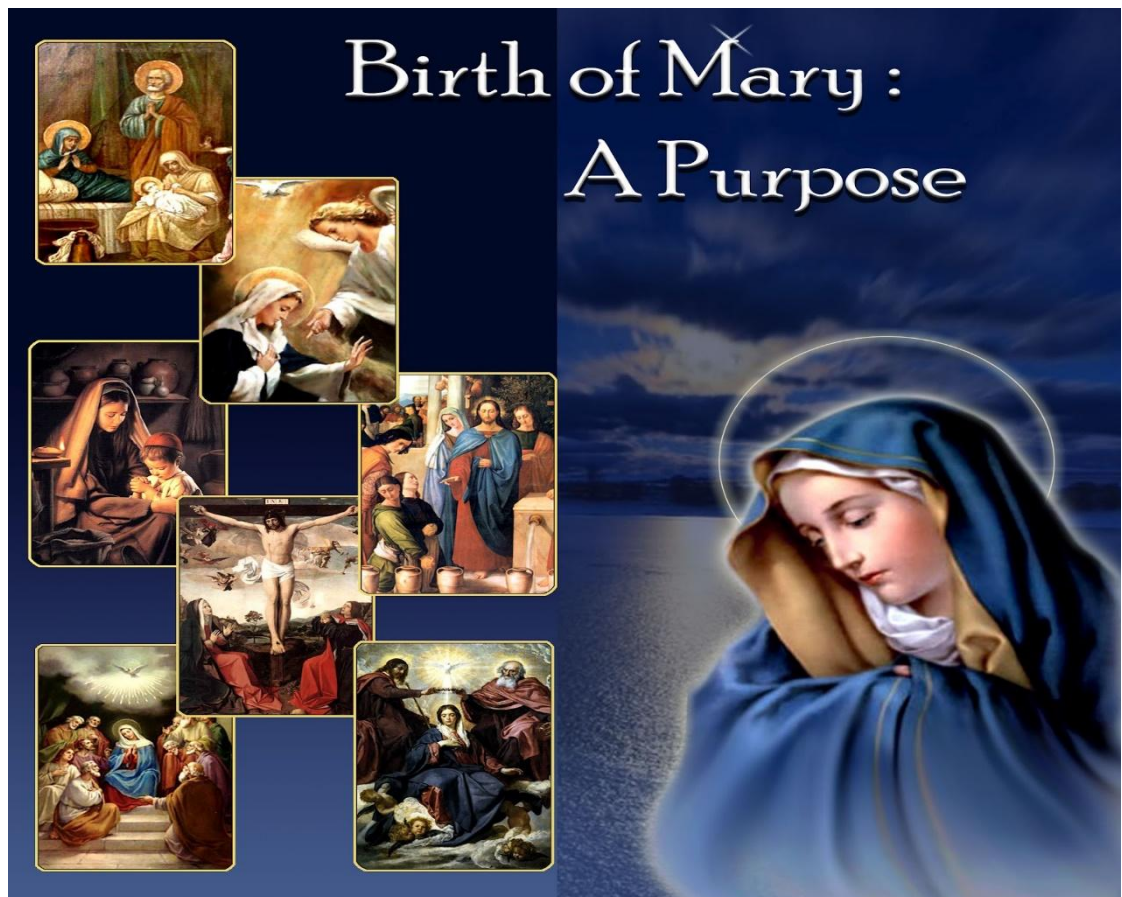




*From the Provincial's Desk*



The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year in September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months earlier).

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

St. Augustine (August 28) connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth what nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

#### Travels aboard:

**Fr. Lawrence Loganathan** left for the Philippines on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August to join the tertianship program in Manila and for his higher studies in pastoral counselling at the Ateneo de Manila University.

**Fr. John Manipadam** returned to his province (KER) on August 31<sup>st</sup> after completing 2 years serving the Sri Lanka province juniorate as a teacher, student counselor & spiritual director. Our heartfelt gratitude to him.

**Fr. Morais James Antonthas** left for the USA on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September to join the Tertianship Program in Portland.

**Fr. George Tokes** will be leaving for Hungary on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September intending to find a suitable pasture to continue his Jesuit life.

#### Appointments:

**Fr. Richard Pitchai** was installed as new Parish Priest of St. Sebastian Church, Puliyadikudah, on August 15.

**Fr. James Suresh** was appointed Asst. Director of the Eastern Technical Institute, Batticaloa, on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Fr. Anton Robert** was appointed the new Director of the Pre-novitiate, the Loyola Campus Trincomalee and the Director of the CLC for the diocese of Trincomalee on September 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Returnees:

**Fr. Sivarajah Ahilarajah** returned to the Sri Lankan Province after serving the Martyrs' Shrine, Midland, Canada for three years.

### **Secularization ad experimentum**

**Fr. Leonard Michael** who applied for incardination receives a period of secularization ad experimentum from the Vatican. However, Father Michael Leonard remains a Jesuit, but is dispensed from the law which requires religious to live in their own religious houses. The Bishop of East Anglia joins in particular care for Father Michael Leonard during this period of secularization ad experimentum.

## **COLOMBO DISTRICT**

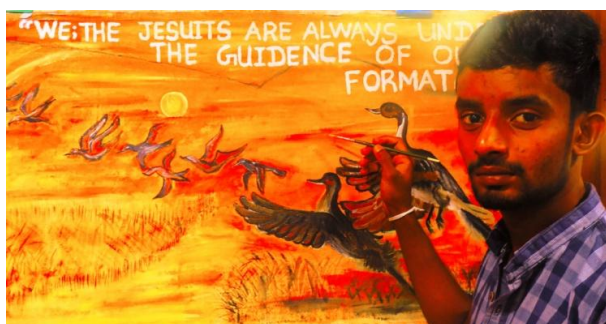
### **Daham Sihila - Novitiate**

The month of August was quite a busy month for the novices; a time filled with new experiences. Sensing that the novices were longing for an outing, Fr. Master took us to watch the movie 'Lion King'. After the movie we had a delicious dinner, still a delightful memory. Fr. James Suresh SJ, who came to offer a course for the Juniors, willingly said masses for us and inspired us with his short yet touching homilies.

The Novitiate, blessed with six companions from our Pakistani Mission, celebrated the independence day of Pakistan with great enthusiasm on 14 August. It was a special day for our Pakistani brothers who came up with a wonderful presentation on Pakistan to broaden our horizons on the various aspects of their motherland. Later on they delighted us with some of their dishes to give us a taste of Pakistani cuisine to make the day all the more meaningful. The following day, 15<sup>th</sup> of August, being the independence day of India, we had sessions on the history of the Independence struggle of the Sub-Continent and the partition of India and Pakistan. On the same day the FONLA community brought their beneficiaries to our premises for a day out. We had the joy of mingling with the children and their parents to share their happiness.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year novices went to Kokilai, a fishing village to have a firsthand experience of the life of its fisher folk. They would be staying there for two weeks working with them. Fr. Vanderwall arrived at the Novitiate to conduct the Intensive Journal for the 1<sup>st</sup> year novices. We are immensely grateful to Fr. Aloy for enriching us with this graceful experience. Fr. Master left for India on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August to take part in the Novice Masters' gathering. We pray for the success of this meeting. Our companion Leo Kanth is recovering steadily from the unexpected accident that occurred during our work experiment in Trincomalee. We kindly request your prayers for his speedy recovery.

### **Daham Sihila – Juniorate**



***“We Jesuits learn to internalize the Word in the Novitiate and study the art of communicating the Word in the Juniorate.”  
(Our Unhidden Agenda- Fr. Aloysius Pieris, S.J.)***



Keeping this goal in our mind, we are fully engrossed in our studies and other activities of the Juniorate programme. We are marching forward in this ten months' journey under the guidance of **Frs. Sanjeeva, Dilan**, and our teachers. Thus far the journey has been arduous yet we feel it is worth the climb in the ladder of success.



The tail end of the month of July was momentous since we all celebrated the feast day of

**St. Ignatius of Loyola**. It was a wonderful experience to celebrate the feast day for the first time as members of the Society. The feast day mass was celebrated by **Fr. Dilan, S.J.** In his homily he shared the story of his vocation which inspired us immensely. In the afternoon we joined the Novices to celebrate the feast day at the Novitiate. What a memorable way to conclude the feast other than going for an outing. We travelled to Galle-face and spent the latter part of the feast day there.

## KANDY DISTRICT

### Fatima Retreat House (FRH)

If someone were to ask us what are the busiest months for FRH, the answer would be July and August. Yes, these two months are the busiest months and it was so this year too. There were retreats after retreats and other programs one after another. In addition to that, the number of participants in these retreats and programs was indeed "huge". From 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July **Fr Joe Parakad**, conducted the seminar on "Affective Maturity". **Fr Mariyathas** guided two HF Juniors from Jaffna with an eight day retreat from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July in preparation for their final profession. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July there was a workshop on NVC under the supervision of **Mr Joe William**; 65 persons, lay and religious participated in this workshop. **Fr Chandana, CSSR**, brought his English medium Catechists from Thimbrigasyaya parish and had a day of prayer from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July. On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July FRH housed and hosted the Jesuits for their different commission meetings, workshop on Abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and the Province consult.

**Fr Baylon** conducted a seminar on "Spiritual Accompaniment" for the formators from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July. Twelve LSSP sisters from Colombo and Batticaloa had their annual retreat from 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July. **Fr Jeyaraj** joined the FRH community on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and he conducted a 30 day retreat for 4 Claretian scholastics from 20<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August. On 22<sup>nd</sup> July **Bro. Lalith** arranged a welcome party with a prayer service for **Fr Jeyaraj**. From 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July **Fr Alvin** conducted a seminar for the formators on "Biblical Values for Formation". The Kandy priests had their regular monthly recollection on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Fr Mariyathas** directed a seven day retreat on Ecology from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August in which 49 religious, men and women, participated. On 6<sup>th</sup> August **Bro. Lalith and Fr Mariyathas** visited **Sch. Atputha's** home, in Palimeenmadu, Batticaloa to offer their condolences to the family on the death of his father. **Fr Anthonipillai** conducted a three day workshop on NVC for the Marist Brothers (who work in Asia), from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August in Cambodia. From 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August **Fr Kamal** directed an eight day Psycho-spiritual retreat for 48 female religious. From 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August **Fr Mariyathas**, on the request of Fr Provincial, guided a five day retreat for a group of Oblate Fathers at the OMI scholasticate, Ampitiya. **Fr Anton Weerasinghe** guided two priests from the Diocese of Badulla with a five day retreat from 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August. Fifty four (54) Kandy priests participated in their annual retreat preached by **Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando** from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August. The bishop and the priests were extremely happy about the place, the environment and the healthy and delicious food. They showed their gratitude by offering a generous gift amounting to Rs 51,200.00 for the services rendered. This money was duly divided and distributed equally to every member of FRH staff. **Fr Jeyaraj** conducted sessions on Spiritual Accompaniment for the Leadership group organized by the CMRS at the Claret Nivas, Gurudeniya from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August. He then went to Colombo to conduct some sessions for the Sister Formation group from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Fr Kamal** is directing another psycho-spiritual retreat for 28 Charity sisters from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 3<sup>rd</sup> September. **Fr Mariyathas** guided **Ms. Dilukshi**, a niece of **Fr Beni, SJ**, with a three day retreat from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August. We want to share some **“Good News”** with the province members: **Fr Maria Anthony** who was once confined to his room and wheel chair is now showing tremendous improvements since he started going for the therapeutic treatment with Korean doctors at Peradeniya Road, Kandy. Now he finds no difficulty to sit down or get up and he walks without any help of a walking stick. He does walking exercises on his own both early in the morning and in the evenings- what a delightful change! **Bro Lalith** says: **Fr Maria Anthony** was originally made in Sri Lanka, got sick in Pakistan and now he is restored being **“Made in Korea!”**

### **Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC)**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC) was celebrated with pomp and pageantry on 10<sup>th</sup> August (2019) with the participation of distinguished guests, present and several past students, their parents/ guardians, and well-wishers and friends.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Most Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, the Bishop of Kandy. Among other distinguished guests were Very Rev.Fr. Dexter Gray, S.J., the Provincial Superior of the Sri Lanka Province of the Society of Jesus, Rev Fr. Kamal Andradi, S.J., District Superior, Kandy, Rev. Fr. Anton Pieris, S.J., a former Director of CYTC, Most Ven. Bulumulle Sumanarathana Thero, the Chief Incumbent of Nawalapitiya Pulinatalaramaya, Rev. Frs. Sanjeeva Fernando, S.J., Rashmi Fernando, S.J., Rev. Bro Randika, S.J., several Rev. Fathers from Kandy Diocese and Rev. Sisters from Cholankande Convent.



Mr. Tissa Gunawardena, the President, St. Aloysius' College, Galle, OBA, Colombo Branch and Prof. Morley De Silva, former Professor of Botany and former Director of Graduate Studies, University of Ruhuna.

Rev. Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi, S.J., Director of CYTC, after welcoming the guests presented the Annual Report (2018 – August 2019).

The addresses by the Chief Guest, Dr. Vianney Fernando, Very Rev. Fr. Dexter Gray, S.J., and Most Ven. Bulumulle Sumanarathana Thero, the Chief Incumbent of Nawalapitiya Pulinatalaramaya traced the stages of growth of CYTC, and its contribution towards Vocational Training and Skills Development which have a great relevance in Sri Lanka today while forming the students to promote unity in diversity and to cultivate a deep respect and appreciation for the environment.

A special feature of the day was the launching of the book *"The Jesuits in Pakistan"*. It was introduced to the audience by the author, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Rasiah, S.J. after that the first copy was presented to Most Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando.



*The Souvenir: Cholakande Youth Training Centre Celebrating 25 years of Success 1994-2019* was presented to the distinguished guests by Rev. Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi, S.J.

The students who entertained the audience with song and dance received much praise and admiration.





The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Rev. Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne, S. J., Principal of CYTC. The program ended with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by lunch.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August, a seminar on substance abuse and nutrition was held at the St. Joseph Moscati Auditorium by two ayurvedic doctors and a nutritionist from the Divisional Secretariat, Pasbage Korale for the students' of CYTC and the youth from Cholankande area. The panelists were Dr. H.S.N. Shafana, Dr. M. G. M. R. Medagoda and Mr. R. M. P. K. Ranathunga.



### **CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CONCERN (CSC) LOYOLA CAMPUS, HATTON**



**Visit of the Country Director of Loyola Campus: Fr. Milroy** spent two days with us, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of August and completed both academic and finance audits. He met the staff and the students separately and reviewed our mission. Over all he was happy with the dedicated services of the staff not only at the centre but also at the periphery. He donated four second hand laptops to our

staff for their use mainly for their diploma studies in liberal arts and other administrative works. He has revised the existing reporting formats and explained them to the staff concerned.



### **Exploring new preschools and conducting Parents meeting at CSC:**

Though many preschools are in need of greater assistance in terms of teachers' salary and nutritious food to the children, it is not



an easy task to incorporate the preschools under CSC mission. Ms. Yogitha while exploring, felt rejected by the estate administration in a few places. With much difficulty she approached three preschools in the remote areas and brought them under CSC mission. All the schools in Sri Lanka are in Holidays in August and so Ms. Yogitha organized parents meet in the estates. In some places the parents were motivated to pay close attention in the education of the children and in some places the students

before their parents took an oath that they would get up early in the morning; spend less time in front of the TV and spend more time with their books.

**Job fair and art competition at NuwaraEliya:** On 27<sup>th</sup> of August around twenty eight staff and students of CSC and Loyola Campus participated in the job fair organized by Save the Children, Lead and Nuwara Eliya district secretariat. Sixteen students of Loyola Campus in four groups showed their artistic talents in painting what they understood by “the challenges and solutions of women’s entrepreneurship”.



The other staff and students advertized the courses of Loyola Campus through handbills, posters, videos and talks from the stall given. Many youth eagerly listened to our staff and students and promised that they would join Loyola Campus for the September batch.



**Students’ picnic:** On 17<sup>th</sup> of August the students and staff had

a one day picnic to Leisure world near Avissawela. Students contributed 50% of the expenses and the Loyola Campus country office was generous enough to bear the rest of the expenses. The students enjoyed the games on the grounds till noon and in the water in the afternoon. It was a great opportunity for a few students to overcome their fear and for others to explore their adventurous nature. This picnic refreshed the students well to face the final exams. The computer exam was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> and English on 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.



**Recruitment trips to estate schools:** Thanks to the rapport between CSC and the government schools in and around Hatton, we could visit Highlands at Hatton, St. Mary’s and Holy Rosary’s at Bogawantalawa, TMV at Tientsin, Kayilwattai, Enfield, Kotagala, and Cambridge College at Kotagala and shared the information about CSC Loyola Campus and motivated them to join the courses for September to December batch.



**Staff picnic to Galle and Negombo and exposure visit to Jesuit communities:** It was the first time that most of our staff visited Galle and Jesuit communities. The staff enjoyed their boat ride in the backwaters, sea bath at Negombo beach and brisk walk at historical fort of Galle. Some of them shed tears when they visited St. Sebastian’s Church and the cemetery at Katuwapitiya. Most of the staff, though they are not Catholics, felt like doing

meditation at Supuwath Arana, Seeduwa. Our staff enjoyed the hospitality of Galle Community thanks to **Fr. Christian** and Negombo community thanks to **Frs. Gabriel and Thushara. Fr. Bernard** welcomed us at the gate of Mt. Calvary School and took us to the computer lab where he narrated the origin and evolution of the school and goal of Jesuit



education. **Fr. Stanley** shared the works of Galle Jesuits. **Fr. Provincial** emphasized that CSC mission is very important for the Jesuits since it serves the most deserving plantation community and thanked the staff for their dedicated services and explained the mission of Jesuits in Sri Lanka.

## **NORTHERN MISSION**

### **from Vavuniya**

#### ***Moving Ahead with a Union of Hearts and Minds***

##### **Loyola Campus**

On 2 July, due to popular demand and under the tutelage of Fr. Santosh, Spoken English Classes commenced in the evenings for working professionals. Loyola Campus – Vavuniya, continues to experience the Providence of God, as given the depletion of the teaching staff due to the many departures, there were new teaching prospects who suddenly showed up to fill this exigency.



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, Loyola Campus Vavuniya had a celebratory lunch in honour of St. Ignatius of Loyola. It was a student-run affair, as the students themselves took charge of the entire event. This whole enterprise was very formative as students learned to manage with and by themselves, the planning for which was a week-long process. For many, who had not involved themselves in such work at home, it was an eye-opening experience and their feedback was very encouraging.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, both Loyola Campus and JRSS were introduced to the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the mission of the Jesuits in Sri Lanka. Conducted by Fr. Benny, who was introduced as the newly-designated “Coordinator of Jesuit Works in Vavuniya”, this small program helped to communicate our intended goals for this area. With the cutting of the cake and some dancing and singsong, the program guided under the auspices of Fr. Santosh, ended on a joyous note.



On 9 August, Fr. Benny conducted a team building activity for the newly-recruited staff members of Loyola Campus, Vavuniya, including the Jesuits.



Promotional activities were done in Chidambarapuram and Achipuram of Our Lady – Queen of Heaven and Earth Parish, Komarasankulam and 7 substations of St. Antony's Parish, Rambaikulam. Besides flyers were distributed at all the five examination centres of Vavuniya Town on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August at the end of A/L General Knowledge and English exams. Thanks to the youthful zeal of our students this was possible.

On 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August we had the final English exams and on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August, the final Computer exams for this batch. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August afternoon, the students with Ms. Vathani as their mentor organised a farewell function.

There was a felt need for more classrooms to facilitate admission of more students and create a conducive atmosphere for learning. After having received 3 quotations from reliable people of the area, Fr. Noel was able to select one, Mr. Thavarasa, who was more experienced and who had built other religious houses. The plan is to add 3-4 classrooms in addition to the rooms that we are already using. Preparations are on for the admission of the new batch of students beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Jesuit Community**

Indeed, we have reconsolidated our situation both as a Jesuit community and an institution and despite past difficulties, we are poised to move in the right direction with a union of hearts and minds. Now community meetings and staff meetings are a weekly fixture. It was in this Spirit that Fr. Noel left for Kandy on 9<sup>th</sup> July to attend the Young Priests meeting held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July. For those who gathered there, it was an opportunity to rekindle and strengthen friendships and fraternal bonds. He then attended the meeting on the “*Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults*” held on 16 July. Indeed, it was a crucial event underscoring the need for all religious and priests to be aware of the new measures taken by Pope Francis in the light of his motu proprio “*Vos estis lux mundi*.”



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, Frs. Benny, Santosh and Noel welcomed the Rev. Fathers from the surrounding area for a Dinner in honour of the St. Ignatius' Feast. Thanks to the constant presence of Fr. Santosh in the various diocesan and deanery events, the Jesuit community is very much alive in the local church and available for confessions.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, the Jesuit community celebrated the first mass in the new house taken on rent. Situated a stone's throw from St. Anthony's Church, this house is intended to be the future residence of the Jesuits in Vavuniya. With Fr. Santosh overseeing this enterprise, the community looks forward to the day when they can move there permanently.

Following this, the feast day celebration for the Northern Mission Jesuits was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August in Mullaitivu. Comprising of an evening mass by Fr. Noel followed by a relaxing swim in the Mullaitivu Sea, the night ended on a festive high with songs by Frs. Emil, Gyorgy, Benny and Santosh.

On 8 August, the Jesuits of Vavuniya convened a meeting with Fr. Provincial and Fr. Milroy Fernando to discuss the future of Vavuniya Jesuit mission. The meeting was held at a house rented by





the Vavuniya Jesuits. Eventually, the rented house will become a Jesuit residence and the current building will be utilized only for Loyola Campus and other Jesuit ministries. Fr. Benny and Fr. Provincial visited a site at Kalnatinakulam to explore possibilities for expansion.

On 10 August, Fr. Santosh animated the Salesian Superiors of the communities of Northern SL on Pope Francis Letter, "Vos estis lux mundi". From 19-21 August, Fr. Santosh directed the triduum for the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, Pambaimadu as a preparation for the feast of Our Lady on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. He celebrated the feast day Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> August too. Fr Benny went to India on 12 August to participate in the JCSA South Zone social action coordinators meet and then the REGAE meet for all the province coordinators and returned on 24 August.

### **JRSS**

From 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July, JRSS conducted a ToT programme for 40 preschool teachers to become community animators in Karuna Nilayam, Kilinochchi. Selection of 40 trainees out of 190 teachers was based on requisites such as academic qualification, experience and age, given that JRSS had conducted a baseline test in the month of June for all the teachers.



The focus of the ToT was strategies of planning, preparing, organizing, conducting, evaluating, and reporting on seminars and workshops on human resource development themes. Mr. S. Vinthan, **the Zonal Education Coordinator of Early Childhood Development Programme of Kilinochchi Zone**, Mr.V.Thabendran, the Director of Social Service of Kilinochchi and Fr. Benny, recently returned from Nepal (from the Think-Tank Meeting of the POSA on socio-economic-political context of South Asia, in which he presented the emerging Buddhist and Islamic fundamentalism in Sri Lanka) were the facilitators for this two and half day programme.

On 21, July 2019 JRSS' preschools conducted a prayer service for all the departed souls and wounded persons in the Easter Sunday tragedy in their respective schools as a 3-month remembrance. Following this, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July the trainees from the aforementioned 2 ½ day program conducted a half-day training for the other teachers and parents in community development in their eight respective zones. The JRSS management team visited the various zones for monitoring the training. The hope of JRSS is that the teachers themselves will evolve as resource persons by this process.

### **Pakistan Mission**

Our two Scholastics Amir and Asim have received their degrees, Amir an Arts Degree in English and Asim an Arts Degree in History from the Forman Christian University, Gulberg, Lahore. They hope to receive the invitation letter soon for the visa to go to Sri Lanka for Regency. While waiting, Amir is the Music Teacher at the St Mary's Sadaat Colony High School and Asim is at the St Mary's Al Mehatab High School helping with the accounts in the fees office. He also takes classes in the library.

We are very happy to have five new candidates in our formation house. Three of these have been enrolled in the Punjab College. We thank the Lord for these young men and pray that the Lord give them the grace to follow and serve him in the Society. Our second year candidate, Colin, is back at College. The other three second-year candidates are waiting for the invitation letters so that they can go to Sri Lanka to join the Pre-novitiate. The candidates gave Fr. Renato a very enjoyable farewell party.



On the return of the children after the summer break, Imran has been busy in the three schools. Two Principals, the Vice Principal and one Coordinator for the schools are working on their visa forms to go to Cebu Philippines in September to attend a workshop for teachers on Ignatian Pedagogy.

Imran and his Magispakistan team organised a very interesting and helpful formation program for Twenty-two Magis Youth at the youth camp in the hill areas of Ayubia. The theme was “Searching for God.” The Magis youth attended the monthly program also on the topic “How does the suffering of Mary strengthen us in our daily life”. The Speaker was the OMI Provincial Fr. Paulus Khan OMI. After the talk, the Magispakistan had a wonderful farewell program for Fr. Renato, who is to return to Australia to live and work over there. It was amazing to see the love and sharing of youth as they had brought food, one dish, from their home. Everybody shared their food with one another as members of Magis family.

Loyola Hall has been a hive of activity with retreats directed and preached by Juan Carlos and Fr. Michael Holman SJ from the British Province.

Overseas guests Lecturers, conducted workshops on the following topics: “Affectivity and Human Sexuality in the Formation Journey and in Religious Life.” South Korean Fr. Xavier SJ, Professor of Psychology of the Gregorian University, was the lecturer. Fr. Michael Holman SJ besides giving three retreats conducted two workshops for our teachers on “Ignatian Pedagogy, Leadership and Organization” and “Understanding our students: Human Development.” FROM Austria, Dr. Irmgard from the Innsbruck University gave a well-attended workshop on “Exploring Feminist Theology”. Dr. Irmgard went to Rawalpindi to conduct similar workshops at the Ecumenical Christian Study Centre and at the major Seminary in Karachi. Professor Fr. Faryaad Anser, from the Major Seminary Karachi, conducted a four day workshop on “St Paul’s Theology and the Redemptive Mission of Christ.” His talks on Scripture in Urdu attracted a big crowd. The Loyola hall staff worked very hard and for long hours during these programs. We thank them.



Our NVC worker has been conducting workshops in country areas of the Punjab. People have appreciated her inputs.

At the Sunday mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral the Archbishop of Lahore Sebastian Shaw thanked Fr. Renato



for his many years of service in Pakistan. The College of consultants with whom Fr. Renato had served three terms joined in the celebration.

### **Fr James Suresh writes from Batticaloa District.**

On 28 July 2019, Faith formation to the youth of St Anthony's parish, Karuveppankani was given to 35 persons for a half day. I was requested to extend my help to this programme.

I was the chief celebrant for the mass on 9 August 2019, the day of flag hoisting in the church of our lady of Perpetual help, Mamangai.

A three days' intensive course on 'Time management and study methodology' was conducted by me for the Junior scholastics in Daham Sihila, Kelaniya from 10 to 12 August 2019.

From 16 to 22 August 2019, annual retreat was preached to the Franciscan Missionary Brothers in St Joseph's house, Matale, by me. Eighteen brothers actively took part in it.

### **Fr. Christian Perera writes from Galle District**

First of all, I thank God almighty for giving me the strength and courage to complete my PhD studies. Having a PhD means a one-time dream of mine and it has become a reality in my life now.

When I asked permission to begin my PhD studies from Fr. Jeyaraj, the Provincial Superior, what he told me was: "I do not have money but I will beg money for my brothers". He did beg and received money; as a result of it I began my PhD studies in the first quarter of 2014 and finalized the studies in 2019. It was my childhood desire to do my studies to the best of my ability or magis in terms of the Society. I express my gratitude to Fr. Dexter Gray, the present Provincial Superior who also begged money to cover all my expenses. I am very grateful to Missio and the German Jesuits for extending me their support.

The topic of my thesis for the degree was "the Impact of Management Styles on the Productivity of Tea Plantation Sector in Sri Lanka". It took five and half years to complete the studies, as I was a part time student. Various stages of PhD studies such as Defense proposal, Work Completion, Viva and the Convocation also held in the Main premises of the Management and Science University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The convocation was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2019 in the same university premises. A highly organized ceremony presided over by the Chancellor of the Management and Science University His Royal Highness Raja Mudah (Crown Prince) of Kedah. I am the first Catholic priest to graduate from this university.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Ali Khatibi, Prof. Shukri, Prof. Karuthan Chinna, Dr. Ferdous, Dr. Jacqueline, Prof. Suranga De Silva, Dr. Isuri Dharmarathna and Dr. Sepali Sudasinghe for the knowledge they shared with me.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Harsha Wanninayake, the Deputy Director of Satyodaya and all the staff members for extending their fullest cooperation for my studies. I would like to express my gratitude to Fr. George Fernando and his staff at the Jesuit Curia for making things easier for me with regard to the finances for my studies.

## Kakuma Refugee Camp- Kenya (Fr Lasantha De Abrew writes)



The month of August was marked with my visits to the special needs children in their own homes, our beneficiaries in the camp. Most of them are with severe Cerebral Palsy. Our incentive staffs are attending to them regularly providing them with therapy and giving oil massages. Though I was accompanied by therapists from various centers, walking under the hot sun and the sandy breeze in the camp made our visit really hard.

My experiences were marked with tensions between **sin & grace, sorrow & joy and desolation & consolation.**

Most of these children are orphans. As soon as these children are diagnosed with either CP or any kind of disability, they are abandoned mostly by their fathers and sometimes even by their mothers. There are cases where both parents have fled, leaving the helpless child with either the grandmother or a close relative. However, I met some parents who care for these children with much affection, **“This is God’s child**, how can we worship God day after day if we do not love this child?” There are also some grandmothers, uncles or grand uncles who dedicatedly look after these helpless children.



Sometimes these children may create tensions in their family circles. I met a 12 year old boy, an older brother of a girl with special needs, who refuses to spend even a few minutes with his sister, so that the father could go and collect the rations from the UNHCR. I asked him “Why don’t you have some affection for your only sister?” He angrily retorted **“I lost my mother because of this girl”**. The mother of this girl had abandoned the family six months after her birth.



When I visited Derek, a special needs child and saw him surrounded by his siblings I asked Cedric, brother of Derek “Do you love your younger brother” and “of course” was his prompt response. I then asked him “Why do you love him? Derek is unable to play with you” and my eyes were filled with tears when I heard Cedric’s immediate answer **“Yes, he does not play with us, but we play with him. I carry him and we play football.** He smiles and enjoys it and even tries to kick with his half-lifeless leg. This shows that we love him”. Cedric is 11 years old.



There are some children who are badly neglected, but I also witnessed some children who are cared for very affectionately. Seeing some of the children who are quite withdrawn brought me sadness, but I was overjoyed to see 14 year old Bruce who eagerly welcomed us to his



home by calling his siblings using sign language “**Come, visitors have come**” and also crawled to bring me a chair.

I am proud of the unique ministry of JRS towards these special needs children, the more marginalized among the marginalized. I am proud of our incentive staff, who themselves are



refugees, but have become care-givers. **I am grateful to my little special needs children who make me aware of my own disabilities and my special needs.** I am ever so grateful to God for my presence in JRS. This sentiment was ignited while we were walking on the dusty roads and I heard one of the staff members inquiring “Father, why do you walk with us? It is so hot” Within a few seconds another replied,” **Our God came to earth to walk with us. Jesus did that”**

### Fr Tyrone Mihindukulasuriya writes from Naples

Rev.Fr.Baylon Perera came to Gesu Nuovo and went to Grottaglie to visit Pina and Maria with Fr.Tyrone. Many old friends of Fr.Baylon came to visit him with lots of Sri Lankan sweetmeats.



On August 13, a novena followed by vespers and the following day was conducted in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Madu. All the four Sri-Lankan communities, Sinhala and Tamil, of Gesu Nuovo, Piazza Giuseppe Mazzini, Piazza Cavour took part in the vespers and festive mass on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August. The festive mass was celebrated by six Sri Lankan Priests. Fr.Anthony Fernando (SDB) delivered the homily in Sinhala while Fr. Jesudasan, OMI in Tamil. Frs. Suranga Asiri of the Chilaw diocese working in Napoli at Cavour Parish, Shehan Fernando priest of the same diocese studying in Rome, Vincent Wijesuriya from Kandy diocese and Tyrone joined the concelebration.

After the festive mass, the Statue of Our Lady of Madu was taken in procession on the streets of Napoli. Alms were given to more than 3000 Sri Lankans who attended the festive mass. The Gesu Nuovo Church and the statue of Our Lady were decorated very beautifully by Mr.Patrick Clement of Napoli.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> a group of 105 pilgrims accompanied by Frs.Tyrone, Anthony, Shehan and Vincent Wijesuriya joined the Gesu Nuovo Lourdes - Fatima pilgrimage to France and Portugal respectively and spent two days at these two places.

Rev.Sr.Carmeline Fernando came all the way from Lourdes to help in our pilgrimage. She helped us by booking the times of our masses and Way of the Cross at Lourdes. We celebrated mass in Sinhala at the Grotto on August 18<sup>th</sup>. We were extremely lucky to pass through the French, Spanish and Portugal borders without any difficulty. After a successful journey of 2700 km, we reached Napoli on August 22 early morning. Because of the cooperation and the generosity of the Sri-Lankans, the expenses of four Priests and Sr.Carmeline were entirely met by them. We managed to cover our all expenses with Euro 300/= per person.

These days Napoli is going through extreme hot weather. On certain days the temperature rose above forty degrees Celsius.

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*SRI LANKA Province welcomes the Tertians of 2019 and wishes them a grace-filled time of “Schola Affectus” with abundance of blessings.*



**BAGUL, Mahesh Devrambhai (GUJ)**  
**CARRASCO, Jude (GOA)**  
**DO, Cao Bang (VIE)**  
**EKKA, Michael (PAT)**  
**FERNANDES, Santosh (KAR)**  
**JOHN, Richard Hiruthyaraj (MDU)**  
**KISPOTTA, Anil (DEL)**  
**MACWAN, Nilesh Yohan (GUJ)**  
**MINJ, Anil Kumar (DEL)**  
**MINJ, Arwind Kumar (HAZ)**  
**PEEDIKAMALAYIL, Augustine (KER)**  
**POONDY, Rajan Y (MDU)**  
**SILVEIRA, Jose (GOA)**  
**THOMAS, Nelton (PUN)**  
**THANNIKAL, V Antony (KAR)**  
**VU, Minh Tri (VIE)**

# 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

### SEPTEMBER

03/1943 Winston Rosairo  
08/1973 Michael Ekka  
08/1998 Radnaf F. D'Silva (Junior)  
14/1950 Tyrone Mihindukulasuriya  
16/1989 Sithum Fonseka  
20/1957 Joel Kulanayagam  
20/1979 Augustine Peedikamalayil  
25/1982 Dilan Sankalpa Perera  
27/1971 George Fernando  
28/1980 Mahesh D. Bagul

### OCTOBER

05/1996 Michael Croos (Junior)  
16/1944 Aloysius Vanderwall  
18/1945 Ranjith Abeyasinghe  
22/1951 Veerasan Yogeswaran  
24/1977 Jose Silveira  
25/1972 Anil Kumar Minj  
25/1995 Rahul Nokrek (Junior)  
25/1997 Sudipto P. Rozario (Novice)  
27/1982 Emil Lucien

### NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019  
to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER,

[sociussrilanka@gmail.com](mailto:sociussrilanka@gmail.com)