



VOL. LIII NO. 03 MARCH 2014 CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

### APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

**Fr Bernhard Burgler**, Provincial of Austria (ASR)  
**Fr Ivan Bresciani**, Provincial of Slovenia (SVN)  
**Fr Arturo Marcelino Sosa Abascal (VEN)**,  
Delegate for the International Houses in Rome  
**Fr Gianfranco Matarazzo**, Provincial of Italy (ITA)

### ASSIGNMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

**Fr Rabin** - Tertianship, Sri Lanka  
**Fr Sabu Palathanadil** - Tertianship, Goa  
**Fr Biju Vadakumchery** - Tertianship, Hazaribag  
**Sch. Tinu Francis** – Theology, Pune  
**Sch. Roy Alex** – Theology, Heythrop College,  
London  
**Sch. Jijimon** – Gregorian University, Rome  
**Sch. Gijo John** – M.A. (Economics)  
**Sch. Raphin Kamal** – M.A. (Art)  
**Sch. Midhun Francis** – Regency, Pre-novitiate  
**Sch. Emmanuel** – Regency, Christ Hall, Calicut  
**Sch. Rosan Roy** – Philosophy, Satyanilayam,  
Chennai  
**Sch. Jose Pittappilly** – Philosophy,  
Satyanilayam, Chennai  
**Sch. Ajeesh Mathew** – Philosophy. JDV, Pune  
**Sch. Jomon** – Asha Kiran

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Fr Provincial has gone for a visit of Japanese Province. He will be back on 19 March. During his absence the Socius will be the Acting Provincial.

#### NEW BOOKS:

Sebastian Painadath SJ, *Das Herz in Schwingung bringen, Vier Türme Verlag, Münsterschwarzach, 2014, 126 pages.* (This book contains the history, theology, spirituality and praxis of Jesus Prayer)

#### FR GEORGE AIKARA, S.J.

Fr George Aikara expired at 4.00 a.m. on 02 March 2014 in Nirmala Hospital, Marikunnu, Calicut. He was buried in Christ Hall Cemetery, Calicut on 03 March 2014. (See the Obituary at the end)

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

#### MARCH -2014

04-18 Visit to Japan  
19 Loyola, Aluva  
20-24 Budget meeting, Christ Hall  
26 MCBS – Chapter  
27-28 Mukumdara and Poovar  
30 Consult

#### APRIL – 2014

01-02 Dindigul, South Zonal meeting of Provincials  
03-16 Europe

## FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

### CHRIST HALL, CALICUT

The month of February marked its beginning with the arrival of **Fr Shin Kallungal** to the community. He gave an inspiring talk to the parents and teachers of the Christhura L.P School in the P.T.A meeting. The Christ Hall community celebrated with pomp and gaiety the birthday of the two stalwarts of the community, namely **Br Joseph Thekkekara** and **Br George Vattukulam**.

The Extended Province Consult took place on 28 February and 1 March. **Fr Lisbert D'Souza**, the assistant to Fr General was present at the sessions.

The pre-novices were very much privileged to have two important dignitaries amongst them this month. **Fr Gratian Carlo**, the ADF of the South Asian Assistency paid a short visit and exhorted the pre-novices to explore themselves and dream bigger. He was on his way to Pariyaram to attend the conference of Vocation Promoters and Pre-novitiate Directors of South and West zones. The Pre-novitiate director, **Fr Rachans** attended this conference. **Fr Lisbert D'Souza** gave a vivid picture about the universal society to the pre-novices. **Fr Lenin Antony** from **AADI**, Attappady, directed a 3-day course on Social Awareness to the pre-novices, which was inspiring and challenging. He opened the windows of a new realm before them. In order to refresh themselves and cherish the joy of oneness, the pre-novices went on a one-day picnic to the "Teak town of Kerala", Nilambur. They spent the whole day traversing through the lush green forests of Nilambur and refreshed themselves in the cool forest rivulets. The picnic culminated with a visit to pre-novice Ivin Tomy's house, where the entire party enjoyed a good meal.

*Jose Pittappillil*

### LOYOLA, ALUVA

In February we the novices had 'kitchen experiment' for more than a week since our cook, Mr Kunjumon, was away, taking care of his child who was in hospital. Well, we may not have

become experts in culinary arts, but have certainly picked up enough tricks to survive when the cook is away! Of course, it was not cooking all the time during the month. We had an enriching course on the *Methods of Prayer* by **Fr Varghese Malpan**. Fr Malpan's scholarship, rich insights and deep contemplative nature have helped us immensely to improve the quality of our prayer life. Thank you very much, Malpan Achan!

At last our chapel has an elegant altar, thanks to the generous help from **Fr Sunny Kokkaravalayil**. The altar was designed by **Fr Saji**, our Socius. Congratulations, Fr Saji! Fr Saji has successfully completed his Master in Psychology from Madras University, securing a high 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. In fact he has just narrowly missed a 1<sup>st</sup> class. Kudos, Saji Achan, for this brilliant achievement! It is to be noted that he achieved this feat in spite of his heavy responsibilities and daily chores. **Fr Jacob Madukakuzhy** is away in Bangalore, directing a Month-long retreat for a group of Sister Tertians. Fr Roy Thottathil, after completing the period of convalescence has returned to Lumen-Jyothis, looking younger & fresher! Roy Achan's presence among us was indeed a blessing.

**Fr Gratian Carlo**, the ADF, was with us for a day. He arrived here on 9 February and left on the following day. He gave us an inspiring talk and offered Eucharist for us. Thank you, Fr Gratian, for your gracious visit and challenging words. Other distinguished guests of the month included Frs J. Kottukapally, Joe Pulickal, G. Kandathil, Kuruvilla Pandikattu, Pious Vacha, Binoy Pichalakkatt and Ramlat. Thank you very much, Fathers!

*Henok Kunnathuparambil*

### SAMEEKSHA, KALADY

Navathi of **Br Varkey Mampilly** was celebrated in the community. A group of 30 independent seekers used the atmosphere of Sameeksha for their annual gathering. St Vincent de Paul Society group from Bangalore, chose Sameeksha to be their home for three days during their annual pilgrimage. Sameeksha also became the meeting place for a group of Major Superiors, who

were here to interact with two Professors from Berkeley along with **Fr Binoy**. Another meeting of intellectual giants took place at Sameeksha in the presence of Fr Provincial exploring the possibility of publishing a journal of high repute in connection with the Proposed Peace Institute. **Fr Sabu Malayil** has joined Sameeksha Community and is getting attuned to the new mission of working with Migrant labourers. **Fr Chacko** has brought out a documentary on Migrant Labourers which was screened in the community. Bishop **Adayanthrath** has offered financial support for the Video project. **Fr Martin Puthusery** and his encounters with Migrant Labourers in Kerala were featured in Shalom TV.

Atmamitra made a good number of new entries during the last two months. We got invitations from about 15 new schools and we already catered to 7 of them in January and February. Ms. Anu bid good bye to Atmamitra team as she went home to prepare for her marriage. Atmamitra Publications has started exploiting online selling facilities of Indulekha.com and Ucannews.com.

#### **AKJM & SAMANVAYA, KANJIRAPPALLY**

SSLC and Higher secondary model examinations are successfully over and the students are waiting for the forthcoming public examinations. The community was happy to have the graceful presence of our new priest, **Fr Shin Kallungal**. **Fr Varkeychan** arranged a one-day program for those AKJM students who are serving as altar boys in different parishes, called as 'Jesus Friends' of the campus. **Fr T M Joseph** has been appointed as 'Kochachan' - one of the assistants- of Mundakkayam Forane parish in the Kanjirappally diocese and he has taken charge on the 01 March. We wish him all the best and good health during his maiden official pastoral mission in this diocese.

*Ramlal Thomas*

#### **S.M.FARM, PARIYARAM**

**Fr Rajesh Jose** was given a warm welcome to the community on 26 February with a special prayer and grand dinner. All the attached members were present during this family get-together. When he

joined the community two weeks ago, he was accompanied by a large number of parishioners of Chundakara parish, the place where he successfully completed his one year pastoral ministry. He is already in the field exploring the possibilities for Illam of Samskriti. Students of all trades in Nirmala ITI were having their Semester Examinations, for two days, first of its kind conducted in an ITI Centre near Koothuparamba.

*Mathew Aertthayil*

#### **LOYOLA, TRIVANDRUM**

Loyola Campus was host to 35 Swedish students from Global College, Stockholm. They were here for three weeks for an exposure programme. Staying at LES they reached out in the city and its suburbs. The Loyola Extension Services were also hosts to around 300 school teachers attending a Road Safety seminar organized by the NATPAC. Another group of school teachers attended a School Counsellors' Training Programme.

Loyola College was also the venue for an International Conference on Life-Skills Training in collaboration with Indian Association of Life Skills' Education. Around 350 delegates arrived from all over the world.

It is time to wind up for summer vacation in Loyola School. Board exams are in full swing for the Stds XII & X. We are on the eve of the thanksgiving assembly. As Vice Principal, I attended a meeting of the International Boys' School Coalition (IBSC) convened in New Delhi. This is an organization supporting and projecting boys' cause and students – opportunities and challenges in educating boys. In these days of co-educational schools becoming quite popular, it is hard sometimes to justify our existence as 'Boys only.' Besides facilitating a peep into the multifaceted dimensions of running boys' schools, it was also an opportunity to meet heads of great institutions like Eaton College and Doon School. Mr Tony Little, Headmaster of Eaton for 25 years is the President of IBSC. During my stay in Delhi I also had a detailed visit to St Xavier's School on Raj Nivas Marg. It was indeed a great learning experience to discover the running of one of our institutions in the national capital. Of course, it was

a privilege to enjoy the hospitality and warmth of our brothers in Vidya Jyoti, as well as to attend the elaborately organized Diaconate liturgy wherein our Prince Clarence too got ordained.

*Devassy Paul*

### VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM

On 4 February, the feast of our St John de Britto, we went to Loyola School, Mukundara, to attend their annual day celebrations. We Juniors could learn some good English from **Fr Panjikaran's** smart kids! Two of our new priests, **Frs Sanil and Shin**, celebrated Eucharist for us on February 07. **Fr Leo** went to Guntur to attend the jubilee celebrations of Loyola Public School and returned carrying six handsome bags as the school's gift for the staff here. We were blessed with the visits of **Fr Lisbert D'Souza**, our General Assistant and **Fr Ivan Mendonca**, the PCF of Karnataka province. **Fr Joseph Kottukapally** also was here for a few days. Thanks to **Fr Joe Mathew** and engineer Mr Alan Laly, the concreting of the terrace of the new refectory is over. The work is progressing fast. We had the annual feature of Balamela on 27 February. 250 students from the locality spent the whole day on Vidyaniketan campus taking part in various competitions and cultural programmes. About 20 volunteers from the neighbouring parishes were actively involved in organizing this event. At present we are fully engaged in intensive practices for the Academy Day to be held on 08 March.

*Jamon*

### FROM DHARMARAM, BANGALORE

I had the honour of being invited to deliver the Placid Endowment Lectures this year at DVK (Dharmaram Vidyakshetram). It was a course of seven lectures, the last being reserved to the DVK teaching staff. These endowment lectures have been established to honour Placid Podipara CMI (1899-1985), the most outstanding Syro-Malabar scholar of the twentieth century. The pre-conciliar restoration of the Syro-Malabar liturgy in Syriac (1959), purged of all post-Diamper latinizations (chiefly owing to Francis Ros), is mostly restored thanks to Father

Placid, a great Syriac scholar. Less significant is his contribution to canon law. I had the good fortune to be his student in Rome. The topic of this year's Endowment Lectures, which were delivered on 8-11 February, was: "The Eastern Code in the Making: An Indian Contribution," that is, my share in the formation and the formulation of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. The titles of some of the lectures were as follows: Ministers or Clerics?, Magisterium and Theologians, Pluralism, Cultures and Evangelization, Ecumenism Beckons a Future Code. The text of the seven lectures followed by a summary of the discussions is due to be published shortly by Dharmaram Publications.

*George Nedungatt*

### FROM THE CHINESE PROVINCE

Missioned by the Provincial, I have already spent one of my three months here in our Asia-Pacific Assistancy Juniorate in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, which is in the campus of our Universitas Sanata Dharma. Actually there are only 6 East Timorese and 3 Myanmarese Juniors. My classes are from Monday to Friday (8.30 to 11.30 a.m.) with the afternoon spent in correcting their handwritten Compositions. On Saturdays and Sundays we are involved in different ministries. On February 4, we were all invited to celebrate the feast of St John de Britto at the Boys' Higher Secondary School that bears his name. Since I had entered the Society of Jesus in Madurai Province, I was asked to introduce the Saint in *Simple English* to the packed Indoor Stadium, composed mostly of our 752 boys, before the Holy Mass began. After the Mass, we went round the Exhibition of the arts and artefacts of the boys. Finally we had a grand lunch and returned here. Something very strange happened on Thursday night (13<sup>th</sup>). When I got out of my room for the 6.00 a.m. Mass, I was surprised at the unusual darkness. Then I discovered that the whole place was covered with volcanic ash and that there was still much of it in the air. Mount Kelud, 281 kms due East from here, is only one of the 131 active volcanoes in this RING OF FIRE! It had begun spewing fire, ash and smoke after

11.00 p.m., causing the evacuation of thousands upon thousands... For a whole week, the volcanic ash remained on the trees, on the sloping tile-roofs and on the ground. Every gust of wind brought the fine dust into our residence. Finally, after countless attempts at cleaning our residence, we mercifully received a very heavy shower with strong winds on the following Friday. Immediately the roofs and the trees looked clean and fresh, but the ground was full of volcanic-ash mud. The sweepers collected this mud because it is good fertilizer for the trees, especially the many fruit trees in our campus! I wish you all a holy and fruitful season of Lent!

*F.J. Manipadam.*

#### FROM FRANCE

The month of February was quite eventful in Center Sèvres. After months of intensive research, reading, synthesizing and writing, we have submitted our *mémoire*, a dissertation of 40 pages, to the Faculty of Theology as part of the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the *Baccalauréat Canonique de Théologie*. The process and work for the dissertation helped us to deepen our knowledge in our interesting domain and present our argumentation that manifests our personal judgment theologically. We have successfully completed our first semester and started the final semester with many intensive courses and seminars. Both of us participated in a seminar titled, "Religion in the Public Space" organized by Centre Sèvres as part of the end of the semester.

*Sooraj*

#### FROM LONDON (UK)

**Sch. Joseph Mathew** along with eight Jesuit scholastics embarked on the next stage of his journey of ministry in the Church when he was ordained to the Diaconate by **His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols** on Saturday 01 March 2014, at Westminster Cathedral, London. This celebration was coupled with two major anniversaries: 200 years since the Restoration of the Society of Jesus in 1814, and 400 years since the founding of Heythrop College in 1614. We were also greatly delighted to have **Fr John Vattanky**

and **Mr Shaji Mathew**, brother of Joseph, on this occasion. Joseph Mathew will be serving both in Farm Street Church, London and Malankara Catholic Church, London.

*Tomson*

#### JEPASA CONVENTION 2014

JEPASA (Jesuit Pastors of South Asia) gathered together at JDV, Pune, from 18-20 February, to celebrate its SILVER JUBILEE and 200<sup>th</sup> year of the RESTORATION OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS. There were 106 participants representing 19 provinces and region. The theme of this convention was "ALERT TO THE SPIRIT, ALIVE TO THE WORLD". **Fr Edward Mudavassery**, the POSA, inaugurated the convention with the celebration of Holy Eucharist. In his introductory talk he mentioned that we are now in a blessed moment of time where our great pastor Pope Francis has captured the attention of the whole world by his words and action. It is our duty now to respond to his call in a fitting and creative way in our mission field.

The opening session was on "Jesuit Pastoral intervention in South Asia" by the famous Jesuit historian **Fr Jose Kalappura**. **Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram** introduced recent apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, 'Evangelii Gaudium' to the group. Some of the other eminent contributors were **Fr Errol Fernandes** from Bombay, **Fr Jerry Rosario** from Tamilnadu and Ms Rayanah Braganza from Poona. The convention was concluded by a meaningful Eucharistic Celebration officiated by **Rev. Dr. Thomas Dabre**, Bishop of Poona.

**Fr Paul Pallatty** prepared the group, by presenting a few slides on late **Fr L.M. Zucol**, to pay homage to our great missionary pastor. **Fr Sabu Malayil** presented a paper on 'Migrant ministry in Kerala' and requested JEPASA members to collaborate with this venture in whatever possible way they can.

There were zone wise and province wise group discussion to chalk out action plan for the next three years. Kerala JEPASA proposed three

programmes: 1) Impart Ignatian charism and spirituality to the parish community through retreats, workshops, camps and study sessions. 2) Have accountability and financial transparency in our parishes by forming Financial Council and having financial planning. 3) Reach out to the neighbourhood, especially to the poor through various awareness and development programmes, visits and celebrations. The group thanked the JEPASA secretary, **Fr George Anthony** and the team who organized the convention in a beautiful and meaningful way. It was decided to hold the next JEPASA Coordinators meeting at Baroda, on 23-25 September 2014.

*George Thenadikulam*

#### **FROM DIGITAL NEWS SERVICE SJ, ROME**

##### **Peoples' Manifesto in view of General Elections**

From 9 to 12 January 2014, around 65 members of *South Asian Peoples' Initiatives* (SAPI) from all over India gathered at the Indian Social Institute in Bangalore. They prepared the *Peoples' Manifesto* in preparation for the general elections in May. The gathering divided itself into six groups, and they considered eight issues. These were the economy, society, politics, education, health, culture, the environment, government and security. The gathering prepared its statement, which will be submitted to the various political parties as the peoples' agenda for good governance (*SJES Headlines*).

##### **Sanctuary of St Ignatius**

Perhaps only few people know that there is a sanctuary dedicated to St Ignatius Loyola in the dioceses of Turin. It is the only one in Italy. It was built in 1635 on the summit of Mount Bastia, where, it is alleged that St Ignatius appeared to a peasant. A spur of rock is the base of the altar in the middle of the church, which is itself part of a large complex fitted out to receive pilgrims. The sanctuary has been visited by all the well-known saints of Turin. These include St John Bosco, St Joseph Cafasso, St Leonardo Murialdo, and Blessed Giuseppe Allamano. The beautiful Lanzo valley surrounds the sanctuary. It has been a

centre for the spiritual exercises since 1807. From 1800 to 1900, it was a center of holiness because Piedmontese Saints and Blesseds lived there as rectors, preachers and retreatants. The sanctuary is open only during the summer months. In 1946, the sanctuary was entrusted to the Pious Union of St Maximus. This group also takes care of the adjoining house of spirituality.

##### **Martini International Award Assigned**

On 15 February, at the archdiocesan headquarters in Milan, the presentation of the *Martini International Award* took place. The award was established by the Milan archdiocese on 15 February 2013 to honor Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini. The award aims to "preserve the faith heritage of the man who, as archbishop of our Church, always focused on the whole and every person. 140 works by 152 international contributors were submitted by 31 August 2013. Three young Vietnamese scholars were among the winners. Their work, *The Bible and Asian Culture*, opens up the vast field of the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Asian culture. For the future, the award presentation will be organized by the *Fondazione Carlo Maria Martini*, an entity founded by the Society of Jesus, together with the archdiocese of Milan, as well as a number of members of the late Cardinal's family. The purpose of the *Foundation* is to promote the knowledge and study of Cardinal Martini's life and work, and to preserve the spirit that animated his pastoral work and study.

##### **Environment Outlook 2013**

Environment Outlook 2013 is a report issued by the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP). It presents a brief overview of key environmental concerns, advocacies, events, policies, and experiences in Asia Pacific region. It is based on a number of responses and initiatives which Jesuits and their collaborators have come across in their attempts at reconciliation with creation. The findings in the report come from initiatives of Jesuit Provinces, institutions, and schools in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. This is one of JCAP's top priorities for action. It implies a program of action on the institutional level. There have been

many positive responses in compiling the report, even though Jesuit Provinces and institutions struggle to develop and implement their ecological agenda. Some have translated Healing a Broken World, a document on ecology prepared by the Secretariat for Social Justice (Rome 1999). This is now used to inform Jesuits, school faculty members and students, to care for the environment. Others are establishing waste management and recycling systems. Yet others are reviewing their curriculum in order to integrate ecology in subjects such as geology, geography, ethics, business, and economics. While many ecological initiatives are taking place, the challenge remains to bring all these local experiences and studies together, so that others may learn from them. Collaboration in this area is also a challenge. Father General Adolfo Nicolás continues to encourage all to pursue reconciliation with creation.

### GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

**Fr Michael Fohshow (CCU)**, 73/56 on 8 February 2014 in St Xavier's College, Kolkata.

**Fr John Khanna (GUJ)** 74/54 on 09 February 2014 in Pilar Hospital, Baroda.

**Fr Gerald A. Drinane (PAT)** 82/64 on 20 February 2014 in Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna.

**Fr Kingsley Adikaram, (SRI LANKA)** 54/32 on 05 March 2014 in Negombo.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#### MARCH

- 10 Paul Karinganampally
- 12 Saji Arithiyal Puraidam
- 13 Mathew Pampackal
- 14 Augustine Mekunnel
- 17 George Sebastian Vallocheril  
Nibin Vadakkonapparambil

- 18 Bony Moozhiyankal  
Jose Thaiparambil  
Thadeyoos S M
- 21 Adhul Thomas Ulloppillil  
Varghese Anikuzhy
- 22 Sebastian Valiamattam
- 23 Stevenson Maliekal Cheniyara

#### APRIL

- 01 Dolichan Kollarath
- 04 Gracious Stephen  
Jithin Joseph Puthuparambil
- 08 Aneesh Joseph Manivelil



### IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

#### MARCH

- 01 (1990) Mathew Chittilapilly
- 03 (1974) James Montanari
- 05 (1989) Chacko Marattukalam
- 06 (1989) Joseph Vergottini
- 06 (2010) Kuruvila Nalpathamkalam
- 14 (1999) AlexanderThannikanirappel

#### OBITUARY

##### FR GEORGE AIKARA, S.J.

(04.05.1927 – 02.03.2014)



**Fr George Aikara** went for his eternal reward on 2 March 2014 at the age of 87. His mortal remains were laid to rest in our Christ Hall cemetery the next day after the Eucharistic Service celebrated by the Bishop of Calicut. During the last few months he was hospitalized several

times in near critical conditions. The 67 years he spent as a Jesuit had been very creditable and fulfilling.

Fr George was born in a reputed and prominent family Aikara as 7<sup>th</sup> among 9 children of Mr Zacharia and Mrs Elizabeth. He had 2 religious brothers belonged to the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). He had his primary education in Chennankary and secondary in Leo XIII High School. After finishing his pre-degree Course in St Joseph's College, Tiruchirapally, he joined the Society in 1946. He had his novitiate in Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur (1946-48), Juniorate in Vinayalaya, Bombay (1948-50), Philosophy in S.H. College Shembaganur (1951-54), Regency and studies in M.A. Economics in St Joseph's College, Trichy (1954-57) and Theology in De Nobili College, Pune (1957-61). Fr Aikara was ordained a priest in De Nobili College on 24 March 1960. After his Tertianship at La Providence, Kodaikanal, (1961-62) he pronounced last vows in Christ Hall on 2 February 1963.

Fr George Aikara had been a teacher and treasurer in Loyola College, Trivandrum, for a period of 4 years and later a teacher and principal of St Xavier's College, Trivandrum, for 9 years. In between he spent 2 years in St Joseph's College, Trichy, as lecturer in the College. Fr Aikara Served as Chaplain at Starehe School, Nairobi (1979-86), Assistant Director of San Jose Ice Plant, Neendakara (1986-90), Director of CCCHI, Neendakara (1990-95), Chaplain of St Theresa's Convent, Kenya (1995-2002), Chaplain, Starahe Boys' Centre, Nairobi (2002-03) and Spiritual director In Divine Union Vocational Seminary, Mulayam, Trichur (2005-08). Since 2008 he was taking rest In Christ Hall, Calicut.

Fr Aikara was a towering personality. He left an indelible impression on all those he came in contact with: students, teachers, coworkers, parents and fellow Jesuits. People remembered him because

he was a loving and lovable person. His pleasing personality with warmth, affability and joviality won him so many prominent students who played important roles in the civil society. Occasionally he could get impatient and shout at people; but people forgave him because there was no malice in him. As principal of St Xavier's Junior College, Fr Aikara did yeomen service to the college. The college was in its infant stage, after it was shifted from the Loyola campus. The infra-structure was still rudimentary and incomplete. Literally he had to borrow money to make the payments and to run the college till Direct Payment of the salary of the staff was started by the government. The atmosphere in the campus was very turbulent with a plethora of student unions, strikes and agitations. But in spite of all this he not only remained calm but inspire confidence in the fellow Jesuits and staff.

Fr Aikara was born optimist. He could see the silver lining in the darkest cloud. His confidence was such he could instill it in all those who worked with him. He was never defeated or crest fallen. When everyone was in despair, he radiated hope and the promise of a bright future. He remained like an unshakeable pillar against which others could lean on. Like the phoenix he could rise from his own ashes.

Fr Aikara was a very generous person. Everyone could approach him at any time. There was no formality. His greatness was that he could sympathize with anyone who was in difficulty. He went out of his way to help that person.

Above all Fr Aikara was a genuine person. He wanted to do good to others, to be of service to others was his motto. In this there was no hypocrisy or feeling of self-righteousness in him. It was purely the Gospel value of loving your neighbor as yourself.

*Xavier Veliyakam*

**KINDLY PRAY FOR MANY GOOD VOCATIONS**

Please send your news before the first of every month.

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