

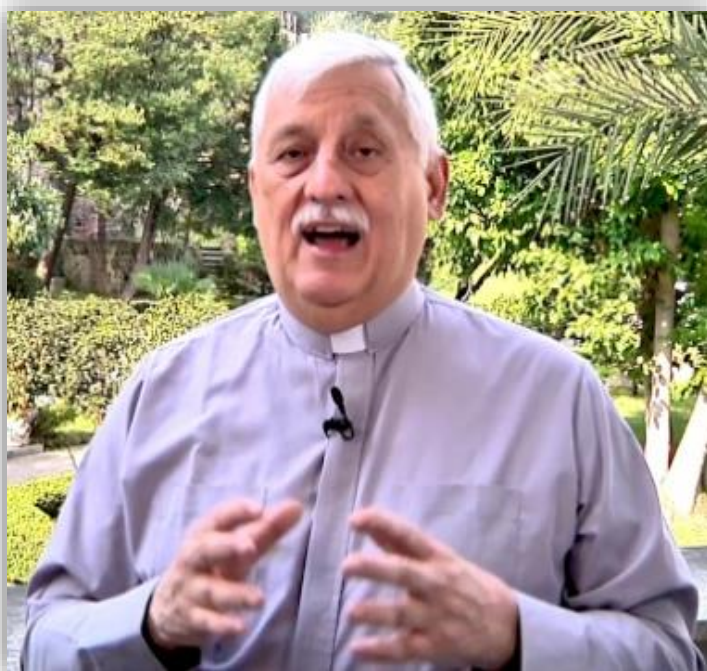


FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

JESUIT CONFERENCE OF SOUTH ASIA October 26-29, 2020

In the midst of encircling gloom of the pandemic we began our JCSA online meeting on the 26th of October 2020. Fr. Stany, the new POSA, presented a brief ATR and instructed us to continue with great hope in the midst of growing political hostility and the pandemic. Among all other topics discussed in this JCSA online meeting, I would like to highlight some of the points of Fr. General's talk about vocation promotion and Solidarity in Formation.

It was a privilege for the Major Superiors to listen to Fr. General for an hour and a half. He gave an erudite in-put on Vocation Promotion, a theme which he takes up with all other Conferences. How to rekindle the culture of vocation promotion, remains the key question.



He exhorted us to engage in daily prayer, devise creative ways of disseminating Ignatian vision, and make this theme a part of our conversation in the account of conscience. Fr. General encouraged the Major Superiors to play a leading role in fostering the culture of vocation promotion. He emphasized on the renewal of our life and mission, and on greater synergy that is to be found by linking vocation promotion with apostolic plans. He also indicated the possibility of inter-conference teams to share best practices and preparation of shared contents. During the time of interaction, Fr. General dwelt on the importance of vocation sustenance and the process of accompaniment. This is very significant for us in Sri Lanka and Pakistan at this juncture.

Regarding the theme of solidarity in Formation, Fr. General noted that the aim is to arrive at a global strategy for generous sharing of human and financial resources. Fr. General also pointed to some aspects of the roadmap for the Ignatian year, May 2021 to July 2022. Specific steps at the level of the General Curia and the Provinces were highlighted.

Fr. Tom Smolich, The International Director of JRS, also presented a report to the JCSA of the worldwide JRS works. He emphasized the massive humanitarian assistance provided by JRS. JRS Afghanistan is a shared vision and he made a fervent plea for effective support of personnel from South Asia. Fr. Louie Albert, country director, JRS Afghanistan in his sharing, pointed out the way six Jesuits are placed for this challenging work. JCSA's commitment to Afghanistan was not questioned at all.



Announcements

Province Apostolic Planning (PAP)

The province will be sending a document prepared by the PAP team to all communities for discussion and prayerful reflection. I would ask all the Superiors of all communities and districts to have several meetings with their members on this document prepared by the PAP team and give a feedback to the PAP team for further discussions and sharpening of the document before we present it in our Province days which we hope to have in the first week of March 2021.

Fatima Retreat House (FRH)

The FRH will be closed from November 1st to December 31st due to the prevailing situation in the country. Fr. Jeyaraj Rasaiah has stepped down from the directorship on 31st of October 2020, and an Interim Management Team (IMT) for the FRH has been appointed.

Interim Management Team - FRH

Kamal Andradi - Acting Director of FRH

Sanjeeva Fernando - Acting Treasurer of FRH and the Lewella Jesuit Community (LJC)

Lalith Fernandopulle - Minister for Arrupe House, FRH and LJC

Sivarajah Ahilaraj - In charge of making the FRH brochure for 2021

Sumeth Perera - Technical Adviser to the Interim Management Team (IMT). The above IMT will be re-organizing the FRH administration and programs for the coming year 2021.

Priestly Ordinations

Priestly ordination of **Deacon Rajitha Wass** will be on December 3rd, 2020, at 10.00 am at St. Cajetan's church, Welihena, Negombo. The Ordaining prelate will be Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond Kingsley Wickramasinghe, Bishop of Galle.

Priestly Ordinations of **Deacons Jude Deluxion and Joseph Atputharaj** will be on December 19th, 2020, at 10:00am at St. Ignatius' Church, Kallady, Dutch Bar. The ordaining prelate will be Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Bishop of Batticaloa.

Province Appointments

Fr. Jeyaraj Rasaiah: Assigned to the Jesuit Community Trincomalee. He will continue his spiritual ministries and academic work.

Bros. Patrick and Francis: Fr. General has permitted Bros. Francis and Patrick to proceed to theological studies with a view to Priestly Ordination. Soon they will be joining the Jesuit Community, Lewella to begin their two years of theological studies at the National Seminary Ampitiya.

Conference Appointments

Appointments by Fr. General

Fr. Danis Ponniah (MDU) South Zone; **Fr. Melvil Pereira (KHM)** North Zone; **Fr. Santosh Minj (HAZ)** Central Zone. Appointed by Fr General as Consultors to the President JCSA, & ex-officio convenors and chairs of their respective zones, w.e.f. 9th July, 2020.

Fr. W. K. Abranches (GUJ):

Appointed Rector, Collegio Internazionale del Gesu, letter dated 22 Aug, 2020.

JDV Pune

Fr. Ryan Rodrigues (KAR):

Appointed to JDV for M.Ph & Trial Teaching, w.e.f. 1st Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr. George Karuvelil (PAT):

Appointed to P.G. Block to continue Research work, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020. Belongs to DNC community.

Fr. Devara Joji Babu (AND):

Appointed for M.Th in Spirituality at JDV Pune, w.e.f. Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr. Francis Gonsalves (GUJ):

Appointed to reside at JDV PG Block; continue as

community member of PS, w.e.f. 3rd Aug, 2020.

Fr. Victor Sagayam SVD:

Appointed as Lecturer, Missiology Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st July, 2020.

Fr. Gregory Arokiaswamy OMI:

Appointed as Lecturer, Pastoral and Moral Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020.

ISI-Delhi

Fr. Paul D'Souza (GUJ): Appointed as Acting Superior ISI_D, Jesuit Community, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Conference

Fr. W. Keith Abranches (GUJ): Appointed as CDF w.e.f. 1st June, 2020, additional charge.

Fr. Siji Chacko (PAT): Appointed as Coordinator of Conference Secretaries w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Fr. Siji Chacko (PAT): Appointed as GIAN Ecology in-charge in the capacity of the Director-CDO (CDD), w.e.f. 1st Oct, 2020.

Studies for Conference Common Works

Fr. Sandeep Jagtap (PUN):

MA in Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan, June 2020.

Assistancy Committees

Leadership Program Team for SA:

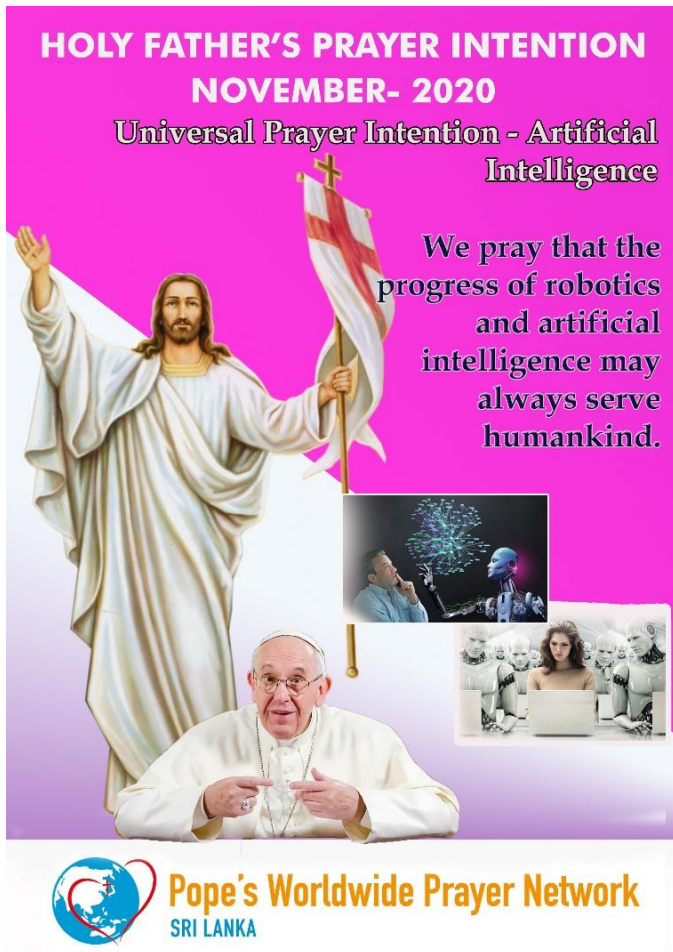
Fr. Joe Arun (Convenor), Fr. Nelson D'Silva (Joint Convenor) Fr. Joye James & Fr. Siji Chacko (Members).

Fr. Sandeep Jagtap (PUN): MA in Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan, June 2020.

Gratitude for services rendered to Common Houses & Works of South Asia

Fr. Joy Karayampuram (PAT) as Superior ISI_D (from May 2013).

Fr. Raj Irudaya (CEN) as ADF (from June 2014).



Colombo District

NOVITIATE - DAHAM SIHILA

Towards the end of September our Pakistani novice companions and juniors went for a medical check-up in order to renew their health insurance, while the few novices at home had practices for a creative mass. Indeed the creative mass is helping us a lot to learn and to grow in our creativity.

On the 3rd of October, Daham Sihila community received a new member, Deacon Jude SJ. He has joined the novitiate community as Socius to the Novice Master. However he had to spend one week



in self-quarantine and thereafter we warmly welcomed him to the novitiate community. He has already started English lessons for the novices.

From 4th to 6th of October we watched a movie on the life of St. Padre Pio followed by a movie evaluation which helped us to understand our life in formation and grow in Christ's values.

On 7th of October the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was celebrated on a grand scale. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude, devotion and love to Mary our Blessed Mother by praying the Rosary with all twenty mysteries in our own vernacular.



On 9th of October we celebrated the birthday of our co-novice Shalinda. We made his day joyful and meaningful by giving him our "positive strokes".

On 16th of October we had our day of recollection on the theme "Recognizing the presence of God". The input talks and points were given by Deacon Jude. He also preached at the mass and gave benediction in the evening adoration.



On 17th the whole community went to Kurunegala, to pay a visit to our new novitiate. It also served as our day out. On 18th October, deacon Jude left for Batticaloa for a home visit.

In the 3rd week of October we had planned to have sessions on Scriptures with Fr. Aloy Pieris at Tulana Research Center for about four days. But we actually had only two days of sessions due to the second wave of the virus.

On 25th, Sunday, we watched a film on St. John Paul II. It was an inspiring movie. It was followed by an evaluation of the movie.

Fr. Master has introduced new and additional Yoga exercises. He is also teaching us the “Prayer of Positiveness” that is to be integrated in our morning meditations.

We have now started saying masses in the vernacular on three days a week. Masses are celebrated in Sinhala, Urdu and in Tamil on Mondays, Wednesdays and on Fridays, respectively.

JUNIORATE - DAHAM SIHILA

The month of October was marked by events which kept us all alive as useful instruments of God. At the beginning of the month we were busy with the first term examination. Thereafter we began the second term following regular classes. We received the results of our exams and had discussions based on the test papers with our teachers. A block course on Social Work was conducted by Sch. Sithum Fonseka SJ from 19th to 27th of October. He made us aware of the various social problems existing in and around us and how we could respond as sensitive human

beings. It was a very profitable and captivating course to understand the value of social work and to explore possible apostolates for the future. We are grateful to Sch. Sithum for inspiring us with his presentations and entertaining us with his collection of jokes. We also had a change of offices for the new term and with the new tasks we are progressing in our journey with the Lord while attending to our studies. With the curfew restrictions on, due to COVID19, our Juniorate program too got somewhat affected but we were able to resume our classes soon with the help of modern technological means used nowadays. We began to have Zoom classes with our external teachers and are quite happy to enter into a new mode of learning. We are also delighted to have Zoom classes these days with Fr. Richard of Madurai Province on Psycho Sexual and Spiritual Integration. As we continue to pray for the tormented world affected by COVID19, we commend ourselves to your prayers.

PETER BACHMANN FOUNDATION



The children of the Peter Bachmann Foundation, celebrated Children’s day on 02nd of October 2020. This was organised by the teachers of the institute. Fr. George Fernando was the chief guest of the occasion. Bro. Patrick Fernando and Bro. Francis Fernando and many parents were present. The teachers had organised some games and activities which the children enjoyed thoroughly. They were given some gifts and refreshments at the end.

After some months of holidaying, we started our school in the month of September for the second term but due to the outbreak of covid-19, the administration decided to close the school.

Batticaloa District

LOYOLA CANDIDATES HOUSE

A vocation camp was organized from 12th to 17th October 2020 for Grade 9 to 12 students. Seven Students participated in the camp; 4 students were selected for the Loyola Candidate House and 3 other students will be promoted to the Pre-Novitiate after their A/L exams. We gratefully acknowledge Rev. Sr. Leidy for teaching them the basic prayers, Mr. Jesudasan (JWL Staff) for teaching English, Sch. Dinoshan for his motivational classes and Fr. James for his talks on Ignatian insights.



Though originally we had planned to organize the camp at Kalkudah for 15 boys from different parts of the country, we had to limit it to seven from Batticaloa District due to Covid-19. A big thank you to Fr. Paul Satkunanayagam for his inspiring homilies during Holy mass to strengthen their vocations and to Fr. Roshan who made special efforts to send JWL staff to conduct classes. Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the Society. We recruit candidates from Grade 9 to A/Level and admit them to St. Michael's National School, Batticaloa. On the last day of the camp, we had an evaluation with students and staff. The boys were



The staff of Peter Bachmann Foundation organized a farewell to Fr. Gamini Perera SJ on the 07th of October 2020: The children, the parents and the teachers were all present. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the programme was cancelled. We had a simple thanksgiving mass to remember Fr. Gamini's five years as Director, and to welcome the new Director, Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne SJ and his assistant Bro. Francis Fernando SJ. Fr. Dexter Gray SJ, Provincial of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Sujeewa Pathirana SJ, Colombo district superior and Fr. George Fernando SJ, Treasurer of the Province, were present for the occasion. The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Gamini.



Fr. Dexter thanked the former director Fr. Gamini for his magnanimous services to the Peter Bachmann Foundation during the last five years and officially announced Fr. Ranjan as the new director and Bro. Francis as his assistant. On the same day we celebrated Teachers' Day to appreciate the services rendered by our teachers to the children and the institute. They were awarded tokens of appreciation.

delighted to learn English, to get introduced to Jesuit life and learn the art of living together.

The candidates have now gone home for their holidays. Two boys will come back to continue their studies as candidates once the school is reopened. The third boy, Shoban, has just completed his A/L exams; after 15 days of home visit he will come back to Loyola Candidates' House to continue his formation before going to the Pre-novitiate. Due to Covid-19, we are unable to plan the exact dates of the program.

On 2nd of October 2020, on the feast of Christ the King, Fr. James conducted vespers service for the staff and nurses of the Government General hospital, Batticaloa at Christ the King church located in the Hospital premises. More than 150 people, involved in the medical field, participated in the service.

On 4th October 2020, Fr. James was the main celebrant for the feast of St. Anthony of Padua at Thalankudah. He preached an inspiring homily on inter-religious harmony. On 20th October, he went to preach a day of recollection to the Franciscan Brothers at Kurukkalmadam.

On 24th and 25th October 2020, Fr. James was invited to conduct the Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday evening and celebrate the festive mass on the following day at Infant Jesus church, Thandiyadi.



resumed, but the authorities have asked all schools and private educational institutes to stop having classes from the first week of October. Fortunately, our students had been given access to LMS and the JWL App but only a few are taking advantage of these aids due to lack of devices and internet connection. The three students who are in Learning Facilitators Course are doing well so far and so is our BA-SD student despite the challenges.



ESTERN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the ETI was closed from 12th October 2020 for the third time in this academic year 2020. Only the staff members are coming these days to complete the pending work. Field work and visits have been suspended due to covid-19.

LOYOLA CAMPUS

This month has once again filled the country with anguish as a new wave of the Pandemic strikes. It is affecting our center once again. Classes were

We were able to conduct a Teachers' Day celebration for the staff of both Loyola Campus and Arrupe College. It was greatly appreciated by all. Our director has encouraged us to monitor the students as much as possible and to use the time wisely in the center. Meanwhile our staff used their free time to clean up the premises and plant new trees. At the same time teachers have found this time useful for their own intellectual nourishment. Currently there is no news of when the schools and centers will be allowed to re-open, but until then we at Loyola Campus are keeping our hopes high and wait for further instructions from the given authorities.

KALKUDAH ESTATE

The North - East monsoon rains normally begin in October. But we have had only a few occasional showers. Given this situation, adding fertilizer to the coconut palms in the Kalkudah Estate is in progress at a slow pace. Apart from this, short term crops are being planted in the estate to make use of the available resources profitably.

RAINBOW KIDS CAMPUS

Due to covid-19, the activities of the Rainbow Kids' Campus are temporarily suspended in accordance with the directives of the health department authorities.

PADRE PIO AYURVEDIC MEDICAL CENTER

Herbal gardening around the medical centre is in progress anticipating the inauguration of the centre with the dawn of the new year, 2021.

Vavuniya District

JESUIT COMMUNITY

Deacon Atputha arrived from Nairobi on the 6th of September 2020 and had two weeks of quarantine in Anuradhapura. With his arrival, the three member community began to experience a more formal Jesuit Community life in Vavuniya. Deacon Atputha has been appointed Treasurer of the community and Sch. Shehan, Minister. A regular community meeting has been fixed to take place on the last Friday of every month. The accounts of the current month are to be submitted by the minister and a budget is planned for the coming months. Adoration will be on the first Monday and community sharing and villa on Sundays. UAP, PAP, and the DAP (District Apostolic Planning) are discussed every Sunday before the mini budget and villa.



The community is named Vavuniya JESCOM. Value education seminars and workshops are to be conducted in parishes and schools for the parish leaders and school prefects and monitors. A folder has been designed by the community with necessary information. Fr. Benny explained the nature of the program at the deanery meeting that was held on 21st October 2020.



Sch. Shehan started going to Medavachchiya parish for his Sunday ministry. He trains the choir, preaches in the main church and in the substations. The past students of Loyola Campus are regularly coming and collecting their certificates.

Deacon Atputha has been using visual Communication effects for advertisements and for the visibility of Loyola campus. The parlour now creates a new atmosphere on the campus with the visual effects.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF JRSS

JRSS identified 126 deserving families in July 2020 and visited the families to look into the feasibility of rearing country chicken in their home gardens. As a second phase, the organization conducted a seminar on country chicken facilitated by government professionals such as veterinary doctors, livelihood development officers and self-employment guides. Thirdly, the organization distributed country chicks to 126 families in 6 districts in September and October 2020.



Based on the field level intervention, JRSS wants to initiate a farm for cultivation and a poultry project to have greater impact. Fortunately understanding the organization's need, the Bishop of Mannar has given a piece of land (0.75 acre) in Vavuniya for the project. The management staff started off by putting up a shed to have 200 country chicks.

Trincomalee District

PRE-NOVITIATE

The time has come for us to welcome our new pre novices and we are also preparing the house for them. Looking at the country's situation, we are uncertain as to what would happen in the coming weeks and months. However, the pre-novitiate director and the community members are waiting

for the new batch of pre novices. We congratulate Sch. Arulseeelan for getting his driving license successfully.

It was a very good move that our Trinco community had a meeting on Education and its policy, guided by Fr. C. P. Rajendram on 25th of October. All the community members participated in the meeting and had a fruitful sharing session.

LOYOLA CAMPUS

Due to covid-19, we had to close down the center and the usual activities for the time being, until the situation becomes normal. These days we don't have English classes in our center but one or two students who are doing Learning Facilitator online course, come to our center and spend two to three hours and do their online assignments. As these students cannot afford to have internet facilities in their homes, they make use of those facilities available at our center.

Fr. Robert, the director of the campus, Sch. Arulseeelan and all the staff members had a short meeting on 30th of October. The discussion was on starting an online Google class and zoom teaching method for the present and new batches, with the consultation of the staff members at Loyola Campus Trincomalee, so that we can have a fruitful groundwork as a team for the next A/L batch. Most of the staff members agreed upon our proposal to have a three day workshop for the staff so that they can improvise their online google classroom and Zoom meeting for the preparation of the students. We have installed a new name board for Loyola Campus next to our gate which is very clear and visible for all the people who pass by our campus.

Kandy District

CSC LOYOLA CAMPUS – HATTON

International Children's day:

On 1st of October around 90 children from 9 estates gathered at CSC centre for the International Children's Day celebration. The theme of this year,

‘investing in the future means investing in the children’ was explained to the children. They were made aware of how their world of home, school, friends, media and play, shape their personality. The students shared their experiences of their world after viewing appropriate video clips. After lunch the students had fun games. **Sch. Nimesh** entertained the children with his musical talents which the students greatly appreciated.



Teachers’ Day Celebration:

On 10th October, CSC staff celebrated teachers’ day at CSC centre. The staff members thanked God for the opportunities they had to educate the estate children through seven preschools and nine Complementary Educational Centres and three tailoring centres. They asked for God’s blessings upon them and their children.

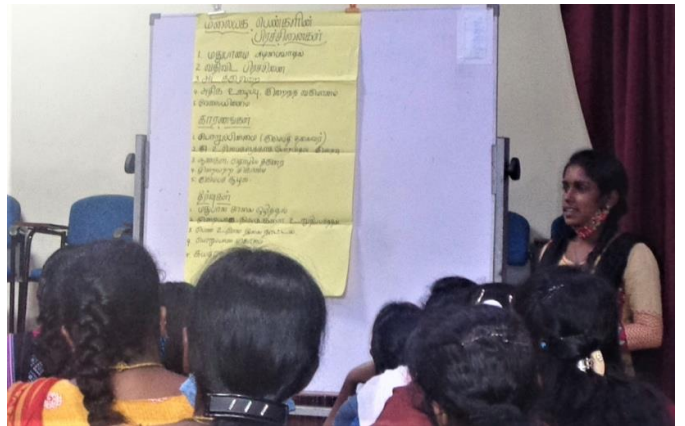
The staff enthusiastically participated in a debate, and the theme was “Who are more responsible for good education: teachers or parents or students?” Two of our Loyola Campus staff cooked briyani and before and after the delicious dinner, the staff had fun games, cultural programmes and distribution of prizes. Sch. Nimesh conducted the fun games and Ms. Yogitha organized the whole event.

General observation is that CSC staff are spontaneous, enthusiastic and committed but they lack motivation to search for knowledge and need to grow in right management of time and apt methodology of teaching.

Workshop on Gender Awareness:



On 18th October, about thirty estate women participated in a workshop on the issues that affect the plantation women. Addiction to alcohol by the men, appalling living conditions at the line rooms, exploitation of labour with low wages in the tea plantations, unemployment of youth and oppression of women at home and the work place were the major issues identified by the participants.



Self employment programmes. De-addiction programmes, women empowerment programmes, lobbying and networking to obtain justice and equality for the plantation community from the government and the estate management were proposed to end the agony of the plantation women. CSC organized this workshop to have appropriate project proposals for them in the future.

Children’s Day Celebration:

Every year CSC preschools organize creative events to commemorate International Children’s day. This year the celebrations were as follows:



The children of Tientsin and Veli Oya organized an exhibition while those at Diyagala had a nutrition awareness demonstration. A program of interaction between children and their parents were held at St. Aubins and Lonak. The children of Hallowela enjoyed a Fancy Dress Competition, and those at Mount Jean received a cap and a bouquet of flowers as a gesture of honor on the International Children's day.

Children's Day Competitions:

Due to the corona pandemic, CSC conducted all the individual competitions such as copy writing, drawing, speech, Thirukural recitation and essay writing in the respective estates and all the group competitions such as song, drama and dance at CSC centre.



On 24th of October, the staff reflected on the ideals of International children's day with competitions conducted for the children. The staff were happy that the children who did not get an opportunity in their government schools, were made aware of gender, caste, exploitation and alcoholism through those competitions.

The Impact of the Corona Pandemic:

CSC Loyola Campus declared holidays on 7th October and hoped to reopen the centre as early as possible.

During the holidays, the staff came together for training themselves on Global English Language. Since the spread of Covid19 continues, we have started online classes for the students from 20th October. Our plan to have a certificate awarding ceremony is postponed and our staff are at their desk preparing certificates for them. They distributed some handbills to the AL students as they were coming out of the exam hall, as part of a recruitment strategy for the next batch.



CYTC - CHOLANKANDA

Fr. Peter's farewell took place on 22nd of September 2020. All staff members of Cholankanda Youth Training Centre (CYTC) were present to express their sincere thanks to Fr. Peter for the contribution he has made to CYTC for the past seven years as Director. Fr. Ranjan, Principal of the Institute, delivered the opening speech appreciating Fr. Peter's service for the CYTC and introduced the new director Fr. Christian Perera. Mr. Nawarathne, the chief Instructor of the Motor Mechanical Section also expressed his appreciation for the praiseworthy service rendered by Fr. Peter during his tenure as Director. Mrs. Mariano, the retired English teacher of CYTC, known to many alumni of the institute, also attended the farewell.

Fr. Anton Pieris paid a visit along with Fr. Gamini Perera, Mr. Mervin and Mr. Susil on 27th of September 2020. On the 11th of October 2020, Fr. Anton joined the CYTC community to assist the director.

The old boys of CYTC Mr. Ranil Hemantha and Mr. Wijekumar paid a visit to CYTC to express their gratitude.

Frs. Anton and Christian paid a courtesy call to His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy on 13th of October. They also went to Satyodaya to pay a visit to Fr. Kamal Andradi, Superior of the Kandy District.

Frs. Anton and Christian began taking inventories of each section. They have completed the inventory of the Motor Mechanic Section with the help of the main Instructor Mr. Nawarathna and his assistant Mr. Adil.

The theoretical and practical documents necessary for the Quality Management Systems (QMS), a prerequisite for the registration of the Centre by the Tertiary Vocational & Education Commission (TVEC) were completed with great satisfaction. Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne as Principal started the process which was completed by 29th of October with the help of the staff members of each section. The Office of the CYTC and the Computer Section played an important role in compiling the necessary documents.

On the 8th of October, the Motor Mechanic Section was closed down in keeping with the government issued Covid-19 related guidelines.

Angel, the daughter of CYTC driver Mr. Rayappan got married at the beginning of October. While Fr. Aniston was the main celebrant, Frs. Peter, Ranjan, Tharanga and Christian also attended the wedding mass.

Due to COVID-19, the attendance at CYTC dropped drastically. The parents too were not eager to send their children, so the attendance now is zero. The staff members come every day to report for work and are busy preparing the syllabuses for the coming year. If the situation improves, it will be an uphill task to start the new academic year with the new entrants. In the meantime, Fr. Christian is busy looking into the maintenance and repairs of the office building and class rooms. Among the urgent needs, the centre requires a good telephone system. The Telecom services have given us hopes for a new service in the new year, and if everything goes well a Fibre-optic system would be a possibility.

SATYODAYA

COVID-19, the Poor and Satyodaya Educational Programme:



During the time from March to July this year, Satyodaya did not have any field work. COVID-19 kept us home bound. Our being away from people for months, was our worst experience. However, we were able to maintain communications with our people until we resumed work in August.

We were all happy to get back our fieldwork relating to an annual plan that lay rolled up in the office for some time. We thought of working on our Educational Programme that we intended implementing in the plantations and villages. Unfortunately, the shadows of COVID-19 have begun to haunt us more and more everywhere especially in our work places. The terrifying situation has forced us again to halt our work.

We have not forgotten that ours is an organization meant to educate and organize communities against whatever difficulty we face. Hence, at this critical juncture, Satyodaya team members try their best to make people aware of how they could safeguard their families while dealing with the matters relating to day to day life. It is our observation that the situation of COVID-19 has been hard on the poor sometimes and even extremely harsh on them.



When it comes to the education of the children in poor families, the COVID-19 has come as a huge barrier. Many scholars in our country suggest that we need to prepare our children at home to study online which is not at all possible in the plantation sector and in many rural areas. We see that the vast majority of children in the plantation sector lack necessary technical tools such as computers, internet and other electronic devices, besides they do not have a conducive learning environment at home. One might argue that studying online can be done with just a smartphone. Since the ground situation is well known to us, we are of a different opinion. Even though the plantation sector children have smart phones it would not be supportive to their educational process. The fact is that these worker communities are poor not only in terms of money but also in the ability of motivating their children in education. Further, many sophisticated technical tools are still unknown to these people and the modern terms of “Smart Living” or “Smart Education” are mere words to them. So, COVID-19 may lock the poor up altogether. As its focal point, Satyodaya always pays more attention to the educational life of the disadvantaged plantation sector children.

By taking the above matters into consideration, Satyodaya has launched an alternative program to introduce activities within the family to bring educational relief to its beneficiary children. *(Please see photographs)* During the last three months (August to October 2020) we met our children in all

the children’s clubs with their parents and had lengthy discussions on workable plans for an alternative way of educating them at home. Arrangements were made to make use of the Home Study Corners that were introduced by Satyodaya, more effectively. The parents were requested to be vigilant and see if their children are properly attending to home studies. The parents took the responsibility to keep in touch with Satyodaya team and the teachers who support Satyodaya programmes. The teachers are ready to help and guide the children whenever they need it. Simple timetables for home studies were introduced. Raising questions and asking for clarifications could be done by the children over the phone.



It is not essential to have a smart phone. Satyodaya team members frequently do the necessary coordination among the children, parents and teachers in this activity.

We all are at home, but the desired outcome is obtained through being faithful to the arranged activities. Satyodaya plays the role of a facilitator and it seems to be working well. The main expectation of this particular activity is to help the poor and disadvantaged children to lessen their burdens to a certain extent by getting them engaged in something useful in a lockdown period. Satyodaya caters to about 400 children through its Educational Programme.

Nairobi - Kenya

NEWS FROM KAKUMA

During my long awaited break from the Kakuma Operations, I enjoyed my Directed Retreat, the Safari to the Masai Marah sanctuary and the company of the Jesuits in Nairobi. I celebrated several masses with FMM Sisters and at Kangemi, Adams Parishes especially on World Day of Migrants and Refugees. I also met some Sri Lankan friends and had delicious lunches with *pol sambol, dry fish, pickles and ambul thial*.

When I was getting ready to fly back to Kakuma with a Covid19 test at the IOM (International Organization for Migration), I was tested positive and the whole drama unfolded.

The IOM authorities insisted that I should be admitted to hospital because of my diabetic condition. Peter, my Jesuit Superior of the Loyola Community, became a pillar of strength. He contacted the House Doctor, Dr. Ajee a consultant at Nairobi Private Hospital for a second opinion. Peter took me to Dr. Ajee who directed us to Nairobi Hospital with a recommendation. The next day I was tested negative.

In keeping with the protocol, I was tested once again by the IOM. The result turned out positive and I was asked to self-quarantine for a period of one week. A test was repeated at the IOM and the result was positive again. Then the House Doctor directed me to another leading hospital named Nairobi West Hospital which is renowned for performing Covid19 tests for international travel. There I tested negative.

With that certificate I travelled back to Kakuma. Maintaining the protocol, after ten days in quarantine, I had to do the Covid19 test again at the IOM branch in Kakuma and eight people had tested positive including me. Now I was in a dilemma and confusion.

It was again my superior who came to my rescue. He connected me to Dr. Joanna an expert from the

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) who is a good friend of Fr. Fuda, the Treasurer of the Province. Dr. Joanna called me and gave me a full understanding of the symptoms of the disease, the genetic dimensions of the virus, various methods of testing and the reputation of the Nairobi Hospital together with the Ministry of Health.

At the end she said, “Fr. just forget everything. This is flushing out the different parts of the virus. Neither are you infected nor infectious. The Period of time is your best advocate”. With that I was free from all anxiety, worries and fears.

Yes, I had the grace-filled opportunity to go through the pain, anxiety and uncertainty most covid19 patients may be experiencing.

I am so grateful to Peter my superior and the Jesuit companions in Loyola, Tom & David from Rome, Andre & Michael from JRS Nairobi, Fr. Bill and my colleagues from Kakuma for being with me in those moments of uncertainty. After the prescribed quarantine and the great ordeal I resumed my work.

THE GREATEST BLESSING through a Death of a Colleague of LWF



Isaiah, the Protection Data Entry Officer LWF had a tragic death in a car accident. LWF staff were shocked and were in pain.



Isaiah was a devout Catholic from Lodwar at our Lutheran World Federation Cafeteria.

Last Wednesday we had the requiem mass for Isaiah with a large gathering. There were many from other Agencies. Anne, Benedictus and Peter from JRS were also present.

I was really missing Kakuma. On the 25th of October I was able to resume Masses in the camp.

Usually when I return to Nairobi for my break, I preach at Adam's Parish to educate the congregation on the joys and suffering of our refugees in Kakuma. On my last visit in February, after mass a certain lady, named Mary, approached me and promised to stitch altar cloths for all the eleven centres where we celebrate mass at the Kakuma Refugee camp.

On my next visit to Nairobi, I found a big box of altar cloths weighing more than 20 kilos at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Adams. They were in different liturgical colors. There were also sacred linen for all the centres. This precious gift would have cost Mary more than KSh 150,000.00.



REMEMBRANCES

NOVEMBER

01/1984	Fr. Martin D'Archangelo	86/71
02/1932	Fr. Arthue Van Kasteren	66/49
02/1949	Fr. Francis de Hert	52/34
06/1952	Fr. Ernest Bastenier	78/59
06/1976	Fr. Joseph Casalaro	84/68
07/1942	Br. Theophilus Roelandt	70/47
07/2016	Fr. Derrick Mendis	79/50
10/1955	Fr. Peter Silva	56/35
11/1949	Br. Polydore Verbrugge	79/62
16/1934	Fr. A. Marie Evard	75/48
18/1968	Fr. Joseph Morisco	74/58
25/1960	Fr. Dominic de Giorgio	60/36
26/1950	Br. Paul Bouvier	78/56
28/2012	Fr. Jacob Fernando (Jr)	71/48
29/1922	Fr. Peter Wallyn	62/43
30/1937	Fr. Albert Stache	74/57
30/1962	Fr. Gregory Van Austin	84/67
30/2008	Fr. Louis Cramer	84/65

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

NOVEMBER

03/1995	Nimesh Devthilina
07/1980	Tharanga Saminathan
09/1953	Theodore W. Fernando
10/1997	Arun R. Arudpragasam
11/1934	Guy F. Rajendram
22/1946	Joseph Anthony Pillai
23/1963	Ranjan Jayamanne
24/1943	Chryso Pieris

DECEMBER

02/1966	Ajith de Silva
10/1970	Angelo Sujeewa Pathirana
15/1991	Priyan R. Fernando
16/1983	Rashmi Madusanka Fernando
16/1996	Petras M. George
24/1975	Imran John
26/1948	Stephen Perera
27/1980	Suvakeen Roshan

NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Thursday 26th, November 2020 to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER

sociussrilanka@gmail.com