



JCSA Kathmandu



Being in Nepal allowed us to view South Asia differently. The introductory talk by Kanak Mani Dixit, the founder of Himal Magazine introduced us to three ideas. One, that India was a bully big-brother as far as Nepalese go; two, that we would be better off if we gave up our attachment to the idea of the 'nation,' and three, worked on a more fragmented idea of a pluralistic SouthAsia (he purposefully joined these two words). Given what is presently happening in Delhi, his critique of the idea of the 'nation' were chillingly prescient. The General's talk segued into this presentation with his idea of 'conversion.' In order to really begin to plan and implement the UAPs, all of us needed to undergo a conversion. The JCSA decided to take up his challenge, and we have planned a joint retreat for our next JCSA. We were aware of our own shortcomings as we entered into a discernment around the next President of the Conference at which point we were joined by all the secretaries. This

discernment was a wonderful prayerful experience for all of us and we are confident that the next Conference President will continue this tradition wherein all our deliberations are necessarily done through spiritual conversations and prayer.

- Arun de Souza

Provincial's schedule – March 2020

13	Province Consult
17-18	Novitiate, Desur
23-26	Vinayalaya visitation
27-29	XLRI, Jamshedpur

You are invited to the following ...

Final Vows of Fr. Andrew Rodrigues: Mass at 11 am on Saturday, 28 March at Holy Spirit Church, Nandakhal, Virar (W) followed by lunch.

Final Vows of Fr. Brian D'Souza: Mass at 8.15 am on Easter Sunday, 12th April at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Ambadi Road, Vasai, followed by lunch. Please inform Brian if you will be present for lunch.

50 years of Priesthood of Fr. Oscar Rozario: Mass at 11 am on Saturday, 14 March at St. Michael Church, Manickpur. Please inform Fr. Ainsley if you will be present for lunch.

Concelebrating priests are requested to bring their own Alb and Stole for all these celebrations.

Dear brothers, as we approach our Province Days in April 2020, we ask for God's guidance and blessings. Below is a 'Prayer for Province Days'. You will receive it via email and Whatsapp. Little prayer cards will also be made for you.
 – Vincent Vaz

Prayer for Province Days

Heavenly Father, we come to you asking for your guidance, wisdom and support as we prepare for our Province Days.

Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect our poor, our creation, our students and youth.

Above all help us to discern what is good for the common good of all peoples. And continue to remind us that all that we do, all that we accomplish is for the pursuit of truth for Your greater glory and the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name, Amen.

Our Lady of the Way, pray for us

Reminder: Province Holidays at St. Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala.

From Monday, 27 April morning
 To Monday, 4 April evening.

Register with Gerard Rodricks



Status – List 1

Ambatha	
Paul Raj	Teacher
Ashagad	
Anthony Toscano	Manager of schools, Legal work at Palghar
Manmad	
Lloyd Sambrya	Teacher
Manor	
Dudley Mendonca	Writing work
Ainsley D’Mello	Socio-pastoral work
Nandurbar	
Maxim D’Mello	Social work
Godfrey D’Lima	Non formal ed, Work with farmers
MPSM, Nashik	
Joel Noronha	Director
Shrine, Nashik	
Thomson Lopes	Pastoral work
Shirpur	
Avinash Dandekar	Socio-pastoral work
Uplat	
Thomas Vaz	English med school Animator of schools
Ambadi Road	
Assis Rodrigues	Asst PP*, assists in vocation promotion
Manickpur	
Florence Fernandes	Treasurer, Asst. PP*
Joe Albuquerque	Asst. PP*
Brian D’Souza	JYMSA coordinator, helps in the parish

*subject to appointment by the local Bishop

Summer Vacation Camps at St. Stanislaus Villa - the 'Villa in the Woods'

Option I

Catholic 'Family' Holiday Camp

Camp 1 – Wed 06 May to Sun 10 May

Camp 3 - Wed 20 May to Sun 24 May

Camp 4 - Wed 27 May to Sun 31 May

Option II: Camp 2

'Seniors' Holiday Camp:

Wed 13 May to Sun 17 May

Option III: Camp 5

SVP Catholic Family Camp:

Wed 03 June to Sun 07 June

Introducing ,this year an 'Absolutely free' Family Camp for Poor SVP Catholic families. We request any SVP Group to recommend families for this camp.

For all the above camps there is a bus available for those interested.

For Details

Visit www.stanislausvillalonavala.in (or) get in touch with St Stanislaus Villa Booking Office, St Peter's Church, Hill Rd, Bandra. Tel: 961 962 9652;

Vinayalaya: a green and graceful home

"Knock, Knock," says a gall-fly that has just landed on a ridge gourd. "Mama, this vegetable is yummy and juicy", replies a little worm that is eating its way through the tender gourd. You then hear a conversation among the butterflies who now flutter around the flowers at Vinayalaya. "Hey, how's the breakfast?" asks a tailed jay butterfly. "This is the sweetest nectar I have had in Mumbai," replied a plain tiger butterfly as she gently sipped from an Ixora flower. Meanwhile a fruit fly comes from the basement with

some hot headlines. "The tomato plants have started blooming. I just tasted the first bloom. It's tangy and perfect. I am so grateful for this oasis in this vast concrete jungle of Mumbai. It's peaceful, serene, green! We can eat and drink without choking on poisonous chemicals." "Yes indeed, Vinayalaya is such a blessing", replied a common crow butterfly.



Well, these are some of the conversations you are sure to hear if you visit the Vinayalaya butterfly garden and the kitchen garden that is flourishing in shades of green, yellow, orange, etc. But you need to come along with a silent heart that can listen to these whispers of nature. Don't be surprised if time simply flies while you stand admiring the Sweet Williams, the Petunias, the varieties of Coleus, the Celosias - all of which never cease to charm. The land below that was a dumping ground for garden waste has been transformed into a kitchen garden. Vegetables like bitter gourd, ridge gourd, tomato, coriander, cabbage and brinjal are being grown in this rich soil.

We undertook this venture out of the sheer love for it ... Just to be in touch with nature... and to give our flying and wriggling siblings a home to call their own.

- **Seby Varghese**

Community Picnic of St. Peter's Jesuits



"It is good to be here" was the sentiment of all ten members of the St. Peter's Jesuit Community who took leave from their busy schedules in Church and School to spend quality time together at St. Xavier's Villa, Khandala. Each one accepted responsibility for some item of the programme and the child-like enthusiasm of the young and not-so-young members of the Community was a refreshing experience. We were welcomed to a High Tea at our own St. Stanislaus' Villa (seen in the photo). After the visit to Arrupe Nivas, Mazagaon, this was our second Community venture this year. We are now geared up to join the Parish Pilgrimage to the Mount and to participate in the Jesuit Mission during the Lenten season.

- **Tony V. D'Souza**

Strengthening our Education Network

An informative seminar was conducted for all the school leaders of Jesuit schools of Bombay Province on 11th January with Fr. Norbert Menezes S.J as the resource person. The focus of the seminar was on how to navigate our school through the digitalized, fast moving world of today. It was emphasized that one needs to align the vision, the mission and the climate to the core ideologies and pedagogy of the Jesuit legacy.

An international colloquium in 2012 fostered a global network which involves twining among Jesuit institutions. Emphasis was placed on the 4 C's: Competence, compassion, conscience and commitment. In 2017, education delegates from around the world came together in Rio de Janeiro. It was during this gathering that Father General Arturo Sosa put out a challenging invitation to act as a universal body with a universal mission. The Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Jesuits offer a framework for understanding this mission.

At this seminar we were also introduced to the new Jesuit document 'Global identifiers of Jesuit schools: A living tradition in the 21st Century'. We then discussed how to take forward the UAPs in our schools. The day concluded with a vote of thanks to the resource person and to Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy for organizing this seminar and giving direction to Jesuit education in Bombay Province.

- **Staff members**

MISSION TRIP TO SHILONDA!

"And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in the magic of love and innocence will never find it."

The Youth of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Ambadi went for a mission trip to Shilonda, Talasari. We were 35 Youth along with Fr. Brian and Sr. Sumitra. We stayed with the Holy Cross Sisters and the children for two and a half days. The journey to *Shilonda* was tiring but on reaching there, when we saw the bright faces of the children all our tiredness vanished. That evening we interacted with the children and then practiced hymns for the wedding mass which was to be held the next day. The Sister in charge gave us some insight about the work done by them, how the mission started, how they manage the children, etc.

The next day was very interesting because we got to learn so much about the people and their customs. The wedding mass was celebrated in Marathi. After the mass, we had the privilege to participate in their traditional dance. The children at the ashram taught us the dance before we went for the village celebration. The food was exquisite and we enjoyed sitting with the villagers and relishing the meal.



This wedding taught us a lot about the *Warli* culture. The next day spent with the children was a blissful experience. Each minute spent with them was heavenly. These children were not only innocent and curious but also optimistic and joyful. The lesson that has been deeply rooted in our lives now is that we take many things for granted – education, food, clothes etc. Indeed there are many beautiful things to thank the Lord for, but we act greedy instead. These children showed us the true meaning of happiness. The 2 days spent with them felt like a lifetime because they showed us a new way of looking at life.

Abigail D'Souza, St. Ignatius parish

Rejuvenating Resurrection at Manor

Zuran Lopes, together with a group of 15 youthful dancers from Manickpur, conducted a two hour programme for the mission feast at Shanti Seva Ashram, Manor on Sunday, 2 February 2020.

After the classical Indian welcome dance he gave a soul stirring introduction to the street play on the burning contemporary issue of

“Dissent” that was specially prepared for the anti-CAA Rally held at Vasai on 26 January. It was amazing to witness the dancers led by Jenny, Zuran’s daughter, present a variety of cultural dances from the Rajasthani, Gujarati, Marathi and other folk traditions. They communicated a vigorous energy that was palpably felt by the audience.

While introducing Zuran I mentioned that I had gone to condole with him on hearing that his wife died suddenly after a brief illness. To my amazement he replied that his wife has risen and he goes around spreading the joy of the resurrection through street plays and dance. He then reminded me that he got this brilliant idea from the theology camp we had on the Resurrection about 25 years back!

On 2nd February we shared in the resurrection of his wife who is alive in him, his two daughters and his tiny 4 year old niece. When his niece performed the Lavani, a traditional Maharashtrian dance of beauty, a 4 year old Warli girl in the crowd was following her but doing her own improvised movement blissfully unaware of the rest of us. This was like icing on the cake.

What a refreshing, rejuvenating, resurrection celebration this turned out to be!

- **Prashant Olalekar**

Ite, Inflammate Omnia

We the first year novices were sent for a Social Analysis Experiment conducted by Fr. Tom Chenakala SJ at Nesargi. It felt like we were being sent out like St. Francis Xavier, with the words, ‘Go and set the world on fire!’

At Nesargi, we were introduced to the work of **Jana Jagran Samiti**, an NGO founded by Fr. Joe Chenakala SJ. The Jana Jagran Samiti initially worked for the shepherd community by providing them with mobile veterinary services and education for their children. It has now

branched out into promoting renewable energy, SHG's for women and awareness about government schemes.

We stayed with different families in the villages to experience their life. I stayed with a dalit family and saw first-hand the great struggles they face due to poverty and social stigma. Yet, they provided us with the best they had and exemplified the Indian tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' – a guest is like God. We participated in SHG meetings and learned a lot about women's empowerment.



Our visit to the 'Virakta Mutt' at Deshnur was a unique experience where we attended a Kannada Mass by Fr. Menino. The congregation of about 200 persons consisted of only 12 Christians (out of which 10 were Novices!) and the rest were a mixture of Hindus and Muslims. They attended the Mass with a deep devotion and respect. During consecration, Fr. Menino performed an aarti and the homily was about the social issues. What we experienced was Christianity with its soul and heart rooted in Indian culture and tradition. St. John de Britto & Robert de Nobili would've been proud to see it.

We experienced the struggles and challenges faced by Fr. Tom as he worked hard to change the social and mental stigmas as for example on the issue of using biogas for cooking meals.

This helped us understand the dynamics of the UAPs – walking with the poor in order to empower them. We were inspired by Fr. Tom's methodology and how he has been working for the people by becoming one with them, speaking their language and living like them. We left Nesargi with a firm belief that love and mutual respect can surmount human barriers of language, caste, religion. This experience has challenged us to emulate the example of missionaries like Frs. Tom, Joe and Menino in our own ministries.

Novice Savio Saldanha

FAITH! LOVE! FERVOUR!

At the Shrine Feast in Nashik – Feb 2020

We Juniors at Vinayalaya were eager to visit the holy city of Nashik; a city to which pilgrims flock all through the year. They throng the various temples and yes our very own Shrine of the Infant Jesus. The theme of the Shrine feast this year was "Sacraments: Jesus is Alive".



Crowds from across the country, stalls of religious articles and food, masses in diverse languages ... all this gave us an idea of the fervour and devotion at the Shrine. Even in our busy schedule we were able to spend time in prayer just gazing at the statue of the Infant Jesus. The peace that we experienced explained to us the devotion of the pilgrims who faithfully visit the Shrine every year. Their faith helped us to look inward and to question our own

disposition from time to time, thus deepening our own faith.

We thank Fr Trevor Miranda SJ and the entire community at the Shrine for accommodating us with so much love and for giving us an opportunity to experience first-hand the “**Faith, Love & Fervour**” of the people. May the Infant Jesus always bless us!

Joshua D’Souza & Seby Varghese

Jai Yesu – a greeting from Delhi

It’s been a long time since we sent you news from Vidyajyoti. The four of us have enjoyed good health despite the bad weather conditions in November-December. The year has been full of intellectual depth accompanied by a thirst for social action. I had posted on the whatsapp group some photos where VJ students were actively involved in the Mandi House protest against CAA, NRC and stood in solidarity with JNU students who faced violence on their campus. The year 2020 has been grace-filled with important responsibilities and initiatives as Wesley took over as Beadle, Vivian Lopes as kitchen coordinator and Joy as store in-charge.



Along with three other scholastics, I have started staying out in the slums, an immersion experience of three months. This is a quest to understand the daily struggles of people and

comprehend theologically the role of ordinary people in God’s plan of salvation. We hope to experience the working of the Spirit and the meaning of the Kingdom of God seen through the lens of people in the slum. Our decision to stay out was the fruit of a process of discernment over several months. The journey has begun well. Once a week we have theological reflections guided by a professor from VJ. Besides our regular ministry, we go to the neighbouring slum to teach the children and interact with the people there. There are many more things we plan to do if that fits into the plan of God. We request your prayers and constant support.

- **Wellington Patil**

Ecology Network



The four PDDs of West Zone organized a workshop on Ecology at Nadiad, Gujarat from 21-23 February. Through the Ignatian path of discussion, reflection, silence and discerning, we arrived at a better understanding of where we are called to be. Sensing the urgent need to protect and promote the environment, the group plunged into sharing concerns and possibilities of work. It was an exercise of the heart and the head, spread over two and a half days, wherein we worked in collaboration and drew deeply from each other’s well. The workshop began by asking us to look at where we are as a province at present. It ended with asking us to outline

how we can implement ecological actions and projects in our own provinces as well as in the west zone.

The rich Ignatian method of spiritual conversation was employed to reach the vantage point from where we felt sufficiently energized for this particular mission. Learning from the wisdom of the past, each province drew a roadmap of doable and achievable targets for the year. Our Provincial, Fr. Arun was present for the workshop along with the Provincials of Gujarat, Goa and Pune. All of us have come away energized and eager to do our bit to care for our common home.

- **Caesar Faroz**

Ignatian Workshop for Teachers

The Jesuit Education Board organized a workshop at Vinayalaya on 1st February. About 60 teachers participated in this workshop which was specially designed for the teachers of different faiths.

In the first session Fr. Charles Rodrigues beautifully explained the history of St. Ignatius and his great mission. Later he focused on the need of a goal and a purpose in our life. Fr. John Cyriac explained about our surroundings and how we ignore the beauty of nature in this materialistic world. It was great to know about the Jesuits and the extraordinary works they do in different fields of life. At the end Fr. Luke Rodrigues got us involved in an ecological activity which was a practical learning experience for us.

I truly appreciate this move of the Jesuits to provide us with such a platform to know them better. It is worth mentioning that our Jesuits are very liberal and strive to create harmony among people of different faiths.

Such seminars help us realize the crucial role of value based education and the importance of spirituality.

After this workshop, I carry within me a strong sense of pride and belongingness to my school, knowing that we are carrying forward the legacy of our founder St. Ignatius of Loyola and our Patron St. Francis Xavier. We thank Fr. Swamy the coordinator of the Jesuit Education Board for organizing this workshop for us.

- **Mr. Mukhtar Khan**

St. Xavier Boys' Academy

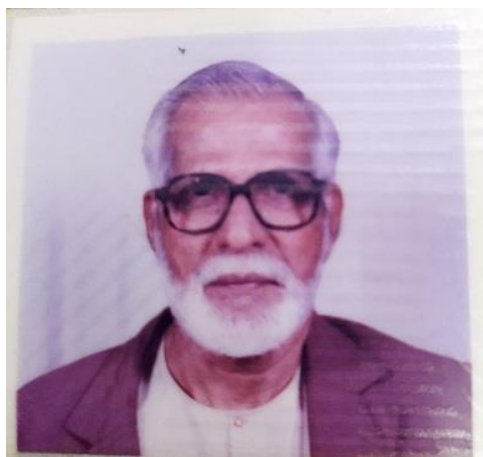
In Christ's Peace

+ **Fr. Edwin Rasquinha (BOM), 91/60**, passed away at Mumbai on 20 February

+ **Br. Thomas Rama (KAR), 69/41**, passed away at Bengaluru on 1st February

+ **Br. Joseph C. K. (PAT), 81/58**, passed away at Patna on 7 February

Edwin Rasquinha, SJ (04 May 1928 – 20 Feb 2020)



We are in the midst of the celebration of the death of Father Edwin Rasquinha. Our purpose is to pay our respects, to pray for and show our gratitude to Fr. Edwin. And this is what we are celebrating, even joyfully.

I will speak mainly from my heart, and I will do it of a man who had a big heart. My experience of Edwin was mainly of the years when he was Provincial of Bombay and I was his Socius. For reasons known only to God he proposed me to Fr. General although we hardly knew each other. However, during our years at the Provincial Curia in St. Xavier's High School Dhobi Talao, we got to know each other intimately, and I learned to admire and love him much; and more than once also to fear him a little.

Edwin was a pakka Jesuit, from head to toe; his heart belonged to the Society. The eighties were a tough time for the Society, and I lived that time very close to my Provincial. Those were years of initiatives and experiments, some of them risky; also years of joy and pain; at times much pain. The relationships in Rome between the Church and the Society had become strained, even stormy. We all know that and there is no one to blame here; on the one side John Paul II, now declared a saint, a determined leader of the universal Church and the supreme head of the Society; on the other, Pedro Arrupe, also a saint in his own way, a mystic and a visionary. The two men had their differences, and Father Rasquinha was caught in a double fidelity. God alone knows how much he suffered. That was a time when many of us learned a fantastic lesson of how the Society of Jesus, being at the frontline of the Church, has to move forward, under the holy mother the hierarchical Church, under and with the Roman Pontiff.

Edwin had the many qualities needed in one who has to lead in difficult times. Of course Edwin was subject to his own limitations, and I thank God for having witnessed how he combined these qualities and limitations - a task not always easy, at times simply not possible. I remember how he called me on one occasion with a poignant question: "What do you feel and what do I say to the Province in the present situation?" My first answer was polite, but certainly not to his liking. I must have replied that "if the Church wants something, we have

to do it, even if hard". I remember that he thundered back: "This is what you and I say in public: but right here what do you feel and think?" I had to be honest and almost crying replied "They have touched our General, the apple of the eye of our Society, something most dear to us". I still see his eyes shining with relief. He replied, "This is what I want to hear from you; now we can go and preach obedience, and all this".

When working with Edwin there was never an idle moment. I recall his honesty, mainly his honesty, his trust in persons and his demands too, his deep humility and also the occasional manifestations of the harshness of his character. I will mention one incident as testimony of his great personality. He usually passed on to me the drafts of his letters, with the request to soften some of his expressions. I knew how he wanted me to combine more palatable language with accurate fidelity to his thoughts. He once gave me a draft and asked me to have that letter typed without telling me to revise it. As always, I modified a couple of words. He disliked that and admonished me, "You correct my letters when I ask you to do it. If I don't say that, don't correct them!" A man consistent to the very end.

When he entered into the twilight of his life, his good qualities became more visible, especially his tenderness. After his provincialship our meetings were sincere as always and our friendship increased. His time in the infirmary has been an example of a genuine Jesuit, even to those of you who did not experience those years when he was 'A lion of Judah.'

In his first encounter today face to face with God, I am sure that the good Jesus has embraced him saying: "I was waiting for you, Edwin. The Society of Jesus, my Society, has always been the passion of your life." I can imagine that Fr. Rasquinha agreed, and just before entering heaven signed the final document of his identity: Edwin Rasquinha S.J.

- **J.M. Feliu**

A tribute to Edwin Rasquinha

In distant times when storms blew hard
With clashes of new dreams and old
Edwin was called to steer the bark
Some stayed along some left the fold

He held on firm the reins of change
To take our ventures further on
He sensed we may not make the day
But didn't accept that hope was gone

The schools for rural children grew
Our missions pushed for fresh ideas
Apostolates were stirred anew
The past would not impose its fears

There's more of Edwin to recall
(The same we'd say of every life)
But this we know he did his best
To bring Christ's witness through the strife

And now with Heaven's company
May Edwin cheer for all who try
To make the Gospel come alive
Answering every human cry.

- **Godfrey D'Lima**

Excerpts from the Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2020

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our

need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

