

**VOL. L NO. 4 APRIL 2010 CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE**

**The Lord is Risen, Alleluia! Happy Easter to all the readers of Kerala Tidings!**

**APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL**

Fr Vadakekara Francis Kurien (57) Provincial of Hazaribag Province

Fr Jan Adamik provincial of Bohemia

Fr Vicente D Garrigues provincial of Aragón

**NEWS FROM ROME**

Fr General has approved the new name of the Assistancy of East Asia and Oceania as the **Assistancy of Asia Pacific (ASP)**.

**Priestly Character of the Society:** A group of five experts from different countries met with Fr General and Fr Mercieca, director of the Secretariat of Ignatian Spirituality, to reflect on the priestly character of the apostolic body of the Society from March 23–26 March 2010.

**APPOINTMENTS BY PROVINCIAL**

**Status –II**

**To Tertianship**

Koyan Immanuel (Raia, Goa)

Padinjarevarikattu Sunny "

Kunnathethe Reji (Hazaribag)

Mullooparambil Baby "

Gracious Stephen (Shembaganur)

Pattarumadathil Henry, PCF

Madathiparambil Abraham, Asst. Farm Manager, S.M. Farm & Hostel Warden (Caironi Hostel)

Mulackal Wilson, Minister, Christ Hall

Madathaniyil Dominic, Awaiting Assignment

Panikulam Thomas, Sabbatical, IRC Pariyaram Malayil Sabu, Director, IRC, Vicar, St Antony's, Mudikkanam

Mekunnel Augustine, Minister & Treasurer, AKJM, Kanjirapally

Padannamakkel Sunil, Instructor, Pius X ITC

Varangalakudy George, Soft-skill Prog. Dir., Pius X, Edathua

Robert Shelton, Minister-in-charge, Prasanthi, Pachilakad

Thenadikulam George, Research Coordinator, LES, Trivandrum.

Kuravanveliyel Thomas, Minister, Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum

Vattamala Philip, Minister Loyola & Teacher Loyola School, Trivandrum

**PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME**

**APRIL 2010**

- 10 Formation Commission Meeting, Christ Hall, Calicut
- 12 40<sup>th</sup> day remembrance of Fr Kuruvila Cherian, Christ Hall, Calicut
- 26 To Rome: Colloquium of New Provincials

**MAY 2010**

- 17 Back from Rome
- 19 Consult, Christ Hall
- 20 Scholastics' Meet, Christ Hall
- 21-23 Province Golden Jubilee, Calicut

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Fr Provincial will be leaving for Rome on 26 April 2010 to participate in the Colloquium of the new Provincials. He will be back on 17 May and during his absence, Fr E. P. Mathew will be the Acting Provincial.

**Fr KURUVILA CHERIAN**

**NALPATHAMKALAM (1941–2010)**

Fr Kuruvila Cherian expired in Guyana on 6 March 2010 and the burial took place on 15 March 2010 at the town of Port Mourant, Guyana in the cemetery of the parish church of St Francis Xavier. There will be a requiem Mass on Monday 12 April at Christ Hall. (see the Obituary at the end)

**FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

There will be a meeting of the Province Formation Commission on Saturday 10 April 2010 at Christ Hall, Calicut. Kindly inform the Minister of Christ Hall regarding your arrival.

**DIACONATE 2010**

Schs. Kollarath Dolichan, Irattil Ranjit, Kalamparambil Antu and Malekunnel Shibu were ordained Deacons by Mar Thomas Chakiath, the Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly at 2.30 p.m. on 30 March 2010 at the Renewal Centre, Kochi.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Nature Club of Sarvodaya High School, Eachome, spearheaded by Sch. Raju Augustine, bagged *Haritha Vidyalayam* Award in Wayanad District. They were placed in the second position with a cash award of Rs. 15,000/- *Haritha Vidyalayam* is sponsored by Mathrubhumi and Labour India, known as SEED (Student Empowerment for Environment and Development).

**PROVINCE JUBILEE HANDBOOK**

A booklet containing the details of the Golden Jubilee Programmes is posted to all our Communities and individuals. Kindly inform the Socius if you have not received your copy.

**HEALTH BULLETIN**

Br Philip Panjikaran was admitted in the ICU in Nirmala Hospital, Calicut on 1 April 2010. He is being treated for irregular pulse variation and renal problems. He is steadily improving. Kindly pray for his speedy recovery.

**CHANGE IN MOBILE NUMBER**

Biju Vadakkumchery: 9447124795

Fr Joe Thayil: 9447391577

**CHANGE OF EMAIL**

Sunny Kokkaravalayil:

kokkarasy@pontificio-orientale.com

**JCSA-CALICUT: A REPORT**

Kerala Province, and particularly Christ Hall, was privileged to welcome Fr Lisbert D' Souza and all the members of the JCSA, 24 in all, who had their meeting from 7–13 March 2010.

The last JCSA Meet to be held in the Province was at Pariyaram way back in the early 1990s. The meeting began with a Sunday Eucharist at 6.00 p.m. After the preliminary session all were warmly welcomed at Supper by the Superior of Christ Hall. All the Jesuits of Calicut region joined the function. A short video presentation prepared by Schs. Sooraj and Sajit on Kerala Province was screened for the guests followed by a grand Dinner. Fr Joe Pulickal guided the JCSA through a "Day with the Lord" on the theme of "Governance at the service of Mission." Apart from the usual proceedings there were input sessions by Fr Xavier Alphonse (MDU), member UGC on higher education. Fr Charles Lasrado, Convener of COJET, enlightened them on Financial Management and related matters. A mid-week Break on 11 March provided a welcome break from the sweltering heat of Calicut. They went to enjoy the cooler weather of Wayanad and the hospitality of the Jesuits of Sarvodaya School, Eachome. The Sarvodaya Jesuit Community went out of its way to make the Major Superiors feel at home. Frs. Lisbert D' Souza and Edward Mudavassery planted two saplings in the campus of Sarvodaya School. In the afternoon, the JCSA team was introduced to the activities of TUDI. The inmates of the Centre put up an hour-long cultural programme that expressed their love, culture, life and aspirations. Even the visitors were tapping their feet to the loud drum beats and the catchy tribal tunes. Fr Lisbert in his concluding remarks encouraged the performers to always carry their culture wherever they go and whatever they do. Bishop Joseph Kalathiparambil was invited for tea and Fr Provincial introduced the members of JCSA to the Bishop. The Bishop in turn invited the members of JCSA for dinner at the Bishop's House on the penultimate day of the JCSA Meet. During the week they visited the renovated *Matri Dei* Cathedral and dined with

the Jesuit community at St Joseph's, Calicut. The two floors of the newly constructed Provincial residence were fully ready for the smooth conduct of the meet. Hats off to Fr Kallepallil, the Provincial, Frs. V.T Jose, Dominic, E. P. Mathew, Pious, Baby Mullo, Mathew Pullattu, the scholastics and the domestic staff who were ever ready to serve the JCSA members! The rare cuisine with Kerala specials was a treat indeed. They look forward to the next chance.

### **FR ZUCOL—A RARE SAPTATI!**

On Sunday March 14 Mariapuram became the venue of a rarest of rare kind of celebration, namely, the Sacerdotal "Saptati" of Fr Zucol who is 95 and still active! Seventy years of priesthood is surely a very rare grace; in Fr Zucol's case, these seventy years have been consistently active in a superlative degree, and, also, richly fruitful.

Fr Zucol must have baptized (or received into the Church) five to six thousand people; he founded and established around 20 parishes (people with their homes and other facilities, well-built churches with priests' residences, convents), with average 100–150 families. For the converts and others (including non-Christians) he has built or helped build over 9000 houses, dug or helped to dig thousands of wells, distributed thousands of sewing machines and domestic animals, given crores of rupees to medical and other kinds of helps. What Fr Zucol takes pride in and never tires of repeating, however, is his having celebrated over 25000 Masses, hardly ever missing one. He also remembers with gratitude and joy the realization of his Big Dreams in the foundation of the Deena Sevana Sabha, the Devamatha Ashram (of the contemplative Rosarians) and the Ignatian Retreat Centre (for ongoing faith formation).

Neither the Province nor the Diocese has the precedence of such a celebration, and so it was hardly a month prior to the actual date

(March 9) that we suddenly realized that it should not pass uncelebrated. With the Bishop enthusiastically supporting the idea, it was thought practical to call together representatives of the parishes established by Fr Zucol to plan the celebration. And so, we decided upon a three tier celebration—Mass of Thanksgiving on 9 March in all the parishes, inviting Fr Zucol to all these parishes for a celebratory Mass, and, also a diocesan level celebration on the Sunday following 9 March.

As for the expenses, it was decided to take a pre-announced special Sunday Collection in all the above mentioned parishes, to be supplemented, if need be, by the Diocese.

As it turned out, however, people contributed so generously that, after meeting the expenses of nearly Rs 100,000 the Celebration Committee could present to the Bishop a balance of Rs 70,000 for priestly formation.

What was most remarkable was the actual participation of the people. Whereas we had expected maximum 2000 people, over 4000 braved the distances and the summer sun and remained till the end. It looked as though people had been just waiting for an opportunity to demonstrate their love, gratitude and esteem for their father and mentor in faith.

For the Society's part, Fr Provincial as well as the POSA, Fr Edward Mudavassery concelebrated the solemn Eucharist with Fr Zucol (alongside the Bishop), felicitated Fr Zucol at the public meeting following the Mass and shared the common agape.

J. Kottukapally

### **REPORT ON PASTORAL MINISTRY**

St Sebastian's Forane Church, Nellickampoil belongs to the Arch-diocese of Tellicherry. It is around 50 kms away from Tellicherry and close to Iritty. The Parish has one thousand families and three sub-stations. Among the three sub-stations, Infant Jesus Church, Ulikkal and St Jude Church, Vilamana have resident priests. I was in charge of St Jude

Church, Vilamana which has 125 families as parishioners. Some of the Pious Associations like CML, Altar boys, KCYM, Mathruvedi, Vincent de Paul, Franciscan Almaya Sabha, Prayer Groups are the best units in the Archdiocese. Though I was fully involved in all these, I gave special emphasis to catechism and the activities of B. C. C. Presiding over solemn festival Masses and administering various sacraments were very meaningful experiences. The pastoral year gave me an opportunity to reflect on Ignatian Spirituality when I was called upon to give two guided retreats to the junior sisters and postulants of CMC Congregation at Nelickampoil and two recollection talks to the priests of the Forane. I am deeply grateful to Fr Mathew Pothanamala, the Forane Vicar, for his guidance and encouragement. The love and affection of the people of St Jude, Vilamana will ever remain in the depth of my heart. I am deeply grateful to the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to serve Him in my own diocese.

Varkeychan

### **FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS**

#### **SARVODAYA, EACHOME**

On Completion of their long year's service, three of our teachers, Sri. P C Velayudhan (the H M), R Surendren, and K Bahuleyan bade farewell to Sarvodaya. Sri. K J Jose is appointed Headmaster. The visit of the JCSA members to Sarvodaya was a memorable one. Frs Lisbert and Edward planted trees in our School Campus and appreciated the eco-club activities.

Kuriakose

#### **ST JOSEPH'S, CALICUT**

The Community celebrated the feast of St Joseph in a meaningful manner. Around 70 priests and religious including the Community of Christ Hall joined us for the Feast Day celebrations. It was an enriching experience for us to welcome Fr Lisbert, the General

Assistant, Fr Edward, the POSA, and all the members of JCSA. We hosted a dinner in honour of them. After having finished their Annual exams the candidates left for their holidays. The interview for the new admissions to the UKG section of the Junior School is completed. Twelve of our students won the USS scholarship from the State Education Department. A warm send-off was given to Mr Dominic George (physical education), Mr P. V. Mani (office) and Mrs. Marie Jacob (UP), who retired from service. The Alumni unit of the school organized a family gathering of all its members under the leadership of Fr Thadeyoos.

Sooraj Dominic

#### **SNEHABHAVAN, KOTTAYAM**

The Vocational Training Centre at Aymanam was blessed on 29 March by Rev. Fr George Koodathil, Vicar, St Mary's Forane Church, Kudamaloor and it was inaugurated by Miss Meena Karimi, the Regional Coordinator of SLF, Secunderabad, a funding agency. In the public meeting that followed, Justice K. T. Thomas was the Chief Guest and Fr E. P. Mathew who represented the Provincial, presided over the function. Around four hundred people including the physically and mentally challenged persons, their parents, local people, and benefactors of Snehabhavan attended the function. The students of Snehabhavan Special School kept the audience spell bound for a couple of hours by their variety entertainment.

Sebastian

#### **LOYOLA, ALUVA**

March was a month of several interesting events in the Pre-Novitiate. The long-awaited Pre-Novitiate day was magnificently celebrated on 7 March. All the guests were immensely pleased with our performance. 'The Loyolite,' our annual magazine, was formally released by Fr Adappur on this auspicious occasion. On 10

March we had a pleasant trip to the Veega Land, thanks to the generosity of Ms. Anneliese, a friend of Fr C.J. Joseph. We went on a pilgrimage to Malayattoor on 18 March and from 19 to 24 we made the Discernment Retreat. The quietness of the banks of Periyar at Sameeksha and the able and experienced guidance of Fr Jacob Madukakuzhy are very valuable indeed. We conducted a special programme on 27 March at the old age home at Chunangaveli and the elderly were enthused by our programme. We left for the much awaited home visit on 29 March and we look forward to returning to Loyola on 6 April 2010.

Jerry Joe (Pre-Novice)

### **LUMEN INSTITUTE, KOCHI**

It was a historic meeting when Azhvanchery Thamprakkal received Fr Adappur at his *Mana* near Thirunavaya. According to the legend Thamprakkal ranks the highest position among Brahmins. The present incumbent is 83 years old and he is the last in the series ending a history of more than a thousand years. The King of Travancore comes even today to pay annual homage to Thamprakkal keeping the age old tradition. Fr Adappur spent almost an hour with him discussing topics centred on tradition, religion, faith and culture.

Fr Pallivathukal guided the 19 professors of Vadavathoor seminary through a retreat during the Lenten season. Fr Jose Mathew is away in Patna for a month on a special troubleshooting mission in a tissue culture project of Tarumitra. According to the latest reports he has successfully fixed the problem and will be back by 10 April.

Fr Vincent Pereppadan received the Kerala State Television Award 2008 for his tele-film story, *The Mother* on 25 March. The award consisted of a bronze sculpture, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs.10, 000/-.

Vincent Pereppadan

### **ARNOS PADIRI ACADEMY**

The 278<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Arnos Padiri was observed in Thrissur on 20 March 2010. It was the opening program of the re-started Arnos Padiri Academy. The Seminar and the public function attended by a good number of people showed that people value greatly the contributions of Arnos Padiri. The seminar on the theme, 'Role of Arnos Padiri in the Socio-cultural Renaissance of Kerala' took place at St Thomas College Thrissur, inaugurated by Dr P.V. Krishnan Nair, former Secretary of Kerala Sahitya Academy and was moderated by Prof. George Menachery. The Principal of the College, Fr Devassy Panthaloorkaran opened the seminar by paying floral tribute to the picture of Arnos Padiri.

Inaugurating the public meeting at the lawns of Kerala Sahitya Academy, Mar Andrews Thazath, Archbishop of Thrissur, observed that the contributions of the Padiri created a link between the East and WeSt Padiri understood the humane aspect of persons and tried to keep them united through his literary works. Mr M. P Veerendrakumar presided over the function. Scholars such as MGS Narayanan delivered the keynote address and Kurias Kumbalakuzy delivered the memorial speech. Fr Adappur welcomed the gathering and Dr Rosy Thampi offered felicitation. Cash prizes for the winners of the State level essay competition were distributed by Chevalier C.L Jose, former chairman of *Kerala sangeetha nataka* Academy. The fitting finale of the program was the musical - dance program based on the 'Puthen Pana, performed by the Chethana music college, Thrissur. The print media covered the programmes, and paid rich tributes to Arnos Padiri.

Roy

**LOYOLA, TRIVANDRUM**

The Community bade farewell to Sch. Sanil, whose presence in the community, services as Hostel Warden and as a Resource Team member of LES were well appreciated. The School community remembered the life and services of Fr Kuruvila in a very touching Prayer Service. Fr Edassery, several teachers and students recalled the former Principal and his services to the Loyola Campus and its neighbourhood. The School closed on 27 March and all the Board Exams concluded on 31 March. The School campus is all set to host three SALT camps and also for the Computer Training Programme of Scholastics. LES conducted 8 days' counselling Course for 25 school teachers of the Latin Dioceses of Kerala.

The Computer Training Programme announced for beginners is on 18 & 19 March 2010. All are welcome to this programme. The course that commences on 20th morning will concentrate mainly on Hardware: Maintenance, Troubleshooting, Assembling and Networking, Software Installations and Maintenance. If you are coming, kindly inform Fr Minister, Loyola about your arrival.

Toby Joseph

### **SRISHTI CENTRE/LOYOLA SCHOOL, MUKUNDARA**

Fr Biju Vadakumcherry was given a very warm and cordial welcome by the students and teachers of the school with lot of singing and dancing and by the animators of Srishti Centre with warm cheers as he arrived here in mid March. He will function as the Director of Loyola School, Mukundara and the Programme Officer of Srishti Centre. He is fast getting introduced into the various works of the Centre and of the School. Fr Salvin made use of his leisure time to conduct a children's theatre workshop and the end product were two excellent stage programmes that captivated the large audience on the school Annual Day

celebrations where Fr Joye James was the Chief Guest. Sch. Sheise, of Loyola Poovar, became the most popular figure in the Campus as he manifested his organizational, histrionic and artistic caliber by giving rigorous yet most effective practice to two groups of smart boys and girls who rendered the Malayalam poem "KANANDA" by the local poet Kattakada Murukan. Each dramatic movement was composed by Sheise himself. Sheise also composed another beautiful dramatic piece *Vandematharam* where dance, music, gymnastics, human pyramids and rhythmical movements were made use of to communicate important human and social values. We are indebted to Fr Reji, the vicar of Chembur and Fr Rabin for making the expertise of Salvin and Sheise available to us. Fr Jose Thaiparambil, and Br Jacob from St Xavier's, Frs Augustine, Sabu, and Georgekutty from Loyola attended the School Day functions. We are extremely grateful to all of them especially to Fr Joye James for this manifestation of solidarity.

The third visit of Fr Provincial to Mukundara, this time a surprise one, accompanied by Frs Pious Vachaparambil, V. T. Jose, E.P. Mathew, Sabu and Reji was most encouraging and supportive.

Syriac

### **ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE**

The last month of the academic year saw the retirement of three of our faculty who put in more than two decades of service to the College. They are Dr Cyril Johnson, Mr Tom Joseph and Smt. Mary Margret. Mr Ravi, Mr Muthu and Mr Ramadas of the non-teaching staff also retired this year. The Department of Latin, St Xavier's College, Thumba in collaboration with the Institute of English & the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Kerala organized an International Conference on 'Latin Language

and World Cultures,' on 11 & 12 March 2010 at The Hassan Marikar Hall, Thiruvananthapuram. Fr Dasappan toiled hard day and night to bring together eminent academicians, versatile men and women of letters, venerable heads of religions, proven masters of politics, besides a large number of people to make the International Conference a grand success. The Xavier Institute of Management as part of its expansion drive added a Computer Training Centre to its other academic concerns. The new initiative has already caught the eye of needy students with the enrolment going up to 40 in the first month itself. Sch. Dominic Palakeel underwent surgery on his ear at Swanthana Hospital to fix his hearing difficulties. He is making steady progress.

Dominic Palakeel

#### **VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM**

Creative and prayerful presentation of the Stations of the Cross was a fitting preparation for the Holy Week. Loyola College, Sreekariyam invited us to the College Day Celebration on 12 March. We thoroughly enjoyed the cultural programmes presented by the students. The National level examination conducted for all the Juniors by the ADF was held on 15 March. Almost all the Juniors secured good scores in the examination. *Ugadi*, the Telugu New Year Day, was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass centred on the theme 'New Life.' The third year theologians of our RTC made their diaconate retreat here, under the guidance of Fr Joe Pulickal. Fr K.J. Thomas, the Minister designate, visited the Juniorate and got directions from Fr Rachans. Fr Clachan, our missionary in Japan, was with us for some time. He enlightened us on the Society in Japan. A well-appreciated course on Psycho-Spiritual Integration was given by Fr Sunny Kunnappallil.

Roji Nelson

#### **SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI**

The second years were fully immersed in preparing for their comprehensive exams held on 11 and 12 March. The 1<sup>st</sup> years organized a farewell Eucharist and dinner for all those who take leave of Satya Nilayam. We welcomed Fr Paul Raj (KOH) who replaces Fr Anil Gomes (CCU) as the Registrar and Spiritual Director of Satya Nilayam. The second years were privileged to visit the Thiruvannamalai temple where the Vedantin Sri Ramana Maharshi lived. During this trip we visited some of the mission stations of Chennai mission. The first years attended a seminar on media ethics held at the University of Madras. Sch. Jijimon is the new beadle of Satya Nilayam.

Bastin Jose

#### **VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI**

The transitional phase from winter to summer is almost over and Delhi is becoming warm. The academic year at VJ is coming to a close by 16 April. Binoy will defend his thesis titled, "Relationality is Constitutive of All Reality: Towards a Trinitarian Anthropology and Cosmology in Dialogue with Science," on 15 April at 4.00 p.m., in the College Hall. Sch. Augustine is waiting for his exam schedule. Binoy

#### **NOVICES, ANDHRA**

The cool early mornings of autumn gave way to sunny summer across the land. The month of March was filled with various enriching experiences, strengthening moments, and uplifting sessions. We the second year Novices successfully completed our study experiment on Religious Life and Vows based on various articles. It gave us better understanding of our way of life. At present we are having sessions on "Psycho-sexual development." It offers us a chance for depth, introspection and healing of memories. In a special way we thank Fr Anthony of the

Pastoral Centre for giving us an opportunity to partake in the universal mission of the church, by taking us along with him for ministry in different villages across the diocese.

We had the auspicious beginning of the Telugu New Year with Ugadhi celebration which began with a special Liturgy. We were happy to enjoy the delicacy of *ugadhi pachadi* which signifies that life is a mixture of good and bad, joy and sorrow and all of them have to be treated alike. Fr Arakal guided us through the Holy Week Triduum. We were very glad to welcome Fr Jose, the Provincial of Kerala on his maiden visit to Ananda Jyothi. His visitation was a time of joy and grace not only for us but also to some of his own Jesuit companions.

Lijo Antony

#### **FROM TAIWAN**

HAPPY EASTER to one and all! It is Holy Thursday afternoon. This morning, after a lapse of 6 years, I participated in the CHRISM MASS. It was presided over by His Grace, John Hung Shan-Chuan S.V.D., Archbishop of Taipei. We were around 150 Priests concelebrating with him. Along with an accomplished choir of adults, we sang with gusto the Kyrie and then the Latin Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei in the good old Gregorian Chant! During his homily, the Archbishop referred to the crisis in the Church in Ireland and in Germany which has affected the whole Church, including our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. He exhorted us to pray specially for the grace of priestly purification and renewal. After the Renewal of Commitment to Priestly Service, one by one we approached the Archbishop and he gave each one of us a brotherly "*amplexus*". After the Church Service, we walked to a nearby Restaurant for a 10-course Chinese Banquet. The Archbishop went from table to table (Chinese prefer round tables), greeting

all the Priests. As if that was not enough, he stood at the entrance at the end of the meal and thanked each one of us for accepting his invitation and gracing the occasion. There will be 7 Adult Baptisms in Fu Jen Catholic University Chapel and more in many Parishes in Taiwan during the Easter Vigil, but these are nothing compared to the number of Adult Baptisms in Singapore. Our two Jesuit Parishes in Taipei often book me for the Sunday Liturgy in English. I am also teaching 4 classes of English a week, my students being students of Theology. All the other subjects here are taught Chinese.

John Manipadam

#### **FROM LONDON**

As the buds open up on the trees and the days lengthen, the city of London entered the season of spring with great joy and celebrations. It was graceful moments for the community to have Fr Provincial during his visitation. Fr Michael Holman presided over the concluding Mass followed by a sumptuous Vietnamese Dinner prepared by Sch. Keith. I was asked to guide two pilgrims through a week long Ignatian retreat organized by the Corpus Christi Parish. The Scholastics in London gathered in the Provincial House for the monthly Mass and get-together organized by the Wimbledon Community. A meaningful penitential service was conducted in the Parish as a preparation for celebrating the Paschal Mystery. The Lenten term ended and Heythrop resumes the summer term on 4 May 2010.

Xavier

#### **FROM PHILIPPINES**

I am getting ready to say good-bye to Philippines after a year of study in CEFAM (Centre for Family Ministries) Ateneo de Manila University. My course is designed for persons engaged in pastoral care of couples and families and it has a Psycho Spiritual approach. The study and the cultural

exposure it provided are very rich indeed! I am very grateful to Fr Jose Cecilio J Magadi the Provincial of Philippines, and Fr Primitivo E Viray, Jr the Rector of Loyola House of Studies. I also enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Community. They were very supportive and generous to me. I will be back in the Province on 5 April 2010.

Wilson Mulackal

### **GONE FOR THEIR REWARD**

Fr Joseph Saldanha (BOM 69/52) on 12 March 2010 at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.

Fr Paul Kehres (PAT 91/72) on 26 March 2010 in De Nobili College, Pune.

Mrs Annamma Joseph (95), mother of Fr John Joseph Puthenkulam, on 14 March 2010 at Pulinkunnu.

Mrs Thresiamma Chacko (81), mother of Fr Sony Thazhathel, on 28 March 2010 at Melukavumattom, Palai.

### **IN CHRIST WITH GLORY**

#### **APRIL**

- 02 (1998) Thomas Arackal
- 03 (1961) Carolus Vassallo
- 06 (2006) Job Pulikottil
- 12 (1992) Joseph Aricatt
- 22 (1991) Zacharias Palakunnel
- 22 (2007) Philip Kalarickal
- 24 (1969) Zacharias Chandy

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

#### **APRIL**

- 14 Bastin Jose Vattanky  
Benny Chiramel
- 20 Toby Kozhuppakalam
- 21 Chacko Vandakam
- 23 Jose Choorapoikayil  
Mathew Moozhiiyil
- 24 Joe Kunnathoor
- 27 Shin Kallunkal
- 28 Dominic Joseph Palakeel
- 30 Mathew Pullattu

### **MAY**

- 01 Joseph Chiraparambil
- 04 George Aikara  
Ajeesh A. Mathew Thoppil
- 10 James Robert Morais

### **OBITURY**

#### **Nalpathamkalam Kuruvila Cherian (1941–2010)**

Fr Kuruvila Cherian's untimely death on 6 March 2010, before he was quite 69, far away from home, in Guyana, should be saddening to everyone who knew him.

In late February this year he suffered a mild stroke. He was treated in a hospital in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. His condition improved. On March 5 he was discharged from the hospital and taken to the Jesuit house in the city. That day passed off well, but Kuruvila was restless in the night. In the morning he sat up on the bed, spoke, but looked dazed and sleepy. At about 10.20 he fainted. He was rushed to the hospital while a qualified nurse was giving him heart massage. After about half an hour in the emergency care room Dr. Kumar who attended on him announced that Fr Kuruvila had passed away. The Regional Superior of Guyana, Fr Dermot Preston wrote: "The final collapse could have been triggered by a number of fragilities in Kuru's system... the heart or the breathing ...the still high sugar level despite the insulin injections." The funeral was to be on March 15, in St Francis Xavier's Church cemetery in Port Mourant, Berbice, where Kuruvila was working laSt Kuruvila was born on 18 July 1941, to Cherian and Mariamma, the 6<sup>th</sup> of their 11 children, in Changanacherry. Sri Cherian was a magistrate in the state of Travancore. That required the family to be on the move often. And so Kuruvila grew up with the experience

of shifting home often and having his schooling in different places.

After pre-university studies, he joined the Society in June 1958, at Beschi College, Dindigul. He did philosophy in Shembaganur, reGENCY in Loyola School, Trivandrum, graduate studies in Chemistry in Chennai, post-graduate studies in Chemistry at Trichy, B. Ed. in Trivandrum, and theology in Pune. He was ordained in April 1974, in Changanacherry. He was assigned to Loyola school. In 1977 he was sent to do the Tertianship in Hazaribag. He made the Final Commitment in the Society in Loyola School in August 1978.

Kuruville was again assigned to Loyola School. During 1982 -1984 he did a Master's degree in Loyola, Mary Mount, Los Angeles, USA. Then he returned to Loyola. During these two stints at Loyola, Kuruville handled, simultaneously or at different times, the responsibilities of the Vice Principal of the school, Director of the boarding, and Minister of the Jesuit community. He played an important role in the building of the hockey ground, improving the facilities in the boarding, and acquiring a fleet of buses for the day scholars of the school.

In 1986 he was assigned to AKJM School, Kanjirapally, to be the Principal. He held that job till 1998. In 1998 Fr Kuruville was brought back to Loyola School as Principal. Dreaming big for Loyola he started improving the infrastructure of the campus: put up the fence around the football ground, fixed collapsible gates at all entrances to the school, started the construction of the new Junior School (the present CBSE Block), expanded the computer lab and did the spade work for the indoor stadium (which has been completed magnificently lately). Was Kuruville attempting too much too fast? The school exam results showed a slight decline. He had difficulty in convincing his superiors about the relevance

of his big projects for the school. In this context Fr Kuruville left Loyola and the Province in 2000, rather abruptly to the surprise of all.

First he went to Nepal and worked in the Jesuit Refugee Service. Then in 2002 he moved to Africa and served in the Jesuit Refugee Service for some time and then taught in St Augustine's University, Tanzania. In 2003 he went to Guyana. He continued to serve in the field of education even in Guyana. He was Lecturer in Education in the Berbice Campus of the University of Guyana and became the first Director of the Guyana Human Development Centre in Miss Phoebe. He was appointed Superior of the Pakaraimas & Ru-pununi Jesuit community from 2006-2009 and then finally was a member of the Jesuit team for Pastoral Ministry in Corentyne.

What kind of a person was Kuruville? Mr Sanish Mathew who passed out of AKJM in 1989 recalls: Fr Kuruville introduced "pants and shirt as the uniform of the students, wrote the new school anthem, started training programs in computer, music, cricket, basketball, the martial arts, arranged special classes for the weak and free classes for the poor, implemented various revolutionary changes in the school, and thereby gave the students maximum opportunities to learn and to grow". Fr Kuruville's batch-mate and colleague in AKJM, Fr Mathew Kannadan, writes: "Fr Kuruville was very creative. He plans a lot at night. The class leaders were trained to supervise the class in the absence of the teachers. Kuruville is a very generous person. He is a pioneer in many things". Fr M. M. Thomas, Kuruville's senior colleague in Loyola School, writes: "... a scholar and educator par excellence, a resourceful visionary with no pretensions, an indefatigable advocate of the Ignatian

Pedagogical Paradigm, music and sports aficionado, and above all a lovable human being with a heart larger than any of the institutions he served". Fr Joseph Edassery, Kuruvila's colleague notes: "He was a person who would dream of greater things for the development of Loyola School. He was able to visualize new ways of empowering the students... In spearheading this mega project [of the indoor stadium] what was foremost in his mind was the integral development of the students and thus enabling them to excel in their studies as well as in extra-curricular activities". Fr Toby Joseph, now on the staff of Loyola School, says: "He was perceived among the staff as a priest who witnessed to Christ and Christianity in Loyola." Fr Kuruvila's Superior in Guyana, Fr Dermot Preston says about a discussion he had with Kuruvila about his next assignment: "...he would hold his hand up in a characteristic silencing fashion and say to me – always enunciating very clearly! – 'Dermot, I am an obedient Jesuit. You tell me where you want me to go, and I will go there and do my best'". And Fr Adolfo Nicholas, the Superior General of the Society at the Golden Jubilee of Fr Kuruvila's religious life wrote: "Applying your innovative ideas, always in consultation with the staff, you ushered in new methods and approaches with a lot of interaction between the teacher and the student, encouraging and honoring the students, enhancing the parents-teachers relationship which paid dividends in the overall development of the students. Your love for the poor found expression in cultivating social consciousness in the students, encouraging them to help the poor and disadvantaged students.... You consider nothing a daunting task for the love Christ and for the sake of the Gospel."

I end this write-up on a personal note. I have not worked with Kuruvila, but have noticed

him well. In his eyes behind the rather thick glasses, in his face and in his person there was an innocence, genuineness - and a certain vulnerability which found expression as a mild stammer, a hesitation. *Fr. Kuruvila's superior in Guyana, Fr. Dermot Preston writes that when they took the body from the mortuary, "Kuru's face had relaxed into a dignified, patrician calm". We do not want to think in terms of patrician and plebian, but Fr. Preston has a point: there was something truly dignified and noble about Kuruvila.* Fr M. M. Thomas says that Loyola School was Kuruvila's 'first love'. It was in Loyola that he learned the rudiments of the ministry of Jesuit education. It was around Loyola that for years he had woven his dreams of a Jesuit school worthy of the modern Society of Jesus and the modern Kerala. *I was aware of all that. And so it was with much reluctance that in 1986 I, as Provincial, asked him to accept a transfer to AKJM - from the premier school in the capital city to a rural school struggling to find its identity and moorings. I knew that the proposal would wring his heart. It did. He expressed it with his characteristic restraint. And yet he went. As far as I could make out he kept no ill feelings towards me. And what great performance he offered in AKJM.* With humility and respect I would say: in the life of Kuruvila the grain of wheat fell to the earth and died and bore much fruit.

Joseph Pulickal

