



KS

APRIL-MAY 2020

VOL 93

NO.04-05

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

There were plagues, famines and wars in the past, but the pandemic COVID 19 is the greatest challenge across the world after World War II. According to one source, it has hit about 180 countries, infected nearly two million and led to the deaths of over 1,00,000 people. Not only human lives are lost, but the whole socio-economic fabric is torn asunder creating uncertainty and panic. The crowded cities are deserted, planned programmes are suspended and there is deafening silence and a distressing void everywhere. COVID has exposed the human vulnerability and the inane certainties.

Some opine that COVID 19 is a natural culmination of a human reckless trajectory. When people are deaf to the plights especially of the poor and of the ailing planet, a pandemic like COVID is bound to happen. It is the only way to awaken the disoriented humanity to collectively pause, proceed and reprioritize life. COVID has done its bit. It has levelled the playing field. Humanity is united regardless of the boundaries of religion, political views and resources at hand. There are global talks about health, hygiene and harmony at all levels. Of course, the air quality has improved, social concern is rekindled and religious faith deepened. However, a question, 'how can we deal with a scourge like COVID 19?' is relevant. It is important to reflect on it.

Buddhist philosophy while speaking of the ubiquity of suffering suggests a few ways to deal with it: nurture **generosity**, by being of material, emotional, and social assistance to those around; cultivate **attention** to the needs of others and your own responses to those needs; develop **patience** to work calmly and effectively to meet the needs around; evolve **resolution** to make serious effort to be and to do what you are committed to. The Buddhists believe that the cultivation and development of generosity, attentiveness, patience and disciplined effort enable one's personal growth while enthusing one to address the pandemic. I am sure these insights will help us address the pandemic, to transcend suffering and to generate happiness within and around ourselves.

Incidentally, COVID has made its entry during the holy season of Lent, when we contemplate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is also a time to review our identity as disciples of Jesus. According to Pope Francis, a disciple does not only carry the certificate of baptism, but like Jesus, allows himself to be guided by the Holy Spirit and thus inserts himself into the pain of those who live in the margins of society so as to raise humanity to new life.

In the face of danger, natural instincts are for one's own security and survival. However, thankfully it is not the case this time. People of good will have gone out of their way to contribute their mite to ease the pain of others. I am glad that our men too have shown great solidarity with the people who suffer. I think we have much to celebrate during Easter this year even in these troubled times. So, Happy Easter to you!

APPOINTED BY FR GENERAL

Fr Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ: Provincial of Ranchi
Fr Jose Jacob Maruthukunnel SJ (KER): Co-Instructor of Tertianship at Kandy
Fr Sebastian Jeerakassery SJ (DEL): Assistant General Treasurer, Rome

APPOINTED BY FR POSA

Fr Anthony Dias SJ (BOM): Assistancy Secretary for Jesuits in Social Action

APPOINTED/ ASSIGNED BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr John D'Souza: Minister, Inigo Sadan & Director, St Joseph's Indian Primary School
Fr Cyril Raj: FO, Inigo Sadan and Director, SJ Community College, Bengaluru
Fr Jeevan D'Souza: Staff, St Joseph Community College, Bengaluru
Sch Nithin Coelho - Japan
Sch Mark Iawbor (KHM) - Inigo Sadan, Bengaluru

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The diaconate ordination of **Sch Jeevan James K A** is postponed to **27th of June, 2020**, due to the corona pandemic.

ANEKAL

At the time of this pandemic of COVID - 19, the community is united in praying for those affected. We are grateful to Fr Joseph Lobo for his 14 years of dedicated service to Jnana Jyothi community, and we wish him well in his new assignment. Jnana Jyothi is well appreciated for its ambience not only for RTEC, but also for retreats. Three young priests: Frs Pratap Chandru, John Lang and Shantharaj made their annual retreat under the guidance of Fr Tom Quadras. As part of maintenance and keeping the campus clean, some parts of RTEC buildings were painted.

At RTEC, Fr Maria Arul Raja from Chennai was with us to teach Subaltern Theologies. The last course of the academic year was taught by Fr Balaraju A on Modern Church History. While the first year

theologians have just presented their integration papers, the second years are ready to defend their term papers.

At PUC, the college organised Alumni Meet. Nearly 80 old students participated. Fr Ivan Mendonca, superior, addressed them highlighting the vision of the College and encouraged them to take up active initiatives to strengthen the Alumni Association. Some old students shared their memorable experiences. The programme included also fun activities and games. (AD)

ARRUPE NIVAS

The month of March was all geared towards completing the even semester requirements which all got eventually suspended due to the pandemic COVID 19. Meanwhile, Fr Melwyn D'Cunha visited Loyola Academy, Hyderabad for a conference of Jesuits in Science. The entire community was witness to hostel day celebrations which brought the hidden talents of hostel boys to light with the theme 'Where boys become men'. Fr William Pinto (KHM) went to Jakhama for the golden jubilee celebrations of Kohima region. The COVID 19 pandemic was like a bolt from the blue. In view of saving lives in the city from the pandemic, the community reached out to the needy as an alumnus of XLRI approached the community through Fr Francis Guntipilly to lend our College space and our time for a massive relief work. The entire community galvanised both human and financial resources to join hands with Diyaghar, Hasiru Dala - the NGOs and XLRI alumni who took the lead. Our students from the hostel and volunteers from the College vicinity joined the battalion for relief work. They brought the yeomen force and strength to the work. All this inspired many lay people and Jesuits of the town to join the workforce. Everyday the relief packages worth thousand rupees per pack are being distributed to the needy. As on Good Friday evening, we have reached

out to 19,805 needy families. The work is getting bigger and the cause is being witnessed by the government and the city police, including the commissioner of police. The help rendered by all Jesuits is noticed by our staff, alumni and students, bringing positive response from them. They are inspired and inspiring us to do more. The pandemic situation also was utilised by a few community members to do their annual retreat through online points provided on JCSA website. Though lockdown is still on, the community spent time together in celebrating the Holy Week. (WMR)

LOYOLA, Mangaluru

The second-year pre-novices who were waiting to complete their last final exam paper were to be quarantined at Loyola since they could not find any transport to reach home. A first year pre-novice from Kumta also had to stay back at Loyola. Of course, some good too happened because of Corona Virus: Fr Peter Pinto and Sch Sharun D'Souza could finish their annual retreat at SAC; for the first time in the history of Loyola we could have Holy Week services at Loyola itself. Fr Dion Vaz went all the way to Anjali farm and got hold of a jeep load of vegetables and distributed them to all the hostels, and Loyola too got a share in his generosity. Sch Sharun managed to get to the Bunder market to get sufficient amount of fish for Loyola. In his absence, Fr Pradeep Crasta secured pork and spinach from St Joseph's Seminary and other provisions from the nearby grocery shop. Our jack fruit tree has given us a large number of jack fruits. Thus, in spite of the house confinement we have managed to live well! Only Fr Peter Pinto is missing his road show, I mean his daily evening walks and has to content himself to go round and round in the hall. [PP]

MOUNT ST JOSEPH

Frs Francis Noronha and Francis D'Almeida took part in the golden jubilee celebrations of Kohima Region. MSJ is leaving no stone unturned while dealing with the threat of corona bug. Self-exclusion, hygiene, social and physical distancing in common meeting points are some of the measures taken to curtail the entry of corona into our campus! Under the leadership of Frs Teyol Machado and Arun Kumar, relief aid to the daily wage earners and migrant workers in our vicinity has been actively taken up. Many community members are joining this noble effort to reach out as many as possible. Dhyanaashrama and Prerana cancelled all the retreats and courses until further notice.

At the parish, many of our parishioners sent cash and kind to meet the growing demand of stranded poor migrants and other daily wage earners. The newly created parish website www.kalenaagraharachurch.org has become a medium to do a number of things which are otherwise not possible. The relief work reports and other virtual spiritual help are being disseminated through this medium. Meetings with parishioners are conducted using video apps and a number of virtual pastoral initiatives like novena during the corona crisis, ward meetings, streaming liturgical services, etc., have been taken up in place of closed Church services.

At the novitiate, novices experimented with "no bell period" in order to help them to be responsible and set their own timetable. An inter-novitiate day with a theme 'inter religious dialogue for harmony' was celebrated, and 36 novices, both male and female, from five different congregations attended. Fr Terence Farias shared his rich experiences on the above topic. Fr Anthony Joseph gave the inaugural keynote address. The feast of St Joseph was celebrated with a novena. Fr Joseph Rodrigues took combined conferences on adolescence and seven stages

of spiritual growth with inputs on developmental stages. While the second year novices have finished the study of the Constitutions of the Society, the first years have been initiated into the study of the same. [OV]

NAVASADHANA

The staff of Loyola Degree College, Bengaluru paid a short visit to Navasadhana. Fr Edward Philip attended the English training programme for the pre-novitiate directors held at Pune organised by the JCSA. We had our monthly lenten recollection preached by Sch Kiran Leema on the theme 'What am I?' Due to unexpected COVID-19 breakout all the first year pre-novices were sent home to be safe with their family and as days passed even the second years were also sent home. We began our annual retreat along with the Hassan Jesuit community fathers with the help of video call guided by Fr James of Chikmagalur diocese since the whole city is shut down and no one can go out. (EP)

INIGO SADAN

The Lenten observance and the Holy Triduum have never been more meaningful and down to earth to our community. Thanks to the Covid-19 lockdown, the community rose to the occasion to join hundreds of slum dwellers, construction workers and stranded migrants in their passion and their way of the cross. The imposed vacation began with a beautiful and meaningful community retreat directed by Fr T.V. Antony, fresh from his tertianship. The graces experienced during the retreat drove the community to meet Christ on streets, in slums and at construction sites. The community took on itself on a war footing as it were, to come to the aid of the suffering humanity. Under the able co-ordination of Fr Rohan D'Almeida the heads of all the units of St Joseph's Indian Institutions garnered all their resources to buy food items to be distributed to the poor and the hungry. Fr Leo Pereira not only

guided the operations, but also managed to inspire parents of our students, alumni/ae, friends and benefactors to chip in whatever contribution they could to keep the food distribution activities afloat. Thanks to the Bangalore City Police who supplied food packets to the construction workers who are stranded in our own campus. We in turn could reach out to the poor and the hungry on the streets, bus-stands, slums and construction sites. Some of the members went to Arrupe Nivas to help out in the relief work. The whole community involved itself in cooking, packing and distributing the food. Thanks to our Minister, Fr Cyril Menezes, who not only hunted for food grains from the markets and malls but also drove the vehicle all over the city in the absence of our driver who is stranded in his home town due to the lockdown. The community is immensely grateful to our own co-workers – Ms Nirma D'Souza, our cooks, wardens and our support staff for their untiring labour of love. [JP]

JESUIT NIVAS

In this quarantined period of the pandemic, the entire community of JN is actively involved in COVID-19 relief work. Community members render their service almost daily at Palana Bhavan (Archbishop's House) and at St Joseph's College. Because of the generosity of our students, parents, staff and our benefactors, so far we have managed to reach out to nearly 20,000 families of migrants, slum dwellers, transgenders and others. Everyone is eager to reach out to those in need and give without counting the cost. Much more has to be done to alleviate the hunger and sufferings of ordinary people.

Making use of the lockdown, the community had its retreat. Fr Sunil Fernandes beautifully directed the retreat and helped us to recharge our spiritual wells. Fired by the spirit experienced during the retreat, there is greater enthusiasm among the members of the community to do even greater service to the Corona-affected people.

The community celebrated the feast of St Joseph (our patron) meaningfully on March 19. Jesuits from the neighbouring communities joined the celebration. The Archbishop of Bangalore along with our local parish clergy attended the gathering. [SD]

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru

With the onslaught of COVID-19 and the lockdown, all activity in the campus has come to a standstill. The city, thankfully, has seen a flattening of the curve of the infection. The community used this opportunity to do its annual retreat. Fr Melwin Pinto (Sr) who was with us and stuck here due to the total lockdown, was graceful enough to accept to guide us through the retreat. His inspirational talks, interspersed with Pedro Arrupe's insights and life stories, made the spiritual experience even richer. Rector, Fr Dionysius Vaz, chose to postpone his retreat just to serve the kitchen needs during the time of retreat. Sch Ovin Rodrigues rendered a helping hand.

Meanwhile, MJES has taken a lead in providing the construction workers and other poor families with food grains. Kits were also distributed to over 200 families of our poor students. Nearly 2000 families will be served with food grains in the coming days as well, in co-ordination with the Mangalore City Corporation as well as the Labour Department.

Our Community Radio Sarang has continued its 16 hours broadcast even during the lockdown. During this time, it has specifically focused on Corona related issues to create awareness among its listeners. Several doctors from Wenlock hospital came to the studio for live phone-in programmes. The psychology department of the College and the Listening Centre have jointly begun a helpline facility called Manottejaka for people to deal with stress. This was initiated in association with Prajna Counselling centre, Mangaluru and Aadyaa Foundation,

Bengaluru. Meanwhile, the cutting and sewing trade at our ITI is helping the district administration in preparing face masks.

Fr Charles D'Souza from Kohima region too is with us as he too is 'locked down' with us unable to travel back. However, he is making the most of this time to relax and enjoy the quiet.

The lockdown, of course, has helped us in several other ways. We see all community members being together for morning mass and evening community prayer. Most of them also join in packing food grains to distribute to the needy. In fact, some of them have started playing basketball on a regular basis. Others are busy preparing video classes, taking online classes through Zoom and such other useful digital enterprises to engage with their students, and thus are bracing themselves up possibly for a longer lockdown. Not to be left alone, our octogenarians Frs Leo D'Souza and Santosh Kamath offered culinary help in the kitchen, only to be shooed away by the kitchen staff on reasons of cutting their own fingers instead of ladies finger. [MP]

XAVIER SADAN, Mysuru

Covid or no Covid, Xavier Sadan was in its own lockdown with various programmes for several groups, like a course for golden jubilarians by Fr Willie Sequeira, a 3-day retreat for ICPE lay missionaries by a Capuchin from Malaysia, the usual monthly residential recollection for the diocesan seminarians by a TOR priest, and an 8-day inner healing retreat by Fr Francis Menezes. Not to be outdone, the resident Jesuits too kept themselves busy. Fr Anil D'Mello gave a 6-day retreat to Carmelite Sisters and an 8-day retreat to Claretian Juniors. Fr Freddie D'Silva gave a leadership course to two successive batches of JMJ superiors, a discernment course for postulants and novices, an 8-day retreat to golden jubilarians and a 30-day retreat to Ursuline tertians.

In pre-Covid Lockdown excursions outside, Fr Anil D'Mello led the UFS novices through an 8-day retreat at Derlakatte, and Fr Freddie D'Silva addressed the staff of St Joseph's Indian Institutions on their institution day on UAPs and KPAPs. (AD)

PUJYA RAJENDRASWAMY NILAYA, Pandithahalli

We have two things to communicate: firstly, we are overwhelmed with joy in our hearts: at this time of distress, it we are having a better understanding of what Jesus said, 'Take up your cross and follow me'. This circumstance has taught us to strengthen the roots of faith in us. Secondly, the construction of the school building is taking its own pace to come up in this dark night with the bright hope of lighting up the new minds. (SK)

VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad

Fr Prashanth D'Souza returned from Pune after completing a course on the sources in Ignatian spirituality. As the priests of the community are on a transfer, Samarasa Vedike (Inter Religious Harmony Movement) members organised a farewell programme to our fathers. The members were very grateful for the contributions made by Vidya Niketan community, especially the fathers in promoting harmony. We had our annual retreat in the community directed by Fr Prashanth D'Souza. Scholastics are busy attending online classes due to the present lockdown. [DX]

OURS IN PUBLICATION:

ANIL D'ALMEIDA "Hindu Paradigms for Counselling and Spirituality", in Konrad Noronha SJ (ed), *Spirituality in Practice: Thematic Frameworks for Counseling*. Cognella Academic Publishing, San Diego, CA, 2020, 105-118.

REST IN PEACE:

Mr Jerome D'Souza, 68, cousin of Fr Maxim Rasquinha, on 14 March, Mumbai.

Fr Arun D'Souza, SMM, 32, Cousin of Fr Josephvaz Monteiro, on 15 March, Goa.

Mr Joseph Stany Mathias, 64, maternal uncle of Fr Robert Rodrigues, on 17 March, Thirthahalli.

Fr Dominic Muthedath (PAT), 85/63, on 20 March, Patna, Bihar.

Fr Andrews Koluvaan (DUM), 72/48, on 29 March.

Mr Sabas Crasta, 103, paternal uncle of Fr John Crasta, SJ, on 3 April, Kasargod.

Fr Valentine De Souza (GUJ) 92/74, on 6 April, Vadodara, Gujarat.

Fr Jose Javier Aizpun (ARU), 90/72, 10 April, Buenos Aires, Argentina.



HAPPY EASTER

Loyola Mandir wishes you a Happy Easter.
He is Alive!

May HIS presence bring
HEALING & NEW LIFE to Humanity.

