



Fr. Louis Marie Léveil



St. Alphonsus Rodriguez



Fr. Pedro Arrupe

**OCTOBER 2019**

# MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### OCTOBER

- 01-03 Loyola, Chennai
- 02 Province Assembly PREPCO Meeting (Afternoon), Loyola, Chennai
- 05 GBM: TVET Commission – LTI, Madurai
- 06 Province Office
- 07-15 Loyola, Chennai (Physiotherapy)
- 16-18 Province Office
- 19-20 Province Consult, Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 21-29 JCSA, Ranchi
- 30 Province Office
- 31 Inauguration of new building, SFXHSS, Thoothukudi (Forenoon)

### NOVEMBER

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

## CHENNAI MISSION SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME

### OCTOBER

- 01 Salem, Yercaud
- 11 Mission Consult, Mission Office
- 12 CM Vocation Facilitators Meet, PAATHAI
- 16 Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 19-20 Province Consult – Maduralaya, Dindigul

### NOVEMBER

- 03-04 Extended Consult
- 05 Canonical Consult
- 11-12 GBM: Communication – 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 Final Celebrations: Silver Jubilee of Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur
- 30-01 GBM: Higher Education – Loyola, Chennai

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Madurai Province Catalogue 2020** is out. If any error noticed in it is brought to the attention of the Socius before the end of October, the corrections could be incorporated in the South Zone Catalogue. Please note that it is the soft copy of the Zonal Catalogue that is uploaded in the Curia Website.

**Two Programs on Ignatian Spirituality** offered at the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Research (CISR), DNC, Pune:

1. Ignatian Principles for Priestly Ministry (5th Dec to 20th Dec 2019): The two-week program is only for young Jesuit priests who have not yet done their tertianship. It aims at aiding them in their priestly ministry by offering them an in-depth understanding of specific Ignatian principles that are relevant to their identity as Jesuit priests.

2. Ignatian Sources (5th Jan to 15th March 2020): The 10-week program on Ignatian Sources is for Jesuits as well as the wider Ignatian family. It will primarily focus on the fundamental texts that constitute Ignatian Spirituality. The modules will help the participants to analyze and interpret them in accordance with the changing times and contexts. The program ends with an 8-day retreat.

Contact: Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, S.J. (francisgeorgep@gmail.com)

### THREE JESUIT CARDINALS

After the Angelus on Sunday, September 1, Pope Francis announced the names of 13 new cardinals who will be created during a consistory on October 5. Among them are three Jesuits:

**Most Reverend Sigitas Tamkevičius,**

Archbishop Emeritus of Kaunas (Lithuania).

**Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich,**

Archbishop of Luxembourg (he is from the Province of Japan since he was a missionary in Japan before being appointed Archbishop of Luxembourg).

**Fr. Michael Czerny,** of the Province of Canada, currently Under-Secretary of the Migrants Section of the Dicastery for the service of integral human development.

### APPOINTMENT BY FR. GENERAL

**Fr. Durai Fernand:** Provincial of Gujarat Province

### APPOINTMENTS & TRANSFERS BY FR. PROVINCIAL

**Fr. Anbarasu Maria Raj:** Prov. Coordinator: JAAT

**Fr. Paul Benedict S.:** Prov. Joint Coord: JAAT

**Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj:** From St. Mary's, Madurai, moves back to Beschi, Dindigul.

**George Antonysamy,** a first year novice, left the novitiate on 24.09.2019.

### HEALTH UPDATE

**Fr. A. Arulanandam** underwent surgery on October 1st at Apollo, Chennai, to drain off the hemorrhage on the right side of his brain. He is now recuperating at Loyola, Chennai. After a week, on further checkup, a decision would be taken whether a similar procedure would be needed on the left side of the brain.

**Fr. Vitalis Diaz** was rushed to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on September 28th with severe wheezing and breathlessness. After a few days in the ICU, he has been moved to a room in the Priests' Quarters on October 3rd.

**Fr. C. Amal** has recovered well with minor issues with his leg. To complete the recovery process he will be arriving at Loyola, Chennai, on October 14th. He will be accompanied by Br. Augustine (Tino) who is of Tamil origin (good in English but not speaking Tamil). Br. Tino will be visiting some communities especially to know more about the life of brothers in MDU Province before returning to Myanmar on October 31st.

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

In October 2019, we pray with Pope Francis:

That the Breath of the Holy Spirit Engender a New Missionary Spring in the Church.

### MEETINGS

**JEPASA Coordinators' Meeting** was held at Darjeeling (18th to 22nd September 2019) in which 22 of us participated. It was fruitful and informative. Each Province/Region reported on its PAP action plans. I presented our PAP and it was well received and much appreciated because the participants found that it had clarity and came with its



own timeline and budget. During the meet, we visited some of the parishes and mission stations where we learnt about many new mission activities benefitting the faithful very much. Exposure to multi-cultural and linguistic situations broadened our horizons. On the whole, the JEPASA meeting proved to be a very enriching and encouraging experience.

*Gunasekaran*

**SUPAM MEET 2** was held at Loyola Technical School, Madurai, on 12 August 2019. Fr. S. Baskar Antony, Director of SUPAM, Frs. PCF, Raj Irudaya and Sahayaraj were with the Supamites for collective Theo-pastoral reflections. The Supamites shared their creative pastoral engagements: geographical location, composition of people, types of pastoral ministries, socio-economic status of parishioners, concerns and personal insights. The active participation of the faithful in Anbiam challenged the deacons to read the



Bible with the faithful and to talk about societal concerns to arrive at solutions collectively as one community. The formators present sharpened the pastoral orientations with their personal, contextual and theological insights. At the end of our sharing, we visited Ellis Nagar Parish, where Fr. George is doing his SUPAM, and had an enriching session with the Parish Priest Fr. Arul Rayan. We are very grateful to LTI community for their hospitality.

*Anna Raj*

**The General Body Meeting of the Pastoral Commission** took place at Beschi Illam, Dindigul, on 29-30 August 2019. There were altogether 49 participants of whom 12 were Jesuits and one diocesan priest; of the remaining 36 lay people eight were ladies. It began with the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Guna, Commission Coordinator. Fr. Provincial shared with the members that the intent of the GBM was to evaluate the progress each Commission had made in implementing the Province Apostolic Plan (PAP). Then the Coordinator explained the agenda and the dynamics of the meeting. In the first part of the GBM, Parish Priests presented reports of the progress they had made in implementing PAP goals and action plans. Interventions of Fr. Provincial and Fr. Joe Arun, PDD, were helpful to have a focused sharing. In the second part, we had Spiritual Conversation in small groups to plan for the coming months. In the plenary session, the secretaries shared the report of the Spiritual Conversation. After spending some time in reflection, the members decided to implement common action plans of PAP by grouping themselves into three zones: Madurai, Tiruchi and Harur, and Frs. S. Marianathan, James and C. Marianathan accepted to be the zonal coordinators.

In his talk Fr. Jerry Rosario focused on how Servant of God Fr. Arrupe was an inspiring personality in implementing apostolic plans. In his concluding remarks, Fr. Provincial motivated and encouraged the parish priests and the participants to focus on the plans and reminded them to realize the impact of the implementation of PAP in their respective parishes. The GBM came to a close with the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Provincial.

*Gunasekaran*

### **Dindigul: Beschi Illam**

From August 26th to 31st, Fr. Inigo, the Novice Master, attended the Jesuit South Asian Assistancy Novice Masters' Meet 2019 in Vijayawada. After this, from September 2nd to 6th, he participated in NLP training conducted by Satyodayam, Secunderabad. On August 30th, the first-year novices began their pilgrimage to Vailankanni along with the parishioner-

pilgrims of Hanumandarayankottai and reached their destination on September 5th. With the blessings of our Lady, they went to Kalangarai, Nagapattinam, and enjoyed the companionship and hospitality of the Jesuits there. Accompanied by Fr. Swaminathan, the Socius to the Novice Master, they returned to the novitiate safe and sound on September 6th. In the absence of the first-year novices, the second-year novices actively involved themselves in the House Experiment joining hands with our domestic co-workers in the infirmary, kitchen, house maintenance and farm. On September 8th, the novices participated in the 34th Dindigul District Silambam Championship Tournament jointly organised by Karate Mohan Martial Arts Academy and Dindigul District Silambam Association.

From September 9th to 12th, the community was blessed by the visitation of Fr. Danis Ponniah, the Provincial. The grace-filled visitation ended with the exhortation and Eucharistic celebration wherein he instructed the community to continue to be living witnesses of God's loving Kingdom. Twenty-eight Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux (HFB) made a week-long retreat led by a team of four Jesuits (Frs. Inigo, I. M. Joseph, M. S. Bastian and Rex A. Pai) from September 10th to 16th. Following this, another batch of 26 HFB Sisters have just started their annual retreat. From September 16th to 18th, the novices had a three-day psycho-spiritual integration course conducted by Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam. On September 17th and 18th, Frs. Inigo and Swaminathan attended the second biannual TNPCRI Formators' Meet 2019. On September 18th, Fr. Michael Doss, the Superior, blessed the new car of the community.



On September 22nd, we celebrated the jubilees of Frs. Pulpambil, Panoor and R. Irudayaraj. The latter presided over the Jubilee Mass followed by felicitation to the jubilarians. Frs. Yagoo and P. Arockiaraj shared their personal and enriching experiences with the jubilarians. Then, Fr. Michael Doss honoured the Jubilarians with shawls. The programme came to an end with felicitation songs and an astounding fusion dance by the novices. Our guests enjoyed the jubilee dinner with the Beschi community.



On September 24th, Beschi hosted the GBM of the Brother's Commission and on September 25th, 41 Superiors of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Vellore, began their annual retreat under the direction of Fr. M. S. Bastian.

#### **JRS-TN:**

On September 21st and 22nd, Dr. Wolf-Gero Reichert, a well-wisher from Rottenburg Diocese, Germany, was here on a monitoring visit to the programmes and activities of JRS-TN. He was indeed happy to see the progress of JRS-TN and its much-appreciated service in the Sri Lankan refugee camps of Tamil Nadu. His visit coincided with that of Fr. Louie Albert, Regional Director, JRS South Asia. Fr. Louie helped JRS-TN in the systematic planning of projects and programmes. He also met the project directors, field officers and people, especially, the youth in some camps. On September 24th, Fr. Leo Pereira, JRS-TN Director, during his regular monitoring visit participated in the World Peace Day celebrations at CEC centre, Sitharkoil camp, Salem, and motivated the people to be peaceful and harmonious in their day-to-day lives. From September 27th to 29th, JRS-TN had its half-yearly evaluation followed by strategic planning for the year 2020 animated by Dr. Bernard D' Sami, Loyola College, Chennai.

**Swaminathan**

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

Our NSS, NCC and YCS boys attended camps/training programmes in Mangamanuthu, Palani and Tiruchi, respectively. In the elocution programme conducted this year, Master Hariharan from 11th Std was selected and he will be proceeding to Japan to participate at the next level. This is the sixth time the school is sending its budding speakers abroad to take part in elocution competitions. Our staff (both teaching and non-teaching) attended a retreat preached by Fr. Lourdu Stephen, a diocesan priest from Madurai. Around 40 saplings were planted by our hostellers in our hostel premises with the able assistance of Fr. Britto.



**AMUTHU** conducted a one-day screen-printing training programme for 40 women who have studied tailoring at its Porulur centre.



**LASAC:** LASAC has completed its first-term school visit. The movement functions actively in 68 schools and the last to come on board is St. Mary's School, Harur. The LASAC regent conducted ice-breaking and value-based games sessions for 6th Std students of St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Madurai, in order to prepare them for smart learning.

**Joemarsh**

#### **Devakottai: De Britto**

On August 26th, in the inaugural ceremony of *Kalvi Tholaikatchi* (Education TV), the State Government honoured talented students among whom were our students Mr. George Bernald (upside down art) and Mr. Asaruthin (music art). Mr. George Bernald gifted pencil sketches of their own images to Mr. Edapadi Palanisamy, TN Chief Minister and Mr. O. Pannerselvam, Deputy Chief Minister,



and Mr. Sengottaiyan, Minister for School Education. A book titled *Anubavame Vazhvukku Vazhi* written by Fr. Vincent Amalraj on his experiences as a teacher was released on September 9th.

**Michael Sudherson**



## **Karumathur: AAC**

Teachers' Day was celebrated on a grand scale on September 5th, when illustrious retired professors who had contributed mightily to the growth of the institution were honored. The month witnessed a slew of conferences. Department of Business Administration organized a National Conference on September 6th on "Trends and Challenges in Management." A 1-day UGC-



sponsored International Conference organized by the Department of Chemistry on September 13th had Dr. M. Saravanan from Mekelle University, Ethiopia, and Dr. K. Pichumani, the Vice-Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, among the resource persons. Department of Commerce with CA held a National Conference on "Intelligence Digital Transformation in Commercial Business" on September 25th.

*Paul Pragash*

## **Madurai: Loyola Technical Institute**

Fr. Richard left for Sri Lanka on September 19th for his Tertianship. LITI started the LEAP 1-Year course, in tie-up with TATA Motors and MMV Trade. It was inaugurated on August 29th. The valedictory function was presided over by Fr. Antony Arockiam, the Correspondent. Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 5th and the Chief Guest Shri Thirupathi Raja, General Manager, Hi-tech CNC, delivered a special speech about the role of teachers in our lives. Senior students organized a cultural program. All the Jesuit fathers and the staff were honoured by the students. The students went for an industrial visit to Aavin Dairy, Madurai, on September 12th and 13th. Madurai Corporation is conducting medical check-ups for all the ITI students. Dr. Visuvanatha Prabhu of the Government Primary Health Centre conducted the medical check-up for our first year students. An awareness film was screened for the students by the Madurai Collectorate to enable them to grow in cooperation and a helping tendency.

**LENS** in tie-up with Marupakkam conducted a one-day Music Film Festival on September 15th. Mr. Amuthan screened the films and led the discussions. Many eminent people actively participated in the film festival.

**JESCOO:** Fr. Emma conducted a retreat on September 6th and 7th for the staff of the Holy Family H.S. School in

Madurai. On 13th and 14th, he conducted an orientation programme for the staff of St. Joseph's School, North Point, Darjeeling. From 23rd to 30th, he guided 12 CIC nuns who had completed 10 years after their final vows through a seminar on psycho-spiritual integration.

*Amith Shajan*

## **Madurai: IDEAS & LAAS**

Sch. V. Joseph has joined the Govt. Law College, Madurai for his three-year LLB, after successfully clearing the counselling in the open category, conducted by Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai.

Fr. Santhanam along with Senior Counsel Mr. Isaac Mohanlal spoke on NEP 2019 in a colloquium organized by FIHM sisters at Coimbatore on September 10th. He also spoke on 'Being salt in one's societal life' in a state-level conference for Gospel Lay Ministers at Rameswaram on September 26th initiated by the Narchantru Nilayam of Sacred Heart Brothers of Sivangai.

A trainers' workshop was organized on September 27th and 28th on protective legal and counselling skills in safeguarding the rights of victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment in the workplace. Fr. Paul Mike spoke on the concepts and objectives of the workshop. Frs. Jeyaseelan and Santhanam, Ms. Sayeera Banu, Sr. Roseline Mary, Mr. Savariraj and Sch. Joseph offered inputs and guidance. Fr. Michael Raj and Sr. Rita, the Secretary of Women's Cell in the Archdiocese of Madurai, distributed certificates to the 32 participants.

Fr Michaelraj was one of the speakers in "Wage Code Consultation" organized by League for Social Justice – Tamil Nadu on September 29th in which a number of labour and trade unions, including the members of the Tamil Nadu Labour Rights' Federation (TLRF) and civil rights groups participated.

Fr. Philomin Raj gave two programs on the New National Education Policy--one for about 50 teachers at SMMI School, Pallipatty, and another to about 60 CRI members of the Dharapuram vicariate. He also gave a 2-day orientation to St. Joseph's of Tarbes sisters (Bangalore Province) involved in social and medical apostolates.

*L.R. Michaelraj*

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

On September 14th, the Annual Feast Day Mass was celebrated by Fr. Danis Ponniah, the Provincial. Despite incessant drizzling after a heavy rain, the car procession was thronged with faithful on Madurai streets.

On September 15th, the Feast day celebration culminated with a fellowship meal (Anbin Virunthu) served to around 1,700 people which was cheerfully and generously contributed by the people themselves.





A series of Bible competitions were creatively conducted for the Catechism children in the parish .

**Manuel**

### **Oriyur: St. Arulanandar**

The novena of our Lady of Good Health began with the flag hoisting on August 29th. The VGs and Deans of both Sivagangai and Madurai as well as Jesuits took part in the concelebrated Eucharist and prayed for the people. This year, pilgrims thronged the shrine in large numbers seeking the blessings of St. John De Britto.

September 2019 is marked in the diary of Oriyur Jesuit community as the month of blessings. In view of seeking a Shrine Basilica status, the completely renovated altar was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Susaimanickam D.D., Bishop of Sivagangai. The presence of the Local



Ordinary after seven years was indeed a bonus blessing. We are thankful to Mr. Xavier Britto and Mr. Paul Sengol for their generous contributions. Many good people unstintingly spent their time and energy to make the altar not only conform to the basilica specifications but look magnificent. The credit goes to Mr. Marian and his team for this incredible art work. Bishop Susaimanickam appreciated and honoured the sponsors, the workers and the parish council members and applauded the parishioners for this great achievement.

**Jackson Joseph**

### **Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's**

A++ Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4 on a seven point scale was accorded to St. Xavier's College by NAAC in IV cycle. It is the highest score among all the colleges which were accredited so far by NAAC as per the new accreditation system introduced in 2017. The campus wore a festive look for some days to celebrate it with a Thanksgiving Mass, cultural items and a delicious lunch served to all the staff, students, alumni and parents.

The 97th Sports Day celebration was held on September 21st. Mr. Gnana Diraviyam, MP of Tirunelveli constituency, and Mr. Thillai Nagarajan, Inspector of Police, graced the occasion. The college hosted the MSU Football tournament from September 25th to 27th. Around 55 teams participated. S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, emerged as the Champion. Mrs. Shilpa Prabhakar, District Collector, was in the campus to address the women students on "Crimes against women and children" on September 25th. NSS units organized "Traditional Food Festival Day" on September 25th in which around 25 teams participated.



A special prayer service followed by Holy Mass was organized for rain on September 17th. All the Jesuits here and the hostel students took part in it actively. God heard our prayer and we have been getting good showers from then on.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 5th in collaboration with the students of St. Ignatius College of Education, Palayamkottai. Br. Joe Antony SHJ in his special address emphasized that every moment is a learning experience and that everyone has a GURU within oneself. He invited the prospective teachers to keep learning from their college campus experiences. On September 20th, the Alumni Association of SXCE organized Teachers' Day in which the Best Xaverian Teacher award was presented to Br. Mathalai Muthu, HM, Sacred Heart School, Royappanpatty. The celebration concluded with some cultural items staged by neighbouring schools and colleges of education. The faculty and the administrative staff had a one-day orientation on preparing the youth for social transformation in Kanaykumari, ably guided by Frs. Henry, Pushparaj, Royce and Martin. It was a good family outing, too.



Fr. Ignacimuthu was the chief guest at the National Seminar on Insects and Plants conducted by St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru, on September 11 and 12.

Since June 2019, Fr. G. Pushparaj, as Secretary of CCMHEI, has organized or served as resource person in several consultations on DNEP all over India. He presented the response to DNEP to the Hon. Minister of MHRD Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal and Hon. Minister of Minority Affairs Shri. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, along with Shri. T. K. Rangarajan, Member of Rajya Sabha on 23 July 2019. Proactively, he continues to combine this work with his other responsibilities at St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai.

*Maria Albin Raja*

### **Thoothukudi: Xaveriana**

Fr. Francis Sales was the chief guest at the Teachers' Day celebrations on September 5th. Retired teachers were invited. Fourteen Presentation Sisters (Coimbatore) made their recollection on September 14th at Xaveriana, the preacher being Capuchin Father Lourdu Xavier. On September 22nd, the Headmaster, Fr. Simon Raj, met the parents of our students in Tharuvaikulam after having celebrated Mass for them. A week-long (23-29 September) NSS camp was conducted in Siluvaipatti, as the students 'educated' the public on social problems – environmental degradation, AIDS and drugs, non-awareness of human rights, deforestation and use of plastic products and suggested simple remedies. The Provincial and the Maduralaya community were our guests for lunch on September 29th on their way to Manapad on a pilgrimage. Br. P.Arockiasamy took our domestic workers and their children on a pilgrimage-cum-picnic on 29-30 September to Vailankanni, Thanjavur, Poondi and Tiruchirappalli.

Who says it is impossible to get some students to read and write? Students were selected in three batches from each section of IX and X Standards, based on their poor performance in the spoken and written word and given coaching one week per Standard. The Headmaster and the class teachers who watched the coaching were amazed at the students' enthusiasm and performance. The hero was Mr. Perumal from Coimbatore, who has a vast experience in this field. He also gave motivational talks and study-techniques to the higher secondary students. Other students will receive similar coaching from him in October.

*Xavier Rajan*

### **Tiruchi: Clive House**

Exams are over and our hearts and minds are refreshed now after having visited the historical temple at Sittanavasal on September 2nd. The simple lifestyle and the close association of the Jain saints with

nature made us realize the value of prayer in solitude. We celebrated the Karam feast- a festival of nature on September 10th with a special Mass celebrated by **Fr. Lepcha Alphonse**. We conducted an awareness programme on 'Child Literacy and Empowerment of Women' for the Gypsy people of Devarayaneri camp on September 14th. A powerful street play and apt songs on the theme reflected the realities of the people. **Sch. Elisius Kisku** won the 1st and 2nd prizes for Poster Presentation and Debate, respectively, on the theme, 'Agriculture: The Way of Life', organized at the Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai, on September 25th. **Schs. Paulus Marandi** and **Jisu Hembrom** won second prizes with a cash award of Rs. 2,000/- in the poetry and essay competitions, respectively, conducted as part of SJC's 175th year valedictory celebrations.

*Arockia Pradeep*

### **Tiruchi: SJC**

The year-long celebrations to mark SJC's 175 glorious years of service came to a conclusion in the last week of September with a number of memorable programmes. The theme that ran through them was: 'Remember-Rejoice-Reach Out.'

**SJC Marathon:** On September 22nd, the 175th year Torch was brought by a group of 65 athletes from Nagapattinam, where the college functioned before being shifted to Tiruchi in 1844. As soon as they brought the Torch to the college campus, Mr. Sivarasu IAS, District Collector of Tiruchirappalli, flagged off the marathon. Ten categories of runners were flagged off one after another



from 6.00 a.m. Around 5,600 students, alumni/nae, and 2,300 school boys/girls gathered in the Mahe Grounds from 5.00 a.m. onwards. After the completion of all the runs, Dr. Amalraj, Commissioner of Police, Tiruchi, distributed cash prizes to the winners. Fr. Berchmans, Director, Sports and Games, assisted by a committed team of helpers, co-ordinated the event.

**Heritage Exhibition:** On September 27th, the first day, the celebrations began with the opening of the Heritage Exhibition by Mr. A. X. Alexander IPS, a former Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, and an illustrious alumnus.



The exhibition drew hundreds of enthusiastic visitors.

**Debate on Social Media:** An enlightening and entertaining debate in Tamil titled, 'Are the Social Media and the Internet a boon or bane for students?' was held with renowned speaker, S.Raja as the moderator.

**International Colloquium:** In the afternoon, the SJC Jubilee Hall saw a packed audience that came eagerly to engage with eminent educators like T.P. Sreenivasan (India), Rajesh Nair (Malaysia), Mohamed Elsayed (Sudan) and Jebamalai Viananchiarachi (Vienna) who delved deep into the future challenges of higher education in India. They highlighted the new opportunities and possibilities for innovation in teaching, research and learning. The intellectually stimulating colloquium was joined by off-campus audiences from Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, and Loyola College, Vettavalam, linked by live-conference facility.

**Honouring former Jesuit Officials and Illustrious Alumni:** The evening function saw a host of former Jesuit Officials (Rectors, Secretaries and Principals) and distinguished alumni (Educationists, Civil Servants, Entrepreneurs and Artists). Fr. Danis Ponniah, the Provincial, and Fr. Leonard Fernando, the Rector, appreciated their services to SJC and the larger society and honoured them with mementoes or 'Distinguished Alumni' awards. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, the Principal, presented an impressive report, highlighting the many milestones achieved by SJC, including the coveted A++ Status by NACC in its 4th Cycle of Accreditation. Fr Provincial, Mr. Adrian Almeida, Mr. Pannai Karthikeyan, Mr. A. X. Alexander and Mr. Prabhu Solomon recalled with gratitude the treasures they had found at SJC and cherished all their life. After the meeting, a team of entertainers from Vijay TV kept the students listening, laughing, and applauding for more than two hours.

**Thanksgiving Mass:** September 28th, the second day, began with a Solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras-Mylapore and Bishop Jude Paulraj, Bishop Emeritus of Palayamkottai. More than 50 priests concelebrated. The Archbishop, in his homily, recalled the passion with which SJC and other Jesuit institutions engage in forming men and women for others endowed with the spirit of the Magis and AMDG.

**Honouring the Retired Staff:** In the forenoon, more than 50 retired Staff of SJC were honoured during a function in the famed Lawley Hall. Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, appreciated their pioneering contributions and presented them as models to be emulated. They were honoured by Fr. Peter Xavier, Secretary, and Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, Principal.

**Valedictory Civic Function:** Honourable Justice JastiChelameswar, the retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, was the chief guest at the civic function.



Distinguished alumnus Mr. Suresh Narayanan, chairman of Nestle India Ltd was the guest of honour. Dr. Jebamamalai Vinanchiarachi, Principal Secretary (Rtd), UNIDO, Vienna, Dr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics, offered felicitations. Fr. Godwin Rufus, Convenor, proposed a vote of thanks.

During the day, a new air-conditioned bus stop in front of the college, sponsored by SJC, was dedicated to the people of Tiruchi in the presence of two State Ministers, Mr. Vellamandi Natarajan and Ms. Valarmathi and Corporation officials.

All the events were livestreamed for the benefit of the SJC diaspora around the globe.

**A. Leolin Arockiadass**

### **Vilangudi: VMI**

Our pre-novices benefitted from a course on 'Group Building' by Fr. Richard of JESCO. It motivated them to lead a healthy, supportive community life. On August 31st, pre-novices from Kasthambadi visited VMI and admired the scenic beauty of VMI. More importantly, the pre-novices of both the places were very happy to get acquainted with one another. On the same day evening, we went to Tiruchi and attended the Ordination Mass.

On September 10th, seven newly ordained priests came to Vilangudi and shared their unforgettable experiences of VMI and celebrated Mass. From 16th to 19th the first term exams were conducted followed by holidays from 21st to 30th. On 30th all the pre-novices returned to VMI. Fr. M. A. Selvam directed a week-long Ignatian Retreat for 42 Gonzaga sisters at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

**Rex Reuban**

### **Chennai: Arul Kadal**

Arul Kadal has been buzzing with community activities (Teachers' Day celebration, beach dinner, etc.) to recharge and recoup ourselves in September and to celebrate a sense of camaraderie. Valuable insights and shared experiences of immersion enthused each



one of us to walk hand in hand with the poor. We had a community thanksgiving Eucharist to thank and praise the Lord for the great news of Chennai Mission becoming soon a Province and a fellowship dinner to celebrate it. **Fr. Arockia Doss** preached a recollection to the Minor Seminarians of Madras Archdiocese in Kilecherry on the theme, “Discipleship in the 21st Century” on September 12th and an Ignatian retreat to the Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga from September 21st to 27th in Pondicherry; 54 senior sisters participated in it with great enthusiasm. **Fr. Baskar**, Director of the 100-Hour Laity Theology Programme kick-started classes with 40 laity on September 21st. We attended a lecture at Madras University followed by a fruitful discussion on “Religion and Ecology in Teilhard, Berry, and Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*” by Dr. Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University. A well-furnished computer room and a journal room are the new facilities put in to promote the academic excellence of theologians. **Fr. Raj Irudaya**, apart from his responsibility as Superior of Arul Kadal continues also with his ADF’s works. He recently conducted the Assistancy Annual Meetings of Novice Masters, Juniorate Staff and the Assistancy Commission for Formation in Vijayawada, Trivandrum and Bhopal, respectively. He has been appointed by the Roman Provincial of the Congregation of Mercedarians as one of their official investigators to probe into some paedophilia cases.

### **Kamilas**

### **Chennai: Loyola College**

The activities of **Research Park** were inaugurated on 30.8.19. Dr. S. Vincent was the chief guest. Eighteen research proposals from the postgraduate students and fifteen research proposals from undergraduate students were shortlisted for financial support. While addressing the award winners Dr. S. Vincent said that research park grants were founded to promote innovations that would empower the weaker sections of the Indian society.

Loyola campus ministry team scheduled its monthly Holy Mass on September 5th, the feast of St. Mother Teresa, to mark the Teachers’ Day. Fr. A. Thomas, Principal, was the chief celebrant. Fr. Francis P. Xavier, Rector, greeted the staff from Boston College writing that teachers should become the change they wanted to bring in and they should realize that they are creators. On September 28th, Corpus Christi procession was held with active participation of all Catholic staff and students. Fr. Jerald, Parish Priest of Minjur, preached an inspiring homily during the concelebrated Mass.

On 6.9.19, the academic deans Dr. Merlyn Shyla and Prof. Edwin Sudhakar organized a faculty development programme on MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and Blended Teaching and Learning. Dr. P. D. Jose,

Professor of Strategy, Chair-MOOCs Initiative, Digital Learning and Strategy, Indian Institute of Management, was the chief guest. On September 7th, a one-day workshop on Data Analytics through R Programming was organized by the Department of Data Science and Computer Applications. On September 23rd and 24th, a guest lecture on “Foundations of Mathematics and Basic Algebra” was arranged by Department of Mathematics Shift-2.

A two-day inter-faculty student seminar Quest 1.0 on ANDROIDZ was organized by SHC-Satya Nilayam, Department of Philosophy, Loyola College, Chennai and Jnana Deepa Vidhya Peeth, Pune. Fr. Robin Sahaya Seelan was the convenor.

Mr. Keshar Kumar, Central Working Committee Member INTUC, led a discussion on Socio Economic Condition of Beedi Workers in the Eastern States of India on 13.9.19.

The US-India Comparative Constitutional Law debate finale was organized by the US consulate General in Chennai in cooperation with Loyola College on September 13th and 14th.

On 17.9.19 Vangya-2019, the Hindi Day and Sanskrit Day celebrations were organized by the Hindi and Sanskrit Association of Loyola College. Mr. Nihar Ranjan IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests was the chief guest. Dr. P. Narsimhan, Head, Department Sanskrit, University of Madras, and Dr. Srabani Bhattacharyya, Head, Department of Hindi, Stella Maris College were the special guests.

Fr. Justin Emmanuel, Dean LICET, inaugurated the activities of the Enviro Club in Loyola College on 18.9.19.

Ovations-2019, the two-day extravaganza, commenced on 20.9.19. Hiphop Tamizha Aadhi, Actor, Director and Music Director, was the chief guest. It drew to a close on 21.9.19 evening in the presence of the Tamil Film music director Mr. Yuvan Shankar Raja. VISCOM organized the first edition of the Media Conclave (MEDIA CON '19) on September 30th. Keynote presentations, panel sessions and interactive sessions included know-how of producing and selling media content, networking opportunities and access to media professionals. Padma Bhushan Dr. Kamal Haasan, Kalaipuli S. Thanu and Ravi K.Chandran were the key persons among the invited speakers.

On September 22nd, the Department of Social Work organized Childfest to engage with children in a meaningful way. Sahana, a child artist of Zee Tamil – Sa Re Ga Ma Pa programme was the chief guest. Childfest created a platform to overcome fears and build self-confidence in children. The theme of the Childfest 2019 was inclusiveness. Non-competitive, cooperative and indigenous games were conducted to stimulate a positive engagement among the children. The departments of Service Learning and Social Work conducted flood relief camps at Gudalur (Tamil Nadu) and Wayanad (Kerala) from 23rd to 25th.

His Excellency M.M. Rajendran, Former Governor of Odisha, and Former Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu handed over the Treasure Trove of Scientific Knowledge Award





2019 to Fr. Maria Packiam for his contribution in the field of environment during a function held at the University of Madras on September 21st by MTS Academy, Chennai. He was also invited as the Chief Guest for the Inauguration of Academy Programme of Tamil Nadu Dr. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, Chennai”.

*Justin Prabhu*

### **Kuppayanallur: Loyola**

A special assembly was organized in the school on September 5th. Students themselves prepared and staged the programs. Fr. Francis Sales directed a six-day retreat for the JMJ sisters in Acharapakkam. Fr. Joseph Arockiasamy directed an eight-day retreat for the Sisters of St. Anne's of Tiruchi in Poondi Basilica retreat centre. After several PAP campus meetings, we had also a special meeting on PAP 4 with a group of about 50 people from in and around Kuppayanallur. Three students from our school attended the 'Come and See' program arranged in Loyola College.

*Amal Bosco*

### **Vadamelpakkam: Loyola Academy**

On September 5th, the teachers were given a red-carpet welcome with the band accompanying them to the stage. Poems, songs and dances formed part of the program which was completely planned and executed by the students. A thought-provoking skit was staged emphasizing the importance of teachers in the life of a student. Volleyball and Throwball matches and fun games were organized for the teachers. As if this were not enough, the students had their own way of thanking their class teachers by giving them gifts and getting them to cut cakes. It was a fun-filled day and yet very meaningful and memorable.

September 27th being International Tourism Day, Fr. Principal successfully organized tours for our students to multiple locations. Our students tramped out to different places according to their class and age level (Chennai, Puducherry, Kodaikanal) using for their travels our school buses. The tours were both informative and inspirational for the students. The combined effort of the management, the staff members, the coworkers and the co-operation of the parents made it possible and successful. The terminal vacation will conclude on October 8th and the new term will commence on the following day.

*Frankly*

### **Vettavalam: Loyola College**

On September 8th, the officers of the Department of Fire Service and of Disaster Management, Vettavalam, demonstrated to all our students and staff effective methods of rescuing and protecting people from fire accidents and giving them first aid. To commemorate the Ozone Day on September 16th, a special session was organized for all the second year UG students to create awareness on the significance of the Ozone layer. In his keynote address, Dr. M. Prasanna emphasized the need to reduce the uncontrolled use of motor vehicles and air-conditioners to protect the Ozone cover above the earth. On September 20th, under the able guidance of Fr. A. Gerlin, the 11th Annual Sports Day was conducted to the appreciation of one and all. Mr. C. Annadurai, Member of Parliament, Thiruvannamalai, presided over the function and distributed prizes and certificates to the winners in various sports events. Due to incessant rains and climate changes, some of our hostel students were regularly falling sick. Dr. Pavithra from the Government Primary Health Centre, Vettavalam, addressed the students on Health and Hygiene which has had a tremendous positive impact on our students' health.

Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam was invited by French Jesuit confreres to be the main speaker in a two-week-long seminar on Jesuit Mission in Contemporary India from 22 July to 11 August 2019 at Lalouvesc. He presented research papers on the Social, Economic and Political Situation of Dalits, the Problems of Dalit Christians, Human Rights Violations, Honor Killings and the Threat to the Religious Minorities by Hindu Fundamentalists. During the seminar, one evening, he was delighted to watch a documentary film titled *L'Inde Sacrée* (Sacred India) produced in 1932 with a running commentary by a French Jesuit Fr. Pierre Lhande (1877-1957) on Madurai Mission. The vibrant activities of Jesuit missionaries as pastors, educationists, and formators have been portrayed exquisitely. Only in this film, one can watch in action some eminent MDU Jesuits like Msgr. Augustine Faisandier, Msgr. Tiburtius Roche, Frs. François Bertram, Clement and Pierre Montaud, Boddell and others. Currently, he is working on inserting English subtitles to make the film accessible to all.

AIESC in collaboration with ILO and University of Fribourg organised a two-day seminar on August 30 and 31 on Invisible Labour in the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Based on an ethnographic study of Rural Women, Thurambar and Vettiyan Communities, Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam presented a paper on "A Holistic Understanding of Invisible Labour Including Informal Work". He has been inducted as a life-member of the International Association for the Social Teachings of the Church (AIESC).

After this seminar, he did some resource mobilization work for the development of the Jesuit Chennai Province.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*



## Kolkata: Juniorate

On September 5th, Dhyan Ashram Community celebrated the heavenly birthday of St. Teresa of Calcutta and the earthly birthday of Dr. Radhakrishnan-- in whose honour we celebrate the Teachers' Day. The juniors and the novices organized a short program to honour and felicitate our two Bengali teachers. The program included a dance, a thought-provoking speech, felicitation songs and a skit. A weeklong Basic Communication Workshop was organized at Chitrabani by Frs. P. J. Joseph and Arun. The workshop comprised still photography and basic camera operation, news reporting and interview technique, TV news broadcast and TV production, origin and development of cinema, basic pastoral communication, Church and media, visual effects and

new media. The workshop had 10 eminent resource persons all of whom are the alumni of Chitrabani. Besides making us aware of the present media system, the course also initiated us to become good writers, reporters and photographers. We learnt how to communicate human values through media.

**Dhanaventhur**

## Sitagarha: Juniorate

We celebrated Teachers' Day on September 5th in the schools of our respective ministry places. We had our common birthday celebration on September 7th and we were given a brief introduction to the feast of Onam by our Kerala companions. We commenced our tribal course on September 14th with Fr. Agapit Tirkey. For a week, he imparted to us his knowledge of tribals in India.

**Chris Patrick Pio**

ARCA - SERIES: 02

### THE BEST ARRUPLEAN QUALITY THAT I WISH TO TAKE INTO MY JESUIT LIFE

When I was asked by Fr. Jerry to write these reflections, the immediate response which arose within me was: "Why not?"

The best Arrupean quality that I wish to take into my Jesuit life is his deep, personal, intimate and loving attachment to Jesus Christ. This quality of his has made him who he was. It pervaded his whole being which was evident in all his words and, more importantly, deeds. Once he was asked by a journalist after becoming the 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus: "Who is Jesus for you?" and pat came the reply: "Jesus is my everything".

It helped him to surrender his life into the loving hands of God and made him take everything as the will of God. In his case "everything" really meant "everything."

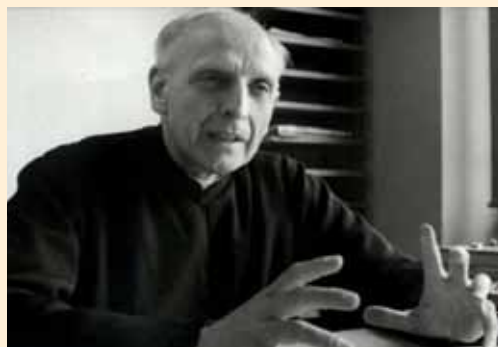
It made him a man of "Ignatian indifference" by which he accepted both joys and sorrows, health and sickness with equanimity. He gave himself completely to his mission of doing His will for His greater glory because "In His will is our peace." (Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*)

He was a man who was truly ahead of his time. The major decisions he took, the way he lived, his relationships inside and outside the Society and his overall attitude towards life was centered on that quality.

It had kept him at peace even after undergoing a lot of trials and tribulations and made him stand strong against the storms of life, finally leading him to reorient the mission of the Society of Jesus in the light of the Second Vatican Council. It inspired him to be a visionary leader, efficient administrator, model Jesuit, faithful son of St. Ignatius, mystic and truly a very saintly man.

Though we, too, have been initiated into this Ignatian indifference, I pray that it grows more and more in each one of us. It is the first quality required in "Our Way of Proceeding," too. When it takes complete control of us, with St. John the Baptist, we could also say: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

**Emmanuel Akilan**



## Abide with the Lord

Fr. Aloysius Thoppil (56/31) AND, passed away on 01.09.2019 in Guntur.

Fr. Alphonsus Benedict D'Souza (78/62) KHM, passed away on 06.09.2019 at Guwahati.

Mr. Vedamuthu (76), father of Fr. Lawrence Benedict passed away on 23 September 2019 at Padathanpatti near Koothalur.

Mr. Arulsamy (91) brother-in-law of Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj passed away on 23 September 2019 at Madurai.





## FR. EDWARD JEGANATHAN, S.J. 1936 - 2019

Fr. Edward Jeganathan was born in a traditional Catholic family in Kodaikanal. Two of his sisters opted for religious life, Sr. Leoni Mary becoming a Servite and Sr. Saveria joining the ICM congregation. His younger brother Fr. Amalraj entered the Society of Jesus in Gujarat Province. After his Intermediate studies at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, Fr. Edward joined the Society on 29.09.1956 at Beschi, Dindigul. In 1958, he went and did his Juniorate at Shembaganur and continued his philosophical studies there from 1960 to '63. Shembaganur has always remained very close to his heart and he would return there to spend the last 10 years of his life working in the archives of Madurai Province.

He completed his theological studies at De Nobili College, Pune, and was ordained a Priest on 23.03.1969. In 1970, at the request of Fr. Adaikalam, Jesuit Superior of Mauritius, Edward was missioned by Fr. Douglas Gordon, Provincial of Madurai, to work in that island nation which had a mixed population of about 10 lakhs, 62% of whom were Hindus, the rest being Creoles, Chinese, Muslims and Europeans.

From 1971 to 1985, Edward did his work of evangelization among all these people seeking God in a variety of ways. His approach which was cultural, human and pastoral did yield fruits. He also took Bible classes in educational institutions. From 1986 to 1993, he was engaged in pastoral ministry as the pastor of a parish.

Off and on, when his assistance was needed in the neighbouring island of La Réunion, he was ready to help out in traditional spiritual ministries.

About 1,000 kms to the north of Mauritius and La Réunion, lies Seychelles, a country which is an archipelago or a cluster of islands. Edward was sent there and was engaged in pastoral ministry from 1993 to 2006. He was ever ready to help out, especially the Indian emigrants. It was the humanity of Edward that attracted these groups to him. These emigrants from India, mostly Tamil Hindus sought Edward merely for his human qualities. Noting that they were not receptive to the Good News of Jesus

Christ and seeing that life in Seychelles was too comfortable materially, without adequate returns in spiritual fruits, Edward decided to return to his Mother Province.

Whenever he spoke of his missionary endeavors, he always spoke of Mauritius and little did he share of his Seychelles experience. About Mauritius itself he would repeat the oft-quoted saying: "Mauritius was made first and then heaven; and heaven was copied after Mauritius."

He was a committed missionary and for 34 years he worked tirelessly among the people of Indian origin and other Catholics. He cherished the many moments of bringing people together in their differences as well as bringing them closer to God.

Fr. Xavier Raj during the homily in the funeral Mass recalled how he was a man of spiritual ministry, joyfully accepting all the spiritual assignments like celebrating the Eucharist, hearing confessions, giving recollections and Ignatian retreats and giving importance to family counseling.

The homilist also highlighted Edward's solidarity with the poor. After he returned to Shembag in 1997, he helped many poor people financially with the help he got from his friends abroad. He had a soft corner for the works of PEAK and Grihini Community College, Shembaganur. Thanks to his conviction and support PEAK was able to put up an additional building for the school children at Sacred Heart College itself when many community members were not enthusiastic about our option for the poor, dalits and tribals. He stood his ground and supported the PEAK team in all its endeavours.

Working in the Province archives at Shembag was a labour of love for him. He helped numerous people, Jesuits as well as non-Jesuits, with their research work as well as writing and publishing articles and books.

His was a life so well lived that the joy that emanated from him radiated all around.

*Patrick Ravichandran*

