



Our Lady of the Way



Truth must be spoken,  
Right to dissent must be upheld and  
Justice must reach the doorsteps  
of the poor.

Fr Stan

### Provincial's Message



#### *Stan: A Man of Courage and Prophetic Audacity*

While dialoguing with the Jesuits gathered in the 36<sup>th</sup> General Congregation, Pope Francis emphatically stated that courage is constitutive of all apostolic action and we must work with audacity to convince everyone that a country cannot grow if it does not respect the legal principles which that country itself has put in place to ensure future governability. As a perfect example of what our Pope proclaimed, Fr Stan, a courageous activist of Adivasi rights, works with audacity to raise questions about the denial of constitutional rights of Adivasis and to fight for social justice.

Many of us personally know him and some of us would have had soul-searching discussions with him on several issues that engulf the poor and the marginalised in our country. Though Fr Stan Swamy was born in Tamil Nadu, he offered himself to work in North India and joined the Jamshedpur Jesuit Province. His social concern and personal experience of the plight of Adivasis forced him to commit himself to uphold the rights of the Adivasis from his younger days. He is an inspiring model, social thinker and an activist, fully committed for the upliftment of Adivasis and Dalits for the last fifty years or so. I attended his classes on Social Analysis in 1980s and was personally motivated by his simplicity and commitment to the rights of the marginalized people, particularly the Adivasis. He had a focused perspective that led him to engage in liberative actions in favour of the Adivasis. He never let his people down. In spite of his persistent indifferent health, he never evaded any chance of being with them.

Fr Stan raised his voice against the government for 'nearly ignoring' the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) 1996 and for the release of under-trials. According to him, most of them have been unfairly and indiscriminately lodged in jails and labelled as Maoists. He was against displacement of the people and was firm in his conviction that the lands of the Adivasis could not be given to the big corporate companies without their consent. On 8 Oct 2020, Fr Stan was arrested in Ranchi and then was taken to

Mumbai by National Investigation Agency implicating him in the Bhima Koregaon case. Hearing the arrest of this simple and committed Jesuit who is aged and affected by ailments, we are really disturbed and troubled.

In his interview, just two days before his arrest, Fr Stan says that it is not something unique happening to him but there are prominent intellectuals, lawyers, writers, poets, activists and student leaders who are arrested for expressing their dissent or for raising questions against those in power. Fr Stan has also clearly stated that he is not a silent spectator but he is part of the game and emphatically expressed, “*I am ready to pay the price, whatever be it*”.

The arrest of Fr Stan has triggered protests in every part of the world. In India, the Church, the social activists and different movements join hands in several places to raise their voices against this inhuman arrest. Before the arrest of Fr Stan, prominent Telugu poet Varavara Rao, activists Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navalakha and a few others had also been arrested, all linked to the same case. When we read through the true story of

Bhima Koregaon case, we understand how much has been fabricated to bring these persons under custody. All these good people have been dedicating their lives for the cause of the voiceless people. They are bearing pain and agony because of the courage of their convictions. They will not give up. They are not afraid of illegal and inhuman treatment. They are bold and daring.

They teach us an important lesson: *pronouncement of vows will have meaning only when they are lived out*. All of us are searching for meaning in our lives. These good people teach us another important lesson: *search for meaning in serving the poor*. It is certainly a continuous search.

We shall join hands with them. Let us express our solidarity through our prayers and actions. They need our solidarity as much as we need their support. Let us mobilise all people of good will and marshal our strength ever to win over the evil forces that strive to cause serious damage to the peace and harmony of the nation and disrupt the lives of the poor.

*Jebamalai Irudayaraj*



## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### NOVEMBER

- 03 Province Consult (Online)
- 04 Meeting Most Rev Antony Pappusamy, TNBC President
- 10 GBM: TVET Commission (Online)
- 12 Joint Steering Committee Meeting ICAM-Loyola (LICET)
- 16 Meeting of In-charges of Local Resource Mobilization (Online)
- 19 GBM: Youth Commission (Online)
- 24 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (Online)
- 26 Meeting of Local Protection Officers – Minors and Vulnerable Adults (Online)  
Eve: Mass, Diamond Jubilee of Berchmans Illam
- 27 Training on FCRI for the Treasurers, Work Directors and LS/TL (Online)
- 28 Meeting of In-charges of Local Grievance Cell (Online)
- 30 GBM: Finance Commission (Online)

### DECEMBER

- 01 Governing Body Meeting, Loyola College, Chennai
- 11 Governing Body Meeting, LIBA, Chennai
- 14-18 Visitation: Loyola Chennai
- 21 Meeting of Local Superiors and Team Leaders
- 22 Province Consult
- 28 First Province Day Celebration (Online)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We, the Scholastics, and Fathers, will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Berchmans Illam (1960-2020) on 26 Nov 20. Fr Provincial will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration at 6.00 pm followed by the fellowship meal with guests. We humbly request your fervent prayers to our house of Formation.

*Berchmans Illam Community*

**FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED**

Fr Agnelo Mascarenhas, SJ (GOA) as Provincial of Pune Province.

**APPOINTMENTS BY FR POSA: CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS  
(BETWEEN 30 APR 2020 – 10 OCT 2020)**

NAME	DESIGNATION
Fr Ryan Rodrigues (KAR)	Appointed to JDV for M.Ph & Trial Teaching, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020; residing at DNC.
Fr George Karuvelil (PAT)	Appointed to P.G. Block to continue Research work, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020. Belongs to DNC community.
Fr (Dr) Gregory Arokiaswamy OMI	Appointed as Lecturer, Pastoral and Moral Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020.
Fr Devara Joji Babu (AND)	Appointed for M.Th in Spirituality at JDV Pune, w.e.f. June, 2020; residing at DNC.
Fr Paul D'Souza (GUJ)	Appointed as Acting Superior ISI_D, Jesuit Community, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020
Fr W. Keith Abranches (GUJ)	Appointed as CDF w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020, additional charge.
Fr Siji Chacko (PAT)	Appointed as Coordinator of Conference Secretaries, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2020
Fr (Dr) Victor Sagayam SVD	Appointed as Lecturer, Missiology Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2020.
Fr Francis Gonsalves (GUJ)	Appointed to reside at JDV PG Block; continue as community member of PS, w.e.f. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug, 2020.
Fr Siji Chacko (PAT)	Appointed as GIAN Ecology in-charge in the capacity of the Director-CDO (CDD), w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct, 2020.

**STUDIES FOR CONFERENCE COMMON WORKS:**

Fr Sandeep Jagtap (PUN) MA in Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan, June 2020.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:**

Leadership Program Team for SA. Fr Joe Arun (Convenor), Fr Nelson D'Silva (Joint Convenor)  
Frs Joye James & Siji Chacko (Members).

**GRATITUDE FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO COMMON HOUSES & WORKS OF SOUTH ASIA:**

Fr Joy Karayampuram (PAT) as Superior ISI\_D (from May 2013).  
Fr Raj Irudaya (CEN) as ADF (from June 2014).

Fr Antoine Kerhuel, Secretary of the Society, communicates that after a bit more than a week in the hospital, Father General has returned to the Curia. A variety of tests were done. During these tests, his physicians implanted a pacemaker that is functioning well.

*Antoine Kerhuel*





As you know, Fr General has announced a special Ignatian year from 20 May 2021 to 31 July 2022 commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of conversion of Ignatius and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his canonisation. Accordingly, Fr Provincial has instituted a team to plan and coordinate the IGY: 2021-22. We, the members of the IGY-team shall be delighted to receive your individual and community's creative suggestions before 30 November, 2020. Please forward your suggestions to the email <jerrysj1@gmail.com>.

Jerry

### HEALTH UPDATE

#### BESCHI, DINDIGUL

**Fr Arul Jeevan** (MDU) underwent colectomy, on 21 Oct, at Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai, and part of his colon was surgically removed. He returned to Beschi Infirmary on 06 Nov.

**Fr A Leo Pereira** (MDU) was discharged, on 24 Oct, from St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, and has been quarantined in Beschi Illam. On 6 Nov, he moved back to his room but has been asked to practise social distancing.

**Fr John Peter Bellarmine** admitted in JCB Hospital, Dindigul, on 11 Oct, with 70% lung infection and tested COVID Positive, was taken off Oxygen support on 20 Oct. He tested COVID negative, on 24 Oct, and as the third CT scan taken indicated a decreasing level of infection, he was discharged and quarantined in Beschi Illam. Starting 6 Nov, he joins the community for meals keeping the required social distance. As lung infection is still a problem, he has been asked to limit physical activity to the minimum. He will have a couple of months of rest and recuperation while **Fr. Xavier Gnanasekaran** (CEN) substitutes for him in Porulur Parish.

**Br A Santiago** (MDU), and **Fr Michael Doss** (MDU), were both admitted in the COVID ward of St Joseph Hospital, on 23 Oct and 24 Oct respectively.

Well, on their way to recovery, they were discharged, on 2 Nov and 3 Nov respectively, and are quarantined back at Beschi.

**Dindigul Health officials** were in Beschi, on 27 Oct, to disinfect the campus and administer swab test to 90 persons. Thank God, all tested COVID negative. As **Br S Rayappan** (MDU) had (16%) chest infection and was admitted in the COVID ward of St Joseph Hospital, on 29 Oct, but has been discharged, on 7 Nov, and is quarantined in Beschi.

**Fr A Soosai Raj** after completing his quarantine period at Beschi returned to St Mary's Estate, Manalur, but he developed other health-related problems. He is back in Dindigul and getting treated as outpatient and is staying at Maduralaya since 6 Nov.

**Fr Ignatius Puthiadam** (MDU), has been admitted in St Joseph Hospital on 9 Nov with a 20% lung infection.

**Carmel, Nagercoil: Fr V Jesu Nesa Raju** (MDU) tested COVID Positive and was admitted in Holy Cross Hospital, on 23 Oct. He tested negative on 28 and has been quarantined at Carmel for 10 days.

#### SXC, PALAYAMKOTTAI

**Fr A Pappuraj** (MDU) was taken to the hospital on 3 Nov for chest cold and severe cough. His swab test and CT scan results revealed that he was COVID positive. He was admitted in Apollo Hospital, Madurai, on 4 Nov. On 7 Nov, his Oxygen Saturation level went down to 85% and he was shifted to the High Dependency Unit (HDU) and his breathing supported with 10 litres of Oxygen. As Fr Pappuraj has also renal problems, nephrologists are treating him for that ailment also.

Fearing the worst, on 4 Nov, the Corporation health officials were invited to come and administer swab test to all the community members and coworkers. Four members tested COVID Positive: **Frs Henry Jerome** (MDU), **Elias** (MDU) **Loyola Savari** (MDU) and **Br Irudayam** (MDU). Frs Henry and Elias were admitted in Apollo, Madurai, on 5 Nov. Fr Elias is given antiviral injection because of his cough and Fr. Henry is still under observation. Fr Loyola and Br Irudayam were also admitted in Apollo, Madurai on 6 Nov as their lung infection was significant.

On 8 Nov morning, **Fr William Alphonse** (MDU) was found in his room lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to Rhock Hospital. The CT scan revealed no internal injury. He will be in the hospital for a few days.

**Frs Gerlin, Freddie, and Darwin** have returned to their respective communities after the treatments.

# JUBILARIANS 2020

CHENNAI & MADURAI JESUITS

*70 Years As a Jesuit*



**Fr Mampira  
C Xavier**

*60 Years As a Jesuit*



**Fr Dhanaraj  
Raphael**



**Fr Michael  
Alosanaya**



**Br Savarimuthu  
Michael**

*50 Years As a Jesuit*

Fr General Felicitates Golden Jubilarians ...



**Fr Arockiaraj Gnanapragasam**

For about 20 years, you taught history at the tertiary level, contributed to your students' formation through counseling and as Hostel Director. As an academician you served Jesuit institutions both in the rural and urban areas.... After completing your service as an academician you have been serving in the field of spiritual ministry in various centers.... You are a person of principles with systematic organizational skills, perseverance in striving for goals....

**Fr Arul Jeevan**

You served in four of our schools as a Teacher, Assistant Headmaster and Headmaster. During those years you involved yourself not merely in teaching but also in character formation of students with your added interest in counseling.... Your alumni carry good memories of your accompaniment.... When illness struck eight years ago, you submitted yourself to God's will.... You not only accepted medical options but also dared to accept God's invitation to live a life of pain and suffering.



**Br Arulanandam Savarimuthu**

Yours is a unique case of a Jesuit brother happily serving for about 40 years as Farm Manager in the village farms .... As a lover of agriculture and one who cares for the lives and livelihoods of rural agricultural laborers you have accomplished mighty work in the farms.... Your ardent fervor in spiritual matters is manifest in your regularity for Mass, community prayer and other activities. All through the years of formation and mission, you have displayed a great love for the Society.



**Fr Frederick Xavier Joseph**

After your Ordination you served as a media activist in the field of Social Action... You paid a heavy price for your daring initiatives to expose injustice, were beaten up and jailed.... You have always made yourself available for any mission the Provincial assigned to you. As an affable, cheerful, simple and unassuming person with an interest in serving the Dalits and the poor you were a welcome addition to any community.



**Fr Jerry Rosario**

A man of prodigious memory, a prolific writer, a dynamic preacher and pastor you are popularly known as 'Barefoot Jerry'.... you started the Dhaanam movement for organ donation during life and after death....you have engaged vigorously in pastoral ministry... and have been the director of SUPAM (Supervised Pastoral Ministry) for our deacons and newly ordained priests and at the Assistancy level you kick started JEPASA (Secretariat for Jesuit Pastors of South Asia).

**Fr Jeyaseelan Thomas Barnabas**

The Society chose you for a unique ministry of legal service for which you equipped yourself with degrees in History, Political Science, Civil and Canon Law.... Reading the signs of the times and seeing the growing need for legal service especially for the marginalized you established LAAS Centre.... With your expertise in law (both canon and civil) you have been actively involved in settling ecclesiastical issues. You are a happy and jovial person.

**Fr M A Joe Antony**

You started your journalistic career as Associate Editor of *Nam Vazhvu* (1984-85) even before you equipped yourself for your ministry with a Master's in Journalism.... You gave new life to The New Leader ....You were Socius to the Madurai Provincial while being the editor of JIVAN as well as the MNL. With excellent communication skills both in Tamil and English, you have written many books, contributed continuously to varied journals and even composed hymns.

**Fr Marivalan Rayappan**

You were given multiple responsibilities as Editor of the Tamil Messenger of the Sacred Heart (*Thiru Iruthaya Thoothan and Poyyavilakku*), Vocation Promoter, Regional Director and National Director of Apostleship of Prayer.... you founded Kalaikkan, a Tamil cultural troupe/movement. You have been always very much interested in and keen on laity formation....As a tireless pastor, you keep moving around trying to provide pastoral care....You are really a man of the Church and a man of the people.

**Fr Michael Doss Lourdes**

As a member of the first Jesuit community of Arul Anandar College (AAC), Karumathur... you were involved in AAC's pioneering efforts to promote the holistic development of the rural poor.... Your work of rural development included education and social transformation of the rural illiterate, urging them to opt for value-based living.... You have been appreciated for your cordiality, gentleness and compassion.

**Fr Pushparaj Gnanasamy**

You were chosen and trained to become a pioneer in Agricultural Studies. You took enthusiastic initiatives in farming and Rural Development.... Responding to the problems faced by Christian Minority educational institutions, you founded the Consortium of Christian Minority Higher Educational Institutions (CCMHEI) and managed to obtain Minority status for many Christian colleges.

**Br Thomas Arulappan**

You are a man of many talents and your expertise in various fields helped you serve in different capacities.... Another remarkable aspect of your service has been your availability for service anywhere for any work.... You are quiet, gentle and friendly with all and you have a special love and respect for our coworkers. You are regular, punctual and totally committed to your tasks. Simplicity and faithfulness are manifested in your life and work.



*60+ Years  
in priesthood*



**Fr Diaz Vitalis**



**Fr George Rathnasamy**

*50+ Years in priesthood*



**Fr Ignatius Sebastian**



**Fr Ignatius Viyagappa**



**Fr James Bharataputra**



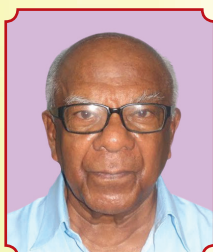
**Fr Jesuraja Paul C**



**Fr Ladislaus Chinnadurai S**



**Fr Savarimuthu S Packiam**



**Fr Selvaraj Edward S M**



**Fr Susaimanickam Sebastian**



**Fr Viaguladasan Manickam**

*Congrats!*

#### REPORTS

### *Ordination 2020*

**“TO BE THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE MARGINALIZED”**

The very thought of Sacerdotal Ordination evokes in us memories of a huge gathering and a celebration with all splendour and grandeur. Ordination 2020 was different. What we had on 7 Oct 20 was a simple but very solemn and meaningful celebration, resonating with our theme, *நலிந்தோரின் நற்செய்தியாக* (to be the Good News for the marginalized). Bishop Antonysamy of Palayamkottai, the Ordaining Prelate, in his sermon commended the theme chosen by asserting that Jesus began his earthly ministry in a simple manner and our simple celebration is very symbolic of that very humble beginning. He blessed us to be happy, good and holy priests. The day was memorable for all of us, six deacons of Madurai and Chennai Provinces who

were ordained priests at St Lourdes Church, St Joseph's College, Tiruchi. The liturgy was very moving, and the solemnity and special moments of grace overwhelmed us. The assurance of spiritual and virtual presence and prayers of many CEN and MDU Jesuit companions compensated for their physical absence. Owing to COVID-19, the attendance of parents/siblings also was restricted to two persons for each new priest and the families also sacrificed First Mass celebrations in their respective parishes that normally follow the Ordination. As the Ordination was live streamed, all our near and dear ones, like our Jesuit confreres, virtually took part in the celebration.



In preparation for this great day, as demanded by the prevailing COVID-19 situation, we arrived at Tiruchi on 17 Sep, had our swab test done and quarantined ourselves at Bellarmine Hostel for a couple of days. By the grace of God, all of us tested negative and so were able to join the community on 19 Sep. Special care was given to us by the St. Joseph's community in all the arrangements that were made for us. We were very fortunate to have a course on 'Alcoholism and Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Minors' by Fr Jayapathy from September 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by our ordination retreat online, directed by Fr Mathew Cyril Antony, who inspired us

to become holy priests with his deep reflections and stories. We are indebted to Frs Jayapathy and Cyril.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Danis Ponniah, Provincial (MDU), Fr Jebamalai Raja, Provincial (CEN), Fr Stephen L Pragasam, PCF (MDU), Fr Robin, PCF (CEN), Fr Devadoss, Socius (MDU), Fr Ilanko, Socius (CEN), Fr Leonard Fernando, Rector, St Joseph's College and all the members of St Joseph's community, particularly, Fr Marivalan, parish priest, and Fr Leolin, Asst PP. Our heartfelt thanks to all our Jesuit companions in the two Provinces.

*Franklin Peter Rex*

### THE ONLINE JCSA MEETING

The JCSA meeting was held online from 26 to 29 Oct 20. The pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus-19 disallowed any face to face meeting of the Provincials. This was also the first meeting of Fr Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, the new President of JCSA.



This time four new Provincials were welcomed to the JCSA. They were: Fr Ajit Kumar Xess (RAN), Fr Jerome Cutinha (JAM), Fr Soosai Mani (DEL) and Fr Dionysius Vaz (KAR), besides the New President of JCSA.

1. Fr Siji Chacko (CDD) along with his team, presented the findings of the Mapping of Common

Houses of SA: JDV, DNC, VJ, SN, Sadhana, ISI-D, ISI-B, and JRS, Afghanistan. They studied the current status, of personnel, finance, projecting the situation that would prevail in these two areas in the year 2030. 2. Fr General gave two inputs to the JCSA for about 50 minutes leaving 40 minutes for interaction. The first input was about Vocation Promotion. The second was about the Solidarity Fund for formation and the Ignatian Year, beginning in May 2021.

\* He underscored the importance of Vocation Promotion and discussed concrete steps the Major Superiors needed to take to rekindle a culture of vocation promotion, including the vocation of the Brothers.

\* Speaking about the solidarity in formation, Fr General called all Conferences to discern and draw up a prioritized list of the needs and resources of formation. This list should be submitted to him and the SFC (Solidarity in Formation Council). The aim is



to share not just the financial resources, but in creating partnerships, to share human resources and expertise. Ultimately, through this exercise, the Provinces should become self-sustaining.

\* On the IGY Fr General said that it was an opportunity to return to our spiritual roots and make them known. The IGY does not stop with Ignatius but moves to Christ who is the centre. It is a mean 'to see all things new in Christ'.

3. Fr Sunny Jacob (JEA Sec.) and Fr Joye James (JHEASA Sec.) gave us a quick rundown of the implications of the new National Education Policy [NEP] of the GOI, for all our education institutions. They emphatically brought out the harm it would cause and called for an immediate collective action.

4. Fr Tom Smolich (JRS International Director) and Fr Louie Albert thanked the JCSA for all its efforts in the Mission in Afghanistan and briefed them about the current status of the works going on in Afghanistan, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Bangladesh. They emphasized the fact that the JRS was in AFG only to support JCSA's work among the beleaguered internally displaced Afghan communities.

5. Fr Joe Xavier and Fr Joe Arun gave inputs on Migrant Facilitation Net and Ignatian Leadership Programmes respectively.

\* MFN, apart from serving migrants could show us a new way of engaging in our mission for migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees in a structured and coordinated fashion.

\* The Ignatian Leadership Training would reach out to Jesuits, collaborators, Bishops and Major Superiors of other religious congregations. To begin with they were planning a series of ToT's in the four zones starting in March 2021.

Based on the above inputs and a day long discussions, some suggestions and decisions were taken to implement them effectively in SA.

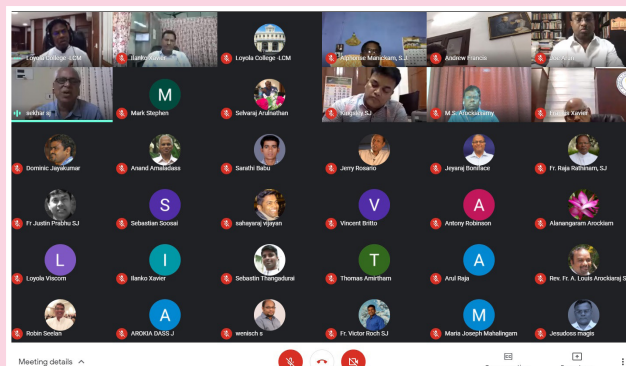
Farewell to Fr George: A short, but effective farewell was organized for Fr George Pattery the outgoing President of the Conference. Fr Varghese Palli, on behalf of all of us thanked Fr George, enumerating a few of the many initiatives he had taken to improve the functioning of the Conference. Fr Stany D'Souza added his words of thanks to Fr George, for his leadership and wished him well as he recuperates in the coming year. Finally, Fr George replied to the gratitude expressed and wished the JCSA well, especially since it had an uphill task with the pandemic and the inimical political climate in the country. The group then concluded the

function with the melodious rendition of the hymn, 'Showers of Blessings.' Fr Stany D'Souza rounded off the meeting with a few encouraging remarks as we bid farewell to each other.

*Jebamalai Irudayaraj*

### Province Researchers' Forum (PRF)

The first historical meeting of the Province Researchers' Forum was held on 10 Oct. In the plenary session, Fr Francis P Xavier spoke on the significance of research and publication. He persuaded Jesuit researchers to become role models in research, writing and publication. Fr Joe Arun, moderator of the session, made a brief, pertinent and complementary remark. Fr Victor Roch stressed the need for research in Life Sciences to focus on bio-pesticides, medicinal plants, millets and green agriculture in collaboration with TNAU, LCV and LCM. Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan made a constructive response from his experience in Tech Loyola Organic Farming in Loyola College, Vettavalam. Fr Parthasarathy asked the PRF to explore ways and means of making the secure and self-centred youth to become critical thinkers by providing opportunities for education, employment and enlightenment.



Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam stressed the need to take up relevant researches so that the preferential option could be effectively implemented in the Province and ecclesial institutions. Forging unity between the Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Classes should be one of the major concerns of PRF which was appreciated by Fr Rajarathinam in his response. Speaking on 'Revolutionising Spiritual Praxis', Fr Maria Arul Raj A underlined the urgent need to attain ideological clarity and strategic clarity in our personal understanding of spirituality and culture so that individuals could become agents of change of self and others. This was complimented by Fr A Irudayaraj. There were vibrant interactions among the participants and many suggestions came up to strengthen PRF.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*

**CHENNAI: ARUL KADAL**

After a long time, normalcy has returned to Arul Kadal. Since 8 Oct, the day of arrest of Fr Stan Swamy SJ (JAM), we have been showing our solidarity with him and the other social activists who are imprisoned, through our community prayers, Eucharist, protest and by way of preparing the liturgy materials for the 'Sunday with Fr Stan' on 18 Oct.

*Anto Arputha Raja*

**CHENNAI: BERCHMANS ILLAM**

The Scholastics in Berchmans Illam are busy attending their online classes and meticulously preparing for the exams. Frs Dennis of Darjeeling Province and Arul Antony of Karnataka Province have recently joined our community as they are here for their higher studies.

We prepared the placards for the silent protest for the release of Fr Stan Swamy. We also resolutely engaged, with our collaborators, in the silent agitation organized by the Loyola Institutions in the city on 12 Oct. Fifteen of our Scholastics took part in a meeting organized by different political parties for the same cause. They were also involved in the distribution of the pamphlets in 20 different parishes to create awareness regarding Fr Stan's arrest and demanding his release.

Fr A Irudayaraj organized a webinar on "A Woman Perspective of Environmental Degradation and Protection". The focus was on how women become victims to environmental degradation and also how they constructively contribute to saving our common home. Dr Susithra, a senior sub-editor of Tamil Hindu made an erudite presentation followed by a meaningful interaction with the participants. Fr A Irudayaraj organized Fr Gaston Roberge (CCU) memorial online meeting. Many communication specialists from all over India who knew Fr Gaston personally shared their experiences and anecdotes of Fr Gaston. It was a meaningful tribute to a Jesuit media specialist.

As part of the webinar series of the Department of Visual Communication, Loyola college, Fr A Irudayaraj conducted 19<sup>th</sup> webinar on "Farm Bills-2020: A Legal Perspective" to the development communication

students. Ms Ritika Makesh, a law student from Symbiosis Law School, Pune enlightened the students on legal implications of the Farm Bills. There was a very lively interactive session after her presentation.

In order to solve the perennial water shortage, corporation water has been brought to Berchmans Illam and the sump has been renovated. We thank Fr Rector, Loyola College for granting the permission.

*Jenith*

**CHENNAI: DHYANA ASHRAM**

On 24 Sep, there was an august farewell celebration for our co-worker Thiru Michael who had served Dhyana Ashram campus for an interminable innings of 24 years. Fr P S Arul invoked the blessings of God, Fr Superior, Br Sadhanandam and Fr Jerry felicitated him for the yeoman services he has been rendering to Dhyana Ashram. Frs Anand Amaladass, Louis Adaikalaraj and Lawrence Amalraj, garlanded Thiru Michael in different styles. Fr. Xavier Alphonse presented a valuable gift to the retiring hero. Fr Wenish meticulously prepared the retirement benefit papers and got them signed by Thiru Michael in the presence of the entire community. Fr Superior handed over the cheque gracefully to Thiru Michael. Fr Vedanayagam, the senior most member, prayed for the success of the program. Fr Basil gave the vote of thanks. The tacit message on everyone's lips was that Thiru Michael had been an excellent staff.

*Lawrence Amalraj*

**CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE**

LCC: Fr Francis P Xavier gave three talks on 'Motivation and Goal Setting', 'Decision Making and Discernment', and 'Time Management Matrix and Multitasking' in the international webinar program organized by Thalir Centre of Capuchins. Every talk was attended by more than 500 participants - mostly Major Superiors, from around 30 countries. He delivered a well-attended talk on 'Suicide - A Solution?', organized by Jesuit Webinar Series of Loyola College. He gave another webinar in an international programme on 'Stress Management in Corona Pandemic' for a Japanese organization on the occasion of the final round of Fujio Cup Quiz for which he served as a jury member.

Give Life, a student run bakery, has obtained Food Safety and Standard Certificate from TN Govt. Loyola organized a silent protest on 12 Oct to showcase its solidarity with Fr Stan Swamy and the other human rights activists and demand their release. Over 300 people (Jesuits, staff and AICUF students) stood in



silent protest along the pavement around the college with placards to express our stand.

**LCAS:** Four Transpersons are admitted in Loyola College of Arts and Science this year and they are very grateful to the management for this noble gesture. The leaders from community of Transpersons met the Principal and thanked him for admitting a few members of their group.



**LCE:** Loyola College of Education has come out with a remarkable victory of '100% results with distinction' in the last university exams. We congratulate Fr Secretary, the Principal, the Staff and all the outgoing students for this unique achievement.

**LIBA** has been ranked as one of 'The 10 Best Global Institutes for Marketing Programs, 2020' by *The Knowledge Review*. In its efforts to enhance industry-institute connect and to start new courses and programmes, LIBA has involved industry partners, Tata Consultancy Service for programmes in Business Analytics, MGM hospital and CMC for Health Care Management, and Kerry-Indev for logistics and supply chain management. LIBA has become a member of The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) to start the process of obtaining the international accreditation. LIBA took part in the low-cost high intensity 'Jan Andolan' Campaign prescribed by the Central Government. The campaign was to emphasise the need for people's participation to 'unlock with precautions' their organizations/institutions and observe COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. LIBA has been ranked seventh among the standalone business schools in the country by Outlook Magazine.

**IDCR:** By way of encountering the multi-faceted fundamentalist orientations, IDCR organized the following four webinars in collaboration with the AICUF and the Social Watch - TN. The input sessions both in English and Tamil by reputed Dravidian scholar Dr V Geetha on 'Periyar and Feminism' evoked vibrant responses across the country. We realize the felt-need for communicating Periyar to North India. The systematic articulation of the insights of Fr Sahaya Philomin Raj on the theme of 'Indian Constitution:

*Human Rights Perspectives'*, both in English and Tamil, enabled the young minds to appreciate the radical philosophy of egalitarianism embedded in the Indian Constitution.

*Zenith*

### **JESUIT MIGRANTS SERVICE (JMS)**

The impact of COVID-19 has left the migrants helpless without proper work, wages and working conditions. Migrants live with uncertainty as if they should stay back and continue their work or go back to their native places. When our people lived in utter dismay and confusion without knowing the horrific conditions, JMS was with them sharing their struggles and helping them accept the reality through various programmes.

The members of the JMS, conducted seven Virtual Animation Programmes for the migrants in Chennai like counselling, motivational and spiritual talks. During VAP, people shared their difficult moments and they gained strength, confidence and felt comforted and consoled. There were around 50 participants who joined via Google meet from Maraimalainagar, Oragadam, Porur, Pattravakkam and Ambathur. On 13 Sep, VAP was conducted for women migrants on the occasion of the Nativity of Our Lady. Women shared their faith experience as how they were protected, healed and guided by Our Mother in their lives. JMS helped our migrant women to become aware of the great potentials hidden in them by highlighting women role models in the Bible and in the world. On 11 Oct, VAP was conducted for all the migrants to pray for the release of Fr Stan. Migrants were united in prayer by reciting the Rosary, and in demonstration by shouting slogans to release Fr Stan and other human rights defenders.

The members of JMS rescued a young migrant family who were forcibly chased out of the construction site on 26 Sep. Mr Hachibul along with his pregnant wife, Mrs Sarika Katun and 2-year-old son, Ibrahim were at Egmore station without sufficient money for food and travel. JMS rescued and gave them shelter for two days and booked their tickets to get back to their native place in West Bengal.

When most of the children could afford to attend the online classes, our migrant children were deprived of basic facilities to attend online classes. Understanding the longing of migrant children, JMS resumed the evening study centres where they could learn their subjects by following safety and cleanliness norms. Children were happy for the opportunity to learn. We would like to laud our benefactor-group Bay Area Tamil



Catholic Fellowship (BATCF) for having helped our migrants generously. JMS also provided the migrant children with clothes.

In collaboration with other NGOs, we have forwarded a letter to the Chief Minister of TN for the compulsory registration of migrant workers and the distribution of dry rations for the migrants and all the unorganised labourers.

Loyola shelter homes at Koyambedu and Chepauk celebrated Ayutha Pooja on 25 Oct with the participation of all the residents. The importance of labour was highlighted during the celebration which was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

*William*

#### **HARUR: ARULAGAM**



On 8 Oct, Fr Ignatius Britto, warmly welcomed in our midst Fr Franklin Peter Rex, a newly ordained priest, assigned to our community. On 11 Oct, Fr Franklin Peter Rex celebrated the First Thanksgiving Eucharist with the parishioners of Harur. All arrangements for the celebration were effectively organized by Fr John Paul. His stay with us was very short as he moved over to Shevapet, Salem diocese at the request of the Bishop of Dharmapuri.

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day, 05 Oct, Fr Mag Bay conducted sessions for school staff organized by Fr Paul Benedict. On 5 Oct, about 35 students (boys and girls) assigned to stay at our Puthu Vazhvu Siruvar Illam, were handed over to their parents as planned by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Harur Jesuit community along with the teachers, parishioners and the public participated at the protest for the release of Fr Stan and 14 other activists. A poem composed by Fr Paul Benedict was sent to our school staff and parishioners and uploaded in social media.

On 18 Oct, 'Sunday with Fr Stan', Fr John Paul, Parish Priest, specially offered Holy Mass with the faithful for the cause of the speedy release of Fr Stan. This added clarity and strength to our involvement. Fr Mag Bay participated at the protest in Dharmapuri, organized at the diocesan level, for the same purpose.

*Tony Ajith*

#### **KASTHAMBADI: J P LEONARD ILLAM (JPLI)**

##### **PRE-NOVITIATE**

All the pre-novices had gone home to receive their 12<sup>th</sup> Mark Sheet and to spend time with their parents. Sixteen pre-novices returned to JPLI on 4 Oct and were quarantined for a week. The safety protocols that they followed faithfully kept them out of the reach of the infectious corona virus. During this week, they also involved themselves in field experience of peeling groundnuts which were harvested from our fields. It was relatively a good crop which we shared with some of our communities and families of all the pre-novices.

The pre-novices took part in the nation-wide protest for the release of Fr Stan Swamy with placards in their hands, at Polur bus stand on 12 Oct. We began our second term formally on 14 Oct with the Holy Mass. All the pre-novices were enthralled to welcome the new term with their new offices and renewed time table. The methodology of teaching has been changed to cater to the growth of the pre-novices who are at different levels in the process of learning.

On 18 Oct, the pre-novices put forth their dexterous hands in the kitchen as part of their formation. They had their medical test on 23 Oct at St Thomas Hospital, Chetpet, in order to assess their physical fitness. This medical trip was coupled with a pilgrimage to St Lourdes Shrine, Matha Malai at Chetpet. Mr Manikam and Ms Deepa conducted a course on Folk Arts for the pre-novices from 26 to 30 Oct. It was an integrated course which helped them taste the folk communicative skills, love and respect nature and discipline oneself.



##### **JMMEx**

Four returnee migrants from Migrant Self Help Group (MSHG) willing to move into entrepreneurship endeavours were chosen and encouraged with interest free loan of Rs. 25,000 each after a comprehensive deliberation on business management skills on 3 Oct in Kasthambadi. JMMEx feels grateful to the province for the immediate response for accompanying migrants.

To instil the importance of savings among the rural migrants, 2 more MSHGs were started in Kaduvetty and Kalpattu, in Viluppuram District on 9 and 28 Oct respectively. Mr Syed Baai, a returnee and an experienced

entrepreneur from our MSHG was the resource person and guide for the initiation of MSHGs. Meeting for the members of the first MSHG was held in Loyola College, Vettavalam on 10 Oct.

JMMEx along with the collaborators (NDWM and LISSTAR) met in person Mr Oliver IAS, NRT, Chennai, on 12 Oct and discussed in detail the persisting practical issues and challenges of service for migrants and appealed to him to forward some of the major recommendations to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for the welfare of poor and rural migrants.

We thank Mr Alwin Jose, Kuwait and Fr Prabu for their efforts to rescue Mrs Chitra, Thiruvannamalai and to repatriate her from Kuwait on 10 Oct successfully.

**Hansel & Velz**

#### KUPPAYANALLUR: LOYOLA H S SCHOOL



Sixty widows, aged between 25 and 55 years, participated in a National Seminar on 'Technology for Women Entrepreneurs' on 05 Oct organized by Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA), Chennai, in association with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in the premises of our School. Fr C Joe Arun, Director, LIBA inaugurated the seminar online. In his keynote address, he emphasized that women are the change makers and agents. Dr P R Nisha, Head & Professor and Dr K Devaki, Assistant Professor, Krish Vigyan Kendra, Kattupakkam, addressed the gathering in the Titus Hall on 'Livestock rearing- especially about cow, goat and poultry farming.' They encouraged the women to make livestock rearing more profitable and lucrative through the use of social media and internet. Mr Edin, the seed officer, Uthiramerur spoke about UZHAVAN app and invited the participants to avail themselves various government schemes using the app. Fr K Jerome, Headmaster, the Jesuit community and the staff, cooperated to make a grand success of the seminar for widows.

Fr Robin Sahaya Seelan and Mr Deepak, who is a member of International Jesuit Ministry (IJM), brought nearly 20 Tribal children to study in our institution from Vandavasi and sponsored their studies. HCL Company conducted webinar programme for our students on POCSO awareness on 18 Oct.

We conducted a protest for the release of Fr Stan in the premises of Annai Velankanni Church at Uthiramerur on 22 Oct. Fr Yesumarian L, Director of DHRC, gave an inspiring talk about the contribution of Christians to the reformation of India in the past. Fr M Devasagayam, Superior, presided over the function. Fr Praveen, VF of Palliagram Vicariate, Sr Josephine ME, Headmistress, Pappanallur and Mr Xavier, Staff, LHSS addressed the gathering and condemned the arrest of Fr Stan. All priests, belonging to this vicariate, religious and our staff showed their solidarity and support in the protest.

**Noyal**

#### KILPENNATHUR: AHAL CENTRE

Knowing the importance of having Sangam (association), people of Elanthampuravada, a sub-station of Kilpennathur, asked the Parish Priest to establish a Sangam. Hence, a new Sangam was formed on 9 Oct. The Animators of Social Education Centres had a health awareness programme about COVID-19 at AHAL on 11 Oct. Fr Arul Valan, SDB was the resource person who appealed to the participants to disseminate what they learnt to their villagers. We distributed homeopathy medicines such as Arsenicum Album 30C and Camphor 1M to boost their immune system.



On 18 Oct, the parishioners showed their solidarity for with Fr Stan (JAM) in front of the parish church by holding a banner and raising slogans demanding his release and that of the other activists from the jail. There was a social media course at AHAL for capacitating AHAL staff, village animators and some interested youth on 25 Oct. Fr Philip clearly explained how to use social media effectively in our social ministries. On 28 Oct, Thiruvannamalai District People's Federation organized a protest near Anna statue in Thiruvannamalai to condemn the central government for the arrest of Fr Stan and other activists and demanded their release. AHAL staff, our parishioners and the members of AHAL staff, our parishioners and the members of "அருந்ததியர் மக்கள் நல உரிமைச்சங்கம்" participated in the protest. Fr Marianathan was one of the speakers.

**Raja Jesu Raj**



## **METTALA: LOYOLA COLLEGE**

Hats off to Fr Rajarathinam, lyricist and musician, who has composed a scintillating College Anthem for Loyola College, Mettala. LCM is happy to have its College Anthem in its sixth academic year. The two-page handbill in Tamil prepared by Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam on the negative impact of NEP-2020 was printed and distributed to all the parishes in the Dioceses of Salem and Dharmapuri by Rt Rev Dr Lawrence Pius Durairaj, Bishop of Dharmapuri and Administrator of Salem.

On 12 Oct, along with the Jesuit Community, the teaching and non-teaching staff, student representatives and alumni, Salem diocesan priests and CRI members protested in front of the college with the police protection demanding immediate release of Fr Stan Swamy. This demonstration was published in the newspapers widely. Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam prepared a one-page handbill explaining the emancipatory mission of Fr Stan among the Tribals and Dalits in Jharkhand State for more than 30 years and the immediate background to his arrest on 8 Oct in Ranchi.

On 18 Oct, all the five of us from LCM Jesuit Community celebrated Sunday Masses as Solidarity Sunday, in the five neighbourhood parishes and shared with the parishioners about the good work of Fr Stan. After the Mass, we distributed 3000 handbills to the people to create awareness on the unjust incarceration of Fr Stan and asked them to pray for his release.



Last September, Fr B Jeyaraj, in-charge of House Farm, converted two acres of unused waste land into an agricultural land. He transformed one acre of land into an organic vegetable garden and, in another acre, he has cultivated groundnuts. We expect a good harvest in the forthcoming months.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*

## **METTUPALAYAM: ARRUPPE ILLAM**

### **PARAN: MAKKAMPALAYAM**

Nine school and college going students from Makkampalayam, have been attending online classes staying in PARAN office for the last fifty days. We give them training on book reading, type writing and

soft skills during the free time. Also, occasionally, we arranged online talks and interactions with Jesuits and others. We thank Mr Mispagal and team for their support to all our students.

On 3, 14 and 18 Oct, we organized one-day camp for 90 school students and youth in different places namely Makkampalayam, Kombaidoddi, Kilathur, Clemencedoddi and Kadambur. The purpose of these camps was to have continuous contact with students and the villages, to keep alive the spirit of learning in students during this COVID-19 pandemic and also to equip them with leadership skills. On 6 Oct, PARAN organized training programme cum meeting for college students, staff of PARAN and Evening Study Centres. Frs Arul SDB, Packiaraj SJ and James Raja SJ motivated and encouraged them to have deeper love and respect for the people and works.

At the Parish, we are preparing the children and the youth for a quiz programme on Bible and Basic Catechism. On 11 Oct, we distributed COVID-19 - relief materials to 34 families in our parish, sponsored by NEST Germany and Ooty diocese. On the same day Frs Packiaraj and C Antony Samy, the Parish Priest of Gundri, organized a get together for the Religious and Priests of Kadambur hills.

On 12 Oct, PARAN arranged one-day online training programme for the youth who pursue diploma, ITI and UG studies with the support of a team in LIBA, Chennai. The theme of the day was '*Holistic and Integral Formation needed for Self Development and how to be Agents of Social Transformation*'. Twenty seven dynamic youth benefitted from the programme.

On the same day, we organized a protest to demand the government to release Fr Stan Swamy who worked for the Tribals. We distributed handouts to the local leaders, to get their support for the release of Fr Stan Swamy. A signature campaign is undertaken, and the signatures will be sent to the Prime Minister of India for the same cause.

On 19 and 20 Oct, PARAN, along with the network partner TAF W and the Parish Priest of Gundri, Fr C Antony Samy, helped 150 families to get ST welfare cards from the local Tahsildar. The families in Gundri and Makkampalayam zones benefited from this.

We thank our Staff Mr Mathan and Mr Murugesh for their work and contribution. Sch Naveen Kumar successfully co-coordinated the two day's events. It was a red letter day for PARAN team because it was the result of our constant struggle and this encouraged the team to work with the spirit of Magis. It also helped





the Urali Tribal community to have trust in PARAN. We maintain and follow the norms to prevent the spread of corona virus. Creating awareness on social distance and use of face mask is an important aspect in all PARAN's activities.

*Naveen Kumar*

#### UDHAGAMANDALAM: ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

On 5 Oct, the Industrial school and the hostel were reopened as per the order of the Central Government. While the welding section is in operation as it is under the NCVT, we wait for the State Government's direction to reopen the other sections of the industrial school. On 24 Oct, we celebrated Ayudha Pooja with a prayer service. On 27 Oct, at the request from our institution, the local municipal officers sanitized the entire campus. By the grace of the Lord and your prayers,



Fr Freddie is getting better. We thank the Mettupalayam community for their motherly concern always and especially during the quarantine.

*Sundar*

#### VADAMELPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY

Action without an evaluation is not a Jesuit way of proceeding. Despite the digital fatigue or online boredom that might have set in, we made it a point to get our students not only to do weekly assessment but also to an end of the semester assessment lest they lose track of their lessons in the midst of the festive season. A vast majority of the students attended the assessment without any compulsion.

It will help us to know the cognitive and interest level of the students and to modify our pedagogy or innovate our methods of conveying the matter in future. In addition to the academic content, we provide 'Thought for the Day', one-minute reflection in AV format geared to mould their characters along with Health Tips, workouts and drills aimed at holistic formation.

Fr Stephen, the Minister and Campus Treasurer, with the help of our co-workers, is turning the campus into a veritable green-house by planting around 100 tree saplings and setting up an organic vegetable garden and herbal garden. It is a CAP initiative.

On Sundays, we recommenced rendering our spiritual support to the nearby substations of our Parish. Fr Principal is evincing keen interest in Tamil ministry by brushing up his Tamil. He is showing fast improvement in preaching in Tamil. Sch Frankly's heavy schedule of coordinating the online academic programme along with the Principal, is on and off punctuated with some useful online courses meant for his all-round formation. He attended a four-day Youth animation course given by CCBI National Youth Commission on the topic 'Youth and Psychology'. To show our solidarity with Fr Stan Swamy, we displayed posters outside our campus and encouraged the staff and parishioners to take part in signature campaign and to participate in the solidarity day of prayer, adoration and rosary for his early release.

*Frankly*

#### VALLAM: PAATHAI CENTRE

The meeting of the animators of our Evening Study Centers took place at Dalit Human Rights' Centre on 8 Oct. The participants expressed the declining spirit of studying among students and urged the need of the study centers to be opened during lockdown following the distancing norms.

On 12 Oct, the inmates of Paathai Centre, the staff of DHRC and our lay collaborators showed their solidarity with Fr Stan by voicing out slogans to release him and the fifteen other social activists from the prison. As a member of the Dalit Leaders' Federation, Fr Yesumarian L participated at the protest against



'Sexual Assault and Violence against Dalit Women in the Country'. The protest was organized by the Federation in Chennai on 19 Oct. We celebrated Aayutha Puja along with our staff and the neighbors of DHRC office on 24 Oct as an inter-religious festival.

Regents Recollection: On 30 Oct, the regents had an online session on 'how to document regency experiences in a creative form', by Fr Philip. It was to implement the Province Apostolic Preferences regarding the Integral Jesuit Formation. On the same day, the online recollection was preached by Fr Ignatius Britto (MDU) on the theme: 'My Encounter with God'. He led the regents to look back on their call and commit themselves fully for the mission entrusted to them.

*David Francis*

#### VETTAVALAM: LOYOLA COLLEGE

On 28 Oct, there was a massive protest in Tiruvannamalai against the unjust arrest of Fr Stan Swamy. The Tiruvannamalai People's Forum, a coordination group which was created by the initiatives of Loyola College, Vettavalam, Adv RL Rosario of POPE and the Salesians of Sigaram, organized a rally demanding the immediate release of Fr Stan Swamy and to stop all atrocities and inhuman killings of the Dalits, Adivasis, Minorities, Women and Children across the country. The forum included minority groups, Dalits and Indigenous People's Federation, leftist parties including VCK and NGOs in Tiruvannamalai district. They joined forces to show their solidarity with Fr Stan and all those who have been falsely accused and arrested in the Bhima Koregaon case.

Fr Selvaraj, Superior, highlighted the long years of committed service of Fr Stan Swamy from ISI, Bangalore for liberating the Dalits, and from Bagaicha, Ranchi for the Tribals, and his manifold success stories against mining, land pooling and violation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule and PESA Act. The VFs of Tiruvannamalai and Vettavalam joined the protest with people from their parishes. Loyola College, Vettavalam participated very actively by providing the vehicles and other materials for the rally.

Earlier, 12 Oct was observed as a *National Solidarity Day in LCV* in the form of a protest meeting with Prayer and a march to the main entrance of the college, mainly to conscientize our staff and students to protest against the unjust arrest of Fr Stan and to demand his immediate release. All the Jesuits of the community and many of our staff members and

students participated. Thanks to Fr Britto Vincent for his initiatives in organizing the march and for the meaningful songs which made the staff and students participate with enthusiasm.



The Department of Physical Education is a centre of attraction in LCV. To add more value to the department, 'Obstacles Training Equipment' has been installed in the campus as a new feather on the cap of LCV. An obstacle training course is a series of challenging physical obstacles, an individual or team must navigate while being timed. Obstacle courses can include running, climbing, jumping, crawling, swimming and balancing elements with the aim of testing speed, endurance and agility. It helps the students in developing and promoting physical fitness, self-confidence, determination and quick reflexes. Straight balance, Zig zag balance, Double Stride Jump, Crawling High Wall, Right Hand Vault, Clear Jump and Gate Vault are the training obstacle courses available in Loyola College, Vettavalam. Fr Albert William, the Secretary-cum-Campus Treasurer, made it possible in a short span of time.

Return of the native: Oct 26<sup>th</sup> brought unbounded joy to all of us, to receive Fr Gerlin, back in LCV after a break of nearly two months for his treatment in Vellore CMC Hospital followed by his convalescence at Loyola Industrial School, Ranipet. We thank profusely the Jesuits of Ranipet for the care and love bestowed on Fr Gerlin. Thank you so much, dear friends for your love and care. Ultimately, it is the power of our prayers that made this miracle happen to one of our friends in the Lord.

On 27 Oct, a research scholar of Fr Albert William, Prof Jerald Inico, Department of Computer Science, Loyola College, Chennai, defended his thesis on, "An empirical study on the experiences of the virtually disabled students of Loyola College on using [www.loyolacollege.edu](http://www.loyolacollege.edu)". It was an extraordinarily proud moment for all



of us that we had come out with socially relevant and creative results for the applications of our virtually disabled students. During the lockdown period, more than hundred scholars and students participated in the viva voce exam. Let us wish Dr Jerald Inico all the best for his future research.

*Justine Emma*

## **DINDIGUL:BESCHI ILLAM**

### **NOVITIATE**

In order to help our novices understand the synchronization of body and mind, Fr Michael Panimaya Raj, Socius, guided a course on *'Theology of Human body'* from 28 Sep to 2 Oct. It was emphasized that spiritual sublimation is not a finished product but a way of life through conscious, rhythmic self-realization.

The novices participated at the protests *"Stand with Stan and other activists"* which were organized by St Mary's School community on 13 Oct and by the Diocese on 20 Oct. This exposure instilled in them a the basic understanding of the justice dimension of faith.

In preparation for the month-long retreat, Fr Inigo accompanied our novices from 13-18 Oct, in their *"Intensive Journal - Retreat"*. These exercises helped many of them to reconcile with the past. 10 first-year novices from *Calcutta, Chennai and Madurai* Provinces began their month-long retreat on 31 Oct. During the first half of November, five second year novices are in their Ashram Experiment.

Our novices wrote articles in Tamil for a state level book analysis competition on *"பெண் ஏன் அடிமையானாள்? - (Why were the women enslaved?)"*, organized by Periyariyam foundation. They also participated at the English short story writing competition, organized by Ishvani Kendra, Pune.

For the purpose of Vocation Promotion, our novices shared their vocation sparks which are video-recorded and will be made available online in November. We thank Fr Thayriam, the brain behind this.

*Michael Panimaya Raj*

### **JUNIORATE**

We, the Juniors, finished our first term successfully and had fruitful holidays from 1 to 4 Oct. We had the privilege of witnessing the live streaming of the Priestly Ordination of our Jesuit deacons on 7 Oct. Sch Infant Valan bagged the second prize for his short story, *"The Magic Pill"*, in the national level story competition conducted by Ishvani Kendra, Pune, in which 80 participants from different theologates, philosophates and houses of formation from all over the country

took part. The prize was awarded online by Fr Victor Sagayam Zackarias SVD, Director, Ishvani Kendra on 18 Oct during the webinar themed *"Mission of all Religious at a critical time for humanity and nature."* Prof Dr Felix Wilfred, the speaker, gave an inspiring message underlining the fact that all scriptures lead us in the path of sacredness, all religions are penultimate, and God alone is the ultimate. Considering the emergence of COVID-19 positive cases in Beschi Campus, regular classes were suspended from 19 Oct, and we have engaged ourselves in reading books and writing assignments in our rooms.

*Praveen*

## **FROM TAIWAN**

Prayerful greetings from Christu.

It is always a joy to share news with you. Hope this mail finds you in good health. I am keeping well by the grace of God and the good news is that I have secured 92% in the second semester. Thanks for your encouragement and accompaniment through prayers. In general, life in Taiwan is safe and looks normal. The fall semester has already begun without much restrictions inside Taiwan and we have classes regularly at the university, schools, etc. However, many international students could not come to Taiwan due to travel bans. I sincerely hope and pray that this virus should disappear soon and all of us feel safe and secure.

I had my annual retreat in the month of July between 19 and 29, at our Manresa Retreat Center, Changhua. Soon after my retreat, I guided an 8-day retreat to 11 Religious Sisters from different nationalities. Later, I also guided a triduum to Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. On the whole, I was spiritually enriched and I could feel the accompaniment of God throughout my life in Taiwan, through all these activities.

I had an opportunity to be with some Indian Priests and Sisters to celebrate our National Independence Day on 15 Aug. We had a meaningful Eucharistic celebration at the chapel of SVD Fathers' Residence and shared the lunch brought by different communities.

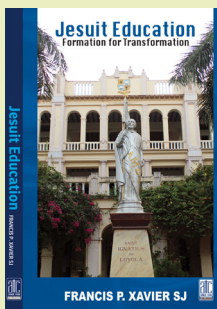
From 16 to 25, Fr Stephen, the Provincial of China, received the manifestation of all of us in the community, through Skype. I had a good interaction with Fr Provincial on Skype. He was happy and encouraged me. On the final day, we had the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Socius. Fr Provincial could not move out of Hong Kong due to travel bans.

On 7 Oct, I was very happy to virtually participate at the Ordination Mass of our brothers in Trichy. It was well organized. Please continue to pray for me and I assure you of my prayers.

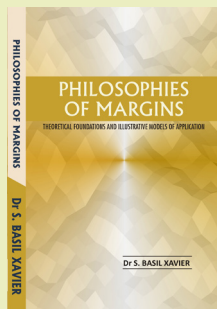
*Christu*



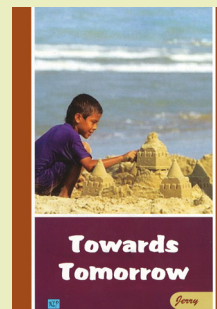
## New Books



**Francis P Xavier SJ**  
*Jesuit Education  
Formation for Transformation*  
ATC Publishers



**Dr S Basil Xavier**  
*Philosophies of Margins:  
Theoretical Foundations and  
Illustrative Models of Application*  
Shanlax Publications



**Jerry**  
*Towards Tomorrow*  
New Leader Publications

## PUBLICATIONS/WEBINARS

- **Fr Irudaya Raj A.**, and others, சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பில் ஊடகங்களின் பங்களிப்பு : <https://youtu.be/RjHLPoWKp4>
- **Fr Sebastian Soosai**, and others, *Critical Analysis of NEP*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03kzNypJngE>
- **Fr Francis P Xavier**, *Biblical Leadership*: <https://youtu.be/iEbpGDILYjA>
- **Fr Francis P Xavier**, *Stress and Conflict Management*: <https://youtu.be/k-y0z-UAbwQ>
- **Fr Francis P Xavier**, *Life Voyage: Doing vs Being (Time Management)*: <https://youtu.be/dCuVSYViMvg>
- **Maria Packiam S.**, *Web of Life*: <https://youtu.be/OLWx1petkGs>
- **Fr Francis P Xavier**, *Suicide - A solution?* <https://youtu.be/ftYXVFs7syM>
- **Fr Robin S Seelan**, *Creative Intelligence for a Meaningful Existence* <https://youtu.be/-UenYllPvNI>
- **Fr Robert Athickal**, *Eco-Spirituality: Inter-religious Perspectives* (Organized by IDCR) <https://youtu.be/52LrWRY3RtA>

## ABIDE WITH THE LORD

- **Fr Louis Francken** (RAN, 82/63), passed away on 5 Oct 2020 in Constant Lievens Hospital & Research Centre, Mandar, Ranchi.
- **Fr Paul Vadakel** (KER, 91/71), passed away on 08 Oct 2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.
- **Fr Wilson Arockiasamy** (MDU, 56/36), passed away on 17 Oct 2020, at Government Medical College Hospital, Nagercoil.
- **Fr Joachim Dungdung** (RAN, 73/48), passed away on 19 Oct 2020 at Constant Lievens Hospital, Mandar.
- **Fr Gregory D'Silva** (JAM, 56/37), passed away on 25 Oct 2020 in Jamshedpur.
- **Br Jeyaraj Annaviar** (MDU, 78/57), passed away on 3 Nov 2020 at St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
- **Fr Carlos Valles SJ** (GUJ to SPAIN, 95/79), passed away on 09 Nov 2020, in Madrid. Website of Fr Carlos Valles: <http://www.carlosvalles.com/ningles/ibiogra.htm>
- **Sr Gnanam ICM** (87), eldest sister of Fr Josephraj S, passed away on 16 Oct 2020 at ICM Convent, Mulagumoodu.
- **Sr Noel FSPM** (80), Aunty of Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, passed away on 8 Nov 2020 at Pothanur.
- **Mr Bonaventure M Rex** (66), younger brother of Fr Peter Francis (MDU), passed away on 12 Oct 2020 in Chennai.
- **Mrs Daisy** (41), Sister in law of Fr Vincent (MDU), passed away on 6 Nov 2020 at Podhanur.

## FR WILSON AROCKIASAMY (1964-2020)

The untimely death of Fr Wilson (56/36) shook all of us who know him. He was born on 25 April 1964 at Sekkakudi, Sivaganga, and had his secondary schooling at St Mary's HSS, Madurai, residing in the Apostolic Home. He did his bachelor's degree in Mathematics at St Joseph's, Tiruchi, and his master's degree at Loyola College, Chennai. He was a gold medallist and a much appreciated student of his teachers.



Fr Wilson joined the Society of Jesus on 5 July 1984. He did his regency in PALMERA, a place where he learnt to commit himself to the poor and the marginalized. To date, many of his students who hail from economically and socially backward villages thankfully remember him for the miracles he performed in their lives. He was ordained a Priest on 30 Nov 1996 and pronounced his Final Vows on 30 Jan 2005. His uninterrupted academic ministry in our schools lasted for about 22 years. He worked as a PG teacher of Mathematics, Headmaster and Correspondent at Dindigul (also, as Superior for one year), Madurai, Devakottai, Oriyur (also, as Acting Superior for one year), Palayamkottai, and finally in Nagercoil. He was a much-admired teacher of Mathematics and as a Headmaster, he knew each and every student personally and deeply loved them.

Fr Wilson was a good combination of cordiality and sternness. He was a good friend of many and in his company there would always be joy and laughter. He had a tender heart that would easily cry with those who struggle and suffer. He was an embodiment of generosity. He had the courage to say what was right and what was wrong. He was kind-hearted and was a man of audacity, determination and hard work.

Quite unexpectedly, he tested positive for COVID on 2 Oct 2020 and got admitted in Holy

Cross Hospital, Nagercoil, on the following day. He was discharged from the hospital on October 12<sup>th</sup> and was asked to be room quarantined for two more weeks. Unfortunately, in less than two days, he had to be rushed back to Holy Cross Hospital where his Oxygen Saturation was at a dangerously low 56%. He was put on Oxygen and shifted immediately to the Respiratory Intensive Care Unit (RICU) of the Government Medical College Hospital at Asaripallam and his breathing supported by a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) Machine. On 16 October, he tested negative for COVID but while having his supper on the same day at 9.30 p.m. there was a steep fall in his pulse rate and blood pressure and he breathed his last at 5.15 a.m. on 17 Oct 2020.

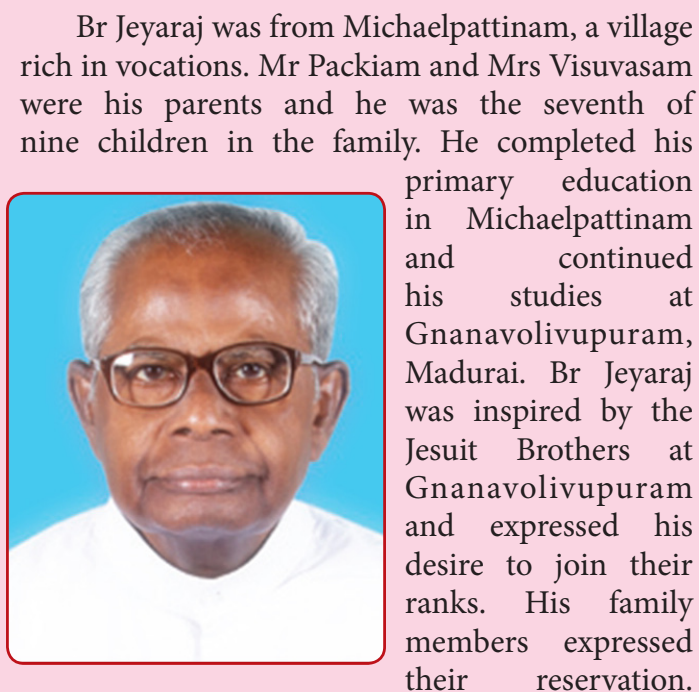
As Fr Wilson was COVID negative at the time of his death, his body was allowed to be brought to Carmel at around 12.30 p.m. In addition to Bishop Nazarene Soosai of Kottar, priests, religious and lay people came in good numbers and paid their last respects.

From Carmel, Nagercoil, Fr Wilson's mortal remains were brought to St Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, around 4.15 pm. Fr Wilson's mother, his priest brother Fr Antonysamy and some of his relatives were present at the Funeral Mass prior to which Bishop Antonysamy of Palayamkottai came to bless the body and the Mass itself was presided over by his predecessor Bishop Emeritus Jude Paulraj.

During the Mass celebrated in the Pope Francis Open Auditorium, the personal and touching messages of the Provincials of Madurai and Chennai Provinces were read out. After the prayer of committal and commendation by Fr Antonysamy, with the help of the volunteers of Tamilnadu Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam (TMMK), who had brought the body from Nagercoil dressed properly in PPE and other protective gear, Fr Wilson was laid to rest in a specially dug grave in the garden behind the Jesuit house. May God grant him eternal rest!

*Henry Jerome*

## BR JEYARAJ ANNAVIAR (1942-2020)



Br Jeyaraj was from Michaelpattinam, a village rich in vocations. Mr Packiam and Mrs Visuvasam were his parents and he was the seventh of nine children in the family. He completed his primary education in Michaelpattinam and continued his studies at Gnanavolivupuram, Madurai. Br Jeyaraj was inspired by the Jesuit Brothers at Gnanavolivupuram and expressed his desire to join their ranks. His family members expressed their reservation.

Even after his high school studies at St Mary's, Madurai, and training at Sattur Teacher Training School, the desire to become a Brother in the Society of Jesus did not fade away. Providentially, he met Fr. Ignatius Sama during a bus trip. Fr Sama, who was then in charge of the Brothers, welcomed him with open arms.

After completing his novitiate at Beschi, Dindigul, Br Jeyaraj served successively at Beschi, LTI and St Mary's, Madurai, and De Britto, Devakottai, in various capacities. He did his Tertianship in Sitagarha. Later, he served in Chennai (Loyola and Dhyana Ashram), St Mary's, Dindigul, St Paul's Seminary, Tiruchi, Arul Anandar College and Karumathur.

According to Fr Xavier Rajan who was with Br Jeyaraj in Devakottai in 1972-73, "he was a man who always appeared very busy with his brisk steps doing his work – taking care of the Catholic boarders in the De Britto High School... Even after he had left Devakottai, he showed interest in the welfare of his former boarders; would give career counselling or advice on tackling some of their personal problems."

Br Jeyaraj used to fondly remember serving as the Deputy Warden of Xavier Hostel, Palayamkottai. Fr Danis Ponniah, who was the Warden at that time writes: "Br Jeyaraj was showing a lot of personal

interest in taking care of the sick and going out of the way to help them. I found him quite involved in spiritual activities and quite enthusiastic about conducting prayer services for the co-workers and students. In fact, he had formed a prayer group comprising students and co-workers who met once in a week for an hour of prayer after supper for which he had converted the guest rooms into a prayer hall."

According to Mr Ambrose Jeyraj, his nephew, *"Simplicity, humility, gratitude and love, are the virtues that best describe Br Jeyaraj.... He went about his daily chores with delight and enthusiasm, be it his work as a hostel warden, dairy in-charge or even as kitchen in-charge. He had great love for the poor students. He used to help them in whatever way possible."*

In retirement at Beschi, Br Jeyaraj was taken to St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on 23 Oct 2020, as he was not feeling well. A thorax CT scan and swab test were taken and, as he tested COVID Positive, he was admitted immediately. He was responding well to the treatment but unfortunately he had a massive heart attack and was declared dead at 4.45 a.m. on 3 Nov 2020. As his death was COVID-related, the Province-Beschi administration, the hospital authorities and the government health department officials had detailed deliberations and settled on burial with government-stipulated conditions instead of cremation. Frs Swaminathan and Michael Panimaya Raj went to the hospital mortuary to bless the body which had been duly wrapped in plastic by government health workers.

In the meantime, a JCB was brought in and a grave was dug to a depth of 10 feet in Beschi cemetery, the first in a new row, close and parallel to the compound wall. A district health department official made an inspection of the grave and permitted us to proceed with the burial. Fr Devadoss blessed the grave and Fr Provincial was present at the blessing which was done with limited attendance. Then the mortal remains of Br Jeyaraj Annaviar were laid to rest by Beschi workers clad in PPEs and protective gear at 11.15 a.m., on 3 Nov 2020. May God grant him eternal rest!

**A Prasanth**