



Fr. General has appointed ...

Fr. Brian Paulson the next President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the US

Fr. Karl Kiser the next Provincial of the USA Midwest Province

Fr. Leonard Chiti the Provincial of the newly created Province of Southern Africa (SAP)

Fr. Roberto del Riccio the new Provincial of the Euro-Mediterranean Province.

Fr. Miguel Garaizabal the new Regional Superior of the Jesuits in Thailand

The POSA has appointed **Fr. Arjen Tete** (CCU) the new Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF)

One of today's great biologists:

Fr. Ignacimuthu SJ

Among the Jesuits, there have been great scientists over the centuries. This illustrious tradition is carried on even to the present day. Fr. Savarimuthu Ignacimuthu (MDU), 72 years old, has been classified as one of the biologists who have contributed much to the advancement of science, according to an analysis published by Stanford University. Out of 113,961 researchers, he is ranked 872nd and 10th in India. He has published more than 800 scientific articles and edited 80 books. He has accompanied more than 100 students to obtain their PhDs.

(taken from Newsletter from Rome, 9 Dec 2020)

Fr. Provincial's schedule – January 2021

2 nd	Manickpur. Ordination of Lenoy
5 th	Province Consult
6 th onward	Budget Rounds

Pope's Intentions Jan 2021



Human Fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace
To live in full fellowship with
Our brothers & sisters of other religions
Praying for one another, open to all
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

Notice: Novice Clayton Valles left the Society on 11 December 2020. We wish him God's blessings and all the very best for the future.

A reminder to all about the Ordination of **Deacon Lenoy Jose Tharakan**; He will be ordained a Priest at St. Michael Church, Manickpur on Saturday, 2nd January. The Eucharist will begin at 5:00 pm. All concelebrating priests are requested to carry their Alb and a white Stole.

Scholastics **Wesley D'Costa and Welington Patil** will be ordained Deacons on Sunday 3rd January at 12 noon at the Shrine of the Infant Jesus, Nashik. We accompany them with our prayers.

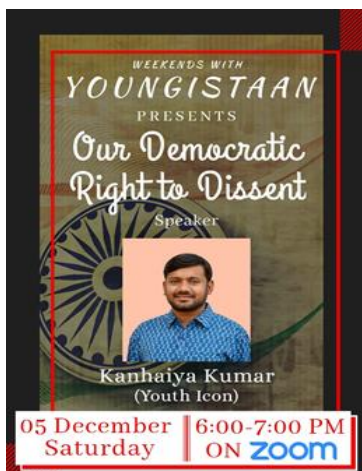
Status

Fr. Rudi Heredia has been transferred to Arrupe Niwas, Mazagaon

Br. Tommy Vaz has been appointed the Acting Director of REAP

“Dissent is an Integral Part of our Democracy”

On 5th December, our youth commission in collaboration with the youth commissions of the central zone provinces invited Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar, the infamous former student union president of JNU, Delhi, social activist and young politician, to speak to the youth of our nation through a session on zoom on the topic of “ Our Democratic Right to Dissent”. He was invited in view of the recent arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy S.J., and other social activists. Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar, a well known free spirited public speaker, who is also a youth icon, gave a very comprehensive understanding of the term ‘Democracy’ and also enlightened us on the role of dissent in a democratic country like India.



Kanhaiya, in his witty style attacked the present government for crushing the rights of the individuals to dissent, which is unconstitutional. He vehemently opposed the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy and other social activists, and challenged the government to respect the diversity as well as the voices of dissents. He encouraged all the youth present for the online session (more than 100 on zoom

and many more on YouTube live) to get into active politics and to celebrate the differences that we have in our country. After the talk Kanhaiya had a very engaging interaction with the participants which further motivated all of us to keep expressing our voices of dissent.

In the vote of thanks, Vivian Lopes thanked Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar and the organizers, especially Fr. Assis SJ, who was the main force behind the organization of the session. Assis did an excellent job by moderating the session very well. We also acknowledged the encouragement received from the Former JYMSA secretary Fr. Brian D’Souza and SJES-South Asia secretary Fr. Tony Dias. The session on zoom was well attended and well appreciated by the participants from all over the conference.

➤ **Vivian Lopes**

TIDINGS FROM XTC

Study experiment: It is said that before judging a person you should walk a mile in their shoes. The study experiment on GCs 31-36 helped us retrace the footsteps of our Jesuit predecessors. We embarked on the journey to understand how they read the signs of their times and helped Christ’s Church to heal the broken world. All of us who studied and presented the General Congregations 31 to 36 were filled with great respect and gratitude. We were amazed to witness the brilliance of these Jesuits in understanding and creatively solving the challenges encountered by God’s people. This study not only enlightened our minds but also touched our hearts which burnt with enthusiasm and zeal. Their example has increased our longing to serve the needy for the greater glory of God.

Final Vows in the Society: St Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in You”. A similar kind of sweet restlessness was observed at XTC on 8th December when Frs. Motiram, Prakash, Augustine and Santosh pronounced their final vows. Fr Roland Coelho (Provincial of Goa) through his homily reminded

us of what it means to be a permanent member of the Society of Jesus. He inspired us to live our lives in a manner worthy of the vocation to which God has called us.



Course on organizing camps: Drawing upon his own rich experience, Fr. Cecil Fernandes led us through a five day course on conducting camps. He engaged us in a variety of activities such as actions songs, two minute games, cooking competition, skits, treasure hunt, quiz, drawing, puzzle, preparing a seven day camp schedule etc. We almost lived a camp life during those days to understand intricately the mindset of a camper and the one organizing the camp. We were filled with excitement and look forward to the opportunity when we can put into practice what we learnt, imparting both fun and values to students.

- **Rohan D'Almeida**

Basic Training in Software and Hardware at XIE, Mahim

Four of us from the Talasari school network had a great time at XIE Mahim where we received further inputs in basic software and hardware. Our trainers, Mr. Anand and Mr. Nandesh, made us more competent to assemble computers and install Operating Systems and other software. We also learnt how to partition hard disks, crimp networking cables, use Google docs, sheets, and other forms.

The hands-on learning was made possible by the good offices of Fr Yohan, the Rector of Talasari



Mission, and by the diligence of Mr. Anand and Mr. Nandesh and their supporting staff at XIE.

We had to slog it out all day long, but we slept soundly at night in the guest rooms of Jesuit Community and, throughout, we were very well fed by the Jesuits!

By Bacchu, Sumit, Holya & Govind

NEWS AT SXHS

'To be or not to be, that is the question'. This quote here refers not to any life and death matter as in Hamlet's soliloquy, but to the reopening of school post Diwali. That was the question we were faced with. As we were all set with Standard Operating Procedures in place and all other arrangements made, it was decided by the State Government to postpone the opening of schools till 31 December.

We moved into December after declaring the results of the second term Evaluation. Based on the performance we have planned remedial classes for some students. Besides this we have initiated a mentoring program wherein teachers are assigned 8 or 9 students each to motivate them and keep a check on their progress.

The feast of our patron saint, St. Francis Xavier was celebrated online with a fancy dress competition for classes 5 and 6. The boys dressed as the saint and gave a message. A quiz on the life of St. Francis Xavier was conducted and a poster-making competition was held too. We continued with online classes but now do it from school. 50% of the teachers have to report to school daily as per the directives of the Education Department.

Christmas celebrations too were held online on the 22 December. The highlight was a music video of the mash up of Christmas carols sung by the students. The students were explained the significance of the various Christmas symbols. A Mass followed by an entertainment program and fellowship was held for the staff. All social distancing norms were adhered to. Looking forward now to 2021. It's time to get over the past and plan for a brighter and healthy year ahead.

▪ **Mr. Gaspar Britto**

MPSM NEWS

MPSM has been buzzing with activities and programs in the past month. There was a Diwali celebration in which the working staff and some of the hostel youth came together along with the community to share a festive lunch. The meal was prepared by the hostel boys and their culinary skills surpassed the expectations of everyone. There were a number of training programs conducted. The first was on project management organized for cluster managers and community resource persons. Another training program was held at Ambatha project planning and development. There was a lively group of three SSL students from St. Xavier college who came to MPSM for a short exposure. They had a number of field trips which were supplemented by relevant reflections and discussions. They were filled with new insights and energy and a desire to get back with concrete action plans.

The online classes, for us studying theology at Delhi, are in full swing and the examinations were also held online. We began the month of December with a meaningful recollection by Fr. Robert Penn SDB. The theme that he chose was *'The power to love or to dominate'*. We have also been actively involved in giving

sessions and recollections, be it to groups of confirmandi or Parish Council members or our own Jesuit brethren of the Nashik cluster. Wellington and Wesley will receive their Diaconate on 3rd January. Your prayers and wishes are requested as they prepare for this important moment in their lives.

✓ **Wesley D'Costa**

Manmad Khabar

December began with a number of new initiatives taken by the Manmad Jesuits. Lloyd and Wencesl conducted a three day Ignatian workshop for the school staff to form them in the Jesuit Charism and Our Way of Proceeding. With this we have already launched into the Ignatian year which will commence soon. On the occasion of Christmas and in solidarity with Stan and others in jail the Manmad Jesuits distributed blankets to the poor and destitute sleeping on the footpath and bus stand. The gesture was carried out at night as these people slept in the darkness. We spread the blankets over them and moved out quietly.



With the absence of school students this year, the school teachers took it upon themselves to organize a short Christmas program with a social message on safety of corona. The topic of Ecology also was brought out with an amazing

street play and songs. We were happy to see our talented teachers working in unison and in cooperation with one another. The Tanda Vasti NFE project that was launched in mid-October has seen its fruits with children performing actively in those classes. Two of our school teachers visited the locations and were very happy with the progress the children have made. With the help of our teachers and lay collaborators we have formed a board of directors who will help in taking the Tanda project ahead in future.



Our Covid-19 mission continues but this time with a different approach. The Manmad Jesuits organized a short felicitation program followed by a fellowship meal for all the police, healthcare workers, ambulance services, sanitization workers and Gurudwara Lungar committee who gave their best services during past nine months and continue to do so. Nearly 110 such Covid warriors were gathered together along with many dignitaries from the area. This gesture was well appreciated and made headline news in the local newspapers.

- **Lloyd Sambrya**

Fr. Augustine Lopes SJ
7 Oct 1945 – 1 Dec 2020



I always found something unique in the company of Augustine and we became good friends in the Society. My family knew his family well and we were impressed with their strict discipline and neatness. Augustine surely inherited something of this from his family. In the Society, Augustine came across as a confident and fearless person. His friendliness gave him that unimaginable confidence. He had worked in a government office prior to joining the Society. Perhaps it was this experience that gave him that fearlessness? It could also be due to his firm, unshakeable faith in Mother Mary.

He enjoyed human company. His social skills ensured that he would be the center of any gathering. He would take me to visit some of his friends and I was struck by how he would be so comfortable there and behave like a member of the family. One had to learn from Augustine how to relish fish! He made no secret of it nor did he regret that he enjoyed fish very much.

Augustine was an excellent preacher and left a powerful impression on his congregation. The manner of delivery was so good that listeners would long after remember not just the content but also his actions and mannerisms. The best

part of his ministry was when he was posted at Manor just after his ordination when he began conducting camps for youth, both boys and girls. He was at the peak of his personality then and had a great influence on many a young person. Whenever I was with him, I admired the confidence with which he made his mistake! However, he was not only confident but also genuine and this made him very effective. Many of his campers later joined the priesthood or religious life. Through these camps he built up their personality, faith, and God-experience.

His experience with Fr. Peter Ribes and the Pastoral counseling training in Manila gave Augustine a tremendous boost and left him with excellent pastoral skills. He was always very active in the pastoral field and was well known for retreat preaching in English and Marathi. His father was a very creative story teller and evidently Augustine inherited this from his father. Unfortunately, his accident at Talasari broke him almost completely. After that he was not his usual bubbly self.

Although we hardly agreed on any issue, we certainly enjoyed each other's company. His assessment of people was perceptive and beyond my imagination. His intuition defied my logic and experience. If he liked some people he would do anything for them. And if he did not, he made no secret of it.

Augustine had repeatedly told me that he wanted to preach at my funeral. God did not give him that privilege. Whenever I phoned to him at Arrupe Nivas, he would say, "When are you coming? Do come and spend the night here." But the lockdown did not give us that joy. When I visited him at Elizabeth's hospital, he had a sense that the end was near. We talked about accepting the reality, and Augustine repeated again and again the word of acceptance in Marathi. He said swikarlech pahije (must accept) very emphatically and confidently. His inner voice had spoken. Then I told myself and his family that we should not pray for his recovery but for the strength and courage to accept his sufferings. His death was

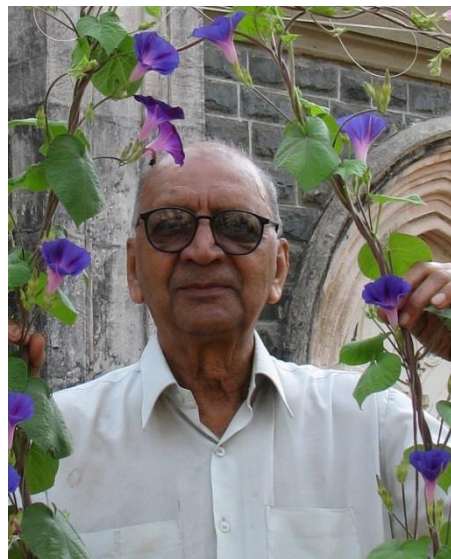
a quiet and peaceful one. As they were giving him medicine, he peacefully passed away and returned to his eternal home.

I will miss my friend for many years to come. It was a chemistry that cannot be explained. He loved company, lived a happy life and made many people happy. May he rest in Peace.

➤ **Joe M Pithekar**

Br. Desmond Dias SJ

30 Jan 1933 – 2 Dec 2020



Br. Desmond Dias was born on January 30th, 1933 in Bandra (Mumbai), a place that he held close to his heart. He had fond childhood memories of growing up with his parents and 7 siblings. His contact with the Jesuits in the parish and school inspired him to join the Society. Desmond felt God calling him to be a Jesuit brother and he answered that call valiantly. After his formation at Vinayalaya, he was appointed Brother Socius to the Provincial in 1960 at St Xavier's High School which then housed the Province Curia. Desmond later served as Minister at St Xavier's High School, St Pius College (Diocesan Seminary at Goregaon), St Xavier's Institute of Education and Vinayalaya. From 1993 he was at St Xavier's College where he continued to serve till recently as the Sub-Minister of the house.

Dezzi, as we affectionately called him, was a man of few words, but you knew when he was in the room. He never attempted to be who he was not. He loved the Society deeply and wore his heart on his sleeve. The courses he had taken in photography and poultry farming were put to very good use during his active years. He was a top quality photographer and was the official photographer of the Province. In 1982, an exhibition of his photographs was held at St Xavier's School. As a genuine photographer he was always behind the camera and rarely in front of it. Wherever Dezzi was appointed, he planted trees – almost 400 at Vinayalaya and many more at the Goregaon Seminary. For many years he took pains to maintain the gardens in St Xavier's College and even had a small terrace garden above the college chapel. He would often ask about the trees that he had planted and used to be extremely happy to eat jackfruits from those trees. He was a simple man but he was also very thoughtful and sensitive to the needs of the house. He was extremely skilled when it came to maintenance matters. You had to labour to win an argument against him and woe to any maintenance worker who tried to cheat him. He was also a master at practicing thrift and would proudly narrate how he got a pair of shoes stitched at Vinayalaya for seventy rupees. He loved watching TV serials especially programmes dealing with comedy. At times he would be extremely angry with an actor for playing a particular role in the serial.

Dezzi was also a good religious. Every morning he was there punctually for the community mass. Once he discovered how to use the mobile phone and mastered surfing the net he started attending masses all over the world. Every afternoon around 3:15 pm he would withdraw to his room, light a candle and pray the rosary. There were Jesuits who had pained him in the past and it was during these rosaries that he would beg God for the courage to forgive them.

Desmond strongly believed that he would fall sick if he was taken to a hospital and would cite past incidents as evidence! Unfortunately his last days on earth included 2 months in the ICU battling Covid 19. He did battle through his illness but he finally lay down his guard after two months in the province infirmary. He now enjoys eternal bliss in the gardens of the Heavenly Vinedresser.

➤ **John Cyriac**

In Christ's Peace

- + **Fr. Augustine Lopes (BOM)**, 75/49, passed away in Mumbai on 1st December
- + **Br. Desmond Dias (BOM)**, 87/65, passed away in Mumbai on 2nd December
- + **Fr. O.P. Mathew (KER)**, 75/54, passed away in Kozhikode on 3 December
- + **Br. Ephiphanio Dias (GOA)**, 99/77, passed away in Goa on 7 December
- + **Br. Basil Tirkey (RAN)**, 73/46, passed away in Ranchi on 7 December
- + **Br. Saul Abril (GUJ)**, 89/73, passed away in Ahmedabad on 13 December
- + **Fr. Cyprian Andrade (GUJ)**, 74/56, passed away in Ahmedabad on 17 December
- + **Fr. Stanley D'Souza (DEL)**, 88/63, passed away in Delhi on 19 December
- + **Ms Mercy Remdios**, the sister of Fr. Avellino, passed away on 29 December



*Wishing you a
Happy New Year 2021*