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TRIPLE JUBILEE YEAR



MADURAI NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 2006

(For Private Circulation)

FINALE OF THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Dear Brothers,

Greetings.

Loyola College community of Chennai will organize the Province Civic Function on 3rd December, 2006, along with the blessing of their renovated college church. The Programme:

10:30 am Blessing of the Renovated Church

12:30 Lunch

04:00 pm Tea

04:30 Civic Function Followed by Sound and Light Show

The civic function will get over by 7 pm and the whole programme is expected to be over by 8:15 pm.

All are invited to participate in this programme, a part of the Province Jubilee celebration. Food packets and transport to railway stations/bus terminals will be provided to all those who would like to leave Chennai on the same day. Please inform **Fr. Rector** or **Br. Minister** of Loyola of your participation at the earliest, giving him your arrival/departure details and indicating your room and board needs.

With kind regards,

K.A. Augustine

For the Jubilee Committee

FELICITATIONS

The Province offers its prayerful wishes to eight of our men who will be ordained Priests on 14 October 2006 at Tiruchi. Congratulations!

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Oct	05-11	Chennai: Visitation: Loyola College
	12-13	: Visitation: Berchmans Illam
	14	Tiruchi: Ordinations
	17-18	Shembaganur: Visitation : SHC Tertians
	20	Dindigul: Consult
	21	Preparatory Meeting (Prov. Cong.)
	23	To Goa via Bangalore
	25 to	
Nov	03	Goa: Vacation
	04	Goa: Visitation: Tertians
	05-12	: JCSA Meeting
	13-15	Pune: Visitation: DNC & Papal Seminary

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fr. Xavier Kanickairaj** moves over to VRO on a full-time basis. He will be stationed at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. Ph: 0431-2332923
- "A new species of insect has been named after Fr. Ignacimuthu. It is called "**Jakhthrips ignacimuthui**".
- **Re-registration of Gansoville Society:** Gansoville Society which was technically defunct since 1986 has sprung back to life through a special order of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. **Fr.K. Xavier** and his associates moved heaven and earth for the past three years to get this done. They deserve our congratulations. **Fr. D. Masillamani** has taken over as Secretary and Director of Gansoville. Through regular visits he will continue to help out KARISAL.

Brothers' Annual Retreat:

Place: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
Date: December 7th night to 15th noon
Directed: by Fr.M. Pavulraj
Fees: Rs. 1,300/- (everything included)
 Please contact **Br. Brunoraj** before Dec. 2:
 at Beschi Illam.

- o **Novice John Peter Christuraj** left the novitiate on 14.09.2006

NEWS FROM GENERAL CURIA, ROME

Fr. General celebrated the Jubilee 2006 on 2 August, the feast of **Bl. Faber** with the Ignatian family assembled at Lourdes, France. In September, he visited several communities of Belgium on the occasion of his participation in the celebration of 175 years since the foundation of the University of Notre Dame de la Paix in Namur. From September 24 till October 2, he would have visited Brazil. It included participation in a seminar on "Jesuits and Globalization" in the city of San Leopoldo and a visit to the Mato Grosso region.

On Jesuit Bishops: Recently **Luciano de Almeida**, Archbishop of Mariana (Brazil) died. He was very well known for his defence of human rights, the poor and the excluded. **Fr. Dieter Scholz**, formerly of JRS, was ordained Bishop of Chinhoyi (Zimbabwe).

Vatican Observatory: **Fr. Gabriel Funes** (43) of the Argentine Province is appointed Director of the Vatican Astronomical Observatory at Castel Gandolfo. Part of its operations is now carried out at Mount Graham, in Arizona (USA).

Ignatian Project for the Youth Day 2008: details are available in: www.magis2008.org

A pat on the back of GC34 by women!: The Commission on Women of St. Paul / Minneapolis Archdiocese has honoured the SJ with an award in recognition of Decree 14 of GC34 on 'Jesuits and the Situation of Women in Church and Civil Society'. The award will be received by the Wisconsin Province on behalf of the SJ.

At the Gregorian University: a new course for lay people, 'Laikos, Christian Life and Public Ethics', is being offered, from this academic year.

FROM THE PROVINCIAL OF SOUTH ASIA ON THE AFGHAN MISSION:

Fr. Hector D' Souza, POSA, has addressed a letter to the Major Superiors of the Assistency on August 31, 2006. It is on the Afghan Mission.

The good news is that three Indian Jesuits, **Fr. Stan Fernandes** (PUN), **Fr. Jerome Siqueira** (JAM) and **Sch. Pudhota Anil Prashant** (AND) have joined **Fr. A. Santiago** (AND) and **Br. Noel Oliver** (PUN).

Jerry a techno-savvy computer specialist and Anil an expert in linguistics, have prepared themselves for the mission by learning the rudiments of Dhari Language in Secunderabad. Stan continues to explore the possibilities of working at the Herat Technical School and Kabul University.

Fr. Hector was in Afghanistan in the third week of August to assess the situation. He also met Mgr. Moretti, the Apostolic Prefect, who is also functioning as the de facto representative of the Catholic Church in Afghanistan.

Besides our prudent interventions and witnessing presence at Herat Technical School and the Gavelson School, efforts are made by Fr. Stan to meet different Department Heads of the University of Herat and other INGOs. The Jesuits' contributions in the sphere of teaching English, Computer Science and in the Education Department will hopefully be a beginning of a positive influence.

The Jesuits would also work among the Hazaras, in association with UNICEF and CRS. Caritas Germany would support the venture. Hector will approach the German Provincial to send some young people to teach German.

Hector thanks the pioneers Santiago and Noel for preparing the ground and all the Major Superiors of JCSA for their unstinted support of this venture.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

On October 22, we had the grace-filled visitation of **Fr Devadoss**, the Provincial. The pre-novices entertained him with a spectacular cultural show. He highlighted the importance of English in his speech. **Fr Paul Pragash**, by his inspiring homily deepened the faith of the devotees of Our Lady at Vadugarpet on 2 September. The itinerant Jesuit **Fr Jerry** ignited the young minds with the spirit of our founder by his short and powerful talk during a flying visit. The pre-novices have gone home for holidays.

The copious harvest of paddy gave us great joy. Hats off to **Fr Ignatius** for his dedicated management of the fields.

Victor Roch

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Dear Friends

We, eight of us, cordially invite you to our Priestly Ordination to be held at St **Joseph's, Tiruchi** at 5.00 p.m. on **14 Oct, 2006**. With grateful hearts we remember every one of you as you have helped us in very many ways in making us what we are today. Trusting in the Lord who has called us, we pray to God that **LOVE** be our norm and **SERVICE** be our lifestyle in building God's Kingdom.

FIRST MASS

NAME	PLACE	DATE & TIME
A. Amalraj	Sengol Matha Church, Olaikuda	15 Oct., 5.00 p.m.
S. Arul Oli	St. Francis Xavier Church, Thaandavasamuthiram	15 Oct., 5.00 p.m..
M. Dominic	St. Mary Magdalene Church, Othiathur	15 Oct., 5.00 p.m.
J. Emmanuel	St. Xavier's Church, Aravakurichi	15 Oct., 10.30 a.m.
I. Kingsley	Sacred Heart Leprosy Home, Kumbakonam	15 Oct., 6.30 a.m.
A. Gerlin	St. Mary Magdalene Church, Anaiyeri	15 Oct., 11.00 a.m.
C. Marianathan	Sacred Heart Church, Anilady	15 Oct., 6.00 p.m.
S. Maria Wensch	Nairobi	05 Nov.

VIDYANIKETAN (JESUIT JUNIORATE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Sincere thanks to **Fr. Aubrey** of Bombay Province who inspired us by his informative lectures during a three-day course on 'Jesuit Spirituality'. On 5 September, we had a grand and meaningful celebration of 'Thiruvonam', the festival of Kerala. During the ten days of minor holidays, we had an enjoyable tour to the central parts of Kerala which proved "Indeed, Kerala is God's own country!".

On 16, with heavy hearts and with nostalgic feeling we bade farewell to **Fr. Rufus** transferred to SXC, Palayamkottai. We gave a warm welcome to **Fr. Leo Correya** who has come back to Vidyaniketan. A course on 'Social Analysis' by **Fr. Francis Guntipilly** of Karnataka Province enabled us to understand the social realities and to respond not only in words but also in deeds. We were greatly delighted by the presence with us on 24 September of **Fr. Orlando Torres**, the General Counsellor for Formation. During his pithy talk, he insisted on 'The Importance of Individual Trust And Dialogue', mentioning the needs and expectations of the Society today. That evening, we had a concelebrated Mass followed by a sumptuous dinner. It was remarkable that **Fr. Orlando** was very much elated and impressed by the cultural items of our Juniors. Kudos to **Sch. Gladwin** who organized the programme. With this joyous spirit, we have stepped into our second term.

Justin James

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

The participation and contribution of **Fr. S. Arokiasamy** in the Fifth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS V) held in Hong Kong from 20th to 26th August, was much commended. CATS is an ecumenical project of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) in collaboration with FABC. **Fr. S. Arokiasamy**, who represented FABC, was one of the two co-moderators of CATS V and was largely responsible for the choice of the theme of CATS V, namely: **Sharing Hope For a New World** and he also prepared the concept paper on the theme for the Congress. There were eighty participants from different Asian countries, Asia-Pacific Region and the diaspora. .

Fr. Leo, despite his hectic schedule, took part in the consultation on Jesuit sources organized by the Dept. of History, Loyola College, together with Madurai Jesuit Province. Delhi State unit of AICUF is experiencing a renaissance under the guidance of **Fr. Leo** as its State advisor and **Jacob** as one of its animators. A meeting cum orientation was organized for the AICUF students in which **Fr. Henry Jerome** gave an inspiring and igniting talk on the role of students in shaping and taking society forward.

We joined the Delhi Catholic Tamil community numbering thousand-odd in celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Health. **Sch. S. Selvaraj** played a laudable role in organizing a meaningful liturgy and a fellowship meal for all.

The end of the semester was marked with a cultural tour to Shimla, Manali and Chandigarh. We could not but gaze with rapture the breathtaking valley, scenic landscape, splendours of the rocky mountains and historical monuments.

Louie Albert

DNC, PUNE

Fr. Arockiadoss went to Sri Lanka for preaching during the time of high tension. He stayed in Mannar breaking the word of God during feast of Our lady of Madu. He was also engaged in giving some special theological inputs to the animators of Basic Christian Community in Sri Lanka. It was well appreciated and well received. The vibrant and dynamic librarian **Fr. Arul Jeevan** is very active in the campus from the time he took charge. His innovative thinking and a few changes in the library: updating the system, and a new showcase for rare books etc., created interest among the students of JDV to use the library. **Fr. Leo**, the principal of Vidyajyoti gave a course on History of Christianity for the first year theologians. The community day celebration with the theme "I am because We are" made great impact on us. It was the time of joy for knowing and understanding each other better. The JDV Tamil association organized house-wise cultural competitions in honor of the outgoing fourth year theologians. The street play presented by DNC "thamizhum thamizhanum" won the admiration of all and won the first prize. **Sch. A. Gnanaraj** and **I. Arokiasamy** who led the group and others who took active part in all the activities deserve our congratulations.

M.F. Kennedy

AIKIYA ALAYAM-ARUTKADAL, CHENNAI

Undergoing a month-long Immersion Experience in August, our theologians were enlightened by the simple and straight life and the faith of the poor in different rural and urban contexts of Tamil Nadu. **Fr. Torres**, the General counsellor for formation, visited us on 22nd Sep. His sharing on formation enthused us with the message: "Be Rooted in your culture so that you can appreciate other cultures". On 19 and 20 Sep. we attended the National Seminar on Subaltern Hermeneutics and Social Transformation organized by the Department of Christian Studies in the University of Madras. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** gave lectures at Eastern Theological College in Jorhat (Assam) on "Feminism in the Church"; at Good Shepherd Seminary in Coimbatore on "Re-reading Parables in Complex

Situations"; at United Theological College in Bangalore on "Theology from the Soil of India".

M. Dominic Savio

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

Fr. Pavulraj participated in the Novice Masters' meet of the South Asian Assintancy at Pariyaram, Kerala. He was the resource person at the TN-Pondicherry CRI formators' meet held at Yercaud in which around 100 formators participated and his talks were on 'Quotients for Holistic Formation'. The I year novices returned home safe and sound after their pilgrimage on foot to Vailankanni. Meanwhile the II year novices were giving a facelift to Beschi Illam and tried their hands at cooking food. The novices had a 4-day course on Social Analysis conducted by **Fr. Eugene**. **Mr. Swaminathan** and **Mr. Rajagopal** shared their knowledge on Natural Medicine and it was very useful.

The memorable event of the month was the visit of President **Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam**. He first met **Fr. Chinnadurai**, his professor, and then was given a reception by the Beschi community. **Fr. Arul Sivan** preached a retreat to a group of diocesan clergy of the Kottar diocese. The CIS Sisters went for a field experience to various refugee camps in Tamil Nadu. They spent a fortnight at the camps.

V. Santosh

CHENGAI MISSION: LOYOLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RANIPET

At the beginning of September, a one day seminar was conducted for our boys on LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalisation) by **Fr. George**, (tertian). In the morning session he touched upon the relative merits and demerits of LPG and in the afternoon session our boys had a lively group discussion on the subject. The Teachers' Day was also celebrated on Sept 5; and our staff, both teaching and non-teaching, were honoured with mementoes and garlands by our students. An inspection team headed by the Principal of ITI, Vellore, visited our Community College regarding approval from the Department of Employment and Training (DET), Chennai, for the following trades: House Electricals, Refrigeration and Airconditioning, Four Wheeler, General Electronics, and DTP (Desk Top Publishing). The team was very much pleased with the infrastructure and the instruments that we have for each trade. Hope to get the government approval soon.

I. Vedanayagam

ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

The following teams from our school have won the district level matches and are qualified for the divisional matches: volleyball, hockey, ball badminton, basketball, handball and table tennis.

S.M. Kennedy

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

The patronal feast of the Cathedral began with the hoisting of the flag by **Fr.Rector**. Other fathers gave inspiring sermons; soulful singing by inmates of different schools and convents added a prayerful atmosphere. About 140 poor elders were given free meals. A free medical camp was conducted with the help of 16 doctors, 6 nuns and nurses. Special thanks are due to Leuca Sisters. The final part of the festival was the reading of the reports of the activities for the spiritual and economic growth of the parishioners by the leaders of different associations.

In the school, the Teachers' Day was celebrated on 5 September with the usual enthusiasm. Twenty-four teachers who had completed 25 years of service in this institution were honoured with ponnadais. Some students and teachers went on a tour during the quarterly holidays.

Felix Joseph

DACA, MADURAI

September turned out to be a month of initiatives in DACA. A team from the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) made an on-the-spot inspection to check and verify whether we have complied with all the requirements for starting a Diploma Course in Teacher Training. Just the other day we got the news of approval from NCTE. After completing other formalities we plan starting **Dr.Ambedkar Women Teacher Training** by mid-October.

St. Mary's Community, Madurai has been kind enough to rent out two rooms in their new building to DACA to open two shops. Interior decoration of these shops is almost over and our French Bakery and Jenni Tex outlets will be ready to compete with the best shops in the town for the Deepavali sales.

Our self-help groups of women and youth are brimming with confidence and enthusiasm as they plunge into the election campaigns for local bodies. Quite a number of them are contesting the elections for various posts.

George Joseph

IDEAS, MADURAI

Going down the recent memory lane from July to September, some important events are still fresh in our minds. More than we expected, nearly 100 persons - leaders, cadres and social activists, mostly lay women and men - joined the Jesuit community on 29th July in the Jubilee celebration. A State-level seminar on the current hot issue of 'Reservation', organized jointly by IDEAS and the Depts. of History and Philosophy, of Arul Anandar College was held on 2 & 3 August at the AAC. It was attended by students and staff from various

colleges, cadres of different movements and social activists. As usual, IDEAS campus has been buzzing with a number of training programmes during these three months on Media Education, Legal Knowledge & Skills, Social Analysis, etc. Of these, the three consecutive trainings on Panchayat Raj organized by the institute to prepare those who, from different people's movements, are going to contest the panchayat elections in October have been a timely venture.

Jebamalai Raja was invited to deliver a talk on 'Church and Political Involvement of Youth' at the State-level Catholic Youth Conference, Madurai. The full community of IDEAS – including Nagai Tsunami Team, LAAS and KARISAL – met on 1 Sept. for our usual sharing and reflection session. A wonderful gathering it was to remember **Fr. Paul Mike** for his invaluable contribution to the community and institute during his memorable stay at IDEAS, and give him a warm send off and also to **Sch. Baskar**; both have joined SJC community, Tiruchi. We welcome the new social action coordinator **Eugine** as a member of our community.

Aloysius

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

The Madras Centre Conducted the Fifth National Consultation of Community Colleges on the 30th & 31st of August 2006. The theme of the Consultation was 'Community College System in India and its Future'. There were 198 participants from 118 Community Colleges from 15 States of India. The Consultation was inaugurated by Mr. David Hopper, the Consul General of the US. **Prof. Aludia Pillai**, Former Secretary of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education delivered the keynote address. The participants went into 15 groups to have a detailed discussion on the document '**Indian Community College System**'. They came out with a lot of valuable suggestions. A new document will be prepared by ICRDCE and presented to the UGC. The Community Colleges are asking for national recognition of the system, scholarships and stipends to the weaker sections of the society, vertical mobility to the main stream through credit transfer accepted by the Open Universities all over the country.

MCRDCE was upgraded to Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) on the 1st of September 2006.

Three books were released on the occasion: English Made Simple, Back to the Villages, Tears into Cheers (stories of tsunami-affected youth and their transformation through the Community Colleges.) The entire occasion was a memorable one for all the Community Colleges.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse is appointed by the Planning Commission a member of the Working Group on Secondary and Higher Education for the XI Five Year Plan. He is nominated Chairman and Convener of the Sub-group on Development of Colleges. He presented a report on the 20 September at the MHRD meeting. The report included a request for Rs. 250 crores for Community Colleges by way of scholarships and stipends.

ICRDCE was instrumental in helping a few Community Colleges (CC) to come up: Servite CC, Tiruchi; Holy Cross CC, Ayakudi, Tiruchi Dt. and Dharapuram Rural CC, C.S.I, Coimbatore.

Xavier Alphonse

KARISAL, ALANGULAM

For the feast of St. Ignatius we joined **Fr. Mark Stephen** in Kottur and it was a blessing for us to be with the Bishop of Tuticorin. We were with the IDEAS community to put forth our views about the Province during the session by **Fr.M. Amaladoss** and it was enriching.

In the IDEAS centre **Fr. Michaelraj** gave a weeklong course on 'Visual Media For Social Change'.

Muthan illam has now sixty-nine students (including SSA). After their quarterly exam they had a one-week camp guided by **Fr. Anbarasan**. We started technical training this year for six students and classes are in progress. Three of our students have received winner certificates for kho – kho in the zonal level.

The media unit under the guidance of Fr. Michaelraj has produced video & audio CDs:

1. விழிப்புணர்வு நடனங்கள் (VCD)
2. விழிப்புணர்வு பாடல்கள் (ACD) MP3

On 18th September, the CPI(M) conducted a conference to raise their voice against the atrocities happening to Arunthathiyars. The work of KARISAL was appreciated in the conference and a memorial shield was given to KARISAL by the CPI (M). We are happy to invite you all for the "அருந்ததியர் கலை இரவு" which will be held on 7th October in Thiruvannamalai near Thiruvilliputtur.

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

On the 9th August, Carmel Jesuits joined in prayer at the Eucharistic Table, invoking divine light, peace, and eternal rest for the departed brother of **Fr. Sebastin Anand**.

"Wonderful, very wonderful", was the joyful exclamation of **Mr. Kannan**, the S.P. of Nagercoil, while witnessing the march past of the Carmel school students on the Sports Day.

"I sincerely and heartily praise the management and staff of the Carmel H. S. School for the high standard and quality of education they are rendering to the students and for their service to the people at large," were the words of eulogy of the district collector, at the Carmel School Day Celebration.

Fr. S.M. Arockiam, suffering from many ailments, was taken to and treated in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, He returned to Carmel after 20 days, healthy, but minus 24 teeth.

Fr. Provincial's visitation of Carmel enthused all of us with renewed fervour for the magis. **Fr. M. Amaladoss** of the PAT helped us with talk and community sharing, with a view to growth in spirit and in service.

Now that the first quarter of the school year has come to a happy conclusion, the staff, forty of them, led by **Fr. S. Amaladoss**, have gone on a vision-broadening tour of Delhi, Agra, etc.

Fr. K.A. Augustine made his personal contribution to the Triple-Jubilee Committee held in Chennai, with his rich experience.

Fr. M. Stanislaus directed a retreat to St. Anne's Sisters.

Fr. P.S. Arul, our Superior was busy inspiring different kinds of people with personal, social and spiritual growth towards service of the school students and Tsunami-victims. So also was the programme of **Fr. F. Sales** with many activities for the betterment of the tsunami-affected youth.

Praiseworthy was the N.S.S. programme of our students, held at Puthenthurai, for about a week, and supervised by our H.M. Twenty of our school students were selected for the special interview with the President of India, **Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, at Kanyakumari on the 22nd of September.

S.M. Arockiam

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

Fr. Christie, the coordinator of PAT visited our community on 8 September and had a fruitful interaction with all the Jesuits who work in different parts of the hills.

Fr.S. Arockiam directed a retreat for the priests and clergy of Sivagangai diocese from September 17 to 22. Tertians were out for their one-month ministerial experience.

Kodaimalai Ambedkar Makkal Iyakkam organized a training programme on Panchayat Raj at Shembaganur on September 20 and 21. Fifty members including PEAK animators participated in the training. PEAK conducted a seminar on "Panchayat Raj and Right to Information Act" for the parents of Inigo

Children's Homes on 22 September. Around 150 people actively participated in the seminar and felt that this was the need of the hour. PEAK also brought 45 people from Kodai villages for a three-day environment programme organized by the Anglade Institute. Copies of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 were also distributed to them during the training.

S. Ravikumar

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

Our annual sports day for the year 2006-07 was held on 9 September. **Fr. Prince** Memorial State Level Football Tournament was conducted from 30th August to 2nd September. Of the 17 colleges that participated, Loyola College emerged as the winners.

On 5th September the student community greeted the teachers and expressed their gratitude to them through songs, skits and gifts.

'முத்தமிழ் சங்கமம் விழா - 2006' – a cultural fiesta, was conducted very well by the Department of Tamil along with the Fine Arts Association on the 21st and 22nd. It was an honour that Mr. Bharathi Krishnakumar, Producer and Director of documentary films was present at the opening of the fête. In these events folklore was given prime importance. Before the cultural festival many competitions were conducted for a couple of weeks. An enjoyable and thought-provoking debate was arranged on the theme 'Growth of Tamil Literature'. **Mr. Ilasai Sundaram** was the judge. **Mrs. Paravai Muniyammal** presided over the valedictory ceremony and distributed the prizes for the winners and runners-up of the competitions.

A UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Organic Farming: Trends And Challenges' was conducted by the Department of RDS (Rural Development Science) on the 27th and 28th. Many participants came from all over India to present their papers. It was well planned and was executed in a successful manner.

A one-day retreat for our hostel Catholic boys and girls was preached by **Frs. Baskar, Arulanandam, Arul Ravi** and **Paulraj** (of Dindigul diocese). It indeed helped our students to have a motivation to achieve something great in their lives.

Our hostel boys were bubbling with joy as they celebrated the Beschi Hall Day. It was a wonderful opportunity for them for bringing out and exhibiting their hidden talents.

M. Selvam

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Ovations 2006, the interdepartmental cultural extravaganza of our college was inaugurated by the honourable **Chief Minister Dr. Karunanidhi** on 19 September.

In his inaugural address he called on all the students to understand Tamil culture, the lifestyle and courage of the Tamils in the past and imbibe their values as a safeguard for the future generations. The presence of Ministers **Thiru. Arcot Veerasamy** and **Thiru.Thuraimurugan** added joy to the occasion.

The students of our college enacted scenes from the Bible for 70 hours continuously to gain entry into the Guinness book of World Records.

Outlook survey 2006 has placed LIBA in the 19th rank among the top 50 private B-Schools.

Fr. Ignacimuthu inaugurated a national seminar on Biotechnology at SRM Engineering College, Chennai. **Fr.Francis P. Xavier** conducted a workshop on Time Management and Community Animation for the superiors and administrators of JMJ Congregation at Vijayawada on September 15th and 16th. He was invited as a resource person for the NAAC sponsored national workshop on Student Quality Circles – “Developing Methodologies and Strategies to ensure Quality Education” and he also presented a paper entitled “The Inner enables the Outer” at St. Theresa’s College, Eluru in Andhra. **Fr.Guy Archambeaud** is back from his homeland. **Fr. Xavier Rajan** has left for Malaysia and he will be back after some months. On 23rd, Scholastics of Loyola campus had an informative interaction with **Fr. Torres**, General Counsellor for formation.

S.A. Arockiasamy

ST XAVIER’S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The official visitation of the Provincial, brought showers of grace to the campus. In spite of his hectic programme of attending various other functions in and around the campus from 28 August to 1 September, he had the heart and mind to listen to every member of the community and even to others in the campus.

The College Sports day was celebrated on 1 September with gaiety giving the students an opportunity to display their athletic prowess. **Mr. Xavier Arulsamy**, Regional Manager SBI, was the chief guest of the sports extravaganza.

The College students paid their obeisance to their gurus on the Teachers’ Day, 5 Sep, when they gathered together for the Holy Mass in the College church. Different functions were held in different departments to make this day a memorable one.

The community bid farewell to **Fr Leo Correya** on the 16 Sep after his birthday celebration on 14 Sep, before he left for SICJ, Trivandrum on his next mission. His short but sweet stay in the community is always cherished by all and especially the students of the English department; the clergy and the religious really miss him.

The community wholeheartedly remembered the great services of **Fr. J.L. Pragasam** and **Br. Ignatius Antony** to the St Xavier’s Institutions, Palayamkottai in the Jubilee celebration held in the community. The sharings by the Jubilarians and the community members in the Holy Mass and in the felicitation cum dinner thereafter made us all feel great and one and proud to be in the Mother Society.

Under the leadership of **Prof Bernard Chandra**, Dept. of Commerce, ‘Democracy Forum’ was newly initiated this academic year. This forum gives the students an opportunity to critically analyze any situation or context or text and be students of critical thinking in a democratic country. A heavy rush to enrol themselves in this forum, in spite of having it in the afternoon, has boosted the morale of the organizers.

A series of workshops was conducted in the departments of Tamil, Economics, Commerce, Physics, Plant and biotechnology on the new teaching techniques. Cyber crimes, relevance of economics, and hosts of other topics were organized in various departments to keep the students well informed. For the first time in the history of St. Xavier’s Hr. Sec. School, the students themselves organized and coordinated a cultural cum games programme to honour their teachers. A few of the teachers were literally moved to tears by the guru bhakthi of the modern Ekalavias.

Palaniraj, Rajan and **Prakash** have been selected for the Tamil Nadu volleyball team under the 19/17 categories. Our hearty congratulations to the future Olympians. The School Scouts were in jubilation when five of their own scouts bowed in reverence to receive the medals from the Governor of Tamil Nadu for their meritorious excellence as scouts.

The Bellarmine House where the B.Ed. students stay, celebrated **BELLAFEST’06** on 19 Sep 2006. **Fr Pappuraj**, the Rector, was the main celebrant of the Solemn High Mass and also presided over the function and **Fr. S. Sebastian**, Principal, SXC of Education, felicitated the gathering and spoke on the four formative values that are to be given in teacher training programmes.

Frs. Danis Ponniah and Godwin Rufus, the new members to SXC community, were right royally welcomed by the community members.

Fr. V.S. Manickam, crossed yet another milestone in his research journey when he presented a paper on Environment Education at the Oxford University in mid-September. He was one among the 280 delegates in the world and one among the five specially invited.

G. Rufus

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

There was excitement and expectation in the air when the long-awaited NAAC Re-Accreditation Peer Team at last visited the College from 29th to 31st August 2006. The peer team under the Chairmanship of **Dr. Ashok. S. Kolaskar**, the former V.C. of Pune university did a thorough job of it interacting with the Principal, IQAC members, the Governing Body, parents, alumni, teaching and non-teaching staff, inspecting all the facilities on the campus and paying a special visit to three SHEPHERD adopted villages. At the exit meeting held at 9:45 p.m. on 31st August, the Chairman highly commended the activities of the college.

As a follow-up to the NAAC Peer team visit, the college commenced from 11th September a week-long 'Research Special Classes' for M.Phil scholars in Tamil and English on an intercollegiate basis. It is the first time in this part of the State that a programme of this kind being organized on an intercollegiate basis in keeping with the expectations of NAAC that its accredited colleges must have linkages among themselves to create synergy for academic initiatives that would, in turn, pave the way for providing various options and opportunities to students.

The College witnessed other academic efforts as well: **Rev Dr. John Britto's** Endowment lecture on computer science on 18 September; a special lecture on the same day on 'Investigative Journalism' organized by the Tamil Department, delivered by **Mr. Nakeeran Gopal**, and 'the Author Workshop' on 19 September organised by the College library deserve mention. For the first time in the history of the College, the Department of computer science of the self-financing sections under the leadership of **Fr. Francis Thamburaj** organized on 22 September a one-day State level seminar on "Emerging Trends in Soft Computing Technology". It was a great success since more than 400 students from various colleges actively participated in it.

The College students were not wanting in food for the soul either. Under the dynamic leadership of our campus minister, **Fr.P. Susai**, all the day scholar Catholic students of the College (both day and SFS) except girls made a two-day retreat during the three weekends of September in different batches. Jesuit priests, Capuchins from Amalashram and some lay persons preached the retreats and helped the students to deepen their faith. These retreats were organized in an efficient and orderly way and another one such retreat exclusively for the girl students is on the anvil.

In keeping with our ideal for the wholesome formation of our students, sports and games have been receiving adequate attention. The College basketball team (24th time in 25 years) and the football team (22nd

time in 25 years) have emerged as winners in the intercollegiate tournaments of the Bharathidasan University. The College Arts Team has won the overall championship at the FORFEST conducted by the Rotary Club of Tiruchirappalli Fort. The Departments of English and Physics have won the first places in the intercollegiate competitions conducted by Lady Doak College, Madurai. Our Rector, **Fr. Lazar** is undergoing surgical treatment in Chennai for a thyroid problem. He is expected to join the community soon.

Louis Xavier

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Joseph Nedungatt has installed intercom facilities in Thozhamai Illam campus. He preached a six-day retreat to the Charity Sisters in Hyderabad. **Fr. Anandanathan** preached a six-day retreat to 30 Gonzaga Sisters in Thozhamai Illam.

Fr. Maria Jeyaraj arranged an inter-faith dialogue at Samithoppu, Kanyakumari, on Akila Thirattu Ammanai and Arul Nool, the scriptures of Ayya Vazhi, an important sect of Hinduism. The present head of Ayya Vazhi, **Sri Bala Prajapathi Adigalar**, guided the meeting. Fr.Jeyaraj also attended the Inter-faith Assembly of World Fellowship of Inter-religious Councils held at Kochi, Kerala.

C.Valiaveetil

AICUF

Our students participated in the State seminar on "Social Justice and Reservation" inaugurated by **Mr.K.N. Nehru**, State Minister for Transports and organized by the Aided College Teachers' Association on 9th September at AICUF house, Tiruchi. The State advisor **Fr. Maria Singarayar** inaugurated two new units (Day and Evening sections) at St.Joseph's College, Cuddalore on 14th September.

On 17th September Salem Zonal Planning Meeting was held at St.John's Matric.Hr.Sec. School in the presence of the Zonal advisor **Fr. Arulappan** of Salem Diocese. Our full-timers participated in the National Full-timers Training Programme at AICUF house, Chennai from 18th to 24th September 2006.

In collaboration with Human Rights Foundation, Chennai the State seminar on "Human Rights and Human Liberation" was held at AICUF house, Tiruchi from 29th September to 1st October. The State advisor Fr. Maria Singarayar inaugurated the seminar and **Mr. Ossie Fernandez** and **Mr. Martin** were the main resource persons. More than 40 students from all over the State participated in the seminar that focused on Fundamental Human Rights, Indian Constitution, Special Protective Rights for Dalits & Women and Right to Information Act-2005.

Singam

YOUTH & LASAC MINISTRY

City level camps with 175 student participants from 4 LASAC schools were conducted. Eight such camps have been conducted so far. Thanks to all the HMs, LASAC teachers and Jesuits/Sacred Heart Brothers and all our benefactors.

Our newly explored zones like Karur, Salem, Erode, Pondy, Coimbatore, Mathavaram have started experimenting with our motivation package and the team is well initiated and appreciated; thanks to the religious congregations who helped us.

Orientation programme for the Jesuit Domestic Workers was organized at AICUF, Tiruchi. Table boys, drivers, phone boys, room boys, gardeners, cooks and electricians were the participants. Thanks to **Br. Devadass** and **Fr. Arul Ravi** for their inspiring inputs. 'When is the next meet?' was the collective expectation of the participants while they were departing.

J. Ignaci

THEO-PRAXIS SUPAM MEET , Thiruchencode

The first Theo-Praxis SUPAM Meet of our seven deacons was held at Thiruchencode on 14 Sept. The vibrant and inspirational presence of **Fr. Jerry**, our SUPAM coordinator, helped us share our experiences highlighting the formative elements with a proactive mind. We shared our rich experiences that propelled us to go beyond the boundaries. **Fr Maria Arul Raja** instilled in us the need for constant prioritization in our mission in order to build human communities. Our sincere thanks to **Fr Britto Peter**, the PCF, for his valuable accompaniment, He insisted upon the importance of total commitment to imprint the Jesuit mark in the hearts of the people and invited us to think of continuing with the same ministry for a few more years in order to win the confidence of the local clergy, to begin new mission stations. Kudos to **Fr Belavendram** and **Deacon Maria Nathan** for their warm welcome and a meaningful Eucharistic celebration cum theo-praxis exposure with the people of Kumaramangalam village, a substation of Thiruchencode parish. It was a day of reorientation and recommitment for all of us.

Justin Emma

NEW RELEASES

- "TAMIL NADU ECONOMY" by **Fr.A.G. Leonard**, pp. 444, Rs. 280/-
- "Biodiversity and Insect Pest Management" by **Fr. Ignacimuthu** and **S. Jeyaraj** (eds), Narosa Publishing House, New Delhi. Pp. 399.
- "எங்களை வாழவிடுங்கள்" by **Schs. Edwin Thadheu** and **Paulraj**, pp.74., Arutkadal Publication.

- "உருப்படியாக" by **Jerry**, Manitham Publications, Chennai, Rs. 6/-

THESE ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Stan D' Souza (CCU) 72/53 died on 08.09.2006 at Brussels

Fr. Joaquim I. de Melo (GOA) 80/61 died on 10.09.2006 at Khanapur

Fr. Gazo Ignazio (GUJ) 71/55 died on 18.09.2006 at Ahmedabad

Fr. Irudayam Michael (AND) 49/24 died on 01.10.2006 at Hindupur

Mr. Kulandai (86) Father of Fr.K. Arockiam, died on 27.09.2006 at Arulanandapuram

Fr. Arockiasamy A. Savarimuthu

(02.08.1910 – 04.09.2006)

A long-standing giant tree with its branches outspread all around has fallen down. This was the feeling most of us had when we heard the sad news that **Fr. A.S. Arockiasamy**, the senior-most of our Province, had passed away. All of us in the Beschi community feel a void by his demise.



He passed away around 3:00 pm. on September 4 in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, after a prolonged illness. The nonagenarian celebrated his 96th birthday on August 2, 2006 in the hospital where he had been admitted for some heart problem. There he happened to slip and fall and suffered some minor injuries. But within two days he had another fall which was more serious because it resulted in the dislocation of his right hip bone. It gave him intolerable pain. The orthopedists could only alleviate the pain by giving him sedatives but could not reset the dislocated bone. In his delirium the father was often heard, talking about his heydays in Manalur or Palamalai estate. But there were days when he was quiet and could attend Mass seated in a wheel chair. He could even crack jokes with the nurses attending on him.

As days went by he became weaker and in the morning of September 4, he showed signs of his approaching death. At 2:00 p.m. news reached Beschi Illam that he was dying. **Fr. Arul Sivan**, Superior and

Br. Aloysius our Infirmarian rushed to the hospital only to see him slipping away. At 3:00 pm. he rendered his brave soul to his Creator.

His body was brought to Beschi Illam around 5:00 pm. It lay in state in the parlour for all to pay their last respects. The Novices and the CIS Sisters took turns to pray for the departed soul.

The funeral Mass was at 9:00 am on the following day. **Fr.M. Devadoss**, Provincial, presided over the Eucharist flanked by **Fr. Sahayaraj** of Tiruchi diocese, a grandnephew of the deceased and **Fr.S.P. Savarimuthu**, Superior of Xaveriana, Thoothukudi. About 30 priests concelebrated. Fr. Provincial mentioned in his introduction the various services Fr.A.S. Arockiasamy had rendered as teacher in the Training School, Sattur, as parish priest in Pudupatti and Thangachimadam, as estate manager in Manalur and Palamalai and as Vice Provincial for Jesuit pastors. The homily was preached by **Fr. Peter Rayappar** a close friend of Fr. Arockiasamy. He reminisced very humorously about the happy episodes in Manalur, where there were about 2000 people working in the estate. Fr. Peter Rayappar laid stress on the fact that Fr. Arockiasamy loved each one of the labourers calling them by their names. He loved not only the people but the domestic animals too and even the plants.

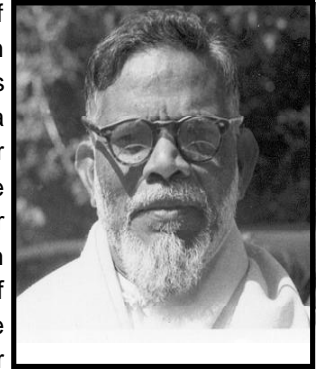
At the end of the Mass, on behalf of his family, **Fr. Sahayaraj** thanked the Jesuit family and all those who had helped Fr. A.S. Arockiasamy in his illness. **Fr. Arul Sivan** too as superior of the local community thanked the ICM Sisters, the doctors and the nurses in the hospital for their tender, loving care of the father.

The final blessing of the body in the chapel was given by Fr. Provincial. Then the congregation which consisted not only of the friends and relatives of the father but also the labourers who had come in large numbers from the two estates started the last journey to the cemetery. At the cemetery the final blessing was given by **Fr. Bellarmine**, a Claretian and grandnephew of the father. Finally, the coffin was lowered into the grave amidst a shower of roses. There lies Fr.A.S. Arockiasamy awaiting his resurrection. R.I.P.

Xavier Mampra

Fr. A. Peter Rayappar (15.07.1915 – 10.09.2006)

A man with plenty of humour, practical wisdom and love for people: that is **Fr. Peter**. Age was not a barrier to him for communication even with the young. "People will never forget how you made them feel". We saw on the day of his funeral how he had made them feel loved, cared for



and esteemed in unobtrusive ways. The Beschi chapel was packed to capacity and the corridors around had standing room only on September 11 when he was given a fond farewell at a Eucharist presided over by **Fr. Devadoss**.

Fr. Peter served as Superior and Headmaster at St. Stanislaus Training School, Sattur (1952-56; 1962-67) and at St. Francis Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Thoothukudi (1956-62). For 15 years he was the Manager of Manalur estate (1967-82); then he served as Superior at Shembaganur. "All along he was a father figure to very many. He never took things tragically but was always focusing his mind on his vocation as a priest and a Jesuit", says Fr.P.C.Jesuraja.

Fr. Peter often spoke of what is in store for us after death. He had a *grouse* against all those who had crossed the shore, because none of them cared to come back to tell us how things were on the other side. On 4th September his long-time friend Fr.A.S. Arockiasamy died and Fr. Peter gave the funeral oration. With his characteristic humour, he asked after the burial, who would preach for him. Little did we think that six days later he would join his friend in the heavenly mansions.

S. Amalraj

Fr.V. Thomas Malayampuram

08.09.1932 – 28.09.2006

Two months ago **Fr. Malayampuram** was hospitalized in Chennai for treatment.



He spent about forty days in Loyola College, where the doctor continued to treat him. As he was getting better he wanted to have a surgery to remove the plate implanted in his left leg in an earlier surgery. On 27 September the surgery was done. The doctor was satisfied with the operation. Next day in the wee hours he was found unconscious. Around 3:00 am the doctor examined him and declared that he had died of heart attack. The problem in the leg had nothing to do with his demise. The death was a shock to Kuppayanallur Jesuits and people with whom he was intimately connected.

The funeral Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Devadoss** and a good number of priests at noon on 29th at Loyola College, Chennai. During the Mass, **Frs. Albert Joseph, K.C. George** and some lay persons including a school girl spoke about him. Jesuits apart, quite a good number of his relatives and people from Kuppayanallur were present for the farewell. His simplicity, friendliness and love for the poor were brought to the minds of those present around the mortal remains of Fr. Malayampuram. Palayamkottai Diocese was represented at the funeral and a message received at the curia stated: "Heartfelt prayerful condolences Fr. Malayampuram, noble caring person, a man dedicated for God and people." Bishop Jude, clergy and religious. R I P.

On the way to sainthood

The Office for Canonization Causes communicates that on 21 March the diocese of Allentown (Pennsylvania, USA) officially delivered to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints testimonies and historical documents regarding the life, activities, virtues and reputation for holiness of Fr Walter J. Cizek, S.J. (1904-1984). A member of the Maryland Province, Fr. Cizek was assigned to the Russian mission in 1940. Condemned to forced labour in 1942, in 1963 he was set free and allowed to return to the United States where he taught at Fordham University while engaging in multiple apostolic activities. Fr. Cizek is the author of *With God in Russia*, a widely diffused book published in 1964.

At the beginning of May it is expected that the Archdiocese of Hermosillo (Mexico) will also bring to Rome the documentation regarding the reputation for holiness of Father Eusebio Chini S.J. (known also as Kino), a famous ethnologist, cartographer and explorer born in Trento (Italy) in 1645. He was a missionary in Mexico and California where he was known as "the Apostle of the Indians". The canonization cause of Father Kino belongs to the category of historical causes, which in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, are dispensed from the requirements of ordinary causes as long as there is actual evidence of a reputation for holiness.

(Short biographies of Fathers Cizek and Kino can be found in the Special Issue of NEWS AND FEATURES (September-December 2002) entitled "Saints, Blessed, Venerables and Servants of God of the Society of Jesus".)

When Ignatius saw that he could and should work for the spiritual good of others, he first of all gave up the deliberate neglect of personal appearance, and then, particularly when preparing to exercise a more effective apostolate by going through a full course of studies, he mitigated his programme of poverty, penance and prayer - or rather, to use the current terminology, he interiorized it: he came to understand that penance ultimately means conversion, a constant effort to turn totally to God, a faithfulness to His will according to the demands of the circumstances in which we are; that poverty is first of all poverty of spirit, a total selflessness that makes us perfectly available; that prayer is being with God wherever He chooses to meet us.

His experience at La Storta came as a confirmation of all this, marking a definite further progress: he understood that to serve the Lord and to be placed with Christ are intimately connected, and indeed identified.

(Hedwig Lewis SJ, St. Ignatius Loyola, GSP, Anand 2006, p. 242)

