

## **Triple Celebrations with the Migrant Workers**

The Jesuit Migrants Service functioning in Loyola College organized the Triple Celebrations of International Human Rights Day, International Migrants Day and Christmas with the migrant workers from Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts as they constitute 51% of the migrant population in Tamilnadu.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. So we would like to emphasize to the Migrant Workers and others that "All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights" amidst unequal pay, ill-furnished shelters, unhygienic sanitation, Xenophobia and denied social protection experienced by the large number of migrant workers.

It was a joy in celebrating the contributions, sacrifices of the migrant workers towards the development of the city and the revenue attached to this development and the vitality of the migrant force present in these three districts. It was celebrated on the 18, December but we advanced this celebration for the sake of 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Jesus was born a migrant, homeless and fled to Egypt with his parents as a baby to seek protection from the persecutions of the King. So it is fitting to celebrate the nativity of Jesus with the migrant workers who also experience the same reality as Jesus had experienced as a baby. So the day would be a celebration of joy of life, assertions of rights of being a human person and relishing the contributions to the growth of the nation.

More than 400 migrant workers from Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, UP, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal working in Maraimalainager, Melrosapuram, Tambaram, Guduvancherry, Ambattur, Collector Nager, Mannurpet, Solavaram, Gummidipoondi, Perambur, Porur, Kovur, Ottiyampakkam, Nungambakkam, Santhoshpuraam and Sriperumpudhur joined this triple celebrations of assertions, remembrance and life - International Human Rights Day, International Migrants Day and Christmas.

Chief Guest: Most Rev. Bishop Dr. A. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chengelpet

Date: 09.12.2018

Time: 11 am to 4 pm

Place: St. Joseph's Matriculation School, Maraimalai Nagar