



Vol. 29, No. 08, August 2020

Quarantining and Trinitarian Intimacy

We are going through a strange and uncertain period. It may seem odd that we are meeting online and working towards implementation of our Province Apostolic Plan 2020-25, when we are unsure of travelling to the neighbouring parish or conducting a programme for our teachers within the month. For some, this is an uncomfortable time of forced quarantine—a strict isolation imposed to prevent disease. For us, Jesuits, when we wish to go forward with our PAP, this is also a wonderful opportunity to go back to our roots. We go back so as to go forward, living the Society's charism with enthusiasm and courage.

Fr Arrupe was emphatic in affirming: “Only in the light of Ignatius' Trinitarian intimacy can we Jesuits understand, accept, and live the Society's charism” (*The Trinitarian Inspiration of the Ignatian Charism*, 1980). Ignatius enjoyed this intimacy at the River Cardoner as he contemplated the loftiest mysteries while being drawn to follow the Lord in humility and obedience.

From the inner stirrings jotted down in Ignatius' Spiritual Diary, we encounter the Pilgrim “looking upwards” while relishing the Trinitarian glow, or “coming down to the letter” as he dwelt on earthly realities or “in the middle” as he longed to follow Christ the Mediator who could bridge heaven and earth. In his solitude and quietness, Ignatius grew in intimacy with the Father-Son-Spirit and learned to trust the Lord as he began his journey on an obscure road that became clearer as he walked that path.



It is appropriate that Ignatius has the first contemplation in his Spiritual Exercises with the Triune God looking at the messiness of the human condition and seeking to respond to the groaning of all creation. Our founder wanted us, as novices making our 30-day retreat, to say a resounding “Yes” to share the self-emptying of Christ who came from the Father and who will one day take all things back to Him. With the intimacy of the Trinitarian God in our very beings, we walk this road with Ignatius as we take up our PAP with hope and courage.

Fr. Roland Coelho

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

Fr. Christie P. Maria Joseph (MDU): Secretary for Higher Education (assumes charge in August 2021)

Fr. Jerome Cutinha: Provincial of Jamshedpur.

Fr. Soosai Mani: Provincial of Delhi Province.

Frs. Danis Ponniah (MDU), Melvil Pereira (KHM) and Santosh Minj (HAZ) as Consultors to POSA and JCSA Convenors and Chairs of South, North and Central Zones, respectively.

Fr. Francis Gonsalves as President of Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, confirmed by the Congregation of Catholic Education.

JUNIORATE, VINAYALAYA, MUMBAI

On 24th June we reached Vinayalaya to pursue our studies in the 'School of Learning'. The Jesuit Community warmly welcomed us on our arrival that made us feel at home. At present we are 11 juniors from 6 provinces; a good mix.

On 27th June we had our inaugural Mass with the theme: **"LORD MAKE US INSTRUMENTS OF HEALING AND LEARNING."** The main celebrant was **Fr. Arun D'Souza**, the Provincial of Bombay. In his homily, he laid stress on the importance of intellectual formation and meaningful communication; the ability to communicate our ideas, thoughts, and insights in a meaningful and efficacious way. He also spoke of the importance of languages. He said that our aim in all this is 'the Magis,' and we should aim for excellence in whatever we do.



Our acting Dean Fr. Aubrey Fernandes and Asst Dean Fr. Robert Das also welcomed us and through the 'Lectio Brevis'. They laid focus on our vision and mission for this academic year. We surely have begun well.

We began with courses on 'Group Dynamics,' by Fr. Robert Das, and on 'Self Awareness,' by Fr. Tony V. The resource persons through these sessions led us to a better understanding of ourselves as well as our companions. On 6th July regular classes began in full swing coupled with assignments.

Due to COVID-19 the situation in Mumbai is pretty disturbing. We are unable to go out for our ministries, but we are safe and protected by our loving Jesuit community. Do keep us in your prayers.

Junior Swapnil Borges

XAVIER RETREAT HOUSE, BAGA

Jovito had the honour of welcoming **Augustine Fernandes** and **Cedric** as new members to the community. He also made sure that our three Jesuit scholastics, **Menoy**, **Irivo** and **Jaeison** underwent their 14 days quarantine as required. **Jovito**, with an iron hand made sure they followed the quarantine protocol and served them meals in their respective rooms. Due to travel restrictions **Jovito** and Deacon **Menoy** will continue to remain in the community and carry on with their ministries. **Menoy** is slowly mastering his skills of preaching in Konkani under the able guidance of guru **Jovito**.

Since the Baga property is quite extensive and with weeds sprouting abundantly, we have to contend with unwelcomed visitors – the snakes. A benefactor came forward and assisted us in purchasing a

grass cutting machine. The machine was inaugurated on 15th July by Deacon Menoy; the same day we celebrated the birthday of **Augustine**, our Director and Administrator.



Augustine showed his expertise in handling this machine and then gave tutorials to the other community members. Hopefully you will see a well-kept environment. Trees continue to fall annually, especially during the monsoon season and this year was no different. The electricity poles were spared or we would have been reduced to making use of candles to beat the darkness.

The whole community chips in with their skills and talents. **Cedric** has started beautifying the place with his green fingers; **Augustine** is taking care of the new project, i.e. the renovation of the house. **Jovito** and **Menoy** labour around keeping the premises clean and tidy and undertake daily marketing.

Augustine Fernandes preached an 8-day retreat to the MC Sisters in Panaji. The villa house will soon be ready to accommodate Jesuits and their families to come and stretch their limbs, even taking a dip in the Arabian Sea (surely, not during



the monsoons).

The Xavier Retreat House has a new email address and a new facebook page which is picking up very well. With the help of our two support staff the community is happy, in good health and in safe hands.

Fr. Cedric Fernandes

BOM JESUS BASILICA, OLD GOA

On 25th July 2020, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of **Fermin**. We had a meaningful Eucharistic Celebration at 8.00 a.m. at the Tomb of St. Francis Xavier. Due to the Corona virus pandemic and the increasing number

of cases in Goa, only the community members were present for the celebration. **Fr Roland**, the Provincial, graced the occasion on behalf of the Province.

50 years ago on this date, in the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Bishop Karl Josef of Rothenburg (Rottenberg) in Baden-Wuerttemberg, South Germany, ordained Fermin. The theme 50 years ago was: “**YOU RECEIVED WITHOUT PAY, GIVE WITHOUT PAY,**” (Mt 10: 8). Fermin adopted the same theme for his Golden Jubilee mass.

Fermin expressed his gratitude to God for the gift of these 50 years of Priesthood, filled with its ups and downs. He is also thankful to the German family, Mr. Herbert Kirner and Mrs. Ingrid Kirner, who have gone to their eternal rest and continue to pray for him. They were his benefactors for the 5 years, during his studies of Theology and Group Psychology and were delighted to support him in his training. Of the 4 children God blessed the Kirner family, the last child Dorothea, whose name stands for 'Gift of God,' was a spastic child. Fermin fondly remembers Dorothea, and true to her name, became God's special gift to him and the entire family. She was alive for his ordination and later at the age of 7 – a biblical, holy number – she passed away peacefully, with a beautiful and serene face. She is Fermin's little angel in Heaven and of the entire Kirner family, so said Fermin.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, we had lunch as a community. This was followed by a short video presentation on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Fermin. A big 'Thank you' to all our province members who remembered and prayed for Fermin on this his special day. Thanks for being spiritually present!

Fr. Jude Carrasco

CHRIST NIWAS, NESARGI

As soon as the lockdown eased, the community of Christ Niwas, with Jana Jagaran, went to visit the villagers who were in dire need of help and provided them with the essential items to meet their needs. By the end of June, the government had reached out to people, employing them through MGNREGA and other essential programmes and services. **Tom** and **Velenson**,

taking proper precautions and following protocol continued visiting the SHGs to help them with their savings and at the same time to provide financial help to those who required it.

At present, due to the rising number of cases, visiting the villages has been temporarily stopped. We hope to resume our visits once the lockdown eases.

The community is now focusing on the province PAPs and doing their part to revive the planet through the implementation of organic farming. Vegetable plantations are coming up and with the arrival of sufficient showers the campus has turned lush green.

Sch Velenson Gomes

NEWS FROM DESHNUR

You probably are aware that for the past couple of months the Deshnur Math has been under observation and scrutiny by the Hindu Sang and especially the Swami. It all began in February when the Swami called me and began to inquire about the Math and our practice of inculturation. He showed a lack of patience while listening to my explanation. However, we finally did agree to meet and talk about the Math. Our telephonic conversation, without my permission and knowledge, was shared on Facebook. Since then, I've been receiving phone calls from various individuals who threatened to harm me in case they found any cases of conversion.

I contacted the Bishop, the Provincial, the police, and those in authority, making known to them the happenings that took place. The Nesargi police



stationed policemen near the Math and assured me of their support and protection. It so happened that when the Swami was on his way to the Math, he was refused entry by the police. The Swami retaliated by posting a video and requested his RSS supporters to visit the Math and investigate.

This whole event has been a blessing in disguise as many media platforms especially the newspapers, began publishing positive testimonies about the Math. The Bishop, the Provincial, and all our well-wishers assured me of their support and prayers. For this I am grateful.

At present, the distribution of medicine and healing services has been stopped due to the pandemic. The teachers of all the three schools have distributed study material to the students that was provided by the government so that the students could continue studying at home.

My earnest request is to keep me in your prayers so that I may receive the graces and strength necessary to carry on this mission begun by our stalwarts.

Fr. Menino Gonsalves

ST. PAUL'S, BELAGAVI

Due to the ongoing SSLC Board Examinations 2020, the Annual Feast of our patron Saint Paul was celebrated on 30th June 2020. **Savio Abreu**, Principal of the School, was the main celebrant. **Ronald**, Rector and Manager, **Jacob Carvalho**, Principal of St. Paul's P.U.College were the concelebrants and deacon **Steven** assisted. **Steven** preached a meaningful homily. Speaking on the lives of St. Paul and St. Peter, he encouraged the faithful to learn from and emulate the lives of these two great saints. The Catholic staff members were grateful to Fr. Principal for arranging the Eucharist as it gave them an opportunity to receive Communion after a couple of months due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

On 6th July 2020, **Savio Abreu**, had separate staff meetings with the primary and high school teachers. Each teacher reported on the course of action they took with regards to her/his online classes. The Principal mentioned that two fully equipped smart-classrooms with the necessary equipment had been set up in the school. The

Principal enlightened the teachers of various creative ways of conducting online classes. He also suggested that the staff have a helpline for the students so they could attend personally to the difficulties the students face. The initiative taken by the Principal, **Savio**, Mr. Apolin Borges and Mr. Asif Patel for installing the necessary software and setting up the smart classrooms was very much appreciated. Walking the extra mile and assisting our teachers to conduct the online classes successfully, is part of 'Magis' in action.

Fr. Cecil Fernandes

LOYOLA, MARGAO

The lockdown made us wait and wait for the arrival of our new community member. He made it through check-posts and a medical checkup at Asilo Hospital to make sure he was safe and **Jimmy** joined us on 28th May. Immediately he took up the duties of Minister and Treasurer of the house. Jimmy is also missioned to teach in the school but with the new directives from the Directorate of Education, no recruitment of new employees is to be carried out. Jimmy will have to wait till such time when matters are solved. But this did not stop Jimmy's enthusiasm to teach even though his name does not feature on the staff list, Jimmy began taking online classes for the students and be sure many must have wondered who this new bearded staff member is or possibly they went online to a different school. **Jimmy**, being an ex-student of the school fitted into the frame of things without much ado. The staff were glad to have their own student as a colleague.

The beehive activity that one associates in the school environment went missing with the start of the new academic year on 4th June. With the coronavirus pandemic putting brakes to all activities, the students had been forced to stay home and make good their time. For once you can be sure the students were tired of holidays and were longing to be back to school. Surely they were missing the sight of their famous Loyola Quadrangle, their friends and the staff.

To make sure that the students' brains did not go on an extended holiday the Education Department arranged training for the staff with online

education. The staff had to then implement the training they received and began conducting classes through the virtual medium. Of course, many staff members did feel apprehensive and foresaw difficulties in undertaking this new mode of teaching. The training they received during their B.Ed and D.Ed days had not equipped them for this eventuality. However, they did put their best foot forward and tried to do their best. They did receive appreciation from parents who at times were their students clandestinely; listening in to the virtual classes with one earphone plugged into their ears while the other to the ears of their sons or wards. Some negative remarks did surface, but the staff took this in their stride and tried to improve in their lesson delivery. The primary staff had to do with preparing worksheets and uploading them to their students. This surely gave vent to their creativity and they did come up with novel worksheets.

What preoccupied the minds of the Jesuits was how to prepare for the Feast of St. Ignatius. They couldn't ditch their founder and the patron of the School. With initiative from **Jimmy** together with a couple of staff (Mr. Roque D'Costa and Mr. Elliton Fernandes) planning was set into gear. They prepared a set of novenas using the format of videos, and uploaded these to the staff who in turn uploaded them to their students on their respective whatsapp groups. A number of staff members were roped in to do the commentaries that were very well prepared by **Jimmy** and his two member team who had a good background to the Ignatian world. Each short video included an Ignatian theme, an insight in the life of Ignatius and a connection to the present Covid times. These video gave scope for prayer and reflection.

Willy forwarded an article that he has collated on Ignatius in 2011 and had given the same to the staff then. This article was now forwarded to all the parents of the Primary Section (English Medium) and staff of the HSS with the hope that they come to know more about the Saint and feel inspired.

The Higher Secondary on their part under the guidance of **Pedro** and Dr. Walton Noronha also prepared themes for a set of Novenas to St. Ignatius. With the help of their staff members they prepared informative videos which were then uploaded to the students for reflection and

inspiration.

Our initial plan to celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius on 31st July with all due precautions of physical distance, sanitizing the hall, etc. fell through due to the directives of the Education Department. However, not to disappoint the staff who were keen and looking forward to the celebration, the Management intends to celebrate the feast with the Eucharist and refreshments at a later date.

The community however had its celebration with a Community Eucharist with **Basil** as the main celebrant, **Willy** rendered the homily; **Jimmy** was the choir master and **Desmond** arranged the chapel. This was followed by a sumptuous meal.

With online learning becoming the new normal, students have begun showing more and more interest in updating and upgrading their computer skills. Not to miss the bus, **Jimmy** and Dr. Soraya M. Menezes, took up the challenge to encourage our boys to participate in some coding classes

online. The new NEP (National Education Policy has included 'coding' into the syllabus). To their surprise, some students were game and after finishing initial trials, the students were even more enthusiastic to carry on learning more about coding. Such courses can and are expensive. The course fees being high, did not deter the management and so it was decided to organize an online coding course for the interested students. The course is being conducted in collaboration with Hamdan Infocom. Belagavi. The first batch of 22 students (Stds VII and VIII) will commence shortly.

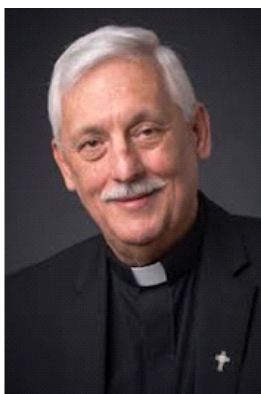
The HSSC and SSC results were declared and both sections have done exceedingly well. In the HSSC, the Arts Section topped with 100%, whereas the Science section achieved 98.7%. For the SSC, the result was 97.9%. Congratulations to the Principals, Staff and the students for making their hard work paid dividends. Now **Pedro** is on his toes finalizing admissions for Std XI.

Fr William Rodrigues

PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 2020

1	JES – AGM, Margao
4 - 6	Xavier Residence, Porvorim - Visitation
4	TSKK, Porvorim – AGM and MC
8	Province Consult
10-11	Old Goa - Visitation
11	Spirituality & Dialogue Com. Meet
12	XRH, Baga - Visitation
14	Vocation Com. Meet
18 - 20	PAI, Raia - Visitation
21	Youth Com. Meet
25	Finance Com. Meet
26 - 27	St Britto, Mapusa – Visitation

FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA 2020



Message of Fr. General Arturo Sosa

The opportunity of the Ignatian Year 2021-2022

Remembering St. Ignatius of Loyola and celebrating his feast gives us a chance to share some reflections on the Ignatian year that begins next May. The Ignatian year, which runs from May 2021-the end of July 2022, offers us a great opportunity that, hopefully, we will take full advantage of. We should not let it pass in vain. It is a call to allow the Lord to work on our conversion. We ask for the grace to be renewed by the Lord. We wish to discover a new apostolic enthusiasm inside ourselves, a new life, new ways to follow the Lord. That is why we have chosen as our theme for the year: to see all things new in Christ.

The whole year will be guided by the *Universal Apostolic Preferences* which, as you know, were announced in 2019 and continue until 2029. We know that assimilating them means conversion for each one of us, for our communities, our institutions and our apostolic works. We ask for the grace of a real change in our day to day life-mission.

At this moment, I am especially addressing our companions in the mission: the lay people, religious and those who, from other beliefs or human convictions, participate in the same struggle. We hope, during the Ignatian year, to share more deeply with you the foundational experience by which the apostolic body of the Society participates in the mission of reconciling all things in Christ. Many of you feel a deep commitment to this inspiration, to the charism that gives life to the Society of Jesus. I thank the Lord for that grace and I thank each of you for your enthusiasm and closeness. We want to take advantage of the Ignatian year to accompany more closely the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in each one of you so that you can feel that call more deeply.

To young people I say: “We want to learn to accompany you. We want to learn from you. Each one of you is unique, born with a special purpose. Ignatius struggled to discover the meaning of his life. In him you can find inspiration as you struggle to make your life meaningful and as you ask how you can contribute to building a better world, where the dignity of people is respected and where you live in a joy-filled harmony with nature. I express our desire to accompany you through what we do and most especially through who we are – people willing to share our time, our dreams and our hopes.”

To my Jesuit brothers of all generations scattered throughout the whole world I say that the Ignatian year is a new call to draw inspiration from Ignatius, the Pilgrim. His inner struggle and conversion led him to a very close familiarity with God. This familiarity, this intense love, allowed him to find God in all things and to inspire others to form together an apostolic body, full of missionary zeal. We are heirs to that charism and responsible for its legitimacy in the times we live in.

For Ignatius, a life of poverty was an expression of intimacy with Jesus, the Lord. More than words, his poverty was a sign of his interior transformation, of his growing vulnerability before the Lord, of his radical indifference to preparing himself to follow God's will, of his sense that everything came down from above as a gift.

How can we, the present members of the Society of Jesus, receive and live this grace of evangelical poverty?

First of all, by approaching the way of life of Jesus as Ignatius and the first companions did. Yes, an intimate relationship with the Lord is possible if we desire it and ask for it with insistence as we have learned in the *Spiritual Exercises*. It is an intimacy that is given to us not only to be enjoyed quietly by each one. On the contrary, it is an intimacy that enables us to love and follow more closely Jesus who continues to call us, especially through the poorest and most marginalized, through the cry of the earth, through all that is vulnerable. For the first companions, the life of poverty of each one and of the community was always linked to the care of the poor. That is a substantive part of the charism we have inherited.

Guided by the discernment of the Universal Apostolic Preferences we have accepted the challenge to listen to the cry of the poor, the excluded, those whose dignity has been violated. We have accepted to walk with them and to promote together the transformation of the unjust structures that have become so evident in the current world crisis. And let me be clear: this crisis is not only health and economic but, above all, social and political. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the serious deficiencies in social relations at all levels, the international disorder and the causes of ecological imbalance. Only the love of Jesus brings definitive healing. We can only be witnesses of that love if we are closely united to Him, among ourselves and with those thrown aside by the world and considered least.

Living our vow of poverty in the current conditions of the world will require changes in our organizational culture. The path of the *Spiritual Exercises* can be our guide, starting with a profound renewal of our interior freedom. This leads us, in turn, to Ignatian indifference and makes us available for "what is best" or as we say in Spanish "lo que más conviene".

We need to recognize our deficiencies and even our sins, in this area, if we want to arrive at a real identification of ourselves with the poor and humble Jesus of the Gospels. As we have done so many times in our contemplation of the call of the Eternal King (EE., n. 98), we can today ask for the grace to renew our desire to imitate the Lord "in bearing all wrong and all abuse and all poverty, actual as well as spiritual".

As Jesuits, we must ask ourselves what it means in this day and age to introduce changes in our life of religious poverty in order to make it more strict. In the Ignatian text, the full expression is that 'according to the demands of the times' we should see if it is necessary to introduce changes to make it more strict. What we want to do is to understand what are the demands of *these* times as we look to the future. The examination of our life in poverty can become the concrete way to inspire conversion for a re-charismatization of our life-mission.

Dear Jesuit brothers, dear companions in mission: we are entering into what can be a transformative moment for the Society of Jesus. It can be a moment that releases new energy, new freedom, new initiatives, new love for others and for our most afflicted brothers and sisters. In remembering St. Ignatius of Loyola and his conversion, we find encouragement. We realise that "Yes, change is possible. Yes, our hearts can be softened. Yes, our world can find new ways forward". We place our hands in the hands of Jesus, our brother and friend, and we go forth into an uncertain but hopeful future, confident that He is with us and that His spirit is guiding us.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us.

News- General's Curia

God
Bless
You

Happy Birthday Dear ...

August

Allwyn Cruz	02/79	*Unisakhiat Muruh	21/99
Malcolm Barreto	03/87	Apolinario Cardozo	23/50
Patricio Fernandes	08/56	*Vinay Khaniya	27/97
Alendro Da Costa	08/93	Cecil Fernandes	28/59
Amit D'Souza	09/84	Cedric Fernandes	28/59
Jude Carrasco	10/80	Shane Coelho	29/97
Ashwin Fernandes	11/97	Swapnil Borges	30/95
*Sameer Minj	14/99	Augustine P.	31/72



LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Fr. Joseph L. Pragasam, S.J. (MDU) 83/64 passed away on 03 July 2020 in Madurai.
 Fr Paul Jackson SJ (HAZ/PAT), 83/64 passed away on 05 July 2020 in Patna.
 Fr. George Gispert-Sauch (Bom), 90/73 passed away on 29 July 2020 in Mumbai.
 Mr. Jose Rodrigues, 79, father of Fr. Varun, passed away on 04 July 2020 in Margao.

MEN WHO TOILED IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

August

01 Gonsalves J. Manuel	11 Menezes Edward
07 J. Martins Tavares	14 Arulananda Swami
09 Miranda Joao A	15 Brand Werner
09 Rosario Peter de	26 Carrilho Francisco
10 Coelho Joaquim V	29 Amalananda Swami



Pope's Intentions Aug 2020



The Maritime World

We Pray For all Those Who Work
And Live from the Sea, Among
Them, Sailors, Fishermen
And Their Families

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Mumbai INDIA