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## *From the Provincial's Desk*

### **“A Limping Pilgrim: The Roman Sojourn”**

“I was struck by the fact that even on the eve of his death, Ignatius had come to a remarkable balance between the practical matters of his responsibilities and his mystical experience. Throughout his life, Ignatius kept on growing in his spiritual life and it gained depth. This is particularly evident in this final stage; one in which we can say with Jerome Nadal that he lived the contemplation in action.”

This was how it was mentioned on the website of the General Curia on the interview with Sch Chamika Nipun of our province. He was lucky enough to write and direct a historical narrative drama named “A Limping Pilgrim: The Roman Sojourn” at the original rooms of St Ignatius which is normally referred to as “Camerette”. For all these years since the beginning of the Society, the Camerette was open to the public as a pilgrim site and hence there was no opportunity to do a project like this. Along with the lockdown when the rooms were closed for the public a team of scholastics and priests of *Collegio Internazionale del Gesù* got this rare opportunity to produce a video on the last days of Ignatius. This was the first time such a historical drama was done at the original rooms of St Ignatius.



On further inquiries with Sch Chamika, I was told that within a short time the research work was done with Fr Thomas Lucas SJ of the California province who happened to be in Rome during that time. He is the Jesuit who restored the rooms of St Ignatius to its original status. This was how the scenes were developed creating the ambiance of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The main aim as Chamika mentioned in the interview was to bring the rooms of St Ignatius to all those who do not get a chance to visit them. The production will be done in two languages in both Italian and

English along with two songs. Currently, the team is editing the video while refining the script. The editing is assisted by the communication unit of the curia while the script is refined by a professor of Ignatian Spirituality of the Gregorian University. The team of thirty plus members consists of actors, composers, musicians, choir members, spiritual Fathers, technical assistants of the Communication Unit of the Curia, and many others. The project will be finished in May 2021 for the Ignatian year.

He didn't fail to thank Fr Orlando, the rector of the college who encouraged the team to dream big and face challenges to come out with this project. The cast and the crew have worked hard to do their best to bring life to this heritage of the Jesuits.

We congratulate Chamika and all those who are involved in the work and ask the Lord to bless their efforts. See the full interview here: <https://www.jesuits.global/2020/07/24/getting-inspired-by-a-limping-pilgrim/>

### **Annual Retreat**

Fr. Provincial has announced the Province retreat of 2020 for ours to be held in August commencing on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:15PM and ending on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM

Fr. Paul Satkunanayagam will preach the Retreat.

### **First Vows**

SNs. Abraham Leo Kanthan, Hanif Masih, Arulanadam Dinesh, Brian Fernando, Aslam Aman and Isuranga Fernando, will pronounce their first vows on the August 15th 2020. The Holy Eucharist will be at 10:30AM at Daham Sihila followed by lunch.

### **New Appointments:**

**Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J.**, International Director of the Pope's Prayer Network has appointed **Fr Sanjeeva Fernando, S.J.**, as National Director of the Pope's Prayer Network in Sri Lanka.

**Fr. James Suresh, S.J.**, as the Director of the Candidates of Batticaloa and Fr. Paul has the spiritual director of the candidates. Sch. Dinoshan too will join the team and all of them will reside at St. Michael's College Jesuit Residence.

**Fr. Thangarasa Jeevaraj, S.J.**, will reside at the Lilies of the Field until he goes for his tertianship to Dublin Ireland.

**Fr. Sujeewa Pathirana, S.J.**, will join St. Xavier's Residence Akkarapanaha and will be the new Socius to the Provincial.

**Sch. Sithum Fonseka, S.J.**, will take over the responsibility as Sub-Minister at Daham Sihila, Jesuit Novitiate with effect from 05<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

**Left Novitiate on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020**      Novice Dilan Fernando  
Novice Akash Moosa

### **BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

Fr. Provincial's visitation of the Batticaloa District was from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. He met all Jesuits of the district individually and discussed relevant issues with them. Having satisfied with the performance of the district Jesuit team, he advised and encouraged all to work together and support one another.

## **Loyola campus Batticaloa**

This month has been full of challenges in Loyola Campus, Batticaloa, to continue serving our students at the best. Although the situation in the country is considered to be under control, there is still a sense of fear and uncertainty. Schools and many other private sector enterprises have re-opened and taken the necessary measures to protect the students and staff. In the first week of this month we were able to get the permit from the respective authorities after they thoroughly inspected our premises. The week after that we were able to call our students to prepare them for the final exams. An 80% of the students showed up for the classes and were given instructions for final exams. After another week of suspension of classes due to new Covid-19 cases in the country, we were able to conduct the final exams and brought it to a successful end. At the same time due to the uncertainty of the starting the classes for the O/L batch the students themselves have manifested their desire to continue studying with us. We look forward to a new beginning in the coming week.

Our staff members have now started their teaching work after a long pause. On the 17<sup>th</sup> July our staff had a talk on “Responsibility”, given by Fr. Navaji as part of the on-going training that our Director has organized. We are organizing also a staff get-together/team building activity along with the staff members of Arrupe College, Batticaloa for the feast of St. Ignatius.

Being aware of the challenges awaiting us after the elections such as curfews, forced suspensions, lockdown, etc, we are taking all the necessary measures and creating alternatives to keep our center running despite the difficulties that may arise. Our teachers will implement learning methods with students who have access to LMS and will seek for additional means that can be used if needed. We continue to look forward for a better month.

## **Eastern Technical Institute, Batticaloa**

Due to Corona pandemic, the ETI was twice closed and was reopened on 21, July 2020. About twenty students are attending the classes regularly. Afternoon classes and field training are suspended due to the current situation. They get back home with the lunch break.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, the students wrote their final English exams. After their exams, students were divided into two groups basing on their performance in the test. The Director, Loyola campus, has agreed to send one of their staff members to take classes at ETI. Everyday two English classes will be conducted for the students from August 2020. Thanks to Fr Roshan for sending Loyola Campus staff to teach English to the ETI students.

The Jesuit-ETI team meeting was held on 22 July 2020 at St. Ignatius Parish House. Frs. Provincial, Winston Rosario, Sahayanathan, Paul Satkunanayagam and James were present to discuss about the present situation of the ETI. Fr Provincial briefed the team-members regarding the concerns and expectations of the President of the Methodist Church. Other members also shared their views and opinions about the present status of the ETI.

## **St. Ignatius’ Parish, Kallady-Dutch Bar**

Thirty-seven children are being trained for three days in a week during the months of July and August as preparatory sessions before the first Holy Communion and Confirmation. Special seminars are organized on every Saturday by different resource persons. Fr. James, Sch. Dinoshan and HMSP (Mexican) Sisters organized these seminars in July 2020. The students are very regular and show interest with attention and full involvement.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, parishioners were prepared for confession in preparation for the feast of St Ignatius, the patron saint of the parish as well as of the Diocese. Thanks to Frs. Dexter Gray and Winston Rosario for their presence and the service rendered.



Fr. James has begun the 19<sup>th</sup> annotation retreat for the third group in the Parish from 26<sup>th</sup> July. Fifteen members have begun their inner journey with enthusiasm and desire.

From 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020, one week course on Ignatian spirituality was organized by Fr. James for the Pre-Novices at St. Stanislaus Pre-novitiate, Trincomalee. This helped them to get acquainted with different methods of prayer, familiarity with Ignatian spirituality and to grow deeper in their vocation.

On 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Fr James delivered a lecture on interreligious harmony to the teachers and the students at Charles Hall, Bishop House, Batticaloa. More than 100 students and 40 teachers from three religions participated in it with a lot of enthusiasm. He highlighted the importance of unity in the multi ethnic and cultural context. It was well organized by the Caritas-EHED, Batticaloa to build peace and reconciliation to students and staff in the country.

A penitential service was conducted by Fr. James on the evening hours of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for the parishioners of St Antony's Church, Koolavadi, Batticaloa.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, the evening Eucharistic prayer and worship service was conducted by Fr James at the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sahayapuram to commemorate the year of Eucharist in the parish.

### **Rainbow Kids Campus**

The teaching sessions in the Rainbow Kids Campus has been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic in the country. However, the Music and English (both written and spoken) classes are being conducted for the Teachers by Sch. Dinoshan. Selected students of the Rainbow Kids Campus are included for the Music classes. Participants are very enthusiastic and regular for these classes.

### **Padre Pio Ayurvedic Medical Centre**

The building work for the Medical Centre is already completed and awaiting for the required funds for the purchase of equipments, furniture and medicines. In the meantime, Fr. Sahayanathan is working continuously in growing herbal plants in the proposed herbal garden around the centre. The centre is expected to be open by December 2020.



### **Kalkudah Estate**

In order to improve the lively hood of the widows of the area living under margins, they are being trained in weaving cadjans (*woven mats made from coconut palm leaves for thatching roofs*) and preparing cane baskets, using the required raw materials available in plenty in the estate. There is a reasonable demand for these products in the area. They are also provided with nursery plants and plastic pots for home gardening, their success in this attempt will also increase their family income to some extent.



Fr. Sahayanathan is preparing to apply fertilizer for whole estate during the next few months as it is very necessary to maintain a good yield during the coming year.

## **COLOMBO DISTRICT**

### **Daham Sihila - Juniorate**

We the juniors officially began our Juniorate program on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June with the inaugural mass celebrated by Fr. Provincial. In his lively homily he told us how to become great Jesuits. His homily was full of stories, lessons, and humor.

From 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of June, we had an orientation program with Fr. James Suresh SJ. He gave us valuable input on various subjects such as Group Dynamics, Time Management, Study Methodology, Homiletics and Eastern Methods of Prayer. Our four days with Fr. James were very informative and educative. We learnt a lot from him.

On 28<sup>th</sup> of June, we celebrated one of our companions Leokanth's birthday. We had an outing to Thotopola Resort. It was a wonderful place and all enjoyed the day.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, we continued our orientation program with Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando SJ. It was day's program. We did a lot of activities with him such as composing a theme for Juniorate program 2020-2021, identity tests, learning the qualities of a good student, the different methods of learning and the types of different quotients and construction of our family tree. It was a wonderful day. We all felt enthused and inspired.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, we had a placement test conducted by the Juniorate staff. It was to help the teachers to know where we stood in our knowledge of English. The same day we were given new offices.

Sch. Shiran Fernando SJ has joined our community for a short while to give a helping hand to run the program. He has been taking classes on English literature. From 2<sup>nd</sup> of July onwards we have started the regular classes with the Juniorate staff. For this semester we have six subjects, taught by different teachers. English Literature by Fr. Aniston, Phonology by Fr. Tharanga, Comprehension by Fr. Ahil, Composition by Ms. Ramya, Grammar by Ms. Althea and Italian by Fr. Mariathas. We have also been learning Sinhala and Tamil. Sinhala is taught by a Rev. Sister and Tamil by Fr. Ahil.

We have been assigned to different parishes in Colombo district for our pastoral ministry. We are encouraged to offer our help generously according to the need of the parishes.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, we celebrated the birthday of our companion Aman. This month has been a busy time for all of us. We the juniors request you to keep us in your prayers.

### **Daham Sihila - Novitiate**

Daham Sihila Community received its new member, Fr. Aniston who has now taken charge of the Juniorate as its Director. After his arrival from the USA, Fr. Aniston had to spend two weeks at a quarantine center in Wadduva, Kalutara before coming over to Daham Sihila.

Fr. Mariathas too joined our community at Daham Sihila in the second week of July. He would be our new Novice Master from August onwards. In the mean time, we who are now in the second year of novitiate, accompanied by Fr. Master, came to a village called Mailagama near Kataragama in the deep South of the country for an experiment. The objective was to get an exposure to the life of the poor in the rural sector.

The Holy Family Sisters have a small community of three members here in this village. Apart from running a nursery school for the kids, they serve the few Catholic families scattered in the area. The Sisters provided us accommodation in their nursery school and helped us reach

the two communities of people in the interior of the village whom they serve in different ways. Our involvement was mostly teaching English to those less privileged children in the village. Since the schools were all closed due to Covid19, many children attended our daily English classes with great enthusiasm, and it was a unique experience for them as well.

We also had the opportunity to visit some of the places of religious and historical importance in the South. The main attraction here at Kataragama is the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya. Thousands of Buddhist and Hindu devotees from all over the country visit this popular place of worship during its annual festival of Esala Maha Perahera in the month of July. The Perahera takes place for ten consecutive days, but this year due to Covid19, the government imposed restrictions to prevent people from congregating and no spectators were allowed to enter the Devala Premises during the Perahera.

On one of the weekends, we visited *Thanamalwila* church and the parish priest took us to *Angunukolawewa* where Fr. Ashley had been working for several years as a frontier missionary. He expressed his earnest desire to have the Jesuits return to Thanamalwila to restart some educational and social services for those in need of the area. We too felt that as Jesuits, we are called for a greater apostolic involvement among the rural poor who are marginalized, and have less or no opportunities to come up in life.

## KANDY DISTRICT

### Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC)



On 15<sup>th</sup> June, a staff meeting was held to discuss students' progress via online and their practicals to be done at the CYTC. Other matters discussed were related to the environment, preparation of inventories, and TEVC (Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission) health guidelines.

Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC) has been disinfected, and given the green light by Dr. Sandaruwan, the MOH (Medical Officer of Health), Nawalapitiya, and Mr. Nishantha, PHI (Public Health Inspector), Nawalapitiya to commence classes. As a result, students with their parents participated in a meeting, on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss guidelines issued by the TVEC and to be followed when reopening of training institutions. Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi (Director) and Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne, (Principal) explained the guidelines in detail.



Distribution of relief packages (2<sup>nd</sup> Round), under the Sri Lanka Jesuit Relief Program was completed, following the guidelines given by the Public Health Inspector (PHI) as regards social distancing and distribution of fresh items.

Twenty six (26) families were given packages (each package worth Rs. 3,000.00 (rupees three thousand)



containing rice, milk powder, sugar, salmon, dhal, soya, lentils, salt, flour, sprats, chilli powder, curry powder, noodles. Five Families were given cash Rs.4, 400.00 (rupees four thousand four hundred) for each family, because of their particular and special needs.

A few photos of the beneficiaries were taken while observing social distancing. Also, signatures and telephone numbers were obtained.

Our experience in reaching out to the needy will further strengthen our ties with the community in Cholanakande area. Over the years CYTC has shared its resources with dedication by training youth coming from rural and plantation sectors, with relief assistance during emergency situations, and by providing houses for the needy. Many expressed in glowing terms the two big housing projects in Nawalapitiya area done by the founder-builder of CYTC.



It was heartening to observe families doing gardening while children were engaged in drawings. Such engagements we felt were of therapeutic importance for persons going through a very demanding situation.



Several families thankfully related the spiritual ministry of the Jesuits, in Nawalapitiya.

The month of July was a very quiet month due to irregular functioning of classes.

The 11<sup>th</sup> July, was the 18<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of late Fr. Carmine Iannaccone, the founder-builder of Cholanakande Youth Training Centre (CYTC). He was gratefully remembered during a Thanksgiving Holy Mass, celebrated at the CYTC Chapel, with the participation of Sisters of our Lady of the Holy Eucharist, Cholanakande and a few devotees from the neighbourhood.

Visitors: We record with deep appreciation the visit of Fr. (Prof.) Theodore Fernando to CYTC. Another visitor was

Mr. Denis Winter, an alumnus of St. Aloysius' College, Galle. He is the new Manager of Monte Christo Estate, Cholanakande.

## **CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CONCERN (CSC) - LOYOLA CAMPUS, HATTON**

### **PAFFREL Election Monitoring Training:**

Centre for Social Concern (CSC) has a joy in collaborating with PAFFREL to monitor the forthcoming parliamentary election in Nuwra Eliya District. Mr. Karunakaran, the advocate of Hatton court trained 30 postal volunteers, 100 station volunteers and 28 mobile volunteers in election monitoring. Mr. Dayalan, the staff of PAFFREL for Nuwra Eliya district explained how to use the smart phones to communicate information to PAFFREL office and assigned the centers for observation. Ms. Yogitha, the accountant took care of the logistics, travel fare and food of the participants. Fr. Premkumar, PAFFREL district coordinator welcomed the participants and explained the importance of election monitoring for fair and free election.





**Loyola Campus final exam:** Eight B1 students and twenty two A2 students did their English exam on 9<sup>th</sup> July and twenty nine A1 students on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The oral exam was conducted in two boards. To our surprise A1 students did their exam better in comparison with A2 students. The reason could be that the A1



students had their classes till 3 pm at the pastoral centre. Extra opportunities provided to improve their speaking might have helped for their better performance. Twenty two Computer students wrote their final exam on 10<sup>th</sup> July, NVQ pre assessment on 13<sup>th</sup> July and NVQ final assessment on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. We declared holidays for the staff from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, had staff training from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and resumed next batch on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Fr. Provincial's visit and exploration of an English medium school in Hatton area:** On



7<sup>th</sup> July, Fr. Provincial and Fr. Socius visited **Univentre International School** and assessed if the Jesuits could manage the school in the future. Due to lack of space, Fr. Provincial declined the offer but he directed Fr. Prem to explore possibilities of purchasing land for cheaper price in the outskirt of Hatton. Fr. Prem and Ms. Yogitha visited a few locations and were in communication with Fr. Provincial. Fr. Peter Ballies, JWL president

used to say that the poor must get the best. The proposed English medium school aims to have permanent Jesuit presence and mission in the heart of tea plantation area. Though CSC is serving the plantation community since 1993, the Jesuits do not own the property and there is no space to have a good Jesuit community life.

**Inauguration of Tailoring classes at Estates and CSC Centre:** CSC has planned two kinds of

tailoring training: one in the estates and another at CSC centre. Tientsin, Hallowella and Lonak are the estates chosen for the training and inauguration took place at Hallowella on 11<sup>th</sup> July, Tientsin on 14<sup>th</sup> July and Lonak on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We plan to have tailoring training 6 to 10 hours a week in the estates. At the CSC centre around 30 women from Dunbar, Panmur, Dickoya, Tientsin, Lonak and Hollowella estates receive training during holidays and weekends. They come around 9.30 in the morning and end the training at 4.30 pm. They are given lunch and tailoring materials free of cost. We have planned 20 training programmes in six months and conducted four trainings in July on 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Maria is their trainer and Ms. Yogitha is coordinating the training.



**Teacher Training for CSC Preschool teachers:** On 13<sup>th</sup> July Fr. Premkumar trained CSC



preschool teachers in psychology and Ms. Yogitha in lessons planning. Fr. Prem dealt the session by raising 5 questions on 5 issues that affect the preschool children. They are self esteem, parenting, gender, fear and single childhood. The teachers learned



that appropriate appreciation leads to greater self esteem, unlearning gender roles will lead to gender equality. Regular parents' meeting is essential and the teachers should use more of interactive methods in their teaching.

**Teacher Training for Loyola Campus staff:** On 21<sup>st</sup> July, **Sch. Nimesh** observed that fear and hesitation to ask questions in students blocks the learning process of English and suggested and presented activity based learning as solutions. **Ms. Christa** a student of BA Sustainable Development who had followed a course on Academic Writing helped the staff to improve their writing skills through planning, drafting, evaluating, revising, editing and publication. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July **Sr. Virginia** explained five qualities of a good teacher. They are discipline skills, classroom management skills, passion for the children and teaching, high expectations and the knowledge of the subject. **Ms. Guna**, our commuter staff, who is doing learning facilitator course did her presentation based on her learning. She invited the staff to be as role model, facilitator, planner, developer and assessor. On 24<sup>th</sup> July, **Ms. Sindhu and Ms. Udaya** explained the slides given by Ms. Susanna, JWL global GEL Coordinator. Their presentation was more interactive and helpful to teach through inductive methods.



## Satyodaya

Satyodaya Educational Training Center has been closed for guests for almost five months now. Even the educational activities in the field are temporarily suspended due to government restrictions and lack of funds. Our staff too remained at home most of the time except once a week coming to the center. However, there was a hope of normalcy returning with the removal of many restrictions imposed by the government due to Covid 19.



Satyodaya staff with much enthusiasm and joy took part in "Shramadana" for two days cleaning all the buildings, guest rooms and the compound to reopen the Educational Training Center for guests. The first group of guests was welcomed to the center on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. It was a group of seventy Special Task Force (STF) personals from the Presidential Security Division of Colombo. All the precautionary measures had been taken to prevent the people from entering the center. A

sink at the entrance for washing of hands, a thermometer to check the temperature, and hand sanitizers were made available to all visitors.

However, with the sudden discovery of over 300 infected people in the Kandakadu rehabilitation center within a day and rumors of a second wave of the virus spreading around the country, Satyodaya was once again shut down indefinitely.

A meeting was held at Satyodaya with the government teachers who were collaborating with Satyodaya for the education of children in Galaha area to discuss methods of giving lessons to the poor children who missed online classes due to lack of facilities.

## **TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

### **Jesuit Pre- Novitiate**

We are blessed with seven new novices who were selected for the Novitiate. It is good to be with them as formators and companions as they are preparing to enter the novitiate. As part of formation, we invited Fr. James, S.J., to give a short orientation programme to pre-novices. Fr. James stayed with us for a week and taught them various methods of prayer and yoga steps. Indeed, it was a fruitful experience for the pre-novices and they started following the methods of prayers during their meditation hours. We, as a Pre-novitiate community, are grateful to Fr. James and for his friendly attitude. Meanwhile, Fr. Robert, S.J., and Sch. Arulselan take classes for them on various topics that help them to understand religious life.



### **Loyola Campus**



It was a grateful moment for our Loyola students and the staff members to conduct the final exams for the O/L batch. We invited all the students and had a meeting to conduct classes and exam. As a result, we had two weeks of class for the students as a preparation for the exams. Then we successfully conducted the exams following the instructions given by health department. 150 students sat for the final exams. We really thank our staff members and the students for their support and cooperation.

### **Loyola Basketball Team**

In the view of celebrating the feast of our founder, we organized friendly basketball match between Loyola Basketball team and the Trincomalee District Team. Our team made use of the opportunities to exhibit their skills. Though they have lost to Trincomalee District Team, the players were very happy that they showed a lot of improvement in their skills.



### **CLC – Trincomalee**

The Members of the CLC organized the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. A good number of them came with their family and shared the joyful event. Fr. Robert, the Director of the CLC, celebrated mass and encouraged them to lead their life with the spirit of MAGIS. After the mass, they recalled their cherished memories and shared the experiences of the past one year.

### **Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola**

We celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola meaningfully in our Jesuit community. The diocesan clergy and the religious were invited for the feast. A good number of them turned up for the celebration. The Bishop of Trincomalee and the Bishop Emeritus graced the occasion. All were happy to be part of the Jesuit family celebration.





## MULLAITIVU DISTRICT

### Mullaitivu Mission

June was a fruitful and blessed month for Loyola campus – Mullaitivu and its mission because **Rev. Fr. T. Lawrence Fernando, S.J.**, the newly appointed director took over the responsibilities from the Country Director-JWL & Loyola Campus (LC) who was managing



the centre from Mannar. The new director was warmly welcomed by **Rev. Fr. Roy, the Country Director**, staff and students of LC, Jesuit Fathers and scholastics. Fr. Lawrence, in his inaugural speech requested from the staff full support and cooperation to run the centre effectively. Fr. Roy, in his speech expressed the need of educating and empowering the students of Mullaitivu. He also pointed out the Jesuits' Missionary contribution to Jaffna Diocese in the past centuries. Fr. Roy introduced the staff to the new director and briefed the functioning of LC in a short meeting. Fr. Lawrence, SJ conducted a staff meeting and planned for the future activities and programmes. At present, we have five students, following professional certificate course on Peace Leader, some students for GEL programme and others are for Pre-GEL programme. Fr. Lawrence has initiated exam preparatory classes for O/L and

A/L students in the evening. Some children and students regularly participate in dancing and music classes.

We are grateful to the Country director and JWL team for their generous support to assist the people of Mullaitivu who are affected by the Covid 19. The impact of Corona Virus has challenged the lives of many people, particularly the daily wage earners. Loyola Campus at Mullaitivu received Rs. 300,000/= from the Country Director. We supported nearly sixty families with dry rations (rice, sugar, tea, milk powder, soaps, etc). We identified the families in three categories. The first group was the war affected people who are mostly persons with disabilities. The second group was the students who come to study at our centre and are economically backward. Third group was the poor families of Udupukulam Parish. They expressed their gratitude to JWL for its timely help.



A new and an attractive board is about to be fixed at the campus which will give the informations about the courses offered at LC. Since many students who have completed the English programme last year have not received the certificate, we are planning to hold the graduation ceremony in the coming month of August and the arrangements are in progress.



Fr. Lawrence is gradually developing friendship with the diocesan priests and studying the situations of the people at Mullaitivu. **Fr. Vasanthan** is a diocesan priest and a staff at LC. Since he works with us it is easy for Lawrence to make relationship with other priests. **Fr. Yavis** is the parish priest and the dean of Mullaitivu. He is very welcoming and happy about Jesuit presence at Mullaitivu. He visited our centre personally and talked to me. Practically, every Sunday I assist him for masses. I have celebrated three novena masses and two feast



masses in the deanery. I gave a talk for the deanery priests for the day of recollection on the theme of Ignatian Spirituality. The Adampan community has planned to celebrate the feast of our founder St. Ignatius on the 31st of July at Mullaitivu. I am delighted to meet my Jesuit companions. Fr. Beni also will join our celebration. I hope and pray that the mission of Mullaitivu may flourish with the grace of God and blessings of St. Ignatius.

### **Six stranded Tertiaries sought refuge in the new Tertianship building – Mwangaza Jesuit Spirituality Centre Nairobi, Kenya**

The work of New Tertianship Building just ended and handed over to the Province by the contractors in June 2020. We tertiaries just finished our Tertianship Programme and asked to vacate the building we were in as our programme officially ended by that time. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June we were asked to shift to the new Tertianship building which was not yet officially opened. This well-equipped building has sixteen rooms and can accommodate 14 tertiaries and two tertiary masters. Right at this moment six stranded Jesuits are living in this house till we leave for our destinations. Two of our Tertiary Masters are also in the picture. Fr. Chako, the assistant Tertiary Master is also held up in Nairobi as the travels are restricted by the pandemic.

This is the coldest month of the year where temperature drops down to nine degrees Celsius.



This shows the differences in weather pattern and most of the time the sky of Nairobi remains gloomy. Nairobi is one of the expensive cities (cost of living is very high) in the African continent and many would say it is next to Pretoria in South Africa.

Safari Tour at the Nairobi National Park: The Sri Lankan Deacons, Atputharaj and Rajitha, with another Sri Lankan Mr. Sebastian organized a Safari Tour at the Nairobi National Park on the first Sunday of July. They

accommodated me and the Scholastic Naresh from Andhra Pradesh, India. We spent four hours at the National park visiting all kinds of animals from giraffe to hippopotamus. We were blessed with very pleasant weather throughout the journey.

### **Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane in Kakuma Camp [KENYA]**

Two of my national Staff were planning to leave for Nairobi on Tuesday for some Rest and Relaxation after four months of hard work. On protocol they underwent the PCR test. On Monday morning, there was a call from UNHCR confirming that my colleagues were unable to travel as they were tested positive. My first reaction was fear since they were with us in the same residence.

My fear also was about all my colleagues over here, the children, ladies and young girls who were in our protection whether they were too affected as these two colleagues worked very closely with them. The Health workers of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the main health coordinator in the Kakuma Camp advised self-quarantining for all of us in JRS Kakuma.

The protocol for self-quarantining began. The two positive ones were in self isolation. The rooms were sanitized, personal utensils were provided, meal times were allocated, wearing of masks in the residence was made compulsory and temperature check was initiated. As the group from Nairobi arrived, rooms were assigned to them to prevent any mixing with us. IRC assured that within a few days all the contacts would be tested.



There were many more questions as to from where did the infection set in here as none of us traveled to Nairobi. But in the midst of all difficulties I had great support from the Country Office, Regional Office and International Office through direct calls, messages and mails. It was heartwarming to feel the support and strength. I really felt the Spirit of the JRS Family. The Jesuits from Nairobi assured us of their prayers. The Inter agency solidarity was immense especially of the UNHCR.

There was another new development that one of us was detected positive in the protection. It was really chaotic. The inmates became angry and frustrated. They were refusing to be tested again. In their ignorance and fear of testing which was very painful some were trying to jump over the fences. I was unable to visit the scene as I too was in self-quarantine. Our matron was a great support to take the instructions from the office and from the coordinator who was also in self-quarantine. The Inter-agency support to calm down the inmates was marvelous.

The first round of tests was done for all of us and they turned out to be negative. I thanked God for His mercy as the results were announced. In another week's time another test would follow to finalize the results.

The second week was terrible as all were in suspense. There were no activities other than a few online meetings. We were stranded in the residence. The PCR tests were postponed by a day which meant the results would be announced only a day after. At last we were tested on Saturday for the second time. The results were delayed by two days as there was a communication problem. In the morning it was announced by UNHCR that we were negative including our incentive staff who were hospitalized.

Looking back over the events brings me awareness of risk in humanitarian services, uncertainties of lives heightened by the pandemic and total trust and surrender to God who cares over us even in all the darkness.

I tried my best to evade the question raised on how it touched our staff but more and more I deepened the quest of why. There were agencies who withdrew from the camp soon after the lockdown was announced. JRS continued its mission with all precautionary protocol. We cared and accompanied our beneficiaries till the self quarantining.

### *For Our Reflection:*

We live in a time of great uncertainty and suffering. While we are in this pandemic, many of our plans have been disrupted. Many lives have been claimed by Covid-19. Many people **suffer from hunger** and sickness. In one study made, there is a notable shift of emotion of people during



the time of pandemic, that is, from being fearful in the beginning to becoming increasingly angry. This may not be true for all cases, but, more than ever, we realize our fragility. Many of us appear to be uncomfortable with the new normal life. We somewhat accept this new reality but deep down we long to return to the pre-pandemic period.

As the impact of the global pandemic begins to be felt in our works and our communities, we may well be faced with some very difficult decisions regarding what we can continue to sustain, and possibly where we may need to decide to end our mission. It may also challenge our lifestyles: living with less because of loss of income or donations **or because of a desire to give of what we have to those less fortunate**. Through it all we will have to protect what our poverty calls us to: being those supported by the donations of friends and by just remuneration for our work. Both of those may well diminish in the months ahead and our communities and works may find themselves making sacrifices because of the need to live with less. Our works will also look for support and turn to the Society / province for assistance. This will call for careful discernment: deciding what help can be offered that reflects our poverty and our need to preserve our ability to support the works that are of the highest priority and the greatest need. It will be difficult to not support some, and even withdraw from others. It is here that the Universal Apostolic Preferences and Province Apostolic Plans and the implicit priorities will



be of help. It will also be hard to keep the global perspective in our decision making: balancing the local demands with the global needs of the Society of Jesus. We do not have the best structures for evaluating relative needs and modes of sharing resources – but at least in these times of crisis it is important that we are a global Society, seeking to care for the neediest – even if it calls for greater sacrifice for those with resources. We can learn a lot from Ignatius’s disposition in the face of uncertainty and suffering. *(These reflections are borrowed from JCAP recent news letter and the General Treasurer’s letter July 2020.)*

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### *The Maritime World*

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





## REMEMBRANCES

### AUGUST

03/1973	Fr. Isidoro Marino	72/50
04/1986	Fr. Nicholas Uricchio	71/58
04/2010	Fr. Vernon Buyser	90/67
05/1949	Br. Peter Van Goethen	71/49
06/1989	Fr. Godfrey Giordano	82/69
07/1964	Fr. Simon Arulappah	50/30
08/1956	Fr. John Delaney	73/52
09/1924	Fr. Aloysius Bernaert	50/32
13/1980	Fr. Felix Clarkson	78/54
15/1990	Fr. Eugene Herbert	67/50
16/1944	Fr. Joseph Gryffroy	70/51
17/1918	Sc. Paul Woigard	32/12
17/1979	Fr. Pasquale Guardiano	80/61
18/1913	Fr. P. Delbecque	44/21
19/1916	Fr. Michael Gouth	50/22
22/1950	Fr. Stephen Van Merris	61/40
23/1939	Br. S. Saverimuttu	39/17
23/2010	Fr. Mark Perera	81/60
25/1994	Br. Joseph Perera	56/33
30/1980	Br. Anacletus Rodrigo	64/44

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

### AUGUST

01/1939	Peter Kurukula Aratchi
08/1978	Lawrence Loganathan
09/1998	Dinesh Arulanandam
17/1998	Thiranjala Weerasinghe
18/1973	Sumeth Perera
19/1989	Arulseeelan Manoharan
20/1998	Aman Aslam
20/1992	Zenith Lawrance
25/1965	Kamal Andradi

### SEPTEMBER

03/1943	Winston Rosairo
04/1999	Wishal Khan (Novice)
14/1950	Tyrone Mihindukulasuriya
16/1989	Sithum Fonseka
16/1993	Danish Khokhar (Junior)
20/1957	Joel Kulanayagam
25/1982	Dilan Sankalpa Perera
26/1996	Jude Cooray
27/1971	George Fernando

### NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, August 2020 to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits'

### NEWSLETTER

sociussrilanka@gmail.com