



Number 733

September 2020

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

Arrupe's Educational Ideas:



“Fr. Pedro Arrupe was concerned about the growing attitude in which the vocation of humankind is understood as making oneself the center of the universe, fearing that it has infiltrated into education and schools. Consequently, he set out to counteract this egoistic mindset by propounding an approach to education rooted in justice tempered with faith, in a bid to form fully human persons who are men and women for others. In this endeavour, Arrupe sought to realize the principles of Vatican II, which also advocated in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World the urgent need to form human persons who are both learned and benevolent. Arrupe’s educational ideas can aid in correcting education systems given to economic and industrial imperatives as a main objective and which focus on examination results at the expense of well-rounded formation of the person. In short, the goal of education is here understood as forming people who are committed to respecting and caring for one another’s well-being, lives and human dignity as persons.”

(Obwanda Stephen Meyo SJ (2014) The educational ideas of Pedro Arrupe, SJ)

Arrivals

Fr. Sumeth Perera returned from Maryland, USA on the 22nd of August and is now going through his quarantine period at a hotel in Waikkala.

Fr. Christian Perera returned from Nairobi, Kenya after his Tertianship.

Deacon Rajith Wass and **Deacon Joseph Atputharaj**, too returned from Nairobi, Kenya after their first cycle of Theology.

Bros. Patrick and Francis returned from Harare, Zimbabwe after completing their philosophical studies.

They all arrived in Sri Lanka on the same day, August 23rd, and are now quarantined in a hotel in Anuradhapura.

Sch. George Masih Petras, after completing his Philosophical Studies in Harare, Zimbabwe, returned to Pakistan.

Appointments by the Provincial:

Fr. Sumeth Perera: Resident priest at Fatima Retreat House Lewella, Kandy effective from September 18th, 2020. He will be lecturing at Paradeniya University.

Fr. Christian Perera: New Director of CYTC effective from September 6th, 2020.

Deacon Rajitha Wass: Teacher at Mount Calvary High School, Galle, effective from September 6th, 2020. He will be residing at the Jesuit Residence Kaluwella.

Deacon Joseph Atputharaj: New Director of Loyola Campus Vavuniya, effective from September 6th, 2020.

Bro. Patrick Fernando: Teacher at Mount Calvary High School and Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Galle, effective from the 6th of

September, 2020. He will be residing at the Jesuit Residence, Kaluwella, Galle.

Bro. Francis Fernando: Teacher at Peter Bachmann Foundation (PBF), effective from September 6th, 2020 and will do Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Chilaw. He will be stationed at the PBF residence.

Fr. Baylon Perera: Province Coordinator for Scholastics in Formation PCSF for the period after Ordination until Tertianship, effective from September 1st, 2020.

Fr. Anthony Pillai: Assistant Parish Priest of St. Sebastian Church Puliyaadikudah, effective from September 15th, 2020.

Fr. Anton Peiris: Assistant to Fr. Christian Perera at CYTC, effective from September 27th, 2020.

Fr. Angelo Sujeewa Pathirana: Socius to the Provincial. He will continue to be the Superior for the institutions: Tulana Research Centre for Encounter & Dialogue, Shanthi Community Animation Movement Centre, 'Nirmala' - Clifford Place and Peter Bachmann Foundation.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to **Frs. Anthony Pillai, Paul Sathkunanayagam and Peter Kurukula Arachchi** for their valuable services rendered to the Province in their respective apostolic centers.

We would like to express our gratitude to Fr. Santosh and Sch. Zenith who were part of our Sri Lanka Province for the last two years. We appreciate their dedicated involvement in the works of the province. May God bless all their future endeavors....!

Province Events

Fr. Paul Satkunanayagam became the Star of 2020 by preaching the Province Annual Retreat 2020. His preaching was well appreciated by the Jesuits who participated in the Annual Retreat.



Thiranjala Weerasinghe will be pronouncing his first vows along with two novices from England at 12 noon on Saturday the 5th of September 2020 at St. Mary's church, Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, England.

COLOMBO DISTRICT

Novitiate

For us Novices, the month of August was blessed with some joyful events and occasions that kept us quite busy. The second year novices were on experiment in Kataragama along with Fr. Master, and returned to the Novitiate on 2nd of August. It was an enriching experience.

Since some were away, the few who were in the novitiate had a lot of work to do along with preparations for the vow's day. On 5th August, the general election day of our country, we had the opportunity to exercise one of our rights as citizens by casting our vote at a nearby polling station. On the same day, Sch. Sithum Fonseka, joined our Daham Sihila Community as sub-minister of the Novitiate. He was very helpful for us during the preparation for the vows day.



On 14th of August we had the Eucharist in Urdu language to commemorate the 73rd National Independence Day of Pakistan. It was presided over by Fr. Tharanga. We also had a festive lunch prepared by our Pakistani brothers. The same evening, with the initiative of Fr. Mariyathas, our community (novices, juniors and the staff) organized a "surprise farewell party" for Fr. Sujeewa in the Juniorate refectory. We enjoyed a delicious meal and thereafter we sang some songs composed by the novices in vernacular languages

to express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Sujeewa for the loving and valuable services he rendered to our Daham Sihila community as Superior and Master of Novices. We pray that God may continue to bless him in his new mission.



Finally the long awaited day arrived, the 15th of August. This blessed day had a twofold significance; first, the Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and secondly, our six Junior brothers pronouncing their first vows in the Society of Jesus. Fr. Provincial was our main celebrant at the Holy Eucharist. Before the final blessing, Fr Provincial announced two new appointments for the Province; Fr. Mariyathas as the new Master of Novices, and Fr. Sujeewa as Socius to the Provincial. We had a large gathering including the Jesuits of our Province, Religious Nuns and the beloved family members of our vowents. Their presence made this occasion a memorable one.

We are now blessed with seven first year novices and they were welcomed into the Novitiate to begin their First Probation, and two of the second years were assigned as their guardian angels. As customary, to conclude the first probation, both the first and second year novices made a pilgrimage on foot to the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka at Tewatte on 25th of August. At the chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes, Fr. Master celebrated the Holy Eucharist and welcomed the first years into our Novitiate family. Thereafter we visited the All Saints Church at Pamunugama situated near the beautiful lagoon of Negombo and Sch. Sithum was also with us in sharing our companionship.

The following day, we began our normal Novitiate schedule and Fr. Master gave us an orientation about the life in the Novitiate and on the importance of the Eucharist in our Religious life. We were given new responsibilities to serve our community. We pray, that with the grace of God we may move ahead in our lives as Novices under the guidance of our new Master of Novices.

Juniorate

August was another busy month for us juniors. On July 31st we had a joyful celebration of the feast of our Society's Founding Father, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and in the evening we visited the Galle Face Beach and the 'One Galle Face' Shopping Mall. On the 09th of August, we celebrated our companion Dinesh's birthday. We had the "Triduum" guided by Fr. Leon Fredrick from 12th to 14th of August in preparation for our first



vows. On the 14th of August, we had a farewell party to Fr. Sujeewa, the outgoing superior of Daham Sihila and the newly appointed Socius to the Provincial. On the 15th of August, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, we professed our first vows at the Novitiate chapel. Everybody worked hard to make this day a memorable one. That evening we played a friendly basketball match at Akkarapanaha with the "Inigo" team. Our companion Danish got injured while playing the match. He is now recovering from the injury and is hoping to take part in the next match on the 29th of August.

These days we are busy with our regular classes and preparations for our first semester exams. Fr.

Ahilraj is away preaching a retreat to a group of nuns. We have some regular sessions of basketball coaching with Mr. Gerald. He helps us to enhance our skills in the game. We are also working hard to develop the Juniorate garden with the help of our community members.

We request your prayers so that we may continue to work for the greater glory of God. May God Bless you all!

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Arrupe College Batticaloa

On 31st of July a half day celebration was organized by Fr. Roshan and the Arrupe College staff members, to commemorate the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Loyola Campus Staff was invited for the feast. Everyone enjoyed the inspirational words of Fr. James Suresh. A video in which Fr. Dexter, Provincial of the Jesuits in Sri Lanka figured, gave us a powerful message about lay collaboration in our Jesuit mission. Everyone had the opportunity to know more about St. Ignatius and the Jesuits. Fr. Roshan thanked all the collaborators and encouraged them to continue their dedicated service. Finally, everyone enjoyed each other's company and shared a delicious meal.



In order to prepare and orient parents about the reopening of the school, Fr. Roshan and staff, conducted a parent's meeting on the 2nd of August. During the meeting, parents had the

opportunity to share their doubts and experiences with the teachers and once again, the rules and regulations were read and explained to the parents. On 17th of August, Arrupe College was reopened after meeting the requirements and receiving the official permission from the Public Health Inspector.



St. Ignatius Parish, Kallady Dutchbar

St. Ignatius Parish is joyfully celebrating its 104th annual feast which began with the flag hoisting on 21st of August, 2020. We were blessed by the presence of the main celebrant Rt. Rev. Joseph Ponniah, Bishop of Batticaloa. On the same day,



thirty eight catechism students received the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. These days we are having Novena masses, and different priests are invited to preach the novenas and celebrate mass on each day. Inigo Education

fund is being organized for the deserving students to receive financial aid to support their studies. The fund was raised from the parish community as well as from outside benefactors.

Loyola Campus Batticaloa

Things seem to be slowly improving in Loyola Campus Batticaloa as schedules and procedures return to almost normal. In the country itself all schools have been re-opened and everyone is getting involved in their usual responsibilities. Every year this period is a challenging moment because admissions are low. But this year the challenge is doubled as everyone struggles to live again normal lives in the midst of this catastrophe. Still our director and staff with raised spirits look with hope towards a better future.



With open arms and readiness to serve, we currently have a few but dedicated students whom we are able to help. At the same time, for the first-time we are offering a BA in Sustainable Development to one student and will have three new admissions for the Learning Facilitator's course. Our four teachers who are currently following the Facilitator's Course are now in the week 18 of 24 and are doing their Practicum with new insights and strategies. All these activities make our center look alive and full of optimism. It has now begun to offer online professional courses to students who, hopefully in the future, will create interest in others.

Loyola Candidates' House - Batticaloa

A new Jesuit team has begun their community life with enthusiasm and vigor in Loyola Candidate House at St. Michael's College.

Sch. Dinoshan joined the community on July 30th.

Fr. James joined the community on August 4th. A farewell dinner was organized to thank Fr. Jeevaraj for his dedicated service for the last one and a half years as the Director of Candidates. As a token of gratitude the one and only candidate proposed a vote of thanks by reading out a poem in English. Fr. Paul joined the Loyola Candidate House on August 18th.

Between 09th and 16th of August, three boys from St. Ignatius' Parish Dutch Bar came to Loyola Candidates' House for a 'Come and See' experience. After one week's stay, one of them joined the candidates' house while the other two who are in Grade eight, showed their willingness to join the candidates' house in the next academic year.

During the month of August, there were many repairs and cleaning work done at the Loyola Candidate House.

On August 22nd and 23rd, Fr. James conducted a seminar on Ignatian spirituality for a group of youngsters at St. Anne's Church, Colombo. After the program, the participants were keen on knowing about the Jesuits and their Apostolates.

KANDY DISTRICT

CYTC News (Cholankande Youth Training Centre)

In the month of August, for the most part, students' attendance was good. On August 8 & 9, Computer Applications Assistant NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) final Assessment was held with Messrs. K. G. S. S. Kobbegala & S. W. K. K. A. Susantha Wijayawickrama as examiners.

The results are as follows:

12 students obtained Level 3 passes while 8 students obtained Level 2 passes.

On August 12, a meeting was held for the parents of the students of the Electrical Section to discuss the progress of the students in view of the Final Assessment to be held towards the end of the month. Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne and Mr. R. M. N. Rathnayake (Instructor) led the dialogue.

On August 14, Dr. N.F. Yoosuf, Chief Medical Officer (MOH), Nawalapitiya, visited Cholankande

Youth Training Centre (CYTC), once again to inspect the CYTC premises and surroundings. During the inspection he strongly advised the students to continue following the health guidelines issued by public health authorities.

Other visitors were Mr. K. C. K. Basil, the Development Officer and several officials from the Divisional Secretariat, Pasbage Korale,



CYTC Garden

Nawalapitiya. The purpose of the visit was to inspect facilities available at the CYTC to promote and implement government's new proposals regarding vocational education.

God breathes life into His Creation

- News reporter

CSC LOYOLA CAMPUS HATTON

Feast of St. Ignatius: On 31st July, we the staff and students of Loyola Campus and the staff of CSC came together for the celebration. Sch. Nimesh presented a PPT on the life of St. Ignatius and Fr. Prem explained five principles of St. Ignatius; *finding God in all things, magis, all for the greater glory of God, Discernment of the spirits and agere contra*. Fr. Newman, the parish priest of Hatton was the main celebrant and Fr. Charles, the parish priest of Bogawantalawa preached the homily. In his homily, he thanked the Jesuits for providing opportunities to the students to enhance skills in

English, tailoring and computer. He shared how reading holy books caused the conversion of St. Ignatius and asked the students to be ready for



greater conversion in life. Frs. Xavier Cruz, director of the Hatton pastoral center and Mr. Anthony Fernando joined in the Eucharist. Sisters from the FMM Convent in Talawakale and Comboni congregation in Talawakale added joy to our celebration by their presence and gifts. About fifty people participated in the function and all went home after a sumptuous lunch.

Cross cultural explorations: On August 3rd, Fr. Thushara and the preschool teachers from Negombo paid us a short visit at the Center for Social Concern (CSC) for a little rest and relaxation



on their way to Nuwara Eliya. On the same day, CSC organized a tailoring training for the women of the tea plantations. Though the preschool teachers and the tailoring students are different in language and culture, they could still share their talents and skills with one another and it became all of a sudden a cultural event.

Election monitoring evaluation: Hundred polling station observers and twenty eight mobile observers monitored the parliamentary elections

in Nuwara Eliya District on August 5th. All the observers came to CSC on August 16th and to Ragala and Hangurankete on August 17th to submit their reports, collect the remuneration and sit for an evaluation. The observers stated that the election was peaceful in the district but people lack awareness in voting. Some of them were not clear about the voter ID and voting procedures. Since it was raining the whole day, the old and the sick struggled to reach the polling stations and observance of social distance was extremely difficult. The people especially the poor felt that it is their right to vote and they went through a lot of sacrifices in order to exercise their right to voting. The ordinary people do not fail the politicians but the politicians do.



Team building training with the support of Save the Children Organization: On August 20th, Mr. Dharma, the programme officer of *Save the Children* inaugurated the training at Indira Hotel, Hatton. Corona related health guidelines were strictly adhered to. In his inaugural address, Mr. Dharma raised the awareness of the participants on available employment training at various places in Nuwara Eliya district. He invited the staff of CSC to share the information in their estates and to stop the dropouts from becoming unskilled laborers in Colombo. They must rather become skilled entrepreneurs in the district. Fr. Premkumar trained the staff on team building through various games, videos and PPT. Though there is unity among the staff, they still lack conceptual clarity about CSC, its goals and their responsibilities. This training gave them awareness on their strength and the direction they need to move forward.

Fr. Provincial meets the tailoring students: On 3rd of August Fr. Provincial and Fr. Treasurer came to Hatton and visited a few lands for the future use

of the Jesuit mission in Hatton area. The incessant rain on that day made the visit rather difficult. The slush made their legs dirty and the leeches were merciless. They visited four locations and were satisfied with two. They are waiting for a few good souls to help us purchase the lands. After the visit to the lands, they came to the center and met the tailoring students. The poor tea plantation students who have been like sheep without a shepherd felt happy to see Fr. Provincial and expressed some of their concerns. Fr. Provincial listened to their cries and promised that he would take steps to get them tailoring machines when they complete the programme.

Skill training at CSC Loyola Campus: On August 21st, Sch. Nimesh started the skill training with a team building game. Fifteen students of the January batch and thirteen students of the August batch were the participants. Among them five are doing B1, fifteen A2 and eight A1. The skill training was meant for their self discovery and team building. Fr. Premkumar conducted another game and made the students aware of their gender behavior and fostered solidarity through mutual respect and self awareness. He affirmed that Jesuit worldwide Learning through CSC Loyola Campus aims to bring higher education at the margins and requested the students to have greater discipline and motivation and achieve higher goals in life.

MULLAITIVU DISTRICT

Adampan Jesuit Community celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius at Mullaitivu. The celebration started with the Eucharist presided by Fr. Lawrence. Sch. Solomon gave a touching homily that was appreciated by all. Thereafter the fathers and the scholastics had a dip in the sea, and had an enjoyable time. Fr. Emil, our minister organized the happy hour and dinner in a grand style. It was a meaningful celebration.

Loyola Campus programme is going on well. The students sat for their final test in the beginning of August. All have performed well although some were not confident in the oral exam. The schools



have been reopened after the Corona pandemic. Now it is hard to admit a new batch because of the lack of students in Mullaitivu. We hope to start the GEL programme for the new batch in November after the A/L exam. We are trying our best to promote some candidates for the on-line diploma programme.

The certificate awarding ceremony was held on August 22nd. **Fr. Yavis**, Dean of Mullaitivu was the chief guest and **Fr. Roy**, Country Director of Loyola Campus was the guest of honor. Their speeches were thought provoking. Some fathers, sisters,



scholastics, principals and parents participated in the function. Our dance and music class children and the students entertained the gathering with their inborn multiple talents. More than forty students received certificates. Fr. Lawrence recently visited **Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam**, Bishop of Jaffna. The Bishop wanted the Jesuits to educate the students who have completed A/L. He was highly appreciative of the educational Apostolate of the Jesuits all over the world. He feels sad that we gave up our famous colleges in Sri Lanka. Fr. Lawrence is becoming a well-known preacher and his charismatic style of prayer is liked by many.

Wonderful Month of August for Kakuma JRS - Fill the jars to the brim

I am presently in Nairobi, Mwangaza Jesuit Retreat House for my annual retreat and rest, after six long months of working in the Kakuma Camp. The strenuous work in the pastoral field, the interim Project Coordinating duties amidst the Covid19 pandemic threat, and a recent visit by the Human Resource Officer from the JRS Nairobi office for an annual audit left me exhausted. I felt the need for a break.

I just began my retreat under Fr. Terry Charlton with one piercing question in mind, "Lord, what do you want from me in Kakuma?" "Fill your jars to the brim to empower the beneficiaries....to have Hope & Joy"

We are looking back into the month of August. I am ever so grateful to God and all our staff at JRS Kakuma for the support extended to me in celebrating the Feast of St. Ignatius this year in a meaningful way. We invited all the priests, religious sisters and brothers in Kakuma for the celebrations this year. For some of them, it was their first visit to JRS Residence.

The celebrations of the day began with a power-point presentation on the Life and Mission of St. Ignatius which was also connected to the birth of JRS forty years ago. The presentation was very insightful and well prepared; our Deacon Rajitha from Hekima College was the producer, and I took time to explain some key moments in the life of St. Ignatius that are relevant to our involvement in the works of JRS.

After the presentation there were many questions from the audience. Thereafter, the staff from the Departments of Special Needs, Protection, Counseling and Post Secondary Education of JRS in Kakuma shared our own Mission.





We had a meaningful prayer service conducted by Fr. Bill, relating the works of JRS to Pope Francis' mission and insights. The celebrations concluded with a sumptuous lunch prepared by our dedicated cooks, John and Anne ably assisted by Patrick & Edwin from our staff.

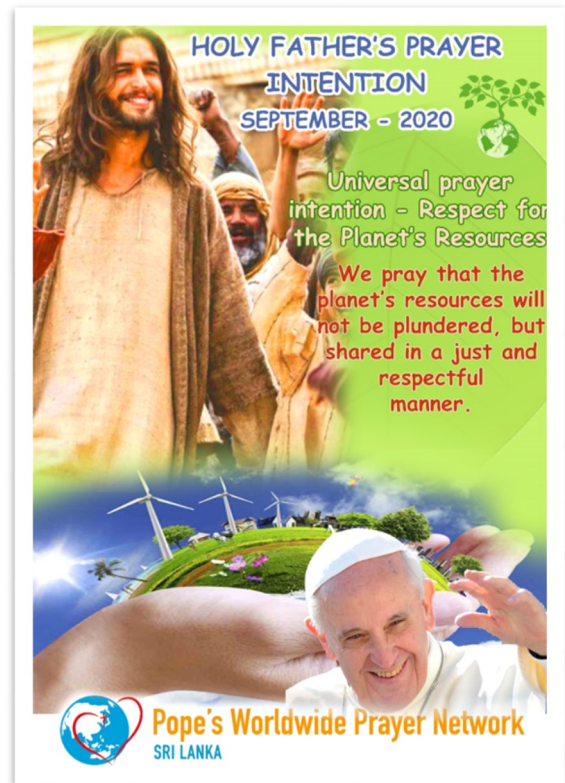
I am truly grateful to Fr. Tom our International Director for assigning Fr. William O'Neil (pet name Bill) to our Kakuma Mission. Bill has been a



great companion and a strong pillar of support to me. Bill also helps me in editing, raising pertinent questions to be discussed and pastorally joining me at Masses during the weekend.

We were happy to have the presence of Bernadette our HR officer during the third week of August. In her presence we signed an MOU between JRS and the young Vijana Twaweza Group. It was a colorful event with innovative songs, speeches and a drama with a strong message by the group. It has been a blessing to see a young energetic group coming forward with hope to collaborate with JRS for future leadership as refugees.

- Lasantha SJ from JRS Kakuma



REMEMBRANCES

SEPTEMBER

02/1986	Fr. George Dupont	93/71
11/1923	Bp. Joseph Van Reeth	80/63
11/2017	Fr. John Lourdu Daniel	83/62
16/1993	Fr. Vincent Cali	87/66
17/1913	Fr. Henry D'Arras	53/32
17/1963	Fr. Augustine Berrewaerts	91/73
19/1939	Fr. Charles Gillet	52/36
20/1965	Fr. Joseph Jacobs	87/69
20/1972	Fr. Leo Jacques	60/41
24/1913	Fr. Juventius Queste	33/15
27/1940	Fr. Emile Hoppenot	61/44
27/1982	Fr. Ciro Starace	80/61
28/1992	Fr. Felix Rajapakse	78/58
30/2018	Fr. Egerton Perera	52/83

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

OCTOBER

05/1996 Michael Croos (Junior)
16/1944 Aloysius Vanderwall
18/1945 Ranjith Abeyasinghe
22/1951 Veerasan Yogeswaran
25/1995 Rahul Nokrek (Junior)
25/1997 Sudipto Peter Rozario (Novice)
27/1982 Emil Lucien

SEPTEMBER

03/1943 Winston Rosairo
04/1999 Wishal Khan (Novice)
14/1950 Tyrone Mihindukulasuriya
16/1989 Sithum Fonseka
16/1993 Danish Khokhar (Junior)
20/1957 Joel Kulanayagam
25/1982 Dilan Sankalpa Perera
26/1996 Jude Cooray
27/1971 George Fernando

NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Saturday 26th, September 2020 to
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