



Number 734

October 2020

## Provincial's Desk

As you are well aware, urged by the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) declared By Fr. General in 2019, each Province, having gone through the REGAE process, is expected to come up with its unique Province Apostolic Planning (PAP). In our last Province Days held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019 at Manresa, Batticaloa, the congregation appointed Frs. Benedict Savarimuthu, Thushara Sampath and Rashmi Fernando as the members of the Province Apostolic Planning Team (PAP Team). Moreover, as a means of orienting the entire Province towards the UAPs through Spiritual Conversation, all superiors and directors of works gathered at Fatima Retreat House (FRH), Lewelle, Kandy on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020 for the two-day workshop on "Spiritual Conversation and UAPs" under the guidance and expertise of Fr. George Pattery, SJ (CAL), the Provincial of South Asia (POSA).

The PAP team, having met several times since then, had gone through the Province Discernment Document (2009), the Province Visioning Committee Report (2012) and the Province Planning (2014), and they have come up with the Road Map of the PAP keeping in mind the time constraints and the deadlines to meet sooner or later in 2021. Moreover, in his letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Fr. General himself had asked the Province to hasten the Province Apostolic Planning in the light of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. Keeping this content in the background, the Superiors will be meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October with the consultants to hasten the Province Apostolic Planning.

## New Appointments

**Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne** - New director of **Peter Bachmann Foundation** (PBF) Effective from 01<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Bro. Francis Fernando will assist Fr. Ranjan at PBF.

**Fr. George Fernando** - Minister of the Curia community, effective from 01<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Gabriel Alfreds for shouldering this responsibility until now.

**Fr. Gabriel Alfreds** - Parish Priest of St. Lawrence church Padinawella, effective from 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Fr. Lasantha De Abrew** - New Project Director of JRS Kakuma Operations Kenya, appointed by the Provincial of the Eastern Africa Province.

## Announcements

- Fr. General in his letter dated 01<sup>st</sup> October 2020, has transcribed Fr. Anton Robert to the Province of Sri Lanka from Madurai Province.
- Fr. General in his letter dated 01<sup>st</sup> October 2020, has permitted Bro. Patrick Fernando to proceed to Theological studies with a view to priestly ordination.

## **St. Xavier Candidate House, Akkarapanaha, Negombo**

The month of September was filled with several activities which kept us quite busy. This year four young men have joined the candidates' house to pursue their Advanced Level studies at Maris Stella College, Negombo. Altogether there are sixteen candidates with us at present and among them four are preparing for their Advanced Level exam in this month. Kindly remember them in your prayers.

The director of the candidates' house is attending to several matters of the house and of the pre-school at Kandawala apart from making contacts with possible candidates and visiting them too in their homes.

## **Children's Day Programme at St. Francis Xavier Pre-School Kandawala**



In line with its motto "To Make a Better World for Everyone" St. Francis Xavier Pre-school, Kandawala celebrated World Children's Day on 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 a day prior to the day proper as full moon Poya fell on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2020. The programme was organized by the teachers of the school and it was a kind of sports meet in which the kids participated in several outdoor games.

The surroundings of the school looked colorful and fascinating. The theme of decorations was the Disney World, and from the main entrance everything was arranged in line with the theme. A collective effort and tireless work of the teachers,

for nearly two weeks, with the help and guidance of the director Fr. Thushara Sampath SJ, brought beauty and success to the programme.



The children were trained to participate in the games, and most of the games were played in teams that gave encouragement to the kids to work together. The games were also intended to help them to be persevering and enduring, and the kids who were watching the games were encouraged to appreciate the performance of the participants.

The parents of the children were so enthusiastic that they supported the staff with their own creativity, labour and material help to make the programme successful. Some parents with their creative talents made a colourful arch at the entrance to the school while some others provided with expensive tents.



The chief guest was Bro. Patrick Fernando, who graced the occasion with his presence, and Bro. Rajitha Waas, our Jesuit Deacon, soon to be ordained a priest was the guest of honour. Bro.

Francis, Frs. Leon, Aloy Vanderwal, Sujeewa, George, and the two Scholastics Randil and Arun also graced the occasion with their encouraging presence. Rev. Fathers and Brothers were supportive by being present with joyful hearts and cheerful spirits despite the inconvenience caused by the sporadic rains.



A group of children welcomed the chief guest, the guest of honour and other invitees by crowning each one with a handmade crown. Thereafter all the children too were crowned by their respective class teachers and welcomed to the programme.



The National flag, the school flag and the flag of the Catholic Church were hoisted by the Chief guest, the guest of honour and Bro. Francis respectively. Thereafter a recording of the National Anthem was played. Invoking the blessings of the Holy Spirit and respecting the Sri Lankan tradition, the guests were invited to light the oil lamp.

The sports events started with the participation of the kids in some games such as filling sand into a bottle, quick eating of yoghurt, collecting toffees,

collecting flowers, slow walking, dressing up characters, hurdles and rabbit running. The winners received prizes.

The guests gave away prizes to the winners and the first part of the programme was over in two hours time. Thereafter the kids had some time for entertainment with music and dancing. They enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Every child received a pack of sweets prepared by the teachers and a delicious cupcake made by the teachers themselves.



After the program was over, there was an evaluation of the entire event, done by the Head Teacher of the school and all other teachers together with Fr. Thushara Sampath, the director of the School.



In the evaluation, the focus was placed on how to make St. Xavier Pre-school a successful institute for the children of the area.

## Novitiate

We second year novices went to the “Basilica of our Lady of Lanka” Tewatta, for the blessing of the sick on 30<sup>th</sup> of August. It was indeed an encouraging and enriching experience and we shared it with our first year brothers. On the same day the first years began their ministry at Shanti Nivasa, Mutuwal. Due to covid-19 restrictions, outsiders are not allowed yet to enter the premises of Shanti Nivasa. The sisters were kind enough in permitting us to begin our ministry.



According to our regular novitiate program, Fr. Master has begun the conferences and classes on the Constitutions for the novices of both years and Fr. Anthony de Mello’s sessions on spirituality for the second years. Sch. Sithum has begun to teach the first years the Autobiography of St. Ignatius of Loyola. To help them understand the life of our founder, Fr. Master chose the book “Born to fight” for table reading.

The month of September was blessed with three birthdays. Those who celebrated their birthdays were Wishal Khan, Gayashan and Jude. To make their birthdays more joyful and meaningful, with the initiative of Fr. Master, we have begun to give them a few “positive strokes” (admiring and appreciating the good qualities they possess and the gifts and talents God has blessed them with). On 16<sup>th</sup> of September we celebrated the birthday of our sub-minister Sch. Sithum. The same day one of our junior brothers Danish Khokhar too celebrated his birthday. We had the Holy Eucharist together with the juniors in our novitiate chapel, and it was celebrated by Fr. Tharanga.

On 16<sup>th</sup> of September Sch. Sithum left for Trincomalee to sit for the philosophy final exam and returned to the novitiate on 27<sup>th</sup> September.



We have started having “creative mass” in the novitiate on Saturdays. Three groups have been formed to take responsibility in organizing the “creative mass”. Each group has done its best with great interest. Our creativity, commitment and our efforts were highly appreciated by Fr. Master. Soon we would begin our masses in vernacular (in Urdu, Sinhala and Tamil). As a preparation, we have been practicing the responses and hymns during the past few weeks. Wearing a black and white outfit for mass has become the custom in the novitiate.

Two of our novices; Raheel and Delaxan got their ankles twisted while playing basketball, and are now receiving ayurvedic treatment. One of our second year novices, Wishal Khan whose hand got burnt in January this year, had a hypertrophied scar in his hand. He was advised by the doctors to undergo a surgery, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September the surgery was done at Asiri central hospital and now he is convalescing.

On 12<sup>th</sup> of September we were invited by the sisters of “Our Lady of the Eucharist”, to the silver jubilee of one of their sisters held in the church of “Our Lady of the Rosary”, Ragala, Nuwara Eliya. Delaxan and Bilal, representing the novices, attended the ceremony accompanied by Fr. Master.

On 18<sup>th</sup> of September we had a day of recollection conducted by Fr. Master and the theme was “Our Vocation”. For the first years it was their first day of recollection and Fr. Master preached at length to help us understand more deeply the value and the mystery of our vocation.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of September we went to the BMICH in Colombo for the International Book Fair. It was

our day of outing as well. We spent some time visiting several book stalls. After taking lunch we went to St. Lucia's Cathedral Kotahena to see the relics of the saints. From there we went to Galle face and enjoyed a pleasant evening and saw the flag lowering ceremony at the sunset. We are grateful to Fr. Master for allowing us to have this wonderful day out.



On 27<sup>th</sup> of September, novices Wishal Khan and Jude went to Koralawella Moratuwa for parish ministry and returned to the novitiate on 30<sup>th</sup> September. We are eagerly waiting for the arrival of Deacon Jude, our new socius.

## Juniorate

We, juniors concluded the month of August participating in the Eco Cup Basketball tournament at Akkarapanaha on the invitation of Fr. Provincial. Nine teams took part in the tournament. It was a very encouraging opportunity for us to bring out our talents as a team. It also provided us with a golden opportunity to meet our old friends from Trincomalee, who also participated in the event.

A community meeting was held in the first week of September in which we evaluated our life in the juniorate so that we could do better in the coming months. All shared their experiences freely, and listened attentively to one another. The formators instructed us on how we form ourselves balancing freedom with responsibility according to the way of the Society.

Fr. Director came up with an insight to pay visits to the families of the juniors. The sole aim of this was to get to know more about our families and

their lives. During this month we were able to visit the families of Brian, Isuranga and Leo. The families warmly welcomed us when we visited them. Our visits were well appreciated by the members of the families. We continue to offer our prayers for their wellbeing.

On 16<sup>th</sup> of September, Daham Sihila community celebrated the birthdays of Sch. Sithum and Danish Khokhar (Junior). The whole community expressed their wishes and prayers to them. In the evening we cut the birthday cake followed by a palatable dinner. To make the evening more colorful, the juniors indulged in performing some English rap songs, which they themselves had written and composed. It was all very entertaining. The performance were well appreciated by the formators.

Our first term exams have been scheduled for the first week of October, and these days we keep ourselves busy preparing for the exams. We kindly request your prayers for our community.

## Loyola Candidate House, Batticaloa

Fr. James went to different places for promoting vocations. He visited Matale, Kochikadai-Colombo, and seven Parishes in the Diocese of Batticaloa. Up to now, thirteen boys, studying from class 9 to A/L had expressed their desire to be candidates at Loyola House, Batticaloa from the academic year 2021.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September, Fr. James conducted an evening Eucharistic adoration at St. Joseph Vaz's Church, Vibulanandapuram, in which he preached about unity as strength and the Eucharistic Lord as the symbol of unity. On 15<sup>th</sup> September, a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration was organized at the diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Ayithiyamalai for successfully celebrating their annual feast during the time of Covid-19. Fr. James presided over the Eucharistic celebration recalling various miracles protecting the parishioners during the past year. He also appreciated the faithful for their tireless works and efforts during the festival days. People were very grateful to their patron. There was a flag lowering

ceremony at the end of the Eucharistic celebration.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September, a Jesuit team meeting was organized at Loyola Candidates' House. Fr. James appreciated each one's significant contribution for the good of the candidates' house. Promotion of vocations was the main topic in the discussion, while the pressing need to have proper toilet facilities for the would-be candidates, was also highlighted during the meeting. Some thoughts and views were shared by the participants in regard to the future programs of the candidates' house.

Fr. Antonysamy, the tertian instructor stayed at Loyola Candidate House for a few days in the month of September. He gave a talk to the candidates on their day of recollection. He guided the Candidates' in their prayer and sharing. His presence was a blessing for the Candidate House and he helped them to deepen their vocation to religious life.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September, the feast of Our Lady of Good Health was celebrated at Akkaraipattu Parish. Fr. James inspired the participants to be always grateful to God by his thought-provoking sermons. The church feast was an occasion for the devotees to grow in faith and unity among themselves.

## Loyola Campus Batticaloa

We are blessed to live in one of the few countries minimally affected by the Corona Virus. Most of the offices and schools are now functioning as they did before and so is our Loyola Campus. Although this is considered to be the dry season for most of the educational centers, we have been receiving new admissions and presently we have 36 students enrolled in GEL, 7 in Learning facilitators course and 1 in BA-Sustainable Development. These 44 students are more than what we had expected to receive for this season. At the same time, our students, whose computer classes had been cancelled due to the Corona Virus restrictions, are now having their classes in small groups on weekends and have nearly completed

their course. Loyola Campus Batticaloa has also been blessed with a new staff member, Sch. Dinoshan Mark SJ. At present he is helping our students to develop their skills in public speaking.

## St. Ignatius Parish, Kallady Dutch Bar

In our parish the month of September was called the Bible month, and the HMSP sisters organized a Bible Week Mission. The recitation of the Rosary was scheduled for 5.00 am in the streets, and on every day the sisters had house visiting from 9.00 am to 12.30 am. The sisters had lunch with the families and continued with their house visiting until 4:30 pm. At 5:30 pm the people were called to the parish for the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. At 6.00 pm there was mass. Different priests were invited to preach on different topics related to the Word of God. The week ended with a half day retreat for the members of pious groups in the parish.

After the completion of the Bible week, our parishioners started the preparations for the annual feast of Annai Velankanni church. The flag hoisting took place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and the feast was celebrated on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Sahayanadan SJ was the main celebrant of the feast day mass.



## News from Hatton CSC Loyola Campus

**Final GEL exam at TTC:** Some of the students of Teacher Training College (TTC) Kotagala have been studying in the elementary level of the Global English Language (GEL) since October 2018. In the beginning the students were divided into starter and elementary levels. In January 2019 they were merged into one group since the number was dwindling. In June 2019 inspired by the graduation ceremony held for the previous batch, a few more students joined the GEL Programme and classes were held for them separately.



In February 2020, the batches of October 2018 and June 2019 were merged and the exams were expected to be held in April 2020. Due to the Corona crisis, we could conduct the exams only on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Though they spent almost two years with us, they could not complete the elementary course book partly due to Covid19 and mainly due to various commitments in their TTC programmes.

During the evaluation conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> August, some of them regretted that they did not pay much attention to the GEL programme. They also thanked Sr. Virginia and Sch. Shiran for their perseverance and commitment.

### **Training for CSC staff on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults**

The training was held on 31<sup>st</sup> of August. It had two exercises. First one was to share the experience of the staff members of their own childhood



## **Arrupe College Batticaloa**

Our students have all returned to school and the necessary safety measures were taken as recommended by the health authorities. On the third week of September, an English Poetry Recitation Contest was held. Thorough practice sessions were conducted by Mr. Anthony for several weeks. Finally, all students successfully memorized and recited their poems before a panel of two judges. Enrollment for the next year has been going on for the pre-school and for grades one and two.



from the point of view of need fulfillment. Some of those needs are physical, psychological and educational and most importantly safety from abuses. Most of them were deprived of at least one of



these needs and suffered during their childhood. This exercise helped the staff to understand the needs of the children studying at our centers especially the needs related to their safety from abuses. The second one was to share in groups the safety issues over three generations. The staff discovered that the gender inequality, poverty and the distance between school and home were major causes for abuses in all three generations. Due to lack of time, they partially completed the training and went home with a greater awareness on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

## Restarting CSC Programmes in the Estates



Corona lockdown severely affected the education of the children in the estate sector. The children in the towns had the opportunity to learn through online classes, whereas the students in the estates were deprived of not only their education but also of nutrition. Following an order from the government to restart the preschools, CSC staff resumed their classes with a good preparation on 01<sup>st</sup> of September. They cleaned the preschools and the surroundings. The parents were instructed to send their children with proper preparations.

## Motivational talk by Dr. Sasikumar

Dr. Sasikumar hails from the plantation community and is specialized in Anthropological studies from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, USA. He came home in March but now is stranded in his hometown due to the corona pandemic. It is a blessing in disguise. His life itself was an inspiration to our students. On 11<sup>th</sup> September he gave a talk on the importance of communication skills. He asked the students to focus not only on verbal communication but also on nonverbal communication. He indirectly motivated the students to make necessary changes in their behavior. He also met the staff in the afternoon and interacted on critical appraisal of the plantation community. He visited both CSS and Loyola Campus programmes and motivated our staff and students. His observations as an Anthropologist, challenge us to look at our mission in a new perspective.

## Reflection forum meeting on Parliamentary election results



On 19<sup>th</sup> September a meeting was held by the Reflection Forum on Parliamentary election results and their impact on the people of the plantation sector. Mr. Vijaya Chandren, Professor at Perad-

eniya University, Mr. Sridaran, the research assistant to Parliamentarian Mr. Palani Digamparam and Mr. Sugumaran Sivalingam, the journalist of Veera Kesari daily Tamil Magazine were the main speakers. During the meeting it was highlighted that there is no adequate representation of the up country people in the parliament due to less political planning of certain parties and the dispersion of Tamil population in the plantation districts. It was also pointed out that there is no representation either in the cabinet or in the drafting panel of the new constitution. Positively there is a greater awareness on Sri Lankan voting system and the number of parliamentarians of plantation Tamil community maintained in the parliament.

### **Training on goal setting at Lonak**



On 9<sup>th</sup> September, Ms. Yogitha gave the training to twenty tailoring women. She started the training with three motivational games which made the participants aware of their present condition regarding their goals in life. Though the women dream of higher goals in life, they are not able to achieve them due to the lack of education, poverty, fear and missing out of opportunities. Mr. Dharma, the programme coordinator of Save the Children NGO, organized the logistics and meals for the participants.

### **News from Trincomalee**

It is a month of blessings for all of us Jesuits in Trinco because of the Annual Visitation of Fr. Provincial. During our community meeting with Fr. Provincial, we had a fruitful sharing about the province as well as our Jesuit community in Trincomalee.

We were also glad to have our scholastics Arul,

Dinoshan, Solomon and Sithum in our Pre- Novitiate for about two weeks. They came to write their semester end examination conducted by Loyola College, Chennai. We congratulate them all for completing the exams successfully. We thank Fr. Robert, for accommodating and guiding our scholastics during their exams.

It is the busiest month for Fr. Robert as he was visiting all the parishes of Trincomalee diocese and meeting our CLC members to share something on Ignatius' thoughts and trying to promote CLC in some more parishes with the support of the local parish priests.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September, on the invitation of Fr. Lucky our superior, we joined the parishioners of Ganthalava church in the celebration of the church feast.

It was also our joy to take our Loyola Basketball team of Trinco for the Eco-Cup Championship held at Akkarapanaha, Negombo. It was a great experience for our boys playing with other teams outside the campus for the first time. They are not only playing in our Campus but also learning something from us Jesuits.

### **Loyola Campus Trincomalee NVQ Level 3 Accreditation - TVEC**

We are much delighted to inform you that Loyola Campus - Jesuit Academy has got the accreditation from the TVEC department for Computer Application Assistant Course. Now students can obtain an NVQ level 3 Certificate by following the Computer Application Assistant Course.


At this juncture, we must acknowledge the tireless efforts of Mr. Sajanthan, our IT staff and Mr. Diron, the Administrator and Sch. Zenith who prepared the documents efficiently and maintained the records systematically. We are proud to say that both the staff members are alumni of Loyola Campus. We would like to acknowledge Fr. Premkumar who gave permission to Miss. Guna, IT staff from Hatton, to help our center in this process. We are grateful to both of them for their

generosity and availability to help our center. We hope that this will take our center to another level.

The Loyola Campus of Trincomalee started its preparations to have the regular classes on English and Computer studies for the upcoming batch of students. Due to the change of the students' intake periods, we had several discussions regarding the arrangement of the A/L and O/L batches.

Several new ideas sprouted during those discussions and the staff members were assigned the task of identifying the Pros and Cons.


An online meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> of September for conducting a practice test for the students of the MS-Excel course that was started in September 2019. The meeting was mainly on the mock exam; instructions regarding the exam were given and also it served as a guide to prepare our MS-Excel students for the final exam.

The background of the poster features a composite image. On the left, Jesus is shown with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a brown robe. On the right, Pope Francis is shown in his white papal attire, smiling and waving. Below them, a diverse group of young people are shown smiling and waving, some holding up their phones. The text is overlaid on this background.

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER  
INTENTION  
OCTOBER- 2020**

**Prayer Intention for Evangelisation - The  
Laity's Mission in the Church.**

**We pray that by the  
virtue of baptism, the  
laity, especially  
women, may  
participate more in  
areas of  
responsibility in the  
Church.**

 **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
SRI LANKA

## REMEMBRANCES

### October

05/1980	Fr. F. X. Grasso	74/59
09/1939	Fr. J. B. de Geradon	67/49
09/1947	Br. Joseph Wright	78/58
11/1968	Br. Lambert Van Lierop	87/71
13/1985	Fr. Domenico Scaldarella	77/58
20/1938	Fr. Maurice Lemaitre	72/53
24/1965	Fr. Raymond Vandenbussche	82/63
25/1947	Fr. Julian Theisen	45/23
26/1978	Fr. Joseph Angele	76/58
31/1978	Br. Arokiam Saverimuttu	59/29

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

### NOVEMBER

03/1995 Nimesh Devthilina (Novice)  
07/1980 Tharanga Saminathan  
09/1953 Theodore W. Fernando  
10/1997 Arun R. Arudpragasam (Novice)  
11/1934 Guy F. Rajendram  
11/1978 Leo Savarimuthu (Tertian)  
12/1991 Amir Yaqoob  
22/1946 Joseph Anthony Pillai  
23/1963 Ranjan Jayamanne  
23/1993 Asim Shaukat  
24/1943 Chryso Pieris  
24/1994 Udara Madusanka  
26/1988 Dinoshan Mark  
27/1988 Chamika Nipun  
30/1946 Renato Zecchin

### OCTOBER

05/1996 Michael Croos (Junior)  
16/1944 Aloysius Vanderwall  
18/1945 Ranjith Abeyasinghe  
22/1951 Veerasan Yogeswaran  
27/1982 Emil Lucien

### NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, October 2020 to the  
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sociussrilanka@gmail.com