



DNC TIMES

OCT | 2021 | VOL III

*Partners in
Mission*

Editor's Desk

The early Jesuits spawned numerous autonomous lay confraternities for spiritual formation and social service. A notable and early example is the House of St. Martha, a pioneering Halfway House for the rehabilitation of prostitutes and battered women in Rome, with its accompanying Confraternity, the Company of Grace. Similarly, early itinerant Jesuit missionaries established lay confraternities to continue the work in the absence of missionaries. We reflect with others, who share the Jesuit vision and mission, the four Universal Apostolic Preferences. We call this a double edge approach **"Partners in Mission"**.

Our entire magazine, DNC TIMES for this Quarter, bears witness to the fact that Jesuits are not lone rangers in Lord's vineyard. Rather they share their mission with lay collaborators. Each page of this magazine speaks of the experiences of the lay collaborators being our "partners in mission". We appreciate their commitment, dedication, accountability and willingness to take forward the mission with vigour and zeal. They are the blessings we receive in part for the life-changing work they do.

It was a year and half ago that the pandemic Covid 19 struck, sparing no one. The Jesuit Provinces created a Covid Task Force and worked for a particular mission - Health Care - during the pandemic. DNC Times, attempts to highlight in more ways than one, the help rendered by the Jesuits and their collaborators. Mission Partners for Christ is helping people in the remote areas.

The goal of the Mission Partners is to serve as many people as possible. Every one of us is gifted in different areas and it is a time to use those talents to empower the poor, downtrodden and marginalized. By becoming partners with the missionaries and organizations we do get down into the ground reality that exists in this suffering world, we make an impact on the people, assuring them we are with them. In and through them we share the love of Jesus.

We are all partners in mission. Supporting missions is a lifelong vocation. Our willingness and availability to build the missions is a reminder to us of Jesus sending out the Apostles, of St Ignatius sending St Francis Xavier to India, among others. The Jesuit mission isn't just to be everywhere but to serve the people and cultures of the world in the spirit of ministry. Ignatius urges that a Jesuit is called to travel through the world, to live in any part of it, where there is hope for the greater glory of God and the help of souls.

Father Kolvenbach, in his address at Creighton University in 2004, re-affirms GC34's commitment: *"We Jesuits need to be not only friends and companions of the Lord and each other, we must be friends and companions of our partners in mission. This reciprocity of personal presence is central to our identity as Jesuits"*.

HAPPY READING,
Sch. Royal Saldanha SJ
Editor, DNC Times



In this issue

Partners in Mission



PARTNERS IN MISSION	<i>by Sch. Nirmal</i>	4
NOT A WORKER, BUT A COLLABORATOR	<i>by Mr. Ladasa Nadaf</i>	6
AN ART	<i>by Sch. Yakub</i>	7
TAKE ALL, LORD	<i>by Mr. Valan</i>	8
YOU ARE THE SHEPHERD	<i>by Sch. Sumit</i>	10
PARTNERS IN GOD'S MISSION	<i>by Sch. Bhadagi</i>	11
JESUITNESS (FEATURE)	<i>by Mr. Agnelo</i>	12
LAITY-JESUITS COLLABORATION	<i>by Mrs. Tanushree</i>	14
KOINONIA	<i>by Sch. Vivian</i>	16
MARCHING TOGETHER WITH HOPE	<i>by Sch. Nelson</i>	18
FARMERS	<i>by Sch. Joseph Alex</i>	19
WITH YOU ALWAYS	<i>by Sch. Cyril</i>	20
COLLABORATION	<i>by Sch. Darmiki</i>	21
SERVICE MINDEDNESS	<i>by Mr. Cyprian</i>	22
COVID TASK FORCE		23

THE
EDITORIAL
BOARD

Royal Saldanha SJ
Ravindar Bara SJ
Allwin Macwan SJ
Arun Prasath SJ
Christy J Peter SJ
Emmanuel Akilan SJ
Markus Murmu SJ
Joshua Kishanth SJ

THANK YOU

FR. FRANCIS PUDHICHERRY SJ, *The Rector*
FR. DOLICHAN KOLLARETH SJ, *The Animator*

Cover page: 'Working Together' art by Anna Godeassi
All other image sources: Google search



Partners in Mission

As Christians, baptized in the name of the Triune God, we all have received a mission that is prophetic, kingly and priestly in character. This mission is handed over to us by God who created us and the universe. The purpose is that we are all created to be with God forever. Therefore, everyone is a partner in God's mission. Jesus has reconciled the entire humanity and we all are sharers in this mission of reconciliation. From the beginning of salvation history, God chooses particular individuals like Abraham and Moses and a particular group like the Israelites in order to make them partners in his mission of salvation. God loves humanity so radically that He decides to come down to live among human community. God chose Mary to be the mother of his son, thus Mary becomes the partner in God's mission. Finally God gives us mission through Jesus and his three years of public ministry serve as a model for carrying out our own mission. Jesus' ministry focused

“Jesus has reconciled the entire humanity and we all are sharers in this mission of reconciliation”

on the realization of God's kingdom among us and all of us are called to continue that same mission. The mission of the Society of Jesus is not different.



AN IGNATIAN VIEW

In the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Principle and Foundation states God as the source and the goal of human life and the whole of creation. In Contemplation to Attain Love, a retreatant encounters the God who is laboring in all things. Therefore, the Society prepares its members to join God in laboring for a world that is tending towards its ultimate meaning and fulfillment. To this mission, Society of Jesus seeks collaborators and partners. All people of good will, men and women, who are ready and willing to serve God in humanity, can join this mission and specifically can join in our various ministries. In becoming partners and collaborators in mission, we along with our lay collaborators, increasingly interiorize the Ignatian values and charism. We are all in the mission of creating a fraternal human society, having one fellowship, sharing in the one table with that love of Christ which binds us all.

Sch. Nirmal Vincent Kullu SJ

*The author is a 3rd Year B.Th.
student at Vidyajyoti, Delhi*





An interview with Mr. Ladasa Nadaf, a lay collaborator at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.
He keeps the campus clean, green and beautiful.

How did you come to know the Jesuits?

What has been your experience of working with the Jesuits?

There was a contractor who carried out construction work on the campus of Vinayalaya. He was approached by the then Rector and was asked to look out for a person who could look after the garden and take care of general maintenance. The contractor approached me and I willingly joined the Institute. Since then, I have been engaged in construction, repairs, garden and laundry work in Vinayalaya. Before joining Vinayalaya, I worked with the same contractor.

I have enjoyed working here. There hasn't been any bitter experience. Of course, we are humans and some small misunderstandings and mistakes do happen. But overall, I have had memorable experiences with various fathers, each good in his own way. And with those who listened to my suggestions, I have had a better bonding.

By the grace of God, I am lucky to work with the Jesuits. Earlier I had a small house in the village. I was a struggler here in Mumbai. But now I have my own house in the city here. I am also happy to work here since I am not treated as a mere worker but as a collaborator. In the



"I had a better bonding with those who listened to me"

“One of the biggest differences that I experience is satisfaction and a sense of belonging that I have here”

past many Rectors and Ministers have come and gone and most have listened to my suggestions and have implemented them with regard to the work that I was entrusted with.

Earlier, I was a construction worker with little income. If I had gone to big construction sites or worked with big companies, perhaps I would have earned more. But I think that it is my fate that I am here at Vinayalaya. One of the biggest differences that I experience is satisfaction and a sense of belonging that I have here. It might have been otherwise if I had chosen another job. If there are more workers, we can do far better in the campus since I want to give the best of myself for the mission of the Jesuits. There is a lot more we can do here in our campus provided we have the necessary resources.

Sch. Seby Varghese SJ

The interviewer is a 3rd Year B.Ph. student at Jnana Deepa, Pune



Sch. Yakub Makwana SJ

The artist is a 3rd Year B.Ph. student at Jnana Deepa, Pune

TAKE ALL, LORD, AND GIVE ME ONLY YOUR LOVE



I am a Jesuit product; I tell this to the whole world with great joy. My announcements of my Jesuit formation always finds a joyful encouraging audience. I am proud to be a Jesuit product. This pride does not come from the word Jesuit but from the values that the Jesuits stand for and from the missions that they have been carrying throughout the world. For people around the globe, Jesuits stand for 'faith that does justice'. Jesuits are known for their actions which are inspired by their faith; the faith that St. Ignatius instilled in them some five hundred years back.

Started by a few holy individuals in the past, the Society of Jesus has doubtlessly contributed immensely to humanity. History speaks of their works. From feeding the poor to educating the marginalised, their missions are enkindled towards the greater glory of God. Guided by the virtue of love, they see God in all. This is very much seen in their missions through out the world. Just to cite an example: caste discriminations in India are intolerable. However, a student from an oppressed caste finds a warm welcome in any Jesuit educational institution (top ranking ones in the country). He/she can walk on the campus fearlessly and confidently. Once the course is over, he/she gets placement opportunities enabled to face the world boldly.

“For people
around the
globe, Jesuits
stand for faith
that does
justice”

“JRS does a lot of services in silence. This reminds me of Jesus inviting us to pray and do charity behind closed doors.”

Another example is the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) of which I am a part. My five years with JRS made me more humane and enforced in me the values of Jesus stronger than ever. People may come and go and the administration might find changes but the values taught by St. Ignatius remain unwavering. The fact that JRS spends no energy and time for the visibility of its services speaks volumes for the values it upholds. While the other organisations spend a lot of money to publicize their works, JRS hardly pays attention to the publicity they receive. People often say: “JRS does a lot of services in silence”. This reminds me of Jesus inviting us to pray and do charity behind closed doors. This humility of JRS has inspired me personally and I try to reflect it in my own life.

Yet another example is the spirit of service that the JRS upholds. For JRS, the beneficiaries of its services are its collaborators. The staff accompany the collaborators in all walks of lives. Accompaniment is the centre of all JRS ministries.

JRS, doubtlessly, has its own challenges. With the Jesuit charism and prayers from all around the globe, these challenges are handled. Personally, my journey in JRS is not a smooth sail. I get discouraged by the dishonesty, disloyalty, and personal weaknesses that I see all around but my Jesuit formation has helped in overcoming my challenges. Can there be anyone more cunning than Holy Father St Ignatius who surrendered all to Jesus but asked for God’s love and grace?

“Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my whole will, all that I have and all that I possess. You gave it all to me, Lord; I give it all back to you. Do with it as you will, according to your good pleasure. Give me your love and your grace; for with this, I have all that I need.”

Mr. Maria Valan

*The author is the Project Director,
at JRS, Batouri, West Africa*



YOU ARE THE SHEPHERD



Running down an empty alley in pitch-black darkness, Fr. John was almost out of breath. Just then out of nowhere he heard that familiar voice, *"You are the shepherd..."* He looked up and smiled and said, *"Yes Lord, I will lead them into your kingdom..."* Instantly, a sharp sound began to go off so loudly that he had to cover his ears. It was getting unbearable and all of a sudden he opened his eyes and realised that it was a dream; the same dream that he used to get ever since he was ordained.

He looked at his watch and realised that he was already running late. He was to celebrate the first Mass at 5:30 am! Half-awake he got out of bed. The day was going to be an exceptionally long day. Ever since he got appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest his weekends were full of meetings, discussions and classes for children. *"In the name of the Father...."* as he made the sign of the cross at Mass, he mentally prayed, *"Lord, see me through this day please."*

The clock soon struck 10. It was time for the Parish Council Meeting. The main agenda was the upcoming parish feast. He prayed, *"Lord, please let that Mrs D'Souza not be present for the meeting. She never cooperates with me"*. Unfortunately, his prayers were not answered.

The meeting ended with a heated argument between Fr. John and Mrs. D'Souza. The rest of the day was pretty much the same - failed expectations, disappointments and a lot of resentment towards the 'lay' people. His last thoughts as he went off to sleep were, *"God, why did you call me when these people are not going to listen!"*

Running down an empty alley in pitch-black darkness, Fr. John was almost out of breath. Just then out of nowhere he heard that same familiar voice, *"You are the shepherd..."* He looked up and smiled and said, *"Yes Lord, I will lead them..."* *"Will you for once let me complete my sentence?"* the familiar loving voice was now sounding quite agitated. *"You are the shepherd, but not of sheep but of people! Listen to them."* Fr. John woke up with a start, *"Thank you, Lord, I now understand."*



Sch. Sumit D'Souza SJ

The narrator is a 2nd Year B.Th. student at Jnana Deepa, Pune



The term 'partner' refers to a person who willingly agrees to share his resources, talents, or skills in business. Thus the person becomes a co-owner. The term mission means a specific task or duty assigned to a person or group of people to achieve a specific vision or goal which is envisaged by institutions or companies.

MISSION OF THE HOLY TRINITY

These are the terms used by the secular world. But for us, what does it mean to be partners in God's Mission? As students of Theology the basic fact we need to know is the Mission of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about his mission, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18). Jesus comes into the world for this particular mission, but says, "I am from Him, and He sent me" (Jn 7:29). Jesus did not carry out his Mission on his own, but it was

given to Him by God, the Father. Thus, Jesus partners with the Father and the Holy Spirit, though they are one. Yet it could be termed as collaboration in the work of a mission of the Holy Trinity that is salvific in nature.

The mission of establishing the Kingdom of God is entrusted to His disciples. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn 20:21). Here to send means to do the Will of God. Being sent into the world by Jesus means to proclaim the kingdom of God among all the people so that they may be saved by hearing the Word of God. Partnership is required to establish the kingdom of God in the present world. GC 35, Decree 6 emphasizes the aspect of collaboration. It says that collaboration is the heart of the Mission for Jesuits. The Ignatian charism serves not just the Society but the whole Church. Therefore, what we have received is the call for collaboration with the Holy Trinity and people of good will.

Sch. Bhadagi Jayanti SJ

The author is a 3rd Year B.Th. student at Vidyajyoti, Delhi





A BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF MY *Jesuitness*

To give a perspective to my collaborations with Jesuits or others, I feel it is necessary that I reminisce about my connections with the Jesuits – from then to now. My association with Jesuits began after I joined St. Xavier's College (Mumbai) as a student. I vividly recall being impressed by the intellectual outpouring that my Jesuit teachers oozed during the lectures. But what captivated me most was their personal simplicity and focused commitment to a cause. This attraction drew me into the Society as a scholastic. However, due to various reasons, I left the Order after five years. But it was those five years that made me a person for others.

The 'Jesuitness' that got rubbed into me, changed my perspective towards understanding life's experiences and it made me look at scholarship in a totally new light. I began

“What captivated me most was their personal simplicity and focused commitment to a cause!”

“Learning is futile, if it does not make me into a community asset”

to realise that learning for the sake of accumulating degrees was futile, if that learning did not make me into a community asset. I ensured that my progress in the field of academics synced with what I had seen and experienced as a scholastic in formation houses as well as in the rural areas and in the urban slums. I thus began involving myself a lot in action research, especially among that struggling sections of society. While working for 19 years in a Night Degree College in Mumbai, prior to re-joining St Xavier's College as a faculty in 2008, I found myself becoming compassionate without being paternalistic, with those poor students, who worked through the day (to eke out a living) and attended college in the night (to keep the hope of a better life alive). Emulating my Jesuit teachers, I found myself learning and re-learning Economics so to make it comprehensible to these night college vernacular students. Over time, drawing inspiration from what I could remember about the Jesuits I had worked with fighting injustice, I began lending my voice to the voiceless night college students (whenever I was needed to do so).

My stint as a Jesuit taught me the importance of being critical without becoming cynical. It taught me to chastise without being dictatorial and so I am now able to reach out to those I have chastised or been reprimanded by. I am now capable of being strict without being ruthless and inflexible. In short, I have developed a heart in my head and a fire in my belly in the presence of injustice. While partnering with Jesuits or others, I am driven by the urge to be a person for others. I am attracted to the idea of being a servant leader – as it gives me a chance to bring about change while being of assistance to the people that I am responsible for as a leader.

Whatever be the role I have to play, I keep striving to row into the deep, carrying the torch that lights other flames without becoming a burnt out case myself. Let's hope that the 'Jesuitness' in me, will keep growing and keep showing through collaborations, alliances or teamwork.

“While partnering, I am driven by the urge to be a person for others

Mr. Agnelo Menezes

*The author is the HoD of
Public Policy, SXC (M)*





Laitiy-Jesuits *collaboration*

I have witnessed and I am witnessing the fact that the Jesuit-Lay Collaboration has come a long way in the De Nobili Group of schools in the coal fields of Dhanbad. I have been inspired to practice 'MAGIS' not only as an educator but also in every sphere of my professional and personal life, to work for the formation of our students in accordance with the guidelines of the Ignatian Pedagogy.

My personal and professional growth being aligned with the Jesuit Vision & Mission, I believe De Nobili is a unique system of education where amongst the nine units, four belong to the Jesuits and the other five are run in collaboration with various companies. The director being the overall head, governs all the units, having similar administrative structure and nuances, through a common academic curriculum. The monthly meetings with the director and other heads of the units not only facilitate solutions to various administrative problems, but also promote teamwork and transparency. The monthly visit by the director to all the units, fosters good interpersonal relationship amongst us. This gives us space for candid discussions of our individual units. Occasionally, the director even meets the teachers as well as the students during these visits,

*“The monthly visit
by the director
provides the
institutions the
necessary Jesuit
touch”*

through which he not only gets to feel the ‘pulse’ of every unit, but also provides our institutions the necessary “Jesuit touch”. Fr. Provincial’s annual visit familiarises us with key issues regarding the latest trends and changes in the field of Jesuit Education.

I, being a lay collaborator and hailing from a different faith, am a witness to the fact that there is an honest and credible alliance between us and the Jesuits.

We are provided with Leadership Development and Ignatian Legacy programmes by our Jesuit Superiors. These enable us to work efficiently and in concert with the Jesuits. I, being a lay collaborator and hailing from a different faith, am a witness to the fact that there is an honest and credible alliance between us and the Jesuits. I have always felt that men and women who labour hard with the Jesuits, are encouraged to seek more for “a just and a fair world”!

The innate sense of mutual respect and trust between us gives us the space and opportunities to grow and learn from each other.

Hail, De Nobili!



Mrs. Tanushree Banerjee

*The author is the Principal of
De Nobili School, Koradih*



Two thousand years ago, the son of God, entered this world - a world which was largely divided, full of suffering and pain, war and injustice. People had lost hope. The essential part of Jesus's mission was, to die for our sins on the cross and, through repentance and faith in Him, restore faith in God so that we could experience eternal life. Jesus came to this earth to preach the Good News. He came to reconcile us with God, the Father. He came to make us understand what the kingdom of God actually is in the simplest way possible. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.

We all are partakers in the mission of Christ. We belong to Christ, and now it is our responsibility to carry on the mission of Christ by being partners in this mission. Jesus founded the Church, as the visible body of Christ, where the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ is celebrated every day. We are part of this body of Christ and it is our responsibility to carry on the mission of Christ. We still live in a world which is full of injustice, inequality, religious fundamentalism, and pain. According to UNICEF, there are about 10.1 million children employed in child labor in India today. More than one billion children live in poverty in the world, and 22,000 children die each day as a result

“We belong to Christ, and it is our responsibility to carry on the mission of Christ”

of poverty. More than one million children are trafficked each year. The world needs us.

We are called to be His hands so that we can reach out to the unreachable. It is a God-given vocation to each follower to be the voice of the voiceless. But can we really respond to the call, if we are so divided? We give priority to ‘me’ and ‘my world’. The culture today often promotes a ‘me-first’ mentality. We have lost the sense of compassion, as we are not a community centered around the values of Christ. Therefore, the call of St. Paul to be a community of compassion becomes the beacon of hope for this world to be a better place. In other words, we are called to practice ‘koinonia’ (partnership).

“Koinonia is a divinely intimate, holy unity among believers and between believers and the Lord”

Some are tempted to substitute the word “fellowship” for koinonia, its real meaning is far deeper. Fellowship is a more surface-level while koinonia is full and intimate unity. It is a divinely intimate, holy unity among believers and between believers and the Lord in community life, sharing contributions from money to food and gifts. We carry on the mission of Christ by being this community of love. We share our spiritual gifts. We accept each other as they are. We do not discriminate against anyone. We share our resources and our talents with each other. We also focus on encouraging each other rather than critiquing and competing with each other.

By doing these things, we become united with God and others and push aside our own selfish concerns to embrace harmony, generosity, and accord. It might be tough to practice koinonia in such a self-centered world, but we are repeatedly called to do so. We are given an ideal model, both in Jesus and in the disciples. If we follow this model, we will be true and effective partners in Christ’s mission.

Sch. Vivian Lopes SJ

The author is a 3rd Year B.Th. student at Vidyajyoti, Delhi



Marching Together with Hope



Collaboration with laity in mission is a huge support for Hazaribag Jesuits. We have diverse apostolates such as Dalit Mission, Santal Mission, Korwa Mission etc. The beauty of our work comes to light while sharing our Jesuit mission with the laity. We see in them a lot of desire to work with us. There is a community spirit among collaborators and directors. They work willingly. There is sharing of vision, purpose and apostolic effort. They are not employees but companions in our mission. I have seen our Province growing in various ministries. Working with laity leaves one with a wonderful feeling. We share our mission with them which is entrusted to us by the Lord, Himself.

We go forward together with hope so that they may enjoy working with us. When Hazaribag Jesuits started working among the Tribals, many lay collaborators joined the former. Today we see them very vibrant, active and in leadership roles. They feel one with the Jesuits. It is a very good sign that laity are working in

different ministries along with us. They are contributing tremendously for the mission. Their selfless service is commendable. Their faith in Jesuits is strengthened. There is love, compassion, and joy among everyone.

In the field of education, lay collaboration is vivid. They are committed and hardworking towards educating children and giving them a bright future. Education has helped to shape the future of thousands of our students. Today, they are working with us and providing invaluable service to the Society. They are reaching out with various social initiatives. Though there are challenges and difficulties, they are ready to face them. The laity and Jesuits are working together to build a larger and holistic community.

Sch. Nelson Lakra SJ

The author is a 3rd Year B.Ph. student at Jnana Deepa, Pune



FARMERS: THE FIRST PROFESSIONALS



Many would defer from me in accepting farming as purely a profession. But from my two years of experience with estate workers in Kodaikanal, I find that farming is not for all. Like medicine and engineering; farming also requires certain experiential knowledge which can not be acquired in a day.

“In the beginning, the earth was formless and empty” – Gn 1:1-2. God laboured and created the heavens and the earth. The same is carried out even today by our co-workers. They bring beauty out of nothing, protect and keep our economy stable.

Once in our estate we were removing the unwanted shoots from the coffee plants. I saw two shoots left unremoved in a plant and wanted to verify this with one of the co-workers. She replied that the particular plant was about to die. So the left shoot will become a new coffee plant. Even to remove the unwanted shoots we must know the basics.

If money determines a work as a profession, then our estate co-workers do not stand a chance, for their wages are the bare minimum. But we can call them professionals by giving them dignity. Now it is a call for us to understand that farming is the first profession with an undying history beginning from God, the Creator who toils with us labourers from dawn to dusk.

Let us join hands and give back what is rightful and lawful to them. Let us call our co-workers “professionals”.

Sch. Joseph Alex SJ

*The author is a 3rd Year B.Th.
student at Vidyajyoti, Delhi*



with you, always

Centuries have gone by with shared responsibilities
With our partners we served to the best of our abilities
We would not have been in the same league
Had we not matched steps with our colleagues.

We have walked miles but not alone
Shook off our pride and have grown.
Obstacles did come in difference of opinions
Ne'er to part us as true companions!

Service to all humanity
Was the elixir we consumed
Hardly mattered to which faith we belonged
Beliefs of individuals remained behind
When priorities came to mind.

In soaring to the loftiest heights
Grounded we were for the farthest sight
Weaving all beings on the strings of love
Toiling united in the world of poverty,

Oppression, injustice and needless wars.
God sent people as His avatars
Proclaiming the kingdom of God in one melody
For in times of tragedy He's our remedy.

Serving God alone is our common vision
Building bridges is the heart of our mission
Reaching down to grassroot level
With the good will of ordinary people.

We've walked hand in hand enriching one another
Carrying forward the charism of our Founder.
We're chosen to serve, we're called to labor
For which we'll be grateful forever.



Sch. Cyril Lakra SJ

*The poet is a 3rd Year B.Th.
student at Vidyajyoti, Delhi*





Collaboration

a jesuit understanding

Usually, collaboration is understood as the act of working closely with someone in a particular project. For Jesuits, collaboration has a much deeper meaning. It refers to the sharing of vision and purpose with whom we are united in mind and heart. Jesuit collaboration is one where the partners in the mission are seen as equals.

Collaboration for the Jesuits springs from their personal relationship with Christ. Jesuits see themselves as companions of Christ who continues His mission of redeeming the world. As Decree 2 of GC 32 states, to be a Jesuit “is to know that one is a sinner, yet called to be a companion of Jesus”. Having recognized his own unworthiness, a Jesuit invites others to join hands with him in this effort of building the Kingdom.

When education was the prerogative of only the royalty and the clergy, it was St. Ignatius and his early companions who opened the doors of education to the rest of the world. They did this largely with support from the laity. Down the centuries, the Jesuits have perfected the art of education, but their

“Collaboration is sharing of vision and purpose”

dependence on their lay collaborators is still strong. Collaboration is seen today not only in the field of education but also in other fields where the Jesuits are involved.

The Society of Jesus is facing two major challenges, today. The first is the lack of competence and the second lack of vocations. While making serious efforts to improve the quality of training offered to young Jesuits, the Society should also fill the lacuna created by the dwindling numbers with qualified and committed laity who can carry on the vision and mission of Jesuits.

As Jesuits all over the world celebrate the 500th anniversary of the canon ball moment in the life of St. Ignatius with the theme “To see all things new in Christ”, they are invited to see their efforts at collaboration through the eyes of Christ who collaborated with humanity through His incarnation.



Sch. Darmiki Sten SJ

The author is a 2nd Year B.Ph. student at Jnana Deepa, Pune



Service Mindedness

a call for collaboration



Except, for the middle school, the rest of my life, schooling, college studies, training and working, I was and am still living in collaboration with the Jesuits. For twenty-eight years, I worked as a teacher and seven years as Vice Principal of St. Xavier's School Hazaribag. At present, I am teaching in Primary Teachers' Education Centre (PTEC), Gurwa, Hazaribag.

I consider myself very fortunate for getting an opportunity to collaborate with the Jesuits. I find them wonderful, well qualified, dedicated and committed to their mission. Their institutions are well organized and efficient. These are the reasons why they are the first choice of all. For example, in Hazaribag, people's first choice would be either St. Xavier's for English Medium or St. Robert's for Hindi Medium.

It is very encouraging to see the outcome of Jesuit schools, not just in terms of academics, but also in preparing men and women for others. Most of the Jesuit schools have alumni body. I must say that these organizations are doing wonderful services. To illustrate, Hazaribag Old Xavierian Association (HOXA) is doing a great service to the people of Hazaribag. On first Wednesdays, the association runs psychological counselling and on Sundays, health clinic for free. The association also conducts blood donation camps on a regular basis. I personally find the members of the association ever ready to help.

As time passes, it is natural that things change, new ideas emerge, new approaches and methods introduced and infrastructural facilities improved, to achieve the ultimate goal and purpose of an organization. As I understand, the purpose of the Jesuits is to be grounded in the love for Christ and, inspired by the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius, to help others and to find God in all things. This year we celebrate five hundred years of St. Ignatius' conversion. It is an opportunity for all the Jesuits to introspect, in light of the Cannonball moment, the purpose and ultimate goal of the Society.

Mr. Cyprian Surin

The author is a faculty at PTEC, Hazaribag and has about 35 years of experience as an educator





Andhra Jesuits explored means to respond to the Covid – 19 pandemic in the most effective way possible. Andhra Loyola Institutions at Vijayawada served the poor by distributing food and dry provisions. They also provided tarpaulin sheets to the homeless and arranged an Isolation Centre for the infected. St Patrick’s High School at Secunderabad gave Covid relief to their non-teaching staff with groceries and extended their helping hand to the widows at Mettuguda parish. Jesuits at Shanthi Nagar parish distributed dry ration to 186 families.

LITDS at Katukapally in collaboration with Jesuit Mission, London, Jesuit Mission, Australia and LINSI Foundation, Switzerland distributed the essentials to 5108 families in 41 villages and arranged three quarantine centres for 954 patients consisting of Koya, Gothikoya and Kondareddy tribes. Jesuits at Adilabad – Asifabad mission in collaboration with Red Charity, Austria assisted 500 tribal families with dry ration worth Rs 1000/- and deposited Rs 2000/- in each of their bank accounts for agriculture.

Jesuits at VRO (Village Reconstruction Organization) spent more than 1.20crores for distributing food and other materials to the government quarantines, migrants, and poor at dumping yards, and also for arranging tickets to travel by trains for migrants. Loyola Public-School at Guntur in collaboration with Alumni had spent 14 lakhs for procuring Covid medical kits for the affected families. Loyola Academy at Alwal distributed food to 550 families and dry ration to the ANM and ASHA workers.

Many other mission stations and parishes also contributed in serving the poor and needy during these tough times in whatever way they could. We thank the Province Curia and collaborators for helping the people of Andhra and Telangana States.



The pandemic was a first challenge to our new-born Jesuit Chennai Province. Therefore, we formed a Province Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) to assist with the disruptions and uncertainties caused by COVID. The PDMC team coordinated with Jesuits, Loyola Helping Hand crew and 453 Volunteers in the relief activities. CEN Covid-19 Rapid Response Team reached out to more than 1,93,360 beneficiaries of the marginalised population like the Poor, Dalits, Migrants, Tribals, Widows, Gypsies, Transgender, Refugees, Daily Coolies, Domestic Workers, elderly and differently-abled in most of the northern districts of Tamil Nadu.

We worked in collaboration with all the stakeholders to elicit details by organizing meetings, getting legal opinion, contacting the government officials, communicating with Jesuit Communities & Mission Stations across the globe, exchanging information with collaborators, benefactors and well-wishers and individuals by door-to-door intervention to bring a speedy end to this global pandemic that has struck the lives of each and everyone in this world.

Looking at the situation during the second wave of the pandemic, Darjeeling Provincial formed an Emergency Response Team (ERT) to attend to the needs of the people who are desperately looking for medical assistance. Once the ERT members decided to set up two Safe Homes in the region of North Bengal, many organizations and people of goodwill came forward to extend their services. For Darjeeling Safe Home, a few oxygen concentrators were donated by the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Vikram Foundation donated 50 blankets, International Jesuits and Jesuit Alumni gave monetary help and voluntary service.

Darjeeling youth and students went around many villages to distribute medicine and food. For Matigara Safe Home, along with Jesuits, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the Child in Need Institute (CINI), and Calcutta St Xavier's Alumni collaborated to provide quality medical support and nutritious food.

We truly experienced the committed collaboration of our students, parents, teachers, political parties, NGOs, Jesuit Alumni, government officers and dedicated volunteers who offered their valuable service towards this cause. God's work brings many people of goodwill together to make even the impossible, possible.





The pandemic and its emergency have once again brought the people of good will to positively respond to the situation. We, the Delhi Jesuits, joined hands with our collaborators- Sisters, teachers, staff, alumni, youth and the faithful- to contribute our share in helping the suffering humanity. Being part of a collaborative mission during the time of emergency and uncertainty, we have realised, on one hand, a sense of deep meaning to our Jesuit vocation as Servants of God and, on the other, an effective service to the victims of the pandemic.

We pooled our resources, personnel and logistics in order to reach out to the suffering and the needy. It is an experience of God's Providence and his collaborative hands. As partners, we felt encouraged and motivated to do more for God who is suffering in humanity.

We were also enriched by the dedication and commitment of people of other faiths, civil servants, medical professionals and volunteers. We believe that it is the spirituality of love, compassion and universal fraternity that made us Partners in Mission.

The pandemic has been a devastating factor in each one's life. The Karnataka Jesuits launched a relief operation named Spandana. It catered to the needy all around our establishments in Karnataka. It was a time to collaborate or partner with the people of goodwill- our students, staff, social workers, benefactors, health care workers, police, alumni and Government authorities. Our works included nutritional, mental, accommodative and medical help.



The most affected – ASHA health workers, rickshaw drivers, Covid affected families and needy - were provided with ration and medical kits. The village hospitals were provided with oxygen concentrators, medicines and necessary medical equipment. A couple of Covid Care Centres were established. A good number of vaccination drives were organised. Samagra- Karnataka Jesuits Mental Health Care organised many webinars to cope with mental stress. Individuals were given prominence and were kept in touch with social media as well as with mobiles.

It was a joy for us as a Province to serve the humanity during these uncertain times. Though some of us got infected by Covid and even some of our brothers died, yet our spirits were neither dampened nor deterred. Carrying out such kind of largescale relief work requires collaboration and partnership. This was possible only through the people of goodwill. They were able to see all things new in God and help humanity.



The pathetic and painful situation of the pandemic continues to wreak havoc in the livelihood of people. It is disheartening to note that we have lost our near and dear ones. We stand helpless during this situation as we see our own people suffering all around. There is darkness all-around, but there were also sparks of light in and through multiple relief services to our people in need. As Jesuits, called to be companions of Christ, the poor and humble, we were ready to reach out to the needy.

In many parts of Tamil Nadu, we extended our help to the marginalized by providing them with groceries, medicines, sanitizers, soap, masks, etc., and setting up tele-counselling centres with Corona Help Desks, which they truly needed during the lockdown. The Province generously set aside funds for our relief works; and our generous donors - Jesuit Missions UK and Germany came to our aid to support the needy.

In this journey, what truly amazed us was the outstanding collaboration that we received from all people of goodwill, ever ready to accompany us in our mission. Walking with the marginalized in their suffering was indeed an experience of walking with the Lord who is walking with us in our suffering.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic disturbed the normal life of human beings all over the world. By reading the signs of the time, it was our sacred duty to help those affected by it.

To respond to the situation, the Province opened Shelter Homes for the migrants stranded on the way back home due to the sudden lock down. It was opened at Muri and Doreya. Their basic needs, such as food, toiletries, clothes, accommodation, medication etc. were provided by the Jesuits and generous collaborators.

Jesuits in collaboration with other religious groups rendered their generous services in providing groceries, packing food materials, distributing sanitizers and masks, sometimes even helped in burying those died from Coronavirus.

The Second Phase of the pandemic was terrifying. Ranchi Jesuits lost 15 members in quick succession, out of whom 9 succumbed to this disease. Covid Task Force – Zonal and Central, in the Province played a great role. While they established a link between the Centre, they also arranged for ambulance, hospitals, oxygen cylinders or home quarantine for the needy. It was a difficult time indeed! Awareness programmes were arranged for the villagers who strongly resisted against taking the vaccine.



RANCHI
JESUITS



HOUSE EVENTS

JUBILEE

Sep 5th was a great day at DNC. We celebrated the 80 years as a religious of our beloved Fr. Ted Bowling, S.J. in the Society of Jesus. We were glad to have Rt. Rev. Thomas Dabre (Bishop of Pune) amidst us to grace the occasion, who presided the Holy Mass. Fr. Donald Miranda, S.J. the Provincial of Patna, and Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas, S.J. the Provincial of Pune, and other guests also graced the occasion.



It was an occasion to know about Fr. Ted, a vibrant, cheerful Jesuit of all times, and his mission which were all well captured in the video presentation and by the sharing of the dignitaries. They stated that Fr. Ted has a sharp memory, his love for the scholastics and special care for the trees and plants which are inline with the ideas of Pope Francis and the UAPs. The Provincial of Patna wished Fr. Ted on behalf of the Province and acknowledged the DNC community for taking good care of him. "Fr. Ted is a lover of life, excellent Jesuit, respects scholastics, concerned about evangelization, far-sighted, a person with sharp memory and loves the common home," said Fr. Angelo. The DNC community wishes Fr. Ted Bowling many more grace-filled years to come.

WELCOME

The house once again happily welcomed the theologians on Jul 19th after their summer vacation, keeping all the necessary COVID protocols. On Jul 28th we observed a National Justice Day, we had a video clip, a talk, and tributes in the Papal Seminary Chapel, to all the Social Justice Workers, especially to Fr. Stan. The congregation dispersed with candlelight procession to their respective houses.

CELEBRATIONS

On Jul 31st, feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was commemorated with a solemn Holy Eucharist preceded by Fr. Rector. Later we had Staff vs. Scholastics and inter-living group Badminton and Table Tennis matches. It was a wonderful ice-breaker.

On Aug 21st, we celebrated Onam, the harvest feast of Kerala. Which signifies the annual return of King Mahabali, when people experienced prosperity, and had dignified life. With this same intensity we reflected and prayed for the rulers of our country. We thank all the Scholastics from Kerala for the well-organized celebration.

COMMUNITY

On Sep 8th, we had inter living group Basketball tournament on the feast day of the Nativity of our Lady. The bounding familiarity of the community life, togetherness, teamwork boosted us up all to experience companionship and friends in the Lord. We felt the community's involvement, encouragement, and support from one another.

On the Sep 10th, we had a recollection by Fr. Rector in the evening in view of our faith sharing the following day. The talk in-tuned us to reflect on our inward journey of faith with an appealing point "Lord, let I may see." Which helped us in our sharing to strengthen and empower one another. All of us were enriched by the sharing. The process of faith sharing concluded with a wonderful living group fellowship in the evening.



VISITATION

POSA along with the CDF made visitation from Oct 4th to 7th. During the visit, POSA met the living group leaders, scholastics as a whole, and then the staff. He patiently heard our consolations and desolations, encouraged us to be well prepared for a global mission. CDF met the Theologians and Philosophers separately. He patiently heard all our concerns, and also briefed the key developments of the Conference especially to have a dialogue with Superior General regarding formation.

KARAM

The long-awaited Karam festival was celebrated on Oct 9th with joy and jubilation. Scholastics from Chotanagapur Cultural Association (CAA) organized the celebration. Chapel was decorated with branches, tender shoots. Karam branch was respectfully cut and placed in the Chapel by the pahans. Fr. Arjen Tete, CDF was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist with five con-celebrants. It was solemnized by an entrance dance, beautiful singing by the Scholastics, and commentary explaining Karam. Fr. Arjen in his sermon narrated the Karam story.

After the mass Karam branch was taken in procession to the Community hall. Though there was a heavy rain, that did not deter the spirit of our celebration. Scholastics performed Karma dance which was enjoyed by all. It was followed by a fellowship meal. Again there was dance and the whole atmosphere was charged with festive mood. Finally, the Karam branch was immersed in a pond and the celebration was concluded.



FINAL VOWS

On Oct 7th, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Fr. Herman Tirkey SJ pronounced his Final Vows. We had a solemn mass in the evening. POSA was the main celebrant and rectors of DNC and Papal Seminary, President of JD, and Fr. Herman con-celebrated. Jesuits from PG Block and Papal Seminary were invited for the occasion. The beautiful singing of DNC choir and entrance dance added devotion to the Liturgy. After Mass, we had a short felicitation program for Fr. Herman followed by an agape meal.



Church

YESTERDAY > TODAY > TOMORROW



Let us know your thoughts. Send in your articles to dnctimes@gmail.com

COMPETITION

Theme

CHURCH: YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW

- Short Story (within 800 words)
- Poem
- Drawing

Winners will be featured in
the next issue. Entries to
dnctimes@gmail.com
(before Dec 5, 2021)

I Prize: ₹1000

II Prize: ₹750

III Prize: ₹500

Note:

- » Short story & poem writing only for Common Houses & RTCs
- » Drawing only for students (Class 8-10) Maximum 3 entries from a school