



VOL. L NO. 10 OCTOBER 2010 CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

**APPOINTMENT BY FR GENERAL**

Fr Charles Lasrado (KAR) Assistant to the Treasurer General of the Society of Jesus.

**APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL**

Fr Joseph Kottukapally St Joseph's, Calicut

Fr Dominic Madathaniyil Pastoral Ministry, United Kingdom

Fr Benny Chiramel Loyola Jesuit Residence, Trivandrum

Fr Biju Vadakkumchery Santhinilayam, Kottayam (Studies in Library Science)

**PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME**

**OCTOBER 2010**

10 – 19 Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad

21 Consult, Christ Hall

24 – 31 JCSA, Jamshedpur

**NOVEMBER 2010**

02 Meeting with Bob Grimm

05 JEPASA Meeting

06 Domestic Staff Gathering, Christ Hall

**REMINDER**

Please note that 30 October 2010 (Eve of the Feast of St Alphonsus Rodriguez) is a Province Prayer Day in this Jubilee Year. As

usual all our Communities and individuals are reminded to conduct a holy hour from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. to pray for our Province.

**WARM WELCOME!**

Fr Bob Grimm, Assistant Treasurer General will be visiting the Province from 2 November to 17 November. He will be visiting our Communities. Detailed itinerary will be sent to you in due course of time. The Province welcomes Fr Bob and wishes him a fruitful stay in God's own country!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Hearty felicitations to Fr Sunny Jose who successfully defended his Ph. D thesis on the "History of Jesuits in Kerala Since 1880."! The open defense was held on 8 September at the Department of History, University of Kerala, Kariavattom campus. Eminent professors, Jesuits from various communities, research scholars and students from the respective department were present for the defense.

**FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

**JESA General Body Meet** will take place on **8 October** 2010 at TUDI, Eachome. Kindly

inform Fr Baby Chalil regarding your participation.

**JEA Meet** will be on **9 October** 2010 at Christ Hall, Calicut. Kindly inform the Minister of Christ Hall of your arrival.

### **WORKSHOP ON JESUIT SPIRITUALITY, CHRIST HALL, CALICUT 13–14 NOVEMBER**

#### **New Wine, Fresh Wineskins (Lk. 5/38)**

#### **The nature of the Workshop**

The workshop is part of the renewal program of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Province. And so it aims at highlighting some aspects of Jesuit spirituality which can have an impact on the renewal of the Province.

The workshop will reflect upon **seven** themes. Each theme will cover some related themes.

The approach to the themes will be sapiential and spiritual as different from analytical and intellectual.

Fr Anto Muringathery will be the Coordinator and Joe Pulickal will be the Director and main resource person of the workshop.

#### **Methodology**

Fr Pulickal will prepare an outline of each of the seven themes and send them to three Contributing Resource Persons. In the light of the suggestions of the three, Pulickal will prepare a synopsis of each of the themes. These synopses will be sent to five persons in the Province with a request to come to the Seminar prepared to correct or add to the papers Pulickal presents. Thus the workshop will be a team work.

**Date:** The workshop begins at 9 a.m on Saturday **13 November** and ends at 4 p.m. on Sunday **14 November**.

**Participants:** Those who like to participate in the workshop, please write to the Socius before 25 October 2010.

#### **ASSISTANCY BROTHERS' MEET: A REPORT**

The Brother Co-ordinators' of the South Asian Assistancy gathered at IRC Pariyaram from 20 to 23 September 2010. There were 18 Co-ordinators and 8 Brothers of Kerala Province. The meeting began in the evening of 19 September with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Thomas Panikulam. In the morning of 20 September Fr Joseph Kallepallil, Provincial of Kerala, offered Mass and in the opening session that followed he delivered the keynote address. In an hour long address he dwelt on the vision and mission of the Society which moulded men and women for others. We are called upon to serve by being leaven and light in the world. He reminded us that our vocation is a response of the heart and it is not a career.

Fr Thomas Panikulam conducted three sessions on Ignatian Spirituality during the rest of the day and stressed on the Trinitarian and Incarnational basis of Jesuit community life. It was followed by group discussion where we identified the strengths and weaknesses of our community life. Fr Panikulam also explained the Spiritual Diary of St Ignatius. On the following day we had the business session in which all the Brother Co-ordinators participated. In the afternoon we had an enjoyable outing to Parassinikkadavu and Payyambalam beach and in the evening we were graciously

received by the Community of St Michael's for a sumptuous dinner. A trip to Wayanad through the winding ways and thick foliage made all of us feel refreshed. A delicious lunch and the warm hospitality of the Sarvodaya Jesuit community, Eachome, and the tasty Tea at Prasanthi, Pachilakad, left unforgettable memories in all of us. On the whole it was an enriching experience for all the participants. The fact that so many Brothers came from all over the Assistency and lived together for three days in our Province in this Jubilee year, enjoying the beauty of our land and cherishing our delicious meals is in itself a great thing! We are deeply grateful to the IRC team for their warm and generous hospitality. The meeting concluded on 23 September with breakfast. Our next meeting is scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka.

George Vattukulam

### **INAUGURATION OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE IN SAMEEKSHA - A REPORT**

The intellectual apostolate of Sameeksha has got a new impetus with the inauguration of the doctoral program in its program of study. Dr Sukumar Azheekode who inaugurated the Sameeksha Research Centre hailed the significance of Sameeksha as a unique venture in the realm of spiritual exploration and appreciated the varied initiatives of ours in the sphere of religion. Presiding over the inaugural function, Dr Scaria Zacharia, former Head of the Department of Malayalam, Sri Sankara University, Kalady, spoke high of the

multifaceted intellectual plunge of the Jesuits and epitomized our formation programs in setting innovative paradigms for society. The day's program commenced with a half-day seminar on 'Towards a New Epistemology: Interfacing Philosophy, Science and Religion'. Dr Babu Joseph, the former Vice-Chancellor of CUSAT, Kochi, delivered the keynote address. A Philosophical Forum was initiated to discuss the latest trends in the subject under the aegis of the Research Centre. The creative and lucid interventions made by academicians from various disciplines during the panel discussion were noteworthy. Fr Binoy Jacob competently moderated the symposium. The learned presence of many research students from various universities, seminarians, teachers, priests and religious, scholars and academicians made the discussions lively and intelligent.

Ramlat

### **TUDI, EACHOME**

We had many activities in TUDI in August and September. As part of the World Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, TUDI kalasangam gave a cultural fiesta to the participants of the National Seminar on Tribes and Analogous people in India on 10 August at the Anthropological Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre Mysore. We had a grand Onam celebration with special events such as *onasadya*, visit of Mahabali and Cultural Programme by the kalasangam. Fr Sony Thomas, Superior of Sarvodaya Jesuit Community, gave an apt and relevant Onam message to the gathering. Mr Vinod Babu, Deputy Director of Education, Kozhikode, and his team of

educational development officers were here at TUDI for two days in connection with a consultation on tribal education. Fr Baby Chalil was invited to give a talk on the possibilities and challenges in tribal education at All India Radio, Kozhikode on 28 August.

In collaboration with ISI Bangalore, TUDI organized an Advanced Leadership Training Programme for 35 tribal youth from 9 to 12 September. They had the opportunity to interact with tribal and dalit activists such as Ms C. K. Janu (Adivasi Gothramahasaba) and P. K. Radhakrishnan (Chairman-Appad land Struggle). Their sharing was very insightful for all of us. It is a pity that their genuineness and sincerity is misrepresented by the vested interests of media and politicians.

We earnestly look forward to host Kerala JESA Annual General Body Meet on 8 and 9 October.

Baby

### **PRE-NOVITIATE, CHRIST HALL**

The Pre-Novices are leading an enthusiastic life here in Christ Hall. The Community of Christ Hall provides all the support needed for our growth. We have started to speak English and all empathize with us in our effort to make progress. We honoured the retired teachers of the Community on the Teachers' Day. Fr George Pulparambil amused us by his rare talents in poetry and exhorted us to be poetical. We were glad to join in felicitating the Jubilarians of Christ Hall Community on 6 September which happened to be the birthday of our Director, Fr Sunny Kunnappallil. The office bearers

have completed their term of service successfully and a new team has assumed office. On Wednesdays we go to Mercy Home, Marikunnu for Ministry.

Viny & Shine (Pre-Novices)

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

Sanjo Fair, a unique exhibition of Science, Mathematics, IT and Social Science, was inaugurated by Mr Biju Pazhoor, the CEO of Tidal Park, Calicut. The exhibition showcased the various projects and artefacts prepared by the students as part of their academic pursuits. The Teachers' Day was celebrated in the school with a variety of programmes. Mr Sippy Pallipuram, noted writer, was the guest of honour at the function. Our school was selected one among the hundred schools in Kerala to start a unit of Students' Police Cadets (SPC), *kuttipolice* in the local idiom. Fr Thadeyoos led the delegates from our school to take part in the Education Seminar held at Loyola College, Trivandrum. Fr Ephrem gave a seminar to the staff of the Junior School. Frs Devasia and Anto took part in a Seminar organised by JEA in Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. Fr Anto along with Fr Roy Thottathil guided the annual Triduum of the young priests of the Province held at Christ Hall. A two day retreat was given to the catholic students of our School.

Sooraj

### **RTC/SAMEEKSHA, KALADY**

As part of the Province jubilee celebrations Sameeksha organized two Jesuit Family Gatherings. The Community hosted over 230 family members of 23 Jesuits on 4 September and over 170 members of 17

Jesuit families on 2 October. The Superior, Fr P.T. Mathew, welcomed the gathering and each Jesuit introduced his near and dear ones. A fitting prayer service and an address by Fr Provincial highlighting the various activities of the Province were noteworthy. In the absence of Fr Provincial who had to be present for a similar gathering on 2 October in Santhinilayam, Kottayam, Fr Binoy Pichalakkatt addressed the gathering. The screening of the short movie on the activities of the Province prepared by Sch. Sooraj was well received. A fitting memento was distributed to a representative from each family. During the interactive session many expressed their happiness at such a gathering and looked forward to similar occasions to know more about the Society's work around the world. Both the functions were joyous occasions and the lively presence of the dear ones made it memorable. All dispersed after Tea having spent some fruitful time in the salubrious campus of Sameeksha.

Ramlat

### **AKJM, KANJIRAPALLY**

A.K.J.M community was privileged to host the largest zonal Jesuit Family Gathering on 18 September. Relatives of 38 Jesuits with a total of 325 participants attended the function. After a brief prayer and the warm words of welcome by Fr Kuriakose, the Superior, representatives of the relations lighted the lamp. The Jesuits then introduced their family members to the audience. Fr Sony Thazhathel presided over the Eucharist and Fr George Thenadikulam gave a short but apt homily. After a tasty lunch all gathered in the Hall to listen to Fr

Provincial. He shared very briefly the activities of the Province and thanked the families for giving their dear ones to the Society. A short video presentation on the ministries of the Province prepared by Sch. Sooraj was watched attentively. Many participants expressed their appreciation for such an effort and Mr Johny Nelloor, former MLA and brother-in-law of Fr Paul Valiakandathil, proposed the vote of thanks. All the Jesuits gathered there sang a popular *nadanpattu* to the amusement of those present. All the family members dispersed after Tea. A special thanks to Sch. Prince for being the M.C. of the programme. Frs Kuriakose, Augustine, Polson, Babul Paul and Sch. Binu saw to it that everything went well.

The Community spent a day of sharing in order to deepen our Jesuit way of life under the guidance of Fr Joe Thayil. The School campus is bubbling with life as the Kanjirapally sub-district games are being held here. Our students have already bagged number of prizes for many items. Fr Terence Lobo is busy at congratulating the students and the teams.

Binu

### **LOYOLA, TRIVANDRUM**

We actively participated in a community building session guided by Fr Madukakuzhy. The visitation of Fr Provincial was a time of collective discernment and a continued search in realizing our Jesuit way of life. The educational seminar, planned and organized as a part of the Province Jubilee celebrations, brought in many eminent scholars to reflect collectively on the RTE. Special mention must be made of the

presence of Mr M. Vijayakumar, the honourable Minister of Law & PWD, Government of Kerala, Archbishop Soosa Pakiam, and Dr N.K. Vijayakumar. A good number of Jesuits and our collaborators from various institutions participated in the Seminar. The Jesuit residence looks transformed thanks to a coat of paint! One of our students from the School was the recipient of the best child artist program award. Another student won the best children's news reader and anchor award 2010. St. Joseph School, Trivandrum won the Loyola basketball tournament conducted in our indoor stadium. New batches of MSW, MA, MAPM have begun their classes with the induction programme. A Seminar on Women Empowerment was held at LES and more than 130 women from different walks of life participated in it. LES also conducted an induction programme for three hundred and twenty students for three days at Marian Engineering College, Trivandrum. Fr George Thenadikulam presented a paper on "Ethnicity and cultural identity of the Wayanadan Pulayar in Kerala" at a national seminar organized by the Anthropological Survey of India in Mysore. Dr P P Kurian, a close associate in the research programmes of LES, passed away last week due to heart attack. The MSW programme of IGNOU was inaugurated on 17 September in the College.

Tinu

### **ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, THUMBA**

The Jesuit Community of St Xavier's felicitated Dr Sunny Jose with a dinner in which the staff of the Juniorate were present. Sunny acknowledged all his Jesuit

companions who were the source of inspiration and timely help in fulfilling this important task. Fr Pulikodan was advised physiotherapy by his doctors. After taking the treatment for three days he noticed no improvement. Both the doctor and the patient came to the realization that any system of treatment after the age of 80 would not be very effective. Sch. Prince presented a paper on 'Lifestyle Diseases' in a UGC sponsored National Seminar held in NSS College, Trivandrum.

Prince

### **CHRIST THE KING CHURCH CHEMBOOR**

As the Province celebrates its Golden Jubilee, Christ the King, Chemboor celebrates its Platinum Jubilee. We arranged number of programmes in the parish. Recently we conducted 'Legion Congress' under the leadership of the Legion of Mary. More than four hundred people participated in the Congress. Rt Rev. Dr Vincent Samuel, Bishop of Neyyattinkara, inaugurated the public meeting. The Ordination of Deacon Christopher was a time of great rejoicing for the Parish. It was the second ordination from the parishioners. We appreciated the presence of many Jesuits on the occasion. We conduct half-day seminars on various topics for the students every month. We also conducted a three day residential camp at the AICUF Centre, Tvm, for the *Kuttikkootam* children in which Frs. Toby Joseph, K.J. Thomas, Biju Vadakkumchery, and Schs. Tinu and Tomson took classes. We are grateful to Fr Jose Pulinthanath for making the arrangements at the AICUF Centre and Fr Syriac Panjikanan for making the school bus available to us.

Varkeychan

**VIDYA NIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM**

We have successfully completed the first term. We had a solemn celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother. Fr Scotus celebrated the Mass in Kannada. The Scholastics of Karnataka Province conducted a prayer service in the evening. We felicitated Fr Sunny Jose, Principal, St Xavier's College who successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the history of Jesuits in Kerala. He specially thanked all of us for our prayerful support. We also gladly welcomed Fr Jose Jacob who spent some time with us. He shared the sweet memories of Vidyaniketan. Fr Jacob Madukakuzhy gave an inspiring sharing on his Birthday which happened to be the feast of St Padre Pio. Three of our Staff members participated in the Juniorate Staff meeting in Hazaribag. We had our cultural tour visiting central Kerala from 29 September to 1 October.

Ajeesh

**SADHANALAYA, NASHIK**

The month of September began on a festive note. The first week was full of joy, enthusiasm and vigour, as we celebrated the nativity of Our Lady. The month was packed with several activities. We were given an enriching course on "Personality Development." The resource person was our own acting Socius, Fr Philip Terrasa. As part of the remote preparation for the Long Retreat and to deepen the practice of meditation, we the Novices had a week of experience called "Dhyan Sadhana" led by Fr Joe Pithekar (BOM). It is a course which combines Vipassana and centering prayer.

We experienced the power of silence. We went for an outing along with our staff to enjoy the water fall of the sacred river Godhavari. We were spiritually enriched by the meditation on the bank of the holy river. A dip in the river too was an enjoyable experience. Thanks to our second years for arranging and coordinating such a wonderful outing. Ganesh Chaturti is the biggest festival in Maharashtra. A visit to the stalls was quite interesting. We enjoyed the puppet and laser beam shows depicting religious themes.

Anil &amp; Jithin

**FROM SITAGARHA**

We are 18 Tertians from 11 Provinces and 2 Regions. The Community of Stanislaus College consists of 75 Jesuits including the Novices and the Juniors. On the Feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary we completed the Long Retreat under the guidance of Frs R C Chacko and Joe Njara. For Reji and me, the experience in the 'School of Heart' was a much treasured journey in affectivity. At present we are having the study of the Spiritual Exercises and getting ready for the retreat ministry and experiments beginning on 10 October. Frs Williams Christopher, K. J. Thomas and Sch John Thomas from Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum, were here for the Juniorate Staff Meeting of the Assistency. Last week we had a pilgrimage to the shrine of Dhori Mata located right in the middle of the coal mines of Jharkhand which is about 100 kms away from here. The miraculous statue was found in one of the coal mines 50

years ago. The pilgrim centre had Jesuit presence until 1993.

Baby Mulloo

### **VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI**

The hectic days of September with several activities and exams came to an end with an enjoyable outing. This year the Delhites have been blessed with plenty of rain but at the same time it has caused a lot of havoc in the capital. Many people living in the low-lying areas, slum dwellers and some of our co-workers were severely affected. Even Vidya Jyoti was not spared. Ground water continues to swell up in the basement. But it has not crossed the danger mark yet! We are all safe. Along with the torrential rain the dreaded dengue disease also became common. Some scholastics have undergone medical treatment for dengue, Sch. Sanil being the first of the victims. He was in the hospital for a week.

All the Deacons are busy preparing for their final comprehensive exam though the Community bade farewell to them formally. Schs. Linto and Shin played a major role to make the event memorable with their Power Point presentation. We completed our first semester exams on 24 September. Soon after the exams, we left for the cultural tour to Jaipur, Ajmeer and Jodpur. The cultural tour was very enriching. We went as a Province group and it was a great time for sharing and deepening our friendship. Fr K P Mathew was here for two days to attend the Principals' and Headmasters' meeting

Raju

### **FROM LONDON (FR THOTTAN)**

'Interest in Church rises as BENEDICT BOUNCE!' The daily Telegraph greeted the unbelieving British populace with the surprise morning news. The Pope had left Birmingham after the historic first State visit to Britain, the first by any Roman Pontiff. The Catholic Hierarchy was euphoric at the grand success of the papal visit. The wider public, Catholic or Anglican, Christian or Non-Christian shamed the secular media. The media had flooded their pages and screens with cynicism. They forecast empty galleries and vacant arenas. But the general public crowded the footpaths greeting the Papa mobile and eighty thousand people bought tickets to attend the prayer meeting led by the Pope at the Hyde Park. The eighty three year old German turned youthful to stand boldly the rigor of the four day schedule. The protests by a few thousand atheists and others were drowned by the ovation of the large gathering. The crowning event of the visit of the Pope was the beatification of Cardinal Newman at Birmingham.

A cover page news item in all the important newspapers was much to the shame of every one who loved the rising India. The preparations for the Common Wealth Games were pictured as an organizational debacle. The pull out of the British stars from the Delhi Games was highlighted. The western media took the opportunity to celebrate the corruption and the inefficiency of the political machinery of India.

For the British, Autumn or Fall is a Spring before Winter. The falling leaves show forth the best of their colours, turning nature to a festival of colours. But this Fall beat the

hopes of the Islanders quite often as they wear a gloomy face. And yet, the sun spared none of its brightness on the 30 September to welcome Dominic Madathaniyil to Britain. The Kerala Catholics gave him a rousing welcome with bouquets at the Airport. He was also warmly welcomed at the Jesuit House with a Community drink. Now it is my turn to take him round to all the centres. Fr Dominic has already realized that he is not far from home here. Inquiries from far and wide flood his mobile to scrutinize his roots. I eagerly wait to be lifted to the dear old pastures in Kerala on the 14 October.

#### **XAVIER THARAMEL**

I visited Dachau, the replica of the Nazi concentration camp in Munich and joined the prayer and fasted with a group of people in the Carmelite cloister inside the camp site. It is a site of great tourist interest in Germany and at the same time a depressing place indeed! Human cruelty took place there in its worst form during the Second World War. As you enter and leave the place one cannot forget the bronze statue of a lone prisoner with the inscription, "To honour the dead and to admonish the living."

In Nuremberg, I experienced the hospitality and gracious generosity of the Novitiate community. On 10 September I bade goodbye to Mr Hermann's family who generously supported me in Olpe during the stay in Germany. As I returned, the city of London was awash with colour as thousands of flag waving pilgrims welcomed Pope Benedict XVI during his four day visit to Britain. Fr Michael Holman, the Provincial, led us to the St Mary's College Chapel in

Twickenham to take part in the liturgy for the religious which was presided over by the Holy Father. Fr Damian Howard, lecturer at Heythrop College, is the new Superior of our Community. The Community enjoyed the outing to the city of Bath which is remarkable for its hot spring. The new academic year started with the induction programs. Fr Provincial presided over the inaugural Eucharist which was followed by a get-together of the scholastics in London at the Farm street Community.

#### **FROM IRELAND**

The new Academic year began on 1 September and I arrived here just one week before the opening of the College. We had a grand reception in Clongowes Wood College, our place of regency. It is a boarding school located in beautiful surroundings, twenty miles from Dublin and draws its pupils from all over Ireland and abroad. The reputation of the Jesuit educational tradition in Europe is placed on a very high pedestal in Clongowes history. It has contributed immensely to English literature and the history of Ireland. After the restoration of the Society, Fr Peter Kenney led the Jesuits back to Ireland in 1814 and Clongowes Wood College was founded by him and, in 2014 it will celebrate its bicentenary. I am privileged to be a member of a team for pastoral care of the pupils, as a spiritual director and a counsellor. I have other responsibilities also in two departments of the school, the religion and the Jesuit Ethos. I contribute through classes, liturgies and retreats. The Jesuit community and the staff of the School give us great support and opportunity to do

various works here within the full range of our talents and abilities. This is a place of international regency, as there are two more Jesuit friends with me, Martin Benko (Slovakia) and Mariuz Balcerak (Poland). The monthly regents' meet and faith sharing with Kevin O'Rourke (Delegate for Formation) is a real revival of experience for us. I really enjoy our Community gatherings on Wednesdays and Sundays. Such gatherings are made memorable by reflective discussions. For instance, in the last gathering, Fr Lawrence Murphy who was the Provincial and the Rector of the Collegio Internazionale del Gesu in Rome made an enriching presentation on "Ignatian life and mission in today's world." I was deeply moved by the lay peoples' interest in the Ignatian spirituality. On one occasion I attended the inauguration of the Jesuit youth ministry, 'Magis Ireland' 2010-2011 and there the youngsters shared their insights on Ignatian Spirituality from their life experience. Our Jesuit School has many occasions for sharing the Ignatian teachings with the staff, pupils, parents and families.

Santhosh

### **FROM BELLARMINO**

Major part of my summer holidays was spent in doing a German Course in the University of Innsbruck. I completed the first two levels. The Jesuit Community in Innsbruck offered free accommodation to all the Jesuit students. Fr Severin, the Rector of the Community, took great interest in the programme and made us all celebrate Mass in German within a week! He himself took us out for trekking and sightseeing in the Alps. Thus we could maintain a good balance

between the toughness of the German course and the beauty of surroundings. During the peak of the summer in Innsbruck there was a snowfall one day and hailstones another day. All of a sudden, I had to switch over to Italian as I stayed in a parish in Catania for two weeks, in the island of Sicily. The ministry there was a very enriching experience and I met some senior priests of the Province of Italy. Special mention must be made of Fr Scalia, 92 years old, who invented a secure seat belt which is sent for the approval of the Government. He took me to Catania Station on my way back to Rome. I could also climb the peak of Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe. The eruption of Etna in 1969 caused much damage in Catania and destroyed numerous villages. The College of Bellarmino reopened after the vacation. And the autumn has already started. I will do my annual retreat in the first week of October in Torricella, Sabina, about 60 km away from Rome. My classes will start on 11 October. Fr Henry has already landed in Rome for taking classes in Biblicism and will be here till the end of November.

Antony

### **FROM TAIWAN**

As we celebrate Fr Matteo Ricci's 4<sup>th</sup> Death Centenary, we have had to say good-bye to two distinguished French Jesuits who, like Ricci, were also creative, faithful and ground-breaking bridge builders. As a result, both had innumerable devoted friends. Fr Albert Poulet-Mathis (83) was a successful Students' Chaplain at Fu Jen Catholic University. Then he became the first Executive Secretary of the Ecumenical and

Inter-Religious Affairs of the FABC and visited India a few times. He made friends with a Buddhist Monk (a Zen Master) whose writings, as one of Taiwan's most respected and scholarly Buddhist teachers, were highly critical of the Catholic Church until he met Fr Mathis. When the Monk died last year, he had become one of the Church's closest friends, collaborators and admirers! His views influenced tens of thousands of his disciples and students. Fr Jean Lefeuve (88) was also a successful University Students' Chaplain. Then he joined the Taipei Ricci Institute and was one of the main contributors to the multi-language, 9,000-page "Grand Ricci" Chinese Dictionary. For over 50 years he specialized, among many other activities, in the study of the most ancient Chinese scripts, the oracular inscriptions and the inscriptions on bronze. In fact, he became a world-renowned expert in oracle bone-inscriptions. May their tribe increase!

John Manipadam

**TIENE EDUCATIONAL CENTER, TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

It has been long since I scribbled a few words about my life in the Far East, far away from the land of my birth, the cultures that shaped my values and from the people who have shaped my personality to a large extent till last year. It seems to me that what unites the different nations and races of the Far East are the Confucian dynamism and the cultural festivals which are based on the Lunar Calendar. This month we, in Taiwan, celebrated the Confucius Day as Teacher's day. Also the people here remember their loved ones, near and far

away, by looking at the full moon, on the mid-autumn festival day. The same day I remembered many of you far away in Kerala! The past year offered me plenty of opportunities to thank God for the enriching and challenging experiences. The Community here was very supportive of us as we went through the ups and downs of our life in an alien culture. I am placed in a truly universal Community and so it is enriching as well as challenging. But when we have a "goal" in life the many obstacles become many possibilities and challenges to be overcome. My mission here is to learn Chinese language and culture. Chinese is a tonal language which contains 5 tones. In addition to that, the standard Mandarin contains almost 40,000 characters compared to the 26 characters in English. A well-educated Chinese today recognizes approximately 6,000–7,000 characters. Approximately 3,000 characters are required to read a Mainland newspaper. I am far behind this level of proficiency. My level of proficiency is comparable to a primary school student. Functional literacy means knowledge of 2,000 characters which we are aiming at. No wonder many consider studying Chinese an experience of purgatory!

Our attempts to be exposed to the "Beijing dialect" have not yet been materialized. Our identity as Jesuits is viewed with suspicion mainly because they don't want the local Christians to be in contact with the outsiders. In the meantime I am not sure whether I will end up like St Francis Xavier who failed to reach the land of destination. Matteo Ricci, after being refused entry many times,

finally succeeded. So for the time being we are now in an apostolic community waiting patiently and at the same time continuing our studies. I am now enrolled in a public university attending intensive language classes. So please do keep us in your prayers as we knock at the 'gates of the Dragon' by the end of this year.

Rubil

### **GONE FOR THEIR REWARD**

Sr Digna, C.T.C. (80), sister of Fr George R. Kandathil, on 28 September at Cherthala

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

#### **OCTOBER**

14 Prince Peter Puthuval Puraidom

15 John Mialil

Wilson Mulackal

17 Sheise Porunnakottu

Joseph Podimattam

19 Jose Mathew Vayalikalapura

Mathew Pallikizhakethil

20 Anto Dionecius

22 Jose Kuzhuppil

27 Jose Pulinthanath

Prince Panachithara

30 Jacob Pazhanilam

31 Sooraj Kochuparambil

#### **NOVEMBER**

06 Thomas Anthraper

07 Jacob Pulikodan

09 Joseph Puthenpurackal

### **IN CHRIST WITH GLORY**

#### **OCTOBER**

05 (1979) Sebastian Aricatt

06 (1965) Antony Zearo

07 (1988) Victor de Rozario

08 (1998) Dominic Valiatharayil

18 (2007) Mathew Pothalil

25 (1982) Mathew Kallarackal

29 (2008) Chandy Myladoor

