



# GUJARAT JESUIT SAMACHAR

Premal Jyoti, PB 4002, Ahmedabad - 380 009



72/915 GJS APRIL 2020

## From The Provincial's Desk

Dear Brothers,  
Peace of Christ!

We are undoubtedly at a very critical stage of human history. The pandemic COVID-19 has killed thousands everywhere and affected many more. We are at a loss to comprehend what is happening, as the number of deaths keep rising every day. Our sophisticated science and improved technology, have still not yet been able to give us a vaccine to prevent the pandemic or for that matter, a cure. At this moment of crisis, the burning question in the hearts and minds of all is: What will happen now? Never before, in living memory, has humanity experienced so much of helplessness, uncertainty, fear and anxiety.

The virus that kills us, also unites us. There is an apparent universal bonding and irrespective of caste, creed, class and colour the whole of humanity has become one. The rich and the poor, the elite and the ordinary are today all on equal grounds. While exercising social distancing, we do feel one with all humanity, as we express our solidarity with those suffering and dying, sharing our sentiments and sincerely praying for the well-being of all.

Amidst these dark clouds we also see some rays of hope. There are many organisations, groups of volunteers and NGOs that are working tirelessly to prepare and distribute food packets, medicines and essential articles to the poor and the needy. Some of our men are also responding in whatever ways they possibly can and are also collaborating



in other joint initiatives. We need to appreciate all those who have taken the courageous and noble step to reach out to the poor and marginalised, especially the daily wage earners and migrants who are hungry and thirsty. Their poverty faced as a consequence of the wide spread lockdown, is perhaps more life threatening than the pandemic itself.

When you care for others in this current situation you risk losing your own life. May God bless you. Do make it a point to take all the necessary precautionary measures. We need you. There is much more to be accomplished

‘Stay home’ is an invitation to stay connected; connected to your deeper real self, to others and to the Divine. In spite of being deprived of the liturgical celebrations during this crisis, there seem to be many more people spontaneously and whole heartedly turning towards God. Life has certainly become God centred. Social media is widely used for sharing faith experiences, spiritual talks and discourses to help us remain spiritually alive and to deepen our faith. It is a privileged moment given to us from our otherwise hectic life to pause for a while, to look inwards and to ask ourselves where we are going.

Global crisis needs global conversion. Discernment is the need of the hour. We need to ask ourselves: what do we discern in life? The fragile and fast deteriorating situation makes us aware that the only thing that matters in our life is life itself. Do we value life? Do we value the life of





others? The devastating COVID-19 makes it absolutely clear that we are all interconnected and interdependent, sharing one life given as a gratuitous gift by our Creator. Living by its very nature is a community activity. Lives lived at the cost of others is detrimental to human life. How do we live life? Are we living an empty meaningless life or do we live according to the Spirit? This crisis must also be seen as a wakeup call to all of us: to reassess our priorities and to return to the original source of life with sincere hearts.

We trust in the Lord, in His goodness and kindness. He loved us and created us. He will help us to live our life to the fullest for he has promised: *I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly* (Jn 10:10).

**A.M.D.G**

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

- 15-17 : Premal Jyoti, Visitation
- 18 : Navsarjan, Surat, GB Meeting
- 21 : Ahmedabad, PDT Meeting
- 23-25 : Belgaum, Novitiate Visitation
- 27-29 : Mt. Abu, Consult, Annual Planning

### APPOINTMENTS

- **PROVINCIAL has appointed**
- ♦ **Fr. James Savarimuthu**, Province Coordinator for Formation (PCF)
- ♦ **Br. Fernandes Patrick**, Minister, Apostolic School, Sughad



### PROVINCE HIGHLIGHTS

#### ► GOLDEN JUBILEE

It was truly a golden day for **Fr. Jose Thomas Muriyankavunkal** on 14 March when he completed fifty years of priesthood. **Fr. Durai Fernand**, the Provincial, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration at the Shrine of Our Mother of the Forsaken. In his homily, **Fr. James Savarimuthu** highlighted some of the qualities of Fr. Jose Thomas which helped him excel in education, pastoral and charismatic ministries. The melodious choir led by **Frs. Jitendra D'Monte** and **Shaji Thekkemury** added to the joy of the occasion. Some relatives of Fr. Jose and Jesuit friends were present to wish him on this special day. **Fr. Valerian Dias**, the superior of Jeevan Darshan and **Fr. Sanjay Rodrigues**, the infirmarian, meticulously planned the occasion to make it a memorable golden event. (Sch. Hitesh Parmar SJ)



#### ► PHILOSOPHICALLY SPEAKING

March was a busy month at Satya Nilayam. The second CA exams were conducted and several co-curricular activities and extra co-curricular activities were held in the community. There were two days of pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, Velankanni (for the second year students). We also celebrated the International Students' Day on 19 March. On this occasion, our annual magazine 'Sat Sophia', was released. We were blessed to have in our midst Provincial **Fr. Durai Fernand**. On 18 March in honour of second year scholastics an 'Alvida' day was organized, which included the Eucharistic Celebration, a cultural evening and a farewell meal. On the 25 -26 March we had our comprehensive exams. (Sch. Aric Makwana SJ)

#### ► NOVITIATE LIFE

We, the second year novices, spent a whole month (beginning 13 January) for our hospital experiment. We were divided into three groups (three novices in each group) and sent to three different places: Mukтаживан

Ashram (Vehlioli), Shantidhan (Borivili) and Shantivan (Surat) (Pradip was at Shantivan). Our 'experiment' was an enriching experience for all of us and it has helped us to grow and strengthen our call to follow Christ.

Back in XTC, we have been having a series of courses and other programmes; these include 'History of the Church' (by Fr. Luke Rodrigues SJ - BOM) and on 'The Suppression and the Restoration of the Society of Jesus' (by Fr. Savio Abreu SJ - Goa). On 18 March, the first year novices received the Ministries of Reader and Acolyte, which was administered by Fr. Arun D'Souza, Provincial of Bombay; through his inspiring sermon he enlightened us on the meaning of Reader and Acolyte. (Novice Pradip Gamit )

## » AUTOMATION 2020

Xavier Technical Institute (XTI) Sevasi organised the 4th National Automobile Competition 'Automation 2020' on 13-14 February on its campus. This was in collaboration with Tata Motors Ltd and SKIP (Skills for Progress - a national organisation of private technical schools) Tata Motors runs a one-year automobile training programme known as LEAP (Learn Earn and Progress) in which the students study theory in an Institute and practical training in automobile workshops. In 2013 a pilot project for the same was conducted at XTI Sevasi, LEAP is now conducted in sixty Institutes across the country.



Thirty-five LEAP Institutes participated in 'Automation 2020'; four students from each institute took part in different competitions related to the automobile industry. Fifty heads of SKIP institutes and top officials from Tata Motors were also present for the closing ceremony. Little Flower Institute from Kerala won the overall championship. Several XTI trainees also won prizes. Participants and visitors were impressed by the meticulous

planning, the hospitality, the logistical arrangements, the trophies and mementoes designed and produced by XTI and also with our green campus. 'Automation 2020' was on all parameters the best Autotech Fest so far. (Sch. Allwin)



## » WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day cum 'Lok Utsav' 2020 was celebrated with great fervor by St Xavier's Social Service Society (SXSSS) at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of St Xavier's High School, Loyola Hall on the theme 'Towards Equality through Union'. Over one thousand two hundred women and men from ninety slum settlements participated in the celebrations.



The dignitaries included Ms. Swetal Alpesh Patel (the Chief Guest), Ms. Mini Joseph (Assistant Police Commissioner, Women Cell, and Ahmedabad), Ms. Rupali Prabhat Vijh (entrepreneur running a Pre School called Kids Paradise) and Shree Ghanshamdas Khatvani (Proprietor of Dipti Brand) Fr Isaac Rumao, Director, SXSSS was also on the dais. In their addresses, the speakers praised the women for their immense contribution in the





building of family, society and nation at large. Emphasis was also given to the importance of women playing a more proactive role in society and the need to be more united in fighting against all kinds of oppression. The cultural programs gave the women an opportunity to exhibit their talents before a large audience. The programme ended with a sumptuous meal served to all. The meticulous planning and management by the SXSSS staff and slum leaders ensured the success of the programme. (Fr. Isaac Rumao SJ)

## » CITIZENSHIP CONCERNS

Since mid-December, **Fr Cedric Prakash** has been conducting awareness programmes and seminars all over the country on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). He has been conducting these programmes at the invitation of the local Diocese, CRI or civil society groups. The programmes included those in the Archdiocese of Gandhinagar, the Diocese of Ahmedabad and two (in Baroda and Netrang) for the Diocese of Baroda. Fr Cedric was also invited to address the National Convention of the Forum of Religious in Justice and Peace (22-24 February, Varanasi) and the National Convention of the Indian Catholic Press Association (29 February, New Delhi)

## » CURRENT REALITIES

A one day workshop for about eighty participants, on the current realities in the country, was organized for village leaders, school teachers and catechists in Pimpri on 14 March. The workshop was a joint venture of 'Shakti' (Songhad) and Catholic Church Pimpri. The workshop aimed to prepare the people on the factuality of the CAA, NPR and the NRC and their impact on tribal and the marginalized sections of society. The resource persons Mr. Rameshbhai and Mr. Rajeshbhai from Shakti explained the detailed understanding of the CAA and the registers and how they would affect the tribals negatively. During the discussions both women and men raised pertinent



issues with regard to tribal society. In the action plan, the participants felt that they should enlighten other villagers who could not participate in the workshop and that they would take up the issue with other stake holders in the area. This may help to garner support at the macro level to protest the CAA, NPR and NRC. (Fr. Robert Christi SJ)

## » IN-SERVICE TRAINING

A two-days (17-18 March) training workshop for the staff of Sangath, Modasa was held. The contents of the workshop included self-development, social management and the importance of teamwork.

Among the other topics covered were women empowerment, farmer's mandal, youth skill training and women cooperative the staff benefited from the workshop and gained confidence in realizing the task or work entrusted to each one individually and in team as a whole. At the end the director **Fr. Arulanandam** and the staff planned the activities for the coming year.



## » VERMICULTURE TRAINING AT MODASA

Sangath conducts vermiculture training for farmers regularly. Through these trainings the farmers are realizing the utility of organic manure in crop cultivation. Interested farmers and others are welcome to Sangath, Modasa for on-site training on how to prepare organic manure in a simpler way. The training is free and accommodation will be provided. The participants will have to bear their to-and-fro travel expenses. For further details regarding Vermiculture Training Programme kindly contact: Fr. Arulanandam. (Fr. Arulanandam Pangiraj SJ)





## » GIDHMADI PILGRIMAGE

On the first Friday of March about 350 faithful gathered at Adivasi Pragati Kendra, Vyara to start the second padyatra (approx. 25 kms) to Gidhmadi in Mandal parish. **Fr. Jose Luis Arana** blessed the pilgrims and **Fr. Manoj Parmar**, the parish priest prayed for a meaningful pilgrimage. Devotional songs, the way of the cross, the



rosary and other prayers marked the pilgrimage. At certain places special arrangements were made to provide the pilgrims with refreshments. The pilgrims reached Mata Dungar after about seven hours around four in the evening and they participated in the Eucharist. The Jesus Youth along with the local leaders of Vyara parish made all the arrangements. The Mandal parishioners helped in various ways to make the entire experience more communitarian. The religious and the Jesuits of Vyara and Mandal parishes enthused the faithful by walking with them right through. The pilgrimage was a faith enriching experience for all. (Fr. Ashok Vaghela SJ)



## » VAILANKANNI PILGRIMAGES

Two groups of pilgrims from South Gujarat recently went on a pilgrimage to Vailankanni (Velankanni) the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health and other places of devotion in Tamilnadu. For the pilgrims, it was a faith-deepening experience. For many of them, it was the first visit to Tamilnadu. The exposure helped in making them feel part of the Universal Church; they were touched by the warmth, generosity and hospitality which they

experienced everywhere. The success of these pilgrimages is in no small measure due to efforts of the Parish Priests and their collaborators.



**Fr. Manoj Parmar** led 56 pilgrims from Vyara along with two religious sisters from 15 February onwards to Vailankanni. The pilgrims also visited other important Catholic shrines in Tamilnadu for about a week. This was the fourth time the parishioners were being taken to South for a pilgrimage. (Fr. Ashok Vaghela SJ)



Two Parishes Nani Singloti and Zankhvav organized a joint pilgrimage with 52 pilgrims. The group led by **Fr. M.G. Raj** and **Fr. Sudhakar** had a hectic eight day (15-22 March) schedule; besides visiting Vailankanni they also visited St. Thomas Mount, Santhome Church in Chennai, the site of martyrdom of St. John De Britto at Oriyur and the Basilica of our Lady of Lourdes at Poondi. (Fr. Sudhakar Dhavamani SJ)



## » SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT



For three days (13-15 March) the faithful of Fulwadi parish had the privilege of an 'Aradhana' which was held at Tadpada village. At the invitation of **Fr Reji Madathikunnel** the parish priest, Fr. Vikram Mahida led the people into this spiritual nourishment. He focused on the love of God, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity and the role of Mother Mary in our lives. Fr. Joel Pais, the Vicar General of the Baroda Diocese presided over the concluding Eucharistic celebration and had a word of appreciation for the strong faith demonstrated by the people. The Aradhana was a grace filled moment for more than a thousand people who took part each day! (Fr. Vipul Parmar SJ)

## JESUIT SAINTS OF THE MONTH



◀ Feast of BVM,  
Mother of the Society of Jesus

**'May Mary continue to watch over the Society of Jesus so that every member may carry in his person the "image" of the Crucified Christ, in order to share His Resurrection.'**

- Pope Benedict XVI

**Mary, Mother  
of the Society of Jesus,  
pray for us.**

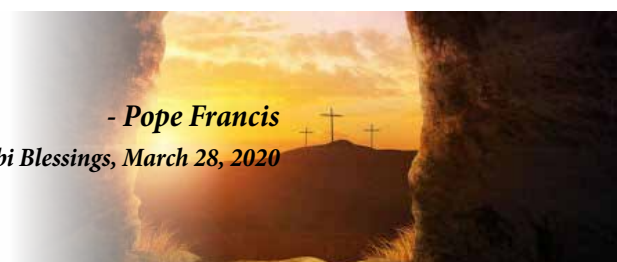


▲ S Peter Canisius



***The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.***

- Pope Francis  
*Urbi et Orbi Blessings, March 28, 2020*









## R.I.P

- † Fr. Felix Tirkey SJ (DUM), 52/28, on 02.03.2020, in Bathbanga, Sahibganj, Jharkhand.
- † Fr. Geoffrey Michael Meagher SJ (HAZ), 77/59, on 05.03.2020, in TMC Kolkata.
- † Fr. Petrus Kerketta, SJ (MAP), 71/51, on 09.03.2020 in Ambikapur.
- † Fr. Arakal Jacob SJ (AND), 96/75, on 12.03.2020, in Secunderabad.
- † Fr. Dominic Muthedath SJ 85/63, on 20.03.2020 in Patna.
- † Fr Andrews Koluva SJ (DUM), 72/48, on 29.03.2020.
- † Mr. Mathew Pinto, 65, elder brother of **Fr. Stany Pinto** and **Fr. Rolphy Pinto**, on 18.03.2020.
- † Mrs. Miriamben, 80, elder sister of **Fr. Piyush Parmar**, on 22.03.2020.



## GREEN CORNER

### COMMUNING WITH THE CREATOR IN CREATION

With the Corona 'lockdown' all over India, almost all over the world, it has become difficult to gather in man-made structures to worship and commune with the Divine. Maybe the Divine Being is calling us to commune with her/him in Creation.

Jesus told the Samaritan Woman, "The time approaches, indeed it is already here, when those who are real worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Such are the worshippers whom the Father wants. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (Jn.4:23-25)

The Jews believed that God was present only in their Temple; Christians built magnificent Churches and believe that Jesus was only there; the Hindus offer worship to their Divine Being in Temples/Shrines; the Muslims gather in Mosques to commune with their Divine, ... Only the Adi-vasis (Ab-Originals) see their Spirit Divine in Trees, Rivers, Mountains, Caves, Animals, ... all over Creation.

Actually, isn't the Divine Being dwelling in every human being created in the 'image and likeness of the Divine'? Isn't the Divine Being present in all her/his Creation in which 'we live, move and have our being'?

But, then, every religion claims 'exclusive' and 'true' communion with the Divine Being! How could the infinite Divine Spirit be exclusive to any finite being/s?

(Fr Rappai Poothokaren)



## BIRTHDAYS & DEATH DAYS 2020

- 01 Ashok Macwan
- 02 Lazarus D'Souza
- 03 Joseph Valiamangalam
- Ronald Sanctis
- 05 Arockiadass Daniel
- Jayanti Bhadagi
- 08 Fr Gregorio Conget – 1980+
- 10 Fr Fabrat Juan Ignacio – 1998+
- 12 George Karekatt
- 13 Fr Irigaray Pablo – 2002+
- 14 Saúl Abril
- 15 Jipson Pereira

- 16 Sandip Makwana
- Fr George Madathany – 1977+
- 17 James Vas
- 18 Anburaj Singarayar
- Antonio Falces
- 20 Fr Devasia Karakal – 1990+
- 23 George Victor
- Pradip Gamit
- 24 Fr Meyers John – 1994+
- 27 Anil S. Macwan
- 28 Fr Sankoorikal Anthony – 1994+



*E*ASTER *B*LESSINGS

*&* *W*ISHES

TO ONE AND ALL!

To receive by email, send a mail to <socgij@gmail.com>

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