



Rekindling a Culture of Vocation Promotion

We have recently begun the Ignatian Year and there are several things that we do well, and some that we don't do well. I must appreciate many of our Jesuits and collaborators who have worked very sincerely and selflessly to reach out to people during the covid-19 pandemic. On the other hand, I feel pained that we were not able to send a single candidate to the novitiate this year.

A year ago, Fr General wrote a letter (2021/05) titled *Promoting vocations to the Society of Jesus*, in which he exhorted us to “rekindle a broad and deep culture of vocation promotion, one that encourages all of us to labour together to attract new companions needed for the future to which God draws us.” Vocation promotion can be effective only if every Jesuit shares his “energy, passion, and commitment” to this cause.

God calls men in surprising ways and at unexpected places and times, and we must actively accompany them with understanding and discernment. In a world where there is an increasing lust for power, pelf, and pride, we must foster a culture where young men can hear the quiet voice of God.

I like to imagine that sometimes the Holy Spirit gives me a kick where the sun doesn't shine (with apologies to Pope Francis). We need to pull up our socks and work sincerely to nurture vocations. Fr General reminds us that as Jesuits, we share one life-mission as one apostolic body comprised of different types of labourers and bound together by obedience through which the Holy Spirit guides us. Despite our different ministries, all of us are called to pray fervently, to live joyfully, and to work committedly. That is a deep conversion that will make the Ignatian Year worthwhile and attract many good men to this least Society.

Pope's Intentions July 2021

Fr. Roland Coelho



Social Friendship

We pray that in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship



ST. ANSELM CHURCH, SOUTHALL, UK

St. Anselm's Church, Southall, United Kingdom (UK) is a place of encounter and care giving. I set foot in UK on 17th April '21 with an Indian style welcome at the airport by Fr. Damian, the Provincial of the Britain Province. He then drove me straight to my place of self-isolation (Provincial House, Mount Street). On the second day of my self-isolation, I had to do the covid test and I tested positive, and I was shocked to know the result. Moreover, I was concerned since the Provincial drove me from the airport and I was hoping that he would not test positive as well. After completing my self-isolation period, I got ready to go to my place of appointment. It was not that simple since I needed to do the test and get a negative certificate, which I finally did get. I sincerely thank all who prayed for me during my recovery time.

On 5th May, I moved to St. Anselm's Parish and took charge on 14th May. These first ten days was a time



of learning, getting to know the works and the running of the parish. This is a diverse parish when it comes to ministry. We have the regular sacraments and sacramental duties, and I am not alone. Fr. Eddy, a senior Jesuit, and Dn. Steve (permanent deacon) assist me in these ministries. As a parish, we provide night shelter for the homeless; a food bank (every Thursday); and

conduct inter-faith activities. All this is done in collaboration with people of goodwill, other Faith and Churches (not just the Ecumenical Churches), and the Parish Council. The leaders of the different Churches collaborate very well in our ministries.



I have been busy as a bee over the last two months, familiarising myself with the Jesuits and the Diocese. It is a parish administered by the Jesuit for the diocese. As a Jesuit I must update myself with the rules and norms of the (BRI) province and as a parish priest with that of the diocese. I had to attend several meetings and mandatory training programmes, most of them online. As the parish priest I am also part of the social outreach programmes organized by other Churches which is on a low key due to the pandemic.

This is many of the firsts for me. It is the first mission (in UK) away from the known, yet so familiar that is because we are one Society, the Society of Jesus. It's a first as a Parish Priest. Another first was the administering of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We had 98 Communicants and 112 were confirmed by the end of June and the first week of July. As the restrictions slowly begin to ease out, the parish will begin bustling with life.

Fr Jovito D'Souza

PORTUGAL

It is summertime in Portugal, a much looked forward time. After being in the “state of emergency” for months together, followed by a few weeks of “state of calamity,” finally, in June 2021, Portugal crawled out of the “lockdown” mode and completely opened itself for travel and tourism. June also ushered in offline classes, after being online since my PhD program commenced. Finally, I got to meet my colleagues, though it was for just a few lectures. From 24th June onwards, the University was closed for lectures and was scheduled for final exams.

For us, the PhD program students, July marks the



end of the first academic year. Besides, being loaded with presentations and assignments, I am currently engaged in completing the basic structure of my thesis which will have to be approved by the University. This defence is presential and public, scheduled for mid-July. The defence will be assessed by an external professor, before it is officially approved by the University.

On 17th June, I got my first vaccine (Pfizer) jab. The second jab will be scheduled within 4-weeks. Portugal, more specifically, O Porto is best known for Porto Wine. Hence, it was fitting that my first “touristic” outing, after Portugal opened itself for travel and tourism was to visit a wine cellar. I chose the oldest company cellar, the Royal Porto Company. This company was started by the King of Portugal, Jose I, and is the only company owned by a Portuguese. The other wine companies are owned by the English, French, Dutch, etc. Before my public defence, I am looking forward to making a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima to seek her blessings.

Fr Kelwin Monteiro

XAVIER TRAINING COLLEGE, DESUR

In the month of May, we had an experience of walking in the footsteps of the migrants and labourers. We got a taste of their lives, their struggles, and joys. We chopped tree branches, collected firewood, repaired fences, painted gates, etc. It was really an enriching experience as we worked together as a team. We grew in this spirit of communitarian companionship. We had our highs and lows and yet each one reached out to help the other. We truly felt we were inflamed by God's love for each other and the mission at hand. With God's grace we experienced safety and protection from any danger. We also grew at the personal, spiritual and communitarian level.

All work and no rest make a novice dull, and so from 12th to 20th May, we had fun filled holidays. Contributions from our benefactors, to whom we are really indebted, allowed us to have a real good time with various games, movies, long rest hours and delicious meals as a community. We grew in our bond of companionship in the Lord. After all the work and fun, we had to recharge our spiritual batteries, thanking God for His loving providence and graces that He had showered upon us in these difficult times. We were blessed to have **Ronnie** (Superior of St. Paul's Belgaum) as our Retreat Director from 22nd to 30th May. He guided us as he emphasised the significance of God's abiding presence and unconditional love in our lives and vocation.

On 21 June 2021 the 2nd year novices pronounced their First Vows in the Society of Jesus. The theme was **“To see all things new in Christ”**. On the occasion of the 500 years jubilee of St. Ignatius' conversion they felt drawn to make it the theme for their vows' day. This theme was also chosen keeping in mind the drastic changes that have occurred in the world after the outbreak of the



pandemic. This invited everyone to see this situation with a new vision as each one of us struggles to find God in the midst of these hardships and challenges. This auspicious occasion was graced by Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas (Provincial of Pune) who was the main celebrant; he also received their vows. Fr. Arun De Souza (Provincial of Bombay) concelebrated and through his homily, inspired and explained to us, how to live out the 3 vows of poverty, chastity, and



obedience with God's help despite our human frailties and uncertain circumstances. **Fr. Roland Coelho** (Provincial of Goa) presented the Crucifix, the book of Constitutions of the Society of Jesus and the book of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, to the 2nd year brothers. A few Jesuits from the provinces of Bombay, Pune and Goa attended this occasion and supported the 2nd year novices with their presence and prayers. Many others also joined us in spirit. The choir comprised of the 2nd year and 1st year novices along with **Ashwin** from St. Paul's, Belagavi. The Eucharist was followed by a sumptuous fellowship meal with a variety of delicacies, arranged by **Cecil**.

We are truly grateful to the Lord for the beautiful vocation with which He has blessed us; the graces through which He has inspired, moved, challenged, consoled, strengthened and sustained us in order to form and mould us. We are also grateful for our family members, relatives, friends, near and dear ones, our formators (Fr. Anil Pereira and Fr. Vijay Chokar), benefactors and all those who have contributed in shaping our vocation. Lastly, we are grateful for the beautiful companionship that we share.

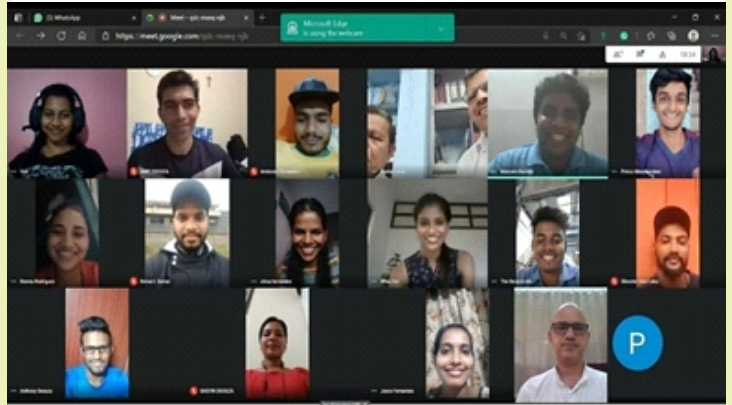
Nov Neville Gonsalves

MILAGRIS CHURCH, KHANAPUR

Our Parish priest Fr. **Kustas Lima** has been appointed the coordinator of the youth of the Khanapur deanery by the Bishop of Belgaum. As soon as he took over, Fr Kustas arranged online talks for the youth of Belagavi. Talented speakers were invited to share their thoughts. Fr. Kustas began the sessions with a prayer. Many youth participated in this virtual meet and

benefited a lot from it. The following sessions were conducted:

The Provincial, **Fr. Roland** spoke on 'Spiritual stamina for endurance,' which was most needed during this unwanted pandemic situation. He

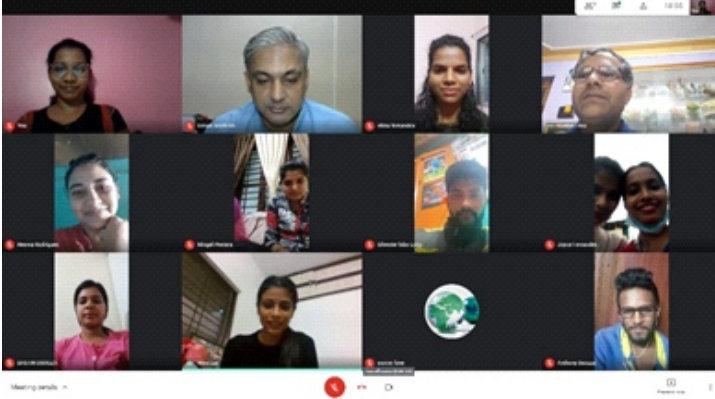


shared with the youth a few important points on healthy growth; like practicing self-care, helping others, and relying on God. With his sense of humour and vast knowledge, he made the youth feel at ease and attentive. **Malcolm** the vocation promoter highlighted a few points which were shared by Roland in his talk. Since Malcolm knew some of the youth well, he made his input session more interactive by posing several questions. **Amit** was the third speaker on that day. He shared his experience of service at HCF, Porvorim where he attends to the senior Jesuits.

The Second session was on, 'Stop Worrying Start Living' held on 6th June. The resource person was Fr. Robert Johnson, from the Diocese of West Bengal. He made mention that the youth of today are really confused and worried of the future; they face a lot of problems, yet everything has a solution. He said that worrying is not a solution at all! We have prayer, the family, the Church, and friends who will always be there for us and will guide us. One needs to be confident enough to understand the situation and find the right solution to their problems. If one still finds it difficult to come out of their personal problems, then they could seek professional help.

Robert said that we should live free from stress and focus on: Recognition of Self, Feeding Your Mind with Exciting Pictures, Not to Fear not but be Confident, Learn to Smile in difficult times and Make your Life a Masterpiece.

The Third Session, dealt with topics such as “emotions, unemployment, attachment to modern gadgets and stress.” The speaker was **Fr. Ternan Monteiro** of the Bombay Province. Cezita Mascarenhas invoked the Holy Spirit as part of the opening prayer.



Ternan enlightened his sessions by providing, insights to fight stress and what causes persons to have stress in normal life (peer pressure, unemployment, relationships and so on). He said that the youth are dependent on other people, objects (friends, drugs, etc.) to become happier in life instead of seeking it in oneself. He said that expectations and comparisons are the two main causes for stress. He highlighted some points to cope with stress; having more positive thoughts, helping others, meditating, and praying, as well as developing some good hobbies. He said that everyone has talents, but they do not develop them at the right time in life. He mentioned how addictions cause loss of self-esteem and loss of peace of mind which then leads to anxiety. The sessions ended with a meaningful prayer by Saniche Nazareth, a youth from Belagavi city.

Milagres Youth, Khanapur

SANGARGALLI

The new parish priest of St Ignatius' Church, here at Sangargalli is **Benito**. His presence has already given new hope to the Khanapur Mission especially to the Church and St. Paul's School. These months of the pandemic have been a time of grace to be close to each other. We were able to reach out to those in need and the less privileged. Thanks to Fr. Cyril and the Diocese Social Outreach Director, Fr. Eusebio, for their generosity in meeting the essential needs of the village people. Well-wishers from Belagavi, like Mr. Amit Kosandal, Dr. Anil

Patil and Dr. Adil Inamdar have been very generous in reaching out to the students.

The Jesuits of the Khanapur Mission came together to discuss, how to reach out to the people of Sangargalli and the other mission stations. Fortunately for us our parishioners were less affected. We distributed immunity booster tablets, oximeters, and dry ration packets to the people. **Anthony Pereira, Kustas, Colman and Motiram** made a survey of the families from the mission stations and the poor deserving students who required help. In all 35 families benefitted from the distribution programmes.

This year the school faced a tremendous challenge as the students were not able to pay their fees. They said, “No school no fees.” The dedicated staff of St. Paul's did a commendable job reaching out to students in their homes with books and stationery. Despite the challenges we look ahead with hope and enthusiasm.

Fr Motiram Bardeskar

MADWAL

After repeated requests to the Panchayat and meeting the right-hand man of Jarkiholi Brothers, the road leading to the farm and Swami's grave has been done up, here at Madwal.

Some villagers along with ex-boarders had requested me to get the Mutt painted. They were assured that the roofing and painting jobs were in the pipeline and to be taken up soon.

Any news without reference to the Corona situation is incomplete. Many were affected and have died without even knowing that they were the victims of Covid-19. Some are willing to forgo the Corona compensation offered by the government, because they prefer not to reveal their identity as Corona patients. Many people do not want to go and get tested. At a recently held camp, the doctors were disappointed seeing the lack of response from the people.

People are beginning to lose hope as many are unemployed and have returned to the villages. They just don't know how to cope with this prolonged pandemic. They are banking on a good

monsoon and bountiful yields. They and we can only live in hope.

Fr. Prakash Figredo

NESARGI

On a beautiful, cool, and rainy morning the handing over ceremony took place in Torangatti and Nesargi in the presence of **Cecil, Tony** and the newly appointed Superior and District coordinator of Kannada Mission, **Menino**.

Augustine P handed over the charge of Torangatti to **Prakash**. Matters were discussed and various documents were handed over as part of the handing-over ceremony. Subsequently after a sumptuous lunch the team moved to Nesargi where they were warmly received by **Tom**. After a refreshing cup of tea, the handing over took place in the office with **Menino** being appointed as the new district coordinator of Kannada Mission.

Cecil thanked **Tom** for all the work he did as the Superior and prayed that he continues the mission assigned to him with great zeal and enthusiasm. He also thanked **Augustine P** for all the work he had done in Torangatti and wished **Menino** well as he heads the new mission assigned to him.

Fr Augustine P

XAVIER FARM, MACCHE

Xavier Farm Macche, had the golden occasion of celebrating **Vella's** Sacerdotal Jubilee. On this auspicious occasion, on 27th March, keeping in mind Vella's request of, "No celebration or a very simple celebration." The Jesuits working in Belgaum area and the sisters from Nirmal Nagar hospital were invited. **Fr. Provincial** along with **Reggie** and **Simon Fernandes** graced the occasion. The Eucharist was celebrated by **Vella** accompanied by the melodious choir of the Novices from XTC. **Vella** expressed his gratitude to the Lord for the strength and courage to preach the good news, and shared the challenges he faced doing so. The mission work can be summarized with the number of Churches and Jesuit residences built, wells dug, variety of fruit trees and vegetables plantations; all these are the

hallmark of his contribution. His apostolate also included the loss of his toe, accidentally hitting a bamboo shaft while riding the bike. It seems that the bamboo shaft cracked, and **Vella** came out triumphant in spite of his missing toe. Many such humorous incidents colour Vella's life. The occasion culminated with a sumptuous meal served to all.

SharmikAbhiurdhi Sangh (SAS) carried on its planned activities of reaching out to the marginalized communities around till the lock down was announced. The concern for caring for Mother Earth is being actualized by the building of biogas cum toilet units in the villages. The month of March was a special occasion for Functional Vocational Training (FVT) of tailoring girls. SAS usually conducts two days of annual gathering for Marathi and Kannada speaking students. This year keeping in mind the spread of the Corona virus, SAS conducted four days of celebration for 677 students from 64 centres spread over 62 villages. The students exhibited their talents with dances, short skits, songs and shared their experiences. SAS staff and the FVT guides were happy and satisfied to see their students on the stage bubbling with confidence, joy, and the courage to face life with hope.

During the lockdown months of May and June, SAS activities came to a standstill in the villages. The staff were busy guiding people and creating awareness about covid19 and carried out counselling sessions via mobile conversations. At Xavier Farm, the call for **Laudato Si** was actualized by planting a variety of fruit trees, spices, and flowering plants. In the summer we enjoyed fresh farm fruits. As the lock down eased in the Belgaum area, all the cancelled activities of SAS have been rescheduled for the coming months.

Fr Santosh Vas

ST PAUL, BELAGAVI

The 2nd wave is being talked about in every corner of Belagavi, but in the Jesuit House we have been talking about the 2nd wave of initiatives of the community, in the different apostolates. The BEO, Belagavi conducted an inspection of the newly proposed ICSE School. The officials

inspected the infrastructure and other facilities. The school is now registered under the name of **St. Paul's Jesuit School (ICSE)**. In no time we were given the permission to start the school. The admissions for the same have been finalized with many opting for the LKG and UKG and others even requesting admissions for the other classes. This year, to avoid crowding at the school gates and to discourage touts and agents from duping anxious parents, admissions for LKG were conducted online. Surely, a blessing in disguise.

The Annual Passing out Parade for the SSLC students was held on 9th April. Master Austin D'Costa was elected as the Boy of the Year 2020-21. Shri Abhay Patil, MLA – Belgaum South was the Chief Guest. The celebrations began with a Thanksgiving Mass for the intentions of our SSLC students in the morning. **Steven** was the main celebrant and preached an inspiring homily on the theme **IPL** (Introspect, Pray and Love).

Due to the present lockdown the school was unable to organize an Open Day at the end of this academic year 2020-21. **Savio** and **Seby** organized class wise online Open Day Meetings for Std. I-IX from 13th to 21st May 2021.

To tackle the present Covid pandemic, St. Paul's Management plans to organize a mega vaccination drive on the school campus and set up a Covid Task Force. The task force comprised of members of the School Management, Staff, Ex-Paulites and parents who were willing to render their services. The task force reached out to the poor and the needy providing lunch packets and dry ration to the needy at their doorstep. Oxygen cylinders and medical assistance was also provided to poor patients in the hospitals. The covid team has been collaborating with the Health Department of the Cantonment and the Primary Health Centres of Khanapur and other rural areas in Belagavi District.

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the strict lockdown, and in response to suggestions from the parents, 3 online courses in computers were organized by the Media Team and **Anthony Noronha** was the overall coordinator for this online learning sessions.

Ronnie gave a course on 'The 'Prophets',

conducted the 'Annual Retreat' for the Novices at XTC and also has been rendering his services in different parishes and catering to the spiritual needs of the people using the online platforms. **Guy** has been busy updating himself on different topics of theology and other life sciences and keeping us up to date with things happening in Goa by reading the E-Paper. **Tony** is at his best and very happy because BXC has got its FCRA number and is all set for the new financial year. We were blessed with the presence of **Nelson** who had come for Tally training and was stuck because of the lockdown. **Noel** was part of the community for some time and was a great helping hand. The scholastics have begun their new academic year with online classes and are trying to get familiar with the new 'Normal' of learning.

Sch. Anthony Noronha

PAI, RAIA

A three-day Lenten retreat, attended by 32 retreatants was held for the laity at PAI from 31st March to 4th April. We are grateful to the following Jesuits that helped us out with the various sessions, Frs. **Roland, Nigel, Amit, Anderson, Raul, and Lindsay**. The retreat was well appreciated by the retreatants.

To revive the youth group a meeting was held on 13th May with around 14 youth members in attendance. Three programmes were chalked out for the next three months. Due to the present covid conditions and with our institution volunteering to be a 'Covid Care and Compassion Centre' these programmes had to be



postponed.

The Goa Province earmarked PAI as a 'Covid Care and Compassion Centre' for South Goa. The centre started functioning from 13th May onwards. The centre was lucky to have a dedicated set of



doctors, nurses and volunteers who worked round the clock to provide good care and treatment to the patients. Our scholastics, **Cajetan, Joswalt, Glinson, Swapnil, Alendro** and **Velenson** did a wonderful job. The centre received a lot of support from the people and especially from LESA (Loyola Ex-students Association). We are also grateful to the OBA (Old Boys Association, Mapusa), for their generous contributions.

We also had a group of 15 Pilar brothers (to be deacons) undergoing their long retreat under the guidance of **Jude**.

The community members are all keeping in good health. Fortunately, the cyclonic storm did not do much damage to our property and we were lucky to get the electricity restored the same day.

Fr Cedric Fernandes

LOYOLA HALL, MIRAMAR

The following websites Goanet@goanet.org, mangalorean.com and daijiworld.com published **Pratap's** articles in English; nine articles in all.

Pratap conducted "Introduction to Konknni," a 15-hour online course for 'Collaborative Learning Café' of the Goa Jesuit Province from 6th to 16th June. On an average 70 registered participants attended per day with their family members or friends. The response and feedback were really encouraging.

Pratap has begun to write a user friendly "*AmchiBhasXikat: Konknni course in modified Roman script*" with explanations and translation of Konknni words and sentences in the English language.

Fr Pratap Naik

LOYOLA, MARGAO

The month of May began with news that our cook was diagnosed with covid and was in home isolation. Meanwhile the helper was managing the kitchen. **Jimmy** and **Raul** honed up their culinary skills and put into practice what they had learned through their mothers at home and later in the society; our taste buds relished the outcome.

Cyclone 'Tautkae' did its damage and Loyola wasn't spared. We had the front row of tiles above the basketball court come crashing down; however, the building was not exposed to the rains. Within the quadrangle some of the solar panels were damaged. **Basil, Jimmy,** and **Raul** did some salvaging work but deterred from venturing up the terrace due to the strong breeze and the possibility of turning into angels. During the respite of the storm, some maintenance work was carried out. Work on the football ground under the guidance of **Jimmy** began just before the outbreak of the monsoons. The area towards River Sal was filled with about 400 truckloads of mud. It is also necessary to build a good and solid retaining wall so that the overflow of water does not wash away the topsoil during the monsoons. Jimmy also undertook to supervise the cleaning of the gutter and the shrubs that have taken root in the retaining walls along the backyard of the school. Part of the backyard has become an orchard of papaya trees and we are looking forward to the season of harvest.

Sch **Ashwin** spent a fortnight in the community since he was not able to cross over to Belagavi due to the lockdown in Karnataka. He however kept himself occupied attending to the online classes, besides, he also lent a helping hand around the house and the kitchen. It was good to have a youngster in our midst. During his stay here, **Desmond** was his spiritual father.

Schools reopened on 21st June and our schoolmen were busy getting the workloads and timetables for online classes going. **Pedro** took on the additional responsibilities of being In-charge of the High School, while **Basil** avails of his leave period.

Fr William Rodrigues

CLC – TRYING TO MAKE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE AND FUN

Amidst the pandemic, a new initiative took shape in the monsoons of 2021, with the launch of the 'Collaborative Learning Café' in Goa. As its name suggests, it is a way to take knowledge and education to those who can use it, and also make learning a fun activity. Its activities started on 5th June, and in no time interesting results surfaced.

Its online classes were open to all (subject to the capacity of Google Meet sessions), and there were no charges for those who wished to join. We were loaded with requests even before the word could go out announcing the various programmes we had on offer.

It seemed like the right idea at the right time. Through this platform, we aim to help young people to develop skills, grow in self-confidence, and find employment. It is also meant to help any interested person to encounter something new for the sheer joy of learning.

We are targeting three specific groups: those needing job-training to upgrade their knowledge and career skills; those seeking to encounter some form of life-long learning; and those who wish to undertake hobby courses. We hope that will help to create productive citizens and foster peace and reconciliation among all in this small State on the west coast of India.

CLC is based largely on a volunteer-type model, where skilled persons volunteer their time to share their experience and knowledge. Those experienced in their respective fields, are invited to inspire others.

Our teaching is based on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm - a way of learning and a method of teaching taken from the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, which takes a holistic view of the world. We prioritise its three main elements -- Experience, Reflection, and Action. Besides, the pre-learning elements of Context and the post-learning element called Evaluation are not forgotten. Hence, this method envisages 5 elements or steps.

Ignatian pedagogy uses this dynamic five-step method to "accompany the learner in their growth and development." We hope to engage the students in learning about their context and helping them through a process of experience, reflection, action, and evaluation, to deepen their learning and to help them utilize that learning to better society.

The CLC functions on the principles of the 3Cs -- coverage (as wide as possible, without barriers and open to all, subject to a willingness to learn and the maximum online capacity available); nominal or no charge (as this is a non-profit venture); and the use of the Creative Commons (CC) licensing for educational content generated. Content generated will be shared in cyberspace, so that the same may be widely utilised by whoever needs it.

The Team comprises of Dr. Frederick Noronha (Journalist), **Merwin D'Souza**, Savio Dias (Tech Support) and Dr. Emelia Mascarenhas (former Associate Professor at St Xavier's College, Mapusa). We are grateful to our many alumni and well-wishers, and the online group called 'The Friends of the Jesuits of the Goa Province'.

Courses: In the month of June, we conducted the following courses: 1. Introduction to a career with the IAS by former MP Chief Secretary Anthony 'Tino' De Sa. 2. Basic Conversational Konkani conducted over ten 90-minute lessons, by Fr. Pratap Naik, SJ. 3. Ideas that changed our understanding of the cosmos in the last century by the astronomer-priest Dr(Fr). Richard D'Souza, SJ, a member of the Vatican Observatory with roots in Goa. 4. How to Grow Trees in pots by landscape consultant and agriculture officer Miguel Braganza, Msc. 5. A series of four lectures on the environment by prominent campaigners -- Ms. Medha Patkar; Fr Bolmax; Gabriella D'Cruz; and Rosendo "Mr Farmer" who runs a prominent horticulture operation in Goa.

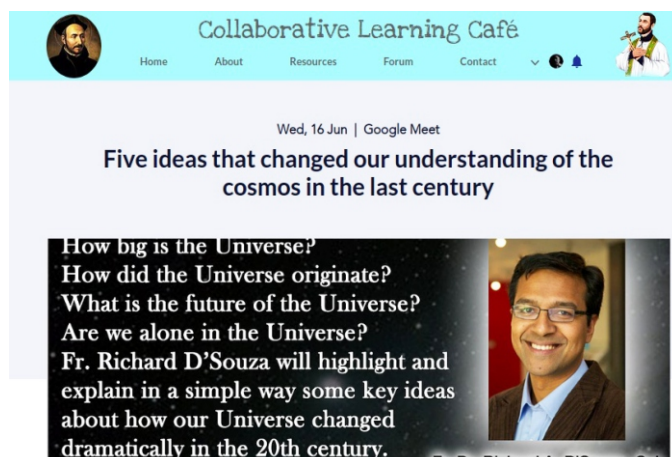
Every month, we plan to have two longer courses, spanning over one to two weeks. Besides this, there would be at least one course based on hobbies and one knowledge-promoting lecture by a prominent speaker.

Other than the monthly talks, for which attempts would be made to draw a larger audience, some courses will be restricted to smaller groups to lend greater interaction, engagement with the subject, and follow through.

Our forthcoming programmes are planned to focus on Leadership, Management, Education and Teaching, Social Sciences, Home Improvements, Computer Skills and Programming, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Psychology, Theology and Scripture, Photography, Media and Grassroots Journalism, Crochet, Macramé, Astronomy, prep for competitive exams (IAS), music, learning languages, and more, depending on the needs of people.

The response: We're most encouraged by the overwhelming response. Every course held so far has been "over-booked". Participants have appreciated the content, teaching, and thought that has gone into each course. The invited speakers have willingly come forward with a positive response. We see this as another means of staying faithful to our Jesuit motto: "*Ad Majorem Dei Gloria.*" A little time spent together with others at a Learning Café session can hopefully change lives and promote a little more hope in these difficult times.

Fr Merwin D'Souza



IGNATIAN YEAR

Inaugural Mass

The Goa Province inaugurated the Ignatian Year with the Inaugural Mass at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa. Unfortunately, due to the prevailing Covid 19 conditions in Goa, just a few of us could participate in it. The main celebrant for the mass was **Fr. Roland Coelho**, the Provincial of the Goa Province. Fr. Provincial in his homily spoke of the 'cannon-ball' experience of St Ignatius, which was the turning point in his life. The mass was recorded by CCRTV a few days earlier and telecast on YouTube on 20th May. The link for the Inaugural mass was made available to us the previous day and we sent it to all concerned. **Jose Silveira** took care of the choir while **Jude Carrasco** prepared the mass Liturgy.

Fr Apollo Cardozo

REFLECTION
FROM SELF-CENTRED TO GOD-CENTRED
By Vernon D'Cunha, SJ

Was St. Ignatius a spiritual man? A saintly or holy man? A deeply God-fearing, prayerful man? Certainly not at least for the first 26 years of his life. St. Ignatius himself says that up to the age of 26 he was a man given over to the vanities of this world and was primarily concerned with a great and foolish desire to win fame!

Two examples:

On one occasion, a group of young men bumped him against a wall. He immediately removed his sword and charged at them so violently and fiercely, that if someone had not stopped him, either he would have killed someone or they would have killed him.

Second, Ignatius may be the only saint with a notarised police record: for night-time brawling with intent to inflict serious harm.

I would like to share some of the tenets of his spirituality, which appeal to me.

Finding/Encountering God in all things:

It means that nothing is considered outside the purview of the spiritual life. Ignatian spirituality considers everything as possible encounters with God. In the *Principle & Foundation* in the *Spiritual Exercises*, Ignatius would like us to be indifferent to health and sickness, a long life and a short one, honour and dishonour, riches and poverty... because all these can be occasions to encounter God. God is present in everyone and everything, labouring for its growth. Ultimately, everything shares in the source that is God – like the rays of sun and the sun, the waters of the fountain and the fountain.

How are we encountering God in the context of the second brutal wave of the Covid-19 pandemic? What is God's message to us in these trying and challenging circumstances?

Contemplative even in action:

We are called to be contemplatives even in action that means being active people with a contemplative stance towards the world. Instead of seeing the spiritual life as enclosed within the walls of a monastery, Ignatius asks us to see the world as our monastery. This concept - totally novel and radical for religious life at that time - is an invitation and a challenge for us today. This is a *sine qua non* if we are to encounter God in all things.

Freedom and detachment:

I think that what prevents us from a life of freedom and joy is that we are inordinately attached to people

and things. We have disordered affections. Having affections and being attached to certain people and things are fine. However, inordinate, disordered attachments is what brings us sorrow and pain. Since it is an affection, it is appealing. But it is disordered, it is not life-giving. It causes death. Ignatius invites us to move towards ordered attachments. If we did so, we would become freer and happier. Ignatius certainly wanted us to have life and have life to the full!

Discernment:

During the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are constantly called to make choices. The crisis is at once global in its spread and impact, and local in its visibility. It has affected nearly everything and everyone, and has brought us face to face with a plethora of choices. The challenge is to choose correctly when faced with a conflicting set of choices. To this end, the Rules for Discernment from the Spiritual Exercises could prove helpful. They are valid and relevant even today after more than 470 years. They are deeply rooted in reality and have stood the test of time. The challenge is not only to know the rules but also to have the wisdom and grace to know how and when to use them.

The *Magis*:

The *Magis*, everything for the greater Glory of God, is one of the hallmarks of our spirituality. Mediocrity had no place in the world-view of Ignatius. The spirituality of the *Magis* is the spirituality of infinite possibilities. It is not a spirituality that would result in a heart attack. Rather, it is a spirituality that would bring depth, joy and a breath of fresh air into our lives. Fr. General, when talking about the *magis* says that it is a call not only to do more but also to do it better.

Conclusion:

The life of Ignatius is the story of how a self-centered man eventually becomes a God-centered man. Over the years, Ignatius grew in the ease of finding God, so much so that, towards the end of his life, he could say talking about himself as a pilgrim, "Anytime, anyplace he wanted to find God, he could." May St. Ignatius bless each one of us with this grace, so that we may be ablaze with God as Ignatius was!

PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2021

05	POSA consult
07	Province Safeguarding Team meeting
09	Province consult
12	Education Com meeting
15	JesCom Team meeting
16	Address by Fr James Martin SJ
21	Higher Ed. Com meeting
23	Formation Com meeting
26	Pastoral Com meeting
29	Vocation Com meeting
31	Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola
31	Inauguration of Mediation/Peace Centre at PAI

*God
Bless
You*

Happy Birthday Dear ...

July

- 01 Joseph Cardozo
- 06 *Ronald Lobo
- 09 *Alfonso De Albuquerque
- 10 Savio Rodrigues
- 12 Jaeison Monteiro
- 13 Patrick Viegas
- 15 Augustine Fernandes

July

- 15 Bhausahab Tushar Waghmare
- 16 Anderson Fernandes
- 17 Jovilton Afonso
- 19 Anthony Noronha
- 21 Lawry Trinidad
- 25 Cajetan Pereira



LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Mr. Silvano Gonsalves, brother of Fr Menino Gonsalves, passed away on 22 May in Honnavar.
 Sr. Cecelia D'Sa, sister of Fr Francis X. D'Sa, S.J., passed away on June 3, 2021 in Chennai.
 Fr. Peter KurukulaAratchi (Sri) 81/63 passed away on 16th June, in Kandy.
 Br Francis Basumatary (Dar) 68/35 passed away on 29th June, in Darjeeling.

MEN WHO TOILED IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

July

- 02 D'Souza Sylvester
- 08 Castellino Emmanuel
- 10 Menezes Celso
- 12 Le Tellier Adrian
- 17 De Sa Ubaldo
- 19 Alphonso John
- 19 Chokhar Jacob
- 21 Mgr Lima Joaquim
- 24 De Sa George
- 25 Beirao Joseph
- 26 Pinto Innocent
- 27 D'Cruz Aloysius
- 27 Mariadas Swami
- 27 Prabhudhar Constant
- 28 Kottaram Thomas

