Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU.

Joyous occasion: Teachers offering a warm reception to newly admitted children

You can read more below about how we started the new academic year in our schools this month. It gave us immense pleasure to welcome all the pupils back into school along with the new ones. They looked a little perplexed and bashful as the teachers welcomed them by offering them roses and chocolates. Let us hope that all our children will get bright futures from these classrooms.

Child Care at our Children’s Villages

More Marriage bells ring in RTU

On 13th June, Mr Selvakumar married Ms Muvina in Kamatchiamman Koil temple in Devethanapatti village. He came to RTU in 1989 when he was four years old as his father was murdered in a quarrel. As the mother abandoned him, his uncle brought him to RTU. He was admitted in our Anbu Illam Children’s Village and studied up to 6th standard in our schools. With the support of RTU, he continued his studies from 7th standard to 10th standard in La Salle Higher Secondary School in Tuticorin and then he completed 12th standard studies in Pattiveeranpatti Higher Secondary School. He then completed a Degree in Mechanical Engineering with our support. Now he works in a private company - Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt Ltd in Kanjipuram - and earns a good income. His relatives arranged this marriage for him. RTU provided the couple with financial help to buy the basic household items for their new family life together. RTU staff members attended this marriage function and wished them a happy married life.

On 14th June, Ms Muthupriya married Mr Muthupandi in the bridegroom’s house at Thirumangalam. She came to RTU when she was just two years old in 2001 along with her elder brother and sister as she lost her mother due to fits. Her father suffered with TB and was unable to care for the three children. The elderly grandmother brought them to RTU and we admitted them in to our Anbu Illam Children’s Village. Muthupriya studied up to 10th standard in RTU’s school. After 10th standard, she underwent a one-year Home Nursing course in the Christian Fellowship Hospital, Ottanchatram. After completing her course, she got a job in this hospital and now she is earning income and supporting her family. With the support of RTU, her elder brother completed his diploma course in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Her elder sister also completed her home nursing course. Muthupriya’s relatives found the groom and arranged the marriage. As always, we at RTU also helped the couple.

Welcoming function!

On 15th June, a welcoming function was organized in Sirumalar Children’s village. All the children, mothers and warden from our children’s villages and hostels participated and gave cultural performances in order to welcome the new children to our care. They shared their joy and love with one another and promised to grow together.
Awesome victory- the scope for exploration is unlimited!

On 23rd June, Michael Boys’ hostel boys attended the District level Silambattam competition held at Theni Allinagaram Government Higher Secondary School and three of our boys won 1st prize, two boys won 2nd prize and three boys won 3rd prize. Dr Rajendran, Dean and Principal of Theni Government Medical College Hospital, Mr Muthuraj, Supernatant of police and Mr Muthuramalingam, Head of Advocate Bar Council, Theni appreciated our boys and presented medals and certificates. This is an awesome win. We congratulate and appreciate all the winners.

Case Study:

Giving hope to hopeless!

Santhosh is an orphan from the rural village of Ramarajapuram in Nilakottai Taluk in Dindigul District. He came to RTU on 1st June as he lost both his parents. His mother died in a fire accident at home in 2009. This fire accident appeared in the newspaper. Unable to bear his loss, the father became very depressed and suffered mental health problems. Later he became very sick and died. After this, Santhosh’s aunty took care of him for two years. As she found it difficult to care for him, she requested the Child Welfare Committee office in Dindigul to support him. They referred him to RTU. Seeing the sad condition of this boy, we admitted him in our Miriam Children’s Village. Now he is staying here and studying 6th standard in St Peter’s Higher Secondary School. He is an active boy and wants to study well. We have provided him all needed things to continue his study. Now he is well-settled and is happy with other children.

Helping hands to helpless children!

Mohan Raj and Bhavana are siblings and come from Trippur, the industrial city of Tamil Nadu. Their father is suffering from TB in his spinal card and has been admitted to Rajaji Government Hospital in Madurai for the last 2 months in a critical condition. As the mother has to be at the hospital to nurse and take care of the father, she is unable to care for her children. She cannot work to earn money to support them, and she is also at risk of developing TB. The family had to vacate their house in order to get treatment in Madurai Government Hospital, and the children’s schooling has suffered. In these circumstances, the mother brought the children to RTU on 6th June. We admitted them in Nirmala Children Village. Now Mohanraj is studying 6th standard and her sister Bhavana is studying 4th standard in Nirmala Middle School. They are in need of hope and help to continue their studies.
Schools and Education

Reopening of RTU schools

On 3rd June, all our balwadies (pre-schools) and schools opened for the new academic year after having a special prayer service in J K Memorial Hall. Our teachers joyfully welcomed all the children with the eyes of hope and a bright future. All the students have received their new textbooks, uniforms and writing materials. There is so much of enthusiasm among the students.

All the class teachers visited their children’s homes to know more about their family circumstances and to get a better understanding of the children.

Leaders of future!

Children are the future leaders of our country. They assume their proper roles in society and take responsibilities for their actions, life, growth and development including that of governance. They learn from life by themselves and advise one another and they themselves begin to find solutions to their problems from their school life. Therefore, RTU’s schools organized the ‘Balarshaba’ Student Parliament along the lines of the Indian General Election in our four schools. The contesting candidates went around canvassing votes by promising effective performance of their duties.

Health care support to our children

A team from Devethanapatti Primary Health Centre organized a free medical camp for a week for all of the children at our three schools at our G.Kallupatti site. 1252 children had medical check-ups and received medicines. The main role of the medical camp intervention was prevention. The team helped our children learn how to reduce or avoid disease transmission, identified and treated chronic illnesses to prevent long-term complications, and immunized them against preventable diseases. Additionally, the children received special attention to increase their awareness and understanding of healthcare. We are grateful to the doctors and nurses who organized this camp.
The children at our Nirmala Middle School over on our Bodi site received medical check-ups from our Pushparani Health Clinic team. In total, 147 school children were checked and the children who had chest problems and other common illnesses were referred for immediate treatment.

**Psychological support**

Fr Sahayaraj and Mrs Christiana gave five days of ‘Healing the Inner Child’ training for class 11 students. Totally 85 students participated and benefited from the classes.

**Celebrating gift of India’s ancient tradition - Yoga**

On 21st June, International Yoga Day was celebrated in St Peter’s Higher Secondary School campus with great enthusiasm. A team from Batlagundu Manavazha Kalaimandram organized this Yoga Day. We see yoga as boundless and instrumental for the harmonious growth and development of our children. In the same way, Nirmala Middle School in Bodi also celebrated International Yoga Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for the academic excellence in our schools and achievements in our programmes. Your endless support keeps us marching forward. We thankfully remember each and every one of you for you hold a special place in our heart.

My heart is as always filled with profound gratitude for you.

May God bless you all!

Yours fraternally

Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.
Secretary.