



GUJARAT JESUIT SAMACHAR

Premal Jyoti, PB 4002, Ahmedabad - 380 009



72/919 GJS AUGUST 2020

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

- 02: Formation Commission Meeting, Premal Jyoti, Ahmedabad
- 03 – 04: Consult, Premal Jyoti, Ahmedabad
- 05: Province Apostolic Plan Meeting, Ahmedabad
- 07 – 09: Vyara – Mandal – Songadh
- 12 : JEA Meeting, Vadodara
- 14 – 16 : Rosary – Khatamba, Vadodara
- 24 – 26: St. Joseph's, Vadodara

APPOINTMENTS

The Congregation for Catholic Education has appointed **Fr. Francis Gonsalves** President of Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune.

► GENERAL has appointed

- Fr. Soosai Mani: Provincial, Delhi
- Fr. Hermann Rodríguez Osorio: Provincial, Colombia
- Fr. Victor Hugo Miranda Tarazona: Provincial, Peru
- Fr. Kizito Kiyimba: Provincial, Eastern Africa
- Fr. Joseph O'Keefe: first Provincial Superior of the most recently created Jesuit Province: United States East (UEA).

► POSA has appointed

- **Fr Paul D'Souza**: Acting Superior, Jesuit Community, ISI, Delhi

► PROVINCIAL has appointed

- **Fr. Chacko Thottupurath**: Rosary School Community, Vadodara
- **Fr. James C Dabhi**: Coordinator, Higher Education (PCHE)

PROVINCE HIGHLIGHTS

REJI'S "YES!"

After two postponements due to the lockdown, **Fr. Reji Madathikunnel** finally made his Final Commitment in the Society of Jesus on 31 July (the Feast of St Ignatius Loyola) at the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, Fulwadi. **Fr Provincial Durai Fernand**, who received Reji's vows, set the tone of the entire celebration by first asking him, "Are you finally ready...?" He then went on to highlight the happy coincidence of the day and exhorted the select group of Jesuits and Canossian sisters present to give primary importance to one's vowed life, in order to be totally available for mission. He also asked the Jesuits to ensure that there is adequate structural support, for one another to enable greater accountability for companionship in mission

In his words of thanksgiving Fr. Reji remembered his parents, his formators, all those who helped shape his formation including the benefactors, collaborators and well-wishers of the Society. It was truly a meaningful and memorable event for one and all where the guidance and presence of the Lord was prominent in the unfolding of the events. (Anand Antony SJ)



JDV President: Francisbhai



In a meaningful ceremony at the Jnanadeepa Vidyapeeth (JDV) Pune on the 31 July, the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, **Fr. Francis Gonsalves** (Francisbhai) took over as its new President. He brings along a wealth of experience as a theologian, writer and one who has engaged with different sectors of civil/ecclesiastical society. The installation ceremony consisted in felicitating the outgoing President Fr. Selva Rathinam (KAR) and welcoming our own Francisbhai. In his inaugural address to the twenty-five staff and superiors (who were physically present) as well as the student body who followed the ceremony online, he focused on being truly human by using the acronym SHIP. He elaborated it by explaining 'S' as an invitation to be attentive to the Spirit, have the spirit of sacrifice and engage in servant leadership. 'H' was a call to be happy, hopeful and hospitable. He emphasized that given the pandemic we live in, this call to hospitality takes on a new meaning. 'I' is the journey towards integration, growth in inter-relationships and the positive use of the internet and finally 'P' was a reiteration of our identity to accompany the poor, be truly prophetic and initiate processes rather than occupying spaces. He also made it a point to express gratitude towards his own professors and identified himself as a seeker with all those who are part of the JDV family.

We wish Francisbhai God's abundant blessings as he takes over the responsibility of leading JDV (South Asia's premier Church centre of philosophy, theology and spirituality) towards new frontiers and helps the institution fulfill the mandate given to it by the Church. (Francis Pudhicherry SJ)

New Deacons

It was a great day for **Sch. Melwin D'sa** and **Sch. Pratik Christi** when they (together with five other



Diocesan brothers) were ordained Deacons by Archbishop Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar on 1 July in the Sneh Jyoti Chapel, Sevasi at a very restricted ceremony. **Fr. Durai Fernand**, the Provincial, Bishop Rethna Swamy, of Ahmedabad, **Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes SJ**, the Apostolic Administrator of Baroda Diocese, Bishop Jose Chittooparambil of Rajkot, Rectors of GVD, Sneh Jyoti and Vianney Vihar were present for the Eucharist celebration. Archbishop Thomas, in his homily stressed on the vocation of a Deacon and later as a Priest to preach what we practice and practice what we preach. He called upon them to be obedient to their superiors later as Priests. He asked all the deacons to be always available for spiritual activities which they are entrusted with. (Moieson Dhas SJ)

GPAP Colloquium

The scholastics had a day long colloquium on the Province Apostolic Plan (GPAP) at Sevasi on 19 July, facilitated by **Fr. Francis Macwan** and **Fr. Ambrose Vedam**.

Fr. Ambrose spoke about the Vision and Mission statement of the Gujarat Province in light of God's plan for humanity and the UAPs of the Society. Fr. Francis explained the journey of GPAP. He asked the group to reflect on the document and to create ownership of it individually and collectively. The afternoon session focused on the 'Education Apostolate in Gujarat Province'.



Fr. Francis gave inputs on the ministry: the characteristics of Jesuit education and the challenges faced by the Jesuits engaged in this ministry. (Sch. Alam Parmar SJ)

Studios Scholastics

‘Sneh Jyoti’ reverberates with scholastics once again. At the moment we are ten scholastics (three philosophers, five theologians and two deacons), as ‘temporary’ residents, due to pandemic. The philosophers began their online classes in June from JDV, Pune. The Delhi theologians will begin their online classes in August. The two deacons are busy preparing for their comprehensive exams which would take place in October. The scholastics are now praying that they will soon be able to go to their actual destinations. (Sch. Allwin Macwan SJ)

Junior Jottings

We left XTC on 23 June for our Juniorate at Vinayalaya (Mumbai). On 27 June we had the inaugural mass presided over by Fr. Arun D’Souza, the Provincial of Bombay; in his homily he said that, “the intellectual leg and the spiritual leg are both very important in this journey of formation in the Society of Jesus.” The entire liturgical celebration was coordinated by **Fr. Aubrey Fernandes**, the new Dean of the Juniorate and Fr. Robert Das, our minister and other staff. The outgoing juniors did the singing. Frs Aubrey and Robert conducted a three-day orientation programme for us. This was followed by a two-day awareness programme conducted by Fr. Tony D’Souza, which helped us know each other better! Our regular classes began on 6 July. Do pray for us! (Sch. Pradip Gamit SJ)



New Novice

On 16 July (the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel) **William Santhosh D.** entered the Novitiate in Belgaum. William is one of the three, first year novices in the Western Region Common novitiate. He is originally from the Mysore area of Karnataka. Our best wishes and prayers



to him for his journey in the Society of Jesus. (Patras Mundu SJ)

Flying Colours

St. Xavier’s College, Ahmedabad has come out with flying colours, in the *India Today* survey of the top colleges in India, In *Science* we are at the 26th position while in *Arts* we are at the 25th position in the country. The best performance is in the *Department of Computer Sciences*. By bagging the 10th position we are now in the top ten colleges in India for BCA. We also rank 8th in BCA colleges in India under the category of *Colleges with Best value for Money*. In Science, we stand third in the country under the category of *Best Male-Female Student Ratio*. In the city-wise ranking, our college has been ranked first in Ahmedabad for *Science*. For *Arts*, Ahmedabad did not make it to the list of cities whose colleges were ranked. We are still not eligible for ranking in *Commerce* as it requires that minimum three batches must have passed out. As of now only one batch of B.Com has passed out. (Johnson Mundupuzhakal SJ)

Navarro Remembered

Every year on 18 July, the people of Shamgahan gather together to pay homage to **Fr. J. M. Navarro**, the Founding father of the mission and one of the stalwarts of the Church in Gujarat who died in 2007. This year however, the day was without its usual grandeur because of the pandemic and the lockdown. Led by **Fr. Kirit Patelia**, the Parish



Priest, the Jesuits of Shamgahan Mission, accompanied by St. Anne's Sisters and a Catechist paid tribute to the Founder of the Mission. **Fr. Thomas Chamakala** presided over the Eucharistic Celebration and highlighted the commendable pioneering missionary work of Fr. Navarro, in spite of many adversities. After the Eucharist special prayers were offered at his tomb particularly for the Dangs Mission. (Sanjay Aind SJ)

Collaborating Venture



On 21 July 2020, the first batch of two Sisters of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern (founded in Switzerland on 21 November 1909), arrived in Anand to help in running St. Xavier's English Medium School. They were warmly welcomed by all. The Sisters are temporarily housed in the Lal Bungalow (old Parish house); they will move to the house in Press Colony once the repair and renovation work is completed.

Incidentally, three of the first five Jesuits in the newly found Mission of Gujarat, were Swiss. **Fr. Aloysius Gyr**, a Swiss national, was Mission Superior from 1894 to 1904. Anand, the first Parish of Gujarat was established in 1896. We now pray and hope that they will not only help in running St. Xavier's English Medium School but in a spirit of collaboration, also help in the building up of the mission that began with Swiss-German Jesuits. (Anthony Pitchai SJ)

Radhanpur Response

The Radhanpur Mission continues to reach out to extremely poor and disadvantaged families in the vicinity, who have been directly affected by the pandemic. In June in collaboration with Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh of the Archdiocese we distributed around 50 kits to under privileged families of Radhanpur villages. In July, foreseeing the need, we have identified some needy widows, orphan and elderly people and also reached out to

them. We were assisted in these efforts by some youth and village elders. (Michael Raj SJ)



Adopting Plants

St. Francis Parish Youth (SFPY) Gamdi Anand organized a plants adoption program in the third week of July. Order for the plants were taken online and a total of 825 saplings (of thirty different varieties) were bought and distributed to the parishioners. There seemed to be a greater interest for plants like tulsi, mint, adusi and flowering plants. All those who took the plants were happy to plant it in their homes. Some volunteers planted saplings in common areas like the cemetery and the society's common plot and took the responsibility to nurture them. Congratulations to all SFPY members and thanks to our Parish Priest **Fr. Melquides Guedes** for his encouragement and support. (Moieson Dhas SJ)



*Into that heaven of freedom,
my Father,
let my country awake.*



Preparing the Ground Force

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Greetings from the Apostolic Plan Coordinating Team!

The unprecedented Corona brought the whole world to a standstill. For quite some time no thing and no one moved, but the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord continued and does continue to be as active as ever. The Spirit did not spare the APCT. It engaged them in a number of meetings to find ways and means to give a start to the implementation of the PAP. By way of preparing the ground force in order to enable the PAP to take off, a meeting of the District Coordinators (DCs) was held in Sevasi on 20 July 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss as to how to engage the whole province in the implementation of the PAP. The group was convinced that the most basic thing for an effective implementation of the PAP is that each Jesuit in the province must familiarize himself with the content of the PAP, assimilate it and own it up and then involve in the implementation at various levels.

After deliberating and clarifying issues, the whole group reached at the following conclusion: Organise meetings of the Jesuit Communities.

The District Coordinator will meet first the Superiors and share with them the outcome of the meeting held with the District Coordinators. Below are the main elements to be considered in the Community meetings.

- (a) The purpose of the meeting is to engage the Jesuits of the Province in understanding the PAP and collaborating in its implementation.
- (b) The matters for deliberation are as follows:
 - (i) The direct involvement of the District Communities in
 - Continue the practice of District-wise recollections: Mission 1- Goal 1 - Action Plan (5).
 - Matters related to POCSSO: Mission 2 - Goal 1- Action Plans (2) & (3), and Goal 2- Action Plans (2) & (3).
 - Matters related with Covid-19: Mission 4 - Goal 1 - Action Plan (1). What will be the suggestions of the community in this regard?
 - (ii) Involvement in more general areas:
 - Review pastoral ministry in Gujarat: Mission 5 - Goal 1 - Action Plans (1) & (2)
 - Ecological Audit: Mission 7 - Goal 2 - Action Plans (1) & (2)

Each community also can explore ways to participate in the implementation of the PAP at different levels other

than what is prescribed in the PAP booklet such as praying regularly at the community Eucharist and prayers for a fruitful implementation of the PAP.

The communities must meet during the period 01 August to 06 September 2020. The Superior will send a report to the District Coordinator by the 15 September 2020.

The District Coordinator will inform Ambrose of how the process of the community meetings is proceeding.

At the end of the meeting Fr Provincial shared with us his vision: 01) The District Coordinators are the link persons with the APCT. 02) The real purpose of the process is the TRANSFORMATION that has to take place at three levels: Personal, Institutional and Province, as repeatedly emphasised by Father General Arturo Sosa.

Thank you

Ambrose Vedam SJ,

On behalf of Apostolic Plan Coordinating Team (APCT).

JESUIT SAINTS OF THE MONTH



▲ S Peter Faber



▲ S Alberto Hurtado



R.I.P

- † Fr. Joseph L. Pragasam, SJ (MDU), 83/64 on 03 July in Madurai.
- † Fr. Paul Jackson, SJ (PAT), 83/64 on 05 July in Patna.
- † Fr. George Gispert-Sauch, SJ(BOM), 90/73, on 29 July in Mumbai.
- † Mrs. Teresa Jacin D’Cunha, 80, mother of **Fr. Sobers D’Cunha SJ**, on 29 July in Vasai.



POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

Universal - The Maritime World

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.



GREEN CORNER

E-SKILLING TEACHERS

The pandemic COVID-19 has been a challenging time for teachers the digital divide, lack of experience in online education and also of infrastructure means that the teachers are forced to improvise and innovate with available technology.

Keeping in mind the challenges and problems faced by teachers regarding technology for online education, GJEM organized an online Teaching-Learning Workshop at St. Xavier's English Medium School, Borsad and St. Xavier's School, Bharuch. The thrust of the workshop was that the teachers can adapt their content to online education, and find innovative ways to reach out to rural students. Instead of duplicating classroom teaching, teachers were encouraged to use short films for education and activity modules available from arvindguptatoys.com.

Due to the tremendous response from teachers, a webinar on the same topic on 17-18, July was impressive with 53 teachers participating in it from 19 schools. The webinar included the following: Pedagogy for online education, Online environmental activities, Demonstration on google forms and google classroom, and Learning science and maths through Dr. Arvind Gupta's online modules. **Fr. Lancy D’Cruz** gave the keynote address. Mr. Shashi Darshan, an IT expert and resource person gave a detailed presentation on google classroom and addressed technical queries. We thank the principals and teachers who participated in the workshop.

- Fr Rappai Poothokaren SJ



BIRTHDAYS & DEATH DAYS 2020

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 01 Fr Samada Juan – 1994+ | 12 Fr Eduardo Soler – 1987+ | 24 Ignace Canis Macwan |
| 03 Br Antonio Rabella – 1981+ | 15 Fr Anthony John Lobo – 1966+ | Fr Pinto Ignatius – 2001+ |
| 05 Anthony Moonnupeedikail
Fr Gerald Lobo – 1976+ | 16 Thomas Kolady
Fr. Isudas Cueli – 2018+ | 26 Kirit Patelia
Valerian Dias |
| 06 Ornellas Coutinho
Fr Palau Juan – 1995+ | 20 Lazarus Parmar
M.V. Joseph | 27 Vinay Khaniya |
| 07 Pratik Christi | 21 Hitesh Parmar
Yowan Sebastin | 30 Hector Pinto |
| 09 Fr Vincentius Carricas – 1967+ | Sebastian Manucheril - 2016+ | 31 Fr Kulandairaj M Arul – 2010+ |
| 10 Br Eugenio Bastida – 1950+ | 22 Br Agustus Lobo – 1994+ | |
| 11 Jobin Kaniyarakathu
Sch. Cheenkallel Scaria – 1993+ | | |

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