



## Ignatian Year and Standing with the Poor

In our own Province, and all over the world, Jesuits and collaborators are preparing in earnest for the Ignatian Year 2021-22, *to see all things new in Christ*. There is a consensus that this will be a year of renewal rather than one of celebration. A number of activities/programmes have been proposed. Fr General points out that while these proposed programmes are good, many IY committees have not carefully read his letter (2019/13), in which he drew our attention to our vow of poverty.

In this letter, Fr General wrote about Ignatius' conversion: "The poverty which Ignacio will begin to practice, as well as his personal friendship with the poor and the help he offered them, is one of the great signs of the change in his life. I am convinced that this is one of the most urgent calls to the Society of Jesus in our times; it is a clear invitation to us to come closer to the Lord's own way of life. The Ignatian year 2021-2022, will therefore be for us a privileged occasion to hear the cry of the poor, the excluded, and those whose dignity has not been respected, in all the diverse social and cultural circumstances in which we live and work. It is a listening which moves our hearts and compels us to draw closer to the poor, to walk with them in seeking justice and reconciliation. A dimension of our conversion that the Spirit invites us to live this year, is to discern in common how we can deepen our vow of poverty. In this way we can come closer to Ignatius and the first companions, in the lifestyle which they received, in faithfulness to the desired for our Society."



Therefore, let us keep our spiritual roots, to be strengthened to stand with the protesting stand with Stan and those prisoners, to stand with the migrants struggling to return to their jobs, to stand with women and children who are trafficked/abused in this country, and to stand with all those who depend on God.

**Fr. Roland Coelho**

## CONVOCATION OF THE 71<sup>ST</sup> CONGREGATION OF PROCURATORS

### “I CONVOKE THE 71<sup>ST</sup> CONGREGATION OF PROCURATORS WHICH WILL START ON 16 MAY 2022.”

In a letter sent on 15 January 2021 to all Major Superiors, Fr. Arturo Sosa announces the holding of this important meeting of the universal Society. It will be held in Loyola and will be preceded by a week of Spiritual Exercises, that according to the wishes of the Superior General, will allow the delegates “to attend more deeply to the Holy Spirit who is active in our Society.” An announcement 16 months in advance, isn't it a bit early?

No, it isn't! A Congregation of Procurators brings together delegates from each of the administrative units of the Society, Provinces and Regions (to which this time Fr. General adds the two “missions” of Myanmar and Cambodia). They must be elected in a Provincial (or Regional) Congregation and they have the duty to visit Jesuits and Jesuit works in order to prepare a picture of the situation of the Society in their Provinces (Regions) and to answer questions that the General suggests to them for further discussion during the meeting. Such an assembly therefore requires a long preparation.

#### History and raison d'être

A bit of history to situate this event: The Congregation of Procurators was not foreseen in the Constitutions. But it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Congregation, already in 1565, which created it. Without going into detail, we can say that from the very beginning of the Society there was a need for more frequent meetings at the universal level than those of the General Congregations, which were to take place especially when a General died. It was therefore thought that a meeting of the “Procurators” could be held every three years. Later it was decided that it would take place every four years and that it would alternate with another body created much more recently, the Congregation of Provincials.

The first role of the Congregation of Procurators is to decide whether a General Congregation should be convoked, after having informed Father General of the “state of the Society.” From the 31<sup>st</sup> GC (1965-66) another purpose was added: to deal

with important matters at the level of the universal Society. This greatly expanded its role. One advantage of this meeting is that it allows a representation of the 'grass roots' of the Society, since the Procurators - who have to prepare themselves by visiting their Province or Region - are not Provincials or Major Superiors. The latter have other opportunities to express their views to Father General.

Anecdotally, we can note that several Congregations of Procurators have had to be cancelled over the centuries, once because of the illness of the General, four times because of epidemics, seven times because of wars or European social tensions. The COVID-19 pandemic is not the first ordeal that the Society has experienced at the universal level!

#### For 2022, then?

In his letter of convocation, Father Sosa situates the next Congregation of Procurators within the framework of the Ignatian Year, with the same theme: “*Seeing all things new in Christ.*” More specifically, he writes: “*the Congregation can be a time when we examine together the lights and shadows of the Society, the particular challenges that face us, and action of the Holy Spirit, who calls us to ever greater generosity in the service of Church and our world. There is no doubt that one of the greatest challenges that our world faces is Covid 19, whose consequences will continue to be with us for the foreseeable future.*”

With regard to the issues that the Superior General asks the Provincial Congregations to deal with and on which the Procurators will have to report, the first is the follow-up given to the broad project of the *Universal Apostolic Preferences*, paying particular attention, according to the wishes of Pope Francis, to the first one, that of “showing the way to God with the help of the Spiritual Exercises and discernment.” And secondly, the Ignatian youth ministry and the link with the promotion of Jesuit vocations.

Here we are; the table is set! The Provincial Congregations must meet within a year to elect their Procurator. They are to prepare their report on the state of the Society in their own area and prepare answers to Father General's questions before arriving in Loyola at the beginning of May 2022. Eighty-seven participants are expected to

attend, including Father General and his Assistants.

[Curia News](#)

## CONVOCAION OF THE SEVENTH PROVINCE CONGREGATION

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Father Provincial convoked the 7<sup>th</sup> Province Congregation of the re-established Goa Province.

All those who are to take part in it will gather at Xavier Training College, Desur, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 5.00 p.m. The first session of the Congregation will be at 6.00 p.m. the same evening. The PC is likely to end by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 8.00 p.m.

## APPOINTMENTS BY FATHER GENERAL

### New Provincial for the Province of United States West (UWE):

Father General appointed Fr. Sean O. Carroll, SJ, 54 years old, as the next Superior Provincial of the United States West Province. This Province was created in 2017 when the former Provinces of Oregon and California were united. While Fr. Carroll's work has included both educational and parish ministry, he is best known for his involvement with migrants in the *Kino Border Initiative*, a work under the leadership of six religious congregations on both sides of the US-Mexico border. Sean Carroll has been the director for more than ten years. He will assume his duties as Provincial, replacing Fr. Scott Santarosa, on 31 July 2021.

[Curia News](#)

## NEWS FROM VINAYALAYA

The month of December was filled with lot of joyful moments and various activities. On 10<sup>th</sup> December we had our "Declamations" to test our oratory skills. Such an exercise helps develop our memory skills and inculcate various styles of delivery. As part of our "Critical Analysis Skills," each one of us was given an article on different topics from different magazines such as, Jivan, Vidyajyoti Journal and Down to Earth. We had to assimilate the key points and then present them creatively.

My experience of presenting the life of Fr. Thomas Stephens was heart touching. It really challenged and inspired us to set him up as our example. Each article widened our knowledge and also offered us something to learn for life.

As Christmas approached, we were filled with zeal and passion, and began our preparation in full swing. At the same time we prepared ourselves internally to receive our Lord Jesus Christ. We involved ourselves in singing carols, organizing a community gathering and, to top it all, a lovely barbeque party on the birthday of the Provincial, Fr. Arun D'Souza.

A few days before the New Year we stepped into the silence of our hearts in a triduum directed by Fr. Ryan (KAR) to renew ourselves spiritually. After creating a prayerful atmosphere, filled with spiritual blessings and graces, we renewed our vows on the eve of the New Year's midnight Mass in the community. We felt grateful for the past year and, at the same time, were filled with joy and hope for the coming year.

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January we had a course on "Critical Thinking" offered by Fr. Jeevan Mendonca (BOM). The course opened our minds to think critically on various issues that are presently in vogue and helped us to develop the ability not to just criticize and be gripped by what we hear or read but to study the issues critically. This helped us to see things in a new perspective and thereby broaden our vision.

[Sch. Joswalt Noronha](#)

## XAVIER RETREAT HOUSE, BAGA

New Year, new beginning! We celebrated the midnight Mass ushering in the New Year with seven priests at the altar. **Merwin** inspired the people with his homily in English and Konkani; our scholastics took care of the singing with **Glinson** as the choir master. A poster of the renovation work of the Retreat house was on display so as to enable the congregation to get an idea of the renovation work in progress and what the Retreat house would look like after its reconstruction.

In the afternoon, the St. Britto Community (of

which we are a part) landed in Baga and we had a fellowship sharing and breaking bread. In the evening our new community member **Patrick Viegas**, joined us.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January **Menoy** our newly ordained priest celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass, and prayed for the people of Baga, as he was here for his diaconate ministry. We wished him well in his new mission at



Harnai. It was also a fitting occasion to welcome and introduce **Patrick** to the Baga community. After the Mass we had a short meaningful celebration. This was followed by the cutting of the cake and a song composed for Menoy by one of our regular Mass attendees.

On 11<sup>th</sup> January **Augustine** and **Jovito** accompanied **Menoy** to Harnai,



his new mission area. It was more an outing than just reaching Menoy. We stopped at Chiplun, spent some quality time with **Joseph** and then left for Harnai. We thank Joseph for being a good host.

The renovation work has begun with trucks moving up and down with material, under the keen observation of **Augustine**. We request your prayers and support for the success of this work.

**Patrick** has begun mingling with the people well and celebrating the daily Mass for the people in Konkani. He also keeps himself busy counseling youngsters by riding on his cycle to the place they

can meet, share, listen and be guided in the right direction. We wish him well in this ministry.

*Fr Jovito D'Souza*

## XAVIER FARM, MACCHE

The year 2020, in spite of Covid-19, was a blessing to all of us here at SAS (Shramik Abhivrudhi Sangh). Though all the planned activities could not be implemented, SAS could serve the most needy and disadvantaged people during the lockdown and after. SAS staff walked the extra mile to meet the needs of stranded people due to the lockdown and Covid-19 related restrictions. They approached the *Gram Panchayats* to start community kitchens. They distributed masks and groceries to the poor people. The migrants from the neighboring states and cities got an opportunity to work under MGNREGA, even in the absence of the mandatory documents to prove that they were from the Panchayat. Thus the migrants earned their livelihood with dignity. SAS staff also made sure that the primary health centers provided emergency health services, especially to pregnant women.

In December, SAS planned its activities for the year 2021 keeping in mind its sanctioned projects and the Universal and Goa Province Apostolic Preferences of the Jesuits. On 29<sup>th</sup> December, SAS celebrated Christmas with its staff and honored Mrs. Sunanda Anandache, who completed 25 years of service with SAS. From June to December, SAS worked hard to catch up with the activities it missed out during the lockdown. SAS formed 55 new SHGs (Self-Help Groups) with 799 members and animated and guided 928 SHGs with 14759 members and 64 Functional Vocational Training Centers with 677 adolescent village girls across 180 villages. SHG members were empowered to take active part in *Gram Panchayat* elections - 71 SHG members contested the GP elections and 38 of them got elected. SAS had to its credit 567 biogas cum toilet units and as a result 2835 persons were added to the number of persons who enjoyed the benefits of smokeless kitchens and the use of their own toilets. SAS's work among the traditional shepherds and other works continued with reduced funds and staff.



Xavier Farm at Macche invites us **to live our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork our 'Common Home'**. It provides a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables. This year was blessed with a bumper crop of sugarcane, sweet potato and rice. **Vella's** sweat and blood keeps the farmhouse and the surrounding areas spick and span – a witness to 'ecological conversion', whereby the effects of one's encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in his relationship with the world around him (**Laudato Si# 217**).

*Fr Santosh Vas*

### LOYOLA, MARGAO

On New Year's Day we had a concelebrated community Mass with **Raul** as the main celebrant and **Willy** as part of his homily spoke on the 3 events of the Day: The Feast of the Mother of God, The beginning of a New Chronological Year, and The World Day of Peace.

On 03rd Jan **Basil** was diagnosed as Covid positive and was hospitalized. After being discharged and advised to undergo self-isolation, he resided at PAI, Raia in the retreat wing that was unoccupied. The Loyola Community is grateful to the PAI community for stretching out a hand to come to our assistance and to cater to our needs.

Flag hoisting ceremony, organized by the High School staff was held on the occasion of Republic Day. The chief guest, **Pedro** hoisted the flag and administered the pledge. The Primary (unaided)

had an online quiz for students of Std IV on the Constitution of India, geared to their level of understanding. It was encouraging to see a number of students participating.

Examinations for Std I to VIII were held online. The students had to later submit their answer sheets (hard copies) to the school for assessment. It was decided later by the Directorate of Education that the examinations for Std IX should be held offline. This caught many students off guard and this is noticed in their performances; probably they were eagerly waiting to answer these examinations online and be able to use ways and means to inflate their scores. Now they have some introspection to do and a problem up their sleeves.

**Jimmy's** toil and sweat in the backyard has been bearing fruit; even the staff is eyeing them. On the other hand we are enjoying a rich harvest of papayas.

*Fr. William Rodrigues*

### NEWS FROM PORTUGAL

It is a month now since I moved to the Seminary. Things here at Aveiro, at least the first 15 days of January, before Portugal went into another “strict lockdown” had been quite different, which helped me a lot in the process of my adapting.

Since I live in the University Campus, I have been able to meet up with my guide at her University office, whenever she has some free time to give me private classes (in English), which otherwise she does online in Portuguese.

We have now finished our First Semester entirely online, but it is very uncertain as to when the second semester would resume, since the pandemic is creating havoc in Portugal. However, as a part of my completion of the First Semester, I am expected to write two papers, which are presently underway. Simultaneously, I am also working with my guide on the preliminary text of the PhD in view of applying for the scholarship.

Both the priests living in this minor seminary (with no seminarians) interact with me in English,

specially at the meals time. This daily interaction has helped me a lot. Besides, I do get to meet and interact with a few students that attend daily Eucharist at the CUFC's (Centre for Universal Faith and Culture), which I concelebrate in Portuguese. The scope for English Mass has still not opened. In fact, for now, even CUFC's is shut down.

Portugal has now declared a “state of emergency” from 15th January to 15th February. The schools, colleges, universities, churches, private institutions like CUFC's, etc., everything is shut down. With the UK, Brazil and South African variants entering Portugal, they are unable to control the spread. Last week, the Seminary too had a case of Covid Positive, the Rector's secretary. The Rector has now gone into “self-isolation” and we two into “strict confinement”

within the seminary walls.

The present circumstances are very scary, setting in a lot of fear and anxiety. However, I seek to find strength in my own prayer and the prayerful support from many others to encounter this unfamiliar and unpredictable scenario of being confined indoors with very little interaction and most of all not knowing what comes next.

*Fr Kelwin Monteiro*

**PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE -- FEB. 2021**

5	Ed.& Higher Ed. Comm Meet (online)
9 - 11	Online meeting with Jesuits abroad
13	Panjim - Province Consult
14	Khanapur - Deanery Youth Meet
16	Formation Comm Meet (online)
19	Pastoral Comm Meet (online)
22 - 26	JCSA Meet (online)
28	Delhi - ISI

## 2021: A NEW YEAR- A TIME FOR CHANGE AND GROWTH.

Someone presented a falcon to the king.

The falcon is a bird of prey that can scan the skies, spot its victim, dive from great heights; capture any moving creature in the air or on the ground.

It is a sight to behold when it is in action.

The king set it on a high branch up a tall tree in the palace gardens for it to fly and to hunt and to delight the royal eye.

But the falcon would not fly.

It remained perched on the high branch without moving a feather, without loosening its grip on the branch, without flying.

And the king waited impatiently for it to fly.

As the bird wouldn't move, the king had a royal edict promulgated that whoever would make the falcon fly would receive a hundred gold coins.

A peasant came up and offered his services if they let him try all by himself.

He went to the place. Meanwhile the people of the court gather around the palace to see if the falcon would appear in the sky.

And they were all surprised and elated for in a short time they could see the falcon fly high in the sky: A sight to cherish; a day to remember.

The king gave the peasant the promised recompense and asked him, "How did you get the falcon to fly?"

"Very simply, Your Majesty!" answered the peasant,

**"I WENT UP AND CUT THE BRANCH IT WAS PERCHED ON."**

### **Reflection:**

**Will someone cut down my branch, this New Year, please?"**

The *Falcon is You* = of course, not with claws and beak to attack others (or fists and tongues).

Instead you are enriched with qualities, talents; some of these you have discovered and some still remain hidden.

And just as the falcon is a sight to behold when it is in the sky gliding along; you too are created for success and happiness and to reach great heights. The falcon like the eagle is considered a symbol of *strength, independence, freedom* = and these qualities are yours as well.

The *Branch is a symbol of your security* = as long as you keep sitting on it, resting on it; you will remain where you are – there will be no growth, no achievements.

This happens if you are complacent; not ready to take risks; satisfied in your comfort zone; not ready to face challenges; contented where you are with no ambitions, no vision. (*This is contrary to Ignatian Magis and striving for Excellence.*)

As long as you remain in this state of mind . . . you will not give flight to your dreams and potentials . . . for what you have been created to do or to become . . .

This is the time, the beginning of a New Year to get off the branch – to use the many opportunities that are placed before you; to gain as much exposure that is made available; to achieve the end towards which you have been created.

*(Contributed by Fr. Willy – Jan 2021)*

God  
Bless  
You

# Happy Birthday Dear ...

## FEBRUARY

Rinald D'Souza	09/78
Leslie Francis	10/31
William Rodrigues	12/53
Colman de Souza	17/46
Pratapananda Naik	24/51
Orville de Silva	24/79



## LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Fr Ronald V Menezes SJ, (KAR), 48 /26 passed away on 14 January in Bangaluru.  
 Fr. Ambrose Augustine, S.J. (PAT), 87/58 passed away on 16 January in Patna.  
 Fr Maxim Crasta SJ (GUJ), 54/33 passed away on 19 January in Baroda.  
 Fr Arwind Minj SJ (HAZ), 42 passed away on 26 January in Hazaribag

## MEN WHO TOILED IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

### FEBRUARY

- 01 Gregory D'Souza
- 03 Claude Saldanha
- 06 Franklin De Souza
- 08 Cajetan C. Coutinho
- 17 Jose Gil Vaz
- 18 Matthew Almeida
- 19 Sebastian Mascarenhas
- 19 Athanasius Vaz
- 25 Antonio L. Pereira



### Pope's Intentions Feb 2021



**Violence Against Women**  
 We pray for women who are  
 Victims of violence, that they may  
 Be protected by society & have their  
 Sufferings considered & heeded.