



Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 681

February 2020

2020/02

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

Fr. José Domingo Cuesta (56) as the new Provincial of the Central America Province

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February 2020

02-04 : Visitation, Chamrusai
05 : Archdiocese Consult
08-09 : Visitation, Ahmedabad
09-11 : Visitation, DNC Pune
13-14 : Province Consult
15 : Meeting of Superiors, Director of works, Commission Convergences
22-28 : JCSA Meeting, Godavari, Nepal

March 2020

01-03 : Visitation, Vidyajyoti, Delhi
04-05 : Visitation, Satya Nilayam, Chennai

April 2020

01-05 : Visitation, Dhyan Ashram
08-10 : Visitation, Arunoday

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting of Superiors, Director of works, Commission Convergences will be held on 15th February, 2020 at Kolkata, St. Xavier's School Hall from 9 a.m..

Young Priests Meet at Parasmani, Santiniketan



Ten Young Priests gathered at Santiniketan on November 29 - 30 for sharing and enriching one another's life. **Fr. Sunny** welcomed the fathers and presented the purpose of coming together as young priests. His presence was motivating. The Young Jesuits coming from ten different mission places with countless experiences had plenty to share - all their joys, sorrows and challenges. The sharing was inspiring. After listening to each person, the Coordinator **Fr. Anburaj** prayed for that person and his mission. Clarifications, additions and suggestions enhanced everyone while sharing.

Fr. Sunny requested Fr. Anburaj to arrange for a resource person during the next session to enlighten the Young Priests on legal issues to deal with the present scenario in our country. Everyone was blessed by the new priest, **Fr. Anmol Minj** who celebrated Mass for us, shared his journey to the altar and also his unforgettable memories at the time of ordination. **Fr. Shyamal** gave his best by arranging a comfortable stay and delicious food in spite of his busy schedule with his doctoral studies.

-Fr. Arun Lucas

Urgent and Important Request from Fr. General's Curia:

1. Publication by Jesuits: Two copies of every book published send to the Socius
2. Check your names in the Province Catalogue: any correction or modification with document to support to be given to the Socius with three copies
3. Updating the Personal section of the database: to register follow the steps:
 Go to <https://sjcuria.global/> or <https://jesuits.global/> Click on the tab 'Ad usum nostrorum' -follow instructions
 You can update your profile under the tabs 3, 4, 5 and 6. A recent photograph also can be inserted.

(only Socius updates tabs 1 and 2)

CALCUTTA JESUITS : NEWS AND VIEWS

Arunoday, Prenovitiate

On January 1, all the religious communities in Barasat congregated in the FC novitiate to celebrate the New Year. On that day, our Pre-Novices had a friendly basketball match with the minor Seminary Brothers. On January 2, normal classes for the Pre-Novices resumed after a short Christmas holiday. Sr. Flora, FC took classes on "Religious Life". On January 12, Fr. K.T. Thomas returned to Arunoday after his home visit. The festival of "Pongal" was celebrated on January 14. Sr. Lucy Besra, Helper Sister, came to motivate the Pre-Novices by sharing her vocation story. This was an enriching session for all us. On January 25, **Sch. Oscar Daniel Raj** preached a day of recollection. **Fr. Sajeev Painunkal** taught a course on Affective Maturity on January 27 - 29 for the Pre-Novices and the other formees around here.

Michael Murmu, Pre-novice

St. Lawrence High School

On November 22, eighteen students of class XI 'D' and three teachers, went on a Heritage Walk in order to be exposed to the rich heritage of our city Kolkata. Class XI students organized a farewell program for the class XII students on December 6. They watched the program cheerfully, reminiscing their golden days at the school. The Secretary of SLOBA warmly welcomed the class XII students to SLOBA.

On December 7, 2019 ten students of class XI 'D' and Ms. Susmita Banerjee visited Shantiniketan. The team was put up at the Jesuit Residence "Parasmoni". The field work was in the village called Surul. Seventeen others and three teachers visited the Kidderpore Dock on December 13. They were shown the frontline warship of the Eastern Naval Command, INS Kirpan. On December 13, a Science Exhibition was held. Students put up very innovative models. On December 19-20, the Opus fest – interschool competitions – was held in which nine schools participated. St. Lawrence emerged as the overall winner.

The Annual Day was held on December 21, 2019. The children of the primary section truly took us to a wonderland through their enthralling performance of the play "Alice in Wonderland". The program ended with Christmas carols by the teachers and students.

A rock climbing course at Bansa Hills (Purulia) was held on December 23 - 28. Twenty students from class 11 with two teachers went for the course under the guidance of Tarit Memorial Mountaineering and Trekking Association (TMMTA). Our students got the chance to learn about various mountaineering activities, mountain climbing skill, the art of self-survival, etc. and had to appear for an exam for the same.



It certainly challenged their strength, endurance and mental control.

On January 11, 2020, a Staff Orientation was conducted by **Fr. Kennedy, S.J.** of Darjeeling Province. He delved into the idea of 'Cura Personalis'. This deepened our understanding on the essence of being a person oriented teacher.

- Ms Jacinta Sylvia Correa, Assistant Teacher

St. Xavier's Kolkata

School: On January 15, the School organized a farewell program for the class 12 students. It was also the 160th foundation day of the School. The outgoing students expressed their gratitude for the accompaniment of the staff for past thirteen years and the School for imparting quality education. Large number of parents participated in the function. The ALSOC (the old boys' association of the school) formerly welcomed the new comers into its fold.

The 71st Republic Day was celebrated on January 26. **Fr. Jeyaraj Velusamy**, the New Rector, exhorted the audience and students to emulate the patriotism of our freedom fighters. **Fr. Maria Joseph S**, the new Secretary of the School Managing Committee, was introduced and felicitated. **Fr. Thamacin**, the Principal thanked **Fr. Dominic Savio** for his guidance for the past six years. The evening school and Junior class students staged a patriotic dance and song. The investiture ceremony for the newly elected office bearers marked the celebration.

College: The Alumni Association of St. Xavier's College hosted jointly with the Calcutta Debating Society an International Debate on January 8. The motion was 'The House Believes that Climate Change is a Problem of Wealthy Nations.' Eight prominent Universities including St. Xavier's College participated. After a heated debate, the house voted against the motion. The debaters were felicitated by the Principal, **Fr. Dominic Savio**.



The Students' Council of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata organized 'Xavotsav', the annual national level cultural fest on January 22-24. More than 35 colleges participated in the fest. There were a variety of events such as treasure hunts, music shows, concerts and dance performances. The winning participants were awarded on the final day of the fest. The proceeds from the fest will go for the social and philanthropic activities undertaken by the Students' Council.

The annual fund raising event of the College Alumni, the

twentieth Chapter of 'Beyond Barriers', was held on January 26. Popular Bollywood singers and music directors, Vishal and Shkhehar staged a live concert on the College ground. The Alumni members handed over the proceeds from the concert for the developmental work of St. Xavier's College, Rahgapur Campus.

Fr. M.S. Arockiasamy

St. Xavier's University Kolkata: (SXUK)

Students from the Department of Social Work conducted their Annual Rural Camp in Odisha to understand how the mining industry affects the local population. The University Gym was inaugurated on January 6, with a blessing ceremony by **Fr. Arul Raj** in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Officers, Teachers and Staff members of SXUK. Thanks to **Fr. Arulappan** who coordinated the setting-up of the centre.

Fr. Felix Raj was the keynote speaker at the 98th Annual Conference of All India Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in Kolkata on January 4. He addressed on "Anglo Indian Education - Innovates, Integrates and Inspires". Fr. Felix Raj was



felicitated by the Indian Society of Training and Development (ISTD) on January 10 for his significant contribution in the field of education and community development at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre during its two day seminar on "Empowering the Workforce in the Digital Transformation Era." He was honoured with Xavier Ratna Award by the Xavier Institute of Engineering, Mumbai on January 11, 2020 at its 11th Convocation for his distinguished contribution to higher education.

The Alumni Association of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUKAA) has been officially registered with the Registrar of Societies. SXUKAA has also become a member of the Federation of Jesuit Alumni Association of India (FOJAAI) and as such also of World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA). The 9th National JAAI congress was held at St. Joseph's College, Trichy. Around 630 delegates attended the Congress. Fr. Felix Raj addressed the Congress on Jesuit Education and Networking.

The Annual University Sports Day was held on January 25. Shri Laxmi Narayan Meena, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bidhannagar graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Republic Day was celebrated on January 26 with flag hoisting by Dr. Shashi Panja, Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Department of Women & Child Development and Social Welfare. She also inaugurated the Cycle Rally organized by the Social Work Department and addressed the 350 children at the Shishu Mela on campus.



-Ms. Ruth De Rosario

Dhyan Ashram

Dhyan Ashram community began the New Year with a solemn Eucharist followed by a campus picnic. After the fun filled activities, on the same day, the Juniors began their Triduum under the guidance of **Fr. Anmol Minj**. His inspiring talks and personal sharing helped us to strengthen our commitment to religious life.

From January 6 to 11, we had a course on the Charism of the Society by **Fr. Etienne Degrez**. The course enlightened our minds and hearts and enhanced our knowledge of the history of the Society. Fr Etienne told, "We need to discover the 'living' Charism of the Society, not in books but in our lives."

On January 20, we had an opportunity to join thousands of Christian faithful – belonging to different denominations – in their silent protest against NRC and CAA from St Paul's Cathedral to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

We had a meaningful Republic Day celebration in the campus. Soon after the Eucharist, we had the flag hoisting ceremony. A creative march past was efficiently led by Sch. Dhanaventher Nazareth Raj. Schs Fransis Hansdak and Joanies Malang delivered fiery and inspiring Republic Day speeches in Hindi and English respectively. Sch Roynal Machado was the Master of Ceremony for the occasion. In the midst of our busy schedules, we were also busy with Assistancy story and essay writing competitions.

The Novices are out for their month long hospital and village experiments. The staff members at Dhyan Ashram – besides being busy with taking regular classes – are engaged directing retreats. Fr Sunny George is taking classes in Morning Star Seminary.

-Sch. Jeyasachin Jeyaseelan

St. Xavier's Burdwan

Both the School and College reopened after Christmas vacation on January 3. Classes 10 and 12 had their Rehearsal Examinations in the first and second weeks of January. The other students had their Unit Tests. On January 11, Class 6 students went to a sericulture farm in Bolpur as part of their Chemistry project. On January 17-19, **Fr. Maria Joseph** and two other XAAB (Xavier's Alumni Association, Burdwan) members went to Trichy for JAAI meeting. On January 20, **Fr. T. V. George** went to Kerala for the funeral of Fr. Tom Pullenkav whose sudden demise shocked us. On January 25, the staff members of the school went on a picnic to rejuvenate themselves to Chutti Park, Chandan Nagar. January 26 was an enjoyable day for our XAAB who had a picnic in our school campus along with their family members and remembered and cherished their younger days in the very campus. January 28 was indeed a memorable day for all of us as **Fr. Mourlin Fernando** defended his doctoral dissertation successfully in the Department of Business Administration, Burdwan University under the guidance of Dr. Partha Sarkar. The topic of his dissertation is "An Empirical Study on Strategic Human Resource Development in Select NGOs." **Frs. Paul Arockiam** and Maria Joseph personally witnessed Fr. Mourlin's defense. He defended flawlessly and earned his doctoral degree. Kudos to Fr. Dr. Mourlin Fernando for his feat. On January 31, class 11 students gave a meaningful farewell program for the class 12 students. **Fr. Sahaya Jude** and our three Scholastics took the

AICUF students of the College to Sahanagar for a day of village exposure on January 31. **Sch. Stephen Kisku**, our Regent in the hostel, is after the boys day in and day out in order to prepare them thoroughly for the ISC Examinations.

Fr. Maria Joseph S

Premananda Ashram, Chamrusai

In December, we bade farewell to 178 outgoing students and two senior teachers who retired. The new academic year began on January 06, 2020 with an orientation program for the staff and students given by **Fr. Ajay K. Ekka**. Around 180 new students have been admitted into Class One. The total number of boarders is 625 (Girls -275 and Boys -350). The 71st Republic Day was celebrated in the Ashram with a magnificent drill display and a parade. Mr. Shasibhushan Dey, the headmaster of Kella Pratappur Govt. High School was the Chief Guest and Mr. Gopal Murmu, an ex-army man, Br. Millianus, M.C., Mr. Gourango Mahato, Assist. Teacher, were guests of honor. They advised the children to become good citizens and take the responsibilities faithfully to protect our country where peace and harmony could prevail.

Frs. Peter Durairaj and **Roshan Tirkey**, made a flying visit and encouraged us in our ministries. **Fr. Markus Hembrom**, after his enriching Tertianship, stays with us assisting in the Parish and Boarding School.

-Fr. Sebastian Xalxo

Prabhu Jisur Girja

Community: On January 23, a picnic to Kalahrdaya and Raghampur was organized to share the joy and strengthen our bond with other Jesuits. **Fr. John Rojerse** is on his visit to Tamil Nadu and Kerela for the LTS program while **Fr. Pat Eaten** is helping many people in their spiritual needs. **Fr. Deepak Gomes** conducted recollections for M.C. Sisters of Nimtola, Charismatic Renewal Group at Nitika and Ursuline Franciscan Sisters. **Fr. Cyriac** went to Kerela to attend the funeral of **Fr. Thomas Pullenkav** and expressed our solidarity with his family.



Chitrabani: Bro. Anand, Novice Master of MC Brothers and 8 novices visited Chitrabani. They had a session each with



Fr. Arun Lucas and **Fr. P. J. Joseph**. The M.D Memorial School recorded their play, songs and commentary for their annual day at Chitrabani on January 8. Ritham Roy Chowdry's Short Film-'Dithiyo Odhai' was edited on January 21. Mr. Ashok Pore from Baraipur is our new librarian. Chitrabani has received the NOC from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to conduct Film Festival.

Parish: After three years, Christmas was celebrated in our Church. For the first time, we received help from Calcutta Municipality to light up our Church. Many non-Christians visited the Church. Four youth from Kalna parish came to help out in Christmas decorations; they also put up a beautiful crib which was well appreciated. **Fr. Probal Gomes** was the main celebrant and preached a thought provoking homily.



On December 31, 2019 a thanksgiving Service was organized at 11:30 p.m. Many people had gathered to thank God and welcome the New Year 2020. Fr. John Rojerse was the main celebrant. On January 5, the feast of our Parish was celebrated. **Fr. Xavier Savarimuthu** was the main celebrant who preached an inspiring homily both in Bengali and in English. Scholastics staged two dances and two songs. The guest of honour, Mr. Manzar Iqbal, and other guests were welcomed by the Parish Youth members. The program was concluded with the vote of thanks by the Parish Priest **Fr. Mahananda Singh**.

-Fr. Arun Lucas

St. Xavier's Durgapur

Our School's Annual Day was celebrated on December 18 - 19. The programme was organised in four parts. **Frs. K.K. Devasy, Zenith William**, Roshan Soares (Asansol Diocese) and Sr. Rose Fatima A.C., were the Chief Guests. For teachers and students, it was a new way of experiencing and understanding one another outside the class room.

Annual Sports events were held over a period of two weeks and came to a colourful conclusion on January 25. The winners were awarded with medals and certificates. **Fr. Jimmy Keepuram** and Dr. Sandip Guharoy (Teacher and treasurer), and Subir Kr. Dubey, (Secretary) of the School Alumni Association attended the JAAI National Congress held at St. Joseph's College, Trichy, on January 17 - 19.

Farwell picnic cum excursion for Class Ten students was held on January 23 at St. Xavier's, Burdwan. **Frs. Paul Arockiam**, and **Maria Joseph** addressed the students, **Fr. Mourlin** conducted an online group game involving all teachers and students. Exposure to the School and College at Burdwan and watching of a documentary on Jesuit education widened the students' understanding of Jesuit education.

Staff Picnic was held on December 21 at Tepantor, a theatre artists association campus, on the way to Bolpur.



Fr. M. Thomas Varghese attended the Funeral of **Fr. Thomas Pullenkav** in Kerala on January 22. The birthdays of **Fr. Jacob** and **Thomas Varghese** were celebrated on January 2. The Bankura-Mirga-Jhanti and Gurap communities joined the celebration.

-Fr. Jimmy Keepuram

FR. THOMAS PULLENKAV.S.SJ (29.09.1940 - 20.01.2020)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Tim 4:7-8). These words of St. Paul always found place in Fr. Thomas Pullenkav. He left this earthly world to receive the crown of righteousness from his Master on January 20, 2020. He was born on September 29, 1940 in Manimala, Kerala. After his schooling, he responded with

alacrity to the call of his Master Jesus and travelled to Varanasi in 1957. He was ordained a priest for Varanasi diocese on December 21, 1967. After his ordination, he was entrusted with varieties of ministries. However, he found solace in leading people closer to God by his spiritual guidance. Bishop Patrick D'Souza sent Fr. Thomas for formal studies in Clinical Pastoral Counselling to Berkley, California, USA. After his return in 1982, he was appointed as



the Spiritual director in Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore. This was the turning point in his life where he responded to a vocation within vocation – a call to be a Jesuit. Therefore, he joined the Jesuit Novitiate at Dhyan Ashram on July 1, 1983. He did his Tertianship in Shembaganur in 1989. He pronounced his final vows on August 15, 1995. He served the Calcutta Province in various capacities. He served as the Pre-Noviciate Director, Dhyan Ashram Retreat House Director, and Province Treasurer. He worked tirelessly to make the Province financially stable. After completing his term as the Province Treasurer, he opted for mission work in Kohima Region where he contributed his mite.

I consider it an honour to pay tribute to a person who walked this world meaningfully for 80 years and served the

Lord to the best of his abilities. He lived his life with convictions and values and compromise in any manner was not part of his dictionary. He left no stone unturned to promote sound human and spiritual values.

He had an amazing personality. He may have seemed to be a tough person, however, he was compassionate, lovable, approachable for any help. He was simple, had deep love for Jesus and the Society of Jesus, practised devout spirituality based on abiding love for the Lord and his people. He had a soft corner for the poor. As the Province Treasurer, he had shown much interest in the growth of our mission stations. He was self-disciplined and challenged others when required. As Province treasurer, he was transparent and insisted on financial accountability from everyone. He was a perfectionist. Due to his strict observance of the rules of the Society and Church, he made many people uncomfortable and was misunderstood by a sizable number of people. As I know him well, one thing I can say with conviction that Fr. Thomas loved everyone.

Dare to be different was his motto and he was not afraid of anyone except God. He was a strong personality. He deeply believed that one who does not understand the signs of the time is illiterate. He was an original thinker and extraordinarily brilliant and a good administrator. On the lighter side, he was a good photographer and lover of nature and animals.

Dear Fr. Thomas, we love you and we miss you. Be with your Master whom you loved so passionately and served him tirelessly. May your soul rest in peace!

Fr. T. V. George

NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Testimony of Fr. Franck Janin about the Extended Council of Fr. General

We invited Fr. Franck Janin to share his experience during the week of 7 January at the Extended Council convened by Father General. Here is his testimony:

Once again, at the beginning of the year 2020, and as President of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials, I have been invited to participate in Father General's Extended Council. In my journey as a Jesuit, I consider it an opportunity and a privilege to collaborate in the work done by Father General and all those who assist him in his mission of government.

These meetings provide an opportunity to address the most crucial issues affecting the life of the Society in its universal dimension. Without a doubt, the most outstanding session that I have lived these last three years was the one dedicated to the discernment of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. I was struck by the quality of the process that was followed, rooted in prayer and in an authentic "spiritual conversation" among the members of the Council, seeking to feel and recognize, with finesse and great interior freedom, the action of the Spirit. The practice of discernment in common is now promoted throughout the Society of Jesus. What a consolation to see it rigorously implemented by those who bear such responsibility!

This "way of proceeding", so typically Ignatian and Jesuit,



has its place in each of our meetings. We experienced it again this time when Father General asked us to help him define the mission of the new secretary for the Service of Faith. This is a crucial theme in a world that is becoming more and more multicultural and “multiconvictional”. Likewise when it was a question of opening perspectives in order to improve networking. The Society of Jesus is more and more aware that the great questions that are stirring our societies must be approached from a global perspective. This requires setting up international structures that are challenging in terms of organisation and governance. Of course, there has been an update on the integration and the implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. They question our mission, invite us to conversion and are reference points to help us discern where the Society will best serve. The evocation of regions where Jesuits are present in situations of poverty, war, and religious minority was a moment that touched me greatly. Isn't it in these places of vulnerability that we reach more fully the essence of our vocation?



We also talked about what is being prepared in the different regions of the Society for the Ignatian Year 2021-2022. An important moment with the evocative theme “to see all things new in Christ”.

These Consiglio Allargato are blessed times and they give a taste of the great fraternity that can exist between companions of Jesus harnessed to the same mission.

(Written by sj.curia.global)

Jesuits support Climate change resolution

Jesuits in Britain together with 10 other institutional shareholders have taken formal action at Barclays, asking the bank to phase out its financing of fossil fuel companies that are active agents in driving the climate crisis.

The group of 11 institutional investors which manage over £130 billion includes Brunel Pension Partnership, LGPS Central, Sarasin & Partners and Folksam Investors. Coordinated by the responsible investment charity, ShareAction, they have

filed a shareholder resolution at Barclays alongside over 100 individual shareholders. It will be voted on by investors at Barclays' annual general meeting in May 2020.

This landmark resolution – the first climate change resolution filed at a European bank – requests that Barclays publishes a plan to gradually stop the provision of financial services (including project finance, corporate finance, and underwriting) to companies in the energy sector, and to gas and electric utilities that are not aligned with the goals of the Paris climate agreement.

Stephen Power of the Jesuits in Britain, said: “Climate change is the most pressing challenge the world faces. The Jesuits in Britain support the resolution to align Barclays with other banks taking steps to meet Paris targets, both in response to the increasing scientific evidence that effects of climate change are accelerating and for reasons of sound business sense. The scale of the challenge means large global banks should do all they can to help avert the severe financial risks that could result from a failure to meet the Paris goals.”

Mr Power explained: “The resolution seeks to ensure that major energy sector companies take the Paris targets seriously but also that the finance and banking sector do not allow deviation from them.”

In May 2019 a group of Barclays' investors backed a letter from ShareAction to the bank asking it to stop funding companies involved in coal mining or oil sands exploitation.

The proposal also encourages Barclays to consider the social dimension of the transition to a resilient and low-carbon economy, as per the Paris Agreement. This makes it the first climate change resolution to include a so-called ‘just transition’ ask in its supporting statement. Investors representing more than US \$5 trillion have already expressed support for the just transition.

Given the systemic threats posed by climate change, and the rising regulatory scrutiny of banks' resilience to accelerated decarbonisation and climatic impacts, this resolution supports the long-term economic interest of shareholders.

(Written by Jesuits in Britain)

Rest In Peace

Br. Arockiasamy Sebastian, (MDU, 72/52), passed away on 19. 01. 2020 in Madurai, TN

Fr. Thomas Pullenkav, (CCU, 80/37), passed away on 20.01.2020 in Kerala

Fr. Joachim DMello, (GOA, 68/46), passed away on 21.01.2020 in Guyana.

Fr. Lankapalli Prasad, (AND, 34/53) passed away 27.01.2020 in Papal Seminary, Pune.

Br Thomas Rama, (KAR, 69/41), passed away on 01.02. 2020, Bengaluru



Please send your news before the 25th of every month.

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