



Fr. General has appointed ...

- **Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR)** the new Socius, Consultor and Admonitor to the POSA. He replaces Fr. Keith Abranches.

- **Fr Roland Coelho (GOA)** Consultor to the POSA and Chair of the West Zone

The POSA has appointed an Organizing Committee at the Conference level for the Ignatian Year (22 May 2021- 31 July 2022). The members of this committee are Frs. Francis Pudhicherry (coordinator), Dionysius Vaz, Ajit Xess, Siji Chacko and Sunny Kunnel.

Our Provincial has appointed a province level Organizing Committee for the Ignatian Year. The members of the committee are Frs Vincent Vaz (coordinator), Gerard Rodricks, Saby Correia, Vijay Gonsalves, John Cyriac and Ivan D'Souza.

Fr. Provincial's schedule – December 2020

17	Ministries Commission, extended consult for status
18	Province Consult

In his letter of 22 November 2020, the POSA, Fr. Stany D'Souza has announced that the Commissions of JESCOM, JSD, JYMSA, JEMAI & JIGSA have ceased to exist. The Commissions for Brothers, COJET and JERES have now become Forums. In the new structure, the Six Conference Secretariats are

1. **Service of FAITH**
2. **SJES – Justice & Ecology**
3. **JEA – Primary & Secondary Education**
4. **JHEASA – Higher Education**
5. **CDF – Formation**
6. **ADO - Development**

These will be reflected and supported by the respective coordinators at the province level.

As per the above notice, **Brian D'Souza** of our province is no longer the Secretary of JYMSA. We thank Brian for his committed and creative service of the youth ministry at the province and conference levels.

Priestly Ordination of Lenoy Jose Tharakan
On Saturday, 2nd January 2021
At 5 pm, St. Michael Church, Manickpur

Pope's Intentions Dec 2020



For a Life of Prayer
We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of Prayer
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

NOTICE: The Jesuit Conference of South Asia has set up a **Center for Safeguarding** at De Nobili College, Pune. The Center for Safeguarding is now part of the Global Safeguarding Alliance, which is a voluntary association of academic, teaching, and research institutions, as well as practice-oriented professional schools and individual experts. For more information on the alliance, go to <https://globalsafeguardingalliance.org>

NEWS FROM ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, FORT

Diwali, 'The Festival of Lights' is symbolic of the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. This Diwali, the lighting of the traditional diya symbolized hope to tide over the gloom of the pandemic.

At Xavier's we've been on with online classes and conducted an online Evaluation to gauge the performance of the students and maintain the tempo of the academic year. Several training sessions for the staff, were held to overcome the anomalies of the first unit test. On 11th November we had an online celebration of Children's Day and Diwali. Various competitions like Rangoli making, diya decoration and card-making were conducted. Music and dance performances were the highlights of the program.

A break from online school and all the gadgetry was needed by all. The Diwali break was from the 12 – 23 November. Under the guidance of our Principal Sr. Sini, we've planned for extra classes during the vacations to help cover the syllabus for class 10 students. Remedial classes have been planned for the weaker students.

We now look forward to the reopening of schools. As per the government circular, 50% of staff will have to report to school daily. Students of classes 9 and 10 too will have to report to school subject to the consent of their parents. Standard Operating Procedures for reopening will have to be followed.

It's a time of apprehension and anxiety for the teachers, students and parents since the pandemic is still not under control and a spurt in cases is expected post Diwali. But with God on our side and the spirit of St. Francis Xavier to guide us, we know that this too shall pass and we shall overcome.

➤ **Mr. Gaspar Britto**
Coordinator SXHS

TIDINGS FROM XTC

Over the past weeks, we were treated to wide ranging experiences which broadened our horizons about what it means to be a Jesuit.



On our visit to the Santibastwad farm, Fr. Joe conducted a seminar on Janajagran (Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh), an outreach programme which has been actively working for the social up-liftment of people of the area. It has helped construct 30,000 biogas plants in villages, thus reducing pollution to a great extent. It has also set up SHGs for women and vocational courses for girls. The farm is self-sufficient in its energy needs, using solar panels for electricity and biogas for cooking. The slurry generated is used as organic manure.

On 30th October we were visited by Drs. Padmini and Niranjana. Dr. Niranjana spoke about challenges faced by medical professionals during the CoVID-19 outbreak and how we are tackling the issue on a global level. She also instructed us on various precautions and remedial measures. Dr. Padmini spoke to us about the power of Prayer' and narrated several incidents where prayer and constant

communion with God helped her to face different challenges.



We conducted a youth program at Ganeshpur parish based on the theme '**vibrant youth for a vibrant Church**'. The sessions included action songs, devotional songs and games. The session about the incarnation of Christ was modified to include the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy. During the Eucharist, Fr. Anil invited us to always be online with God and alive to our Christian vocation.

On 17th November, the Jesuits in Belagavi arranged a silent protest march against the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy and other social activists. It was attended by Bishop Derek Fernandes along with several clergy, nuns and lay people. We marched in a disciplined manner to the District Magistrate's office and handed over the protest memorandum to him. The event received good media coverage, and helped raise awareness. During his visitation, the Goa Provincial Fr. Roland Coelho spoke about being men of God through our way of life. He invited us to find God in all things and especially in the pandemic and the socio-political climate of our country.

We visited the Kannada Mission stations of the Goa Province. The Kannada mission is also known as the Swami apostolate. It is a beautiful example of inculturation and amalgamation of local lingayat culture with Christianity. We visited Christ Niwas at Nesargi where we were welcomed by Fr. Tom. Next we visited Torangatti, where Fr. Augustine gave us the history of the Swami apostolate there. At Deshnur, we prayed with Fr. Menino in his ashram interacted with several orphan boys who reside in the hostel there. The visit made

us aware of the term 'vocation within a vocation' and inspired us to be more creative in our ministries. We are grateful to our Formators and the Society for all the rich experiences we had.

- **Savio Saldanha**

CONTEXT TO TEXT @ MPSM

As the winter is setting in, Nashik has started experiencing cold drafts especially in the evenings and mornings. With this ambience our four theologians continue with their context-to-text and text-to-context intellectual and spiritual pursuits. All this is done within the context of the community development and educational programmes of MPSM.



Bishop Lourdes Daniel gave a recollection to our theologians and also guided a session on pastoral care. There have been visits of many Jesuits to the MPSM campus both apostolic and fraternal. Experience of warmth and hospitality is a community priority for the visitors. In the first week of November there was a planning meeting of NFE organized through NCEE (Nodal Centre for Educational Excellence). We discussed the vision and strategies for our NFE classes in the rural areas. Jesuits from the Formal and Non-formal education participated in it. Our four Theologians had gone to Mumbai to participate in the silent demonstration on 2nd of November.

To enhance community bonding, we had a picnic to Saputara and Ambatha. On our way we visited Shamghan mission of the Gujarat Jesuits. MPSM and Holy Cross communities came together to discuss and reflect on the province apostolic plan (PAP). It was a grace-filled moment as we could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding each one of us.

➤ **Wellington Patil**

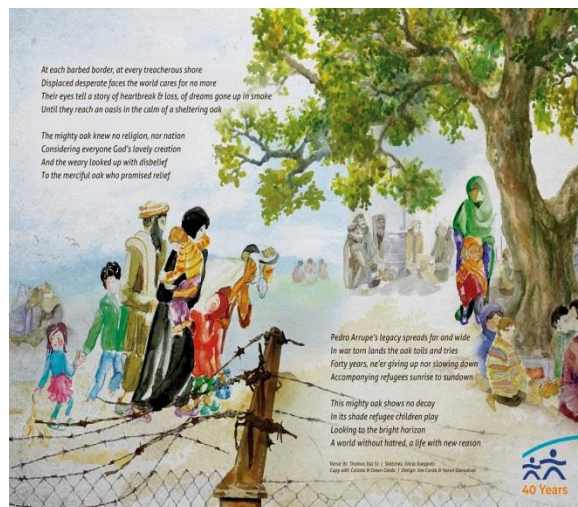
Reaching out across borders Mahim to JRS Afghanistan

XIE Mahim responded enthusiastically to a plea for support from the JRS Afghanistan Jesuits. Fr. John Rose readily committed to provide XIE training courses to university staff and students in Herat and Bamiyan, starting with a pilot course in *Basics of Python Programming* from 3rd November. The trainees have two weeks of theory classes and a week's project work. Google Classroom and WhatsApp groups were created to facilitate interaction with the staff and provide trainees access to course materials. Despite the challenges of security risks and limited internet access, the trainees have been fully engaged and are regular in attendance.

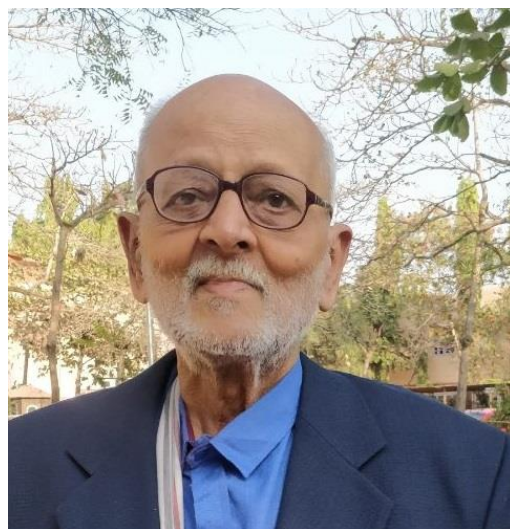
Behrooz Sharify, JRS onsite course facilitator, has shared his appreciation for the XIE outreach: "I thoroughly enjoyed the course. I am most grateful to Dr. Vijay Katkar and Mr. Jaychand Upadhyay, who taught me the basics. *Python for Beginners* challenged my perspectives and motivated me to continue learning by myself. Thank you for the great learning experience. XIE classes are very important for Computer Science students, who eagerly look forward to continue learning in the next semesters as well."

XIE plans to offer many more programs to enrich the JRS frontier mission. Basics of R Programming, Ethical Hacking, and Web Designing Courses are in the pipeline. The JRS team is very thankful to the dedicated XIE team. Such partnerships with top Jesuit institutes can help transform the quality of higher education and lives of the people in Afghanistan.

➤ **Ronald Anton sj**
Online project director



Fr. Rudolph Fernandez SJ
21 Jan 1934 – 16 Nov 2020



THE SAINT OF SMALL THINGS

I hardly knew Fr. Rudy before I came to the shrine in June 2018. Maybe about 5 passing sentences exchanged over about 56 years. Just two and a half years with him here, and I wish I had met him earlier in my life as a Jesuit. I would have learned so much from his vast store of knowledge his wisdom, his practical sense and his example of simplicity and humility. If I were to write his biography, it would have been titled "The Saint of Small things".

He might have been small in stature or the way he considered himself in comparison with

others, but he was really BIG in unassuming holiness, virtue and unstinted service to others. Most of us have to die to go to heaven. Not so Rudy. He quite lived it while he spent his life as a Jesuit here on earth. Missionary and pastoral work in the districts almost his whole life... with three stints as Socius to the Novice Master.

And in all of these, concern, care, dedication and service to all those under his charge - novices, parishioners, pilgrims and the simple poor who came to him for help. He continued his ministries here in the Shrine - confessions, bible study groups and meeting people after mass right up to lockdown times. Really, a saint in small things.

He was an avid reader - books, newspapers, magazines and anything printed he could lay his hands on. He had a good memory for all that he read, sharing from his store of information many items that we may not even have wanted to know! He would encourage me to read, especially Marathi. "Vaachal tar vaachal..." he would say to me often till I finally found out what it meant and could recite it myself!

He would almost leap in response to a service need that one of us would have - even to wash the plates of all of us who were so much younger than him. I remember him once going all the way to the market to buy a bucket for a community member. He was funny too, expressing his humour in rhymes and puns over and over again. "Die-with-ease" he would say to any of us who would mention diabetes that four in the community had. If one of us asked him to pass the butter at table he would say "make the bitter butter better". And so on endlessly.

He always wanted to have the last word in any disagreement he might have had over all and sundry. I remember once asking him: "If the plural of goose is geese, what is the plural of mongoose?" He was thinking about that for a while and I answered for him, "not mongeese but mongooses!" Pat came his last word answer, "Not always!!" I once commented to

him: "Rudy, you always want to have the last word..." He looked at me with a mischievously wicked smile and said nothing. Point taken!

And his last words said softly to Fr. Assis who went to visit him a little while before he passed away were: "Give the community my best wishes". He said this thrice... He was a good simple man and a wonderful Jesuit. He had a great love for the Society and had a burning desire to meet the early Fathers. His wish has been granted and he has gone home.

We will miss him and his always-there striped sling bag, and his walking stick that had the habit of regularly falling down with a bang in the middle of our evening adoration prayer.

Good-bye Rudy. Now you give our best wishes to all the saints in heaven.

✓ **Terence Quadros**

In Christ's Peace

+ **Fr. Rudolph Fernandez (BOM), 86/69**, passed away at Nashik on 16 November

+ **Fr. Carlos Valles (GUJ/ESP), 95/79**, passed away at Madrid on 09 November

+ **Fr. Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj (DUM), 74/53**, passed away at Dumka on 16 November

+ **Fr. Cipriano Mendía (GUJ/ESP), 89/71**, passed away at Loyola on 17 November

+ **Br. Lawrence Saldanha (HAZ), 83/58**, passed away at Sitagarha on 17 November

Fr. Paul Lourdusamy (PAT), passed away at Kolkata on 22 November

