

Memories hidden behind old sepia photographs

October 05, 2019 08:02 pm | Updated 08:02 pm IST - Trichy

An exhibition of old photographs and documents being held at St. Joseph's College promises to rekindle memories of a bygone era related not only to the educational institution, but also to Tiruchi's growth and development. Organised as part of the year-long celebration of the college's 175th anniversary, the event at the Marian Hall will be open to the public till Tuesday. "We have been hosting various programmes through the year to mark this milestone anniversary with our students, alumni, current and former staff. The exhibition is meant for the public to discover the rich legacy of the college's archives, and also its role in nation-building," Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ, Principal, St. Joseph's College, told *The Hindu*.

Culled from old copies of the college's 'Josephite' magazine from 1912 onwards, besides a host of documents and photographs from the Jesuit Archives of the Madurai Province at Shembaganur (Kodaikanal), and contributions from city residents and senior clergymen, the presentation has got nuggets of information on key aspects about the institution that was founded at Nagapattinam in 1844 and then shifted to Tiruchi in 1883 by the Fathers of Society of Jesus (The Jesuits). It was affiliated to the then Madras University in 1866.

"It took us several months to sort through the wealth of material in our hands," said Hermon Carduz, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Excellence, who has curated the exhibition along with Rev. Father John Britto SJ, director, The Rapinat Herbarium and Centre for Molecular Systematics,

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/photo-exhibition/article29604999.ece>



Rev. Dr. S. Aruldoss, Vice-Principal, and student volunteers. "We also had a help-desk to deal with queries from old students or their families, for class photographs ahead of the exhibition," says Mr. Carduz. Thirty rare books dating back to the mid-19th century from the college's library have been put on display in glass cases. The pride of place is held by a copy of the Bible, with a hard-bound leather cover embossed with a Holy Cross, printed in New York in 1885. Being one of the earliest adopters of photography, St. Joseph's College's magazines are a window to notable events, particularly in the city. Pictures of the floods that ravaged Tiruchi in 1924, '60, '66, '68, '77 and 2005 are displayed at the exhibition, showing people rowing themselves out of the deluge on small boats, and staff members drying soaked books on makeshift stands.