



## General Curia

Father General reconvened his “Extended Council” from 9 to 13 September in Rome. This time, four themes were on the agenda. First, the engagement among Superiors and Directors of Works with respect to shared mission. The second was the question of networking to ensure a stronger and more effective presence of the Society in the world.

The third theme reflected on the Ignatian Year that will be celebrated from May 2021 to July 2022. This will commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conversion of Saint Ignatius after being wounded in Pamplona.

Lastly, a full day of the work of the *Consiglio Allargato* was dedicated to Amazonia, as the special Synod convened by Pope Francis on the Pan-Amazon region will soon commence. It was pointed out that REPAM (Pan-Amazon Church Network) is an important instrument, broader than the Society of Jesus, to coordinate the involvement of the Church, and make heard the voice of the poor and the forgotten in the Amazon region.

(Newsletter from Rome, 25 Sept, 2019)



## Fr. Provincial's schedule: October 2019

2	Province Consult
4	REAP
7	Manor
8	Ashagad
9-10	Talasari
11	Uplat
13-14	Manmad
21-29	JCSA, Ranchi

**Notice:** We are happy to announce that the Government of Maharashtra has appointed **Fr. Francis Swamy** as Educational Expert on the State Board of Education. Congratulations Swamy! We are proud of you.

## Two programs on Ignatian Spirituality At De Nobili College, Pune

### 1. Ignatian Principles for Priestly

**Ministry: (5 – 20 Dec. 2019)** This two week program offers young Jesuit priests an in-depth understanding of specific Ignatian Principles helpful for their own identity and priestly ministry.

### 2. Ignatian Sources: (5 Jan – 15 March, 2020)

The 10 week program on Ignatian Sources will primarily focus on the fundamental texts that constitute Ignatian Spirituality and ends with an 8 day retreat.

For further details, please contact Fr. Francis Pudhicherry [francisgeorgep@gmail.com](mailto:francisgeorgep@gmail.com)

**Errata:** The correct mobile number of **Kenneth D'Souza** is **9881853871**

As part of its sesquicentennial (150th year) celebrations, St. Xavier's College is hosting a national research seminar titled, "**Jesuit Initiatives in Higher Education in South Asia**", from 20th to 21st November, 2019. The aim of the seminar is to highlight efforts of the Society from the 16th century till today in imparting quality formation at higher and specialized levels of institutionalized or formal education in South Asia. Jesuits are most welcome to attend. Feel free to invite others too who may be interested in this theme.

**Keith D'Souza**

### WHAT DO YOU SEE ?

A retreat for the staff of Jesuit institutions was organized by Jesuit School Board at Vinayalaya, from 16 – 18 August. Guided by Fr. Charles Rodrigues we were asked to spend time reflecting on the Bible passages given to us. This time of silent reflection was indeed very important for us teachers, to rethink our vocation and our duty towards the young minds entrusted to us. It helped us assess our own thoughts, feelings and our roles in the institution. Group discussions and sharing by the various schools helped us get a better understanding of the perspective of the other school teachers.



The main theme of the retreat was the question 'What do you see?' A question which made us reflect on the present scenario in our locality, city, country and the world at large.

In keeping with the theme we were introduced to the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) which will be the focus in all the Jesuit institutions. They are

- Caring for our common home
- Promoting the spiritual exercises
- Journeying with the Youth
- Walking with the Poor

Fr Gerard Rodrigues enlightened us on important environmental issues and urged us to care for creation. He spoke on our greed and craving for more "Do I really need this" was the essential question we were asked to reflect on. Being a Science teacher I was intrigued by the concept of Environmental Footprint. We were told that the making of a single T shirt consumed nearly 2700 liters of water.

The sessions by Br Tommy gave us an insight into his work in Afghanistan with the Hazara tribe. Through 'Spiritual conversations', Fr. John Cyriac focused on our role in implementing the UAP. He urged us to practice 'Intentional speaking and attentive listening'. He also conducted a session on 'Journeying with the youth'. As teachers we were called to challenge the youth to develop critical thinking skills which would be done through the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) method in our daily teaching.

We left Vinayalaya feeling restless, with a lot of questions answered and a few unanswered, rethinking our role as Jesuit educators, but with a ray of hope, fortified with the Ignatian spirit to make a difference in the lives of our students. We are grateful to Fr. Francis Swamy for organizing this retreat.

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

### Juniorate Buzz

These initial months in the Juniorate have been buzzing with a lot of activity for us juniors here at Vinayalaya. We began the year working on ourselves and on our interactions with the broader group. We did this through a course called '**Self Awareness through Creative Art**' by Dr. Evelet Sequeira. In the days that followed, amidst studies we enjoyed ourselves competing in the **football tournaments** held at XIE, Mahim and Holy Family parish, Andheri. We may not have won the tournament but we definitely did win many hearts.

The recent month has kept us busy with a lot of assignments, the most important one being preparing and **delivering our homilies** (at mass and in class). Courses like **Critical Thinking & Inquiry** by Fr. Jeevan Mendonca and **Pastoral Skills** by Mr. Adrian Rosario have really been a great help for all of us especially in our ministries.



Courses on **Art Appreciation** by Fr. Wendell D'Cruz & Vijay Gonsalves & **Psycho-Spiritual-Sexual Integration** by Fr. Dudley Mendonca, have helped us get onto the path of being more integrated persons. We had our annual **pilgrimage to the Mount** where we poured out our hearts in devotion to Our Lady by our melodious singing in the choir for the Holy Eucharist. In a few days from now we will have classes by Sr. Sagaya on crucial topics for our time – **Gender Inclusiveness, POCSO awareness, Ills like Pedophilia, etc.**

With the Continuous Assessments on, each junior has his head buried in his books. To cool off a bit, we have begun our **Swimming course** in the Holy Family School swimming pool. The weekend is spent in our Pastoral ministry at St Michael Church, Manickpur, involving ourselves in parish activities.

Truly the buzz never ends, and life here at Vinayalaya has picked up with 5G Speed.

- **Joshua D'Souza & Seby Varghese**

### SPRING OFFENSIVE

Although the term Spring Offensive refers to the attacks by the Taliban on the government in Afghanistan, the poem deals with the hope that the children place in education. In a land where there is little scope for girl child education, the poem highlights the risks young girls take in overcoming tradition and cultural norms by going to JRS centres of education. The poem talks about education as the only alternative to end conflict.

The cold and dreary days are over,  
Winter has beat a hasty retreat,  
The trees are planning a green cover  
As the snow lies defeated in the street.

The bukharis\* have been oiled and put aside,  
Threadbare carpets dry out in the sun,  
The ice-cream vendor struts with pride,  
And young boys can be seen having fun.  
(\*coal heaters)

And young boys can be seen having fun,  
Chasing each other from shop to shop,  
As each aspires for a different toy-gun,  
Will these war-games never stop?

Will these war-games never stop?  
In Russia, Qatar and the US of A.  
Leaders and warlords debating non-stop,  
While the nation lies in disarray.

In a small camp in down-town Kabul,  
Many young girls set out to school,  
Shy, timid and apprehensive,  
They've begun the Spring Offensive.

They've begun the Spring Offensive  
Against Illiteracy and ignorance,  
Determined, resolute, not defensive,  
To give peace a realistic chance.

With shawl-covered heads,  
And demeanour pensive,  
They gaze ahead,  
Towards a future evasive.

Their paths paved with taunts and insults,  
As they set out to overcome tradition,  
Convincing angry and suspicious adults,  
Has become their foremost ambition.

How far can they go?  
When will it end?  
As long as it takes, they smile,  
Till we get peace in our land.

In schools all over the land  
With books and pens in hand,  
Children dream of peace in their lifetime,  
They've begun the Spring Offensive.

**Thomas Vaz**

### Jesuits and Agriculture

Joel Noronha has been making waves in the agro-marketing field. Two projects presented by him and a team of fellow students won national level awards.

1. First prize at the National level Business Plan Competition among the Indian B-Schools, held at MANAGE (National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad - An Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India) on 16th August.

The Business Plan was prepared on *Mahua Nutribar*, first of its kind of product in the market, as an 'on-the-go' 'Meal Replacer' for a target segment of busy-working professionals in Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities.



2. First prize at the National level Social Idea Competition among the Indian B-Schools, held at IRMA (Institute of Rural Management Anand) on 7th September. The idea was based on NTFP-based (Non Timber Forest Products) business model for livelihood creation and income generation for tribals throughout the year. The Model was named TESEED - the Tribal Entrepreneurial Socio-Economic and Environmental Development. It was based on a two-pronged strategy - sustainable sourcing and procurement practice by the tribals on the one hand and identification of a product gap and market potential that can be catered to by the NTFP in urban markets on the other.

Congratulations Joel. Way to go!

At the other end of the age spectrum, we congratulate Fr. George Gispert-Sauch. His article Spirituality of the Upanishads has been published in the book, 'Spirituality through Interreligious Experience', edited by Xavier Tharamel.

## Tara News

Although the Jesuit personnel in Tara have been going down steadily and we are now down to only two, the main works have been continued. The supplementary classes, herbal promotion work, assisting villagers in getting their benefits ... all of this continues. With Savio having gone to Spain the average age has gone up considerably. With Jacob's persistence we managed to get the compensation for the land. Despite further difficulties the wall work has progressed quite a bit.

Renovation of rooms has been done. Now we have 8 rooms with attached bathrooms. This we hope will boost the work of exposure to groups and thereby build bridges of understanding between our friends in the city and the villages. Once again, Jacob has played a major role in this. **Please note our place is available for small groups for exposure programs, retreats or even a short break.**

Abhay has been discerned to be part of the Asian Ecclesial Team of Marriage Encounter. Along with a couple he will have to coordinate the efforts of the Asian countries involved in Marriage Encounter.

➤ **Jacob and Abhay**

## **Ecce quam bonum!**

A suggestion from one of the community of St. Peters Church and supported by all, landed us at Arupe Nivas on 23<sup>rd</sup> September just to meet and interact with the inmates of our second Infirmary at St. Mary's Mazagaon.

It was indeed a great feeling for all. To make it eventful, the community of St. Marys too joined us. The Sister in charge, Sr. Oswin f.c. and the workers were also there. And of course, so too was our own George Rosario, whose tireless efforts made the Infirmary a reality. He continues to coordinate the daily routine of the workers to make sure our sick and elderly brethren are

inmates are well looked after. The accompanying photograph bears witness to the good time we all had.



This was the first time an entire community visited Arrupe Niwas and the general feeling was that this is the first of similar visits that will take place. Indeed an 'Ecce quam bonum' feeling.

✓ **Tony V**

## **In Christ's Peace**

+ Fr. Alphonsus D'Souza (KHM) 78/62, passed away at Guwahati on 6 September

+ Fr. Edward Anthony (MDU) 83/62, passed away at Madurai on 10 September

