



HITGUJ

Pune Jesuit Province Newsletter



www.punejesuits.net

PUNE

JANUARY 2021

VOL. 76/1

Dear Friends,

The New Year 2021 brings along with it new and creative possibilities. It offers us opportunities to begin afresh; to make new and creative beginnings both in our way of being and in our way of fulfilling our various ministries. I have had the privilege of visiting all our Jesuits and institutions in the city of Pune and in and around Kolhapur. Firstly, I thank each one of you for your dedicated service in the Lord's vineyard. Secondly, I thank God for the various ministries through which we serve God's people. All of us have experienced many challenges this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but in spite of these difficulties you have continued to serve in different ways. There are other challenges too and the new year offers us new and better ways of responding to these challenges. We need inner, spiritual strength to respond faithfully.



Later this year, on May 20, 2021 we will commence the Ignatian year which will conclude on July 31, 2022. It is to commemorate 500 years since the conversion of St. Ignatius. After his injury in the battle of Pamplona, Ignatius began a long and sincere journey towards conversion. An inner journey that took him from self-glory to God's greater glory, from promoting himself to doing all things to love and serve God. God led him by his hand during this process and placed him with his Son Jesus as a faithful servant.

"It is my desire that at the heart of this Ignatian year we would hear the Lord calling us, and we would allow him to work our conversion inspired by the personal experience of Ignatius," wrote Fr. General Arturo Sosa in his letter to the whole Society on September 27, 2019. It is an invitation to allow ourselves to be renewed spiritually. Personal conversion is a primary requisite for community and institutional conversion.

Let us respond generously to this invitation and embark on an inner journey, in the footsteps of St. Ignatius and allow God to renew us according to his will. May the fruits of personal renewal be seen in the way we live together in our communities and the way we fulfil our various ministries.

Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) Holy Father's Intention for January 2021:

Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

FR. GENERAL APPOINTS ANNOUNCEMENT *

- **Fr. Miguel Garaizabal, SJ**, as the next Regional Superior of the Jesuits in Thailand.
- **Fr. Leonard Chiti, SJ**, as Provincial of the new Province, the Province of Southern Africa (SAP).
- **Fr. Roberto Del Riccio, SJ**, as the next Provincial of the Euro-Mediterranean Province.
- **Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR)**: Socius to the POSA.
- **Fr. Roland Coelho SJ** (Provincial of Goa): Consultor to JCSA/POSA

Appointment by POSA

Fr Arjen Tete SJ (CCU): The New Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF) w.e.f. 01 January 2021

FR. PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS

07 Nashik Bishop's House
08 Dnyanmata, Sangamner
09 St. Mary's, Sangamner
10 Loyola Sadan, Shrirampur
11 Divyavani & Rahuri

11-14 Social Centre
14 Shevgaon
15 Beed
16 Georai & Pathardi

AROUND THE PROVINCE

SOCIAL CENTRE

The Social Centre has been addressing the needs of the people according to the signs of the times and trying to respond to the present situation in the best way possible. During the past few months it has been a satisfying period as many things essential to



life have been brought into place. The Social Centre, true to its vision and mission, has been addressing the needs of the people. We collaborated with the local Government and other organizations to reach out to the people.

Apart from providing essential goods and proper guidance during these trying times, the Social Centre has been working on establishing concrete steps to address the situation. The tribal areas of Bhosarmal, Gurewadi and adjacent areas have been identified for the development of watershed structures in collaboration with NABARD

which will provide adequate measures to conserve and regenerate natural resources and improve the agricultural needs of the marginalized farmers. The switching over to



organic farming is indeed a boon to the coming future. This is the need of the hour. Farmers are acknowledging this ancient concept of organic farming and changing over. The idea of the five-layer farming is picking up gradually. The Social Centre began to implement Comprehensive Watershed Development Programme at Satwad, with the support of our Mission Procurators. We are grateful to our Mission Procurators for this timely help in the midst of this Pandemic.

Strengthening the future generation is equally of prime importance, since it is very essential to create a strong foundation for the future. Manos Unidas is supporting this venture to provide appropriate health and hygiene, career guidance and creating a

broader horizon of opportunities to the girl child who are in their adolescence. This is the right time for nurturing and establishing firm and concrete fruits for them.

Women are the backbone of rural India who needs to be strengthened in all aspects. It is through the German mission that the entrepreneurship development is being strengthened and brought to good use. Besides this, the Social Centre has been collaborating with local government agencies and banks to improve their livelihood opportunities. Empowering women is the need, by which the economic situation will be strengthened through alternative sources of income generation that are sustainable.

Xavier Institute of Natural Resource Management is addressing the need of the hour and providing an opportunity for the future generations to care for Mother Nature, which is the priority of the Church and of the world. The institute is catering to address the sustainable goals of the United Nations through the curriculum, which is emphasizing on practical and theoretical knowledge which will bring about a positive change.

Ashakiran has been blessed even in the Covid-19 situation. God has sent his Angels to assist and provide for the children of Ashakiran. They did not lack anything, in their daily needs or medication. The Sisters were their constant companions who kept them in the right spirit to overcome this situation. The results were good and now two girls have got admission for D. Ed. One boy has joined the Technical Institute in Shrirampur, and one girl is in 11th Arts, after



all passed their SSC with good percentages. We are grateful to the Province Communities, institutions, friends and well-wishers for their constant help and support to our children at Ashakiran. We owe to you. You help us to reach the unreached.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions and uncertainties, finally Deacon Patrick was ordained on the 28th of November by Bishop **Ambrose**

Rebello, Bishop of Aurangabad Diocese, in the presence of Fr. Provincial, his close relatives and a few



Jesuits. The entire ceremony was meticulously planned and executed. The Social Centre Parivar thanks God for blessing the institution with a new priest in the person of **Fr. Patrick Martin SJ**.

The Social Centre had a meaningful Christmas gathering with its entire staff on 24th

December 2020. On this occasion we



also expressed our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Shantabhai Dethe who retired from the Social Centre after serving the institution for more than two decades. She served the institution with utmost care and commitment. She has been a mother to every person in the institute.

We wish every reader a Grace-filled, fruitful New Year that will enhance their very own lives and be a beacon of light for others.

SJTI COMMUNITY

We at St. Joseph's Technical Institute had a Christmas celebration with the employees and students. On 23rd December 2020, we had carol singing by our scholastics Pravin, Rohit, and Dhivakar. Their melodious singing added to the Christmas mood among

all of us. Fr. Kenneth Misquita gave a meaningful Christmas message on the occasion. The students and employees had a fruitful celebration wishing one another along with a sumptuous meal.

We are grateful to God, for protecting all staff and students amidst the pandemic. Admission to various ITI courses has started at St. Joseph Technical Institute. Practicals and classes have begun for the second year students. **Fr. Sampat**, the Director is engaged in the management of the institute. Sch. Robinson, regent, helps out the minister in taking care of the community and meeting the needs of the house. He is also involved in supervising the machine shop activities in the institute. From the 18th December to 20th December 2020, he did his Triduum at De Nobili College.

Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas, our new Provincial of Pune visited our community on 21st December 2020. Our community was very delighted to meet him and to share our experiences with him. We greatly admired his patient listening to us and his guidance as Jesuits companions. Fr. Kenny our superior has been enthusiastically reaching out to each and every community member. Our community is happy and grateful to Fr Kenny for his support and availability in the community as well as his assistance in the technical and night college affairs. The entire community is taking utmost care of themselves. **Fr. Jeewendra** keeps himself busy in the college. We admire his availability and generosity!

SJTI Community

LOYOLA SADAN, SHRIRAMPUR

Carol singing is an inseparable part of Christmas. In



preparation for the birth of our Lord, we had carol singing for four days in the villages and four days in the town.

We tried to avoid door to door singing due to the pandemic. We gathered people in small groups and sang for them. Many youth from

our parish and the different committees took active part in the carol singing. They sang a variety of Christmas Carols spreading the message of faith, happiness and peace.

On December 21, the Inter-Parish festival of carols was organized by the Nashik Diocese Youth Ministry in Tilak Nagar. Around ten parishes took active part in the competition. The competition engaged the participants in singing carols and building teamwork. It is rightly said that Carol singing at Christmas time is a wonderful way to spread the festive cheer and a sense of togetherness. Our youth group participated and got the cash award of Rs.500 and the consolation trophy.



As the Christian

community returned to church at Christmas time after months of lockdown, our campus looked colourful. The Church was beautifully decorated and the campus was glittering with serial bulbs adding a great spirit of joy to the celebrations. This year the crib at Loyola Sadan church reflected the theme "**For unto You Is Born This Day A Savior**".

After a year of turbulence due to the corona virus, Christmas seems to a great ray of light to the faithful who came for the masses. Due to the pandemic our Christmas celebrations were simple and low key. We did not have the vigil mass to avoid the crowd at one time. We had five masses in the Parish at different timings and two in the villages. Senior citizens above 60 years and the children below 10 years were discouraged from participating in the Christmas mass since they are vulnerable to the Corona virus. We took great care in maintaining the social distancing, wearing masks, thermal checks of the faithful and other Standard Operating Procedures. The faithful were well informed regarding the timings of the masses and the safety measures

to follow through different WhatsApp groups and the local newspapers. We could not however restrict the crowd in the church that loves to



throw open its doors and welcome every single soul. The birth of Christ is a gift from God that brings people hope and courage in troubled times was the underlining sermon theme of all our masses. Liturgy was well prepared for all the masses by different BCC groups. The choir added great devotion to the liturgy. The 9.00 am mass was a solemn mass where many faithful and the local politicians were present to give their Christmas message at the end. It was really wonderful to listen to what the people of other faiths think about Christmas. We also took this occasion to release our parish bulletin which will be published once in three months hereafter. The guests were given a Christmas cake and the faithful a piece of cake at the entrance of the church.

We also conducted a crib making competition in two categories for our parishioners, one in the villages and one in the town. Three different prizes were awarded for each category. Crib making competition is one competition which the villages specially look forward to take part in December. The children enjoy making the cribs and the entire village comes together in making it. To encourage the children in the villages this year, we gave consolation prizes to all the villages too. The judges were impressed with the creativity and enthusiasm of the children.

An hour of adoration was conducted for the faithful on New Year's Eve to thank God for all His favours in the past year and to implore His blessings for the new one. This hour long holy adoration was very devotional for the parishioners to enter into the New Year with an attitude of gratefulness for all that God has done for them. We had five masses in the Parish and two masses in the villages on New

Year's Day too. We did not have the New Year vigil mass as per the guidelines of Nashik diocese to avoid the crowd. It was also a good decision in keeping with the measures taken in the wake of the corona virus pandemic. Various groups took the responsibility of conducting the liturgy. All the masses were well prepared and were very devotional for the faithful to participate. The choir added more spiritual atmosphere for the liturgy. We took great care in following the Standard Operating Procedures on New Year's day too. On this day we gave away the Crib competition prizes during the 9.00am solemn mass. Rev. Fr. Joe Gaikwad, SJ, the parish priest thanked all the faithful who helped in making the Christmas and New year celebration more meaningful with their generosity.

Hats off to all our fathers and brother in Loyola Sadan community too, who also worked day and night to make these days significant for the faithful.

Fr. Michael Raja, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S KOLHAPUR

On 22nd December the staff of St. Xavier's school, Kolhapur had a small Christmas celebration in the High School hall.

The teachers along with a few students performed the skit based on



the birth narrative of Jesus and sang melodious Christmas carols. Fun games were conducted for the teachers. On Christmas eve because of

the night curfew and other government regulations we had Christmas mass at 8.00pm in the High School quadrangle. The place was illuminated by colorful lights and beautiful decorations. There



were also vigil masses in sub stations Rukadi and Ichalkaranji.

On 27th December we were happy to welcome our new provincial Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ to Kolhapur Jesuit community. He met all the members and listened to us attentively. He celebrated the Eucharist for us and prayed for us on 28th December. As we said goodbye to the year 2020 we had a thanksgiving adoration followed by Eucharistic celebration recalling all the graces and blessings received and prayed for the New Year 2021. On 3rd January the parish had sports as well as a Christmas gathering for the catechism children. The children enjoyed the games and were happy to receive gifts.

Regular classes online as well as offline for the 9th STD, 10th STD, and D.Ed. have been started and the rest of the students continue their online classes.

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, SHEVGAON



Corona has impacted every sphere of our apostolic life here at Shevgaon as it has done elsewhere. Government rules as well as diocesan guidelines have brought village masses to the minimum or to almost a complete halt. Thanks to the new technology, the online masses for all our catholic devotees have been made possible. This online service has benefitted the parishioners in villages as well as in Shevgaon city. Along with the masses, homilies in Marathi are also being published using the Google translation facility, of course as and when possible. The parishioners have appreciated this initiative. Some villages have connected their 'WhatsApp' groups to the Parish WhatsApp

portal. Thus we are able to reach out to many of our people.

Fr. Jesus Vivian Raja and our student Rushikesh had prepared a beautiful crib. It was one of the main attractions of the Day. On Christmas Eve as well as on the Christmas day we celebrated masses in five villages, of course respecting all the rules as far as possible. Despite all the government guidelines one could not stop devotees not only Catholics but Christians from all denominations as well as Hindus who came to the Child Jesus and his mother to fulfil their vows. The Church was completely open for the outsiders. They could sit freely and pray in the Church. Till 2.30pm on 25th December people from the Hindu faith came to visit the Church and fulfil their vows to Mother Mary. The heap of 'Pedhas'- the Indian sweet, made out of milk and sugar, grew in front of the statue of the baby Jesus.

Their faith was so simple that some had even



tried feeding the statue. By 1.15pm a few police personnel came to check whether there was a crowd without social distancing. By then the people had become fewer in number.

School teachers have conducted online exams for the students. The classes are on too. Once a fortnight the teachers come and meet to discuss the various study and students related queries and difficulties and general functioning of the online classes. This way they are able to help each other. The administration also comes to know about the functioning of the teachers. Hopefully, the regular classes will begin by the 15th of January onwards.

This year our farms are in good hands of two families who have accepted an agreement of 11 months to work on our land with our well water and give us the third portion. And we are enjoying fruits without having to slog or provide salary to farm-hands. We are able to

focus on the parish work, sick calls and masses to some villages without any worries.

We the Jesuit communities with two communities of sisters are working well. We have regular masses in the Church as well as in the convents. We also meet together periodically. In our periodical get-togethers the main and interesting focus and attraction is the ingenious games conducted by Fr. Mathew and assisted by Mr. Sagar Gajbhiv Sir. Special features are: 1. The games are never repeated. 2. For every get-together, all the games are new. 3. All the participants whether lose or win are eligible to receive prizes. 4. The games begin with distribution of sweets to all for building up a mood and morale for games. 5. Little bit of cheating is allowed too. 6. Of course, once the ground is set for the games no one is allowed to interfere with the arrangement of the chairs or anything for that matter in the arena. These are win-win games.

Fr. Mathew Paruvanani, SJ

LOYOLA, PASHAN



The month of December brought a lot of joy and excitement to our Loyola community at Pashan. The campus witnessed various programs in December. The Visitation of our new provincial, Fr. **Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ** to our community on 16th and 17th indeed was a grace-filled moment. The candidates were all excited to welcome our provincial to our community and they greeted the provincial with a welcome song. Each one of us met the Provincial and shared our thoughts and vision about the province with him. He also spent his time with the candidates to share his thoughts with them. The 17th of December was a memorable day in the history of Loyola High School, we had the inauguration of our new synthetic track for athletics.



Fr. Provincial was the Chief Guest. Thanks to the vision and dream of Fr. Nelton and the hard work of Fr. Anish, and kudos to the alumni whose time, energy, efforts and the financial support, helped the school to



complete their dream project. Fr. Provincial appreciated the alumni for their collaboration and sincere efforts in completing the project. He assured them that we shall elevate the standard of the sports as well as infrastructural facilities. **Mr. Atul Kirloskar**, the Core group member of Loyola Sports Vision said that he was proud of the school management and he was confident that school will contribute its best. **Fr. Anish**, the Principal expressed the gratitude to the alumni for their excellent cooperation and support.

Our regent Br. Manual had hectic days in the month of December because our house underwent various renovation works. He also made sure that candidates were well taken care of in their basic spiritual and intellectual formation.

At last the long-awaited days had come. Christmas brought a lot of joy and excitement to the community as well as for the NDA parish. Fr. Francis and Fr. Ovid together with the Parish council members organized various programs such as Carol singing Crib competition and recollection for the youth of



NDA parish. On 25th morning we had two masses for the parishioners in the Edmund Campion Pre-School premises. Since the NDA campus was forbidden for outsiders, the people of NDA parish enjoyed the beautiful Christmas liturgy on the 25th morning.



The Scholastics organized a community gathering for the Candidates and for the community members. We were blessed to have our provincial in our midst for the evening celebrations. Fr. Provincial shared the Christmas meal with our Pre-novices and the community.

NEWSBYTE FROM ST. XAVIER'S PARISH :-

As the first candle of the advent wreath was lit, the parish was set on its path in the preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The youth who had planned the decorations began executing their ideas enthusiastically. Amidst the Advent season the parishioners also prepared themselves for the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron of our Church. The Novena themes were based on the new encyclical of Pope Francis "*FRATELLI TUTTI*". The liturgy committee gave their best in preparing the liturgy for the Novena and the

feast. We had guest priests as well as the priests from the house who preached the Novena Mass and illumined the hearts and minds of the faithful bringing them closer to the Church and helping them to understand the present reality of life with the eyes of faith.



On the Feast Day, Fr. Andrew Fernandes SJ, was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist.

The Holy Eucharist centered around the theme "Gospel Flavoured Life" from



Fratelli Tutti. The faithful who attended the Holy Eucharist followed all the SOPs helping one another to keep the norms. The parish council members, area leaders, youth, SSU, each committee of the Parish gave their best. All the masses were live streamed for those who were unable to attend it in the church. As each one was preparing for the feast of Christmas, five children of our parish received the Holy Communion for the first time on 6th of December 2020. They were all dressed in white and were radiant like angels. The Sunday school teachers took lot of efforts to train the children well in reading and also helped them spiritually. The theme for the Holy Eucharist was "You are precious to me, you are mine." The youth of our parish decorated the Church and adorned the Church premises with handmade Christmas decorations. A lot of hard work and planning was put in to bring a

huge crib which gave a 3D effect. Since this year due to the pandemic we were not able to go house to house for Carol Singing, we had carol singing program in the Church. Each area with all their creativity came forward and presented their carols on the day that was allotted for them. The Carols were live streamed online so that other parishioners could partake virtually in the joy of Christmas. It was amazing to see each one giving best to share the joy of Christmas.

For the midnight mass, we had area-wise masses, each participating devoutly. Hats off to all the ushers, parish council members, Eucharistic ministers, St. Vincent de Paul members and youth for their hard work which enabled the smooth functioning of the celebrations.



Fr. **Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ**, Provincial of Pune Jesuit Province, celebrated the main Mass in the Church and in his sermon beautifully highlighted the “Genealogy of hope” which was the theme for the Holy Eucharist. One day prior to Christmas, the needy families of our parish were given ration kit, meat and cake so that they too could celebrate the Joy. On Christmas day we had five masses so that the faithful could attend mass. We had good response from the parishioners. On Christmas day **Fr. Joseph D’Souza** visited all the loners of the parish and also distributed cake to them. The youth had a secret Christmas Friend among themselves, on Christmas day in a small gathering they revealed it to each other and also exchanged gifts. For the New Year celebrations, we had Fr. Francis Gonsalves celebrating the Holy Eucharist. Before the Mass we had a thanksgiving adoration which helped each one to reflect on the year gone by. After

the Mass the youth symbolically burnt the Old man. As we begin to follow the new normal, we ask God’s grace on each one of us and wishing all of you a joyous year ahead.

Fr. Anthony Tribhuvan SJ

ADVENT RECOLLECTION



As all of us were preparing our hearts and minds for the great day of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, a half-day recollection was held for the Jesuits working in the Ahmednagar district on 13th December 2020 at Loyola Divyavani, Shirampur. Fr. Jerome Gonsalves SJ, led us in preparing ourselves spiritually through his points for reflection. He stressed the aspect of being rooted in our spirituality that would help us to walk with the poor. He spoke on the different themes of the advent of hope, love, and peace and to look forward to the joy that is to come. He gave parallelism of expectations of the Jewish people for the Messiah and a leader for our province. He also insisted on the aspect of being united and working together. After personal prayer and confession, our newly ordained priests Frs. Sameer Kerketta SJ and Patrick Martin SJ celebrated the Eucharist followed by a short felicitation and the agape.

SCHOLASTICS’ TRIDUM

We are indeed grateful to our Provincial Fr. Angelo and PCF Fr. Siju, for making this tridum possible for us in DNC, a place of peace and serenity, and enriched with prayer and knowledge. We could feel the peace and freshness of the nature instilling in us the desire to be silent to listen the voice of the

divine. We are grateful and humbled, acknowledging the hard work and constant care taken of the trees and plants in the campus, by the fathers, scholastics and workers of the DNC community to make the place, a place of worship and communion with the Lord. We are very grateful to the director of the retreat center, Fr. Francis Puducherry SJ, for his meticulous arrangements and adequate facilities to help us to remain focused in prayer. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the rector Fr. Edward, the minister Fr. Jacob and all the community members of the DNC, for their prayerful support and love they have shown to us during the retreat. May the Lord our Savior illumine our lives with His radiant light to shine with hope, love and courage in this time of uncertainty caused by Covid-19

Schs. Sunil & Roshan.

Scholastics Francis Lobo and Prashant Shaharao, have asked for Ordination to the **Diaconate and Priesthood. Anyone aware of any impediment is conscience bound to inform the Provincial.**

Long Retreat and Mission experiment

The First Year Novices at XTC, Belgavi will begin their Long Retreat. We request your prayers for them as well as for the Novice Master Anil Pereira.

The Second Year ten Novices are out for their mission experiment as well as hospital experiment. Please do keep them in your prayers.

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

05	Sunil Gaikwad	24	Savari Joseph
11	Titus Angel T.	27	Matthias Altrichter
12	Mario Fernandes		Francis D'Souza
	Patrick Martin	28	Ovid Pereira
13	Roshan Borude	29	Rajendra Shelke
16	Thomas Kozhamthadam		

May These Souls Rest in Peace!

Fr. Augustine Lopes SJ (BOM, 75/49) on 01.12.2020 at Mumbai, Maharashtra
 Br. Desmond Dias SJ (BOM, 87/65) on 02.12.2020 at Mumbai, Maharashtra
 Fr. O.P. Mathew SJ (KER, 75/54) on 03.12.2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode, Kerala
 Br. Epiphania Dias SJ (GOA, 99/77) on 07.12.2020 in Mapusa, Goa
 Br. Basil Tirkey SJ (RAN, 73/46) 07.12.2020 at Ranchi, Jharkhand
 Br. Saul Abril SJ (GUJ, 89/73) on 13.12.2020 in Shelby Hospital, Ahmadabad, Gujarat
 Fr. Cyprian Andrade SJ (GUJ, 74/56) on 16.12.2020 in Gujarat
 Fr. Stanley D'Souza SJ (DEL, 88/63) on 19.12.2020 in Holy Family Hospital, Delhi
 Fr. Linus Dungdung SJ (RAN, 69/47) on 29.12.2020 in Medical Hospital, Ranchi, Jharkhand

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

