



**St. Alphonsus
Rodriguez**

Provincial's Message



The concerns of citizens in the context of the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)

The status of Christianity as a minority religion in India has not undermined its output in the society. Its presence is known mostly through its mighty services and contributions to the Indian society. It has always been the main instrument in building up the Indian Nation for centuries in the fields of education, social services, health care, economy etc.

Christians have been pioneers in education since pre-Independence period, and now can they boast of serving through 25,000+ schools, colleges and universities even in the remotest parts of India, imparting quality education to all people irrespective of caste, creed or religion, thus contributing to the progress and development of the nation in the most altruistic manner.

This Christian education, based on the Gospel values of love, justice, equality, human dignity, compassion, truth etc. was instrumental in spreading universal brotherhood and sisterhood in the Indian society. The educational pattern of Christian Institutions has opened new avenues, allowing all sections of the population, especially the underprivileged, the downtrodden and the socially oppressed like Dalits, Tribals, and women, to have the best access to education. It cannot be denied that the Christian education has raised the economic standards and improved the social status and prestige of the underprivileged in the society. Through a new system of education now, an entirely new system of thought and action has been brought about.

The proposed NEP 2020 is focused on the entire education system being brought under a central structure and leading towards the privatization and commercialization of education. The document contains much of a verbal diarrhoea and less of a clear-cut roadmap for future. Never in our history, has an education policy been so severely criticized by a majority of people for its corporate agenda. Instead of taking India forward to the next level of growth, the propagated policy will only push India backwards. It will rather shunt the growth as it is obvious in the policy.

NEP uses the word '*minorities*' thrice but with almost non-existent detail. This is only a passing mention. The proactive and revolutionary interventions of minorities in education are neither recognized nor acknowledged. To make our country '*a knowledge hub*', NEP has to recognize the contribution of all in the civil society, like the social reformers, the minorities, etc.

Art.30 of the Indian Constitution has given minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions. The NEP (8.7) says, '*public and private schools will be assessed and accredited on the same criteria, benchmarks and processes...*' Will this blanket statement become the source of political interference in these institutions leading to infringement of the minority rights?

NEP advocates complete school complex that will affect the distributed primary and middle schools patronized by NGOs and minorities, and phase out even the tiny chance of poor children's education. Introducing the common exams, three-language formula, vocational education from the primary level and the commercialization of education are some of the great dangers of the NEP.

NEP will affect the education of the socially disadvantaged groups and minimize the sovereignty of Higher Educational Institutions run by the minorities. Increasing role of corporate sectors in running the educational institutions will make education expensive and accessible only to the rich. Reservation, guaranteed by the Constitution will be

severely undermined and the role of the minority Institutions will be seriously endangered.

By means of the ideals of Jesuit education, we have been imparting highly commendable quality education through our institutions. The 'master-student' relationship that Ignatius experienced in his spiritual journey with God propels us in our intimate accompaniment with our students. We feel proud that Jesuit education globally and nationally has become a brand name in secondary and higher education. Jesuit education does not value being silent and dumb when dangers penetrate and rupture the democratic fibre of our society. We learn to be critical and we teach our students to be critical in analysing any policy that comes as a half-baked and hazardous product.

In this context, I am convinced that the NEP 2020 needs to be revisited and a thorough debate ensues in clarifying the queries of the citizens. NEP has to be redrafted to safeguard the right to education of the marginalized people, the constitutional rights of minorities, reservation system to be continued to SC/ST and OBC, and creating more space for the federal system and the rights of the States. Let our communities actively get involved in the process of reading, understanding and analyzing this policy. What we have on hand is what we owe to our future generations. May the spirit of our Master Ignatius lead us into a relentless struggle to protect and promote the rights of the marginalized and the minorities!

Jebamalai Irudayaraj



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER

- 06** GBM: Secondary Education
- 12** Meeting of Superiors/Team Leaders and Coordinators (Online)
- 14** Queen of Angels, Keelakottaiyur
- 15** Province Consult
- 24** St Mary's, Madurai
- 25** GBM: Formation Commission(Online)
- 26** Valedictory Function: Mother Teresa Women Empower Centre, Pondicherry
Blessing of PALAVAI centres: Tindivanam and Chengi
- 27** Mettuppalayam: Blessing of the new Chapel
- 28** Harur: Opening of Hostel Hall

OCTOBER

- 02** Meeting of PAP Focal Persons (Online)
- 03** GBM: Communication Commission (Online)
- 05** Meeting of Vocation Facilitators (Online)
- 07** Province Ordination at St. Joseph's, Tiruchy
- 10** Meeting of Province Researchers' Forum (Online)
- 16-17** GBM: Social Action (Ecology+Migrants+Committees) Commission (Online)
- 24** GBM: Dalit Commission (Online)
- 26-28** JCSA Meeting (Online)
- 30** GBM: Pastoral Commission (Online)

NOVEMBER

- 03 Province Consult
- 10 GBM: TVET Commission (Online)
- 16 Meeting of In-charge of Local Resource Mobilization (Online)
- 19 GBM: Youth Commission (Online)
- 24 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (Online)
- 25 GBM: Formation Commission(Online)
- 26 Meeting of Local Protection Officers – Minors and Vulnerable Adults (Online)
- 28 Meeting of In charge of Local Grievance Cell (Online)
- 30 GBM: Finance Commission (Online)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr Dominic Quyen Vu, as Provincial of Australia.

Fr José de Pablo (Spain) as the World Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant of theCLC (Christian Life Community).

FR PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Province Committee for Ignatian Year 2021-22:

Fr Jerry Rosario (Convener), Fr Antony Robinson J., Sch Jayanth Frankly, Fr Maria Arul Raj A, Fr Maria Viyahappan Gladwin, Fr Robin Sahaya Seelan and Prof Selvam L.

Province Committee on NEP: Fr Maria Joeseph Mahalingam (Convener), Fr Paul Benedict S., Fr Sebastian Soosai and Fr Yesumarian L.

Province Committee on EIA: Fr Maria Packiam S. (Convener), Fr Britto Vincent, Fr John Irudaya Kumar, Fr Leo Anand M A., and Fr Raj Irudaya and Dr Vincent S.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS 2020:

The CEN-MDU Deacons will be ordained Priests by **Most Rev S Antonysamy, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Palayamkottai**, in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, on 7 October 2020 at 05:30 p.m. “**நலிந்தோரின் நற்செய்தியாக**” – “**To be the Good News for the Marginalized**” is their motto. Given the pandemic situation, let us emulate our founding Fathers in their Ordination ceremony, through remote participation in the live streamed service. Please click the links below and virtually take part in the celebration.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ27plUIVUbpE73KfteiAaA/live>

Live Stream: <http://www.liveibc.com/sjord2020>



HEALTH UPDATE

Fr Gerlin is recuperating steadily in Ranipet community.

Fr Maria Packiam tested positive for COVID-19 on 23 Sep, as he experienced mild throat infection and fever after his home visit. He is now quarantined in a room at Loyola Hostel with medications prescribed by the doctor.

Fr Vino Selukas took a COVID test to make himself eligible for the air travel to Rome and was reported positive on 25 Sep, with Ct value 28.1 which is low positive (27-32). He was supposed to fly to Rome on 25 Sep. Now he is also quarantined and is under medication as he is asymptomatic.

In the context of intermittent fever, prolonged tiredness and swollen feet to **Fr Xavier Rajan**, he was admitted in St Thomas Hospital on 27 Sep for a special post-hospitalization care. He had developed urinary infection that caused intermittent fever and other weaknesses. He may recuperate there for some time on post-hospitalization care.

Fr Freddie tested positive for COVID-19 on 2 Oct and is admitted in Sathyam Hospital, Coimbatore. **Fr Xavier Gnanasekaran** and **Sch Sundar** are quarantined at Mettupalayam with medications, leaving the house under the watch of a trust worthy watchman.

REPORT

Superiors/ Team Leaders and Coordinators' Meeting (virtual) - 12 Sep 2020

Response to NEP-2020, Implementation of CAP and PAP by Communities and Commissions, Resource Mobilization, Province Financial Status and change of name for Caritas, Paathaigal and Publication for CEN formed the main agenda for the meeting.

In the morning, Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam presented the consolidated report on NEP-2020 gathered from the communities. NEP is seen as anti-people, purely hindutva-inspired, and thus destructive

in nature. The strategies proposed: conscientization of people about the hidden motives of NEP, seeking legal remedies, mass protests, sending mails to MPs and MLAs, preparing an alternative people's education policy, collaborating with POSA at national level, uniting all national indigenous and religious minority sections etc. Call for Quit Brahmin movement may not be a far cry from Quit India Movement of the freedom struggle!



It also urged the members to be ready to face the consequences of NEP once implemented, and to act proactively in favour of the deprived section of society. Action plans should cover all the aspects of the problem. Forum insisted that Education Subject should come to the State list. If we work for equality we need to oppose the policy. It talks about only quality equation without inclusive outlook. For any transformation and development it is essential to focus on both quality and quantity.

Fr Joe Arun presented the salient points of the reports on PAP and CAP. He emphasized that we need to retain the goals and may be flexible with the action plans demanded by the time and context. He presented the Prioritized Province Apostolic Plans for the three phases: 2020-21, 2022- 25 and 2025-27.

Fr Vasanthakumar made a presentation about 'COVID-19 Rapid Response' and 'various projects' in the pipeline for the social centres. He invited for accounting and documentation of projects, and use of official Email IDs for better follow up. In the afternoon, Fr Joseph Ignaci, the Province Treasurer, presented the financial status of the Province for 2020-2021. Buying of Coimbatore land and forming of Tirupur Jesuit Society are at the final stage, thanks to Fr Gunasekaran.

Regarding parallel publication of *Caritas* and *Paathaigal* for CEN, the forum wanted 'a separate Caritas' for CEN to document its history, but to have *Paathaigal* as common venture. In this connection it was felt important to maintain house history.

Deliberating if we needed a separate publication unit, various views emerged. And finally it was left to the Communication Commission to have a study on this matter. An added information is that SIGA of the Salesians is going to have a printing house in Loyola campus, Chennai.

In his final address of the meeting, Fr Provincial appreciated the members for the following reasons: DMC, PFT, and Loyola Helping Hands for their service during COVID-19; meaningful celebration of our Founder's Feast Day; efforts taken to oppose anti-people NEP 2020 and EIA; communities and commissions in implementing PAPs and PCC for coordinating PAP implementation. He thanked the Superiors for taking care of all their respective community members during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, and the Corona Care Committee for their timely intervention.

He requested Jesuits who are 40+ to go for master checkup, Coordinators to keep in touch with PCC, form a CFC with the Provincial's approval, maintain the Province Option in all our ministries especially in admissions and appointments, adopt Spiritual Conversation in community meetings, initiate Religious Forum to build up religious harmony, maintain documentation, materialize coaching for civil services to empower our students and to enhance vocation promotion.

Thanks to Frs Selvaraj Arulnathan and Irudaya Raj who moderated the morning and afternoon sessions. The Morning Prayer was said by Fr Devadhas M, the noon examen in common was conducted by Fr Maria Arul Raj A and finally the fruit gathering was done by Fr Robinson.

Socius

NEWS DIGEST

CHENNAI: ARUL KADAL

Due to the impact of COVID-19 at Arul Kadal, the usual classes were suspended in the month of August. Since the situation became a little better, from the beginning of September, I and II years resumed their classes through the online digital platform. After a week, I years had their study days to prepare for their final examinations of their post-graduation studies. Meanwhile the II years continued the online classes. We thank God for bringing Frs Raj Irudaya and Xavier Rajan back to our community safely after the treatment for COVID-19. They were room-quarantined for fourteen days. Fr Raj Irudaya is now recuperating well. In the case of Fr Xavier Rajan, he showed excellent improvement in his health but he developed intermittent fever from 26 September onwards. Right

now he is at St Thomas Hospital, Chennai, for his post-hospitalization care and treatment for urinary infection. On behalf of Fr Raj Irudaya, Fr Baskar Antony attended the online Superiors' meeting which was held on 12 September. Frs Sahayaraj, Arokia Dass, Schs Vimal and Jeyaseelan participated in the online GBM of Formation Commission on 25 September.

Anto Arputha Raja

CHENNAI: BERCHMANS ILLAM

Seven third year theologians arrived at Berchmans Illam on 6 August after their Pre-Ordination Programme at Dhyana Ashram. Schs Yowan, Pio and Alex have moved to Tiruchy and Sachin to Vettavalam for their college studies. Fr Alangaram delivered a lecture on the topic "Models of Social Change" to a group of Ph.D. students of Satya Nilayam Institute of Philosophy and Culture on 2 September.

Fr Robinson, the PCF organized a course on Social Analysis for the seven Juniors. Frs Sarathy and William, helped the scholastics, with their inputs, look at the world around them analytically. Based on the Ignatian syllabus for each stage of formation, Fr Robinson urges the Scholastics to read and assimilate the spirit of the Society and to prepare PPT on the Testament & Testimony, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus and the documents of GCs 32, 34 & 36.

Third year theologians break the Word of God and inspire us every day through their sharing during the Eucharistic Celebration. They also gave a critical analysis of the National Education Policy (NEP) to the Berchmans Illam Community. The clarification and sharing that followed, enabled us to understand the nuances of the NEP which, first and foremost, favours the rich and the upper caste and ignores the poor and the marginalized.

WiFi connections are provided for the Scholastics to attend the online classes without any interruption. The online classes are in full swing for the theologians, philosophers and the collegians. Frs Ravi (DUM), Alex Yagoo (MDU), Dominic (CEN) and Leo Savari (HAZ) have begun their doctoral studies in various units of Loyola Institutions.

Jenith

CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE

Webinars: Fr Francis P Xavier, the Rector, gave three international webinars, organized by the Franciscan Thalir Institute, on 'Biblical Leadership', 'Stress and Conflict Management', and 'Life Voyage: Doing vs Being'. Fr Maria Packiam gave a webinar, under Jesuit Webinar Series, on 'Web of Life'.

Fr John Dardis, the General Assistant, gave an online talk on 'Ignatian Leadership' to the faculty members of Loyola Institutions at Chennai, Metalla and Vettavalam. Over 500 members, Jesuits and faculty members, participated in the webinar.

IDCR conducted webinars on 'Eco-Spirituality: Inter-religious Perspectives' by Fr Robert Athickal (PAT) of Prayag Raj and on 'Gandhian Spirit of Inter-Religious Harmony' by Bishop Lawrence Pius of Dharmapuri diocese. These are the collaborative works of the Commission for Dialogue and Ecumenism of the TNBC, the Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese and the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (CEN). The inaugural quarterly bulletin 'Cenkantal' (செங்காந்தள்) of the Commission has received rich compliments from all over for its rare spiritual insights highlighted by dialogical aesthetics. Congrats to the efforts of Frs Amaladass Anand and Maria Arul Raj A.

A delegation of officials from Loyola met the Higher Education Minister of Govt. of Tamil Nadu, the Opposition Leader of the Tamil Nadu Assembly and the Members of Parliament and presented our concerns and recommendations on NEP 2020. Our suggestions were well received. Loyola College Society is signing an MoU with SIGA to set up a printing press in Loyola Campus where our students would get trained in future. The online semester exams have been successfully conducted by Loyola College of Arts and Science.

LIBA: In the month of September, festivals of Onam and Teachers' Day were celebrated in LIBA. It was a mixed and exciting experience with faculty and staff gathered in LIBA auditorium maintaining social distancing, and students connected virtually through WebEx to witness the events. Fr Joe Arun addressed more than a hundred senior-level leaders in higher education on 'The New Education Policy 2020 of India' as part of an international consultation.



The Faculty Seminar Series 2020 – 21 was inaugurated by Fr Joe Arun. The topic of discourse was 'the Problem of Universals in Machine Learning' where he connected

the thoughts of Athenian philosophers Plato and Aristotle to concepts in Machine Learning, following which there was a debate and discussion on the same.

LIBA organized an online panel discussion on 'New Opportunities in Healthcare Management-COVID-19 & Beyond' with a total of 95 attendees. Dr S Prakash, MD, Star Health & Allied Insurance, spoke on the expanding market for health insurance. Mr U K Ananthapadmanabhan, a LIBA alumnus and healthcare IT entrepreneur, spoke on the various IT applications in healthcare and urged young and practicing healthcare professionals to upskill themselves through courses offered by institutes like LIBA. Mr Harish Manian, CEO of MGM Healthcare, stressed the need for financial management, supply chain restructuring, and focusing on nursing professionals. Dr M J Xavier, Chair, Centre for Technology & Innovation, LIBA, delivered the welcome address.

LICET has received Graphic Processing Units (GPU) worth 7 lakh plus from NVIDIA. The equipment will be used towards Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) research projects. Earlier LICET also had received GPUs from Intel. Kudos to Dr Kunaraj, Associate Professor of ECE for the initiatives. LICET has opened its premises to the faculty since 14 September for online teaching. 30 locations have been arranged for the online teaching-learning process with 50% of faculty coming for three days a week. The admission for the management quota for the academic year 2020-2021 is over. For the first time, the whole admission process was done online. Thanks to all those who are behind this success.

Zenith

HARUR: ARULAGAM

Arulagam Community plays the host for Deacon Rex Franklin, doing the SUPAM ministry in our parish. He began his diaconate ministries on 8 September with the feast day Holy Mass of the Nativity of Our Lady in front of the grotto. At the end of the Mass, the catechism students performed two awareness dances and all those who were present on the occasion relished a small piece of cake and paayaasam, sponsored by the parishioners.



On 5 September, the Teachers' Day, Fr Paul Benedict, the Coordinator for Sec. Education, invited Mr Anbazhagan, National Awardee for best teacher from Uthiramerur, as the resource person on Zoom to address the teachers of all our schools in the Province, who asked them to equip themselves in using the much-required technology for teaching, especially these days when online classes are the order of the day. Fr Gladwin entertained the staff through online fun and frolic. A special Holy Mass was celebrated for the teachers followed by some cultural items by our students. Plantation of saplings was an important part of the celebration. On 14 September, the teachers were introduced to the staff welfare fund scheme through online training. We are grateful to the Provincial, for donating a bus for our school.

On 14 September, we had our community virtual recollection guided by Fr Kulandai Raj (AND), on the theme 'We are forgiven sinners'. Because the ordination is going to be held with restricted attendance due to the pandemic, we specially greeted Dn Rex Franklin on 17 September as he proceeded to Tiruchy for his ordination to be held on 7 October.

We have constructed a hall at Girls' Hostel with the financial help provided by the German friends of the Jesuit Chennai Province. On 28 September, Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial, opened the hall which was blessed by Fr Ilanko Xavier, the Socius. The members of the Jesuit Chennai Province team joyfully participated in the planting of saplings near the Girls' Hostel to mark the inauguration of the new hall. They also visited the hatchery and placed eggs, indicating that they are part of our endeavors.



Fr Mag Bay harvested a good yield of sugarcane, with the community members extending their helping hands. He has also started tuition centres in different villages and a computer centre at Harur. Thanks to him that about thirty students can be able to learn typing and other computer skills at a time.

Tony Ajith

KASTHAMBADI: J.P. LEONARD ILLAM (JPLI)

On 15 September, Fr Lourduraj joined our community as the Spiritual Father. Frs Ignaci, Robinson and Vasanthakumar accompanied Fr Lourduraj.

His coming has enriched our community spiritually and intellectually. He is generously guiding the pre-novices by providing spiritual direction and recollections. He is also correcting compositions and sharing his musical knowledge with the pre-novices. From 14 to 18 Sep, Fr Selukas conducted an English learning smart workshop for the pre-novices. He introduced the pre-novices to “everyday English”. The pre-novices also learnt the art of staging a drama. The pre-novices benefited greatly by the course and they staged a modified version of “Christmas Carol” of Charles Dickens, on the last day of the course. The drama came turned out to be a fabulous one. Four of the community members participated in the GBM of Formation Commission on 25 September.

Hansel

JMMEx

We, on behalf of JMMEx, visited Mrs Kavitha, a migrant of Chengam, who was rescued from Kuwait with the help of Mr Alwin Jose, activist of Human Rights Commission, Kuwait.



Visiting Rescued Migrant, Mrs.Kavitha, Chengam

Migrants Self Help Group (MSHG) meeting held in Loyola College, Vettavalam, on 19 September brought new energy and hope to the members of MSHG. In the meeting, the migrants were motivated and guided to present the state of their business - they either have started early and wish to develop further or would like to start afresh. The team of JMMEx had an online-interaction with LIBA on 25 September to enhance the viability of collaboration with migrants to make them entrepreneurs equipped with entrepreneurship and marketing skills.

Velz

KILPENNATHUR: AHAL CENTRE

On 6 September, the Animators’ meeting of Social Education Centres was held at AHAL. They shared the present situation of school students in their villages during this COVID-19 pandemic. Some action plans were discussed in order to make students have continuous interest in education. On 17 September, as part of the implementation of CAP, Periyar’s birthday celebration for mixed groups was organized at AHAL. The theme was “பெரியாரின் சிந்தனை அடித்தட்டு மக்களுக்கு அவசியம் ஏன்?”. The participants were from various Dalit political parties, movements and organizations. In the celebration, we discussed how all of us could work together and support one another when there is an atrocity committed against our target group.



On 27 September, the above mentioned people initiated and formed சோபா தொழிலாளர்கள் நலச்சங்கம்- தமிழ்நாடு (SWAT), அருந்ததியார் மக்கள் நலச்சங்கம், ஸ்டார் இளையோர் இயக்கம் யான வீரமங்கை இளம்பெண்கள் இயக்கம். They hoisted flags of their respective sangams and movements and also erected their name boards at St Antony Street, in Kilpennathur. Also the ID cards for the members of SWAT, which will help creating trust among their customers, were distributed during the event. Local political parties, movement leaders and others participated in the ceremony.

Raja Jesu Raj

PALAVAI (JESIM)

On 11 September, ‘Lok Manch’ - unit level meeting was held for Tindivanam unit at Fr Ceyrac Children’s Home (FCCH). Members from AHAL, TLM, VIDYAL and PALAVAI participated in the meeting. PALAVAI team, for the first time, on 13 September, planted paddy seedlings in Appampattu land as part of working with nature. Animators’ training programme was held at FCCH, on 17 September. Sch Sudherson gave an input session on ‘New Education Policy – 2020’ and Fr Kennedy conducted a group discussion on NEP.



On 26 September, Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial, blessed the renovated grotto at FCCH. Fr Ilanko Xavier, the Socius, opened and blessed Fr Ceyrac Thidal. Fr Joseph Ignaci, the Province Treasurer and Fr Vasanthakumar, the PDD, opened and blessed the renovated buildings of FCCH respectively. Fr Provincial blessed, opened and inaugurated Fr Ceyrac Computer Centre and the Library. Later, the Curia team also inaugurated, in the presence of Fr Marianathan, the Team Leader, ஜயா விக்டர் சே.ச. இருளர் மக்கள் மேம்பாட்டுக் கூடம் at Vadapalai, and ஜயா மனுஷேஸ் சே.ச. இருளர் மக்கள் மேம்பாட்டுக் கூடம் at Pennagar which would help the people to run their evening study centres, organize self-help group meetings and for all other common use of our target people.



Sudherson

KUPPAYANALLUR, LOYOLA H.S. SCHOOL

Fr Eugene conducted spoken English course to for our school staff. All took the course seriously and benefited from the programme. An awareness program on the 'New Education Policy' was conducted for students doing 9th Std and above, of Kuppayanallur parish, on 20 September, and the same programme was arranged for the parents and their children studying 1st – 8th standards on 27 September. Frs Devasagayam, Jerome, Masillamani and Eugene spoke on the topics to the participants. The third batch of country chicken have come out of the modest incubator available at the parish house. A handful of parishioners have initiated the process of starting backyard Poultryies.



Frs Devasagayam and Jerome visited a few tribal villages around Uthiramerur. On 27 September, Loyola H.S. School conducted a 'Come and See' programme for the tribal children with their parents and guardians. Nearly 40 people, both children and elders, came to the school. After lunch, we had a meeting to motivate them to join schools for their studies. Children had games and visited the labs and hostels. We hope to invite the children in the near future to the school campus again.

Noyal

METTALA, LOYOLA COLLEGE

On 4 September, Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam presented a research paper online, on 'Conflicts between Constitutional Values and Cultural Practices: An Introspection of Indian Praxis' in a two-day International Seminar, organized by the International Association for the Social Teachings of the Church, Geneva. On 8 September, we celebrated the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady with a solemn Eucharist after which we planted some tree saplings in the college campus. The non-teaching staff prepared and distributed Pongal in front of the statue of Our Lady of Velankanni installed between Loyola Men and Women Hostels.

On 15 September, Fr Mahalingam gave an awareness talk on the National Education Policy (NEP – 2020) to the Priests and Religious Delegates of Dharmapuram and Salem dioceses. At the request of Most Rev Dr Lawrence Pius Durairaj, the Bishop of Dharmapuram and Apostolic Administrator of Salem, he prepared a two-page handbill on NEP 2020 which will be printed and distributed to the parishioners to create awareness. Accompanied by Frs B Jeyaraj and Rajarathinam, Fr Mahalingam, the Principal, presented a petition to Dr V Saroja, MD, DGO, Minister of Social Welfare and Noon Meal Scheme and the MLA from Rasipuram Assembly Constituency, demanding the withdrawal of the draconian NEP 2020. The Minister appreciated the initiative and assured that she would present it to the Chief Minister.



For the outgoing third year students, the academic staff conducted a mock online semester examination which helped both the students and the staff to complete the actual online examinations from Sep 21 to 26, 2020 successfully.

Maria Joseph Mahalingam

METTUPALAYAM: ARRUPPE ILLAM

Arrupe Illam is happy to have Fr Leo Anand as a new member of the community. Our community has now six members: Fr Packiaraj, Fr James Raja, Sch Naveen in Kadambur and in Makkampalayam and Fr Bellarmine in Porulur parish of Coimbatore diocese.

September 27, 2020 became a day to be remembered ever for on this day, the newly constructed chapel at Arrupe Illam was blessed by the Most Rev Dr A Amalraj, the Bishop of Ootacamund, and the ribbon was cut open by Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial. The chapel was constructed with the help of the Province, friends and benefactors and it can accommodate around forty people. It stands separate from the building. The Province curia members were all present together with all the members of ArrupeIllam community. Priests and religious from Mettupalayam made the occasion grand and memorable. Aloysius Builders, led by Mrs John Terin (Engineer) from Thiruppur, with her team of skilled labourers, has done a marvelous job in the construction of the chapel.

Devadhas Muthiah

PARAN: MAKKAMPALAYAM

On 24 August, we invited the staff of the evening study centers and a few college students from Gundri and Kadambur zone for a training on 'health and preventive measures for COVID-19'. We had group discussions and sharings on 'the impact of COVID-19, EIA and NEP'

On 2 and 25 September, a talk cum training was organized for the Community Leaders and SHG women on 'Health, Rights and Duties of the people'. About thirty five persons participated observing social distancing. Ms Sunmathi, the local post master, spoke to them on the importance of educating girl children. Mr Durairaj shared with the tribal leaders about the recent development in the government laws.

On 10 September, PARAN started distributing nutrition supplement to the Sathy zone tuition centers. 126 students benefitted through this COVID-19 relief work. Sch Naveen Kumar coordinated the relief work for the study center students, with our staff.

On 23 September, we conducted a one day orientation for students from Makkampalayam, Arigiyam Melur and Arigiyam Puthur. Frs Arul SDB and James Raja SJ motivated and encouraged the students. PARAN has been supporting students to participate in online classes since a month. On 27 September, we were happy to receive Fr Provincial and his team. The contact visit was an occasion of blessing for PARAN and Makkampalayam Mission.



Naveen Kumar

RANIPET: LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

We were immensely happy to have Fr Igni, the Treasurer of our province, here in September. He oversaw the construction of compound wall around our campus. We had a meeting to finalize our responsibilities of CAP on 9 September. After ICD implantation at CMC, Vellore, Fr Gerlin is now convalescing here and is being given meticulous care.

Prithivi Kumar

UDHAGAMANDALAM: ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

In SJIS, Ooty, we had our staff meeting on 14 September. Fr Freddie, the Superior and the Correspondent, addressed the staff on the current issues of the New Education Policy 2020. He explained how NEP'20 affects us. After the meeting, we expressed our protest against NEP by holding placards in front of

the Industrial School. Our annual technical inspection was held on 24 September. The RJD (Regional Joint Director) was happy about the functioning of our ITI. There was no negative remark. Moreover, they recommended that we begin a BTP (Basic Training Programme) for the rural Poor.



Sundar

VADAMELPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY

In unison with the Universal Ecumenical Movement, 'Season of Creation' (1 Sep to 4 Oct) and vibrating with the theme, 'Water, the Fountain of Life', we are spending daily a few minutes in prayer and reflection to deepen and sharpen our understanding of the supreme value of water in human life at all levels.

On 5 September, we celebrated virtual Teachers' Day with all the teachers and students. Though the door of opportunity to meet their teachers in the school premises remained closed, the students opened up the online door to show their love and respect for their teachers. Each class had a Zoom meeting with their class teacher and expressed their love in the form of charts, greeting cards, songs, videos and poems. The teachers were overwhelmed with joy with the surprise gifts their students showered on them on the special day. Fr Leo Tagore, the Correspondent, gave a meaningful message to all the students and teachers by referring to the Feast of St Mother Teresa, who, by the inspiring example of her life, taught humanity to love the poor and the needy.



Fr M S Arockiasamy, the Principal, emphasized the importance of the parenting role of teachers in the students' overall growth and formation. The message from the management together with a medley of poem, speech and song was uploaded in the YouTube School Channel and forwarded to all the students. The cute expressions of Teachers' Day greetings by our students, right from Kindergarten to Higher Secondary classes added flavor to our programme.

On the 13 September, LAV organized a webinar for the parents of our students on 'Effective Parenting in the context of COVID-19'. Ms Christina, Counsellor from Loyola College, Chennai, shared her thoughts on parenting skills and she clarified some of the issues faced by the parents during the pandemic situation.

We have resumed the online classes for all, on 28 September, after a week-long break given by the Government to reduce stress.

Frankly

VALLAM, PAATHAI CENTRE

Fr Robinson has resumed Spoken English coaching classes thrice a week to our DHRC staff, which help them express their views in English, both written and oral. Fr Yesumarian participated in the Consultation Meeting of Tamil Nadu Dalit Leaders' Federation for Panjami Land Rights of Dalits. Sch David underwent a one week refresher training in driving at AHAL, Kilpennathur. We pray with the book *Towards Loving Service - Prayers on UAPs and CAPs* during our weekly adoration, which inspires us to imbibe the spirit behind our Universal and Conference Apostolic Preferences.

Fr Deva Arockia Stephen preached the monthly recollection for the Regents through Google meet on 30 September. He encouraged us to cling to God alone and to be content with what we do in the regency places for the people and ourselves.

David Francis

VETTAVALAM: LOYOLA COLLEGE

This year, in spite of the lockdown, we have a good number of admissions more than last year and the highest in the recent past. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the management and the dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching. The future is certainly promising. On 31 September, we had the online inaugural function for the new comers followed by the online classes.

We had the Holy Spirit Mass on 08 September, presided over by Fr Selvaraj, the Superior, to mark the beginning of the academic year so full of uncertainties. We raised our hearts in prayer to the Holy Spirit to guide all our staff and students, towards a fruitful year of academic accomplishments.

The outgoing third year students had their university final semester exams from 16 to 23 September. As the valuation is over, the results are expected very shortly. It is raining on and off. Therefore, the paddy fields are green and we hope to reap a good harvest.

Justine Emma

DINDIGUL: BESCHI ILLAM

NOVITIATE

The Novitiate unit marked the occasion of 'International Day of Care for creation' on 31 August, for which the novices had chosen the theme “இயற்கையின் நிறுவல், இறைவனின் மடியில்” (*Nature's Care - God's Embrace*) and each did a tree-adoption after planting saplings. Their promises to care for the creation within our premises are very much in line with PAP 2.

Fr Dhanaraj Raphael gave a one-week course on ‘தமிழர் ஆன்மீகம்’ (*The spirituality of Tamils*) for our novices from 14 to 18 September. It was an eye-opening for them to realize how resourceful our Tamil Bhakthi literature is.

Eleven first year novices had their pilgrimage experiment from 20 to 26 September and this was organized differently this year. All through this experiment, the only grace they asked through the intercession of our Lady was “to be placed me with Her Son”. They walked, in and around Beschi Campus, about a distance of two hundred and seventy kilometres, equivalent to the distance from Beschi Illam to the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health, Vailankanni. They went on a pilgrimage to Vadipatti on the last day. Fr Novice Master and Fr Harry Martis (GUJ) also walked with them.

On these days, five second year novices had their experiment on house maintenance. This has helped them understand how much contributing are the works of our Fathers, Brothers and Co-workers in our communities. Their insights shared during the evaluation are collated and displayed on the notice boards - Novices Twitter.

On 26 September, the eve of 480th anniversary of the Society's approval in 1540, Fr Michael Doss preached recollection for the community on the theme: ‘Following the footsteps of St Ignatius today’.

Michael Panimaya Raj

JUNIORATE

On 26 August, the Juniors participated in the Zoom Conference organized by Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa. The speaker, Prof Dr Ines G. Županov spoke on, ‘Rival Mission, Rival Science: Jesuits and Pietists in the 17th-18th century South India’.

On 4 September, Fr G Arockiaraj blessed and opened the new Shuttlecock court. On 8 September, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Juniors celebrated the Teachers' Day with a cultural evening. Fr Yagoo, the Chief Guest, shared his experiences as a teacher and how he encouraged the poor students all through his life. Sch Praveen's recitation of his poem about teachers and Sch Milton's speech on teachers' day enchanted the gathering. From 24 to 30 September, the Juniors had their first term examinations.

Franklin

JRS

Even at this global pandemic, the refugee students never remain idle in camps; rather, they grab the opportunities to exhibit their talents at various levels. Two of our Complementary Education (CE) students – R Karunakaran (10th Grade) and S Ajith (5th Grade) from Thumbalhali camp participated in the drawing competition conducted by Kalvi Tholaikaatchi, a Tamil Educational TV Channel and won third and fourth prizes at the district level, respectively.

Fr Viji Bose, the Director of the Jesuit Pre-Novitiate in Kastambadi, handles Spoken English classes for X to XII standard students in Kasthampadi camp. On 5 September, Teachers' Day was celebrated in most of our CE centres and the teachers were gratefully honoured by the students.

JRS-TN conducted an online ‘Quarterly Teacher Training Programme’ for 156 CE teachers of Nellai, Kovai, Thiruvannamalai and Tiruchi zones on 12, 13, 19 & 20 September, respectively. Sch Edward Lenin, the Education Officer of JRS-TN, handled sessions on Effective Leadership while Mr Antony, Peace Coordinator, handled sessions on Peace Education.

On 27 and 28 September, Fr Louie Albert, the Regional Director of JRS South Asia, visited the JRS-TN team and took part in the monthly review meeting conducted at Alverna Centre, Dindigul. The team discussed on how to take up the programme activities innovatively at this lockdown and came up with the action plan for the following months.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Michael Panimaya Raj

SHEMBAGANUR: SACRED HEART COLLEGE

With the action plan for the following months. With Beschi Illam getting crowded due to the relocation of the Juniorate, the nine philosophers destined for De Nobili College, Pune, who had been stranded here, headed for Shembaganur with Fr Pugazh, on 14 August where Fr Patrick, the Superior, welcomed them with open arms. After a brief period of quarantine and mid-semester online examinations, they are now kept on their toes with online classes, assignments and other community activities.

Fr Danis Ponniah, the Provincial of Madurai, made his contact visit and met all the community members including the co-workers in the farms. Fr Rajasekaran celebrated a Solemn Mass on the Independence Day cum Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. Fr Amaladoss hoisted the national flag and delivered a short motivational speech.

Kiran Joseph

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr John Berchman Nag (JAM, 72/36), passed away on 10 Sep 2020 in Jamshedpur.

Fr Jacob Carvalho (GOA, 75/57), passed away on 12 Sep 2020 in Belagavi.

Fr Vijay Kumar Prabhu (KAR, 80/61), passed away on 15 Sep 2020 in Mangaluru.

Fr James Thottakath (KER, 93/63), passed away on 15 Sep 2020 in Kozhikode.

Fr Erik Breye (RAN, 80/61), passed away on 18 Sep 2020 in Ranchi.

Br Nicolas Hernandez Blanco (SPAIN, 92/75 - Missionary to Gujarat from 1949 to 1988) passed away on 20 Sep 2020 in Villagarcia de Campos, Spain.

Fr Dionysius Rasquinha (PAT, 65/44), passed away on 24 Sep 2020 in Patna.

Fr Joseph Thayil (KER, 90/70), passed away on 30 Sep 2020 in Kozhikode.

Mrs Angel (90), mother of Fr Jeyaseelan Thomas Barnabas (MDU), passed away on 11 Sep 2020 at Kottaiyur.

Sr Agatha FSMA (86), younger sister of Fr Francis Vazhapilly (MDU), passed away on 22 Sep 2020 at SMA Convent, Ajmir, Rajasthan.

Mrs Elizabeth Edward (81), younger sister of Fr Arockiaraj Pushpanathan (MDU), aunt of Fr Jerry Rosario and grandmother of Fr Benedict Santosh, passed away on 29 Sep 2020 at Tiruchi.

Sr Beatrice ICM (85), grandaunt of Fr Leo Anand, passed away on 2 Oct 2020 in Dindigul.

Mr Soosai (87), uncle of Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, passed away on 02 Oct 2020 at Michaelpattinam.

Mr Singaraj (66), the eldest brother of Fr Xavier Antony (MDU), passed away on 02 Oct 2020 at Michael Palayam.

Mr Michael (102), father of Fr Pavulraj Michael (MDU), passed away on 4 Oct 2020 at Michealpatti.

7 OCTOBER 2020

Priestly Ordination

Prayerful Wishes
Dear Ordinandi

Congratulations

TO BE THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE MARGINALIZED










நலிந்தோரின் நற்செய்தியாக

Raphael Alexander SJ
Maria Then Amirtharaj SJ
Franklin Peter Rex SJ
Berkmans Kasparaj SJ
Vijin Antony Raj SJ
Pon Ruban SJ