



St Joseph and Un-heroic Leadership

Every March, and especially this year, we remember St Joseph. Pope Francis has proclaimed this “Year of Saint Joseph” with the Apostolic Letter *“Patriscorde”* (with a father’s heart) marking the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Pope Francis wrote this apostolic letter against the background of the covid-19 pandemic.

Chris Lowney has documented many of our predecessors who provided Heroic Leadership. Many of our contemporaries certainly do great things for God and are acknowledged for their tremendous contributions to the world. There have been, and there are, inspiring Jesuit pioneers and leaders. And then there are many “Josephs” who keep the Society of Jesus running, working day in and day out, looking after the nitty-gritty of community life and mission. Just as St Joseph was the beloved, tender, obedient father, a father who was in the shadows and yet creatively courageous, so also there are discreet and hardworking Jesuits who operate our kitchens, farms, parishes, schools, retreat houses, social centres, and so on with a spirit of magnanimity. Unheralded, they consolidate the missions that were started by the pioneers.

St Joseph, who is also the patron saint of the Society of Jesus, “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people” (PC, 1), helping the little boy Jesus to experience the tender love of God even as he grew up. Despite his uncertainties, Joseph cooperated with the great mystery of Redemption with his “fiat” saving Mary and the baby Jesus. In the midst of our weaknesses, fears, and frailties, God still invites us to join in the mission of Love. Joseph’s honest work as a carpenter teaches us the “value, dignity, and joy” of work. In this Ignatian Year, like St Joseph, let us learn to be “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father” (PC, 7).



Fr. Roland Coelho

APPOINTMENT BY FR GENERAL

Father General has appointed **Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, SJ** of Gujarat Province, the New Rector of De Nobili College, Pune. He will take charge on 25th March 2021, The Feast of the Annunciation.

APPOINTMENT BY PROVINCIAL

Fr Joseph Fernandes has been appointed the Coordinator of CLC in the Province.

Fr Sebastian Pereira has been appointed in-charge of properties coming under BXC (and PCEA).

MILAGRES CHURCH, KHANAPUR

We are blessed to have many youngsters in the Khanapur parish, and as a member of the parish youth of Milagres Church, Khanapur, I wish to share my experiences during the days of the lockdown. The pandemic has proved to be a blessing in disguise as many young men and women had to return from their workplaces, thereby allowing us to organize a number of activities.

During this lockdown period we helped to organize online masses, since the churches were closed for the faithful. This initiative helped the parishioners to get their share of the daily spiritual nourishment. We need to thank our energetic and creative parish priest, **Kustas Lima** for his constant support and help. We prepared a short video in order to create awareness and encourage people to stay safe and stay indoors during this pandemic. Our parish priest took the initiative to help us deepen our faith and get to know each other through faith sharing and the celebration of the Eucharist on our trip to Dandeli.

In his encyclical: "Care for our Common Home," **Pope Francis** has laid great emphasis on the environment. We put this into action when we joined hands with others to help clean the Malaprabha River. It was a beautiful experience working with people of other faiths and personally we felt contented that we did our bit towards the

environment.

We organized liturgies, youth masses and other spiritual programmes. The 6th edition of the football tournament, started by the youth in 2015 was organized in the month of December 2020 following the SOPs. We organized a fancy dress and dance competition for all age groups during the Christmas season. Due to the Covid pandemic, we could not visit houses for carol singing, so we organized carol singing and enacted a skit for the people in the church yard. On 1st January 2021, we conducted games for all the parishioners in the church premises. These activities helped to bring the youth and the parishioners together and generated that feeling of oneness.

In order to strengthen our youthful spirit and sense of belongingness we journeyed to XTC, Desur and had a profitable session on faith sharing, a delicious meal and ended the day with some lively group games.

Milagres Youth of Khanapur

NEWS FROM SANGARGALLI

With the fear of the pandemic still in the air, we choose to accompany the young minds in their villages and homes. When the students saw their teachers, there was a feeling of anxiety, fear, uncertainty, and suspiciousness. They thought the teachers had come to drag them back to school, but were in for a pleasant surprise when they realized that the teachers were visiting them in their homes to provide them with note books, text books and stationery.

We are fortunate to have teachers who are committed and ready to take the risk of visiting the students in their villages to teach them. We have been using the VIDHYAGHAM APPROACH, i.e. taking Education to the Homes. The teachers visited 9 villages and conducted exams for the students.

The feast of St Ignatius Church was celebrated with solemnity. **Steven** was the main celebrant while **Malcolm** accompanied the choir.

Fr Motiram Bardeskar

CELEBRATIONS AT HARNAI

“God will make a way where there seems to be no way.....,” said Maria. This is what took place at St Ann's Church that was blessed with a new look. For many years due to heavy rains the church roof experienced leakages though covered with Mangalore tiles. The cyclone on 3rd June that caused further destruction opened the eyes of the people and they decided that it was time to go in for a concrete roof to solve this perennial problem. This was not easy; a lot of hard work and dedication had to be put in, firstly from **Benito** who on receiving the support of the **Provincial, Allwyn, Joseph Fernandes** and a few people went ahead to make this project see the light of day and finally to have it blessed at the hands of Most Rev Alwyn Barreto, Bishop of Sindhudurg Diocese. The blessing took place in the presence of the **Provincial, Allwyn, Nelson, Joseph F. and Joe Monteiro** on 23rd January 2021. The blessing took place on the day the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to three of our youth. It was a great occasion for all in Harnai and they made sure this day was memorable by putting up a beautiful welcome dance and a melodious choir. On this occasion, the people of Harnai extended their gratitude to **Benito** who was a man on a mission during the cyclone, climbing on rooftops to stop leakages and was appreciated for rendering his help to people of all faiths.



Menoy arrived on 11th January to assist **Benito** and was warmly welcomed and made to feel at home by the parishioners. Many activities are being planned for the parishioners; an Ignatian Day, a Quiz, Sports Day for underprivileged children of the wadi, mostly Hindus and Muslims. This event is being sponsored by our ex-Jesuit, Mr. Milburn Andrade.

We at Harnai, thank all our sponsors and supporters for their financial help and prayers. You are welcome to drop in and relax in the serene surroundings.

Fr Benito Fernandes and Fr Menoy D'Souza

TIT-BITS FROM RATNAGIRI

In the first week of January, **Allwyn** participated in the press meeting and the eventual visit to the SP of Ratnagiri to protest the attack on Christian pastors in the region. As a follow-up to this event, the NGO, “Helping Hands Mission” organized a seminar on 19th and 20th February. Eminent speakers and advocates from Nagpur and Pune dwelt on the topics of the Indian Constitution, religious freedom, IPC, minority and human rights in our country. The seminar evoked in the participants a sense of one's rights as well as duties towards our faith and country.

The Maher family celebrated their annual day on 10th February. They expressed their gratitude to the Goa Jesuits for accommodating them in the property at Karwanchiwadi. **Allwyn** received the memento and words of gratitude on behalf of the Goa Province at the hands of Sr. Lucy Kurien.



Having lived through enough of social isolation and before the predicted second wave begins, the parishioners of Milagris Church; Ratnagiri organized their annual picnic at Purngad. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, games, fellowship meal, a dip in the sea and a special game for the Valentines in the Parish, that lightened the spirits



of all. Unfortunately, **Nelson** missed the picnic as he was missioned to travel to Kota to get the marble material for the Cross which will be installed in the church campus. Now that he is back the kitchen smells of cakes and other items. Do feel free to drop in and be rewarded with a bite.

Amidst the second wave of the Covid-pandemic a few restrictions are being put in place. Night curfew is on. For the Eucharistic celebration, not more than 50 people can gather at a time and precautions of wearing a mask, screening and sanitizing are attended to. We have two Masses on Sunday to allow more people to attend.

Fr Allwyn Cruz

greenery is the recent rains.

The years of SAS's works in the villages are bearing abundant fruit. Some Self Help Groups have completed more than 25 years. Recently three SHGs at Rumewadi in Khanapur Taluka celebrated their silver jubilee by cutting a jubilee



cake and organized a capacity building training camp in which SHGs from the neighboring villages participated. The celebration showcased the numerous benefits the SHGs received due to SAS's constant accompaniment and guidance. The shy homebound women of yesteryears are now public figure. They fight for their rights and the rights of their under privileged sisters and brothers. SAS staff was happy to witness the miracle of women empowerment and it worked as a booster dose to enthuse them to reach out to many more social groups at the peripheries of society. Truly these SHGs have been a game changer in bringing about women emancipation.

Fr Santosh Vaz

MACHHE UPDATES

Vellapani, in the second week of February, was diagnosed that his bile duct was blocked due to advanced pancreatic cancer. He was admitted to Lakeview Hospital, Belgaum, and a stent was implanted through a procedure called, **Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio-Pancreatography (ERCP)**. He is recovering at Nirmal Nagar Hospital. Kindly keep him in your prayers.

Xavier Farm Machhe had a rich harvest of sugarcane, turmeric rhizome and black pepper. The farm is looking evergreen with fresh sugarcane shoots and fodder crops for livestock springing up; the result for the sudden spurt of

ST. BRITTO, MAPUSA

The last month has been one in which the community has been found disentangling itself from the grasp of the draconian virus, and bursting out onto the stage of celebration and thanksgiving. We had a month sprinkled with celebrations as we celebrated the birthdays of **Simon de Melo** the Principal of the school and **Anand**, our Superior. The cherry on the top was the thanksgiving banquet as we raised our hearts with cheer at the celebration of the feast of St. John the Britto, the patron of our school. All our celebrations began with a banquet with the Lord followed with outbursts of laughter and cheer, enjoying each other's company after the hibernation over the last few months. The teachers, keeping the protocol of social distancing,

were at their creative best as they stitched up a wonderful mosaic of prayer, games and snacks.



The situation in the school is not as boisterous as before. The hushed classrooms have solitary teachers glued to their laptops and phones, helping and guiding students through online classes. At present we are more concerned about our students than their grades. Many teachers and ex-students have in different ways assisted students and parents who are struggling with the new darkness which overwhelms them. We have been fortunate to have generous benefactors so that we were able to provide food and smart

phones to those in need.

The community has pulled through the pandemic period very successfully, thanks to God's protection. The dreary silence has knitted us together with God and with one another. Our vulnerable sharings and community prayers have helped us enrich one another as we journey onwards. The pandemic has also been responsible for enkindling the urgency to strengthen our immune system and take care of our health.

Simon de Melo has been utilizing years of his accumulated experience and wisdom, as he leads the way. He has ploughed ahead, without turning back, to serve the students, parents and teachers, no matter what herculean tornadoes and twisters cross his path. There is newness and experimentation in most of the work we do as the situation calls for adaptability and creativity. New ways of teaching, conducting examinations, collaborating with parents, the PTA and ex-students, has expanded our thinking hats and kept everyone guessing as to what we are going to do next. **Jonathan** has done brilliantly well in his exams and continues to serve the community in various ways.

We continue to support and encourage one another as we step onwards fearlessly to build the Kingdom of God.

Fr Denzil Rodrigues

ST PAUL'S, BELAGAVI

A series of webinars were organized for teachers, parents and alumni of the school, in February. Fr. Pius Fernandes SJ., Principal of Loyola ICSE School, Jamshedpur and Mrs. Jayanti Sheshadri, Vice Principal of Loyola ICSE School, Jamshedpur as resource persons acquainted us with the details regarding ICSE Board. Our teachers, parents and alumni were very curious and enthusiastic to know more and hence had many questions to ask Fr. Pius and Mrs. Jayanti.

Jesuits at St Paul's community, Belagavi, have plunged into innovative ways to create a better future for society at large. The Jesuit House campus is blooming with flowers and a lot of fruits. Many fruit trees have been planted in the campus

(Ram phals and Sitaphals). The community is vibrating with **Ronnie** planning for the Ignatian year, monitoring the discipline of the students, meeting the students of 10th standard, encouraging and guiding them. Ronnie has been actively involved in rendering pastoral services to the different parishes in Belagavi and conducts bible classes when time permits.

Tony has been trying to make inroads into the new FCRA laws and kept busy meeting the deadline of the financial year ending. **Guy** is in the best of spirits though he had a fall and had his hand in plaster for a week; but that didn't deter him from updating us about the new moves of the government and the latest sports news. **Savio Abreu** and **Seby** with their teaching and administrative work have their hands full. **Steven** with his team has been working hard to expand the college and get more admissions next year by visiting schools in the city. The pastoral duties at St Anthony Church, Camp Belgaum, keep him on his toes. Steven conducted a half day workshop on **Fratelli Tutti** for St Joseph's High School staff and a seminar for students on: **"Towards a Liberative Space."**

As part of **Ignatian Year** celebrations the college organized a half-day seminar on, **"How have the Jesuits shaped World-History?"** **Ronnie** and Dr Padmini did a commendable job as resource persons. To empower the students and expose them to career prospects, the college invited the 'Aviation Industry' trainers and the 'Management' trainers to speak to the students. **Ashwin** was caught with unexpected offline exams so he has been grounded and has his head buried in his books. **Anthony** is confused whether to study the old laws or wait for the legislature to make amendments and then study.

Malcolm, after initiating the students into a prayerful mood, gave a meaningful talk on, "Pursuing one's Dreams," which was followed by meeting those who showed interest in joining the Jesuits. He then followed up by visiting their homes. On 12th February, a seminar on, **"Unity and Compassion"** was held for the teachers at the Fransalian Ashram, Uchagaon, Belagavi. Mrs. Charlotte Benjamin and Mr. Savio Martin were the resource persons. Teachers shared their

memorable experiences of how they were touched and helped as young students during their schooling days. The Seminar ended with a Thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, MSFS.

In preparation for Lent, we celebrated a Mass for all the Catholic students and staff members on Ash Wednesday. **Seby** preached an inspiring homily, instructing the faithful to make sacrifices and lead a prayerful life.

Sch Anthony Noronha

NEWS FROM TSKK

"Thomas Stephens Konknni Kendr," held its 31st Annual **Antonio Pereira Konknni Puroskar** ceremony on 20th February 2021 on its lush green courtyard. During the ceremony the Puroskars (Awards) were given at the hands of Dr. Varsha Kamat, the Chief Guest of the day. A minute's silence was observed to pay respect to the deceased Konkani stalwart, Late **Fr. Vasco do Rego, SJ** and Konkani promoter and activist priest, Late Fr. Conceicao D'Silva. The programme began with the National Anthem followed by a small Konkani bhakti hymn.

The following awards were given at the function:-

- 1) Dr. Jack Sequeira Konknni Puroskar 2020: Mr. Menino Almeida.
- 2) Valerio Carvalho Konknni Puroskar 2020: Ms Silvestrina Pereira.
- 3) Maria Afonso Konknni Puroskar 2020: Sr. Molly Fernandes, sfn.
- 4) Late Fr. Casmiro De Mello Konknni Puroskar 2020: Fr. Bolmax Pereira.
- 5) Antonio Pereira Konknni Puroskar 2021: Mr. Pandharinath Lotlikar.

Along with these Puroskars the Kendra also awarded scholarships to meritorious and deserving students. The youth of Chicalim parish, under the guidance of their parish priest,



Fr. Bolmax Pereira rendered three beautiful songs during the programme. The attraction of the function was the Santa Cruz Brass Band led by Mr. Alvito.

“SOD Research Bulletin,” Volume 23, was released during the function at the hands of the Chief Guest. **Pratap** edited the articles and Ms. Swara Pednekar assisted in the typesetting of the same.

Shane and **Irivo** captured the memorable moments in photos and video on their cameras respectively. **Mark**, Ms Michelle Coutinho and Swara read the bio-data of the awardees. **Jose**, the Director of the Kendra welcomed the gathering while **Mark** proposed the vote of thanks. The function was compered by Fr. Ave Maria Afonso and Professor Janet. The function was well attended by Konkani lovers and writers from different parts of Goa.

Fr Jose Silveira

NEWS FROM PAI, RAIA

The Animators of THE LIGHTS OF THE WORLD MOVEMENT organized a farewell for **Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas** at PAI. **Agnelo** has been appointed the Provincial of Pune and was to take office in Pune on 08th Dec. 2020.



The animators also had an evaluation of the programmes and sessions that they had organized and conducted in the various high schools and higher secondary schools during the last academic year. Later in the month of February, the

animators of the LIGHTS OF THE WORLD MOVEMENT met in Utorda for an outing and to plan future programmes for schools and colleges. The planning and the execution were coordinated by Mr. Basil D'Çunha.

The youth of PAI under the leadership of **Jaeison** prepared a crib keeping in mind the current situation in Goa. The crib showcased the need to protect our environment considering the 3 mega projects: 1. Laying of 400 KV transmission line. 2. Saving the forest wealth at Molem. 3. The double tracking of the railway line to facilitate coal transportation. These projects if allowed to happen will have an adverse effect not only on the environment but much more on the life of the people of Goa. Quite a number of people visited the crib; it being set up at the entrance of the Institute.

On 3rd January, 2021 during the celebration of the Eucharist, **Cedric** took over as Superior of PAI, Raia.

Three members of our community, **Felix, Pedro** and **Campos** were grounded due to illness. We thank the province members for their prayers and support in our time of need as our patients pulled through to recovery.

Fr Cedric Fernandes

LOYOLA HALL, MIRAMAR

Malcolm, Director of the Candidate House and Vocation Promoter, launched his Vocation Promotion programmes in the Belagavi, Sangargalli and Khanapur areas. In Sangargalli and Khanapur, he interacted with the youth and spoke to them on the 'CALL'. Quite a few students who are now in the middle school have shown interest in joining the Jesuits. At St Paul's, Belagavi, with the help of the Jesuits in the school, he visited homes of the students who have shown an inclination to join the Jesuit way of life. Malcolm appreciated the spade work done by **Savio Abreu, Seby** and **Anthony N.** in promoting vocations. He says that during his next visit to these areas, he will get a clearer picture of the number of candidates wishing to join the Candidate House next year. **Malcolm**, keep up

the good work!

Alendro, Velenson and Glinson continue their online classes in theology and philosophy respectively after a shot break for Christmas. The late night and early morning lectures (for the theology students) followed by reading material and assignments keep them confined to their rooms. Glinson had his online examinations. The candidates too have completed their Formative examinations.

The daily, "The Goan" continues to publish **Apollo's** research articles on various festivals. During the month of January, the paper published the following articles: "The Epiphany- Tradition of Three Kings" in Goa; "Milagrincho Khuris (Miraculous Cross)" in Anjuna; "Makar Sankranti Festival"; "Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti" and "Lord Bodeshwar Festival" in Mapuca. In the month of February it will be: "Feast of Our Lady of Good Health" at Cuncolim; "Pompurbechim Festam Ghoribank Nhoi"; "Manddailo Khuris" of Candolim; "Kott'ttianchem Fest" in Pilerne; "Potekar Festival" of Divar; "Ash Wednesday" and "Piddeancho Khuris" in Old Goa.

The same daily also published **Malcolm's** article on St. John de Britto, titled: "St. Britto – from Sanyasi to Patron of St Britto's High School,

Mapusa" and **Pratap's** article on: "Fr. Vasco do Rego, Goa's noted crusader of Konkani." That's one bunch of articles for our voracious readers.

Fr Apollo Cardozo

COURSES BEING OFFERED

ROOTS & WINGS 2021 will be conducted from April 6th evening to May 8th afternoon, at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, for Jesuits and those Religious who follow the Jesuit Spirituality. For more details contact: Fr Devadhas Muthiah SJ: 9600411531 / 8056662524 / devadhasm@gmail.com; | Fr Patrick Ravichandran SJ: 9445676172 / sup.shc@mdusj.org. Last date to apply: March 15th 2021.

PRERANA, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Bengaluru, has begun residential courses: Two important courses coming up: Religious Leadership (7th – 17th April 2021); Course on Retreat Direction (19th April – 20th May 2021). Reception: 09483022896; 7795180815. Email: preranaisc@gmail.com.

For further details of this year's courses as well as our brochure, log on to our website: www.preranaisc.org.

PROVINCIAL'S SCHEDULE -- MARCH. 2021

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| 01-02 | Consult Pres. JCSA - Delhi |
| 03 | Centenary Jubilee - Patna |
| 05 | Social & Ecological Comm meeting - online |
| 09 | MAIN (Migrant Assistance & Info Network) – JH Panjim |
| 12-13 | Prov. Consult – St Paul's Belagavi |
| 19 | Spirituality & Dialogue Comm meeting |
| 23 | Vocation Comm meeting - online |
| 26 | Youth Comm meeting - online |
| 26 | <i>Rotti</i> – Advisory Committee meeting |
| 30 | Development & JesCom meeting – JH Panjim |

JESUIT POVERTY TODAY- A LIFE OF SHARING AND SOLIDARITY

In January, meeting with his Extended Council, Fr. General discussed the process to be followed by the Society in a consultation on Jesuit poverty that has already been announced in his letter about the Ignatian Year.

“Poverty is a crucial aspect of our lives as Jesuits” said Fr. Sosa. “In these days of consumerism and individualism, it shows more importantly than ever how we are called to a life of sharing and that solidarity among human beings is a necessity and a core value.”

The meeting took place on January 11- 15; three full days were dedicated to the issue of poverty. Fr. Tom McClain, the General Treasurer and Fr. James Hanvey, the Secretary for the Service of Faith have played key roles in preparing the meeting along with Fr Claudio Paul, Assistant for Southern Latin America, who chaired a small task force.

“Evangelical Poverty has been part of religious life since the earliest times” said Fr. James Hanvey. “For St Ignatius, after his conversion, he experienced it as a source of apostolic energy and he wanted this for all Jesuits. Ignatius saw that to preach in poverty was also a mark of the authenticity of our witness. I think this is even more important than ever with so many urgent needs.”

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

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

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

Curia News

Pitaji Vasco do Rego, S.J.: A Crusader of Konknni (08 January 1925 – 17 February 2021)

It is a Herculean task to write the obituary of a multifaceted and multitalented personality like that of Fr. Vasco do Rego, S.J., a Jesuit priest of Goa Province. He was fondly known as “Pitaji” among his friends and followers. He was born on 08th January 1925 at Panaji, Goa. His parents were Antonio Augusto do Rego and Aurora Maria Helena Correia Afonso do Rego. His father was a known Doctor.

He did his early studies Primeiro and Segundo Grau in Portuguese medium at Escola Massano de Amorim at Panaji. IV to VIII standards he studied in English medium in the boarding school of St. Joseph's High school, Arpora. From 1938-45 he continued his studies at Rachol Seminary. While doing his studies in philosophy, he heard an inner voice telling him, “Trust in My Heart and go.” He listened to this voice and joined the Jesuits to begin his novitiate at Vinayalaya, Andheri, Mumbai on 05 August 1945. After completing his novitiate and Juniorate he was sent to do his Licentiate in Philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Tamil Nadu. He did his regency at St. Paul High school, Belgaum and Loyola High Margao. Then he was sent to the Jesuit theologate St. Albert of Eegenhoven, Louvain, Belgium to do his theology studies. On 15th August 1955 he was there. Being a brilliant, facet Jesuit priest, his name was proposed to be on the teaching staff of Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, but God had other plans for him. Since then, he has served the Society in various positions such as Rector of Rachol Seminary, Rector of Loyola High Novice Master at Xavier Director of Retreat Bom Jesus Basilica, Old Maris Chapel, Miramar, Ministries & translation Konknni, Editor of Konknni monthly “Dor Mhoineachi Rotti”.



the Church in various Spiritual Father of Student Counsellor and Margao, Rector & training College, Desur, House, Baga), Rector of Goa, Chaplain of Stella Panaji, Spiritual of the Bible into

All his activities, vision, and life were centred and focused around “Abba Father”. Trinitarian based spirituality guided his entire life and apostolates. Throughout his life he promoted this Trinitarian rooted spirituality through various ministries. The greatest and most valuable contribution he rendered to the Church in Goa was in the fields of Liturgy in Konknni and translation and editing work of the Konknni Bible. The reform norms of Vatican II Council demanded that the liturgy and paraliturgical be celebrated in local languages. Translating Ordinary of the Mass canons from Latin into Konknni, he began at Belgaum at the request of Bishop of Belgaum. This news reached to the church authorities of Goa and they subsequently requested him to do the same in Goa. In Goa, to switch over from Latin to Konknni needed learned, talented and dedicated persons. At this critical juncture Fr. Vasco rendered his yeomen service.

He was one of the members to translate, edit and publish the Roman Missal in Konknni as “*Romi Misa-Gronth*” and the Roman Missal as “*Romi Vachpam-Gronth*”. Though he was brought up during his childhood, in a Portuguese speaking atmosphere at home, he knew Konknni. Later he learnt Latin, Spanish, French, some Italian and Marathi. He had the working knowledge of Greek too. All these languages and his mastery over formal Konknni were his assets in his liturgical and biblical

contributions. Due to his efforts emerged the Konknni hymnal “*Gaionacho Jhelo*”, which is used in Goa and elsewhere by Konknni speaking Catholics. His lyrics are not only rich in Konknni language but they also based on profound modern theology and biblical themes. He worked for several years to complete his maternal uncle Mr. Pedro Correia Afonso's translation of the Psalms in the book “*Stotram ani Sevadhormik Prarthanam*”. His St. Francis Xavier's novena sermons of several years in Konknni have been compiled and published as “*SonvsarakJezudiat*” by Thomas Stephens Konknni Kendr (TSKK), Porvorim. The Devanagari version of his Konknni book “*NazaretkarJezu*” has also been published by TSKK.

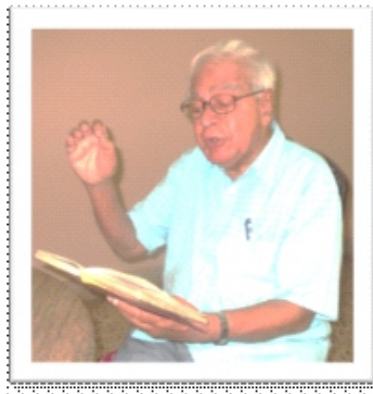
He was a strong protagonist of the Konknni language. He motivated the seminarians, priests, nuns, and lay people to use more and more Konknni for conversation. He was a good preacher in Konknni, English and Portuguese. He also excelled as a Ignatian retreat director and was sought for recollection talks, and conferences. As a spiritual guide he has directed countless seminarians, priests and religious priests and nuns. His several years of dedicated service to standardize the Konknni language was recognized and he was awarded the first award of Dalgado Konknni Akademi, Panaji on 08 March 2005. The Art and cultural Directorate of government of Goa too recognized his contribution to Konknni and selected him for the “Goa State cultural Award of 2013-2014 and it was bestowed on him on 04 January 2015. The renowned film director and screenplay writer Shyam Benegal was the Chief Guest.

The Novenas and Feast of St. Francis Xavier is the most important event every year in Goa. It was Fr. Vasco who restored the sanctity of the shrine and instrumental to conduct well organized liturgy during the novenas, feast and exposition of relics. During his term as the Rector of Bom Jesus Basilica many prominent global figures visited the shrine, chief among them being the Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of England Margaret Thatcher, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, President of Portugal Mario Soares, Pope John Paul II.

While he was in Pune, feeling called to found a new Religious Family in the Church, Fr. Vasco founded in 1961 Ishaprema-Vinamra-Sevika (Humble Servants of God's Love), with the collaboration of Norberta Lobo (later known as Mataji Nirmala). Their homes are known as Ishaprema-Niketan (Home of God's Love). It has branches in Assagao and Goa Velha. He was one of the founders and great supporter of Thomas Stephens Konknni Kendr (TSKK), a Jesuit institute which promotes Konknni language, literature and culture through research and other activities.

If one begins to count and write about Fr. Vasco and his contribution, it would fill up many pages. He fully believed and lived the Jesuit motto “*Ad Maiorem, Dei Gloriam*”, namely, all for the Greater Glory of God. Truly, a rarest gem in the Konknni world and a treasured gift for the Society of Jesus and Church in Goa.

Fr. Pratapananda Naik



God
Bless
You

Happy Birthday Dear ...

MARCH

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|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 04 | Noel Fernandes | 19 | Joseph Fernandes |
| 07 | Thomas D'Souza | 22 | Thomas Chenakala |
| 08 | Neville Gonsalves | 24 | Levis Gomes |
| 09 | Rosario Rocha | 25 | Prakash Figredo |
| 12 | Velenson Gomes | 26 | Nelson Gonsalves |



LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Fr Vasco de Rego (GOA) 96/75 passed away on 17th February, in Pune.
 Fr John Vattanky, (KER)89/70 passed away on 22nd February in Kozhikode, Kerala.
 Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomes, 99/78 passed away on 27th February in Kolkota.
 Fr Oscar Rosario (BOM) 78/64 passed away on 28th February in Mumbai.

MEN WHO TOILED IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

MARCH

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 03 | Cana Joseph |
| 03 | Pinto Agnelo |
| 08 | Pinto Joseph |
| 13 | D'Souza Lino |
| 13 | Mendes Luis |
| 15 | D'Souza Alban |
| 21 | Lainez Nicolaus |
| 22 | De Menezes Rui |
| 30 | D'Cunha Valentine |



Pope's Intentions
Mar 2021



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may
 Experience the Sacrament of
 Reconciliation with renewed depth,
 To taste the infinite mercy of God.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA