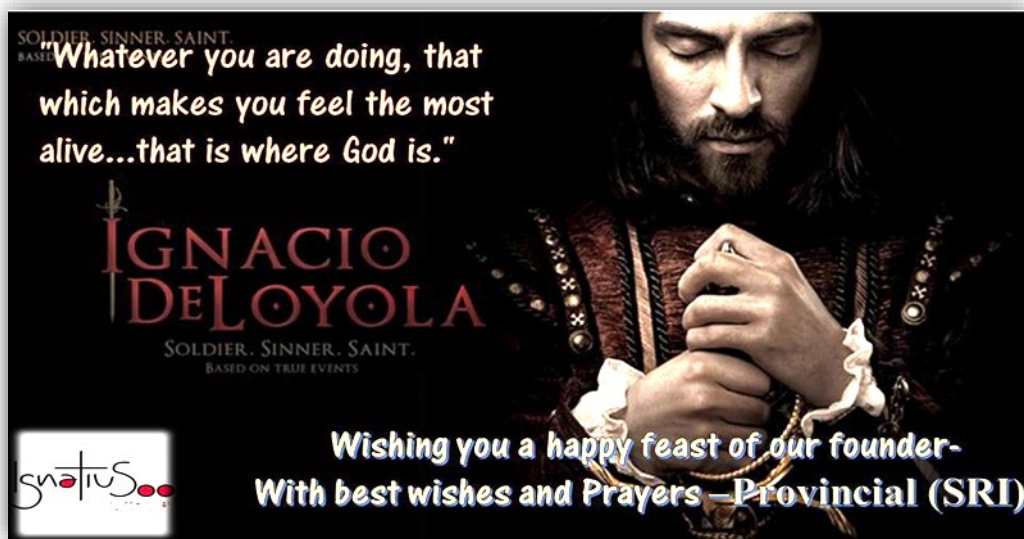




PROVINCIAL'S DESK



APPOINTMENTS

- Fr. Thushara Sampath** - Province Coordinator for Formation (PCF).
He will be the Chairperson for the Formation Commission.
- Fr. Jude Deluxion** - Province Development Director (PDD.)
- Fr. Sumeth Perera** - Coordinator of the Education Ministry Team.
- Fr. Thurairasa Sahayanathan** - Coordinator for the Social Justice & Ecology Team (SJET).
- Fr. Kamal Andradi** - Coordinator for the Pastoral and Retreat Ministry Team.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Frs. Milroy Fernando, Thushara Sampath, Roshan Suvakeen, Benedict Savarimuthu, Richard Pitchai and Ahilarajah Sivarajah for rendering their valuable services to the Province by holding the above mentioned responsibilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Province Annual Retreat will be held from August 9th at 8:30 pm till August 17th afternoon, at Fatima Retreat House, Lewella.

The Province Congregation will commence at 6:00 pm on September 6th, 2021 at Fatima Retreat House Lewella.

Peter Bachmann Foundation (PBF) Chilaw for the slow learners (children with special needs) is now named as **Peter Claver Institute (PCI)**. This will be officially announced at the Institute on the 9th of September 2021, the feast day of St. Peter Claver.

“Musing & Voicing” of a Sri Lankan Scholastic in Regency on the Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

The Pope's worldwide Prayer Network - Sri Lanka, is grateful to Sch. Petras George SJ, who graciously agreed to reflect on the Holy Father's Prayer Intention for August - THE CHURCH. The Prayer intention is as follows.

“Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel”.

The disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they went out proclaiming the Gospel, performing miracles and healing the sick (Acts:2-4). These gifts of the Holy Spirit are granted not only to the first disciples of Jesus but to every individual who believes in Jesus, the Gospels, his life-giving Word and to his Spouse the Pilgrim Church on earth.

Some of Jesus' disciples came to this land called Pakistan. Today as missionaries filled with the Holy Spirit, they spread the Good News in every possible way. Blessed by God, nourished by the Word and Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, now there are 7 ecclesiastical units in Pakistan, comprising 2 Archdioceses, 4 Dioceses, and one Apostolic Vicariate, all of the Latin Rite. I believe the Church in Pakistan is like a mustard seed with extreme potential of growing into a massive tree that provides shade to the people around it and becomes a source of harmonious living for people in all walks of life. With the Grace of God, she has been playing a vital role of a bridge between religions, cultures and ethnicities.

I need to acknowledge that the conditions of the Christian community in Pakistan are improving. The Church has already been a nourishing pres-



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION August - 2021

Intention for Evangelization - The Church

**Let us pray for the Church,
that She may receive from the
Holy Spirit the grace and
strength to
reform herself in the light of
the Gospel.**

ence to the faithful. She has been a source of comfort, optimism, strength, and affection. The contribution of the Church in Pakistan apart from Spiritual accompaniment, has been vividly experimental in missionary educational institutions, technical educational institutions, in the health sector, in human rights and in the interfaith dialogue etc. In fact, interfaith dialogue has been a pliable means of religious harmony, permitting peaceful and fraternal co-existence.

Moreover, the Christian community in Pakistan was strengthened in their faith due to the fact that they could go to the church for the Easter prayers and the Feast of Pentecost unlike the previous years. The reason is the selfless dedication of active involvement of the clergy in the lives of the people. At present, the Holy Spirit desires dedicated men and women, who certainly desire to serve the Lord in creativity and authenticity. Along with the

ordinary approach to the hearts of people, the men and women religious have been innovative in reaching out and accomplishing the mission of Christ given to the disciples and the Blessed Mother on the day of Pentecost and to establish here-on-earth, the kingdom of God.

The prayer of the moment is that the Lord may provide a good number of dedicated and creative laborers for the abundant harvest. Praying with the words of Pope Francis, we invoke the grace from the Holy Spirit that, we may not be afraid of holiness, we may not be afraid to aim high, we may not be afraid to let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit to reform and renew ourselves in the light of the Gospel.

(Sch. Petras George SJ has completed Philosophical studies at Arrupe College, Harare-Zimbabwe. At present, he is doing his first-year regency in Pakistan. Email: petrasgill577@gmail.com>

AKKARAPANAHA - Jesuit Community



The pandol was designed by the candidates themselves which was greatly admired by all the invited guests. It was indeed a blessing to have many youngsters burning with the zeal to always reach the MAGIS with enthusiasm and love for the Lord. We were also blessed to have Mr. Shevon from Duwa who volunteered to draw the paintings free of charge for the backdrop design of the stage. Even our neighbours helped us during the last days to make the necessary arrangements. Above all, the work we did was a commitment of all the members of the community which was a real joyful experience. Unity and the enthusiasm made the feast day memorable. With the blessings and the grace of St. Ignatius we were able to have the celebrations in a meaningful way.

From the beginning of this month all the candidates and the scholastics including the Fathers at Akkarapanaha community were hopefully waiting for the feast day of St. Ignatius. This day was so special to us this year because of the 500th anniversary of the conversion experience of our Founder.



His Eminence, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo, had been invited to preside over the feast day mass but due to health reasons he was unable to attend. With welcoming hearts we then received the auxiliary bishop of Colombo, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony to preside over the mass in which Fr. Dexter Grey, the Provincial and Fr. Sujeewa Pathirana, the Socius concelebrated. This event was indeed a success. Our preparations took a lot of time and energy in which both our candidates and the scholastics shouldered the burden of all the arrangements.



DAHAM SEVANA

Jesuit Novitiate

We began the month of July with a pilgrimage to Malkaduwawa church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. Thus we ended the first probation of the new novices. Adding to that our joy and happiness was doubled because July 1st is a special day for us. It is our beloved Novice Master's birthday. The community planned out a special dinner cooked by them, and the novices displayed some entertaining items to add color to the event.

The following week we were saddened to hear of the death of Fr. Stan Swami SJ. We offered our prayers for the repose of his soul. On the 10th of July we received an almsgiving from the family of novice Shalinda who lost his maternal grandmother recently. He also had the opportunity to see his mother who had come from Italy to attend the funeral of the grandmother.



Our academic & spiritual life is also growing daily. We finished the letter of Fr. Kolvenbach, "Spiritual formation in novitiate", explained to us by Fr. Master and began a new article, "The First Companions" by Barton T. Geger. We also listened to a zoom talk by Fr. James Martin who spoke about prayer. We profited a lot from it. Fr. Socius took English classes for us and towards the end of the month he taught us some drama skills as a preparation for the drama we planned to stage on the feast day. Our Bro. Minister



is always on the move providing us everything that we need and he also went for a home visit during this month.

Throughout the month we prepared ourselves spiritually for the feast of St. Ignatius by having the novenas, by listening to the Ignatian reflections given by the Chennai province and also attending zoom novenas conducted by the scholastics at Asha Kiran. We had our day of recollection from 22nd night to 23rd night as a preparation for the feast of our Founder. Fr Master gave us points on the topic "The Significance of Pamplona and the convalescence at Loyola".

On 29th we celebrated the birthday of our beloved companion Donald. We had the cake cutting ceremony at lunch time and we gave him "positive strokes" in the evening. We were very busy in beautifying the premises by adding more flora and fauna of various kinds. We have started to grow vegetables too and hope to have home cultivated tasty and nutritious food very soon.

On 31st, the long-awaited day, we celebrated the feast of our founder in a grand manner putting all our creativity into it. Our chapel and the refectory decorations were appreciated and admired by all. We invited a few religious from all the congregations in the Diocese of Kurunegala including two parish priests and a few catholic families who are our immediate neighbours. Our new cooks: Appa and Amma prepared a very delicious meal which everyone enjoyed a great deal. We also entertained the invitees with a creative drama (a totally new concept) enacted and directed by our dear Fr. Jude, Socius. This occasion was indeed a great blessing for all of us. We are very grateful to God and our Holy Founder.



DAHAM SIHILA

Jesuit Juniorate

By God's abundant graces we Juniors began the month of July with the inauguration of our Juniorate Programme on the 1st of July. On the same day we welcomed Fr. Eustace Fernando to our Daham Sihila community as our spiritual father to help us in our quest for Ignatian spirituality. Sch. Dinesh too, joined us and would be with us till he leaves for India for his college studies.

On the 2nd of July we had an assessment test with our teachers before starting our classes. For this year too we have the same teachers namely, Mrs. Ramya and Ms. Althea, for our English classes.

Fr. Eustace took the initiative to teach us Spirituality and Human Development. Fr. Dean is taking our classes in English Literature and Scholastics, Niroshan and Kingsly are conducting classes on Public Speaking, Computer and Media.

We began Tulana Mass again with Fr. Aloysius Pieris on Saturdays and Parish Ministry on Sundays. Bilal has started going for parish ministry while others are yet to begin the ministry in their respective parishes.



Schs. Shehan and Nimesh were with us for a short time to work on the documentation for their college admissions.

On 15th of July Delaxan sustained a minor injury in his leg while playing basketball and is undergoing Ayurvedic treatment.

On 21st of July we began our Novena for the feast of our founder St. Ignatius of Loyola and the whole community takes turns to conduct prayers.

The renovation of the old Novitiate building has begun under the guidance and care of Frs. Superior, Thushara and Jude Kathiravel.



On 25th of July Fr. Dean took us to Mannar for the feast of St. Anne in Vankalai. On our way to Mannar we visited an ancient church in *Parapankandal* dedicated to St. James where St. Joseph Vaz and Fr. Jacome Gonzalez had stayed. We were privileged to see a well, situated in the church where a bone of St. Joseph Vaz is believed to be buried and we also saw the writings of Fr. Jacome Gonzalez written on palmyrah leaves. It was a spiritually enriching experience as we prayed and received many blessings. Sch. Niroshan's family warmly welcomed us for lunch and we enjoyed their hospitality with a delicious lunch.

Having reached Vankalai we attended the Vespers service and stayed the night at Adampan. The following day, we participated in the feast day Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Mannar and Fr. Dean was one of the co-celebrants. After Mass we had breakfast and thereafter we visited Fr. Dean's family and had a wonderful and enjoyable time with them. In the afternoon we began our journey back home and had lunch on our way. Altogether it was a wonderful and blessed experience. We are very grateful to God for giving us such an opportunity and His protection during our journey.



BATTICALOA

LOYOLA CANDIDATE HOUSE

On 14 July 2021, a farewell Eucharistic celebration was organized to thank God for the gift of Sch. Dinoshan to Loyola Candidate House. During the Eucharist, Fr James recollected all his good works and thanked and congratulated him for his valuable presence at Loyola House. His mother and his family members were present to grace the occasion. All the Candidates were happy to present a gift as a token of gratitude for his service during the last one year.

On 17 July 2021, an online panel discussion was organized for the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the **Church of Ceylon** and its diocese of Colombo. The forum took up a discussion on the topic: 'Self reformation for the reformation of the Church and Society'. **Fr. James SJ** was one of the four panelists to share his spiritual experiences on the topic. There were 30 participants with more Priests and a few lay representatives. It paved the way to create an ecumenical atmosphere in the forum.



ST. SEBASTIAN'S PARISH



COVID19 RELIEF WORK - ST. SEBASTIAN'S PARISH

The parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church has launched another important project of distributing Internet Routers to the poor children (including the Hindus) of the parish who find it difficult to attend online classes.



പുട്ടു സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ ക്ലോസ്റ്റർ ഓഫ് സോഷ്യൽ സർവീസസ് 100-ഓളം കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇൻ്റർനെറ്റ് റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുകയുണ്ട്. ഈ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

INIGO SOCIAL EMPOWERING CENTRE ന്റെ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ റൂട്ടറുകൾ വിതരണം നടത്തുന്നതിന് പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

The Jesuits around the world are celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola. There are a number of initiatives begun by the Jesuit fathers all over the world. St. Sebastian Parish in Puliyadikkudah is one of the Parishes run by the Jesuit Fathers. In view of this the Parish Priest of St. Sebastian Church, Puliyadikkudah has initiated a Social Centre, named INIGO SOCIAL EMPOWERING CENTRE (ISEC), which focuses on social issues and provide assistance for those who are affected by them. While the first project of providing ration for the needy due to the recent lockdown of COVID-19 is still progressing, the ISEC began another project concerning the education of the poor children. As a first move the ISEC started to distribute routers for the students who do not have any and are unable to continue their studies.

We appreciate the Dialog Company (Batticaloa) Manager R.Kajenthirau and his Assistant who donated routers to the Centre. The Parish Priest sincerely values the support of one of our Parishioners who ignited the project. We intend to provide 100 more routers to the students.

May God Bless our Donors.



JRS - Kakuma

Fr. Lasantha writes from Kakuma....

In the month of August, all the activities in the mission of JRS in Kakuma could be crystallized to the grace of deep concern leading towards care.

THE MIRACLE

At the end of June, the JRS Country office alerted us in Kakuma operations that the incentive salaries for about forty teachers were not budgeted. We were requested to lay off these staff. How could I decide and communicate this sad and bad news to our refugee staff? I had two major concerns; laying them off will surely affect the quality of our inclusive education which we undertook as JRS' unique mission 2021-2024 and these laid off staff are refugees who were going through many hardships.

On a Saturday morning, I called our coordinator for Inclusive Education for an emergency meeting to look for an alternative. All discussions failed and there seemed to be no way out. I called off the meeting with tears; how am I going to the centres to communicate this painful message? Then Truphena, our coordinator whispered, "only God can help us".

On Sunday morning as I was getting

ready for Sunday Masses in the camp, I noticed that there were several missed-calls in my phone. It was from Fr. Sosthenes, Jesuit Parish priest from Malindi. His message was "Scott from USA is a friend of mine. He wishes to help JRS but he is not a super rich person".

On Sunday evening itself I contacted Fr. Sosthenes and he generously connected me to Scott. I presented all our JRS works among the refugees in Kakuma with some video clips.

Within a few minutes, Scott responded inquiring "What are your urgent needs now? Promptly, I responded with the need of 5 million Kenyan Shillings to retain our teachers. It was around USD 50,000.

Immediately, Scott responded saying that he could help us partially. Yet he requested us to pray for God's assistance.

That whole episode was on Monday and on Tuesday he requested JRS's bank details. With that mail, Scott assured us 52,000 USDs.

In my thanking mail, I mentioned that it was a great miracle and Scott responded saying that it was a great miracle for him too. "I had a remarka-

ble gift from God during these months and I was pondering and praying for guidance on whom to help. God directed me to JRS". He assured his support in future activities towards our children with disabilities.

Surely it is a miracle..... with our deep concern to care for these little ones ... the concern of Jesuit parish priest of Malindi ... his concern for JRS in Kakuma....

In the middle of July, I had my break in Nairobi for my annual retreat at Mwangaza Jesuit Retreat House. The Retreat House with its environment, retreat guides, great silence, delicious meals and hospitable staff around was conducive to be with the Lord to listen to Him.

I brought to the Lord all JRS achievements and failures during the past year including my own strengths, weaknesses and sinfulness. Yes, the Lord has blessed our JRS works immensely. I realized that I need to pay attention to the care-concerned, accompaniment of our staff in the coming year.

Back in Loyola House Nairobi, Sri Lankan Jesuit companions celebrated the Birthday of Solomon. As Solomon,





Shiran and Randike concluded their pastoral exposure in Kangemi Parish and St. Aloysius' High School respectively and their Ignatian Immersion week, we had a sharing of their rich and grace-filled experiences. Then we celebrated the Birthday Eucharist. All the celebrations were brought to a climax with a grand lunch with Indian and Chinese tastes.

I was touched by the comments of our scholastics: "We are the Sri Lankan Jesuit companions in Kenya, I am very happy to celebrate my birthday in this style."

Happy Feast of St. Ignatius

The concern for the other leads to strengthening our companionship
the Greatest Miracle.....



Hekima - KENYA



AN IGNATIAN WEEK AT HEKIMA

In the tradition of the Hekima College community, the First Year Students in theology, after completing their academic year, participate in a week of reflection on their vocations in the Society of Jesus rooted in the experience of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. This moment of sharing, reflection, and spiritual conversations is called "Ignatian week." It is very fundamental in the lives of the young theologians as it helps them deepen certain aspects of the way of life in the Society of Jesus.

This year, due to the improved Covid-19 situation in the country, the Ignatian Week was done outside of Hekima University College. The scholastics had their Ignatian Week experience at the Retreat Centre of the Little Sisters of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus in Karen, Nairobi from Sunday 4th to Friday 9th of July 2021. The event was planned after several meetings and deliberations over the course of the previous term by the scholastics who selected an organising committee from among themselves. However, a few days before departing from Hekima to begin the Week, news came that one of the scholastics, Enoch Samuel Posse, would not be joining us due to ill health.

The scholastics chose the theme for the Week as: **"To See All Things New**

in Christ." This theme was chosen in line with the current Ignatian Year which bears the same title. The theme was the common thread that ran through all the talks, discussions, faith sharing, interactive sessions, and spiritual conversations we had.

Concerning particularly the talks, on the first day which was Sunday 04th July 2021, **Fr. Marcel Uwineza SJ**, the facilitator of the week, introduced this period of prayer and sharing. He drew insights about the life of St. Ignatius from Fr. Arturo Sosa's book, *Walking with Ignatius*, the actions and writings of Pope Francis and his experiences as a Priest and Jesuit. The talk was titled **"The Identity and Integrity of a Jesuit Priest"**. One of its underlying questions was: What could be the description of a Jesuit Priest? A brief answer is that Jesus is not interested in hiring efficient functionaries, administrators, and bureaucrats but friends and foot washers (John 15:15).

On the second day, **Fr. Corbinian Kyara, SJ**, came to talk about:



"Community Life in the Society of Jesus." He began by remarking that we sometimes think of community as something which we should not pay much attention to. However, according to recent General Congregations, it is a primary mission which is very central in our lives as Jesuits. This talk shed light on the meaning, quality, properties, and purpose of a community proper to the Society of Jesus (cf. Part VIII; nos. 311-330 of the Constitutions). Community life is ordered to a life which is apostolic in many ways (cf. GC 34, d. 8, nos. 21-22). Therefore, community and mission are inseparable. The key argument for the talk is that the quality of a Jesuit community depends on the understanding of what community life is among its members. The quality of relationships among companions in an apostolic work depends on the quality of relationships at the community level. Therefore, the quality of relationship among companions affects the community as a mission

On the third day, we had **Charles Chifulya SJ** as the main speaker. He came in to give his experience and inputs on the **"Preferential Option for the Poor Today."** He began by stating that one of our principal functions as priests is to communicate God to people and that if we want to move people, we have to speak to their hearts.



He reiterated the fact that walking with the poor, marginalised and excluded in the society is one of the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society. The Ignatian Week is an avenue for us to have heart to heart conversations. Therefore, this talk is meant to help us to reflect how far we are in our mission of serving the poor and whether we are doing enough to help the poor.

On Wednesday, 7th July 2020, **Fr. Kizito Kiyimba SJ**, the provincial of AOR province was the main speaker. He dealt on the topic; **“The 21st Century Young Jesuit in Formation: Challenges and Expectations.”** Unpacking the topic, 21st century means as contemporary as possible; young Jesuit connotes young in the Society, not chronologically; formation is from admission to final vows; challenges refer to issues which may be personal, structural (Church/Society) and social that need attention and expectations are set ideals and goals on self, structural and from general society. His focal aim of the talk was to raise pertinent questions for our reflection on our lives in formation going forward.

The last talk was given by **Bro. Elias Mokuja SJ** on Thursday 9th July 2020. The talk was titled **“Social Media Platforms for Evangelization Today”**. He began by stating that social media is a very fast evolving field especially among young people. The word “young” has to be qualified because even among millennials, there is the Generation Z which represents a separate demographic. Technological advancement is driving people to new spaces of communication. There are several push and pull factors in social media. Social media is a problem solver, disruptor, and space for the creation of content and social life. Social media is so widespread and presents so much opportunity that it has almost replaced mainstream media as a tool for communication.



The Ignatian week 2021 was a great and fruitful experience. It was, first of all, a moment of spiritual blessing and sharing, of encounter with God but also with Ignatian spirituality through the texts of the Society of Jesus. The various topics helped us learn a lot not only on the Society of Jesus but also on our own religious life. It was also a moment of companionship and friendship in the Lord reinforcing our sense of community life. Plus, the Ignatian week was for each one of us a period of mutual encouragement in our personal vocation journey. It was also a moment of joy and gratitude, a moment of unity and togetherness, a moment of generosity and mutual acceptance.

Our Ignatian week was a great success. We managed to have a good moment of pilgrimage leading us to a real experience in line with our main theme calling us to be companions and friends in the Lord and to see all things new in Christ. Therefore, we are grateful to God, to the Society of Jesus through Hekima College, and to all those who helped us in various ways benefiting from such a huge spiritual moment.

May all glory and praise be to our God and our Lord Jesus!

AMDG



CSC LOYOLA CAMPUS HATTON

FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS

On 31st July, We celebrated the feast of our founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. Fr. Antony Fernando, the assistant parish priest, Hatton, was the main celebrant and Fr. Xavier Cruz, the pastoral center director, Hatton, preached the sermon. The parish priests of the neighboring parishes, the Sisters from FMM Convent, Hatton, sisters of Comboni congregation, Talawakale, added joy to our celebration by their presence and gifts. Earlier the staff of both CSC and Loyola campus had attended a short presentation on the life of St. Ignatius. After lunch the staff had some cultural programs where most of them shared their views on the topic, "If St. Ignatius were to talk to us today, what will he say to the staff of CSC Loyola Campus?" Totally around 50 people participated in the function and all went home after a sumptuous lunch.



HOMAGE TO ISHALINI

The brutal and mysterious death of Ms. Ishalini has shaken the consciousness of the people of Sri Lanka regarding child labour and child abuse. This incident is the tip of the iceberg. Thousands of girls of the plantation community are in Colombo as domestic employees, workers in the garment industry and doing other menial jobs. Some say that since it happened in the house of the Muslim minister, it came to the limelight. The root causes of such a death are poverty, patriarchy, powerlessness of the community, lack of proper education and lack of political will. Sadly the children who paid homage to Ishalini blamed her and her family as causes of this death. CSC Loyola campus considers this death as an opportunity to raise the consciousness of the community regarding the importance of education and women's empowerment.

COVID19 RELIEF WORK

According to the PCR report published on 23rd July, 8,213 persons were infected as corona positive and 159 people died due to this deadly disease in the Nuwara Eliya district. During the same period of the corona pandemic, the price of essential commodities has hiked at an alarming rate and the malnourished plantation community starts experiencing extreme poverty. Fortunately the estate is functioning and the people who work in the estate get regular work. Sadly the government's compensation does not reach them because they have work in the estates. During the same period, people

agitated for Rs. 1000 salary and the plantation companies are forced to give Rs. 1000 per day. But they have reduced the working days and other compensations and in the total analysis people's economic situation has become worse. Also not all who live in the line rooms work in the estate. Many youth are in Colombo doing menial jobs and many men do other temporary jobs in and around Hatton. During this pandemic they have no work which has affected badly their livelihood. Also due to cramped living in the line rooms, if one family is affected by the corona virus, the whole

vicinity is isolated. In short the corona pandemic has made the poor plantation community poorer.

In this context, thanks to **Fr. Provincial, Fr. Klaus, the German Mission Procurator and Fr. Milroy**, we were able to distribute relief materials to 580 people at Rs. 1400 per family. The distribution took place in five full days.

On 8th July we distributed relief materials to 35 families at Hallowella, 30 at Fairlawn, 20 at Killerni and 45 at Tientsin estates. It was a pleasant experi



ence to see the joy in the eyes of the poor women in all the places. The manager of Hallowella appreciated CSC for this timely support. It was the remoteness of the Fairlawn estate which impelled CSC to do this distribution. We were happy to distribute to 9 Muslim families in Killerni estate. Our staff in Tientsin kept the board that displayed the categories of beneficiaries and that made the distribution transparent.

On 9th of July we distributed relief materials in two places at Velioya estate and Broadoak estate for 100 families. During distribution, we made the people reflect on the issues that affect the community. At Velioya I our discussion took the direction of patriarchy and the suffering of women. At Velioya II, we had distribution to the families which protested against the estate management for its malpractices during Corona relief distribution and some of them were falsely accused and imprisoned that they violated

lockdown rules. Our van could not reach Broadoak estate and the women came in the rain to collect the relief materials. Sixteen lactating and pregnant mothers from Dickoya came to the centre to receive the relief materials.

On 10th July we planned to distribute the relief materials in Diyagala, Mount Jean, Luccumbe and Lonak estates. The whole day it was raining and there was landslide on the way to Luccumbe from Diyagala and so we had to take the long route via Maskeliya to reach Luccumbe after the distribution at Diyagala. On the way a tyre in the vehicle got punctured and we reached Luccumbe only at 3.30 pm and then we went back to Mount Jean at 6.00 pm. It was a good meeting at Mount Jean. The women leaders used this opportunity to strengthen their women groups. Since government officials had a meeting at Mount Jean, we could only do the distribution in the evening and we could not do it at Lonak on the same day as we had planned.

On 11th July, we went to Lonak area which consists of Lonak, Benachie and St. Aubins estates. The whole area has been closed for almost a month due to corona and there had been high restriction of movement. The families who had infants had struggled when they could not buy milk powder. We felt sad to listen to the stories of two young women that they were deserted by their husbands and witnessed an old mother and her daughter fighting with each other to get the relief.

On 12th July we went to Danbar and Panmur to distribute relief materials. We had the distribution in a Hindu Temple at Danbar. The people were friendly and the atmosphere was calm. The village officer (GS) came to Panmur and the distribution took place in a small CSC tuition centre.



ONLINE CLASSES AND WEEKLY EVALUATION

The teachers and the students became familiar with online classes. The A2 class teachers created two WhatsApp groups: one for the instruction of the teachers and the other for the response and home work of the students. Creation of two WhatsApp groups have brought greater clarity on the syllabus covered, start and end timing of the classes and the explanation given by the teachers. The A1 class teachers also created two WhatsApp groups to deal with two different classes. In the second week of June, our computer teacher started theory class online. **Sch. Nimesh** started facilitating English classes for the CSC staff from 14th of June. Every Friday we had evaluation online. More number of students, progressive tests, speaking events on Fridays, contact with the parents for better attendance, correction of homework were a few achievements. Poor network connectivity, non-availability of mobile phones, less interest of the boys were a few issues faced during online classes.

MOBILE DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY SALARY, LOAN AND NUTRITION DURING LOCKDOWN

Due to travel ban in the country, the CSC staff could not receive their May remuneration and they were economically struggling. On 15th June, CSC administration arranged a vehicle and went to the estates of the staff and distributed remuneration. Due to travel restriction, we did not go inside the estates. The staff walked a certain distance to reach us and received the remuneration. Moreover the preschool children of Fairlawn received two month food packages and the women of Panmur received a loan to start their self-employment programmes such as poultry farming and home gardening. Due to harsh weather and fear of Corona pandemic, some of our staff fell sick. The staff appreciated the CSC administration for the risk it has taken to distribute the remuneration amidst the corona pandemic and expressed their gratitude for this timely response.

◆

RIP - Fr. Andreas Yuniko SJ

The Letter of Fr. Benedictus Hari Juliawan SJ (Provincial of the Indonesian Province)

Dear Dexter,

A few hours ago I came back from the funeral. The health and safety protocols here dictate that covid burial has to take place no longer than 5-6 hours after death, so hence the rush. I am still processing the event and trying to digest a lot of questions that come to mind. Andre was generally in good health. Yes, he is rather diabetic but nothing to be particularly worried about as he took medication and exercised regularly especially in the past two years. He received two doses of sinovac vaccine and lived in one of the safest houses in the province, the infirmary, as he was the sub-minister for the place. The first infection in the place took place when a nurse had just returned from her scheduled leave. Apparently she was exposed to the virus during a visit to her hometown. Afterwards, several other members of the house and staff were infected, although thankfully the elderly were spared. Everyone with infection only suffered from mild symptoms at most, except Andre. He was soon admitted to hospital and received the best treatment that was available. He was pronounced dead this morning at 7.45 local time after nearly two weeks in hospital.

Just before the infection, Andre had received a refusal from the Pakistani embassy for his visa application. Obviously it was a blow to him as he was so eager to return to Pakistan. I was going to mission him to the expatriate parish in Jakarta instead, hoping that at some point he could resubmit his visa application. At the moment we are still waiting for the three Pakistani scholastics to get clearance to come to Jakarta for philosophy studies. It will be a big joy for us when that happens, as if Andre is here with us again. Thank you for the prayers.

In Christ,
Benedictus Hari Juliawan SJ



Jesuit Indonesia



REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Pater Andreas Yuniko Poerdianto, SJ

22 Juni 1968 - 29 Juli 2021

REMEMBERING OUR BROTHERS GONE BEFORE US

Fr. Thomas C Kuriakose SJ (28.12.1920 - 09.07.2013)

Fr. Thomas Chingamparambil Kuriakose, fondly known as Fr. Kuri, was born in 1920 at Quilon, Kerala, in India to a deeply religious Catholic family. He recalls his childhood with deep fondness, "We did not have much, but there was such a lot of love. So much love" His father moved to Sri Lanka and established himself in Matara, hence Sri Lanka became home to Fr. Kuri who had his initial education at St. Servatius College, where his Father was teacher of Mathematics. Though He proudly claimed to be a Malayalee, he was dyed-in-the-wool Sri Lankan.

Fr. Kuri received his secondary education at St. Joseph's College Colombo and remained a loyal Josephian. His friends recalls that he would not miss a Big Match (Battle of the Blues) between St. Joseph's College and St. Peter's. He would carry with him a tiny metal statue of St. Joseph (and clutch it in his hand when in need of intercession especially when Josephian wickets tumbled)

A brilliant student, Fr. Kuri gained admission to the University of Ceylon where he obtained an Honors Degree in Modern History. He lived at the Catholic Hostel while he was doing his studies at the University. Here he came under the powerful influence of two intellectual giants – Fr. Peter A Pillai O.M.I, and Fr. Ignatius Pinto O.M.I, who were Catholic Chaplains of the University. Fr. Peter Pillai was a simple man, reputed for his commitment to Social Justice. Fr. Ignatius Pinto was a simple man too, an excellent teacher, and unsurpassed in debate. Both of them were truly men of God. Would it be incorrect to



think that under grad Kuriakose esteemed these qualities very much, was rooted and grounded in them, and went on to acquire them and become the intellectual yet simple man of God, who took a deeply personal interest in the people he met, and was committed to help the marginalized and the poor?

The young Kuri was a handsome youngman. It seems he put his good looks to good use and was seen at dances with some of the prettiest girls in Colombo. And so, there must have been many broken hearts when in 1944 he decid-

ed to enter the Society of Jesus to serve God's People as a priest.

He had his long Jesuit training first in Shembaganur, India, and then in Naples, Italy. He was ordained a priest on July 11, 1954 in a beautiful baroque 17th Century Church in Gesu Nova Naples. Returning to Sri Lanka after his studies he taught for a short while at St. Aloysius College Galle, under the leadership of great Jesuits Fr. E. Gaspard and Paul N. Peiris, and was later invited to be lecturer in History at the Aquinas University, Colombo.

In 1958, Prime Minister S. W. R. D.

Bandaranaike named Fr. Thomas Kuriakose a Distinguished Citizen of Sri Lanka. Fr. Kuri's admiration and respect for his mentor at Aquinas, Fr. Peter Pillai is very deep rooted. "He was such a source of strength and integrity" said Fr. Kuri. He had the potential in the people and would selflessly do all in his power to guide those around him into the correct vocation". Despite his academic and career success, well read and articulate priest, he always had his heart, eyes and ears open to the poor.

Fr. Vito Perniola, another Jesuit of Italian Origin, was teaching there too and two of them took up residence at Clifford Place, Bambalapitiya, which they dedicated to Mary our Blessed Mother and named it "Nirmala". He guided many young men and women, and influenced them to such an extent that they are still among his many sincere and ardent admirers. Some of them, graduates and professionals, were guided by him to serve the people of our country as religious and priests. Others are committed Christian laymen who reach out generously to help those in need. This probably is a peak period in the life of Fr. Kuri.

It was while he was teaching at Aquinas, that he was asked to be the Chaplain of the Catholic Student's Federation, Apart from teaching, he now had to provide for the integral formation of the students of the campuses of the University of Ceylon, Aquinas, Law College and the Technical College at Maradana. One experience that was indelibly imprinted in his mind was the work camp he organized for the students during their long vacations. He took a group of students to Uru-udayandaluwa in Chilaw Area. Exposed to the heat and to the rain, as never before, they worked among the farmers of the

area by day, and spent the nights in the village school. This experience of the sparse living conditions of the people of our country, especially those in rural areas, was an eye-opener to the students. It made an indelible impression on their lives. When their parents realized how much this experience had enriched their children, they met Fr. Kuri and thanked him over and over again.

Formed in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and then living it, Fr. Kuri provided spiritual guidance to many priests, religious, and lay people. He directed retreats and conducted other courses for them, especially after the Second Vatican Council called the Church to an *aggiornamento* - a metanoia and renewal of the Spirit.

As the Provincial of the Jesuits, Fr. Kuri attended the 32nd General Congregation, and invited a fellow Jesuit Fr. A. Varaprasatham of Madurai Province, India, to direct a seminar to explain its documents to the Jesuits of Sri Lanka. There was much heat and light coming out of that seminar and Fr. Kuri promised that he would release any group of Jesuits who wished to form a community of Jesuits living together in a rural area. After a long process of discernment and much heated criticism from many, he sent four Jesuits to form a community at Elpitiya.

Fr. Kuri was among the first to visit Batticaloa when the cyclone devastated that area in 1977. On his return, he was instrumental in sending groups of volunteers, clothes, dry ration and financial assistance to help in the process of rehabilitation.

For several years, Fr. Kuri was serving at Mary's Church, Dehiwala with the Parish Priest Fr.

Chianese SJ. The plight of the poorer classes of society was a constant concern of his which he tried to solve by various means, by providing food and rations by providing better health care and by broadening their horizons with education opportunities.

In 2004, though now not in active service, he was influential in channeling financial assistance to many victims of the Tsunami in 2005. With the funds he had raised, he also had a Home put up in Tangalle - "Kuda Kusum" for the children who were victims of the Tsunami.

Though illness finally took a heavy toll on his life - a heart condition requiring a bypass surgery and diabetes resulting in amputation of a limb. Fr. Kuri did not throw in the towel. For several years thereafter he continued to work stalwartly, doggedly, coping with the demands of his many commitments, trusting in the Lord who has blessed him so much and His Mother Mary for whom he had a childlike devotion. And of course, as ever before, he took a personal interest in the lives of the people who would come to him. He even stole time occasionally for a game of bridge, with some of his friends who came to visit him at Akkara Panaha where he spent his last year.

Fr. Kuriakose passed away peacefully on the morning of Sunday, 7th July at "Sneha Nikatan", the Home of the elderly Jesuits at Akkara Panaha, Negombo. There was a steady stream of mourners at Akkara Panaha and at Fatima Retreat House Lewella, to bid farewell to this great Jesuit. The Funeral took place at the Jesuit Burial Ground, Lewella Kandy on 9th July 2013.

Angelo Ponniah SJ

Rev. Fr. Joseph Iacono SJ (11.06.1901 - 05.08.1975)

Fr. Iacono was born in Naples, Italy on June 11, 1901, entered the Society of Jesus on 15th December 1921 and was ordained Priest of God on 21st November, 1929. As a young Assistant to Fr. Piron in Kegalle he travelled the length and breadth of the District during the epidemic. With the other priests and a helper he visited every house rich and poor, Sinhala and Tamil, Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim; in town and on the estates, even when his nationality was a kind of stigma to the British rulers during the Abyssinian War, or later on during the Second World War. His feelings as an "enemy alien", the humiliation of war propaganda, of prisoners, surrender defeat all were forgotten in the love for the people of the country and his whole hearted dedication to them. From Kegalle to Yatiyantota, at that time was a huge Parish stretching from Nagestenne Estate, eight miles off Nawalapitiya to Talduva and Gurugalla.

The crying need at that time was an English Medium School for Yatiyantota! No funds no building, no teachers. A veritable whirlwind of activities, begging letters, shows, operettas. No one could resist his strong childlike faith in God and man, the building came up and grew into St. Gabriel's College. Over 200 feet long, two stories on land donated by the Gómezes. Old boys and Old girls of that College have done very well in life. During World War II "refugee students" from Colombo School came there. He was the hero of the poor people of Yatiyantota and some hero worshippers already 20 years before his death placed a big tablet against the retaining wall of the College for everyone to see: **Iacono Memorial:** he would shrug it off with an affectionate growl and smile. To get the required number of Catholic children he even started a boarding house. When the boys did not come in numbers as expected, he put up a wooden partition across the

main hall and turned the other half into a girl's boarding - to the horror of the pious Bishop Laudadio who called off immediately this co-ed boarding experiment. Candid, transparent as he was, Fr. Iacono did not see anything wrong, but he obeyed.

When Fr. Iacono was transferred from Yatiyantota, a young politico organized one of the earliest school strikes, the boys two or three of them, lay on the road to prevent the car from leaving the Mission House compound. Ten years later, he was invited as chief celebrant of the Corpus Christi procession at Gurugalla, he could not hold the Monstrance he was shaken by sobbing as he went through the streets of the village and remembered each and every corner of his field of Apostolate. After the procession elderly men came and exchanged with him reflections of the days gone by. And the elderly women prostrated before him and declared, "father, we have been longing to see you" He pulled on his cigar and muttered, "oh, ha, hondai, ashirwada! (Well, God Bless you.)

After a few years at Kudagama, he had to submit himself to a serious operation, in the new government hospital at Ratnapura at the hands of a very capable and devoted Surgeon. He got VIP treatment. He would bear up in silence and resignation the cuts, stitches, and all the discomforts, but at one time as he was recovering and on a strict diet, he found himself smothered under a mountain of jelly. The Good Charity Sisters heard about his diet and brought him jelly; and the hospital of course, supplied jelly. One day at tea time as Fr. Iacono was telling the Parish Priest about his jelly woes, an attendant smilingly brought in a lovely pudding, mostly jelly "epa" said Fr. Iacono. The attendant tried to coax him, and there was an explosion and a crescendo heard all over the ward "Epa, Epa, Epa".

Convalescing at the Mission House in Ratnapura, Fr. Iacono was the first to volunteer to go on sick calls. And the 65 year old Missionary wrote out his sermons in Sinhala or Tamil and learnt them by heart during the week to deliver them on Sundays.

Fr. Iacono spent a few months at the Novitiate at Manresa. I have a vivid memory of him as a student at St. Michael's College, he would be walking with a walking stick, a bit of a hunch back, nice hat on his head with an angelic smile, greeting every one he saw. Today I am amused to note what a wonderful Missionary he had been. From Batticaloa he came to the Home for the Aged, Galle, where the Sisters of Charity showered tender, loving care right to the end. Fr. Iacono was ever grateful, though he had his own way of showing his gratitude, very rarely in words, more often with smiles, sometimes with tears and affectionate gestures.

The humiliating lack of control of his emotions and frequent bouts of amnesias, depression, the partial paralysis, all seemed God's answer to the offering he had made long ago. "Take O Lord, my liberty, my mind, my memory".

Even in the humiliating stages of his illness, Fr. Iacono was the man for others, for the poor, the down trodden, the man to share their joys and fears, insecurity without slogans without noise. He has mastered enough Sinhala and Tamil to be with the poor and to give them the Word of God; the Gospel message of love not only in words but in deeds of self-giving.

Angelo Ponniah SJ

REMEMBRANCES

AUGUST

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|-------|
| 03/1973 | Fr. Isidoro Marino | 72/50 |
| 04/1986 | Fr. Nicholas Uricchio | 71/58 |
| 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 |
| 17/1983 | Thiranjala Weerasinghe |
| 18/1973 | Sumeth Perera |
| 19/1989 | Arulseeelan Manoharan |
| 20/1998 | Aman Aslam |
| 25/1965 | Kamal Andradi |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 03/1943 | Winston Rosairo |
| 04/1999 | Wishal Khan |
| 14/1950 | Tyrone Mihindukulasuriya |
| 16/1989 | Sithum Fonseka |
| 16/1993 | Danish Khokhar |
| 19/1996 | Gayashan Madhuranga |
| 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 Thursday, 26th August 2021 to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER
sociussrilanka@gmail.com