



From Rome

The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed **Fr. Bryan Lobo** Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Hearty congratulations to you Bryan!

Fr. General has appointed

Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas (GOA) the new Provincial of Pune Province

Fr. Fabien Gasigwa Regional Superior of the Rwanda-Burundi Region

Fr. José de Pablo (ESP) Vice Ecclesiastical Assistant of the World Christian Life Community (CLC)

Fr. Provincial's schedule – November 2020

3	Province Consult
10	Shirpur
11	Nandurbar
21-22	XLRI meeting

JCSA Online: 26-29 October

This was the first pandemic-time JCSA and so was naturally held online. The highlight of the session was Fr. General's talk on the "Culture of Vocation Promotion." *The call to be a Jesuit is primarily a call to be brothers in Christ called to serve the Missio Dei. It is this primacy of brotherhood that must reinvigorate the effort to promote the vocation to be a Brother. Priests and Brothers share the one call to serve the Lord. Vocations are the work of God and hence all of us need to pray continually for vocations – as individuals, as communities. The radicalness*

of this call must be reflected in the commitment of our lives and the joy we exude. This is the culture of our Life-Mission."



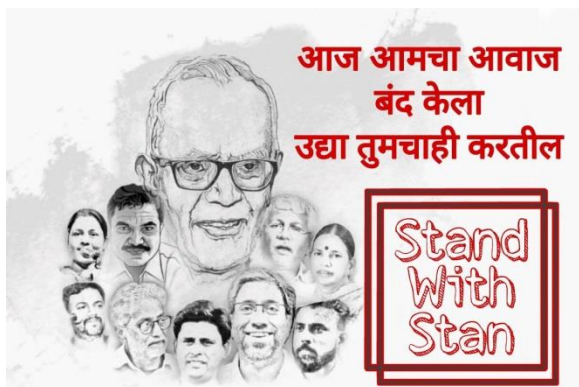
Presentations on the Common Houses and the JRS were made. We had frank sessions on the NEP and the migrant crisis. Hopefully this will permeate our apostolic efforts to serve the marginalized. We discussed the coming Ignatian year and the need to form Jesuit Leaders. We also bid farewell to George Pattery who was instrumental in inspiring the Phesama Statement and the SAP-REGAE processes. We missed the physical camaraderie but were open to this way of conducting our next meeting.

➤ **Arun de Souza**

Fr Stanislaus D'Souza (POSA) and Fr Keith Abranches (Socius) have new email ids.

POSA - president@jcsacuria.org

Socius - socius@jcsacuria.org



XTC TIDINGS

On 8th September, Fr. Savio Baretto took the lead to celebrate the birthday of Our Lady along with his farm workers and their families. Our Rosary at the Grotto was prayed in different languages and concluded with a traditional Konkani hymn. This was followed by cake cutting by all the women and girls present as a token of gratitude for the vital role played by women in our lives.

Keeping in mind the UAP's and out of love for mother nature, we invest our energy in humble and important tasks in the house as weekend ministry. These simple tasks gave us an opportunity to participate in the joy of loving our dear mother Earth and our community which is also a mission in itself.

In September we had the privilege to welcome Fr. Ronnie for a course on the Sacraments. We were captivated by his warmth and kindness and enjoyed his method of explaining the Sacraments. This course enlightened us about the spiritual, technical and practical dimensions of the Sacraments. It was also accompanied by

group discussion and movies dealing with themes relating to the sacraments.

We then had a course on the Old Testament given by Fr. Seby. It was indeed a great pleasure to meet our former community member. Fr. Seby made the course extremely engaging using PowerPoint, maps, videos and movies related to the topic. It helped us realise God's faithfulness and forgiveness towards human beings throughout their journey through salvation history. The book of Job helped us understand the relationship between human suffering and God's love. This was followed by a course on Jesuit presence in



India by Fr. Savio Abreu. He explained how God works through the uncertainty of our lives to accomplish His plan in our lives. He also spelled out the need we have for historians from among the younger Jesuits.

Gito & Rohan

Manmad Khabar

Saby Correa has recovered fully and has resumed his responsibility with new zeal and vigor. Under the direction of Br. Wenscel, supplementary classes have been launched at Tanda Vasti (for the Labhan Banjara Tribe). Initially we began with a formal survey and based on its result we have framed a pilot

project to help the children of the migrant workers. We also had meetings with the village heads and parents to create awareness among them about the importance of education. Subjects like Maths, Science and Language are stressed upon. Women teachers were chosen from among the locals and provided with training which was given by our experienced teachers from St. Xavier High School. These training sessions will be continued every month.



The movement for the release of Fr. Stan Swamy saw an overwhelming response in Manmad city. Teachers from St. Xavier School were called in two groups and made aware of the issue. Posters were displayed in some parts of Manmad town to make people aware about the unjust arrest of Fr. Stan. Looking at our zeal and enthusiasm the local political party RPI on their own took the lead in formulating letters and presented it to the District collector of Nashik. The Christian community of Manmad also wrote an appeal letter and presented it to Tahsildar. The Manmad community along with the religious sisters actively participated in the protest organized by the Nashik District Jesuits.

Our school premises continue to be used as a Covid care center with a few patients undergoing treatment here. The new Chief Officer has been highly appreciative of the different services given to the people by the Jesuit community.

➤ **Lloyd**

News from St. Xavier's School, Fort

'God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.'

The Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebhur (composed in 1932-33) is so apt in the present situation. It has been difficult to come to terms with the scenario. Amidst the turmoil, and disturbing atmosphere we've been searching for serenity. For most people, accepting corona as the new normal has been difficult. But we cannot change the situation and have to learn to adapt.

As teachers we have recognized this fact and have equipped ourselves with the skills to make online teaching more effective. We at St. Xavier's are constantly trying to improve. Every day of teaching is a new learning experience. After our unit tests we had several training sessions to improve the process of conducting the First Terminal Examinations.

The present crisis has taken its toll on all of us and especially our students. It has not only impacted their learning gain, but also increased anxiety and induced feelings of desperation and hopelessness. To help us deal with this predicament, the Education Department organized a Vipasana Training program on the 25th of September. It equipped us with the knowledge of mediation, deep breathing and other breathing techniques to deal with stress and overcome negative emotions.

We bid farewell to our Principal Mrs. Sharmila Sunny who retired on 30th September after 35 years of dedicated service. In an informal meeting that evening, the Manager Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy thanked her for her service to the institution. Her positive energy and congeniality will definitely be missed at Xavier's. Sr. Thresia Sini has taken over as the new Principal. Mr. Gaspar Britto has been assigned the role of Coordinator and Mrs. Elaine Fernandes will continue as Supervisor. So it's a new team and a new beginning at St. Xavier's. We welcome Sr. Sini and assure her of our

support and cooperation. Being part of the new team, I look forward to contributing towards the functioning of the school and the wellbeing of the students.

- **Mr. Gaspar Britto**
Coordinator, SXHS

Virtual Lessons @ VJ and Contextual Learning @ MPSM

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Vidya Jyoti College of Theology has adapted virtual learning environment and stepped up to deliver program to its students. "Pilgrimage Theologically in Corona Times" is the theme for this academic year which began on 10 August. We have a total of 155 students. The classes go live on Google Classroom and will continue for the entire semester till December 2020.

This year we have a total of 6 scholastics from the Bombay Province for theology. The second and the third year theologians are housed at MPSM campus and the two first year theologians are at St. Xavier's high school. The third years have finished the major courses in Medical ethics, Liturgy, Marriage law and Ecumenism. The second years have completed the Gospel of Matthew and John, and at present are busy with the Pauline corpus. The first years are through with the course on "Introduction to Theology" and "Faith and Revelation" and now into "Pentateuch".

The situation calls for a pedagogy which is contextual for a deeper theological reflection. Fr. Joel Noronha is the mentor for the second and the third year theologians. He oriented us, as to how we need to contextualise our textual studies to the interventions and works of the Province. The efficient internet setup and the newly renovated chapel, create an atmosphere conducive to learning and prayer. Some of us even got an opportunity to be part of the MPSM's monthly staff meetings, NCEE (Nodal Centre for Educational Excellence)-planning meeting and Legal aid workshop at Nandurbar.

To recollect and to deepen our faith experience we had Bishop Lourdes Daniel giving us a talk on Priesthood and Pastoral Life in the context of the present time and its relevance. In the wake of the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy, we were involved in the online campaign demanding his release. Sch. Wesley was prompt in composing a song which was widely circulated and well appreciated. On 16 October adhering to social distancing norms, we all joined the silent protest organised by the Jesuits of Nashik and their collaborators along with the National Alliance of People's Movement (NAPM) against the prosecution and pre-trial detention of Fr. Stan and other human rights defenders.

- **Joy Fernandes**

The Higher Education Committee Meet

On Gandhi *Jayanti*, the Higher Education Committee members along with Frazer and Swamy, met to face, like Gandhi-ji, contentious issues and, like him, they did so with clear minds and a strong resolve. They could do this without violence because the Zoom call ensured sufficient physical distancing. Overriding other concerns, the Committee spent most of the meeting time discussing with Frazer the New Educational Policy (NEP) of the Central Government.



Frazer heightened our awareness about many objectionable aspects of the Policy.

There is no Christian (Minority) representative in the State or Central Government Committees. Furthermore, all educational Institutions would be controlled not by their trustees but by the appointed Board of Governors. Even though some outstanding colleges are allowed to be autonomous, the content of what is taught will be according to the ideology of this Board of Governors. There is also a high level of centralization regarding admissions, content, and testing. The present 3-year degree College courses are found to be more than adequate but the NEP is reverting to the old 4-year degree system which is helpful only to the few who wish to pursue higher education abroad.

Two other important items were also discussed. One is that SXIE with its two year B.Ed. course, wants to merge with SXC. An application was made some time ago, but the Registrar could find no provision for this possibility in the University statutes. However, SXIE is planning to apply again. The committee also discussed about a B.Ed. four-year self-financed course at SXC.

The other item discussed was the letter of Fr General on “Companion Schools.” It was clarified that such schools do not pertain to higher education. They refer mainly to former Jesuit schools that are now managed by others but would like to continue with their links to the Jesuit ethos and ideals.

➤ **John Rose**

In Christ's Peace

- + **Fr. Joseph Thayil (KER), 90/70**, passed away at Kozhikode on 30 September
- + **Fr. Louis Francken (RAN), 82/63**, passed away at Ranchi on 5 October
- + **Fr. Paul Vadakel (KER), 91/71**, passed away at Kozhikode on 8 October
- + **Fr. Joachim Dungdung (RAN), 73/48**, passed away at Mandar on 19 October
- + **Mr. Hyginus Rozario**, brother of Fr. Oscar Rozario, passed away on 22 October
- + **Mrs. Anna D'Souza**, mother of Fr. Tony V, passed away on 24 October

