



समाचार

FAMILY RECORD OF THE BOMBAY JESUITS

Samachar

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September / 2021

Fr. Provincial's Schedule - September 2021

1	Province Consult
6	Manor
7	Ashagad
8 - 9	Talasari
10	Uplat
15	Tara
20 - 21	Shrine (meet Bishop)
22	Holy Cross
23 - 25	MPSM
26 - 27	Ambatha

Fr. Vijay Gonsalves will pronounce his Final Vows on Sept 8th at Uplat.

Pope's Intentions Sept 2021



Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle
We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple & environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this

Belgaum XTC News

The feast of **St. Ignatius** is a special day and we at XTC made advanced preparations for this occasion. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Augustine. The sisters and postulants from Gyan Niketan shared in our joy of celebrating this auspicious occasion. The novices were quite excited to meet their fellow neighbors.

The Feast of the **Assumption** of Mary also commemorated our 75th Independence Day of India. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Savio. He beautifully connected the Old Testament and the New Testament where Mary is now the new Ark of the Covenant.



The chief guest was Master Ethan Dsouza. The speeches were very inspiring and moving. It reminded us of all our freedom fighters especially our late Fr. Stan Swami SJ. The Novices then sang the Vande Mataram.

The **foundation of Our Lady's Grotto** began at 11 am on the feast of the Assumption of Mary. Fr. Savio placed the relics of St. Francis Xavier (Skin) and Our Lady of Velankani (Mantle) in the foundations of the grotto. Fr. Savio prayed and one by one the priests followed by novices, postulants & staff took part in laying down the foundational cement of the grotto.

- Claudius D'Souza

NEWS FROM THE JUNIORATE

A season of process work

This month has really been a busy one, full of events and courses. We began our preparation for the **feast of St. Ignatius** with the novena where we pondered in different ways the cannonball moment of our own lives. **Fr. Placie Fonseca** went to the Lord on the feast day, and all the juniors helped out in the arrangement for the funeral.

On the 2nd and 3rd of August we had a course in '**Critical Thinking and Inquiry**' by Fr. Jeevan Mendonca SJ, who taught us not only to answer questions but to question the answer as well. In the meantime, we have also begun our **Weekend Ministries** in different Snehasadan houses. On the 11th of August we had a crash course on the **Basic Techniques of Singing**, by Miss Michelle Naidu. It was a very helpful and interactive session which we benefited a lot from.

We also had a commemoration of the **World Indigenous Peoples' Day** on the 9th of August where all the tribal juniors conducted a creative prayer with songs and dances, thus reminding us about the inspiring qualities of the tribals. On the 14th we went for a visit to some of our Jesuit communities in Mumbai (a kind of **Mumbai Darshan**). All the juniors were



very eager and jubilant as we were taken around Bombay city and we visited many Jesuit communities.

The next day we celebrated **Independence Day** and the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. The feast was solemnized by the beautiful choir, a rousing speech by a Junior (Sagar) and the participation by all the fathers in the community. We also had a Table Tennis tournament, wherein many got to showcase their TT skills, including Frs Luke Rodrigues and Joaquim Tellis.

Most recently, we had a 4-day on-line course on '**Personality Development and Personal Growth**' by **Dr. Nirmala Almeida**, a professional psychologist, a truly resourceful person, who patiently guided us for four hours each day. We benefited a lot from this course and we have grown even deeper in knowing ourselves and the way we relate with others.

- Unisakhiat SJ (BOM)

JUBILEE YEAR, JUBILEE BATCH (News from Sitaghara Tertianship House)

This year as we commemorate the 500th Year of Canon Ball experience of St. Ignatius, we reflect on the conversion of St. Ignatius' life which was completely changed him, giving him a new perspective and a new purpose to life. His legs and his dreams about future courtly adventures was completely shattered. He was physically broken but not spiritually. It was the direction of his zeal and enthusiasm that was changed. Now his sole focus was on seeking the greater glory of God which became the motto of the Society of Jesus. This jubilee year has given a golden opportunity to the 24 Tertians from 16 provinces.

On 1st August we began our third probation which is called as 'The School of Heart' with an inaugural Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Anand, the Provincial of Hazaribaag province. We were fortunate to have in our midst the newly appointed rector of St. Stanislaus College (SSC) and Frs. Ignatius Tete and M. I. Raj our Tertian instructors.



In his inaugural orientation talk Fr. Anand explained the purpose and the significance of Tertianship. He said this stage of formation implants in us a fresh impulse and dynamism which will have its repercussions on our apostolic and religious life in the Society. He also added that it is an important process of integration and demands the spiritual unity. Fr. Rector put in plain words his expectations from the tertian fathers. He also spoke about the importance of the helping hands with regards to the other formation houses in the vicinity.

On the 2nd of August we started our classes by introducing ourselves. It was quite obvious to see the diversity and universality of the Society among the tertian fathers and their missions.

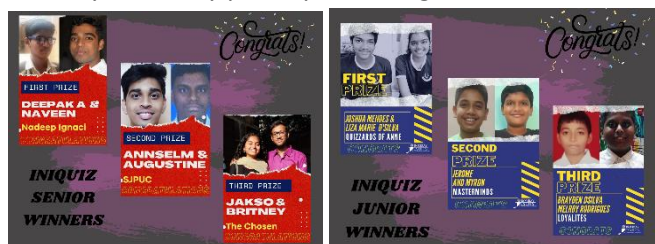
As we have been set apart to deeply contemplate on our lives, may we like our founder use this time to focus on ourselves especially on our Canon ball experiences and make a firm resolve to work all for the greater glory of God.

- Felix S. D'Souza SJ

INIQUIZ

The Bombay Jesuits Media Team organized for the very first time a Nationwide quiz competition called "INIQUIZ", an initiative for commemorating the Ignatian Year. The Quiz competition was open to school and college students belonging to our Jesuit Institutions across India. The goal of the quiz was to make St Ignatius, other popular Jesuit saints and the Society of Jesus known among our students.

We were happy to have 76 teams participate in this event. They were divided in two categories: Juniors (up to 10 std) and Seniors (up to graduation). The Quiz was held online in two stages. The elimination round was held on the 25th July '21 on the Moodle Server provided by XIE, Mahim and the finals on Zoom on the 29th July'21. Every participant was given the Saints and



the Society of Jesus. We were happy to see the enthusiasm in the students wanting to know more about St Ignatius and the Jesuit Saints. Overall the Quiz went on smoothly, thanks to the efforts of our Scholastics. Special thanks to Bros. Ashley, Jijo and Jackson for helping the media team to compile the questions for the quiz. We are also grateful to Fr. John Rose (XIE, Mahim) and Fr Francis Swamy for sponsoring the Amazon vouchers for the winners of this quiz and a special thanks to Mr. Mushtaq (Tech Man at XIE, Mahim) for all the IT support.

With the success of this quiz, a second edition is in the pipeline to be held on the feast of St Francis Xavier. This quiz will definitely be a part of a much bigger event which is currently in the nascent stage. This event was surely very enriching and memorable not only for the

participants but also for us as organizers. Stay tuned for more exciting events ahead. Ciao!!!

- Sch Joshua D'Souza SJ

Blessings Galore at Uttan

At Uttan, with a large number of the parishioners being fisherfolk, the month of August signals the beginning of the fishing season. Apart from the regular opportunities of blessing homes, shops and other new ventures, Uttan has a unique feature of boat blessings. I had the good fortune of blessing boats on the seashore as well as some in the middle of the sea. It was quite a unique and adventurous experience. On the occasion of the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, I had a wonderful opportunity to speak about St. Ignatius and the work of the Jesuits during the Marathi online mass which reaches people from Uttan and Vasai.



The Collaborative Learning Café organized by the Goa Jesuits invited me to be a resource person for their session on music with emphasis on learning the guitar, there was a good response from the participants. On Vianney Sunday the youth of the Bhayander Deanery organized an East Indian Singing Competition at Our Lady of Bethlehem church at Dongri in order to felicitate the fathers working in the deanery.

On the 11th of August, the Parish Youth Council members visited our Jesuit mission at Tara, Janhit Vikas Trust. There were 30 youth accompanied by Fr. Godfrey (Archdiocese of Bombay) and me. The purpose of the two-day camp was group building and social outreach. We went for a trek to Karnala, had a session and also went to a waterfall nearby. Fr. Joseph Poshapir took us to a nearby village where the youth distributed sanitizers to some of the villagers, he celebrated the eucharist for the youth during which he also explained about some of the works conducted by Janhit Vikas Trust. The youth sponsored the education

for twenty students for a period of one year. It was a great experience for all of them. We thank Fr. Joseph Poshapir and Fr Jacob D’Britto for their generous and kind hospitality.

- Dn Wesley D’Costa SJ

MPSM KHABAR

Celebrating our founder’s feast at MPSM was a memorable one. It was a day of reflection and celebration. In the morning we had a programme with all the MPSM staff and our campus hostel boys. After a short prayer service and some sharing about the ‘Ignatian Year’ by our staff, hostel boys and the Jesuits we had time for group bonding. Festive lunch was cooked and served by our hostel boys for all. In the evening with the sisters from Krupa Prasad, Tilloli and Bishop Lourdes Daniel we had the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Bishop. In his homily he beautifully spoke about our Jesuit charism which is pioneering in nature and contemplative even in action.

On 7th August we had our monthly recollection. We started with a talk given by Fr Paulraj SJ from his own experiences on MAGIS and how to be creative in our Jesuit life and ministries by reading the signs of times and place and responding to them.

Independence Day was celebrated at MPSM by flag hoisting in the morning with a series of inspiring speeches by the hostel boys. In the evening we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption with the Assumption Sisters at Tilloli. Jesuits from MPSM and Ambatha, sisters from Ambatha and Krupa Prasad sisters were there for the celebration. After a long time, all the religious working together in this mission came together for an event. It was fitting to celebrate our Independence Day with people from seven different states together there working for one mission.

On the 10th of August MPSM celebrated the ‘Prabodhan Aranyotsav 2021’ – Tribal Forest Food Festival with 16 tribal women enterprise groups (TEGs) coming together with 20+ delicious forest vegetable preparations. This festival saw a footfall of more than 250 people.

- Sch. Vivek Vinnarasan SJ

Jesuit Parivar

Those who would like the Jesuit Parivar to be sent to their families, kindly send their name and address to: Fr. Vijay Gonzales SJ at: vijaybomsj@gmail.com

Province Response to COVID: January - May 2021

A summary of some of the activities around the Province:

30,000 food packets and 4,800 dry ration packets, 10,200 face masks, 12,200 sanitizers, besides medicines and steam inhalers were distributed.

A 50-bed quarantine center was operated. The Covid Testing center took about 100 swabs a day and treated about 2345 patients.

Three Mobile Covid Care Units daily providing outreach to interior villages of Nashik and follow-up. The operation was a collaborative effort, with teams of sisters from various congregations and scholastics chipping in. Communities from around the province lent vehicles, material and financial support.



Flex charts with IEC material and audio presentations were used to create awareness in the villages. Village health worker groups were trained to identify, monitor and counsel Covid-suspect people.

Help desks and Medical Cells in parishes and schools reached out to over 6000 parents, students and parishioners.

31 new iPads and a few laptops were distributed to student for online classes.

Extensive use of social media for pastoral services and spiritual outreach.

- No. of beneficiaries reached: **36,000** with various programs over five months.

- Total funds mobilized: **Rs.48,06,000/-**
 - Funds raised from non-Jesuit sources: **Rs.36,50,000/-**
 - Funds shared to other organizations/networks: **Rs.1,06,800/-**
 - Direct financial aid given: **Rs. 5.90 lacs.**
 - Human Resources: **135** Jesuits, Religious sisters, volunteers, collaborators,
 - Collaboration with Primary Health Care Centres and local authorities, NGO's, parishes, Alumni Associations.
- **Collated from report sent to POSA**

JIVAN

Please note, the soft copy of the JIVAN sent to you is for Jesuits only, not for FREE circulation.

MEMORIES OF FR. PLACIE



Fr Placie has truly been a pioneer of child rights in India. He received the National Award for Child Welfare from Govt of India in 1985, presented to him by former President of India Giani Zail Singh. He was also the Chairperson of Co-ordination Committee for Vulnerable Children (CCVC), was on the expert committee to frame the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and also part of the think tank to develop Childline in India in collaboration with TISS.

But apart from all this official recognition Fr Placie will much more be remembered for his simple living, great thinking and shaping countless living diamonds from stones.

He has truly dedicated his life to Snehasadan and its children. In the words of the founder of Snehasadan, Fr. Ricardo Francis – “Without exaggeration, Snehasadan is what it is today because of the work of

a single Jesuit priest, Fr Placido Fonseca. He worked to create a family out of some of the legions of boys who live on and off the streets of Mumbai. The street child is invisible to most of us, but Fr Placie sees them all the time. They occupy his thoughts all the time: their shelter, their education, their future is his constant concern.”

Fr Placie knew hundreds or maybe thousands of children by name and face. He followed up on ex children, not only those who were doing well, but also those who were struggling – to try and find out some way to help them. His most consoling words to the children who were going through a rough phase or who were down in the dumps were ‘**Me Hu Na**’. Even if all others gave up on a child, Fr Placie was always ready to give another chance. He would say that one never knows when a delinquent child will eventually change and transform his/her life. There are live examples of children like these who have eventually changed their lives after multiple delinquencies.

Fr Placie often gave the image of flying a kite, when explaining to houseparent's or sisters how to deal with difficult children. He said that just as one has to know when to pull the string and when to leave it loose for the kite to fly high in the sky, similarly one has to balance between being strict and lenient with a child, in order for the child to bloom to his/her full potential.

Placie was not only a Father/Dad or Bapu to many children, but he was actually more like a mother to many of them. He had the intuition of a mother to listen to not only what a child said, but also to listen to what he or she was not saying. Often with one look at a child he was able to recognize if he/she was going through some turmoil.

Another clear image of Fr Placie was that of the man on the Bullet, – always on the move, looking out for children on the street, for the lost ones, those who have run away. Also constantly looking for opportunities – properties people are ready to donate or sell at concessional rates where a Snehasadan house could be set up, or for rooms where Snehasadan ex children could be settled. Several Snehasadan ex children have got their own homes due to his efforts.

While most of you might be familiar with Fr Placie's social and maybe even activist roles, not many may

know of his spiritual side, as he rarely projected that in public. But being his community member for several years I know that he regularly spent 45 min to an hour in prayer every morning, praying for the different intentions of Snehasadan, very specially for the so-called hard nuts to crack. It is from here that he got the patience and perseverance to continue in this ministry for more than 40 years, where few others have dared to tread.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst". Fr Placie by placing himself at the feet of the Lord every morning, received the spiritual nourishment that he needed to face all the challenges that came along his way, as he almost single handedly shouldered the pressures and anxieties of Snehasadan for several years.

I would like to end with another phrase that Fr Placie often said to the Snehasadan children, and I can imagine him joyfully shouting it out from heaven even at this moment – "Hum kisi se kam nahi". Yes, my dear Snehasadan children and ex children, that is what Fr Placie has taught you and I am sure that you will live up to his expectations and put this phrase into practice in your daily lives.

PLACIE, APOSTLE OF CHILDREN

He reached out to them passionately
 To draw the best from all
 Sparing no means to build their lives
 No matter rise or fall
 His soul was one with Snehasadan
 That home for girls and boys
 Who need great love and hope for life
 In sufferings and in joys
 Many came from near and far
 And marveled this to see
 That dedication can transform
 The child whoever it be
 And so the mission he took far
 Is yet so ably served
 By those who now in Placie's place
 Filled with Christ's compassionate grace
 Endeavour unreserved

- Godfrey D'Lima, SJ

A HOME FOR ALL

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative celebrated every year from 1st September to 4th October. The theme for this year's celebration is **A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD**. This theme has many resonances. It reminds us that our common home, the earth, is in urgent need of renewal. The theme of 'Home' evokes gratitude for the comfort and security we enjoy in our homes. It also makes us aware of the many who struggle in temporary shelters or have no home at all.

During this Season of Creation we are invited to act in appropriate ways so that the earth may truly become a Home for All - a home wherein every human and every creature can not only survive but also flourish and thereby give glory to God.

- Luke

Long Retreat

Keep our Tertians: John Cyriac, Arun Lobo (Shembaganur) and Felix and Arul Bosco (Sitaghara) in your prayers as they begin their long retreat.

In Christ's Peace

- + Fr Paul Valappila SJ (GUJ) 78/60 expired on 31 July, 2021, in Vadodara.
- + Fr. Cheruparambil J John, SJ (AND), 72/56) expired on 7TH Aug. in Loyola Academy, Secunderabad.
- + Fr Gregory Naik (GOA) 88/70, passed away on 9th Aug. in Porvorim,
- + Fr Roshan Lobo (KAR), 49/32 passed away on 13 August in Bengaluru
- + Fr. Joseph Parekkattil, SJ (PAT) , 85/65) passed away on 27th August at Patna.

Jesuitickle ... by Trevor

