office
- 19 GBM: Social Action – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 20 Meeting with the AOR Provincial – Loyola, Chennai
- 21-24 Visitation – Pune
- 25-26 Visitation – SICJ, Trivandrum
- 27-28 GBM: Youth Commission – SJC, Tiruchi
- 29 Silver Jubilee Celebration – Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur
- 30-01 GBM: Higher Education – Loyola, Chennai

### DECEMBER 2019

- 02-03 GBM: Spirituality & Dialogue-Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 04 GBM: Finance Commission-Loyola, Chennai
- 05-06 Province Office
- 07 LS/TL/Coord. Meeting – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 08 LS/TL Meeting – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 09-27 Preparations for the new Province of Chennai
- 14-15 GBM: Secondary Education – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 16-17 Joint Consult: Province and Chennai Mission, Maduralaya
- 28-29 Province Assembly – Loyola Campus, Chennai
- 30 Loyola, Chennai
- 31 Province Office

## CHENNAI MISSION SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME

### NOVEMBER 2019

- 03-04 Extended Consult
- 05 Canonical Consult
- 11-12 GBM: Communication Commission, LTI, Madurai
- 14-15 GBM: Dalit Commission, Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 16 Province Consult, Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 19-20 GBM: Social Action Commission, Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 27-28 GBM: Youth Commission, SJC, Tiruchi
- 29 Silver Jubilee Celebrations - Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur
- 30-01 GBM: Higher Education - Loyola, Chennai

### DECEMBER 2019

- 02-03 GBM: Spirituality Commission, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 04 GBM: Finance Commission, Loyola, Chennai
- 07 LS/TL/Coord. Meeting – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 08 LS/TL Meeting – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 14-15 GBM: Secondary Education – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 16-17 Joint Consult – Province and Chennai Mission, Maduralaya
- 28-29 Province Assembly, Loyola Campus, Chennai

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Province Assembly 2019

All are welcome to Loyola Campus, Chennai, to celebrate the last common Madurai Province Assembly on December 28th and 29th.

**December 28th:** In the forenoon, after the Mass, we shall have two presentations mostly on the history of evolution of our mission in the northern part of Tamil Nadu and the progress made in recent years. In the afternoon, there will be two sessions with our collaborators from mission areas: i. Sharing by representatives, and ii. Cultural program by a few selected groups from our mission areas.

**December 29th:** We will be thanking all those who worked to build up the Chennai Mission. We shall also gratefully remember our dear departed brothers who worked in Chennai Mission. A photo session is expected in the forenoon before the coffee break.

The Assembly starts at 9:00 am on December 28th and ends on the following day at 4:30 pm. Please book your travel tickets accordingly.

*Francis P. Xavier*  
*Convener, PREPCO, Province Assembly*

### Silver Jubilee Valedictory Function

Superior and community members of Loyola, Kuppayanallur, cordially invite all the Jesuits for the valedictory function of the school's Silver Jubilee Celebration at 9:00 am on 29 November 2019.

### ROOTS & WINGS 2020: COLLOQUIUM ON IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

This Colloquium on Ignatian Spirituality is meant only for Jesuits.

Venue: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal

Dates: From April 2 to May 7, 2020

Arrival: April 2 (evening) 2020

Departure: May 7 (evening) 2020

Total Course Fee: Rs 25,000/- (including board and room)

Contact Person: Fr. M. Devadhas, S.J.

Email: mdevadhassj@gmail.com

Mobile: +91 94875 80952 / 8056662524

Last date to register your names:

February 15, 2020.

**Please note Makkampalayam / PARAN mobile numbers:** Makkampalayam Church 94881-30069, PARAN Office at Kadambur 95850-47971, PARAN Office (Director) 93614-64695.

### Upcoming CRI National Programmes

- Local Superiors' Seminar, 23-29 November 2019 at Maitreya, Bangalore.
- Local Superiors' Seminar, 07-13 December 2019 at Cluny Provincialate, Tiruchi.
- Self Care, 15 December 2019 at Tiruchi / Tanjore.
- Mid-Life Seminar, 05-11 January 2020 at St. Andre Home, Bangalore.

Contact Ms. Mercy Minj, CRI National Secretariat, New Delhi +91-11-269 239 11, +91-95 9955 3824, crinational@gmail.com

### Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

In November 2019, we pray with Pope Francis: That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

### DHANAM Movement

The JIVAN of February 2012 carried a cover story, written by Mrs. Loreto Xavier, which had this info: "In 2010, DHANAM undertook a massive campaign for human donations across the Tiruchirappalli Diocese, marked by awareness and blood donation camps in all the parishes. All blood banks in the district were booked, covering all seven Lenten Sundays.

During the inauguration of this campaign, Fr. Jerry addressed a half - day session of priests from the diocese also on the subject of organ and body donations. At the end, Bishop Antony Devotta rose and made an impromptu public declaration thus: 'Initially, I was of the intention of donating only my organs upon death. However today, after having heard Fr. Jerry's talk on body donation, I declare that I wish to give my body too for the purpose of medical research.'"

That did happen on 15 October 2019 when Bishop Devotta passed away.

His eyes were donated to Joseph Eye Hospital, Tiruchi, and the body, after the Funeral Mass, was donated to St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru. He is the first Indian bishop to do it and thus, has created history. We pray that this example would inspire many more among us for human donations. (visit:www.dhanam.org)

*Jerry Rosario*



Note there is a memorial plaque on the Coimbatore cemetery sacristy wall in memory of Fr. Mark Antony Manthara whose body was donated to Coimbatore Medical College on 29.12.2012.

*Editor*

## MEETINGS

### Formation GBM 2019

The General Body Meeting of the Formation Commission was held on September 7th and 8th at Maduralaya, Dindigul. Along with the Formators from all the formation houses, four scholastic representatives were invited from Satya Nilayam, Arul Kadal and regency places. There were 37 participants including the Formation Commission members. Fr. Jebamalai Raja celebrated the inaugural Mass on the first day in which he presented the realities and challenges of the formation sector and exhorted both the formators and the formees to be rooted in Ignatian charism and praxis. Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam, the new PCF, welcomed the participants and presented the dynamics of both the days.

All the formation houses presented their action-taken report on PAP (Formation Sector), keeping the following objectives as the main focus:

- To review the progress the Commission has made in implementing its PAP
- To share the challenges faced in the process of implementation
- To assess the impact of implementation of the Action Plans
- To plan for the next phase of implementation of PAP

Fr. Antony Robinson from Berchmans Illam moderated the sessions. Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam presented the Formation Commission's PAP action taken report and listed the following completed action plans:

1. Dalit Leadership Camp at Kizhpennathur helped the scholastics to have more clarity on the subalterns and the people in the periphery and the ways of enabling them to

claim their legitimate rights and demands through activism and proper representation.

2. This summer, Sterlite and Ecological Study Camp in Palayamkottai and Agri-study Camp at Ayyampalayam were organized by Arul Kadal scholastics. Sterlite camp tried to explore the environmental damage and existential threat caused by the continued functioning of Sterlite and other power-related industries in the three southern districts of Tamil Nadu. In the Agri camp, scholastics attempted to understand the long-standing distress in the farm sector. Both these special camps involved a lot of reading interfaced with frequent field visits and personal interviews.

3. Also during summer, in order to promote creative thinking and clarity of presentation, a three-day capacity building programme for the Regents in youth animation and relational skills was organized. Media Education, Street Theatre and Creative Writing were the major areas of focus.

4. It was decided to send at least one scholastic per year for law and rights-related studies. As per this action plan, Sch. Joseph Vedanayagam has been sent to do his law studies at Madurai Law College this year.

5. A three-day intensive Legal Aid Course for scholastics doing their Philosophy and the first year Theology was organized at Maduralaya with Fr. Santhanam and lay lawyers as resource persons.

6. The Province has revived the Apostolic School in Beschi Campus this academic year (2019-'20).

Fr. Raj Irudaya, as ADF, briefed the group on the promulgation of the Graded Ignatian Spirituality Syllabus meant for the formees in the Assistancy right from College Studies up to Theology. He said that the Syllabus was ready long ago but preparing the e-bibliography took time. The Syllabus is formed in such a way that the formees are helped to read, reflect, personalize and integrate the different aspects of Ignatian and Jesuit Spirituality into their formation throughout the academic year in a phased manner.

Fr. Provincial asked the PCF and formators to continue to implement effectively these action plans. All felt that as one of the UAPs is 'to show the way to God through Spiritual Exercises and Discernment', it would be necessary to implement the graded spirituality syllabus faithfully so that our formees are firmly grounded in Ignatian spirituality. Both Fr. Provincial and the Chennai Mission Superior appreciated the efforts of the PCF and formators and exhorted them to work together and accompany the formees from one stage of formation to the next.

*Stephen L. P.*

## **Young Priests Meet 2019**

Sessions on Competence Mapping and Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Minors formed the major part of the Meet that was held on 14-15 September 2019 at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

On the first day, after the inaugural Eucharist with Fr. Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, as the Main Celebrant Fr. Joe Arun and his team administered instruments to measure core competencies of the young priests and helped them design a Competence Development Plan. In his introductory remarks, Fr. Joe Arun said that unlike what is done in the corporate world the focus of the exercise of mapping must be on how the Jesuits have made themselves competent to meet apostolic needs. The mapping made them aware of the gap between what one was and what one aspired to become. In the afternoon, Fr. Konrad Noronha of Bombay Province addressed the young priests on standards of care and protection of vulnerable adults and minors. At the end of the day, an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament helped the participants assimilate the learnings of the day.

The second day began with a Eucharist by Fr. Provincial followed by his sharing of his concerns and reflections on issues that are directly related to young priests. After his sharing, the young priests were divided into smaller groups for Spiritual Conversation to work on three discernment statements: a) three initiatives by young priests to nurture standards of care and protection of Vulnerable Adults and Minors, b) Goals and Action Plans to promote union of minds and hearts in the province, c) Three ways by which they increase the level of commitment to the implementation of PAP.

Later, in the plenary session, the groups presented the list of efforts they would make in the three areas. It was decided that the goals and action plans for the young priests for the coming year would be finalized by the PCF assisted by a group of young priests for actualisation. After the plenary, Fr. Provincial expressed a deep sense of satisfaction he had at the end of the programme and he said that he was hopeful of seeing a change in the life and mission of young priests. Finally, Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam, PCF, thanked all those who contributed to the successful conduct the Meet. The entire programme came to an end with a prayer.

*Joe Arun*

## **Youth Commission**

Youth Commission in collaboration with the Pastoral Commission (Tiruchi Zone) organized a 1-day seminar on 20 October 2019 for 51 parish youth from Thirumanur, Mullaikudi and Our Lady of Lourdes (Tiruchi) parishes at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. It was focused on PAP 3: Youth the Agents of Social Transformation. Fr. Berchmans, Director of Shepherd who was the Chief Guest, addressed the participants on the Role of Youth Today in Societal



Transformation. Frs. Sahayaraj Vijayan, James Raja, and Jayapathy, Mrs. Annie Rose and Mr. Mahendran were the resources persons. They shared on Spirituality, Discernment, Addictions, Media and Job Opportunities, respectively. We are grateful to St. Joseph's College administration for the accommodation and JIM for providing sumptuous food to the participants. We are planning to organize follow-up trainings for the same group at different levels.

*Parthasarathi*

### **TN - AICUF**

Tamil Nadu AICUF had a series of trainings and programs for its members during the past two months. AICUF State Executive members went to Ooty on August 30th and September 1st to distribute the flood relief materials collected by St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, and St. Mary's College, Thoothukudi, in collaboration with Providence College, Coonoor. They visited and gave the materials to Mundakannu and Theanvayal villages near Gudaloor.

We had a three-day leadership training on the theme "Youth: The Leaders of Social Change" from 5th to 7th October for the presidents and members of each unit at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. There were 48 leaders from all over Tamil Nadu. Mrs. Sherin, Director of Velicham NGO, Chennai, was the resource person for the training. There were also other speakers-- Mr. Samy (Ex- AICUF State Advisor), Mr. Viduthalai Arasu who spoke on Periyar and his teachings for the youth today and Mr. Dinesh Kumar of Manitham NGO who shared on political leadership and its relevance today.

We organized also Unit Advisors orientation and consultation on October 12th at AICUF House, Chennai, and on 20th at St. Joseph's, Tiruchi. We had a meaningful sharing on how to make young people socially conscious and did concrete planning for the AICUF activities in the coming months. My AICUF work experience of the past five months gives me confidence and courage to say that young people are going to be the agents of all changes that we desire to see in the world. The problem, however, is that they are not accompanied properly. They fall prey to consumerism, addictions of different kinds including internet addiction and depression traceable to relationship issues. I am trying to accompany them joyfully.

*N. Parthasarathi*

### **Devakottai: De Britto**

Regents from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu had a one-day recollection on October 13th. Fr. Valanarasu energized them spiritually by exhorting them to be better servants in their respective ministries. From 9th to 13th October, arts and sports competitions were conducted for the hostel students as part of our hostel day celebration. On 20th, Britto Hostel celebrated its 76th Annual Day. Fr.



A. Antonysamy was the chief celebrant and Fr. Stephen Robert, in his sermon, asked the students to think out of the box. Two of our alumni were the chief guests at the Annual Day programme. On 25th, as part PAP, Mr. Kumar, a Tamil orator, was invited to give a talk on religious harmony which gave awareness to the students.

*Michael Sudherson*

### **Dindigul: Beschi Illam**

Twenty-two sisters from six congregations actively participated in a workshop on 'Leadership and Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWP)' conducted at Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam, from September 23rd to 29th, by Fr. Selva, TN-Director, PWP. From September 22nd to October 1st, Fr. Pugazhendhi preached an eight-day retreat on the theme 'Called to a Life of Sanctity' at Devakottai to 35 CIC sisters. As a preparation for the Long Retreat, from September 23rd to October 2nd, our 12 first-year novices had a fruitful Intensive Journal exercise guided by Fr. Inigo, the Novice Master. From September 23rd to 29th, 27 sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux (HFB) made a week-long retreat under the guidance of Frs. Inigo, I. M. Joseph and M. S. Bastian. From September 25th to October 1st, Fr. Yagoo preached a week-long retreat at Koilpatty to 32 CIC sisters involved in school ministry. From September 28th to October 3rd, Fr. Michael Doss preached a six-day retreat at Viraliipatty to 35 sisters of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne, Bangalore (SAB). From September 30th to October 4th, Fr. Selva participated in a five-day annual meet of Jesuits and diocesan priests involved in PWP. The meeting was organized at DNC, Pune, by Fr. Jagadish Parmar, PWP National Director. For the first two days the history of PWP and Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) was

introduced to the newcomers from South Asia. For the next two days, there were reporting sessions and group sharing of experiences. In his address to the participants on the last day, Fr. POSA recalled the remarkable and tireless works of Fr. Paul Wenisch and urged them to get fully involved in this special PWPN mission.

On October 3rd, the novices went on an educational trip to the archaeological site at Keeladi guided by Fr. Swaminathan. On the way to Keeladi, they prayed at Our Lady's shrine, Vadipatti, and on their return from Keeladi, they prayed at St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai, and then happily dined with the Jesuit Community. In preparation for their Final Profession, four sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons (SJL) made a five-day retreat at Beschi Illam under the direction of Frs. M. S. Bastian and Inigo from October 1st to 5th. On October 7th and 8th, the first-year novices had a two-day introductory course on the Spiritual Exercises by Fr. Dhanaraj. From October 7th to 9th, Fr. Inigo introduced the Spiritual Exercises to the seminarians of Christ Hall, Karumathur, in preparation for their long retreat guided by Fr. Dhanaraj. On October 9th and 10th, the novices had a two-day course on Social Analysis by Fr. S. Arockiasamy Antony. On October 12th, the first-year novices began their Long Retreat under the guidance of Fr. Inigo. On the same day, the second-year novices were missioned to PARAN, Makkampalayam, PEAK, Kodaikanal, AHAL, Kilpennathur, JESIM, Tindivanam, St. John de Britto Shrine, Oriyur and Beschi Illam, Dindigul for their socio-pastoral experiment. From October 16th to 18th, Fr. Swaminathan gave a three-day course on 'Growing in One's Vocation: Challenges and Opportunities' to the postulants and novices of Sacred Heart Sisters (SHS) at Nazareth in Pudukkottai.

**JRS-TN:** Twenty-eight students actively participated in a Writers' forum held at Nochiyodaipatti, Dindigul, from October 4th to 8th. The participants expressed that they were able to pen down their thoughts and reflections in Tamil creatively. On October 23rd, JRS-TN Grihini students from Nilakottai went on a one-day picnic visiting historical places such as Kallanai, Rock Fort Temple, Tiruchi and Our Lady's Basilica, Poondi. On October 26th, thanks to the initiative of JRS-TN, 28 men returned to their respective camps with restored health and happiness after undergoing a fruitful five-month long de-addiction treatment at JMAAD, Kanyakumari.

*Swaminathan*

### **Dindigul: St. Mary's**

Our School organized a Marian Science Fest-2019, Inter School Science Exhibition on 18 October 2019 with the theme "BUILDING A CULTURE OF SCIENCE & INNOVATION". Mr. Nellai S. Muthu, Senior Scientist, ISRO (Rtd). was our chief guest; 16 schools effectively and innovatively participated. Our school and Dindigul District Sports and Games Association jointly organized MARIAN SPORTS FEST – 2019 on October 19 – 21. This fest is in honour of Fr. S. Marianathan, our former Rector,

Correspondent and Director of Physical Education. Football, Ball Badminton and Chess players participated and grew in a healthy competitive spirit. Sports Hostel players from Krishnagiri won the Football tournament and lifted the trophy. On Friday, October 25th, the school celebrated "DEEPA OZHILI THIRUNAAL" colourfully. Dr. Tamil Iniyan, Headmaster, Government Hr. Sec. School, Milaganur, Sivagangai, was the chief guest on this special day.

**LASAC:** On October 19th, a zonal level one-day camp was held at De Britto, Devakottai; 167 students accompanied by 10 staff from Oriyur and Devakottai participated. Chief Guest Mr. Puliur Murugesan, a Novel writer, gave an interesting talk on Leadership, Personality, Individuality and the issues the students are facing in day-to-day life. It was an interactive talk that created awareness among the students and made them raise many questions on topical issues. After the talk many students interacted with him and got his autograph.

LASAC staff were addressed separately by Fr. Vincent Amalraj, Superior and Correspondent of De Britto, Devakottai. He shared with them his experiences as a schoolman and showed them how to commit themselves completely to the formation of future leaders. His sharing was much appreciated by the staff.

A zonal level one-day camp was held at AICUF Centre, Loyola College, Chennai, on October 25th; 75 students accompanied by 10 staff from Chennai zone participated. Fr. Vasanth and Sch. Albinus were the resource persons.

*Joemarsh Leo*

### **Karumathur: AAC**

Fr. Sekhar was instrumental in convening a Golden Jubilee Guest Lecture in the Department of Philosophy (open to all faculty) on 27 September 2019 by Dr. Christopher Key Chapple and his wife Mrs. Maureen Shannon-Chapple. Dr. Chris is Doshi Prof. of Indic and



Comparative Theology in the Dept. of Theology, Loyola Marymount University, LA, USA. His 2-hour session on Religions and Ecology from the perspectives of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Thomas Berry, and Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* was immediately relevant in the context of UAP and PAP. Instead of Lighting of the Lamp, a novel idea of Watering the Saplings (and later, planting them) stole the show!

*Sekhar B. Vincent*

## Madurai: DACA

On October 6th, a one-day Psycho-Sexual Integration Course was programmed for the Vidivelli Girls; Sr. Amala Rani, CIC, offered hygiene awareness to our girls who interacted well and get clarifications on basic health issues. In memory of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Postal Training Department of Madurai organized a singing competition in which our student Aguna Sri, VIII standard, was awarded a cash prize and memento.

DACA reaches out 100 remote villages in 6 southern districts of Tamil Nadu through Evening Study Centers (ESCs) to provide quality basic education to



the Dalit Children. It focuses on a three-dimensional development, namely, Educational, Personality and Community. To enhance the children's education and extracurricular skills, various materials (a blackboard, a volleyball, a couple of tennikoits and balls) were distributed to all the villages. To orient our students better in academics, DACA's ESC efficiently organized "KNOWLEDGE FEST 2019" through a quiz competition. The first phase was conducted in the four zones on October 13th and 20th. The total beneficiaries were 755 students from the four zones (Madurai 200, Muthukulathur 181, Sattur 162 and Tirunelveli 212). The winners of the zonal competitions will participate in the State level competition which is to be held on November 24th.

*P. Theophine*

## Madurai: St. Mary's

**Britto Hostel** celebrated its 110th Hostel Day on October 25th. Mr. Paralogam, an illustrious alumnus from K. M. Kottai, was the Chief Guest. The students came out with a variety of dances and creative awareness programmes (on mobile phone usage etc.). They exhibited their histrionic talents before a cheering crowd of parents and invited guests.

**St. Mary's Cathedral:** To mark the feast of St. Francis of Assisi the members of the Franciscan 3rd Order served a delicious meal to 300 poor people on October 6th. The Bible Sunday was aptly celebrated in the Cathedral Parish with many Bible competitions for the Catechism students and the people on October 13th and prizes were distributed to 65 winners. Mission Sunday was fittingly celebrated on October 20th. After



the Eucharist, the parishioners visited the stalls and joyfully participated in a variety of creative games and generously contributed.

*Manuel Savariar*

## Nagercoil: Carmel

A retreat for the Catholic students was conducted by "Kadugu Vithai Group" on October 12th.

A special Assembly was held on October 15th to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Abdul Kalam and the students performed a variety of cultural items on the life and contribution of Dr. Kalam.

The Alumni Association in collaboration with Rajas Dental College organized a special medical camp for our students on October 17th. Joining hands with the Rotary Club of Nagercoil, Alumni Association also conducted a Seminar on Academic Development for X and XI Standard students on October 19th. Sr. Selvi SCC and Dr. Jimsy Asha of Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, were the resource persons



On October 25th, Deepavali was celebrated. Prof. Hamim Musthafa was the Chief Guest and delivered a special message on the origin and the meaning of Deepavali. The variety entertainment programme of the students was informative and educative about the festival of light.

The seventh heavenly birth anniversary of four of our alumni, Leeroi, Mullaiarasu, Chellappa and Nishanth, who got drowned in a pond when they were doing their engineering studies, was commemorated on October 25th in our campus. Interschool competitions and giving away of prizes along with education scholarships and assistance to the poor students in memory of the deceased students by the LMCN Hands on Trust were the highlights of the day.

*Maria Singarayyar*

## Oriyur: St. Arulanandar

On October 2nd, the usual annual Archdiocesan pilgrimage to the shrine took place. Archbishop Antony Pappusamy celebrated the Eucharist. It was a sight to see the priests and faithful kneeling in adoration before the Eucharistic Lord on the newly blessed altar.

Catholic students of 10th, 11th and 12th Standards had a day of recollection during which the Vocation Promoters of different congregations addressed them and made initial contacts.

We are happy that our Sub-Junior Kabadi team has been selected to take part in the State level competitions.

*Jackson Joseph*

## Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's

**Fr. Ignacimuthu** was the chief guest at a national gathering on Insect Plant Interactions at TNAU College at Killikulam, Tirunelveli.

On October 20th, we celebrated the **Diamond Jubilee of Fr. Sigamani**. We had Mass in the college church, presided over by Fr. Sigamani and the homilist was his novitiate companion Fr. S.P. Masillamani. After the Mass, we had a felicitation for him. Fr. Henry Jerome, our Rector, honoured him with a garland and we had wonderful dances by hostel boys and girls before we ended the celebration with a grand jubilee dinner with our guests.

On October 22nd, we went as a community on a **Pilgrimage to Manapad** and celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the college having been given an A++ Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4 by NAAC in IV cycle. **XIBA** organized a one-day programme on "Brewing Your Own Business" for management students, engineering students and aspiring entrepreneurs. The programme aimed at providing a platform for in-depth discussion, experience and ideas sharing in the areas of entrepreneurship, innovation and value creation. Mr. S. Saravanan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Tirunelveli, was the Chief Guest. Those behind the best three ventures will be sent for special training programme by Global Institute of Development and Entrepreneurial Studies (GIDES) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

An Intercollegiate Management Meet (XIBATE'19) was organized by XIBA on the theme "Igniting Young Minds – Step-up to Transform". XIBATE'19 aimed at developing managerial skills and inspiring youth to become socially conscious and responsible leaders. There were more than 230 participants from various colleges.

On the occasions of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the festival of Deepavali, the college students organized meaningful programmes, on October 4th and October 25th, respectively, highlighting the evils of addiction to mobile, social media, drugs and alcohol,

intolerance to other creeds, consumerism, corruption replacing honesty etc.

**SXCE** organized two unique programmes: **Teacher of the Month** on October 12th and **English Cultural Saturday** on October 19th. English Cultural Saturday becomes the platform for our students to exhibit their talents in English language whereas the Teacher of the Month brings in a senior teacher to the college to have a sharing with prospective teachers, so that the experiences of the senior moulds the budding ones into matured communicators. Both the programmes evoked a lot of response from the students.



The Research Center of SXCE had two Viva Voce exams on October 12 & 19th, taking the total number of PhDs produced to 117 which is a great achievement for a college. "The College has all the resources, potentials and the infrastructures needed to become a Deemed University", said Prof. G. Lokanadha Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Dravidian University, Kuppam, AP, who came for the Viva Voce as the adjudicator.

*Maria Albin Raja*

## Thoothukudi: Xaveriana

A one-day retreat on Ignatian themes was organized by our Campus Minister, Br. P. Arockiasamy for X, XI and XII Standard students on October 19th, preached by Frs. Alton, Vincent, Wenishraj, Rayappan and Babu.

On October 31st, the newly built auditorium named after Pope Francis along with a smart classroom, and two other classrooms were opened by the Provincial, Fr. Danis Ponniah, and Province Treasurer, Fr. Maria Joseph





and were blessed by our bishop Most Rev. Dr. Stephen. During the modest function that followed, all those who were involved in designing, engineering and building were honoured. The tireless efforts of the Campus Treasurer, Fr. Victor Desoza, were acknowledged. Despite the heavy rains, which had called for two days of holidays for the school, everything went off well. The Provincial was particularly fascinated by the rain water that made the campus and the grounds in front of the school look like a mini lake.

Our junior basketball team, having won at the district level, has thus qualified to play the State-level matches. In the same way, the junior table tennis team (doubles) has qualified to play at the State-level. Master Alan Christo (XI A) and Master Spenoson (XII A) will take part in the State-level athletic competitions for high jump and triple jump championships, respectively.

*Xavier Rajan*

### **Tiruchi: Clive House**

The Monthly Recollection on October 1st was unique as Mr. Hermon, Professor of French, SJC, Tiruchi, came and spoke on the theme “My Dream of a Jesuit – Lay Perspective”. His insightful exhortation helped the scholastics to introspect and deepen their spiritual life.

Fr. Thamburaj preached an eight-day retreat from 6 to 13 October to the Apostolic Carmel Sisters in Jeyanagar, Bangalore, followed by a two-day prayer meeting in the Holy Family Parish at Ramamoorthy Nagar, Bangalore. He also addressed the CRI members of Puthur Vicariate in Tiruchi Diocese at Holy Cross College campus on October 20th, focusing on “Christ is Alive”, the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on youth. Fr. Arul Oli, President of CRI Puthur Vicariate, systematically planned and organized the meeting with the help of the scholastics.

*Sagayam Rajan*

### **Tiruchi: SJC**

**Research Day:** On October 15th, we had Fr. Lazar Endowment Seminar on “Dynamics of Quality Research.” About 300 research scholars from all over the State benefitted from the quality inputs given by leading researchers on this theme.

St. Joseph’s College has won the Bharathidasan University Athletic Championship consecutively for the 34th year setting two new meet records this year. In the cross country event the college team has retained its overall championship for this year also. Additionally, it has won the Bharathidasan University Weightlifting championship after a long gap of 18 years.

St. Joseph’s Higher Secondary School is scaling great heights in the field of sports and athletics. In the South Zone competition (comprising the four Southern States) held in Chennai on 19th October, our school



student N. Raja Shekar (XII Std) clinched the gold medal in weightlifting. And, he has qualified for the National level competition. Four of our school students have been selected for the State level competitions in gymnastics, discus throw and silambam at the competitions conducted by the Tiruchi Revenue District. Moreover, our Kabaddi team secured the first place and thus qualified for the State-level match. The 7th Joe Lawrence Football Tournament was organized on 15-16 October 2019. Eight teams from the neighbouring schools took part in it, and our school team emerged as runner-up.

*Leolin Arockiadass*

### **Melaneduvai: St. Peter’s College**

Being commissioned to develop St. Peter’s Arts and Science College, started by Kumbakonam Diocese, I have successfully affiliated the college as well as five undergraduate courses on Computer Science, Commerce, Mathematics, Physics, and English. I have also got the Bharathidasan University recognition for the post of Principal up to the age of 65. After crossing many hurdles placed by the Office of the Controller of Exams, the first batch of students will be appearing for the Semester exams conducted by the University.

*Francis Thamburaj*

### **Vilangudi: VMI**

Having enjoyed the rejuvenating I Term holidays, all the Pre-novices returned to VMI on October 1st. The regular rhythm of Pre-novitiate started thereafter. On October 7th, we celebrated Ayudha Pooja thanking God and gratefully remembering all those who do hard physical labour. From 14 to 18 October, a course on Folk Arts was conducted for our Pre-novices by Mr. Manickam, the director of Beem Vetri Cultural Troupe and Mr. Gladson. Our budding dancers became professionals and were surprised to know the riches of the Tamil folk arts tradition. Fr. M. A. Selvam preached a recollection to the priests of Kumbakonam Diocese on



October 8th and directed a week-long Ignatian retreat for 26 priests at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur.

*Rex Reuban*

### Chennai: Arul Kadal

The number of participants for the Laity Theology programme has increased to 55. Thanks to the alumni for their effort to bring in more people! As a new initiative and part of the studies, the second year theologians, along with **Fr. Sahayaraj Stanley** had a brief stay in Kuppayanallur for their course on Theology of Marriage and Human Sexuality from October 2nd to 5th. The highlight was our rich interaction with the families in and around Kuppayanallur on the issues of marriage and sexuality. Fr. Sahayaraj Stanley also participated in the annual Meeting of the Association of Moral Theologians of India that took place in Chennai from October 18th to 20th.

**Fr. Arockiadass** moderated a symposium on the theme, “Renewal and Transformation” with special reference to Mother Eliswa, the foundress of CTC congregation, on October 11th. He also preached a retreat on the theme, “Eco-spirituality” to the first year Catholic students of Loyola College of Education (LCE), Chennai, on October 18th. On the same day, **Fr. Raj Irudaya** engaged the LCE non-Catholic students on the theme, ‘God-experience in me, others and society’. Fr. Raj Irudaya as Secretary of Aikiya Alayam Society has made fruitful attempts to form an Inter-religious Forum for a dialogue of life and action, to which representatives of different religions have positively responded. Arul Kadal especially Frs. Raj Irudaya and Arockiadass play an important role in the National Federation for Protection of Education (கல்வி பாதுகாப்பு தேசியக் கூட்டமைப்பு) in organizing one-day State-level protest in November against the draft New Education Policy 2019.

*Manojkumar*

### Chennai: Dhyana Ashram

Fr. Xavier Alphonse conducted two retreats and leadership programmes for St. Aloysius Gonzaga Sisters at Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore, from 8th to 14th October and 13th to 19th October 2019 in two batches.

### ICRDCE

Training of Trainers for the Community Colleges on NSDC Non-Funding Skill Certification Programme was held on 3rd and 4th October 2019 at Dhyana Ashram. There were 82 trainers from 26 organizations whose participation was supported by Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse served as Resource Person for the Workshop on “Enhancing Professional Development of Faculty Members” at CSI Ewart Women’s Christian College, Melrosapuram on October 28th sponsored by United Board, Hong Kong.

*Xavier Alphonse*

### Chennai: Loyola Institutions

On 30.9.19 and 1.10.19 a National Media Conclave on the theme ‘Changing Screens and Emerging Media Paradigms’ was organized in an effort by Loyola Viscom to redefine the concept of media convergence in the MEDIA CON’19. Keynote presentations, panel sessions and interactive sessions were conducted by celebrities from the film industry such as Kamal Haasan, Gautham Menon and others.



The Dean of women students and women students of Loyola College organized an **Awareness Programme on Women’s Health** on 3.10.2019. Dr. Chitra Ramanathan, Senior consultant, Chennai Fertility Center, was the chief guest.

Mr. A. Mohammed Shafiq, Assistant Professor, Department of History, New College (Autonomous), Chennai, led a discussion on **Muslim Legislators of Tamil Nadu in Empowering the Marginalized** on October 4th, 2019. M Phil, PhD research scholars and Social Sciences faculty participated in the discussion. Fr. A. Thomas, Principal and Director, LISSTAR, organized this discussion.

Loyola College NCC Navy and Army cadets organized

a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign to commemorate the **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** on 4 October 2019 from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon. In view of this, a lecture on “Health and Hygiene” by Mr. Selva Kumar, Chief Vector Control Officer, Greater Chennai Corporation, Public Health Department, Chennai was held.

Loyola’s Department of Data Science in association with Computer Society of India organized a one-day hands on workshop on **Data Visualisation through Tableau** on 2.10.2019. Dr.C. Muthu and Mr.G. Ashwath Raj were the resource persons. Prof. J. Jerald Inico the Secretary of Computer Society of India facilitated the event.

Loyola College management organized a life enriching program named **Social and Emotional Intelligence** for the entire teaching fraternity on 18.10.2019. Social and Emotional Intelligence is a form of intelligence that enhances one’s success and happiness in life, workplace and interpersonal relationships. An experienced resource person with rich global exposure, Dr. Shanthi Rajan, University of Sterling, UK, enriched the minds and hearts of the teachers with her experiential knowledge and appropriate psychometric tools.

Fr. S. Maria Packiam, Director of Entomology Research Institute (ERI), convened a one-day **State-level Seminar on Creative Solutions for Ecological Crisis** on October 22nd; 145 participants including the staff and students of Loyola College of Education actively participated in the seminar followed by visiting the research activities of ERI.

Loyola College won the **Sir. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar Golden Jubilee Commemoration 52nd Athletic Meet Trophy** and it was Loyola’s 39th victory in the 52-year-old athletic meet organized by the University of Madras. Loyola bagged 11 gold, 6 silver and 10 bronze medals.

Fr. Francis P. Xavier directed the **Annual Retreat of the Clergy of Chengalpattu Diocese**; 103 priests and the Bishop made the retreat at PILLAR Centre, Madurai.

**Loyola College of Education (LCE)** organized a rural immersion camp for six days, from 23rd to 28th September, at three different places viz., Mithra (Chennai), Tindivanam (JESIM), and Kilpennathur (AHAL).

**Outlook B School Ranking 2019** has ranked LIBA at 12th place in India out of top 150 private business schools and at 4th place (excluding IIMs) in South zone. **INSIGHT** one of the most awaited and prestigious national management symposiums organized and conducted by LIBA every year, was held on October 4th

at The Residency Towers. The core theme was: “Artificial Intelligence - Impact on Businesses”.

**Mother Teresa Award** for Corporate Citizenship, instituted in 1998 by LIBA, is presented every year to a company that shows exemplary commitment to the ideals of corporate citizenship. This year, LIBA’s Mother Teresa Award ceremony for Corporate Citizenship was held on 30th September 2019 and the awardee was Mindtree Limited, a global leader in technology services and consulting.

LIBA celebrated its **Annual Graduation Ceremony** for its prestigious certificate and executive diploma programmes on 7 September 2019. Mr. Richard Puthota – Senior Director, Business Development, MacDermid Alpha Electronics Solutions, graced the occasion with his presence as Chief Guest. Medals and degrees were conferred on 224 students of Executive Diploma Courses in various management specializations like Marketing, Finance, HR, International Business, Business Analytics, Logistics and Supply Chain Management and MBA in International Relations from Binary University. **Finconclave 2019**, the signature event of the Finesse Club of LIBA, took place on October 18th at the LIBA Auditorium. Eminent speakers from the industry gave their valuable insights regarding many relevant topics and helped students in clearing many doubts on various aspects of the industry. The event was inaugurated by Fr. Joe Arun and Mr. S. Krishna Kumar, CIO of Sundaram Asset Management Company who talked about “Fund Management Strategy for Wealth Creation.”

*Justin Prabhu*

### **Harur: Arulagam**

The Zonal Athletic Sports Meet was held on September 6th and 7th. Our boys secured places and qualified themselves for the District Sports Meet. Our NSS girls attended a special training camp from September 24th to 30th. The camp was organized in our campus. More than 75 students from three schools participated in the camp. Our school students secured the first three places, bagged 7 other consolation prizes and secured best performing school award at the district level literary competitions conducted by DMK as part of the birthday celebration of Dr. Anna. Ayudha Pooja and the feast of Our Lady of Rosary were celebrated in the Grotto on October 7th. At the end of the celebration Fr. P. S. Arul blessed all the vehicles. It was heartening to see people of other faiths, too, bringing their vehicles for blessing. Rosaries were also blessed and were distributed to all the participants. The 7th death anniversary of Rev. Fr. Mario Rodeschini MEP, founder of our schools, hostels and the builder of our church, and above all, liberator of the poor was commemorated in a grand manner on October 19th in the school and October 20th in the parish. A special Deepawali assembly was organised on October 25th; students were given seed-ball

(விதைப்பந்து) prepared by Fr. John Paul with the help of NGC volunteers to promote ecofriendly celebration among our students. The 11th and 12th Std students had an awareness programme on 'Cyber space and safety measures' conducted by Dr. Kalaingar Karunanithi College of Engineering and Technology.

*Anto*

### **Kasthambadi: JPLI**

A two-day basic **Tamil Music course** by Fr. Wenishraj on September 17th and 18th enthused our pre-novices to better their voices for God and be familiar with the contribution of our musicologist Fr. P.T. Chelladurai to South Indian music. After their First Term exams the pre-novices left for their homes on September 22nd. We formators visited their homes during the holidays to strengthen our relationships and encourage the candidates to deepen their vocation. They were back at JPLI on October 3rd. A week-long introduction to **Tamil Folk Arts** from October 7th to 11th helped them to identify themselves with and preserve our culture as they learned Parai, Oyil, Kummi, Street Play and social awareness songs. **Fr. Viji Bose** conducted a three-day course on Ignatian Spirituality for the Sacred Heart Novices, Vellore, and preached the annual retreat to 50 Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Puducherry.

**JMMEx and National Domestic Workers Movement** have jointly initiated awareness campaigns for students in technical and nursing institutes and have conducted campaigns in seven institutes in September and October in Thiruvannamalai and Cuddalore Districts on Safe Migration. Our sincere gratitude to Sr. Valarmathi ICM, who generously rendered her service to all the campaigns and has been a great support to JMMEx. Around 48 migrants benefitted from the Entrepreneurial Skills training organized in three phases in Vettavalam and Vadalur on September 25th and October 19th, respectively.

*Velanganni*

### **Kilpennathur: AHAL**

Feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated on September 8th on a grand scale at Vedanatham. Fr. A. Selvaraj from Loyola, Vettavalam, presided over the Mass. To actualize PAP, each family was asked to plant a sapling around the Church. Students from LCE, Chennai, came to AHAL for their village immersion experience. They experienced the simple lifestyle of people earning a scanty livelihood. On October 10th, AHAL Alumni Meet took place and students who had studied here came from various places and made the day memorable. On October 12th, two of our second-year novices came to Sahayamatha Parish, Kilpennathur, for their socio – pastoral experience. From October 16th to 20th, three AHAL staff went to IDEAS, Madurai, to learn the skills of writing, speaking and doing things in a creative way. On October 17th, AHAL Social Centre staff had an exposure visit to the Presentation Community

Service Centre, Vepery, where entrepreneurial skills training is given to women, self-help groups etc. On October 22nd, State-level Lok Manch meeting was held at AHAL and all the zonal coordinators and members took part in it under the leadership of Fr. C. Marianathan. On October 27th, Kilpennathur parishioners took part in the Diocesan Rosary Conference at Gengapattu and were spiritually nourished by it.

*M.S. Amalraj*

### **Kuppayanallur: Loyola**

After the quarterly holidays, we began the second term with renewed energy and enthusiasm. LIBA alumni sponsored ceiling fans to all the classrooms and they were fixed during the holidays. Special assemblies were organized on Gandhi Jayanti, on the birthday of Dr. Abdul Kalam and Diwali. Around 110 participants attended the one-day seminar organized for the senior members of Kuppayanallur parish. PTA meeting for 6th and 7th Standards was organized on October 18th and for 8th and 9th Standards on October 31st. A special session on 'Amaithi Vazhiyil Kalvi' was conducted by a three-member team from JRS on October 19th for all the students. Loyola Academy community from Vadampakkam shared a fellowship meal with us on Diwali. A special pilgrimage to Mazhai Malai Madha Shrine, Acharapakkam, was arranged on October 28th for the students who stayed back in the hostel during the holidays. A special prayer was offered for Sujith Wilson. On October 29th, around 60 widows and widowers of our parish participated in a seminar organized for them in Kuppayanallur.

*Amal Bosco*

### **Makkampalayam: PARAN**

Sch. Jeyaseelan Saminathan was here in one of the tribal villages for his immersion experience. He helped PARAN with data collection in the field. PARAN now has a new rented building for office and training purposes. On September 24th, we organized a one-day tour to Chennai for our Evening Study Centre students from Gundri area. We thank Loyola College community and Loyola Hostel for warmly welcoming us and putting facilities at our service. On September 29th, 182 students got academic scholarships. On October 6th, Makkampalayam Parish celebrated Bible Sunday. Each one was given a Bible and a Bible quiz was conducted for the parish youth and children. On October 14th, 20 community leaders had training on Right to Information Act followed by Urali Makkal Sangam meeting. On October 8th, we organized an orientation-cum-training programme for all the college-going tribal students at Kadambur; 33 students from our Study Centers came for a 2-day residential training on Study Skills and Methods. We started distributing notes and pens to all the 45 Evening Study Centers in Kadambur, Sathy and Thalawadi Zones. Our staff participated in Lok Manch review and planning meetings

held in Salem and Kilpennathur. Due to heavy rain and roads damaged in rain, the bus service was stopped for two weeks. People are asking for two bridges over the river and better road facilities to tribal villages like Arigiyam, Makkampalayam and Kombaidoddi.

*Naveen Kumar*

### **Mettala: Loyola College**

**Orientation programme:** On September 14th, orientation programme was organized for the 1st year students. A number of Human Resource Managers from different companies motivated the students to make use this best opportunity to study well and to unearth their talents and potentials.

**Sports Day:** On September 21st, Loyola, Mettala conducted its 5th Annual Sports Day. Dr. R. Sivakumar IPS, Superintendent of Police, Enforcement, Salem Zone was the chief guest. He urged the students to keep themselves fit physically and intellectually. He distributed certificates and medals for the winners of the various events conducted.

**A Day with Jesus:** A day long retreat for all the 300 catholic students of Loyola College, Mettala, was organized on October 2nd. Nine Jesuits and a nun preached on the theme "MAGIS". The students joyfully attended the retreat. They found the retreat very meaningful and beneficial for their spiritual as well as personal growth. A day with Jesus concluded with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

**Inauguration of the basketball court:** A basketball court, a long-felt need, was blessed on October 10th by Fr.B.Jeyaraj. A friendly basketball match between staff and students were organized to mark the occasion .

**Joy of Giving Week:** "Celebrate Deepavali Differently" was the main theme of the Joy of Giving Week from October 21st to 29th. Various games and activities were conducted by the Students' Council to mark the event. Fr.Vimal, Parish Priest of Valadpadi, gave the inaugural address. Citing a number of texts from different religious traditions and Tamil poems, he appealed to the students to give more and share the joy of giving. Mr.Kulandei Francis, founder of IDVP, Krishnagiri, Ramon Magsaysay awardee, was the chief guest for the valedictory function. Sharing a number of events of his personal life and his dedicated service to women empowerment, he drove home the message of Joy of Giving. He powerfully conveyed that it is by giving more that we receive more. He magnanimously announced scholarships to the most deserving students. At the end he gave away certificates of appreciation to the volunteers who spent their time and energy for the success of this event.

*Dominic Jayakumar*

### **Tindivanam: JESIM**

JESIM organized a training programme and a monthly review meeting for the animators on September 10th and the trained JESIM staff shared their experiences of training and cadre formation.

Mrs. Victoria Rani and Mrs. Nathiya gave training to Self-Help Group members on September 15th in running the Self-Help Groups efficiently; 76 members from 11 groups participated actively in the 1-day training programme.

Nineteen B.Ed. students and a professor from LCE, Chennai, came to JESIM for their rural immersion from September 23rd to 28th to experience Irular people's lifestyle, culture and traditions. The students were very curious to know about the distinctive cultural traits of this ethnic group. It was a memorable and a meaningful day for the Irular People as well as JESIM to have a grand celebration of the பழங்குடி இருளர் கலை மற்றும் பண்பாட்டுத் தேடல் விழா on September 27th; 397 people from 28 villages participated in the function. JESIM took the initiative to bring the professional singers and dancers of Irular community. It felt really good to see so many youngsters participating in the quest for their art forms which are becoming obsolete slowly.

*Vigash Lawrence*

### **Vadamelpakkam: Loyola Academy**

Loyola Academy reopened for the new term after the Pooja Holidays on October 9th. From that day on the students were fully involved in preparing the exhibits for the Science Exhibition. We had our Science Exhibition on the theme "WATER- Jal Shakthi, Jeevan Shakthi" on October 17th. The science exhibition showcased more than 300 scientific models / prototypes with 600 participants on different aspects of the main theme such as water sources, water treatment, water conservation, water management, etc. Sr. Nambikai Mary, SAP Correspondent, St. Mary's Institutions, Chengalpattu, inaugurated the exhibition by focusing on God who created all nature, including water and entrusted it to humankind. Dr. Gnanasekar, Senior Scientist and the team from Central Ground Water Board witnessed the mega event and highly appreciated the creative skills of students. Parents and students from different schools actively participated and interacted with each other on the working science models and mutually shared their knowledge.

We hosted the National Scouts and Guides of Pallava Mandal's Tertiya Sophan testing camp for this academic year on October 23rd. Fr Amaladoss, our Principal, being the District Coordinator, convened the programme for 350 Scouts/Guides from 12 different schools. The students faced both practical and theory

exams. The scout captains, trainers and students appreciated our hospitality and enjoyed the green and sprawling campus.

The cultural and religious diversity of Loyola Academy was showcased on October 25th when we celebrated as one family the festival of Deepavali through a colourful medley of dances, skits, speeches, songs and mime. Fr. Leo Tagore addressed the students on the importance of celebrating Deepavali festival based on the historical and cultural contexts and underscored the value of sharing and saying 'No' to use of dangerous and polluting crackers. Over all, it was a joyful evening that set the tone for a meaningful Deepavali celebration for our students in their homes.

We are going to conduct an inter-school Tournament named after Fr. Pedro Arrupe on November 9th in Kabbadi, Volley Ball, Throw Ball (only Girls) and Basket Ball. Only CBSE schools are eligible to send their teams.

*Jayanth Frankly*

### **Vallam: Paathai**

International Ambedkar Centenary Movement (IACM) Cultural team organized a cultural fest at Chingleput Old Bus Stand on October 2nd on the theme "Casteless India is the Really Clean India."

IACM also hosted a cultural night with different dances of Tamil Nadu and a skit in line with Pope's Message for the World Youth Day at Acharapakkam on the feast of Mazhai Malai Madha Shrine on October 5th, which was well appreciated by the priests and people who had come there.

Paathai Centre and DHRC Evening Study Centers conducted a one-day special camp for the 10th Standard students, focusing on easy ways to excel in difficult subjects and motivating them to face exams with ease. Around fifty students from Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore and Chidambaram benefited from it.

*David Francis*

### **Vettavalam: Loyola**

Under the able leadership of Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam, Director, Outreach Programmes, Loyola College organized a one-day medical camp on October 1st in Arulalaya for the benefit of 329 patients from 18 Loyola Outreach villages. Eight doctors and seven staff nurses from Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences diagnosed various diseases of the young and old and gave appropriate medical treatment. As a concrete commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji, 55 second year UG students and their professors had a meaningful interaction with a few families of weavers in Vettavalam on October

2nd. On the same day, the first year UG students enhanced their environmental awareness by having some experiential learning in the organic farm of our college. On October 12th, Fr. Tony Markus conducted a much appreciated monthly recollection for the Sisters of Our Lady of Mission in Madhurampattu, Thiruvannamalai District. On the same day, Fr. A. Gerlin preached a powerful charismatic retreat to 80 teachers of St. Joseph's School, Arani, run by the Salesian Sisters. Fr. A. Selvaraj, our Superior, went to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Director of Family and Laity Commission, Mannar Diocese. With two other priests, he conducted a week-long socio-pastoral animation program from October 15th to 18th for the priests, leaders of various associations in the diocese and professionals like teachers, doctors and others. It was much appreciated by everyone. On October 19th and 20th, he gave two special sessions on Social Analysis and Building up of People's Movements to the teachers of JRS in Sri Lanka. They appreciated the perspective with which he looked at the Sri Lankan society for a better and critical understanding. He also visited Jesuits in Mannar, Vavunia and Kandy. From October 25th to 28th, Fr. Britto Vincent conducted a course on Christian Folklore for the seminarians doing second and third year Theology at St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirappalli.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*

### **Calcutta: Juniorate**

We sat our first terminal examinations from October 1st to 4th. Soon after our examinations, we left for Calcutta to witness Durga Puja- the annual celebration of Hindu goddess Durga and which is one of India's grandest festivals, particularly, in West Bengal. All the four days of the grand carnival, the Juniors spent almost all their time in visiting pandals – the huge temporary roof held by a framework of bamboo poles and draped with colorful fabric. It was an opportunity to encounter our Hindu brothers and sisters and to know the significances and the mythology behind the Puja. On 9th we returned to the Juniorate. In order to gather the fruits of the four days we shared our experiences in groups and brought out a PowerPoint presentation on Durga Puja and presented it to the community. These experiences made us understand, "To be religious is to be inter-religious." On October 16th, Fr. Jagdish Parmar (DAR), National Director and Coordinator for PWP & EYM for South Asia, was with us and explained the history and the importance of the Apostleship of Prayer to the Novices and the Juniors.

We have now begun our second term full of enthusiasm and hope. At present (October 24th- 28th) we are attending a course on Introduction to Literature by Fr. Shaju Sacaria Joseph.

*L. Yowan Cyril*

## JCSA STATEMENT ON THE EMERGING SITUATION IN JHARKHAND

The recent developments in the State of Jharkhand are a cause of concern for every citizen of India. The democratic institutions and rule of law have collapsed in Jharkhand, resulting in efforts to amend Chotanagpur/Santal Pargana Tenancy (CNT/SPT) Acts meant to protect tribal land, initiation of laws which alienate tribals from their natural and other resources, causing ecological damage, continual deprivation of tribal communities of their religious code, infringement of the rights of minorities by promulgating anti-conversion law, threat to the life and property of civil society groups, mob lynchings, vandalization of educational institutions, and criminals with political patronage acting with impunity.

In recent years, Jharkhand has become a laboratory for the promotion of majoritarian hegemonic rule, with the toxic mix of Politics-Religion-Corporate World, Media, vitiating the social fabric. There is a systematic attempt to target minorities and their institutions and malign the educational, health and social services as attempts at conversion of people to Christianity. Any attempt to empower tribals with rights and entitlements enshrined in the Constitution of India and various socially-relevant legislations is branded as seditious or criminal activity. As a result, false cases with fabricated evidence are foisted against tribals, minorities and other vulnerable groups. Christian institutions are coming under increasing scrutiny as a means of harassment.

The Jesuits and others, who have worked for nation building for years in Jharkhand, serving all strata of society, are called to respond to this crisis keeping in mind their mission of justice, reconciliation and peace. This response is proposed as follows:

1. There is a need to involve all stakeholders, Government and non-Government, to develop a new narrative for Jharkhand that celebrates its rich cultural diversity, and multiple ethnic and religious communities.
2. In the context of the assertion of identities by different ethnic and religious groups, efforts are needed to promote inter-religious dialogue, social harmony and peace among different communities living in Jharkhand.
3. There is a need to engage with the process of policy making at every level of governance to ensure that a sustainable model of development – which is equitable, people-centric, eco-friendly and financially viable – is evolved to the benefit of all sections of society.
4. There is a need to lead a process of political socialization based on the Preamble of the Constitution of India, testing every Government legislation, policy or initiative to its relevance in making the Preamble a lived reality for every citizen of the country. In this regard, efforts must be made to ensure that tribals of Jharkhand enjoy the rights of Scheduled Tribes as enshrined in the Constitution of India and the subsequent legislations, such as Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) 1996, Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, and SC/ST Atrocities Act, 1989. Jesuits and their collaborators called to be active workers of peace and reconciliation, resolve to stand by the persecuted and vulnerable sections of society in the State of Jharkhand. In particular, the Jesuit Conference of South Asia, expresses its solidarity with tribals, dalits, minorities, and other victims of various forms of violence, including Jesuits and those who have been implicated in false cases on account of their committed service to them in Jharkhand.

**Ranchi**

**28 October 2019**

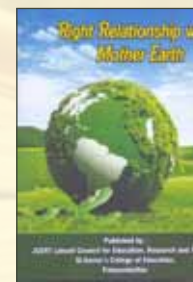
## New Books



**M. Vincent Amalraj , S.J.**  
*Anubavamae Vaazhvin Vetri*  
Aruna Publications  
Chennai, 2019



**Xavier Mampra, S.J.**  
*Thiru Avaiyin Veeraputhalvi*  
Nallayan Pathippagam  
Chennai, 2019



**S.M. John Kennedy, S.J.**  
*Right Relationship with  
Mother Earth*  
JCERT, Palayamkottai  
2019

## I HAVE MET A SAINT INDEED!

When Fr. Jerry Rosario asked me to send him a short write-up on Fr. Pedro Arrupe for the ARCA-SERIES, I readily agreed to do so because I was fortunate to have Fr. Arrupe's grace-filled presence on the day of my Ordination to Priesthood at the Gesù in Rome on 21 June 1972.

**He was an informal person:** Even Scholastics would fondly address him as "Pedro".

Once I was coming down a staircase of the Jesuit Curia in Rome along with another scholastic and someone from behind us put his two arms around our shoulders. We looked

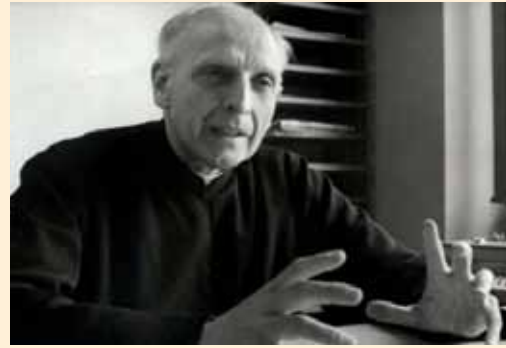
back and lo and behold it was our Superior General Fr. Pedro Arrupe. He was very friendly and affectionate and did not stand on formalities. He loved young people and made them feel at home and comfortable in his presence. That gave us young people a love for the Society of Jesus.

**He was an inspiring person:** On 25 October 1970, Bl. Edmond Campion was canonized. I managed to get a special pass to attend the canonization ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica as an official photographer on behalf of the Society of Jesus from the Gesù International College, where I was a student. I was accommodated in a special box reserved for the Superiors General of various Religious Congregations and Orders. The Minister General of the Franciscan Order happened to strike a conversation with me. When he learned that I was a Jesuit he embraced and kissed me and said that I was fortunate to be a Jesuit and pointed to where Fr. Pedro Arrupe was sitting and said: "Look there at Fr. Pedro Arrupe. He is a very saintly man and that is why we have elected him President of all the Superiors General of Religious Congregations." I was thrilled and proud to hear such an encomium conferred on the General of the Society of Jesus. He was indeed a source of inspiration even for non-Jesuits.

**He was a man of interiority:** When I was doing my Theology in the Gregorian University, I was staying at the Gesù International College a residence for Jesuit Scholastics. It was attached to the rooms of St. Ignatius of Loyola. I was very much impressed when I saw Fr. Pedro Arrupe spending three days prior to the feast of St. Ignatius, in silence and fasting and lost in prayer all alone in the very rooms of St. Ignatius where our Founder and Father had mystical experiences. During those three days, when Jesuits from different countries visited the rooms of St. Ignatius, Fr. Arrupe would serve their Masses like an altar boy. Some of them were not even aware that the one who was serving their Mass was Fr. Pedro Arrupe as they never expected him to be present there at that time.

We the scholastics were very much edified by his interiority and humility.

*Thamburaj James*



## Abide with the Lord

Br. Paschal D'Souza (GOA), 83/59, passed away on 24.10.2019 at Goa.

Fr. Romuald D'Souza (GOA), 93/74, passed away on 01.11.2019 at Porvorim, Goa.

Br. Benedict Kichingia (JAM), 47/82, passed away on 08.11.2019

Fr. Noel Francis D'Souza (CCU) 87/65, passed away on 10.11.2019) in Calcutta.

Mr. Stephen Fernando (86) brother-in-law of Fr. Leonard Nevis Fernando, passed away on 24. 10. 2019 at Uvari.

Mrs. Jeyasundari (86), aunt of Fr. Danis Ponniah, passed away on 08.11. 2019 at Tiruchi.

