



General Curia

Fr. General has appointed ...

Fr. Dionysius Vaz the new Provincial of the province of Karnataka

Fr. Kizito Kiyimba the new Provincial of the province of Eastern Africa

Fr. Joseph O'Keefe the first Provincial of the newly created province of United States East

Fr. Provincial's schedule –September 2020

2	Province Consult
4	Campion CoM meeting 6 pm
7	Manor
8	Ashagad
9-10	Talasari
11	Uplat
15	PSOL feast Mass 7 am
16	Tara
21-22	Shrine. Meet Bishop of Nashik
23	Holy Cross
24	MPSM
25	VJ scholastics at MPSM
26-27	Ambatha

Notice: With the approval of Fr. General, the Provincial has appointed Fr. Constancio Rodrigues the Superior of Shirpur.

New email addresses

Bruno D'Souza : brobru01@gmail.com

Joel D'Souza: joeldsouza.sj@outlook.com

Pope's Intentions Sept 2020



Respect for the Planet's Resources
We Pray that the Planet's
Resources will not be plundered,
But shared in a just
And respectful manner

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

XTC AT A GLANCE

Nine of our juniors who pronounced their first vows in the Society of Jesus at XTC, left for the Juniorate Bombay accompanied by Fr. John Rose and Fr. Arun Lobo. We thank God for sending these two angels and their driver to take our companions safely to Vinayalaya.

With joy and happiness, we celebrated the birthday of our Novice Master Fr. Anil on June 30th. It was a marvellous occasion to rejoice and thank the Lord for the gift of Fr. Anil to the Society. On July 16th, three first year novices entered the Belgaum Novitiate - Neville for Goa, Rohan for Bombay and William for Gujarat. Their first Probation was taken care of by Fr. Socius.

In the 3rd week of July we had an enlightening course on Fr. Tony de Mello's videos which were based on Freedom, Love, Silence, Peace, Joy and Life. We were touched by Fr. Tony's creativity and manner of getting the subject across. His exercises helped us to sharpen our

awareness and our attention to the realities around us. It also helped us to grow in interior Freedom and to look at everything in a totally different way.



In preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius, a novena was conducted with themes that deepened our understanding of the mind and spirit of St. Ignatius. On the feast day, we had a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the morning. There was a grand procession at the beginning as on this day, the first probationers entered into second probation. This procession is a very symbolic gesture of making them aware that life is a pilgrimage and just like Ignatius the pilgrim, we continue to grow as pilgrims, journeying with and for the Lord seeking to find God in all things. The grand procession led the faithful into the liturgy even more meaningfully. The main celebrant for the feast mass was Fr. Seby who enriched our minds and hearts with his reflective homily. The singing added to the solemnity while the altar decorations added a more elegant look to the chapel. Before the fellowship meal, Fr. Superior thanked Fr. Seby for all his contributions to XTC as he has been transferred to St. Paul's community as the Vice Principal of St. Paul's High School in Belgaum. At the same time we welcomed Fr. Cecil of the Goa Province as our

new minister. Since the time he has taken over he has been very active, supporting and motivating. On that same afternoon the first years planted their vocation plants accompanied by Fr. Novice Master, Fr. Socius and all the second years.

Classes continue as usual with a brief orientation, group building activities and the Autobiography of St Ignatius. Our ministries have not yet begun due to the lockdown; instead we have house ministries every weekend.

August 15th was celebrated with a solemn Eucharistic celebration asking the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for our country and for us. Fr. Vijay presided at the mass and the choir sang multi-lingual hymns representing the diversity of India. The flag hoisting, the Independence Day speech by our brothers and the patriotic song were all uplifting moments for us. Our Chief Guest to hoist the flag was Fr. Cecil - our new minister. Our energy and excitement to serve our country reached its peak as we sang the song "Ae Watan"

➤ **Clayton Valles**

NEWS AT ST. XAVIER'S HIGH SCHOOL, FORT

It is said 'The grass is always greener on the other side'. This indeed has proved to be true during this pandemic as we sit 'exiled' from school in our homes conducting our classes. The school playground has turned from brown to green due to the absence of the boys running around and playing on the ground.

It's a big change for us teachers as we teach from home. We are used to moving up and down the colossal stairways of the school and walking through the long corridors spanning the expanse of this huge edifice, but now we are confined to our homes. Besides teaching, long hours are spent in planning lessons for the next day, downloading videos relevant to the topic and preparing PowerPoint presentations. Oh how we miss being at our second home!

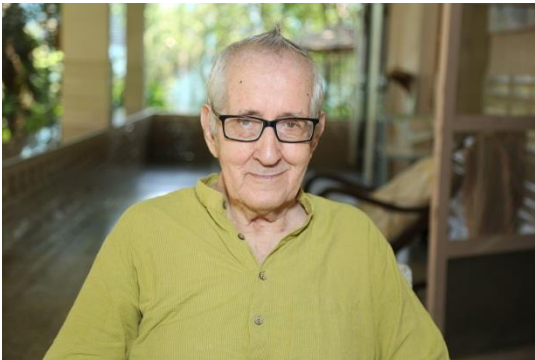
But we know that this too shall pass. Amidst all the news channels reporting depressing figures of the spread of the corona virus came the news which brought a smile to our faces. Our school was ranked the 10th best boys school in India by Education World. It was indeed a proud moment for us. And then the most awaited, the S.S.C. results. We got a cent per cent, with all students passing.



Finally it was an honour to see our manager Rev. Fr. Dr. Francis Swamy grace the cover of the August issue of Mentor, one of India's prime educational publications His interview made an inspiring read. Congratulations dear Fr. Swamy! This indeed is a boost to Jesuit education in India.

➤ **Mr. Gaspar Britto**

Fr George Gispert-Sauch (1930 – 2020)
A Personal Tribute a Jesuit Scholar



Fr George Gispert-Sauch, Jordi to those familiar with him, George to others, and just Gispert to most who knew him, was a well acknowledged theologian, Sanskritist and Indologist. I came to know him as a Jesuit scholar, an intellectual who was ever willing to mentor young aspirants who wanted to go beyond the classroom. He

even stayed with a group of theologians living for a while in an Old Delhi slum.

Born in Spain, he joined the Society in Veruela, and sailed for Bombay with a group of Spanish scholastics, including Frederick Sopeña, more than 70 years ago. He studied at St Xavier's College and specialized in Sanskrit to prepare himself for the Heras Institute of Indian History and Culture. But after his theology in Kurseong he was asked for and assigned there. I write this personal tribute in the context of my experiences with him at Vidyajyoti when he came there with the transfer of our theologate from Kurseong.

He was a quiet but significant presence in the theologate, not known for his teaching, but as an invaluable mentor, accompanying guide and inspiration. Surely, accompanying the scholastics is more important for their formation than lecturing them. In fact, when the new regulations required those over 65 years to return to their provinces, Fr. Gispert was asked to stay, because he was so needed.

He was always supportive and encouraging when I asked for some theological clarifications or when I submitted an article for *Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection*, though I was writing as a social scientist. I would tell him, writing theology was a 'dangerous' occupation till Pope Francis began a new discourse. Gispert could vibe with most discourses, without compromising his intellectual integrity

Though he never taught me, he gave me my first break with Penguin Publishers, when he recommended my name to the commissioning editor who was looking for someone to write on religious conversation, and he accompanied me along the way to the end. When I needed to check the meaning of a Sanskrit word, he would give me its multiple meanings and its etymology. He would suggest alternatives to follow-up in the library, and moderate my extreme opinions. But if I insisted he would not persist, though he always kept me within the bounds of orthodoxy.

Often we disagreed, but he was a gentleman-scholar, never imposing his view. In fact most intellectuals generally understand you in their terms of reference and respond to you from within their perspective. Gispert would try the opposite, namely, entering into your frame of reference and meeting you there for a dialogue. Most intellectuals have too much ego to be so open to the others' ideas. Gispert had no such issues. For him the Jesuit intellectual enterprise was committed to the Kingdom, not some petty gain for oneself.

He was meticulous in editing the *Vidyajyoti Journal of Theological Reflection*, down to the copy-editing and proof-reading which he did himself. The Journal saw a quantum leap in quality during his tenure as Secretary leaving successors a hard act to follow. As librarian, he knew every book in the library, and where it was placed on which shelf. Ask him for a book you couldn't find and he would take you straight to it. Except for meals, he worked without a break all day in his room which was cluttered with papers all over the place. But he could always find what he was looking for with ease – a kind of method in madness, I presume.

He never quite recovered from his last illness. Perhaps he had a remission when Fr Sopeña, who sailed to India on the same boat, came to VJ to celebrate their 67 years in India. 'I'll always remember something Gispert said to me when I was too critical of our colonial missionaries: don't rubbish these men, they gave their lives to the mission; though we may disagree with them on many counts now, we must respect their heroic dedication then.

His application for Indian citizenship was still in process when he passed away on the morning of 29 Jul 2020 after some five years at Vinayalaya, 'praying for the Society'. Jordi was a true Jesuit, after the heart of Ignatius, who wanted Jesuits to be men of solid virtue and solid learning. May his example inspire us do likewise.

➤ **Rudi Heredia**

A farewell message to Gispert from his family members

(upon hearing of his death, the family of Gispert sent these beautiful, touching words. This message was read out just before his burial)

Dear George,
You have been an exemplary brother. We have loved you in special form. Nice, awesome, simple life, adaptable, intelligent and of great Faith. Thanks for the life you have given to life.

We have followed you from a distance, but have felt you very close. Great memories of our childhood in Palafrugell. Kisses, a lot of kisses from your brother and your sisters.

The nephews and nieces also want to tell you that you have been a great reference point. Intelligent and Open person. We will always remember your expected visits to Barcelona. You liked them too, but only for a few days, because India became your home.

Thank you for the learning about Hinduism and the life dedicated to Jesus. You have opened our minds.

A big hug forever ... And God bless you. Save us a space in heaven!

In Christ's Peace

+ **Fr. Isidore Pinto (PAT), 78/57**, passed away at Patna on 7 August

+ **Fr. Elias Arockiaswamy (AND), 80/58**, passed away at Visakhapatnam on 12 August

+ **Fr. Gaudentis Kongari (HAZ), 86/66**, passed away at Ranchi on 12 August

+ **Fr. Patrick de Melo (GOA), 78/61**, passed away at Goa on 14 August

Fr. Augustine Tigga (HAZ), 72/51, passed away at Hazaribag on 16 August

Fr. Gaston Roberge (CCU), 85/64, passed away at Kolkata on 26 August.