

Ruffilo Grande (1928-1977)



(For Private Circulation)

Ignatius Soo

Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)



SEPTEMBER 2021

MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2021

- 01-04 Province Office
- 05 Final Vows of Fr. V. Innaci John, Arul Anandar College, Karumathur
- 06-07 Province Office
- 07 POSA Consult (Online)
- 08 Final Vows of Frs. I. Irudaya Valanarasu and Stephen Selvanathan, De Britto, Devakottai
- 09 AM Contact Visit: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 09 PM Flag hoisting Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
- 10-11 Province Office
- 12 Fr. Andrew's Funeral Mass, Loyola College, Chennai
- 13-14 Province Office
- 15-16 Visitation: Loyola Estate, Sirumalai
- 17 Governing Body (Online): St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai
- 20-21 Fr. Stan Swamy Legacy Meeting, ISI, Delhi
- 23-25 Province Office
- 26 Province Consult, Maduralaya

- 27 Opening session of the Cause of Servant of God Adrian Caussanel, Palayamkottai
- 29 Carmel HS School, Nagercoil
- 30 Province Office

OCTOBER 2021

- 01-07 Province Office
- 02 POSA Consult (Online)
- 03 GBM: Brothers Commission (Online)
- 06 GBM: Pastoral Commission (Online)
- 08 Inauguration of new LIBA building: Loyola, Chennai
- 09-14 Visitation: Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 15 Province Office
- 16 Province Consult, Maduralaya
- 17-22 Province Office
- 17 GBM: Ecology Commission (Online)
- 19 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (Online)
- 24-29 JCSA Meeting, Hyderabad
- 30 JCSA Recollection preached by Fr. General
- 31 POSA Consult, Hyderabad

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS: LIST IV

NAME	FROM	TO
S Arockia Amalan V.	St. Mary's, Dindigul	LASAC + Regency II Year, De Britto, Devakottai
*P Fernando Wellington G. (CEN)	Loyola, Kuppayanallur	Beschi Illam, Dindigul
P Ignatius Britto N.	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari	Coordinator of Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (Additional)
P Jerome L. Xystus	Vatican Radio, Rome	Returns to the Province
- P Jesu Raja Raju	Afghanistan	Minister, Loyola College, Vettavalam
P John Britto Bonaventure S.	St. Mary's HS School, Dindigul	Sabbatical/Research Activities, Beschi Illam, Dindigul
P John Wilson J.	St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi	Advisor of Tamil Nadu State AICUF (Additional)
+P Michael Pugazhendhi A.(CEN)	Tertianship, Kandy, Sri Lanka	Beschi Illam, Dindigul (Editor: Thoothan, Dir: Apostolic Home, TN Dir: PWPN (Apostleship of Prayer))
P Selvaraj Soosaimanickam	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Vatican Radio, Rome
P Xavier Raj Antony	Carmel HS School, Nagercoil	Headmaster, St. Mary's HS School, Madurai
Patric Leons J. (CEN), a II year novice, left the Beschi novitiate on 30.08.2021.		



Announcements

Monthly Message from Fr. General: The Communication Office of the General Curia let us know that, from September 2021 to July 2022, Fr. General would give a special message each month complementing what he wrote in his book *Walking with Ignatius*. The objective of this message is to help us have an experience of prayer. The link to watch the video with English subtitles is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVenA_TZLKs

Assistancy Common Houses welcome scholastics back and have indicated their expected dates of arrival.

Satya Nilayam, Chennai, went on with online classes till August 11. The arrival dates for the second year philosophers were fixed for August 12-14 and before their arrival, they were required to have taken at least the 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Regular offline classes began on August 16.

De Nobili College, Pune, expects the scholastics to arrive from September 18 to 21, 2021. All are expected to have taken at least the 1st dose of COVID vaccine. Additionally, they are expected to take an RT-PCR test less than 72 hours before commencing the journey and make the journey only if they test negative. Moreover, on arrival at DNC, they will

have seven days of quarantine (September 21 to 27). **Vidyajyoti, Delhi:** Since regular online classes are going on from Monday to Friday, the scholastics are expected NOT to travel on class days. Accordingly, the third years will arrive on September 18-19 or 25-26; the second years on September 25-26 or October 2-3, and the first years on any day between November 21 to 23. All of them should have taken at least the 1st dose of the vaccine before their arrival at VJ and they will be home-quarantined for a short period of time on arrival. The COVID protocol will be maintained. Staying at the residence, they will attend classes online till November 20, the end of the first semester.

New/Additional Mobile Numbers

Fr. Stephen Selvanathan:

+592-2267461 (WhatsApp) +91-82204-21975 (Mobile number in India)

Fr. Joseph Michael (CEN):+92 94890-38846

Beatification Date Set for Jesuit Martyr Rutilio Grande

It was announced on 27 August 2021 that the beatifications of Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, Franciscan Father Cosme Spessotto and two laymen would be celebrated on 22 January 2022 with Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez presiding on behalf of Pope Francis.

All four were martyred during the country's civil conflict in the 1970s and 1980s, when countless Catholics, following church teachings from the Second Vatican Council and the Latin American bishops' conference, began speaking out in favor of the poor and those on the margins.



The bishops' statement said Salvadoran Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez will preside over the ceremony in the atrium of the Cathedral of San Salvador. The atrium also was the setting where Father Grande and the two laymen were carried in and out of during their funeral Mass, celebrated by St. Oscar Romero when he was archbishop of San Salvador. He, too, was martyred three years later, while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980.

Father Spessotto, a Franciscan missionary from Italy, served in the Diocese of Zacatecoluca and spoke out against injustice just as the archbishop did. Father Spessotto died in a similar fashion just a few months after St. Romero: shot at point-blank range on June 14, 1980.

"We give thanks to God and to Pope Francis for this immense blessing: the elevation to the altars of these four martyrs from our country," said the statement from the Salvadoran bishops.

Rhina Guidos - CNS

Pope's Worldwide Prayer

Network (PWPN), September 2021

An environmentally sustainable lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Pope Francis asks that we lead a simple and ecologically sustainable lifestyle

In the new Pope Video for September <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnQxcFLH7Y8>, Francis issues an urgent exhortation for us to question our lifestyles and the way we use the planet's resources, in order to propose a change based on responsible care, respect, simplicity, and austerity.

The human root of the ecological crisis

The need for urgent action to combat the **social and environmental crisis** isn't anything new; there are more and more global alerts to try to raise the awareness of humanity that something must change. Last June, the UN warned that the planet is "rapidly reaching a 'point of no return'" and that we're facing "the **triple environmental threat** of biodiversity loss, climate disruption and escalating pollution." This impacts the lives of all: "Our degradation of the natural world is (...) already undermining the well-being of 3.2 billion people – or 40 per cent of humanity." **António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the **UN**, added that "for too long, humanity has cut down the Earth's forests, polluted its rivers and oceans, and ploughed its grasslands into oblivion. We are ravaging the very ecosystems that underpin our societies."

But as **Francis** already had written in **Laudato Si'** "It would hardly be helpful to describe symptoms without acknowledging the human origins of the ecological crisis." This is why it is imperative, first of all, that we reflect on the lifestyle we lead, to see to what extent our actions harm the planet: "Especially during these moments of health, social and environmental crisis," **Francis** says in *The Pope Video*, "let us reflect on our lifestyle. Let us reflect on the way we eat, consume, travel, or the way we use water, energy, plastics, and many other material goods, is often harmful to the Earth."

Change the world with the courage of the young

"Let us choose change," is the Holy Father's petition. He centers his gaze on young people when he thinks of this change, since he considers them to be on the forefront of ecological issues, and says they are the ones who "have the courage to undertake projects for environmental and social improvement...."

On his part, **Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J.**, International Director of the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, commented: "Once again,

Francis' words cannot leave us indifferent. In the face of the ecological crisis, it is urgent that we change our lifestyle to make it reflect simplicity and solidarity. Are we aware of this urgency? When the Pope speaks to us of **integral ecology**, he's telling us that everything is interconnected in our lives. Words are no longer enough to protect our common home. Let us pray that we will act with the courage of the young, to live a more austere and ecologically sustainable life that will ensure our future. In *Laudato Si'*, Francis proposes to us a path, a return to simplicity, to fraternity with Creation and those most in need." As in past years when Francis' intentions were about the oceans (2019) and the Earth's resources (2020), the September edition of *The Pope Video* is part of the global and ecumenical celebration of the Season of Creation. In 2021, it takes place from September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, until October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the environment. In addition to the support of BIP Company, this video has the collaboration of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and of the *Laudato Si'* Movement (formerly the Global Catholic Climate Movement). The video was directed by Nicolas Brown (three-time Emmy winner) and co-produced for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network by Vatican Media, Off the Fence Productions, and La Machi Communication for Good Causes.

The Pope Video

Health Update

Fr. Joseph Arockiam, who was affected by COVID-19, was admitted to Apollo Hospital, Tiruchi on July 13. While there, he suffered a stroke that affected his left side. He was in a critical condition but as he writes in a recent email: "Because of many people's prayers and through the intervention of Fr. Xavier Vedam, the Apollo Team of Doctors worked hard and brought me back to life. I am grateful to the Lord." On being discharged from the hospital he had 26 days of physiotherapy of two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. He is now able to walk on his own. He writes: "Now my health is improving and I am confident that I will come back to normal life in a week or two. I would like to thank all who remembered me in their prayers and all those who visited me at TLS. Especially, I gratefully remember my SJC community--Fr. Rector and all the community members for their moral support. Let us

all believe that prayers can do wonders and I am a witness for it. Praise the Lord!"

Fr. John Britto Bonaventure was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul on August 16, underwent angioplasty (just one block) in the hospital's brand new Cath Lab on August 17 and is convalescing at Beschi, Dindigul.

Fr. Sahaya Raj Thangasamy who recently had two episodes of Syncope (Fainting- temporary loss of consciousness) went to St. Thomas Hospital and subsequently to MMM Hospital, Chennai, for a checkup. As his aortic valve needs to be replaced he will be admitted to MMM, Chennai, on September 16 and will have on the following day an Angiography test followed by Open Heart Surgery (Aortic Valve Replacement).

NEWS DIGEST

Ignatian Leadership Training at ISI Bangalore:

A 4-day Ignatian Leadership Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme was organized by the JCSA from August 23 to 27 at ISI Bangalore for Jesuits and Lay Collaborators with a view to creating a team of resource persons across the Jesuit South Asian Assistancy to conduct Ignatian Leadership Training with the motto "To See All things New in Christ". It was organized for the Provinces of the Western and Southern Zones and a total of 29 trainers from eight Provinces participated. Each Province sent four members, two Jesuits and two laypeople. From MDU, Frs. Paulraj Packiam and Jayaseelan Saminathan, Ms. Primrose, Assistant Professor of English, SJC, Tiruchi, and Dr. Albert Aloysius, Assistant Professor of English, SXC, Palayamkottai, participated in the training programme. Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, POSA, inaugurated the training programme and highlighted the significance of Ignatian Leadership in today's context. We were trained in Ignatian leadership using the Spiritual Conversation method. The entire programme was a rejuvenating experience that helped us to go deeper into ourselves and interiorize the Ignatian principles, ideals, and our way of proceeding. Each day we had inputs on a theme and the themes covered were: (a) the development of individual self and values, (b) emotional development and team building, (c) vision, mission and organizational values, and (d) mission to the peripheries. The trained members from the Southern Zone were divided into

five resource teams to conduct training programmes in five different places in the Southern Provinces in the coming months. It was a beautiful experience of being together as Jesuits and lay collaborators. We had a mutually enriching and enabling process of sharing, reflection and learning.

Paulraj Packiam

Dindigul: Beschi Illam

On August 15, we celebrated our 75th Independence Day. Fr. S. Ignatius hoisted the flag and Novice Antony Francis delivered a spellbinding speech on the theme 'Freedom of expression: A caged bird can still sing'.

Frs. Antony Inigo and Dhanaraj delivered talks on the themes, God Experience: Rootedness in Christ and Discernment in a webinar organized by the International Assistance to Religious Formators' Association on August 16, 17 and 20; 350 participants from 28 countries benefited from these presentations.

Novice John Peter Basile bagged the third prize (a cash award of Rs. 1,000) in an Ignatian quiz competition organized by the Jesuit Kerala Province on August 8.

In the competitions jointly organized by the Social Action Commission of Jesuit Madurai Province and MDU-Scholastics' Media Team in view of the 75th Independence Day, 11 novices took part and two of them bagged prizes. Novice Jeffrin won the 3rd prize (a cash award of Rs. 1,000) in the oratory competition and Novice Terry won the 1st prize (a cash award of Rs. 3,000) in the poetry competition.

JRS- TN

In addition to the two-month advanced level English training programme, the JRS-TN has now started smart classrooms for the welfare of refugee students in four camps. Both the Youth Day and the Humanitarian Day were commemorated together in 42 camps. The youth organized a special programme and volunteered to help the aged and clean the drainage and public places in their own camps. A two-day soft skills training programme was conducted for 42 students in two camps on the third week of August. The JRS-TN has motivated five refugees to undergo a deaddiction treatment in collaboration with JMAADD. The JRS-TN Pilot project of reusable sanitary pad production has created awareness of the advantage of using such eco-friendly products.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Dindigul: St. Mary's

Our school organized a two-day workshop on 'Digital Teaching-Learning and Evaluation Training' for the staff on August 11 and 12 to upgrade our staff digitally. Dr. Vimal Jerald, Asst. Professor, St. Joseph's College, Trichy was the resource person.

We have initiated a new practice of beginning the day with a prayer service followed by the thought for the day given by the teachers. It is held in the school church.

Fr. Stephen, the Superior, was the chief guest for the Independence Day celebration. As instructed by the CEO, teachers who recovered from COVID were given the privilege to hoist the national flag both in Primary and Secondary Schools. Mr. Muthuraj and Mr. Muniyandi, the Sanitary workers, were invited to share the stage as guests of honour in the same celebration.

On August 19, the inauguration of NTSE, NMMS and INSPIRE AWARD was held and Mr Innaci Muthu, Principal of Akshaya Academy, was the guest of honour.

As teachers are expected by the government to be vaccinated before 5th September, the Teachers Day, Rotary Club-Dindigul West and Mother Teresa Lion's Club, Dindigul, organized a one-day vaccination camp at St. Mary's Primary School on August 25. The Jesuits and staff made use of this golden opportunity to get 100% vaccinated.



We have completed the construction of a soundproof audio-visual studio with advanced equipment. Thanks to Fr. Joe Xavier and the team for their hard work for its successful completion. On August 27, Rev. Fr. Danis Ponniah, our Provincial, declared open and blessed the studio of his alma mater. In preparation for the Teachers' Day, a series of videos titled "Vazhikaattum Vinmeengal" is being recorded the first of which has already been uploaded on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eDU4gMz03Q>

Arockia Amalan

Devakottai: De Britto

As Honorary Secretary of the Christian Women Welfare Society, Department of BCs, MBCs, and Minorities Welfare of Sivagangai District, Fr. A. Cyril has facilitated getting a grant of Rs. 12,59,000/- from the government for 81 Christian women for small businesses, education of their children, and health care expenses. The beneficiaries are all Christian women. This is well-appreciated by the Diocese of Sivagangai as well as the Christian community. Hats off to Fr. Cyril!

De Britto community has tried to identify the students who have lost one or both of their parents due to COVID so as to get them the grant announced by the government's Child Welfare Commission. We organized a vaccination camp on August 14 in the school campus in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Devakottai. Nearly 560 people have benefited from this service. Congratulations to Br. Victor who has planted 50 mango saplings around the campus.

Fr. Martin hoisted the flag on the 75th Independence Day in the school campus and gave a message that we consciously need to tackle the fundamentalist forces undermining interreligious harmony in our country. Our school organized an online drawing competition in remembrance of Fr. Stan Swamy.

Martin George

Madurai: DACA

On August 15, DACA's ESCs (Evening Study Centres) commemorated the 75th Independence Day of our country in 84 villages by conducting various competitions such as singing, dancing, speech and fun games. The winners of the competitions were given exciting prizes. Nearly 1,822 children actively took part in the event.



DACA Trust (Madurai Jesuit Downtrodden People Welfare Trust) has signed an MoU with Dr. K. Raghavan, the Managing Director of Sarvee Integra Private Ltd., to provide Medical Training Services in the premises of the Ceyrac Medical Foundation under

the banner of JAICARE (Jesuit Antonyraj Memorial Interdisciplinary Centre for Advanced Rehabilitation and Education). The formal function of signing the MoU was held on 20 August 2021 in the presence of Fr. Danis Ponniah, our Provincial.

Anthony Praveen

Madurai: St. Mary's

On August 15, after the Solemn Feast Day Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Fr. S. Marianathan, the Rector and Parish Priest, hoisted the National Flag on our 75th Independence Day with a limited number of parishioners, adhering to the health directives of the government.



The Executive Committee Meeting of the Parish Council of St. Mary's Cathedral was held on August 20. Subsequently, the General Body Meeting of the Parish Council was conducted on August 22 in preparation for the annual Feast Day Celebration of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish.

Manuel Savariar

Nagapattinam: Kalangarai

As the Summer comes to an end, freshness and greenery fill the campus. We indefinitely postponed the celebration of the International Widows Day in the month of June due to the Pandemic. It was planned meticulously and was organized in August in ten different places with 150 participants each. The celebrations started at 9:00 a.m. and ended with lunch. The zonal leaders and the staff were in the forefront to run the show. Local MLAs and union councillors were invited to address the people. Fifteen requests for the empowerment of the widows had been sent to all the political parties before the election and DMK included seven out of the fifteen in their election



manifesto. A press meet for each zone was arranged in which the people requested the government to fulfil the promises made in the manifesto. Since the Pandemic drastically affected the economic condition of the people, 100 deserving members were supported with Rs. 500 each.

Sujin Wilson

Nagercoil: Carmel

On the 75th Independence Day, we conducted singing and speaking competitions online for all the students. We also conducted an online speech competition for the parents titled “வகுப்பறை இல்லா சூழலில் பெற்றோரின் பொறுப்பும் மாணவரின் பங்கேற்பும்”. There was an overwhelming response from the students and parents. Other competitions like drawing, handicrafts made out of waste materials and photography were conducted. The final round of



selection and prize distribution were held on the eve of Independence Day. Fr. Simonraj, the Headmaster, inaugurated the competitions and Fr. Amaladoss Xavier, the Superior and Correspondent, presided over the function. Mr. ‘மங்காவிளை’ Rajendran, a renowned speaker, was the chief guest. His message inspired all of us to commit ourselves to the development of India and it was livestreamed on the Carmel YouTube channel.

In order to create awareness about the need to find out new ways to educate our students through both

online and offline classes, we organized a webinar on “புதிய சூழலுக்கு இயந்த கற்றலும் கற்பித்தலும்”. Fr. John Kennedy, Director of JCERT, was the resource person and he explained well the present school education scenario in the wake of the Pandemic, and invited the teachers to be creative and student-friendly. The contact visit of Fr. Provincial gave us a lot of boost and energy to begin the new academic year with hope and confidence.

Another new initiative being taken by Carmel this year is to prepare the 10th students for the National Talent Search Exam (NTSE). The inaugural function was held on August 4 with the selected students and their parents.

Maria Singarayar

Palayamkottai: St. Xavier’s

SXHSS: A Cultural Week was celebrated in the school for the English Medium Sections (EMS) from August 23 to 27. Various creative competitions, including poster preparation on various social themes and creating meaningful short films, were held online to bring out the multifarious talents of our EMS students.



The school hostel completes 100 years of its existence this academic year. We had the centenary inaugural celebration on August 14. About 60 alumni of the hostel turned up for the function. Mr. Srinivasan, an illustrious alumnus of our hostel and proprietor

of Venkatraman Mills in Rajapalayam, inaugurated the centenary by unfurling a flex that had the logo printed on it. On August 19, Fr. Provincial blessed the commencement of the construction of the second floor in one of the school buildings.

SXCE has successfully submitted its SSR (Self Study Report) to NAAC portal on August 10 as a partial requirement of the 4th cycle of assessment. The second phase of assessment, namely, the collection of feedback from students, the prime stakeholders, through emails is being undertaken by the NAAC team. Fr. Principal expressed our gratitude to the staff for their untiring and committed hard work in the preparation of the report.

In spite of the tight schedule of the NAAC preparations, the usual meetings of Board of Studies and Academic Council were meticulously organized for this academic year. SXCE has got a new studio for e-content development using which the staff will be able to prepare their e-contents on their own.

SXC: An orientation programme was arranged for all the teaching staff of Shift I and Shift II on August 13 with Frs. Ignacimuthu, Pushparaj and Thomas Alexander as resource persons. All of them enlightened the staff on the values of teaching and the Ignatian Jubilee year.

Fr. Michael John made his Final Profession in the Society on August 16. Fr. Provincial presided over the Mass and Fr. Paul C. Jesuraja preached the homily and the Mass was followed by a short felicitation. On August 21, the Ignatian Excellence Series III was held on “Ignatian Magis – Youth for Greater Heights”. Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy, the Rector of St. Xavier’s, Kolkata, was the resource person. It was well organized by the SXCE.

Fr. Ignacimuthu presented a five-webinar series to the general public through Goa Province. The topics were Plants and Medicine, Plants and Climate Change, Plants and Pesticides, Plants and Biotechnology, and Plants and COVID-19.

Fr. John Kennedy was the resource person for the following meetings and webinars on Ecology and Justice (CAP2) for the Conference Apostolic Planning of the PCEs (Province Coordinators for Education) on August 20, Education for the New Normal to the teachers of Carmel Hr. Sec. School, Nagercoil, on August 25, and Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) as part of Cannonball Moment series organized by Arul Anandar College, Karumathur, on the 25th evening.

Fr. K. Amal was the resource person for a two-day Palai Eugene Province Chapter of CIC Sisters on August 7 and 8 to finalize their next four-year action plans and it was held in their retreat centre near Kovilpatti. **Fr. Henry Jerome** delivered the graduation day address to the new B.Ed. graduates of the 10th and 11th batches of SCAD College of Education, Cheranmahadevi. He attended the Senate meeting of the Palayamkottai Diocese. He was also invited to talk to the Priests of the Kottar Diocese on ‘Cyber World in the Priestly Life’. Following the sudden demise of Mr. Jeyaraj, the auditor of our Institutions, Mr. Charles Fernando is appointed as our new auditor.

Y. Baskar

Shembaganur: SHC

The renovated museum in our campus was blessed and opened by Fr. Provincial during his visitation on August 9. Of all the artistic portrayals, the animal mural art with a 3D effect is the best. We had a meaningful Independence Day celebration. Fr. Jose Jacob (KER), the new Co-Tertian Instructor hoisted



the national flag and Fr. John Cyriak (BOM), delivered an eloquent speech inviting us to be the voice of the voiceless. Newly renovated JWL classrooms and computer lab were blessed on August 7. Frs. Joseph Antonymsamy and Sahayaraj Vijayan (CEN) inspired our students on the first day of their offline classes. A special training workshop was organized for all the staff and co-workers of SHC community on “Solid Waste Management” to make our campus more eco-friendly and it was conducted by Mr. Rajamanickam of the Kodai International School. With the permission and guidance of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and CWC (Child Welfare Committee), we have opened both the Inigo Siruvar Illam and the Boys’ Home. Twenty Tertians have begun their long retreat on August 27 under the guidance of Frs. Arul Sivan and Jose Jacob, the Tertian Instructors. Kindly keep them in your prayers.

Karthickraj

Tiruchi: St. Joseph's

On August 8, we had our community orientation on the theme of Conversion in the context of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius. All the important matters emphasized by Fr. General in his letters and Fr. Provincial in his *memoriale* were taken up for group discussions and sharing. The day began with the sharing of some of our community members - their 'One-minute Wisdom.' They shared very briefly the wisdom they gained during the past year marked by Corona, the lockdown and closure of schools and colleges. Then, Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, shared the highlights of the Provincial's *memoriale* and Fr. P. Paulraj made a presentation on the need for vocation promotion.

In the next session, conversion experiences were shared after which the community members, in small groups, planned relevant activities for the year. Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam animated the community orientation effectively.

On August 7, JIM organized a workshop for the first-year MBA students on case studies, which gave the new entrants a hands-on experience of the case-study based method of teaching and learning. Prof. Suresh Paul Antony, IIM, Tiruchi, was the resource person. On August 9, JIM conducted a wellness programme on "Health in our Hands." Dr. R. Sugumar, Shri Jayarangha Naturopathy Hospital, Tiruchi, was the chief guest. In his keynote address, he spoke on how we could improve our health and protect ourselves from the Pandemic. The first year MBA students, along with their parents, faculty and staff, actively participated in the programme.

The new Academic Year for the senior UG and PG students of SJC began on August 9 in the online mode. On August 15, we celebrated India's 75th Independence Day. Prof. D.P. Jeyabalan, former HoD, Department of Computer Science, was the Chief Guest



who unfurled the national flag near the portico of the Jesuit Residence. In his speech, he pointed out the significance of the words of Rabindranath Tagore in his immortal poem in *Gitanjali*, "Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake." Fr. Peter Xavier, the Secretary, honoured Prof. Jeyabalan with a memento. The Camboulives College Band, led by Fr. Leolin, helped evoke the spirit of patriotism with its wonderful renditions.

The feast of the Queenship of Our Lady on August 22 doubled our joy, as Frs. John Wilson and Santiago Sebastian made their final commitment in the Society. Fr. Provincial presided over the Concelebrated Mass held at the St. Joseph's community chapel and received their final vows. During the homily, both Frs. Wilson and Santiago recalled the providential



care and the wondrous deeds of God in their lives and ministries and expressed their holy desires to be more available for the mission. After the Mass, a short felicitation function was held. On account of COVID-19 restrictions, only the parents, siblings and novitiate companions of the vovents attended the celebrations.

Fr. Leonard Fernando presented a well-researched paper titled "Jesuit Missions: History and Challenges," in the webinar on Global Dialogue Between Franciscans and Jesuits, held on August 21. The department of Commerce, SJC, and AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy jointly organized a five-day national level Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled "Heritage Management: A Business Perspective" from August 23 to 27. As part of this programme, Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, Principal, made a presentation on "Institutional Heritage: Challenges in Preservation – Case Study of Sir Newton Museum and Rapinat Herbarium" and Fr. Emma gave a talk on Life Skills. Fr. Berchmans Maria Joseph was the Coordinator of the FDP.

Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier was invited to serve as a NAAC Peer Team Member for its assessment

and accreditation process in Montoshree Sumathi Chinthamani Tipnis College at Mamdapur in Raigad District, Maharashtra. In August, two students, whose Ph.D. research was effectively guided by Fr. K. Arockiam in the field of human resource management, did their viva voce successfully.

Many of Fr. Joe Antony's readers and St. Joseph's community members congratulated him on having published 50 articles in the secular newspaper, *Indhu Thamizh Thisai*, on the parables and teachings of Jesus.

Leolin Arockiadass

Vilangudi: VMI

On August 8, five pre-novices received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Thiruvaiyaaru parish. On August 11-13, Fr. Eugene (CEN) and his team conducted a 3-day course on Study Skills and Methods for the pre-novices.

On August 15, we celebrated the country's 75th Independence Day. Mr. Simon, our co-worker, hoisted the flag. Four pre-novices delivered speeches, focusing on different social issues. We also organized a food festival and the pre-novices themselves cooked and served a delicious meal to the community.

August 22 was announced as a Notice Board Day and the pre-novices came up with their creative ideas and beautified the notice board.

The Wi-Fi service with a 5G modem is successfully installed in the house. Under the guidance of Fr. Rajasekaran, the Director, a new logo is designed for the pre-novitiate. We bid farewell to Fr. Deva Arockia Stephen, as he left for his MBA studies in Spain. In the initial stage of the academic year for about three months, his contribution to our community was tremendous and praiseworthy.

Tony Ajith

Chennai: Arul Kadal

On August 13, Frs. Baskar Antony (CEN) and Sahayaraj were invited as resource persons to LICET on the second day of Ignatian Orientation for the teaching staff. Fr. Baskar spoke on the theme "Ignatian Inspiration for Innovative Intervention" and the main focus of Fr. Sahayaraj's talk was on the theme "Magis Toolbox for Ignatian Excellence". The staff found the input useful and invigorating. On August 25, Sch. Raja Jesuraj successfully underwent his ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) reconstruction surgery and is back in the community.

Xavier Samuvel

Thiruvananthapuram: Vidyaniketan

On August 15, we had a grand celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary as well as the commemoration of our 75th Independence Day. The daybreak was welcomed with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Augustine, the Minister of St. Xavier's, Thumba. After the Mass, as proud Indians, we, the Juniors, under the leadership of Sch. Velanganni (AND), had the march-past. Fr. Augustine, the chief guest, hoisted the national flag. Sch. Rins (KER) with his enlightening speech, challenged us to get ready to deal with the various challenges facing this democratic country. Later, strictly following the COVID-19 protocols, we participated in the Independence Day celebration in St. Xavier's College campus.



On August 20, Onam, the major festival of Kerala was celebrated in a modest way. Traditional games, *onasadhya* and the colourful *pookkalam* (floral carpet) made the day eventful. On the 27th evening, the monthly recollection points were given by Fr. T. V. Antony, our Acting Superior, and we spent the following day in prayerful reflection and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At present, we are seriously preparing for our first term exams.

Sam Alexander

Arrived Safe in Spain

I am glad to inform you that I have safely reached Barcelona, Spain. Fr. Pep Mària Serrano received me at the airport and took me to Centre Borja, C/ Llaceres 30, 08172 Sant Cugat del Vallès, Catalonia-Spain. After the Rapid COVID Test, which turned out to be negative, I was taken to my room. Fr. Pep Mària takes care of me well and I am gradually getting introduced to the new culture and climatic conditions. After three days of home quarantine, I began my full-time MBA classes from September 6 at ESADE., Av. Torre Blanca, 59, 08172, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona (Tel. +34 932806162).

Deva Arockia Stephen

MDU-CEN JUBILARIANS 2021

50 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Augustine K.
Antonimuthu



Fr. Augustine
Savarimuthu



Fr. Elias Maria



Fr. Devadhas Muthiah



Fr. Devasagayam
Manickam



Fr. Francis Xavier
Perianayagam



Fr. Fernando
Leonard Nevis



Fr. Francis Sales A.



Fr. John Joseph
B. Pragasam



Br. Joseph
M. Arockiam



Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent

50 years *as a Priest*



Fr. Casimir Raj
Nicholas



Fr. Xavier Rajan



Fr. Irudayaraj
Maria Susai

60 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Arulanandam
Michael



Fr. Ignatius
M. Joseph



Br. Irudayasamy
Sebastian



Fr. Josephraj
Savarimuthu

70 years *as a Jesuit*



Fr. Moolel Mathew J.



Fr. Thekkekara
Andrews

FR. GENERAL WRITES TO OUR GOLDEN JUBILARIANS...

Fr. Augustine K. Antonimuthu, S.J.

You have made significant contributions to the Communication and Secondary Education ministries of Madurai Province. Your contributions in the field of communication are noteworthy. Starting with Nasarethur Nayagan, a multi-stage sound and light drama on the life of Jesus in the 1980s, you produced a string of short sound and light dramas... You have touched many hearts and soothed many souls through more than 100 hymns and devotional songs.

Fr. Augustine Savarimuthu, S.J.

Your specialization in the field of communication enriched your theological search and you have contributed enormously wherever you were placed. You earned a good reputation in and through your powerful ministry. When your service was required at the Gregorian University, Rome, you joyfully offered yourself to teach in that renowned institution... You have also exhibited a lot of inspiring human qualities that endear you to everybody.

Fr. Devadhas Muthiah, S.J.

You are appreciated as a very friendly, affectionate and committed Jesuit. You distinguished yourself as a teacher and Headmaster in our Jesuits schools. You motivated and counselled students when you were Hostel Director for 11 years. As Coordinator for Secondary Education, you readily implemented the Ignatian/Integral Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP).... Your apostolic availability went beyond borders. You volunteered to join the Jesuit Refugee Service at Damak, for the Bhutanese Refugees under Caritas Nepal.

Fr. Devasagayam Manickam, S.J.

As an academician, you taught Mathematics in our Jesuit colleges.... As a Jesuit, you are available for new initiatives of our Society. Your accompaniment of the marginalized is commendable. Through the founding of 'AMUTHU' at Ottenchathiram and leading it with dedication, you are instrumental in its struggle for the rights of the oppressed. You are cordial, gentle, sociable and compassionate. Your noble demeanour, in fact, has placed you in the forefront in accepting challenging situations where many hesitate to venture.

Fr. Elias Maria, S.J.

As a young and vibrant priest, you served the marginalized being the director of PALMERA (People's Action and Liberation Movement in East Ramnad). You immersed yourself entirely in the life struggles of our Dalit brothers and sisters... Your contribution to the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees in and through your association with the Jesuit Refugee Service has been highly commendable.... In colleges, too, you got yourself and your students involved in social outreach and extension service programmes.

Fr. Fernando Leonard Nevis, S.J.

You dedicated yourself totally to teaching and research at Vidyajyoti, Delhi... Besides your teaching, you were very generous to accept various responsibilities at Vidyajyoti... Your role as the Principal of the college for 10 long years brought laurels to the college. Now, your service as the Rector of St. Joseph's, Tiruchi, and as Province Consultor greatly reveal your competence and the trust that the Society has placed in you.

Fr. A. Francis Sales, S.J.

Your contribution to the fledgling Varusanadu mission will always be remembered... When appointed as the Rector of Beschi Illam, Dindigul, you served with generosity... Yet another significant contribution you made was to the Jesuit Refugee Service. You served as Director of CIS (Centre for Ignatian Spirituality) ... You served also in schools and your constant accompaniment of school students as a counsellor has enriched the lives of many.

Fr. Francis Xavier Periyannayagam, S.J.

Your academic excellence really stands out.... I am glad to note that you founded Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE) and Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology (LICET), both of which continue to produce researchers and scientists of excellence. You continue to contribute your expertise in the fields of Physics, Religion and Science, Education, Formation and Time Management.... Your life enriches others in and through your systematic, self-assertive, friendly and jovial ways.

Fr. John Joseph B. Pragasam, S.J.

Your humble surrender to the Lord made you faithful in your life and mission in the Society. In Loyola College, Chennai, you served sincerely in the Department of Chemistry and in various capacities in the college. As Dean of Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology (LICET), you contributed a lot to the academic excellence of the fledgling institution.... Now, as Superior of Arul Anandar College, Karumathur, you strengthen the mission of that rural institution with your administrative ability.

Br. Joseph M. Arockiam, S.J.

You have worked very hard in our institutions, houses and farms in Tiruchi, Karumathur, Madurai, Kuppayanallur, Dindigul and elsewhere with utmost sincerity and honesty. Your heart of generosity never let you seek rest; you were ready for labour which you did without seeking any reward. Your simple lifestyle and cheerful and friendly approach make your presence in our communities a blessing.

Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent, S.J.

Your academic calibre, research pursuits, inspiring inter-religious ministry and your soul stirring musical compositions make your ministry very special.... In a world torn apart by religious fundamentalism and divisive disharmony, you have acted as an instrument of promoting peace, harmony and reconciliation....At Aikiya Alayam and later at the Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions (IDCR), Chennai, you have played a highly significant role in promoting dialogue with cultures and religions.

ORDINATION 2021 TO GROW MORE IN GOD'S LIKENESS

Among the many invaluable lessons learned in these pandemic times is one that celebrations could still be meaningfully held with a limited number of participants sans fanfare. We express our profound sentiments of gratitude to the Provincials and the PCFs of MDU and CEN Provinces for their meticulous planning and willingness to allow our parents and siblings to attend the ceremony with proper protective measures.





ARUL GNANAPRAGASAM S



DONI RAJA F



JAYARAJ SELVARAJ



JOE LIVINGSTON S



MANICKAM PERIANAYAGAM



PAUL RAJ AROCKIASAMY



WILLIAMS CHARLES



ANTONY ROBERT



ANTONY ALBERT SURESH



DEVADOSS FRANCIS

Due to the unexpected restrictions imposed by the government on public worship and celebrations on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the Ordination, originally scheduled for August 28, was postponed to August 30. On that day, ten of us (4 MDU, 3 CEN, 2 CCU, 1 DEL) were ordained priests by **Bishop Stephen Antonysamy of Tuticorin Diocese** at St. Joseph's College Church, Tiruchi. We chose as our motto *To grow more in God's likeness* (இறைச்சாயலில் இன்னும் அதிகமாக).

Having reminded us of the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius, the Ordaining Prelate, in his homily, dwelt on the life of Ignatius and the experiences that led to his conversion of heart. He also acknowledged the tremendous contribution that Jesuits have made to the Church in India. He advised us to carry forward the same legacy with vigour and tenacity, and asked us to walk firmly in the path of holiness, perceiving the smell of the sheep and spreading the aroma of Christ. Our family members also expressed their joy-filled gratitude to the administration of the provinces for the way the event had been organized.

From August 17, the day we arrived at Beschi, Dindigul, from our SUPAM parishes till the time we left for St. Joseph's, Tiruchi, everything went on smoothly as planned. Frs. Michael Doss, the Superior, and Dhanaraj, the retreat preacher, warmly welcomed us. What followed was an eight-day inward journey into the call received, nourished, relished, lived, and yet to live. We thank Fr. Dhanaraj for his insightful points which were drenched in contemplative experiences of the Gospel and the Divine. On finishing the retreat, we were invited to Maduralaya for a dinner and on the 27th morning, our dear novices wished us well and saw us off as we left for St. Joseph's, Tiruchi. What followed from then on was a pilgrimage filled with warmth, solemnity and joy. We remain indebted to all those who accompanied us on this journey. In particular, we express our thanks to Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector of St. Joseph's, Fr. Leolin Arockiadass, who prepared us well for a grace-filled Ordination liturgy and the entire St. Joseph's community for their cordiality and accompaniment.

After our Ordination, all ten of us were permitted to celebrate our First Thanksgiving Masses with our families and relatives in our native parishes. A limited number of ours from neighbouring Jesuit communities joined the celebrations making us cherish the filial affection of our Mother Society. Thank you for making it possible even in these times of uncertainty.

Doni Raja & S. Jayaraj

Book/Videos on/about Fr. James Bharataputra and his work

God's Dreamer – Fr. James Bharataputra

God's Dreamer, a biopic by Santhana Dass Saverinathan, a Malaysian advocate, captures the life of Fr. James Bharataputra. It can be viewed by clicking the link https://youtu.be/mvjYNX_PSKY

A man of great pastoral energy, he pioneered the devotion to *Annai Velangkanni* (Our Lady of Good Health) in North Sumatra and built the Marian Shrine of *Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni* in 2005 to serve as a pilgrimage centre for the Archdiocese of Medan.

The beautiful multi-cultural concept of the *Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni* is a testimony to the reflections on the mysteries of the incarnation as outlined in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola and represents an instrument of new evangelization through its structure, religious symbols, paintings, sculpture, ornaments and the colours of the exterior.

This video is an account of a man who was providentially led by the hand of God and inspired by the Blessed Virgin Mary to make God's Dream come true.

The beginning of "Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni" Project

Produced in Tamil by Br. Pius, OFM CAP, Malaysia, for Fr. James Bharataputra of *Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni*, Medan, Indonesia. View it by clicking the link: <https://youtu.be/YwLdUJ80lkU>

There is also an older Tamil video (*Annai Velangkanni* in Indonesia, 2005) by Fr. Ignacy Arockia (2005). To watch it, please click the link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hIKRIpzkmiuPFYuw1iswr_Xe61HKMWJF/view Visit the Marian Shrine website: www.velangkanni.com for more information on *Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni* - "SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FROM GOD".

Biography in Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia): Pastor James Bharataputra S.J - Misionaris Sejati Dari India Untuk Indonesia (Fr. James Bharataputra S.J. – A true Missionary from India for Indonesia) by Prof. Ulber Silalahi and Dr. Tutik Rachmawati, Bandung, 2017.

Abide with the Lord

Fr. Cheruparambil J. John (72/56 AND) on 07.08.2021 at Alwal, Secunderabad.

Fr. Gregory Naik (88/70 GOA) on 09.08.2021 in Porvorim, Goa.

Fr. Roshan Lobo (49/32 KAR) on 13.08.2021 in Bengaluru.

Fr. Joseph Parekkattil (85/65 PAT) on 27.08.2021 in Patna.

Fr. Placidius Kujur (70/51 MAP) on 04.09.2021, at Ambikapur.

Fr. Jean Englebert (91/72) on 07.09.2021 in Belgium. For 61 years he served in CCU before returning to Belgium as a retiree.

Fr. Amritlal Thomas Xalxo (62/39 MAP) on 08.09.2021 at Ambikapur.

Fr. Andrew Francis (60/40 CEN) on 10.09.2021 at Jalandhar.

Fr. K.T. Thomas (Kaduvathookil) (87/66 DEL) on 10.09.2021 in Delhi.

Mrs. Saleth Mary (85), paternal aunt of Fr. Jeyabaskaran, on 13.08.2021 at Kodaikanal.

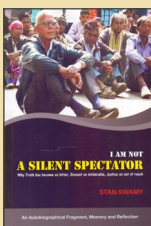
Mr. Joseph Soundar (65), brother-in-law of Fr. Thomas Amirtham on 14.08.2021 at Batlagundu.

Mr. Soosaimanickam (87), father of Fr. Paul Benedict, on 21.08.2021 at Susaipatti, Anantharayankottai.

Mr. Berchmans (84), brother-in-law of Fr. Irudayaraj Regis, passed away on 03.09.2021 at Kallal.



New Books



Stan Swamy, S.J.
I Am Not A Silent Spectator
Indian Social Institute
Bangalore
2021



அருள்கடலார்
(தொகு) ராஜ் இருதயா
தலைமைத்துவம் தழைத்திட:
சமூக இறையியல் பார்வை
வைகறை பதிப்பகம்
திண்டுக்கல் 2021



A Saint.. In Need of A Stool!

Quadricentennial Year Memorial of St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)

Fr. Robert Bellarmine was so short in the Roman pulpit from which he preached that he needed a stool to stand on in order to be visible to the people! The faithful were often so enthralled that they would not allow him to leave the pulpit if he did not promise to come back the following day.

Italy was effervescent in the European Renaissance. Jesuits opened a school in Montepulciano, the native town of Robert. His mother jumped on the idea of getting her son admitted in the Jesuit school. Robert was soon glued to the Jesuit pattern of shaping into an accomplished young man.

His mother wrote to the successor of Saint Ignatius: "I am happy, she writes, as never before in my life, that my son leaves me to become a Jesuit priest! But I do suffer seeing that the dearest of my children, the light of my eyes, leaves me."

Robert Bellarmine had lived, as Cardinal, in deep friendship with eight Popes, and he had the reputation of foretelling how long each one of them would live! To people who questioned him how he could foretell the duration of each pontificate, he replied laughingly: "You see: Each Pope imagines, or others imagine for him, the duration of his Papacy; well, from the number they give I take away one third, and I arrive at the correct estimate!"

Superiors who did not gauge his special talents first appointed him teacher of Greek and Latin for young Jesuits. He hardly knew the Greek alphabet; out of sheer obedience, he obliged himself to learn the elements of that language to fulfil the mission of a professor! He just knew the Greek alphabet. He told his students that he would first bring it to their memory before plunging into Greek literature! For 28 years, he was a preacher as well in St. Michael's Church in Brussels!

Only when he turned 50, his theological talents were recognized by the Society and the Church authorities. His Little Catechism would be translated into 60 languages, and his Commentary on the Psalms would see 33 editions.

Neither a physicist nor an astronomer himself, he was by instinct opposed to the condemnation of



Galileo, who discovered that it was the earth that rotated round the sun and not vice versa! He was indeed an excellent administrator! But at the same time he passed on to his priests and to the people the basis of Christian holiness- in his sharing of the following of Jesus: "Lord, You tell us: Take my yoke, it is light to carry! Who then will refuse to carry it?"

He had the courage to denounce the worldliness of the papal court at the time of Pope Clement VIII; On the death of a Pope several Cardinals were desirous of electing Robert Bellarmine to this exalted office, but in the conclave he came out with this warning: "Take care! In my family several live till a very old age: they die centenarians!"

With touching humility, he expressed his desire to be buried at the feet of his spiritual son Aloysius Gonzaga! His touching prayer will close our little overview of his life and death: "Lord, You are full of sweetness and compassion! What is it that you command us? You'll love your Lord God with all your heart! Is there anything more delicious than to fall in love with God who is love in person?"



Arul M. Varaprasadam