



HITGUJ

Pune Jesuit Province Newsletter



PUNE

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From the Provincial's Desk:

VOCATION PROMOTION – CHERISHING OUR CALL!

Our 'Province Apostolic Plan' (PAP) sets Vocation Promotion as the top priority of our Province, and urges each of us to promote vocations with greater apostolic aggressivity. How have we fared? It is that time of the year when our attention is squarely focused on the numbers in our pre-novitiate and our novitiate.

Well, the question is: Should we focus on the numbers or should we evaluate our efforts in promoting vocations during the year that has gone by? It is not so much the time to evaluate the work of the vocation promoter or the vocation commission, but our individual efforts. How have I fared and what have I done?

Under the short-term plans of our PAP, each Province member is called to be an instrument in helping young minds and hearts to realize their vocation as God's children. We are called to do so by helping youth to know more about the religious vocation and about the Society of Jesus. This call, which is given to every member of the Province, is in keeping with the invitation extended by Pope Francis to everyone. In *Christus Vivit* he stresses that all work with youth can be focused on accompanying the vocational processes to enable them to discern their call. Fr. General too insists that vocational guidance becomes a special characteristic of our ministry with the youth. This is also integral to the third UAP. Fr. General further states, "I am convinced that the Lord is providing us with vocations and that this must be a committed work in every Province if our mission is to continue with vigour and confidence."

Yes, it is the Lord who calls, but we have to do our part in helping individuals to discern. Our contribution is very much required. It should be common practice and everyone should be involved at various levels and in different ways. As Fr. General states, "we should create a culture of vocation promotion in our Provinces."

Finally, good example as happy and committed Jesuits and prayer are important aspects that encourage and inspire vocations. As we live and cherish our call with gratitude, I urge you to cultivate prayer for vocations in our communities and apostolic works. This, we can all do and we must do, without fail. May God continue to bless us with generous and committed youth to work in His vineyard.

FR. 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.
Fr. Stan Fernandes, Socius and Admonitor of Fr. Provincial of Pune.

FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Nelton Thomas, PCF.
Sch. Maniel Kshirsagar, BTH at Frankfurt, Germany

FR. PROVINCIAL PROGRAMME

13 March – Jesuit Alumni Association of Pune
Province
19 March – Province Consult

20 March – AGM of TDSS Trust
22 – 24 March – Visitation, XTC Novitiate

AROUND THE PROVINCE**WAIT & WATCH- LIFE WITH COVID-:**

When the pandemic hit us, life came to a standstill for almost 8 to 10 months. The wait for normal seemed endless. But as they say when life gets tough; the tough get going, finally normal was visible in the far-off horizon. After a long wait, we arrived from Chennai to resume our duties at Dnyanamata, Sangamner. The virus's relentless march was still on but Dnyanamata was busy learning valuable lessons through this global crisis and preparing for a better tomorrow after the COVID.

Initially the school and hostel were closed but online teaching was in full swing. Along with a sustainable and community-oriented lifestyle, Dnyanamata upgraded its health care system and digitalized and restructured its education sector. After the government declared schools to reopen, the atmosphere turned quite festive and positive.

All those of us who are engaged in teaching took the mandated COVID test. Luckily all of us were COVID negative. Consent letters of the parents was taken for those students who wanted to attend the school. The hostel and the school were completely cleaned and sanitized. After abiding by all the rules and regulation of the COVID protocol, the doors finally opened!! The excited chatter of students was surprisingly refreshing. Students were overjoyed to come back to their school. This situation was in stark contrast to the lockdown months.

Classes started and students who could not avail of the online teaching due to bad internet or could not afford any device for online learning, were hungry for learning. Students willingly accepted and

followed the COVID restrictions for the hostel, knowing their lives and the lives of those looking after them are precious. However, the students and their parents have expressed their happiness in reopening of the hostel, "now some proper teaching and learning can go on!"

The timetable in the hostel helps the students to redevelop study habits. During the month of February, they were busy with their Preliminary and mid-term exams. The result of the exam has left much to be desired. The long lockdown has played the spoil sport. Now the teachers are on their toes to make the students learn and make certain concepts clear to them. We hope to bring the desired learning outcome though the time is short.

The hostel children had put up a beautifully choreographed entertainment programme on Br. Nihal's birthday. Every one of us enjoyed the evening to our hearts content. We were also left with wonder and awe for our boys for the marvellous talent that they possess. These students have taught us excitement, expectation, joy and a sense of responsibility all go together. They truly are a gift!

The limited lockdown time was also an opportunity to do some much-needed repair and maintenance work for the house. The rooms and the corridor now have a fresh and beautiful look.

We had a good harvest of sugarcane in our farm; few more acres of sugarcane will be harvested within a month. Good rains and pleasant weather enabled us to cultivate few more acres of wheat. The dairy was in a very bad shape during the

lockdown but now slowly it is picking up. I hope our hard labour will bring in plenty fold harvest.

Aristotle rightly said, "it is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light". Heads up everyone, the light is just around the corner.

Bros. Rahul and Nihal

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR. PRAVEEN THRIBHUVAN:-



Dn. Praveen Thribhuvan, SJ was ordained priest by Bishop Lourdes Daniel of Nashik Diocese on Feb 6, 2021 in the presence of a limited crowd due to the pandemic. He was welcomed to the order of priesthood by his brother Jesuits and a small group of relatives at Loyola Sadan Church, Shrirampur. The ordination ceremony was remarkable in many ways. One such significant was the Holy Eucharist itself. It was well organised by the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Joe Gaikwad, SJ who himself was the Master of the ceremony. The whole church was looking very glamorous with the spiritual atmosphere.



There were smiles everywhere as well as gratitude for the new shepherd to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. Perhaps the most moving part of the ceremony was when, after the anointing and the laying on of hands by the Bishop, all the

concelebrating priests were invited to come forward and lay hands on the new ordinand. The choir did a fantastic job in adding beautiful rhythm to the ceremony. After mass many people queued to congratulate and receive a blessing from the new priest.

In his homily, the Bishop emphasized on the hallmarks of priesthood. He said that the strength of a priest depends on his relationship with Christ. He also stressed on the importance of ministering to the poorest of the poor, the weak, and the marginalized. During the homily, He also enumerated the meaning and challenges of being a priest in the modern world.



The ordination ceremony was followed by a short felicitation function in the Church. Thanking all those who were responsible for him to become a Jesuit priest, Fr. Praveen said that it is only because of the sacrifices of many people, including his parents, formatters' and superiors he was able to be a priest.

After the Holy Eucharist, the relatives and friends of Fr. Praveen came forward to wish him following which a sumptuous meal was served in the church hall.

SEMINAR FOR THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND BCC LEADERS:



On Feb 28, 2021, Fr. Suresh Sate from Nasik Diocese spent the entire morning in training the members of

the Parish Council and BCC (Basic Christian Community) leaders and coordinators of Loyola Sadan Church at Divyavani. Fr. Suresh in his sharing with them beautifully explained the duties, roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council and BCC members. Inputs and discussion, sharing and feedback marked the whole day spent in understanding the parish council and BCC and its role in building the faith of the parish community.



Questions were asked and doubts were addressed by Fr. Suresh in an informal and friendly manner. SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of our Parish was done at the end of the seminar. Four groups were divided and one aspect of each was taken up for discussion in groups. Sharing of insights was done by each group after the discussions. It was really wonderful to see so many positive points of our Parish. The seminar was concluded with the Holy Eucharist. All left convinced of the shepherdly role they play in ministering to God's people by being elected to this high and noble calling as parish council and BCC members. Hats off to Fr. Subash, the Director of Divyavani for his hospitality and fabulous lunch.

YOUTH PICNIC - :



We had a day of picnic to Aurangabad before the Lenten season for our parish youth group. They

have been actively participating in the church activities and contributing in many ways for the growth of the Church. It was a much-needed picnic for them. The youth had a wonderful relaxing time in visiting the historical places. It was also a beautiful occasion to come together and know each other. Our picnic concluded with the Eucharistic celebration in the cathedral.

Fr. Michael Raja,SJ.

HOSPITAL AND MISSION EXPERIMENT-:

The Corona pandemic has shaken and disturbed the whole world, taking many innocent lives. Amidst this pandemic, we the second year Novices, were privileged to have our Hospital and Mission experiments combined together. Meanwhile our first year companions had their long retreat and we supported them with our prayers. We firmly believe that it was God who made it possible and protected us from the pandemic. We are very happy to share our experiences of the experiments.

For our Mission and Hospital experiment we went to MPSM (Maharashtra Prabodhan Seva Mandal) Nasik. MPSM is a Non-profit voluntary organization, run by the Bombay Jesuits, which is committed to rural and tribal awakening through sustainable agriculture, education, health etc. We travelled to Nasik by bus. On the first day Fr. Joel, the director of MPSM gave an orientation and information about MPSM.



We were divided into two groups of four novices each. The next day itself the first group went to Velholi for their hospital experiment and the second group began their mission experiment. Our hospital experiment at 'Mukhta Jivan' Velholi was a great one. The Mukhta Jivan hospital is run by the helpers of Mary sisters. It is also a home of leprosy patients and aged people. Although because of the pandemic, the O.P.D was closed, we had a very

enriching time with the inmates. For the first time we saw leprosy patients. Initially we were hesitant to touch their wounds and converse with them but gradually we felt comfortable. In this hospital there were 3 wards; 1 for the leprosy and 2 for the aged and the destitute.



We used to go to the wards and with the help of the sisters used to serve them. Each of them had a different story. We would talk to them and also teach them Bhajans and action songs. We felt very much inspired by the serving spirit of the sisters. In the beginning it was uncomfortable for us, but slowly we got used to this selfless work. In spite of their struggles we found them very happy and satisfied. Every day as a group we would go to a ward to conduct Bhajans, and to say Rosary together. We found those inmates very faithful to their prayer time. It was a good example for us to see how God can be served in those people who are abandoned by their families. During our experiment we really learnt a lot. And at the end of our experiment we could really understand the meaning of 'Mukhta Jivan' which means liberated life. That experience gave meaning to our life and also helped to strengthen our vocation, orienting our lives towards a more fruitful goal to serve God. We also got an opportunity to go to 'Naya Jivan' Asangaon. It is a house for orphan and HIV girls. We stayed there for 5 days. We conducted games for them and gave them talks on personality development. This house also is run by the Helpers of Mary sisters. We had a good time with the children.

During our mission experiment we visited many mission stations of the Bombay province and the farmers whom MPSM helped in many ways. It was nice to see how MPSM has transformed the lives of many tribal and poor farmers by helping them economically. MPSM has helped many farmers in different Tahsils of Nashik District. Br.

Joe Kantela showed us many places where MPSM is working. Besides helping farmers MPSM has actually united the people especially the women who don't receive equal dignity in the society. In most of the projects we found that women were in-charge. We met their cluster resource persons and asked them about the works. MPSM also has initiated non formal education for the children. It has been a very successful initiative. All these helped us to know MPSM and also to help the weaker sections of the society. Though the works of MPSM seem to be very inspiring, they are challenging also. We enjoyed meeting the farmers and in turn they showed us so much love and affection. Every day we enjoyed sumptuous food at the farmer's house. During our visit they told us how they have become self-reliant with the help of MPSM. It was really an amazing experience for us.

As a part of the village immersion program, we were sent to stay with families in villages of different Tahsils. We were eagerly waiting for this experience. Although initially it was challenging but slowly it became very easy for us to adjust ourselves. Mostly we stayed with tribal Hindu families but we never felt awkward. All family members made us feel at home and accepted us as their own family members. We experienced their daily lifestyle very closely and also helped them in their daily works. While doing these works, we could understand how difficult the life of farmers is. Although mostly the families were poor, they fed us generously. The villages were situated in remote places and had very scanty facilities of education and health. Illiteracy rate was very high. As the days passed by, we felt more comfortable with the family members. Though we were strangers to them, they accepted us. We returned with so many memories to cherish. We thanked the families for accepting us and bestowing so much love on us.

Both the experiments taught us a lot and many people helped us directly and indirectly to make these experiments possible. It was God who protected us from this pandemic and brought us back safe and sound. We thank God and express our heart-felt gratitude to the Society of Jesus for helping us in our formation.

Novices - Sameer and Rushikesh

ST. XAVIER'S CHURCH, PUNE :-

17th Feb marked the beginning of the Lenten season. As per the guidelines and the circular of the Bishop the ashes were smeared on the forehead. We had six Masses in the church so that there is proper social distancing. On every Wednesday and Friday, we have the Way of the Cross, each neighbourhood is given one week to conduct the Way of the Cross. Looking at the increase of the number of cases of Covid and to avoid the spread of the sickness we have increased the number of the ways of the cross and also Masses on every Wednesday and Friday. We appreciate the faithful for keeping the SOPs and maintaining social distancing. On Friday, 19th Feb 2021, we had final rites of Fr. Vasco De Rego SJ (Goa) celebrated in the church. Bp. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune, Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas SJ, our provincial, and Fr. Roland Coelho SJ, Provincial of Goa along with our province priests were present for the funeral. Fr. Pratap Naik in his homily highlighted the works of Fr. Vasco and beautifully summarized his life. His Body was placed in the Indian style and after the funeral mass the burial took place at the city church cemetery. The whole ceremony was well coordinated by Fr. Joseph and the parish team.

On 21st Feb, a half-day recollection was organized for the parish council members at Sanjeevan Ashram. The resource persons were among the parish council members. A team was assigned to conduct the recollection.



The whole recollection was evolved around the different dimensions of Jesus' Leadership. Themes like Jesus the compassionate leader, Servant leadership: Jesus Model, Collaboration and Discerning Leadership were highlighted. The

recollection was well planned and executed. The recollection was concluded with the, Adoration, Holy Eucharist and fellowship meal. We also celebrated the birthday of Mrs. Mildred Lobo one of the parish council members. The Sunday school teachers had their annual meeting. The Youth had a meeting in order to plan out for the Lenten programs. The liturgical committee is gearing towards the preparation of the Holy Week.

Anthony Tribuvan. S.j.

SHEVGAON NEWS BITS:-

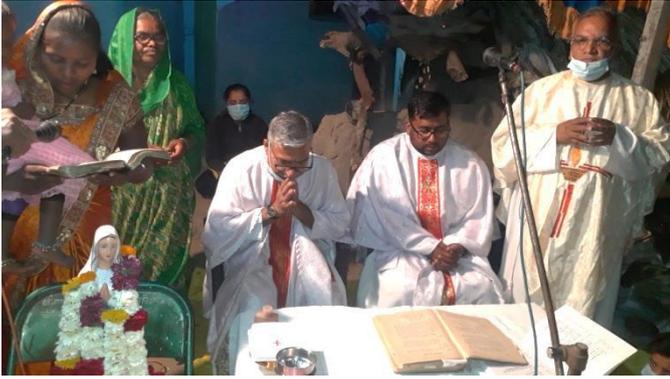
On 2nd Feb the candle light procession from the Church's Main Gate entered the church with the congregation singing appropriate hymns. Most of the participants observed social distance and wore masks.

The Feast of St. Blaise on 3rd Feb was celebrated in the Church after a meaningful homily by Fr. Anil the main celebrant who presided over the Liturgy. Several faithful came to attend the Holy Eucharist and blessing of the throats.

The Sisters from Nityaseva Hospital (MMSB) organised a solemn Liturgy celebration in their Convent Chapel on 4th of Feb. Present were Sr. Maria John, the Superior General of MMSB, the honoured guest on this occasion, together with her Counsellors and the relatives of Sr. Manisha Chitte to celebrate her final profession. Of course, Sr. Daya too celebrated the golden jubilee of her fifty years in the Medical Mission Congregation. Sr. Maria John, along with her Counsellors and the Jesuit Fathers met for a prolonged meeting to discuss and deliberate on the various apostolates in the Parish and some important common concerns related to both the Hospital Sisters and the Jesuits. We thank Sr. Maria John for being generous with her time towards the concerns of the Parish.

From January the people began moving freely. Hence, we began visiting the Mass Stations of the different villages, of course with regulated precautions like, mask, sanitizer and social distancing. As the village-masses began to be regular we celebrated the Yatra of Mother Mary in the place called Khatakvadi on 5th Feb. The people were jubilant. The specialty of this Khatakvadi yatra is that a single widow has been celebrating

the Feast of Our Lady every year without fail.



It comes closer to the silver Jubilee. It was heartening to see the confluence of variously hued village-communities celebrating Mother Mary's Yatra. All the communities in the village came together and contributed towards the decoration, the food for all the devotees gathered, and a



small colourful pandal. Every year someone from the village received a promissory coconut to provide the Yatra meal the following year.

On 7th Feb, the day of Consecrated Life was observed in a unique way in the Parish Church. The nursing and boarding students presented a rose to each of the sisters and fathers here. After the Holy Eucharist ended a group photo of all the sisters and fathers was clicked.



Every year the Devotion of the Way of the Cross is conducted in various zones of the Parish. The fathers, sisters, nurses and the boarders participate and walk from the Church to different parish zones in the Shevgaon Town. This year due to the fear of Corona contagion we were forced to cancel these

visits to the town zones. Hence, the first Way of the Cross after the Ash Wednesday this year was conducted in the garden lawn of the Church with all the precautions. However, now the parishioners are informed to pray the Way of the Cross at home in their respective families by themselves and in Zones by the Zone members.

Fr. Mathew Paruvanani, SJ

SOCIAL CENTRE, AHMEDNAGAR -:

The activities of the various projects in hand are going on smoothly. In **Watershed Development Fund – Bhosarmal**, the Community Based Phase has started and the voluntary labour 'Shramadaan' is going on.

During the last month we have been having a regular follow-up with the beneficiaries of the project area and motivating them to contribute their voluntary labour as part of the project. The expected result is not seen, because the farm labors have got daily wage employment at a higher rate in



the range of Rs.300-400 in the neighbouring areas.

Even though these difficulties were there, 1ha of Continuous Contour Trenches has been completed,



while the remaining area has been demarcated and

the work is under progress. The newly elected **Sarpanch Shri. Prakashji** Gajare came personally to lead from the front and motivated the people to participate in the voluntary labour on Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

The preparatory activities for **'Saheli'** the



'Adolescent Girl Child' project is underway and the work with the girls will begin in

the first week of March. In the first year, the focus will be on self-awareness and development, health and hygiene, and in the next career guidance and

skill development.

'Saheli' is being implemented in Shrigonda, Parner and Rahuri blocks.



The

Entrepreneursh

ip Development Programme for women is also in the process as the women are being grouped in batches according to their locality. Once these batches are ready in March, the Entrepreneurship Development Programmes will begin, which will help the women to be well equipped with the essential capacity for entrepreneurship and the women will be given specialized training in the particular enterprise that they will with the appropriate associated training centers and then will be provided with linkages with the banks for establishing the concerned enterprise.

In **Satwad**, the Watershed Development programme began with the awareness campaign on various activities that will be involved in the

implementation of the project. This awareness programme was conducted by the folklore artists from **Madhi**. The programme was conducted specially in the night, as it is the most appropriate time to meet most of the beneficiaries both direct and indirect. In this manner Social Centre has been



quite involved in the various works at the grass root level.

Xavier Institute of

Natural Resource Management too is now picking up activities to create awareness about the programme to invite admissions. The process is on to ensure the availability of scholarships for the programme, by which deserving candidates could benefit from the course. Various meetings were conducted with experts in the field of Climate Change and Environment Sciences to enhance the Natural Resource Management programme. A web domain is being created exclusively for Xavier Institute of Natural Resource Management with the help of ERNET and Shutter Beat Media. The offline classes have begun on a regular basis and the necessary field work activities are being organized in the coming month. Admissions are still open for those interested.

The team members of Vimala Sadan Social Service Society, Aurangabad visited the Social Centre to get a first hand knowledge of the various developmental initiatives of Social Centre.

TEACHER'S ORIENTATION:-

"The Heart of Education is the Education of the Heart"

This year St. Vincent's high School and Junior college organized orientation program for newly appointed teachers on 6th February 2021, at De Nobili College, Ramwadi, Pune. It was conducted by a renowned Jesuit Priest Fr. Tony Andrade SJ,

who is presently residing at De Nobili College and catering to the spiritual needs of the young Jesuits of the Society of Jesus.



The core topic for the orientation was as follows: **“Making Education a Mission in Today’s Context”**. It was an informative and interactive session where our teachers were made aware of how a teacher can provide an environment where all students can achieve success to their fullest potential. Fr. Tony mentioned in his sessions about the 4 pillars of education and its importance. They are mainly ‘Learning to do’, ‘Learning to know’, ‘learning to live’ and ‘Learning to be.’

“The beautiful thing about Learning is that no one can take it away from you”

Fr. Tony encouraged teachers to implement the ‘Integral Pedagogy Paradigm’ in their teaching and how to help the students grow with Competence, Conscience, Compassion and Commitment. He explained the **10 commandments** for teachers in the following words:

1. You shall be committed to your vocation.
2. You shall be approachable and available.
3. You shall have a caring attitude.
4. You shall know each child.
5. You shall be impartial.
6. You shall have a positive attitude.
7. You shall be open to new ideas.
8. You shall make learning an enjoyable experience.
9. You shall be firm.

10. You shall be a source of inspiration – role model.

Finally, Fr. Tony made our teachers aware of the important roles a teacher plays in a student’s life. The videos shown by Fr. Tony made the teachers reflect more deeply, in a way this orientation was an eye opener for them to see the need and reality of life.



The session ended with a small group discussion. Indeed, it was a very good session which made the teachers introspect their importance and how they can bring about a change into each child’s life and shape them into a better person.

Dyon Dias.

AFGHANS CELEBRATED THE RELENTLESS SERVICE OF FR. STAN FERNANDES

On Jan 6th 2021, Fr. Stan Fernandes SJ completed his mission as Country Director of JRS Afghanistan, after 15 years of dedicated service.

Framed by a colourfully decorated hall and in the presence of numerous members of the JRS family – the staff, teachers, students and representatives of partner organizations – expressed their deep gratitude for Fr. Stan’s selfless giving of everything he had to offer, most importantly, offering himself. Fr. Louie Albert, JRS Regional Director, honoured and thanked Fr. Stan in the name of the South Asian Jesuit Assistancy and the Regional Office in Delhi. The lettering on the banner at the back of the stage saying Thank you, Tashakor Afghani

Stan best expressed how much the Afghans considered Fr. Stan to be one of theirs.

In return for his dedicated service to the Afghan people, Fr. Stan got showered with flowers, certificates and children's paintings. Students and teachers performed meaningful dramas, and a video was shown in which long-term donors and friends who generously support the JRS mission from outside Afghanistan, got a chance to express their appreciation.

In his farewell address Fr. Stan honoured the pioneers of the Jesuit Afghan Mission, who had arrived in 2004 to explore the terrain and assess the most pressing needs of the Afghan people, which was education. Throughout its mission of love, JRS considered the Afghan people and particularly those living on the margins of society as brothers and sisters who share the dream of a peaceful, just and dignified future.

In spite of continuous serious security risks, many other challenges and painful moments JRS remained committed to continue its education programs in the country. Hence, many daring dreams have become a reality and blessings, joy and a deep sense of hope by far outweigh the

setbacks. "Serving in Afghanistan has never been easy", said Fr. Stan while at the same time expressing his deep gratitude for everything, he received from the JRS Afghanistan family and the Afghan people.

Fr. Stan emphasised that the beginnings of the JRS mission as his personal dedication was inspired and guided by God's love, compassion and care for the people of Afghanistan. But the amazing achievements would not have been possible without the welcoming, loyalty and cooperation by the Afghan people. This enabled JRS to give freely. To ease everyone's pain of separation Fr. Stan emphasized that shared mission means that everyone belonging to it contributes what he/she can, thus leaving heart prints on and remaining part of each other's life as illustrated by Afghani Stan.

At the end of the celebration Fr. Jerome Sequeira SJ, the new Country Director of JRS Afghanistan, was introduced and assured the guests of the continuing commitment of JRS, and of himself, to the education needs of the children and youth of Afghanistan.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

MARCH

05	Goodwin Johnson
08	Redison Joseph
09	Peter Ankush
20	Peter D'Cruz
24	Alfred Benjamin
25	Andrew Fernandes
27	Walter Saldhana

APRIL

02	Simon Shingare
14	Anil Chakranarayan
15	Rushikesh Makasare

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED IN YOUR PRAYERS

- ❖ 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.

ADMAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

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