

## **Rector's Report for 2008**

My Lord Bishop, Distinguished Chief Guest Mr. S. K. Yoganathan, the President of Jaffna National College of Education, Our Guest of Honour, Dr. S. Rajendra, Consultant Surgeon, Professorial Surgical Unit, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, Rev. Fathers, Sisters, the Principals of neighbouring Schools, Old Boys, Parents, Teachers and my dear Students:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you all to the peak event of our college. Your kind presence greatly encourages us to commit ourselves more fully for the cause of education of our children in the midst of great challenges. We are deeply grateful to you for the motivation given to us by your participation.

My Lord Bishop,

We, the Patricians extend to you a filial welcome in our midst. As the Patron and Manager, you take great care in the welfare and growth of this institution. This is a fitting occasion to express our gratitude for your concern and guidance.

Mr. S. K. Yoganathan, Our Distinguished Chief Guest,

It is a great honour to have our Prize Day graced by the President of the Jaffna National College of Education. As Head of an Institution that forms the teachers of the coming generation, you are handling a noble task in a challenging atmosphere. You shoulder a big responsibility of equipping the teachers to be, with necessary skills and competence, in keeping with the current trends in education, inculcating a new outlook towards the teaching profession.

You had your educational foundation at Vigneswara Vidyalayam, Meesalai and Hindu College, Chavakachcheri. You graduated from the Peradeniya University with an Honours Degree in Geography. Later, you obtained the Post-Graduate Diploma in Education and the Master's Degree in Teacher Education from the Open University of Sri Lanka.

After serving as a teacher for eleven years at St. Bernadette Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, Chilaw, you were appointed for another eleven years as the Vice-President of Vavuniya National College of Education. Your vast experience and knowledge in teaching and teacher training enabled you to be appointed as the Second President of the Jaffna National College of Education in 2005. Running a Residential Training Programme for hundreds of adult men and women, is a strenuous task in the present circumstances. Further, your commitment to develop the education of the poor and marginalized children is much to be appreciated.

You also serve at the Sri Lanka National Institute of Education as a Resource Person for Curriculum Development, Planning and Reorganizing the syllabus. We are indeed grateful to you for gracing our Prize Day as the Chief Guest.

Dr. S. Rajendra, our Guest of Honour,

We are indeed very glad to felicitate you, an eminent Old Boy, as the Guest of Honour today. As a Surgeon with special interest in Laparoscopic surgery, you had the pride of performing the first laparoscopic appendicectomy in Jaffna and the first patient was a student of St. Patrick's College.

You entered the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, and passed the 2nd and 3rd MBBS Examination in 2nd Class, obtaining several Distinctions, Memorial Awards and Prizes. At the Final MBBS you secured 2nd Class Upper Division with Distinction in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. You won the Dr. William Paul Award for the best performance in Medicine and the Dr. Nanthi Gold Medal for overall best performance at all examinations in the Medical Course.

You completed the Post-Graduate Medical education at the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo and passed the Master of Surgery degree in 2005. You obtained the distinguished Diploma of Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, from the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 2006.

You made research presentations at the 8th Congress of the Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons in Korea in April 2002; at the International Conference and Annual Scientific Sessions of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka in August 2002; at the International Conference of the SAARC Surgical Care Society in August 2003; and at the Annual Scientific Sessions of the Jaffna Medical Association in 2004. You published articles in several Sri Lankan Medical Journals. Today you are a Consultant Surgeon at the Professorial Surgical Unit at the Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, and Visiting Lecturer of Anatomy, Pathology and Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

We are proud to honour you today as an eminent Patrician Surgeon serving our people in the midst of difficult circumstances.

#### The Tutorial Staff

We had 64 teachers on the Tutorial Staff in 2008, Three with Master's Degree, one in Education, one in Science and the other in English Literature; 23 Graduates of whom 18 have obtained Post-Graduate Diploma in Education; 24 Trained Teachers and 17 with G.C.E. Advanced Level qualification.

Mr. F. Francis, an efficient teacher with Social Studies as his forte, retired after serving his Alma Mater for 29 years. He was a gifted teacher, very clever and successful in delivering his subjects. He took keen interest in each and every student entrusted to his care. He was instrumental in instilling among the students and teachers a sense of belonging to the college, by always reminding them of the rich Patrician heritage. He has served the college in several capacities, namely, the House Master, Asst Scout Master, Moderator of the Social Studies Club, Coordinator of SBA, Subject Coordinator for Social Studies and History, Teacher in Charge of Patrician Heritage Quiz, Moderator of

the Catholic Union, Secretary and Later President of the Teachers' Guild. We thank him for all his services and wish him well

Others who have left us are Mr. S. Jerry Stalin (2 years), Mr. T. Uthayan (2 years) and Rev. Fr. A. B. Vincent OMI (2 years).

Mr. A. S. Nishanthan returned to the College after completing special training in Physical Education at Palaly Teachers' Training College. Miss Queency Pancharasa returned after completing special training in Primary Education at Kopay Teachers' Training College.

#### Silver Jubilee

Mrs. M. J. Jesurasa completed 25 years of service at the college. She is Special Trained in Science. She is well accepted as an efficient teacher of Science and Physical Education. She was felicitated together with her husband on the Teachers' Day.

We thank Miss. Edwina Edward and Miss Rosemary Stanislaus who had been with us during the year for their internship in Teacher Education. They rendered great help in English Language classes and English Medium classes. We express our sincere gratitude to the President, and the Administration of the Jaffna National College of Education for sending Internship Trainees to St Patrick's, thereby enriching the type of education and the learning atmosphere prevailing here.

The following teachers joined the tutorial staff: Mr. Jeyaganesh (for History, Geography and Citizenship Ed ), Miss J. Kathrin (for Primary Education), Rev. Sr. Nivetha (for Primary Education), Miss S. Alrin (for History & Geography), Mr. Anis Thayanthan (for ICT and Science) and Rev. Sr. A Sothinayaki (2009) (for Primary Education). We are pleased to welcome Rev. Frs. S. A. Arudchelvan and T. Judethas (2009) who have joined the Patrician family recently to be involved in Management and teaching career. We wish all of them a long and fruitful career at St. Patrick's.

#### The Teachers Guild

Our thanks are due to the Teachers' Guild and its committee members for the whole-hearted cooperation given to us and for the promotion of staff interest. The services of Mr. P. Jeyakumar, the President and Mr. S. Christyan, the Secretary, are much appreciated in this regard.

#### Auxiliary Staff

Mr. S. E. Fernando, the Chief Clerk, left us after rendering very valuable service for more than 11 years. Mr. Edwin Joseph left us after serving for 4 years. While thanking them for their invaluable service, I deeply appreciate the arduous work carried out by the present members of the Auxiliary Staff, covering very well the void created. Big thanks to all of them for their devotedness.

#### In Memoriam

We record the death of Mr. S. J. Devasahayam in February 2008. He joined the staff in 1955 and taught Tamil and Geography in the secondary level classes for eleven years. He was kind and considerate towards all students. His dedicated service and loyalty to the school will always be remembered.

We are also saddened by the death of Mrs. P.V.T. Antonipillai in Australia. She was a veteran teacher of the English Language. She contributed a lot for the development of the standard of English at the college. She will always be remembered for her high quality of teaching the English Language.

The Patrician family mourned the sudden death of two students, R.P. Niroshan (Gr 9) and his younger brother R. P. Roshan (Gr 6) who were killed together with their parents in their deep sleep in a shell blast on their house.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

#### On Roll and Admission

The number of students on roll in 2008 was 1630, consisting of 418 in the Primary, 403 in the Junior Secondary, 470 in the Senior Secondary and 339 in the Collegiate Section. There were 224 new admissions of which 96 were for Grade One, 75 for Grade Six and the rest for the other classes.

#### Spiritual Life and Atmosphere

##### Catholic Student's Union & Sacred Heart Confraternity

The Catholic Students' Union and the Sacred Heart Confraternity conducted its regular programmes under the guidance of the Priest in charge of liturgy. These associations continue to ensure that a spiritual atmosphere is maintained throughout the day. First Friday mass, Devotions during the months of May, June and October, St. Patrick's Day preparations, the morning assemblies and prayers have contributed to fulfill this need. We are pleased to see the students taking initiative to conduct these services. These associations also help the students to take part in Religious Knowledge examinations and the Bible competitions conducted by the YMCA. We thank Mrs. John Ariyathas and Mr. R. Ramanan for guiding the students in these associations.

##### Studies and Examination Success

At the G.C.E A/L Exam held in August 2008, 139 sat and 103 obtained passes in three subjects and qualified for admission to the University. 91.8 % passed in the Arts stream, 64% passed in the Commerce stream, 78% passed in the Bio Stream and 50% passed in the Maths stream. We congratulate R.Roshan, X. Justin Raj, C. Benet Singer, S.Ajanthan, S. Ferdinand, J. Antonis, A. Nirojith, K.Kabilthas and S. Naresh for obtaining 3As, while S. Ajith, S. Jude Pratheepan, G. Joy Rajman and S.A. Joseph (Bio) got 2AB at the above examination.

At the G.C.E (O/L) Exam held in December 2008, 132 students sat, 101 passed in six or more subjects and qualified for Advanced Level studies.

In Tamil Medium, S. Christy Antogin, B. Jeyathileep and M. Tharshan obtained six Distinctions and E.B. Arun Christy and R. Kethushan got five Distinctions.

#### Bilingual Education

Out of 22 students who sat the G.C.E O/L offering a few subjects in the English medium, 19 got through. S. Chelvanithilan obtained eight Distinctions and a Credit.

#### Adv. Level English Medium

We are pleased to place on record that the Advanced Level English Medium classes Science stream, were formally inaugurated at St. Patrick's in April 2008. There were nine students in the first batch, six offering Physical Science subjects and three offering Bio-Science. Our deep appreciation and gratitude go to the teachers in the English Medium classes for their painstaking effort and outstanding contribution.

At the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination in 2008, 75 students sat and 16 qualified for scholarship. J Paul Jansan obtained 173 marks, becoming First at Jaffna Zonal Level and Third at District Level.

A rare achievement was earned for the college when two Patricians: Sivapalan Chelvaniththilan and Jeganathan Antony Merishan obtained the highest marks at National level at the Australian National Chemistry Quiz (Juniors) conducted by the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon. They were felicitated at an Awarding ceremony held at the Institute of Chemistry in Colombo.

Another singular achievement was gained by Sivapalan Chelvaniththilan by securing a Gold Medal at the Sri Lanka Junior Science Olympiad Competition conducted by the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka and facilitated by the National Science Foundation. The Award Ceremony was held at the BMICH in Colombo. We congratulate him for his extraordinary academic performance.

We congratulate the Gold Medalist for Scholastic Excellence, Sivapalan Chelvaniththilan of Grade Eleven who obtained an average of 85% in each Term Examination.

#### Sports and Games

##### Athletics

The annual Inter-House Athletic Meet was held on the 14th of February 2008. Mr. B. A. Arumainayagam, the Assistant General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon in Northern Province, was the Chief Guest, while Mr. R. A. Thilagaratnam, the Director of Advanced Technological Institute, was the Guest of Honour. It was an incredible moment when twelve new ground records were created by the students one after another. C. Medon Elvis, A. Ajith Darwin, J Eric Prathaap, A. T. A. Nitharshan, C. Jecson and B. Jude Kethishan surprisingly wrought 10 new records in several track events and the two field events. The other two new records were made in the 4x100M Relay by Dunne and Long Houses.

At the Jaffna Divisional Athletic Meet, the Patrician contingent led by B. Kethishan secured 32 first places, 16 second places and 12 third places. At the Zonal Level competitions, our Athletes secured 16 first places, 17 second places and 2 third places. In the District Level Athletic Meet, Our group again secured 14 first places, 4 second places and 2 third places. C. Medon Elvis, J. Eric Prathaap and A.T.A. Nitharshan became individual Champions at the Zonal Level.

In the Provincial Level Competitions C. Medon Elvis and C. Jecson emerged champions, Elvis winning first places in 100M and 200M races and 100M Hurdles, and Jecson securing first places in 100M, 200M and 400M races. B. Kethishan obtained 2nd place in 400M Hurdles and M Miresh got 2nd place in Triple Jump.

Five Athletes qualified to participate in the All-Island Schools National Athletic Meet and C. Jecson was awarded the National Colours in 400M race. In recognition of gaining this rare National Pride for the college after almost five decades, we honour C. Jecson today as the Sports Star 2008 awarding him a Gold Medal.

#### Cricket

The 1st Eleven Cricket team led by A. Marinkumar played 8 matches, won 4, and drew the rest. Our team participated in the Twenty-20 cricket tournament organized by Jaffna College and became the Runners-up. In the Six-a-side Tournament organized by St. John's College, our team became Runners-up. P. Navatheepan and S. Milano Jenifer were in the Under 19 Jaffna Selected Team that participated in a Six-a-side Cricket Tournament organized by the Alumni of Wesley College, Colombo.

The Under 17 team led by P. Navatheepan played 7 limited over (50) matches, and winning all matches, emerged champions in the cricket tournament conducted by Jaffna District Schools Cricket Association. The Best Cricketer of the Year Award was given to M. D. Sajeendran. The above team was selected for the All Island Cricket tournament (Div III) conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association. It defeated Mannar St. Xavier's College and came up to the pre quarter finals where it lost to Bandaranayake Maha Vidyalaya, Veyangoda. M. D. Sajeenthiran, P. Navatheepan, S. Milano Jenifer and M.V. Hamilton were selected for Under17 Jaffna District team

The Under 15 Cricket team led by J. Clington played 10 limited (50) over matches and became Runners-up in the cricket tournament conducted by JDSCA. This team also was selected for the All-Island Cricket tournament (Div III) conducted by SLSCA. It lost to Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya, Trincomalee. A. Gabaskar, A. M. Norbert, and G. Rishanth Tudor were selected for the Under 15 Jaffna District team.

The Under 13 team played 6 matches won 4, lost two. M. D. Kajeenthiran, R. N. Ratnakumar and A. Subanesan were selected for the Under 13 Jaffna District team.

We owe our sincere gratitude to the coaches Mr. A. S. Nishanthan (Under 19 & 15) and Mr. S. Sahayarajah (Under 17) and Mr. B. Kajeetharan (Under 13) for the hours spent in the cricket field, their tireless effort and for all the achievements of the cricketers.

#### Soccer

The 1st Eleven Soccer team captained by S. Milando Christo played 6 matches, won 5 and drew one. This team became the Runners-Up in the Futsal Tournament conducted by Jaffna College.

The 2nd Eleven Soccer Team captained by C. Jecson played 7 matches, won 5 and drew two. This team emerged Champions in the Divisional and Zonal level tournaments conducted by the Education Department.

The 3rd Eleven team led by R. Curious played seven matches, won four, lost two and drew one.

They became 2nd Runners-up in the Divisional Level and then emerged champions at the Zonal Level.

The Under 13 team also entered the tournament, played 3 matches, won one and lost 2.

We thank our Coaches Mr. M. Berty Bannister (Under 19 & 17), Mr. C. Suresh (Under 16), Mr. A. Ajithkumar (Baby XI) and Mr. A. Jenoviraj (Under 13) for their dedicated service to the soccerites.

#### Basketball

The Under 19 team captained by A. Y. Jovanathan, displayed great potential and talents. They became 2nd Runners-up at the tournament conducted by Jaffna Hindu College.

#### Volleyball

In the Inter-House Volleyball competitions, Mathews House emerged Champions.

#### Tennis

With the experience gained from some friendly matches, our Tennis Squad entered the Luther Selvarajah Memorial Tennis Tournament organized by the Staff Tennis Club of Jaffna College. Our students emerged champions in Under 20 Doubles, Under 15 Doubles and Under 15 Singles. They also became Runners-up in Under 20 Singles.

#### Indoor Games

##### Chess

In the Chess tournament conducted by the Department of Education for Grade 5 students, Douglas Charles got the 3rd place. Our chess team participated in the Zonal competitions and the tournament conducted by the Chess Club of Jaffna Hindu College with growing enthusiasm.

#### Table Tennis

Bonjean House emerged champions in the Inter-House Table Tennis competitions. The Under 16 group became Runners-up at the Table Tennis tournament conducted by the Department of Education.

#### Badminton

Mathews House was the Inter-House champions. In a tournament conducted by the Sri Lanka Badminton Association, our players obtained 6 medals, 2 bronze and 4 platinum.

We appreciate the selfless and dedicated services rendered by Mr. S. Sahayarajah, the Prefect of Games, and all other teachers in charge of various sports activities. We thank them for sacrificing their leisure time and spending several hours developing sports skills among the students.

#### Co-curricular activities

##### Board of College Prefects

With M. Komalaraj as the Head Prefect and M.A.Niloshan as the Deputy Head Prefect, the Prefects carried out their duties to the greatest satisfaction of all. While helping to maintain discipline, they contributed to create a friendly atmosphere at the college. We thank them for their loyalty and selfless service to their Alma Mater.

##### Social Service League

To foster among the Patricians, the ever important spirit of service, the League organized various activities. Social Service week, Guest speakers addressing at student assemblies, Shramadana, Visits to homes of differently-abled children, were such programmes. Under the guidance of Mr. S. Christyan, the Teacher in Charge, Antony Shanald, the President and P. G. Shiranjeevi, the Secretary, worked with much enthusiasm to achieve the objective of the league.

##### The English Union

Upholding the standard of English is still our priority. Our students displayed their talents at the English Day competitions conducted by the Department of Education. 14 places at Divisional level, 8 places at Zonal Level, 7 places at District Level and 4 places at the Provincial level were secured by them. In group events, the Primary Drama was placed 1st at Divisional Level and 2nd in Zonal Level while the Senior Poetic Drama was placed 2nd in the Divisional Level.

S. Shelan of Grade 7 was awarded a cash prize and a certificate for his best performance at the spelling competition conducted by the Teachers' College, Palaly.

The English Day was celebrated at the college on the 19th of June 2008. Rev. Fr. R. E. Jeyaceelan, Visiting Lecturer at the Department of English, University of Jaffna, graced the function as the Chief Guest.

Under the advice and direction of Mrs. C. Y. Ramakrishnan, the Moderator, J. Jananthraj, the President and M Komalaraj, the Secretary made the English Union function smoothly.

### Thaninayagam Muththamil Mantram

With E. Robert Jenin as President and S Jenan as Secretary, the Muththamil Mantram under the direction of the Moderator, Mrs. J. George, organized various activities and also helped the students to participate in competitions outside the school. Rev. Fr. N. Maria Xavier, the Founder-Director of Thiru Marai Kala Mantram, was the Chief Guest. He was felicitated by the College for his unique contribution to performing arts, religion and culture. Students participated in different competitions conducted by Education Department and Divisional Secretariat, and received certificates.

A book launching ceremony was held under the patronage of the Mantram where Mr. J. Ignatius, our teacher for Drama & Theatre, released the book 'Arangial Pettaham'.

### Scouts and Cub Scouts

The Scouts, under the direction of Mr. D.C.C. Santhiapillai, and Cub Scouts under Mrs Suganthy Ratnakumar, do their regular activities with much enthusiasm. They render their services at all college functions and elsewhere. They participated in Baden Powell Remembrance Day celebrations. Mr. D.C.C. Santhiapillai was appointed Asst District Commissioner of the Scout Association. M. Antonraj won the President's Award. G. M. Princely and Devathasan Vinoth obtained the Chief Commissioner's Award.

### Interact Club

This is a very vibrant and active club in the college. It organized the Blood Donation programme as a mega-project and brought the college, the honour of becoming the school with the largest number of Blood Donors at National Level. The club also undertook Tree Planting Project commemorating teachers' birthdays. Taking up small repairs and painting work, maintaining cycle parks on various occasions controlling students' traffic movements are some of the other remarkable activities accomplished by them. We deeply appreciate the valuable guidance given by Mr. V.K. Raveeharan, the Teacher in Charge.

### Parents' Day

The Parents' Day of the Primary Section was held on 18th of October. Rev. Fr. Paul Natchethiram OMI, the Provincial Superior of the Oblates, was the Chief Guest. It is an occasion to bring out the hidden talents of the children. We thank Mrs. Angela Alphonsus, the Prefect of Studies of the Primary Section, and all other Primary teachers for their hard work in fostering the personality development of the children.

### Commerce Students' Union

This Union also organized its activities very successfully. A seminar was organized on Cheque Clearance, where Mr. Srinivasan, the General Manager of Lanka Clear House, was the Guest Speaker. The annual Magazine 'Theral 5' was published on 15th October. Mr. N. Vanniasingam, the Principal of Vaitheeswara College, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The members went on an educational Field Trip on 8th November visiting

places of historic and educational interest. Mr. V.K. Raveeharan, the Moderator of the union is to be commended for his keen interest in the welfare of the Union.

#### Young Patricians Inventors' Club

This was inaugurated in 2008 with fifty members. The objective is to instill an interest for scientific knowledge and thereby promote creativity and innovation among the students. Students participated at District Level exhibit competition. M. Antonraj obtained a silver medal. S. A. Sheron and S. Renukanth received merit certificates. Mr. C.A. Thayaparan, the Moderator, with his dynamic guidance and initiative, continues to direct the students for higher achievements.

#### Advanced Level Union

The members benefited from a Physics seminar conducted by Dr. J. C. Nihal Rajendra on 25th May 2008. The Annual get-together and lunch was held 10th May. Dr. N. Sivayogan, Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Jaffna, and Mrs Thuseeta Sivayogan graced the occasion as Chief Guests. Under the advice of Mr. P.A.A. Benchalow, its Moderator, J.J. Ravindran, the President, and S.A. Joseph, the Secretary conducted the usual round of activities and meetings for the year.

#### IT Club

Members took part in seminars and quiz programmes with much interest. 127 students and 17 teachers participated in the software competition conducted by the Provincial Department of Education. J.P. Thanushan was selected for his software presentation.

#### Red Cross Society

This was newly established in 2008. There are 60 members in it. Prof V.K. Ganeshalingam, the President of Jaffna SLRC, addressed the members on 'Voluntary Service'. The members joined the rally that was organised to commemorate the Red Cross Society Day. The members participated in the Art Competition conducted by the SLRC and obtained prizes.

#### The College Hostel

There were 68 students in the Hostel. With a regular timetable and personal guidance, hostel life is oriented towards self-formation. Special tuition classes, General Knowledge competitions, informal gatherings and picnics were arranged to enhance interpersonal relationship and develop every aspect of the students' personality. I thank Fr. Mahan Aloysius, the Warden of the Hostel, for shouldering this demanding responsibility in addition to his work at school.

#### Acknowledgements

It is my bounden duty to thank all those who helped us for the welfare and growth of the college last year. Our Alumni Associations, in Jaffna, in Colombo and overseas, namely, in Great Britain (assisting for Academic Development and Quality Input facilities), in France (to develop the game of Soccer), in Canada (for Athletics and Basketball), Sydney and Melbourne in Australia (for the game of Cricket), and in Norway, offer their generous contributions for the various development needs of the college.

In November 2008, after the devastation of the 'Nisha' cyclone, we appealed to everyone for help to renovate the damaged classrooms and refurbish the school. We thank everyone who has sent in donation. We appreciate very much their concern towards the college.

Besides, there are several individuals who had contributed to the Patrician Perpetual Trust Fund as well as to establish Scholarships.

We are indebted to Mr. G.J. Thanasingam, the Registrar, and the Staff of the Patrician Institutes, for their ever willingness to be at the service of the college in all its needs.

We thank the Director of Caritas-Hudec for continuing to help the maintenance of the students in the hostel.

We thank the Government Agent, Jaffna, and the Department of Education for the World Food Programme providing mid-day meal to the students. They really value this timely assistance as a great motivation for learning.

#### Old Boys' Achievements

##### Episcopal Silver Jubilee

The Patrician family offered its greetings and prayers to His Lordship Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa, on his Episcopal Silver Jubilee on 23 May 2008.

##### Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee

Rev Fr. G. A. Francis Joseph, the former Rector celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Priesthood in Vanni. The Rector, Staff and Students conveyed their felicitations and prayers to him.

The other Golden Jubilarians, Rev. Fr. J. P. E. Selvarajah and Rev. Fr. S. E. N. Gunaseelan were felicitated at the gathering of the Old Boys on St. Patrick's Day.

##### Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee

Rev. Mgr. J. Camillus Nimalan (Rome)

Rev. Fr. M. M. V. Amirthakumar (Canada)

Rev. Fr. M. Thayanathan Patrick (Canada)

Rev. Fr. Roy OMI (Pakistan)

##### Ordained Priests

Rev. Fr. A.V. Sylvesterthas

Rev. Fr. E. Edwinathan

Rev. Fr. A. James Nathan

Rev. Fr. R. G. Vigintus

#### Academic Achievements

Dr. Krishnakumar Chenthan MBBS (Jaffna)  
Dr. Jesuthasan Jansan MBBS (Jaffna)  
Dr. M. Navaneethan MBBS (Jaffna)  
Dr. Boniface Lucksman M.D (Russia)  
Dr. M. Stephen MBBS ( Jaffna)  
Dr. M.Arulchelvan MD (Russia)  
Mr. M. Justin B.Sc Engineering (Peradeniya)  
Mr. M. Anton Niroshan B. Sc Agriculture, (Jaffna)  
Mr. J. Chenthooran B.Sc Agriculture, (Jaffna)  
Mr. Jenio Winston B.Sc Agriculture, (Jaffna)  
Mr. Mathavan B.Sc Agriculture, (Peradeniya)  
Mr. A. E. S. Patrick B.Sc (Hons)  
Mr. Alen Xavier B.Sc. Engineering (Moratuwa)  
Mr. S. H. Hendison B.Sc.Engineering (Moratuwa)

#### Deaths

Rev. Fr. N. Packiaranjith -Died under tragic circumstances  
Rev. Fr. S. F. Kirupananthan  
Dr. Rajah Johnpulle, Medical Practitioner and Former Ambassador to the Soviet Union -  
Died under tragic circumstances  
Mr. Felician Chinniah –Ambassador to Poland

#### Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the socio political scenario in the country changing in a dramatic way, we here, with physical scars and emotional setback of the long term war, we have to rise above the devastated past to face the future with strength and courage. The future of the younger generation will be inevitably linked to proficiency in English and Information Technology. It is a welcome wove that the Government had launched an initiative to promote English as a life skill. A paradigm shift has been envisaged to view English not as a classroom subject, but as a tool of communication.

This, we believe will equip the students with job-oriented spoken/communicative English, rather than a static grammar based knowledge of the language. English teachers have been called to work in new venture, with self confidence and determination to succeed. We hope this will eventually create a new society where better relationships will be fostered among different communities and better quality of life be ensured.

#### In Gratitude

I am indebted so much to many for their wholehearted support for the smooth functioning of the college. I thank the resident priests: Fr. Mahan Aloysius, the Vice-Rector, Fr. Reynold George and Fr. S. Arudchelvan, the Prefects of Studies and Fr. A. P. Thirumahan, the Bursar, for sharing a major part of administration along with their teaching assignment. I thank Mrs. Angela Alphonsus, the Prefect of Studies of the Primary Section, and the other teachers who work with her.

Mr. P. Jeyakumar and Mr. T. Nanthivarman deserve our special gratitude for the arduous task of preparing the list of prize winners. They spent long hours in the office after school to get these finalized with accuracy and precision.

Each one of our teachers and the Auxiliary staff makes a unique contribution to the success of the Patrician endeavour and its achievements. To all of them and to our dear students, I am deeply grateful for their loyalty.

Our special thanks are due to Mr. V.T. Selvaratnam, the Additional Provincial Director of Education, Mrs. A. Vethanayagam, the Zonal Director of Education, Jaffna, The Accountant and all other officials of the Department of Education for their ready assistance at all times.

We owe a word of thanks to the Principals of our friendly schools, our sister school, Holy Family Convent, and to the Principals of the Private Schools with whom we obviously share a common good.

We thank the Parish Priest of the Cathedral for allowing us to use the church for our services and devotions.

May I once again thank our Chief Guest, The President of Jaffna National College of Education, for gracing this function us by his kind presence here today.

We are very grateful to our illustrious Old Boy, Dr. S. Rajendra, the Consultant Surgeon, Teaching Hospital Jaffna, for honouring us by his presence.

We thank you My Lord, Our Chief Pastor, for the encouragement you give and the interest you take in the college.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for encouraging us by your kind presence here today.

Finally, we thank God, our Heavenly Father who has bestowed innumerable blessings on us during this year, through Jesus Christ, his Son, through the intercession of Blessed Mary and our heavenly Patron, St. Patrick.

May God Bless you all!

Rev. Fr. M Jero Selvanayagam  
RECTOR