



Fr. Louis Marie Léveil



St. Alphonsus Rodriguez



Fr. Pedro Arrupe

OCTOBER 2020

MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Given below is Fr. Provincial's Programme (September to December 2020) incorporating the changes that had to be made owing to the COVID-related developments. As and when there is greater clarity regarding the evolving Coronavirus situation, programme changes may be made and communicated to you.

SEPTEMBER

- 01-08 Province Office
- 09 Contact Visit: DACA, Madurai
- 10-12 Contact Visit: SXC, Palayamkottai
- 13 Contact Visit: Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
- 14 Contact Visit: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
- 15 Contact Visit: Carmel, Nagercoil
- 16-17 Visitation: LTI, Madurai
- 18-22 Province Office
- 19 Consult (Online)
- 23 Contact Visit: St. Mary's, Madurai
- 24 Contact Visit: AAC, Karumathur
- 25-30 Province Office
- 25 JCSA consultation on Jesuit Migrant Facilitation Network (Online)
- 27 Community Orientation: Maduralaya

OCTOBER

- 01 Province Office
- 02-03 GBM: Higher Education (Online)
- 04 Silver Jubilee Mass – St. Anne's, Grawford, Tiruchi
- 05-06 Province Office

- 07 Ordination: SJC, Tiruchi
- 08-13 Province Office
- 08 SXCE: Governing Body Meeting (Online)
- 10-11 GBM: Secondary Education (Online)
- 14 Contact Visit: De Britto, Devakottai
- 15 Contact Visit: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 16-20 Province Office
- 17-18 GBM: Social Action (Online)
- 19 Consult (Online)
- 21-22 Visitation: IDEAS-LAAS, Madurai
- 23-31 Province Office
- 23 PAP Focal Persons Meeting (Online)
- 24-25 GBM: Communication (Online)
- 26-30 JCSA Meeting (Online)
- 31-Nov 1 GBM: Ecology Commission (Online)

NOVEMBER

- 01-30 Province Office
- 04 GBM: TVET Commission (Online)
- 14-15 TNCRI Meeting (Online)
- 21-22 GBM: Formation Commission (Online)
- 25 GBM: Youth Commission (Online)
- 28-29 GBM: Pastoral Commission (Online)

DECEMBER

01-31 Province Office

05 GBM: Spirituality & Dialogue Commission (Online)

06 GBM: Brothers Commission (Online)

13 GBM: Dalit Commission (Online)

14 GBM: Finance Commission (Online)

18 Coordinators Meeting (Online)

19 LS/TL/Coord. Meeting (Online)

20 LS/TL Meeting (Online)



Announcements

APPOINTMENT BY FR. PROVINCIAL

Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam has been appointed by Fr. Provincial Coordinator of the Spirituality & Dialogue Commission in place of Fr. Ignatius Britto.

FR. PROVINCIAL HAS CONSTITUTED

Committee for Ignatian Year 2021-2022

Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent (Convener), Frs. Arul Sivan, Selvaraj Soosaimanickam, Vedha Stalin Joseph and Xavier Antony, Br. Arockiasamy Pitchaimuthu and Sch. John Richard Y.

Committee on New Education Policy (NEP)

Fr. John Kennedy S.M. (Convener), Frs. Joseph Xavier P., Joseph Xavier V., Paulraj Packiam, Pushparaj Gnanasamy and Thomas Alexander D.

Committee on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) 2020

Fr. Santhanam Arockiasamy (Convener), Ignacimuthu Savarimuthu, John Kennedy S.M. and John Peter Arulanandam L. and Sch. Anto S. Antony.

Community Prayer Book

A limited number of copies of *Praying with Creation* (by Fr. S. Ignacimuthu and published by GSP) are being dispatched to our communities/teams.

JMAADD comes to Tiruchi

JMAADD (Jesuit Ministry for Alcohol And Drug Dependents) will soon begin to serve people in Tiruchi and the neighbouring districts. We offer 21 days of residential treatment for people who are addicted to alcohol and other substances. Doctors, nurses, and trained counsellors will give their best to help the patients recover from their addiction, as JMAADD sees addiction as a disease of the mind, body, soul and family.

The unique treatment, developed by JMAADD, has proved to be effective because it employs community-based strategies, based on Alcoholics Anonymous' famous 12 steps. It incorporates findings of extensive scientific research into the physiological, psychological, and spiritual aspects of addiction. The different phases of the treatment offered by JMAADD are awareness-intervention, treatment, detox, psychiatric assessment, meditation, 12 steps work and recovery support for a year.

The new Centre, AHEAD (Arrupe Health Enclave for Alcohol/Drug Dependents), coming up in Mullaikudi, expects to start functioning from 1 December 2020.

JMAADD, a ministry of the Madurai Jesuit Province, launched in 2006, has conducted 152 camps so far, treating more than 4,500 addicts and their families. Total Cost: Rs.15,000. Location: St Joseph's Farm, Keela Mullaikudi, Tiruchi - 620010. Programme Director: Fr. Francis Jayapathy (9488189174). Contact persons: Sivaraj (8667437929), Anto (8056440450).

We seek your collaboration and support for this important ministry that offers a new life to patients and their families.

Francis Jayapathy

Health Update

Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj had symptoms of mild viral infection in his lungs according to a CT scan report on 07.09.2020. With Mr. James Rajan, his elder brother, he was quarantined at Muhil Health Centre, Alampatti, Thirumangalam from September 8 to 13, at St. Philomena's, Bangalore, from 13 to 17 and back again at Muhil from 17th from where he was discharged and returned to IDEAS on September 28th.

Fr. James Thamburaj was admitted in the ICU of Star KIMS hospital, Tiruchi, on September 7th evening having developed a kidney infection due to high creatinine levels along with some symptoms of arthritis causing severe pain in the hands, the knees and the waist. Discharged from the hospital on September 19th, he was back at Clive Illam, Tiruchi, but pretty much bedridden. On September 26th, he was brought to Beschi Infirmary, Dindigul, and has been there since. His pain is much reduced. With some assistance he is able to get up from his bed or

chair and even walk in infirmary corridor with the support of a walker.

Fr. Britto Bonaventure, too, was brought on the same day in the evening to Beschi after being hospitalized for a few days at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. He has been unsteady on his feet and finding it difficult to walk. He has been accommodated in the room adjacent to the dispensary and as at now, physically, clinically and medically there is no issue and he is able to move around without assistance.

Fr. A. Wilson: Health workers of Nagercoil Corporation came to our Carmel Hr. Sec. School, on 1 October 2020 and tested about 25 persons including our staff and domestic workers. Unfortunately, Fr. A. Wilson, our Headmaster, was found to be mildly COVID positive. He was admitted on October 3rd at Holy Cross Hospital, Nagercoil, run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross Menzigen (Kottiyam Sisters). From October 3rd, Carmel community members self-quarantined immediately and have been following all the protocols/precautions including suspension of all the common activities, separate meal timings including using separate crockery and cutlery. We also continue to take regularly different types of *kashayams*, homoeopathic preventive medicines and proper diet with fruits. No visitors are allowed in the campus and our staff entering the campus are asked to wash their hands, use sanitizer and wear masks compulsorily and are asked to take all other preventive measures for their safety and security.

Fr. Gerlin Amaladoss (CEN) has been fitted with an Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator (ICD) at CMC, Vellore, a device that detects any life-threatening, rapid heartbeat. After the implantation he feels much better and is able to do things for himself. He has to walk 200 to 300 meters, three times a day and gradually increase it to 3 kilometers in three months, do a lot of breathing exercises and follow the diet as per the prescription. He has been shifted to the Jesuit Residence at Ranipet.

Fr. Maria Packiam (CEN) tested positive for COVID-19 on 23 September 2020 after his home visit. He is now quarantined in Loyola Hostel with medications prescribed by the doctor.

Fr. Vino Selukas (CEN) who was supposed to fly to Rome on September 25th had taken a

COVID test as a prerequisite for his air travel. Unfortunately, he tested positive for COVID-19 on September 25th. Cancelling his flight, he is also quarantined in Loyola Hostel and is under medication although he is asymptomatic.

Fr. Xavier Rajan (CEN), having intermittent fever, prolonged tiredness and swollen feet, was readmitted in St. Thomas Hospital on 27 September. He had developed urinary infection that caused intermittent fever and other weaknesses. He is supposed to stay there for some more time for rest and recuperation.

Fr. Freddie (CEN) tested positive for COVID-19 on 2 October 2020 and has been admitted in Sathyam Hospital, Coimbatore, while his community members Fr. Xavier Gnanasekaran and Sch. Sundar are quarantined at Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam.

Fr. J.P. Bellarmine (CEN) has been brought from Porulur and admitted in JCB Hospital, Dindigul, on 11.10.2020 with 70% lung infection.

Ecology Commission Meeting

The first meeting of the Ecology Commission was held online on 4 August 2020. Fr. Joe Arun, the resource person, presented PAP2 Action Plans and emphasized the importance of aligning with Jesuits globally in protecting and preserving the environment and safeguarding the rights of the poor and the marginalized in our Province. He highlighted the important action plans proposed by various Commissions and communities which served as a backdrop to the discussion that followed during which it was stressed that we should evolve a Vision and Mission for the Province keeping in mind the call of Pope Francis to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. It is true that we have taken some eco-friendly initiatives such as making our campuses plastic-free zones and trying to use Solar power to produce electricity



and so on. However, we need to do more to preserve and protect our common home. It was agreed that we have to collaborate and network with like-minded people and organizations to promote integrated energy, water management and eco-friendly agriculture in order to preserve our common home. During our discussion on EIA 2020, it was very much stressed that we need to collaborate with all like-minded groups such as political parties, unorganized labourers and all the common people under the banner All India People's Federation for Environmental Protection – Tamil Nadu ('அகில இந்திய சுற்றுச்சூழல் பாதுகாப்பு மக்கள் கூட்டமைப்பு' -தமிழ்நாடு) and oppose this unwanted EIA 2020 draft. The online Commission meeting ended with the concluding remarks of Fr. L. John Peter Arulanandam, Coordinator of Ecology Commission, who thanked everyone for actively participating in the first meeting of the Commission.

Arulanandam

NEWS DIGEST

Dindigul: Beschi Illam

Novitiate In line with PAP 2, our novices celebrated the International Day of Care for creation on 31 August. They chose the theme “இயற்கையின் நிழலில், இறைவனின் மடியில்” (To be with Nature is to be in the bosom of God) and each did a tree-adoption after planting saplings. 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-opener for them to discover how replete our Tamil Bhakti literature is with rich resources.

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 grace they asked through the intercession of our Lady was “to be placed with Her Son”. They walked, in and around Beschi Campus, about a distance of 270 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 where they concluded their pilgrimage with a Solemn Mass concelebrated by Frs. Novice Master, Socius and Harry Martis.

During the pilgrimage experiment of the first year novices, their five second year companions had their



house maintenance experiment instilling in them the value of manual labour.

On 26 September, the eve of the 480th anniversary of the Society's approval in 1540, Fr. Michael Doss gave a recollection talk to the community on the theme: 'Following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius today'.

JRS: Even during this global pandemic, the refugee students never remain idle in camps; rather, they grab the opportunities to exhibit their talents at various levels. For example, two of our Complementary Education (CE) students – R. Karunakaran (Class X) and S. Ajith (Class V) – from Thumbalhalli camp participated in the drawing competition conducted by Kalvi Tholaikaatchi, a Tamil Educational TV Channel and won third and fourth prizes, respectively, at the district level.

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

JRS-TN conducted an online Quarterly Teacher Training Programme for 156 CE teachers of Nellai, Kovai, Tiruvannamalai and Tiruchi zones on 12, 13, 19 and 20 September, respectively. It was the first of its kind for the JRS teachers in Tamil Nadu. 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, Regional Director, JRS South Asia, visited the JRS-TN team and took part in the monthly review meeting conducted at Alverna Centre, Nochiodaipatti, Dindigul. The team had long discussions on how to take up the programme activities innovatively during the unlocking of the COVID lockdown and came up with an action plan to implement the program activities.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Juniorate: On 26 August, the Juniors participated in the Zoom Conference organized by Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Goa. The speaker, Dr. Ines G. Županov spoke on “Rival Mission, Rival Science: Jesuits and Pietists in the 17th-18th Century South India.” She explained the varied nuances of the Tranquebar Mission. On 4 September, Fr. G. Arockiaraj blessed and opened the new Shuttlecock court. Thanks to Frs. Williams and G. Arockiaraj, the Juniors are now kept on their toes to learn the game professionally. On 8 September, together with the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Juniors celebrated 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 teaching career. From 24 to 30 September, the Juniors had their First Term examinations.

Jones Vimal

Dindigul: Maduralaya

On 25 September 2020, Frs. Jeyabaskaran and Thayriam visited AMUTHU centre and had a short input session for the staff on the Province policy of protecting children and vulnerable adults. The introduction and implementation of this important policy helped them understand that we really care about creating a safe environment for everyone in our communities, institutions, centres and outreach programmes. With the arrival of Fr. Thayriam and completion of his mandatory 14-day quarantine we were able to have our community orientation



on September 26th and 27th. Fr. Joe Arun (CEN) inspired us all with his stimulating inputs and invited us to realize deeply that “it is in receiving and then giving back that life and mission are sustained.” The spiritual conversation in the community on the PAP enabled us to come out with a master plan for the coming year. The community orientation was truly fruitful and enriching. Fr. Thayriam took charge as the Province Development Director on September

27th. Fr. Provincial thanked Fr. Joe Arun for all his generous service to the Province as the PDD.

Thayriam

Dindigul: St. Mary’s

On 28 August, St. Mary’s organized a webinar on NEP 2020 and the Future of School Education, in which our teaching and non-teaching staff and staff from our neighbouring schools actively participated. Fr. S. M. John Kennedy, Director, JCERT, the resource person, was exuberantly fiery in explaining the hidden agenda behind this deadly NEP 2020 with its historical background. On 5 September, we celebrated Teachers’ Day together with our primary and secondary school staff. On the same occasion, the silver jubilarians of both the schools were honoured and felicitated for their selfless service. On 30 September, the school hosted the retirement function for Mr. Albert Irudhayaraj, a non-teaching staff. The management together with



the staff community thanked and honoured him for his commitment and loyalty to the school. On the same occasion, a special flyer containing a detailed report of COVID-19 relief works done in Dindigul by Marian Disaster Management Committee was released. On 25 September, we had the monthly recollection. Fr. Jesudoss enriched us with his reflections. The community continues to follow the safety measures strictly such as wearing face masks, checking the temperature of any visitor or guest who comes to the residence, physical distancing in the schools as well as in the house.

Arockia Amalan

Kanyakumari: Thozhamai Illam

Thozhamai Illam has been given a facelift with three new projects:

1) Fixing of a galvanised sheet rooftop over the community building: The purpose of this addition was to block rain water hitting our corridors. The rooftop now looks grand and gives a finished look to the whole building from every angle. More than anything else, it serves its intended purpose and now

when it rains, we can safely step outside our rooms. Additionally, the rooftop has also made the space below look like a compact and beautiful hall for prayer, meetings and gatherings. This hall has been named Fr. Louis Lèveil Hall to honour his memory. From the first week of July, the community members, together with the co-workers, gather in the hall every morning at 9:00 a.m., except on Sundays, for prayer followed by the co-workers signing the attendance register. The hall has been used for community gathering, Novena prayers to St. Ignatius and the feast day Eucharist. The house chapel wall from behind has a beautiful picture of St. Francis Xavier giving the residence a prayerful atmosphere .



2) Chapel renovation work: The purpose was to fix the cracks and add additional support to the chapel as a lot of cracks on the walls had created a sense of danger to the people who visit the chapel regularly. This has been done with concrete, chemicals and iron mesh to make the building quite strong extending its life for many more years. The La Storta vision of St. Ignatius and symbols like Sacred Heart, AMDG and IHS together make the altarpiece in the space behind and above the altar. On 13 August, we had the Mass celebrated for the birthday babies of the month, Frs. Sahayaraj, Arul Sivan and Br. Peter, in the newly renovated Main Chapel. With some modifications and the fixing of a new tabernacle, the house chapel, too, looks good giving an atmosphere of prayer and serenity.

3) Creation of a new garden behind the community's residence: A large space behind the community's residence, lying unused for a long time has been converted into a new garden now. This space that already had a few coconut trees was prepared to plant more coconut saplings and cultivate banana as a middle crop. We have now planted 70 coconut saplings grown in our garden and 100 banana suckers

freely provided to us by the Rosarian Fathers at Vadakkankulam monastery. The already connected drip irrigation facility takes care of watering these trees. They are growing well and the garden is a beautiful sight to see.

Sahayaraj

Karumathur: AAC

There were several stocktaking meetings, particularly on continuing the online classes, webinars, and conduct of examinations online in the context of COVID-19. It was a new experience for all to conduct online exams, manoeuvring through challenges but finally coming to a smooth completion. Having become experts, some of our staff members helped the five neighbourhood schoolteachers, equipping them with soft skills to handle online classes and webinars. Serious preparation for NAAC has been going on for two weeks with the first round of academic audit in every department with experts accompanied by Fr. Rufus, the Principal. The second round will start at the beginning of October. Initiated by Fr. John, our Superior, the Principal constituted three committees inclusive of Jesuits to have an overall study and monitoring of the three vital areas, academic, health, and finance. These teams are already at work. AAC played a noteworthy role in the Higher Education GBM held on 2-3 October with Fr. Gilbert heading the team of Jesuits in deliberating on NEP. Fr. Vincent Sekhar, as Head of the Department of Human Excellence organized a separate Orientation Programme for I and II year teachers handling Personality Development and Environmental Studies on 3 and 11 September, respectively. While he was the resource person for the I year teachers, Fr. Jayaseelan presented a model sketch of one Unit, its content and method of teaching and evaluation to the II year teachers. We could notice visible changes in the method of teaching of our staff. Fr. Vincent Sekhar gave an online class to the Theology students of Georgetown University, Washington DC, on "Christian theology in Asia, engaging differences" on 10 September. He also organized a Google Meet on 30 September on behalf of the Dept. of Human Excellence and the JCSA Secretariat for Faith – Commission for Interreligious Dialogue on the theme "Religions vis-à-vis COVID-19" with well-known speakers, Fr. Sebastian Painadath, Director of Sameeksha at Kaladi, and Fr. Felix Wilfred, Founder Director of Asian Cross-Cultural Studies, Chennai. The webinar was attended by 70-80 participants. Fr. A. Antonysamy after his "long"



sabbatical in Marquette University, Milwaukee, joined the Arrupe Illam Jesuit community, hale and hearty. Everyone on campus including the Jesuits is safe and life runs smooth, thank God! Fr. Amalraj has gone back to Kadamalaikundu Parish on 25 September after completely recovering from COVID-19. His memorable quarantine/stay in Arrupe Illam Jesuit community was one of joy with deep gratitude to the community members. Fr. Provincial's contact visit on 24 September was informal and he expressed during the homily his happiness of visiting various Jesuit communities at this time of the year.

Vincent Sekhar

Madurai: Loyola Technical Institute

LTI community strictly follows the norms and guidelines of the Province in combating COVID-19 pandemic. Fr. Provincial visited the community on 16-17 September. It was indeed a time of abundant grace.

LITI: Fr. Correspondent represented LITI in the meeting held by TAISA (Tamil Nadu Aided Industrial School Association). In the process of starting new trades, the 3rd stage of verification is completed, and we await the final inspection within a few days. The government asked the ITIs to function from 5 October onwards. LITI has diligently followed the guidelines in preparing the environment to resume the training for the outgoing students .



LENS: LENS has produced six videos for the empowerment of youth and school-going children. Fr. Francis Thamburaj has started a new series on Soft Skills .



Fr. Francis Thamburaj and Sch. Amith Shajan have assembled successfully the 9th generation Intel Core i9 9900K Coffee Lake 8-Core, 16-Thread, Turbo 5.0 GHz desktop processor based computer with peak performance high-end graphic card for advanced video editing purposes in LENS. As a community, we are proud to say that this is the first of its kind in the whole of our Madurai Province.

Amith Shajan

Madurai: IDEAS and LAAS

As a follow-up to 'Corona Unlocks: The Vulnerabilities of the Advocates – a Study on the Lockdown Impacts', formally released in July 2020 by LAAS and ISI-B, an awareness zoom meeting presided over by Fr. Santhanam for advocates of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry was organized on 5 September. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. P. Ashok, the Co-Chairman and Mr. M. R. R. Subramaniam, member of the Bar Council of TN & P demanded that the government should address the financial vulnerabilities of the advocates and reservation for women advocates in the Bar Council. The study report



has been submitted to the Secretary-General of the Supreme Court of India for placing it before the CJI and other judges. Fr. Santhanam has elucidated the significance of Preamble of the Indian Constitution in the present context to the animators and cadres of TN unit of ISI-B as a part of the cadre formation

program online on 16 September. Sch. Joseph, as a member of the Law Students Forum for Social Justice (LSFSJ), has organized a webinar on 30 September 2020, titled “நீட் தடை போடவா? தரம் உயர்த்தவா?” The webinar started with a homage to



students like Anita to Modhilal who lost their lives owing to NEET. Dr. Ezhilan Naganathan delivered an emotional, informative and thought-provoking speech to the advocates and the students of law. He strongly condemned NEET and the education system that destroy the dreams and lives of Dalits and marginalized students of the first generation in the name of quality improvements. He extolled the thoughts of social justice of Periyar and the constitutional values of Dr. Ambedkar.

Veda Joseph

Madurai: DACA

With the objective of empowering the local farmers to face a drought-prone situation with minimum available water and become self-sufficient in food production, DACA has initiated organic farming called Agroforestry or Five Layer Farm. The farm was set up on 30 November 2019 initially with 28 different crops including fruit trees, vegetables, creepers, flowers and oil-plants in a half-acre of land. Now after nine months, the entire land looks like a



thick green forest. Today several farmers are visiting the farm and studying the various techniques used in it. A few farmers after their visit have already started similar farming in their own lands. DACA is grateful to Mr. Roland, Mr. Vetrivelan and his team for guiding us in this new green initiative. After a long interval, Siddhar Traditional Medical Centre has commenced functioning from 16 September with the necessary precautionary measures and we earnestly solicit your cooperation.

Theophine

Madurai: St. Mary's

On 6 September, Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. Jeyaraj, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Madurai, hoisted the flag to mark the joyous commencement of the Feast of Our Lady of Seven Dolours and celebrated the Holy Eucharist with a limited number of parishioners adhering to the Government health directives. On 8



September, the First Mass of Fr. R. James Fernandes OMI, the newly ordained priest hailing from St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, was joyfully celebrated on a modest scale in the cathedral. On 14 September, the 178th Annual Feast Day Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. John Britto Packiaraj, Vicar Forane, Madurai South Vicariate. All the Novena and the Feast day Masses were grace-filled and brought healing to the people. Fr. Provincial made his contact visit to St. Mary's Community on 23 September. It was a sublime moment of God's grace to our community and his consoling and highly affirming presence brought us joy and consolation.

Manuel Savariar

Nagapattinam: Kalangarai

The mushroom project is progressing, and the people began to take interest in this new way of farming; 40 widows have benefitted from this scheme. The mushroom sheds are constantly monitored by the government officials to encourage the people in this mushroom entrepreneurship. On 13 September, Mr. O. S. Manian, Honourable Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, inaugurated the sheds and distributed



mushroom seeds to the mushroom growers. Five widows' self-help groups were given power tillers freely by the Government from the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project. These power tillers each worth Rs. 2,00,000 have come in recognition of these socially ostracized women's relentless efforts in collective farming for the past few years. These power tillers would help the widows to cultivate their own lands and also increase their income by being rented out to other farmers.

John Silvester

Nagercoil: Carmel

Mr. M. Arulrajan, our illustrious alumnus and PG Mathematics teacher, added another feather to the cap of his alma mater when he was honoured with Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Award (Best Teacher) by the Government of Tamil Nadu. He received the award on 7 September from the District Collector at Nagercoil. In the 98-year-old history of Carmel, he is the third teacher to receive this award after Mr. Rangasamy and Mr. Santhana Irudayaraj along with our great stalwarts, Frs. K. S. Arulanandam and Machado. In his 28 years of service, he has excelled as a great student-centred teacher with hard work, commitment and



loyalty. Moreover, he is a multifaceted personality and contributed in so many ways to the growth of our school including in his capacity as NCC Chief Officer for 21 years and brought many state/ national awards to our school. His service to the District Administration during the COVID-19 pandemic was

very commendable. We are privileged to have him as one of the best alumni of St. Xavier's College and St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai. The management and staff honoured him with a felicitation programme held on 9 September and, on 30 September, they expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff retiring this year (Messrs. M. Jerald Roy, V. Arul Prabakaran, P. Peppin James, Mr. R. R. Mathias and Mr. S. Clement Raj) during a day-long farewell function with a dinner in their honour. We had a series of meetings in September to plan for the fast-approaching school centenary celebrations (2022) with the staff, retired staff, alumni and many community meetings including one with Fr. Provincial during his contact visit. Unanimously all of us expressed to go ahead with the already planned activities including fulfilling a decades-old dream of building an auditorium which is a dire need of the campus felt by all, especially by the parents. We have formed a fundraising committee consisting of present and former teachers, alumni, PTA and Jesuits to realize these projects to mark the centenary of the school.

Maria Singarayar

Oriyur: St. Arulanandar

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Good Health in our St. John De Britto Shrine. Because of the Corona lockdown, we set up the flag on the altar on the 28 August. We began the regular Masses from 1 September onwards. On 7 September, we had the feast day Mass near St. Mary's Chapel. The pilgrims started to come to the Shrine from September onwards. The community met with the Bishop of Sivagangai on the 16 September and submitted the relevant documents to raise our Shrine to the status of a Basilica which he has already sent to Rome. Fr. Antony Samy, with the help of our co-workers, has cultivated a vegetable garden. We appreciate him for his efforts to make the campus green.

Jackson

Thoothukudi: Xaveriana

Our community orientation was held on 29 August. Fr. John Kennedy from SXC, Palayamkottai, as the resource person, dealt with the topics, COVID-19 pandemic, Province Apostolic Preferences (PAPs), Community Apostolic Preferences (CAPs) and Fr. Provincial's Visitation Memoriale of last year. After the input on each topic, we had a group discussion. The one-day community orientation went

on very well and community members thanked the resource person and the Superior who arranged it. A three-day seminar for our staff from 3 to 5 September on the New Education Policy 2020, online classes for our students and staff orientation were well-conducted strictly adhering to the COVID-19 protocols and the teachers were very cooperative. On the first day, the teachers reflected deeply on the positive and the negative elements of NEP-2020. At the end of the day, all teachers came together beside Fr. Headmaster's room and raised slogans against



the negative elements of NEP-2020. The second-day theme was how to prepare for the online classes and present them to the students. The teachers came up with different useful and practical strategies. Teachers' orientation took place on the third day. Every teacher reflected and shared in small groups how to become the best teacher for his/her students in and outside the classroom. The three-day workshop was conducted by our community members with the help of our teachers. The whole programme was very much appreciated by all the teachers. On the occasion of the quasiquicentennial celebration of St. Francis Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Thoothukudi, in 2009, the then Headmaster Fr. Ignacy created a website for the school with the help of some staff and technicians. But it became defunct because of disuse. So, the present Headmaster, Fr. Simonraj, worked hard to design and create a new website. On 23 September, Fr. Ignacy, the Superior of the community and Correspondent



of the school, inaugurated the new website in a small function held in Xaveriana TV room with a few staff and our alumni representatives. It is a student-friendly website <www.francisxavierschool.net>. It is one of the fruits of the sheer hard work of Fr. Simonraj during the lockdown period and so, hats off to him! Certainly, the staff and students of our school will make use of it to the maximum because this website contains a lot of useful learning materials. A few days ago, after closely pursuing the proposal to start Arts group (Commerce, Accountancy, Economics and Business Mathematics/History) English medium in XI Std in our school we got the written permission from the education department. So, we are making sincere and serious efforts to start the XI Std English medium arts group in this academic year itself in our school.

Francis Sales

Tiruchi: St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's College had the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the new academic year on 4 September. Fr. Rector presided over the concelebrated Mass at St. Lourdes Church, along with Frs. Secretary and Principal and the Jesuit Community. Fr. Paul Pragash, Director, New Hostel, preached an insightful homily on how the academic community could function with all the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The Mass was live-streamed so that all stakeholders could participate online.



As 'Online Education' has become the order of the day, SJC's ERP team, co-ordinated by Fr. Santiago, rose to the occasion by setting up Google classes, students' e-enrolment and ensuring availability of e-learning materials. Many training programmes on Online Teaching Tools were organized by the college to orient the staff to teach and conduct exams - both theory and practical - in the online mode. As a result, Final Semester exams for the academic year 2019-2020 due in April 2020 for both UG and PG

courses were conducted online professionally. And the Controller of Examinations Cell left no stone unturned to facilitate the exams taken by all the final year students, including those who live in very remote places. The Department of Mathematics was the first one in the whole of our university to conduct Ph.D. viva voce online and more than 25 Ph.D. scholars defended their theses during this lockdown period.

SJC was selected for the perennial fund under the 'Unnath Bharath Abhiyan (UBA)' Scheme by IIT, Delhi, the National Coordinating Institute. Thanks to the good work done by the SHEPHERD Department co-ordinated by Fr. Berchmans, St. Joseph's was selected for the fund.

Under the supervision of Fr. K. Arockiam, three Ph.D. scholars have successfully defended their theses on different aspects of Human Resource Management. The external examiners from Karunya Deemed to be University, Coimbatore, and Alagappa University, Karaikudi, for the viva voce examinations were very much appreciative of the quality research work.

Fr. K. Arockiam conducted a two-day national Online Workshop on Research Project Proposal Writing for Lecturers on 1-2 September. Nearly 57 participants from all over India participated in it. It was a registered event, with a pre-condition that the participants should have submitted a research proposal in advance. Fr. Principal appointed him the convener of the Task Group for UGC Quality Mandate on Human Values and Professional Ethics in April 2020 and he organised online meetings for the Task Group members and submitted the Final Report to him in May.

From 13 to 18 September, Fr. M. A. Joe Antony preached an online retreat for the priests of the Madurai archdiocese. For him as well as for the priests of the archdiocese this was the first online retreat. Fr. Joe is grateful to Fr. Santiago and Schs. Susaipragasam and Sebastian Jerald for the technical help that made this possible and problem-free. Fr. V. Joseph Xavier served as a resource person at three national level webinars on New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He has also been invited to conduct NEP reviews by other organizations as well. UNLOCK 4.0 guidelines issued by the Government of India have paved the way for resuming daily Mass Services (6.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.) at Our Lady of Lourdes Church from

1 September with adequate precautionary measures. In the same way, the regular 8.00 a.m. Mass on Sundays also has been resumed.

Leolin Arockiadass

Chennai: Arul Kadal

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the usual classes were suspended in Arul Kadal during the month of August. Since the situation became a little better, from the beginning of September, the I and II years resumed their classes online. After a week, the I years had their study days for preparing for their post-graduate final examinations. Meanwhile, the II years continued with their online classes. We thank God for bringing Frs. Raj Irudaya and Xavier Rajan back to our community safely. They were room quarantined for fourteen days. On behalf of Fr. Raj Irudaya, who is now recuperating well, Fr. Baskar Antony attended the Superiors meeting online on 12 September. Frs. Sahayaraj, Arockia Dass, and Schs. Vimal and Jeyaseelan participated in the online Formation Commission GBM on 25 September.

Anto Arputha Raja

DNC Philosophers, Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur

The nine DNC Philosophers completed their mid-semester examinations which were conducted online. JDV has meticulously planned the online classes, scheduled the courses and successfully conducted the exams. The second-year Philosophers had an online meeting with Fr. George Beck, the Superior of DNC Philosophers, in which he encouraged them to read more and form themselves to be better Jesuits. The SHC community generously upgraded the internet facility for the Philosophers to have smooth access to the online classes. We solemnly celebrated the 74th Independence Day and the Assumption of our Lady with a Eucharist by Fr. Rajasekaran. The Philosophers extend their helping hand in the upkeep of the archives and the community as and when possible. Though we miss Pune, still we are very fortunate to be in a historical place of our forefathers, Sacred Heart College, as an extension centre of our Philosophate. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the SHC community for their unstinting support in our integral formation. After much delay due to the COVID-19 lockdown, the transfer of Br. Irudayasamy materialized on 10 September. He reached Beschi, Dindigul, safe and sound.

Lazar J.

MDU-CEN JUBILARIANS 2020

FR. GENERAL WRITES TO OUR GOLDEN JUBILARIANS...

Br. Arulanandam Savarimuthu

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

Br. Thomas Arulappan

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

Fr. Arockiaraj Gnanapragasam

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

Fr. Arul Jeevan

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

Fr. Jeyaseelan Thomas Barnabas

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

Fr. M.A. Joe Antony

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

Fr. Marivalan Rayappan

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

Platinum, Diamond & Golden Jubilees - 2020

50 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Arockiaraj
Gnanapragasam



Fr. Arul Jeevan



Br. Arulanandam
Savarimuthu



Fr. Frederick Xavier
Joseph S.



Fr. Jerry Rosario



Fr. Jeyaseelan
Thomas Barnabas



Fr. Joe Antony M.A.



Fr. Marivalan
Rayappan



Fr. Michael Doss
Lourdes



Fr. Pushparaj
Gnanasamy



Br. Thomas
Arulappan

50 years *in Priesthood*



Fr. Ignatius
Sebastian



Fr. Ignatius
Viyagappa



Fr. James
Bharataputra



Fr. Jesuraja Paul C.



Fr. Ladislaus
Chinnadurai S.



Fr. Savarimuthu
S. Packiam



Fr. Selvaraj
Edward S.M.



Fr. Susaimanickam
Sebastian



Fr. Viaguladasan
Manickam

60 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Dhanaraj
Raphael



Fr. Michael
Alosanaya



Br. Savarimuthu
Michael

60 years *in Priesthood*



Fr. Diaz Vitalis



Fr. George
Rathnasamy

70 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Mampra C. Xavier

Fr. Michael Doss Lourdes

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

Fr. Pushparaj Gnanasamy

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

Fr. Jerry Rosario

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

Fr. Frederick Xavier Joseph

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

ORDINATION 2020 – TO BE THE GOOD NEWS FOR THE MARGINALIZED

The very thought of Sacerdotal Ordination evokes in us memories of a huge gathering and a celebration with all splendour and grandeur. Ordination 2020 was different. What we had on 7 October 2000 was a simple but very solemn and meaningful celebration, resonating with our theme, நலிந்தோரின் நற்செய்தியாக (to be the Good News for the marginalized). Bishop Antonysamy of Palayamkottai, the Ordaining Prelate, in his sermon commended the theme chosen by asserting that Jesus began his earthly ministry in a simple manner and our simple celebration is very symbolic of that very humble beginning. He blessed us to be happy, good and holy priests. The day was memorable for all of us, six deacons of Madurai and Chennai Provinces who were ordained priests at St. Lourdes Church, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. The liturgy was very moving, and the solemnity and special moments of grace overwhelmed us. The assurance of spiritual and virtual presence and prayers of many CEN and MDU Jesuit companions compensated for their physical absence. Owing to COVID-19, the attendance of parents/siblings also was restricted to two persons for each new priest and the families also sacrificed First Mass celebrations in their respective parishes that normally follow the Ordination. As the Ordination was live streamed, all our near and dear ones, like our Jesuit confreres, virtually took part in the celebration.

In preparation for this great day, as demanded by the prevailing COVID-19 situation, we arrived at Tiruchi on September 17th, had our swab test done and quarantined ourselves at Bellarmine Hostel for a couple of days. By the grace of God, all of us tested negative and so were able to join the community on September 19th. Special care was given to us by the St. Joseph's community in all the arrangements that



Fr. Berkman Kasparaj, S.J.



Fr. Franklin Peter Rex, S.J.



Fr. Maria Then Amirtharaj, S.J.



Fr. Pon Ruban, S.J.



Fr. Raphael Alexander, S.J.



Fr. Vijin Antony Raj, S.J.



were made for us. We were very fortunate to have a course on 'Alcoholism and Protection of Vulnerable Adults and Minors' by Fr. Jayapathy from September 21st to 25th, followed by our ordination retreat online, directed by Fr. Mathew Cyril Antony, who inspired us to become holy priests with his deep reflections and stories. We are indebted to Frs. Jayapathy and Cyril.



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

Franklin Peter Rex



New Books



S. Ignacimuthu, S.J.
Praying with Creation
(Community Prayers)
Gujarat Sahitya Prakash
Anand 2020



Francis Thamburaj, S.J.
Meditation and Yoga for
Holistic Wellbeing
Grace Publication
Tiruchirappalli 2019



Pavulraj Michael, S.J.
Fabrizio Pieri
Tre Santi: Una Verità (Three
Saints: One Truth)
G&B Press, Rome, Italy 2020

Abide with the Lord



Fr. John Berchman Nag (72/36 JAM) passed away on 10.09.2020 in Jamshedpur.
Fr. Jacob Carvalho (75/57 GOA) passed away on 12.09.2020, in Belagavi, Karnataka.
Fr. Vijay Kumar Prabhu (80/61 KAR) passed away on 15.09.2020 in Mangaluru.
Fr. James Thottakath (83/63 KER) passed away on 15.09.2020 in Kozhikode.
Fr. Erik Breye (80/61 RAN) passed away on 18.09.2020 in Ranchi.
Br. Nicolas Hernandez Blanco (92/75 SPAIN) passed away on 20.09.2020 in Villagarcia de Campos, Spain.
Fr. Dionysius Rasquinha (65/44 PAT) passed away on 24.09.2020 in Patna.
Fr. Joseph Thayil (90/70 KER) passed away today on 30.09.2020 in Kozhikode.
Fr. Paul Vadakel (91/71 KER) passed away on 08.10.2020 in Kozhikode.
Mrs. Angel (90), mother of Fr. B. Jeyaseelan, passed away on 11.09. 2020 in Kottaiyoor near Ilayangudi.
Mr. Chinnaiya (64), uncle of Fr. M. Anthony Samy, passed away on 18.09.2020 in Madurai.
Mr. Muthu (37), cousin of Fr. M. Anthony Samy, passed away on 18.09.2020 in Yercaud.
Sr. Agatha Vazhapilly FSMA (86), younger sister of Fr. Francis Vazhapilly, passed away on 22.09.2020 at Ajmer.
Mr. S. Maria Stephen (61), father of Sch. Jefferin Stephen, passed away on 24.09.2020 in Kandavilai, Nagercoil.
Mrs. Elizabeth Mary (80), younger sister of Fr. Arockiaraj Pushpanathan, passed away on 29.09.2020 at Tiruchi.
Sr. Beatrice ICM (85), grandaunt of Fr. Leo Anand (CEN), passed away on 02.10.2020 in Dindigul.
Mr Soosai (87), uncle of Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj (CEN), passed away on 02.10.2020 at Michaelpattinam.
Mr Singaraj (66), brother of Fr. Xavier Antony, passed away on 02.10.2020 at Michaelpalayam.
Mr. Michael (102), father of Fr. Pavulraj Michael, passed away on 04.10.2020 in Michaelpatti.
Mr. Lazar (53), nephew of Fr. Marivalan, passed away on 07.10.2020 in Tiruchi.