



Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 690

FEBRUARY 2021

2021/02

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

### February 2021

- 4 : Diaconate Ordination, Prabhu Jisur Girja
- 6 : Convocation, St. Xavier's University Kolkata
- 7-11 : Visitation, St. Lawrence, Kolkata
- 12 : Meeting with Directors of Work and Commission Coordinators
- 12-13 : Province Consult
- 22-26 : JCSA Online Meeting

## Congratulations to our Deacons Antony Albert Suresh, Antony Robert V and Felix Tete

It was a grace filled day for the three of our Scholastics,

**Antony Albert Suresh, Antony Robert V and Felix Tete** who were ordained deacons at Prabhu Jishur Girja, Kolkata by **His Grace Thomas D'Souza**, Archbishop of Calcutta on



February 4, 2021 on the feast day of St. John De Britto. The theme "Jesus Chooses Servant Leaders" was apt for the diaconate. **Fr. Mahananda Singh**, the Parish Priest and the Acting Superior of Prabhu Jishur Girja organised the ceremony so well keeping all the rules of Covid 19 situation, Social Distancing, Mask and Sanitizer. **Fr. Anil Gomes** was the liturgist who meticulously planned the ceremony and **Fr. David Paulraj** was the Master of Ceremony who did a commendable job. The melodious singing by Mr. Peter Paul and team added beauty to the solemnity. The ceremony was livestreamed for the sake of people who could not attend the ceremony due to Covid 19 rules. Thanks to **Fr. Arun Lucas** and team. After the ceremony there was a short felicitation program for the ordained deacons

to congratulate them. **Fr. Vivien Andrew** was coordinating the felicitation program with his methodical planning. Some family members and close relatives of the deacons witnessed the diaconate in Prabhu Jishur Girja. Thanks to **Br. Naik** for arranging a simple and tasty dinner for all. Congratulations to Dns. Antony Albert Suresh, Antony Robert V and Felix Tete. May God fill them with His Spirit and make them truly servant leaders.

-Fr. Anburaj



*Congratulations*



## Information

**Province Congregation** in preparation of Procurators Congregation: Fr. General in his letter dated 15.01.2021 has convoked the 71st Procurators Congregation to be held from May 6, 2022 in Loyola, Spain.

Fr. Provincial in his letter dated 18.01.2021, as per the guidelines, has convoked the **Province Congregation** to be held from **October 11, 2021**, 6 p.m. at Dhyan Ashram.

Documents related to the Province Congregation and the Ballot papers have been sent to all the members of Calcutta Province. All are reminded to send the filled in Ballot papers to the Provincial latest by **February 28, 2021**.

**LOYOLA PRESS** (A Jesuit Ministry): This year's Living Lent Daily series will start on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and continue through Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. The link is given below:

<https://www2.loyolapress.com/e/39532/al-year-lent-living-lent-daily/f2jb19/1118750964?haKonm3RNuNp54VOBNHfphuS8Z8BGFhggFOOuPZjC4Wz0>

## Fr. Provincial's Meeting with the Rectors & Superiors

On January 23, **Fr. Provincial** conducted a meeting of the Rectors and Superiors of our Province along with the Ignatian Year Planning Committee and the Province Apostolic Planning Committee. **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, the Convener of the Ignatian Year Planning Committee presented the Committee's draft of the Ignatian Year Plan (From May 2021 to the end of July 2022) to the Rectors and Superiors to commemorate 500 years since the conversion of St Ignatius in 2021 and 400 years since the canonization of St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier in 2022.

He presented before them Fr. General's desire of not so much of celebration, but the renewal of the Ignatian Spirituality in our Jesuit life. After a fruitful discussion and deliberation, the Ignatian Year Plan draft was presented to Fr. Provincial to take a final call on it and then present it to the Province members to implement it in our respective Communities and Ministries.

Similarly, **Fr. Maria Joseph S**, the Convener of the Province Apostolic Planning Committee presented the draft of the Province Apostolic Plan to the Rectors and Superiors. After deliberation and reflection, a good number of suggestions have been incorporated into the draft. The Rectors and Superiors suggested that they would study the draft a little more and give their final suggestions by the end of February 2021 and then the Committee would rework on the draft and present it to Fr. Provincial who will then forward it to Fr. General for his approval.

It was also suggested that the Province Commission Conveners and Directors of work be called for a meeting to discern and discuss about the draft of the Province Apostolic Plan and get their suggestions as well.

*-Fr. Maria Joseph S.*

## Bangladesh

### Navjyoti Niketan:

The Jesuits of Bangladesh Jesuit Mission met on January 15 at Navjyoti Niketan to meet the newly installed Archbishop of Dhaka, **Bijoy D'Cruze, OMI**. The Archbishop addressed and gratefully appreciated and acknowledged the services and ministries of the Jesuits in Bangladesh. He requested them to contribute more, especially in the field of education and spirituality. There was a serious and prayerful discussion on the few concrete initiatives that were taken in the previous meetings and how to act upon them without any further delay for the development of the mission.

### Retreat House:

**Fr. Srijon** and his team with the support of **Fr. Ripon** conducted their regular prayer service on January 22. Most of the faithful acknowledged that it was indeed a need of the time for them for it renewed and strengthened their faith. All the Fathers had enriching experiences during their Christmas ministry in different parts of the country.

### Pre-Novitiate:

The pre-novices are learning and growing in maturity in

various aspects of religious life. Their enthusiasm shows that



they are serious about their life and vocation.

### JRS:

**Fr. Jerry** and **Sch. Roton** attended a JRS workshop from January 12-14 at ISI, Delhi. Fr. Jerry presented a paper on 'An Overview of JRS BD Work with a Special Focus on Education, how it Supports JRS Strategic Framework'. Fr. Albert Louie, the Director of ISI, visited the Jesuit Communities of Bangladesh Mission, the offices of Caritas Bangladesh, the Rohingya camps on January 16-21. Fr. Jerry celebrated a solemn Mass on January 23 for Caritas Bangladesh staff and Catholics in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

**Fr. Pradeep, Sch. Sunny** and three Magis Bangla youth went to Chittagong for the funeral of **Sch. Newton's** mother. The funeral Mass and rites were done by Fr. Pradeep.

### Bhobanipur Parish:

The Fathers in Bhobanipur parish made all the arrangements for the final profession of Br. Arpon Purification, CSC, in the presence of **Bishop Gervas Rozario, DD**, and around 17 priests and 30 Holy Cross Brothers were present on December 31, 2020. **Frs. Probash** and **Rohit** with the support of **Fr. Joseph Mistri**, conducted a youth program for the youth of the parish inspiring and motivating them to 'dare to be different'. Frs. Rohit and Probash during this pandemic, are putting more efforts in their joint venture of producing online homilies, talks on catechism, songs and talks in Bengali, English and Achik languages under the title "The Word Enkindles Us BD Jesuits".

*-Sch. Sunny A Costa*

## Dhyan Ashram

### Novitiate :

After the Christmas celebrations, we novices kept ourselves busy with presentations on the vows of chastity, obedience, and chapters of the Autobiography of St Ignatius. It helped us to understand and appreciate our charism better.

We began the New Year with a midnight Eucharistic celebration. We also had a memorable campus picnic with our co-workers. **Fr George Ponodath** has joined our DA Community.

On January 18, the novices and Juniors were glad to receive the Minor Orders from the hands of our **Bishop Shaymal Bose**, who encouraged us with an inspiring homily, and warmed our hearts with his simplicity while interacting with us after the Eucharist.

In between these joyful events, we got the sorrowful news



about the death of our Brother Anthony Hembrom's (NEP) father, Mr Bone Hembrom. We share his sorrow, and support and strengthen him with our prayers.

*-Novice Baghwar (DUM)*

#### Juniorate:

We, the Juniors gracefully welcomed the New Year 2021 in Pandua Jesuit Community where we spent our Christmas vacation. This vacation was very meaningful as well as an enjoyable one. Thanks to all the Fathers and devoted parishioners for their generosity and hospitality.

Our Semester began on January 5 with new additional subjects such as short story, precis writing, Geography, Science and History. Juniors were introduced to the world of Literature by **Fr. Shaju Sacaria Joseph** on January 18 to 23. It was an enriching experience to expand our knowledge in becoming familiar with different types of Literature.

Juniors have started going for Sunday ministry to five sub-stations of Raghobpur Parish for having pastoral experiences.

*-Sch. Ashim Mandi*

#### Arunoday

**Fr. Joe Alexander**, the Acting Superior celebrated the Holy Eucharist on December 25, 2020 and a few neighboring religious communities joined the celebration. On January 1, 2021 our pre-novices had a campus picnic along with the co-workers.

The translation work of Fr. Joe Alexander finally bore fruit as his first translated Santali Gospel of Matthew in Bengali script was published.

On January 17, **Fr. Vivien** left for his home in Kerala as his father's health condition was very serious. The very next day we were much grieved to hear the sad news of the death of his father. Our community offered prayer and Mass for the repose of the soul, may he rest in peace.

Thanks to **Fr. Roshan** for in the absence of Fr. Vivien, he came and stayed in Arunoday for 10 days and helped the Community by taking classes for the pre-novices.

*-Sch. Rintu Mondal*

#### Raghobpur

Fifty eight of our children received their First Communion at the hands of **Bishop Shyamal** on January 11th, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Bishop Shyamal in his homily interacted beautifully with the children, making them understand the meaning of both the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. The Mass servers and SCC members attended the programmes organized for them in Dishari on January 11th and 18th respectively. We also organized a Youth Camp on

January 14th.

We felicitated all our Children who had won prizes in different competitions organized by the Diocese and Kalahrdaya on January 26th Republic Day.

Online classes in the School are continuing unabated, and two beautiful programmes to celebrate the 125th birthday of Netaji on the 23rd January and Republic Day on the 26th went off smoothly.

A Webinar on the life and literary contribution of **Fr Paul Detienne**, organized by the Professors of Raghobpur College, was deeply appreciated. A visit of the St Xavier's Park Street community to see the new College building in progress was a fitting finale to a very busy January.

Kalahrdaya continues with its food assistance programmes in different locations of our Diocese.

*-Fr Patrick Walsh*

#### Prabhu Jisur Girja

##### Parish:

On December 24, 2020, the CLC Monjori and the SVP Unit of the parish distributed ration to 29 poor families. The Church and the campus were beautifully illuminated by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for Christmas, New Year and Parish Feast celebrations. On January 3, 2021 the Feast of the Parish was celebrated.

Fr. Anthony Paul conducted a Charismatic Prayer Service in English on January 10, 2021 and Fr. Ramesh Cheriyan conducted a charismatic prayer service on January 26 in English.



On January 15, the statue of Our Lady of Bandel was brought to PrabhuJisurGirja and was kept for the whole day for prayer and veneration. At 2:00 p.m. a procession with the statue was taken out passing through St. Mary's Church, Ripon Street, The Mother House, Our Lady of Providence, ShishuBhavan, St. Teresa's Church and ended in Prabhu Jisur Girja.

*-Andrio Arup Gomes, Parish Office Assistant*

##### Community:

**Fr. Kurian** is giving a month-long retreat to the Seminarians of North East Dioceses at Dibrugarh in Assam. **Fr. John Rogerse** is at Jhargram for a month doing Pastoral ministry. **Br. Kuriakose** is helping the young people of Taltola especially in their education. **Br. Naike** is busy with matters of the house administration.

**Fr. Mahananda** and **Fr. Cyriac** take new initiatives to improve the spiritual services for the Faithful. **Fr. Pat Eaton** is in good health and very active in reaching out to people especially caring for their spiritual needs.

**Fr. Dipak** is back to his spiritual ministries after recovering from his ill health. He preached recollections to M.C. Sisters at Nimtola, at Shishu Bhavan, and to Ursaline Sisters at Lenin Sarani.

**Fr. Arun** gave an 8-day retreat to M.C. Postulants from Shishu Bhavan, in Burdwan. He has also started giving once a week Scripture Classes on Pentateuch to M.C. Brother Novices at Mansatala, Kidderpur.

#### **Chitrabani:**

Chitrabani is reorganizing and modifying some internal structures for better functioning as well as for future endeavors.

Chitrabani takes much interest in the projects of Udayani Social Forum to explore joint ventures. The Sound Studio is vibrant with regular activities of editing films and the Librarian is computerizing all the new editions of media related books. **Fr. P. J. Joseph** is recovering from his ill health.

*-Fr. Arun Lucas*

## **Jisu Ashram, Pandua**

#### **Parish:**

To avoid overcrowding, Jisu Ashram offered nine Masses for Christmas. People from neighboring parishes and Mass centers are coming to Jisu Ashram for Mass regularly. On Jan 23, a day of Recollection cum Orientation was given to Majhi Haram-Budi (village Headmen and women). Twenty-Eight Majhi Haram-Budi attended the program.

A week long Instruction for Catechumens was arranged. Three catechists and two Sisters gave instructions to the catechumens with Multimedia presentations, action songs, and role plays. More people have applied for the next program to be held on January 31 – February 6.



On January 26, Fr. Neelu Murmu, Director of Family Commission of Asansol-Burdwan Diocese conducted a seminar for married couples who are married for one to 10 years. Thirty-Eight couples, who attended the seminar were happy and found it useful.

#### **School:**

More requests for the reopening of the school are being made by the parents constantly. **Fr. Jeyakumar** along with the Boarding Masters visited the homes of many of our students. Admission forms are being issued in view of new admissions; Books are being issued to the old students. The process for obtaining the NOC for St. Xavier's School, Pandua is in progress.



*-Fr. Amulya Kannanaikal*

## **Premananda Ashram, Chamrusai**

It has been almost a year since our Boarding School is closed. The parents of our students, teachers and the students themselves are worried about the education and the life of our students. I receive several phone calls from the guardians enquiring about the reopening of the school, the normal routine of the school, etc.

Of course, we have no answers to these questions. New admissions for the academic year 2021-2022 is over. The teaching staff had a couple of orientation courses and training programs. We have admitted this year for class one 113 students of whom Girls are 54 and Boys are 59.

We will begin Class V this Academic year and the total number of students will be Eighty Eight. Eighty students have left the Boarding School after completing Class IV.

*-Fr. Sebastian Xalxo*

## **St. Xavier's, Kolkata**

#### **School:**

After successfully conducting the Second Online Unit Tests for classes 10 and 12 on Dec 7-18, the School celebrated Pre-Christmas program on Dec 18. All the teaching and non-teaching staff and the fathers from the community were part of the celebration. **Fr. Maria Joseph S**, Secretary of SXCS, inspired the attendees with his Christmas message by emphasizing on the spirit of generosity and self-giving. In order to make the Christmas celebration more meaningful, the school reached out to 50 workers engaged in the renovation works in the campus by distributing blankets to them. The school also distributed 500 blankets to the people of Chamrusai and Gurap in December, 2020.

After the online interactions and verifications, the school admitted the second batch of KG students on Dec 16 for the session 2021-2022. On Jan 16, the 161st School's Foundation Day, the School had the blessing of the annex building in the Primary Section. **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, Rector, said the prayer of blessing and **Frs. Dominic Savio, Jerome Francis, Peter Arock** blessed the classrooms accompanied by our Community members, teachers and ALSOC members. Two of our ALSOC members – Mr Arindam Ghosh and Mr Rajib Gupta – made an inspiring video presentation highlighting the growth and journey of St. Xavier's over the years. The School felicitated and acknowledged the sincere and hard work of the contractors and carpenters and all the other workers involved in the renovation works.



SXCS celebrated the 72nd Republic Day and the School Investiture Ceremony in the presence of some of the Community members, teachers, House Captains, some

ALSOC members and their children studying in the School. **Fr. Narendra Singh**, Vice Principal of the Secondary Section, the Chief Guest, hoisted the National Flag and delivered a speech by inviting everyone to do each one's part in building our nation and bringing harmony.

On January 26, the School received 'The Voices Online National School Awards 2021' from the Lions Clubs International for the outstanding contribution in the field of education during pandemic times through digital platforms.

*-Fr. Narendra Singh*

#### College:

On January 14, St. Xavier's College celebrated Swami Vivekananda's 159th Birthday and commemorated the day as the National Youth Day 2021. Floral tributes were offered at his portrait by **Fr. Dominic Savio**, the Principal, **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, the Rector, and Mr. Sanjib Koner, Secretary of the Alumni Association. Fr. Principal said that the values such as persistence, indiscrimination, introspection and positive thinking as propagated by Swamiji are highly relevant in the present society and to be preached by all.



The Foundation Day was celebrated on January 16 with the cake cutting by two former Principals of the College, **Fr. P. C. Mathew** and **Fr. Felix Raj** along with other Community and other dignitaries at Fr. Bouche Gymnasium. Fr. Dominic Savio announced that the College has plans to create another campus on the E.M Bypass. He envisages that it will transform the campus into a communication hub which will include multimedia and mass communication departments. Other PG departments will also be accommodated there to free up some space on the Park Street campus.

The expert committee of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, evaluated the performance of St. Xavier's and reviewed the Departments of Physics, Chemistry and Microbiology under the DBT Star College program. St. Xavier's was awarded with Grade 'A' and recommended the subsequent release of grant under the DBT Star College Scheme.

The College has successfully conducted the UG and PG examinations online on Jan. 11-29.

*-Fr. David Paulraj*

#### Community:

On 18.01.2021 **Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj**, Secretary for Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat in General Curia, Rome, gave an informative talk on the works of this Secretariat, highlighting the 50-year-old history of the Social Justice apostolate and its current focus on assisting the Conferences and Provinces to assimilate and translate the UAP at the local level. During the "Christian Unity Octave" (Jan 18-25) each day a beautiful prayer service was conducted by **Fr. Peter Arock** and for the

same intention, three special Masses were offered by **Fr. Timir Singha**, which the community appreciated very much. Now, St. Xavier's Community has resumed welcoming Jesuits from other provinces for their short stay and **Fr. Probal Gomes**, the Minister, is at their service, making them feel at home while **Br. Chinthamani Das**, Province Infirmarian, is at their service too, in addition to attending to our own Jesuits. **Bishop, Linus N. Gomes S.J.**, continues to be the same in his health condition. A big thanks to **Fr. Thamacin**, the Principal, and **Fr. Naren**, the Vice Principal, for creatively making use of the School football ground and the surrounding for cultivating fresh vegetables and supplying to the community.

*-Sch. Stephen Kisku*

### St. Xavier's, Durgpur

St. Francis Xavier's Feast was celebrated on Dec 3, 2020 for all the Christian students, teachers and their families. Bishop Salvatore Lobo, Apostolic Administrator of Asansol Diocese, celebrated the Eucharist. About 40 Certificates and Prizes were distributed on the occasion by the Bishop, to the Christian students, for the competitions held during the Feast Day celebrations of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

The teaching and the non-teaching staff came together for the first time this academic year for a Pre-Christmas celebration, which included Christmas carols, lunch and Christmas gifts.

Non-Teaching staff had a family get together with the Jesuit Fathers on Dec 27, on the Feast of the Holy Family. The program included games, lunch and Christmas gifts for the families.

The 84th birthday of **Fr. K.C. Jacob** was celebrated on Dec 20. Many religious and priests in and around Durgapur were present. Jesuits from Burdwan and BMJ communities were also present.

In spite of all the uncertainties around us due to the pandemic, the School conducted classes and examinations regularly and managed to finish the 1st Term Examinations on time. The report cards were distributed after Diwali.

The Christmas crib and a well illumined campus attracted a lot of visitors this year. The Agri-horticultural extravaganza, with nearly 1500 flower pots and around 32 varieties of flowers and 26 types of vegetables, created by **Fr. Thomas Varghese** was a treat to the visitors.

*-Fr. Jimmy Keepuram*

### St. Xavier's Burdwan

Life in Burdwan started blooming with colours with the entry of 2021. We began the New Year with the Holy Eucharistic celebration by **Fr. Masilamani**.



On January 1, Fr Masilamani left for Pune to complete his Course on Spirituality and Counselling. We celebrated our School Foundation Day along with the alumni/ae of our school on January 2. On January 12, we celebrated **Sch Manik's** Birthday with a special Eucharistic celebration and a friendly cricket match in the evening.

On January 17, we had our monthly community meeting in which everyone shared his thoughts to make our community a more vibrant one.

We celebrated **Fr Jude's** birthday with a solemn Eucharistic celebration on January 20. Fathers from neighboring communities were invited and their presence added more colors to that day's celebration. We had our monthly recollection on January 23. **Sch Robert** preached the recollection on the theme "The Joy of Giving." It was his maiden recollection talk. Everybody appreciated his inspiring talk.

-*Sch. Johnson*

## De Nobili College

The month of January had been very gracious to us. **Schs. Manish Tigga** and **Prosenjit Gomes** reached DNC, Pune on January 4. After the quarantine period, there was an orientation talk on January 9.

The community welcomed the new members and bid farewell to **Fr. Arjen Tete** January 10. **Fr. Masillamani** joined us for a Province thanksgiving get-together for Fr Arjen Tete on January 14.

Fr. Arjen left for Delhi on January 17 for his new mission as the CDE. There was also a friendly basketball match between the 1st and 2nd year philosophers on January 21.

The Community attended a webinar on the UAP presented by Fr. John Dardis, General Counsellor, on January 23. On Republic Day, the Community had organized a parade and flag hoisting ceremony after the Eucharist.

On January 27, Fr Stan D'Souza, President of the Conference, addressed the whole community. At present, life at DNC is normal and we are busy with our examinations and assignments.

- *Sch. Manish Tigga*

## Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Since Christmas 2020, Delhites have been living in biting cold. The new President of the Conference, Fr. Stan D'Souza made his Visitation to Vidyajyoti on January 5-8. After his Visitation, he constituted a Finance Committee for Vidyajyoti, which includes **Fr. Poullose Mangai**.

Fr. Poullose gave a Recollection on Fratelli Tutti to Presentation Sisters and another Recollection on the Pauline Exhortation "Clothe Yourself with Christ" to the Delhi Seminarians and Regents. He attended the meetings of the Delhi Archdiocesan Animation Team which had not met since the beginning of COVID -19, the Officials of the many CRI Zones in Delhi, a zoom meeting and a physical meeting of the Delhi Unit of the FORUM for Justice and Peace.

He joined the ongoing Farmers' Protest at Ghazipur along with Vidyajyoti staff, Delhi CRI and members of FORUM. Besides usual teaching and editing of VJTR, he contributed articles, reflections, editorial to Voice of Delhi, Dilli Vaani,

Charisindia and Vidyajyoti Journal in January.

- *Fr. Poullose Mangai*

## Udayani

A two-day orientation program was organized at Udayani training center, Pandua on January 4 - 5 for all the staff. It was a time to look at last year's performance despite COVID 19 pandemic situation. **Frs. John** and **Anburaj** conducted sessions on team work and motivation. The sessions were very



interactive. Deep personal sharing and self-introspection helped the group be more focused in the work.

The SWOT analysis process refueled the team spirit for the organization. On the last day, January 5, the staff celebrated the birthday of Fr. John Kerketta.

On January 6, **Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj**, the Secretary of Social Justice and Ecology, Rome, visited our office at Ballygunge Place. He interacted with the staff members and also briefed the challenging experience of his current ministry in different countries. The entire Udayani team was enriched by his sharing.



In the month of January Udayani conducted many capacity building programs for women, such as Legal training, solar lamp making, federation training and mushroom cultivation training. We also conducted training on the sustainable **development** goals for NGOs, and organized a Santhal cultural dance competition at Jamalpur to promote and preserve the local tribal cultures.

Some women showed their solidarity with the farmers by taking part in the protest rally at Esplanade, Kolkata against the new farm laws. They also took part in the postcard campaign for Fr. Stan Swamy.

More than 1000 postcards were distributed and posted to the Home Minister and Prime Minister asking for Fr. Stan's immediate release from the prison.

- *Fr. John Kerketta*



### Left the Society

**Sch. Antony Jewel Rozario** on 24.01.2021

**Sch. Sagar Das** on 31.01.2021

## Jesuit Poverty Today- A life of sharing and solidarity

In January, meeting with his Extended Council, Fr. General discussed the process to be followed by the Society in a consultation on Jesuit poverty that has already been announced in his letter about the Ignatian Year. "Poverty is a crucial aspect of our lives as Jesuits" said Fr. Sosa. "In these days of consumerism and individualism, it shows more importantly than ever how we are called to a life of sharing and that solidarity among human beings is a necessity and a core value."



The meeting took place on January 11-15; three full days were

dedicated to the issue of poverty. Fr. Tom McClain, the General Treasurer and Fr. James Hanvey, the Secretary for the Service of Faith have played key roles in preparing the meeting along with Fr Claudio Paul, Assistant for Southern Latin America, who chaired a small task force. "Evangelical Poverty has been part of religious life since the earliest times" said Fr. James Hanvey. "For St Ignatius, after his conversion, he experienced it as a source of apostolic energy and he wanted this for all Jesuits. Ignatius saw that to preach in poverty was also a mark of the authenticity of our witness. I think this is even more important than ever with so many urgent needs."

The meeting was held online and involved over twenty people from different continents of the world. All of the General Counsellors took part, along with the six Conference Presidents, the Secretaries of the Apostolic Sectors (Faith, Justice and Ecology, Pre-Secondary and Secondary Education, Higher Education) and the General Treasurer. "The vow of poverty of the Jesuits is unique among religious institutes" said Fr. Tom McClain, General Treasurer. "It takes its evangelical and apostolic spirit from the companionship with Christ whom each Jesuit encounters and follows as the result of his calling in the Spiritual Exercises and then guided by a single restriction in the Constitutions: do not live from income from fixed assets but rather from alms and just remuneration. So we are sent forward touched by His vision and passions."

After the meeting, Father General will confirm a process that will take place in every Province and Region across the Society to help Jesuits deepen their living of poverty and reflect on the impact it has on their life and mission. "Living poverty more deeply involves conversion" said Father Sosa. "We want to follow Christ poor; be close to Him; accompany Him in all the wounded places of the world. We do this if we are truly poor, ourselves, know our utter dependence on God and live discerning where the Spirit is leading us."

In addition, they shared news on the experience of the coronavirus pandemic and how at the global level it is affecting the life of Jesuits, the Church and our societies. Links with the theme of poverty were also discovered. The last day

of the meeting was largely dedicated to the Ignatian Year. The progress of some projects of the Curia and in the different regions of the world was assessed. The aim was to "feel" how the perspective of the Ignatian Year, which will begin next May, can really participate in the spiritual renewal of the whole body of the Society. <https://www.jesuits.global/2021/01/08/jesuit-poverty-today-a-life-of-sharing-and-solidarity/>

- SJ Curia News

## Fr. Stan Swamy's letter from prison

Fr. Stan Swamy marked his 100 days in prison on January 15 with a letter highlighting the cases of poor people languishing in jail. Without speaking much about himself, Fr. Swamy letter referred to the "undertrials" - people in custody waiting for their trials to begin.



"Many such poor undertrials don't know what charges have been put on them, have not seen their charge sheet and just remain in prison for years without any legal or other assistance," he wrote. The undertrials are his strength in prison, he said.

"A majority of them come from economically and socially weaker communities," Fr. Swamy wrote, alluding to their lack of education and economic poverty to seek a lawyer's service. "Overall, almost all undertrials are compelled to live to a bare minimum, whether rich or poor. This brings in the sense of brotherhood and communitarianism where reaching out to each other is possible even in this adversity." The ailing Jesuit has also written a couple of letters and poems from jail narrating his plight and those of others.

He also expressed gratitude for the "overwhelming" solidarity of his supporters. Fr. Swamy has been detained in Taloja Central Prison in Mumbai, since Oct 9. He is charged with sedition and having links with outlawed Maoist rebels. "At times, news of such solidarity has given me immense strength and courage, especially when the only thing certain in prison is uncertainty. Life here is on a day-to-day basis." He has Parkinson's disease and other age-related illnesses.

"...we 16 co-accused have not been able to meet each other as we are lodged in different jails or different 'circles' within the same jail. But we will still sing in chorus. A caged bird can still sing."

Activists are demanding the repeal of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, a stringent law under which Fr. Swamy was booked. The campaign to release Fr. Swamy will continue.

-(UCAN)



## Calcutta Jesuits Recent Publications

“WAVES” Story Bank by **Fr. Felix Raj, S.J.** Published by St. Xavier’s University Kolkata Alumni Association, New Town, Kolkata, 2020, 207 pages, Price Rs. 400/-

“A HIDDEN PEARL” Spirituality of St. Jeanne Jugan by **Fr. Anil Gomes, S.J.** Published by Asian Trading Corporation, Bangalore, 2009, 95 pages, Price Rs. 130/-

“A LITTLE PEARL” Charism of St. Jeanne Jugan by **Fr. Anil Gomes, S.J.** by Don Bosco Publishing Services, VoxAmica Press, 16 Tin Kwong Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong; 403 pages.

‘BHAGE SOMBATH’ (Shonatho Mothiye Olakath), Transcribed by **Fr. Joseph Alexander, S.J.**, Christo Seva Ashram, Kalna, West Bengal, 2020. (Gospel of St. Mathew in Santhali language using Bengali Script)

## Course

**ROOTS & WINGS 2021** from April 6th evening to May 8th afternoon, in Shembaganur, for Jesuits and those Religious who follow the Jesuit Spirituality.

For more details and to apply for the course please contact: Fr. Devadhas Muthiah SJ: 9600411531 / 8056662524 / devadhasm@gmail.com - Fr. Patrick Ravichandran SJ: 9445676172 / sup.shc@mdusj.org

**Last date to apply is: March 15, 2021.** Those from Calcutta Province interested to attend the course kindly contact Fr. Provincial before applying for the course.

## Pope Francis institutes World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has instituted the fourth Sunday of July as the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, recalling the elderly Simeon and Anna’s encounter with child Jesus. The World Day falls close to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.



“The Holy Spirit even today stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly.” The voice of the elderly “is precious because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of the peoples.” Old age is a gift, and grandparents serve as the link between different generations.

-UCA News



## Holy Father’s intention for February 2021

### Violence against women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded

## Rest In Peace

**Fr. Ronald Victor Menezes (KAR, 48/26)** passed away on 14.01.2021 at Bengaluru

**Fr. Ambrose Augustine (PAT 87/58)** passed away on 16.01.2021 at Patna

**Fr. Maxim Crasta (GUJ, 54/32)** passed away on 19.01.2021 at Baroda, Gujarat

**Fr. Arvind Minj (HAZ, 42/19)** passed away on 26.01.2021 at Babupara, Hazaribagh

**Mr. Andrew Pattamana (75)**, father of Fr. Vivian Pattamana, passed away on 17.01.2021

**Fr. Anthony A. D’Souza (BOM, 94/77)** passed away on 27.01.2021 in Mumbai

**Fr. Lancelot Pereira (BOM, 90/71)** passed away on 28.01.2021 in Mumbai

**Br. Stephen Kerketta (RAN, 75/57)** passed away on 30.01.2021 at Ranchi due to Covid-19

The Holy Father has granted **Pandab Prosper Hansda** the favour of dispensation from priestly celibacy and from all obligations associated with his priestly ordination. It takes effect from 5th February 2021. We wish him God's blessings for a happy life ahead.



“Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself.”

**St. Francis de Sales**

“The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them.”

**– St. John of the Cross**

“You don’t know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you’ve already begun.”

**– Saint Josemaría Escrivá**



Please send your news before the 25th of every month.  
Editor’s Email ID: [caljesuits@gmail.com](mailto:caljesuits@gmail.com)  
**FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY**