

A Report on the National Justice Day
at
De Nobili, Papal Seminary and PG/CWS in Jnana Deepa

Preparatory Meeting one: The president's council with the Rectors of Papal seminary and De Nobili had two rounds of meetings to plan about the National Justice day. On Sunday 24th 10.30 am to 11.30 am online meeting was held. The president asked each one of us to articulate the purpose of the National Justice Day and the practical how about it. It was shared that first and foremost that each one of us need to be conscious of the issue and be touched and challenged by the sacrifice of Fr. Stan, the sixteen detainees and the thousands of innocent youths who are unjustly incarcerated. Secondly, to create an awareness among the public towards these issues. It was then decided that we invite all the nearby houses to prepare their own placards and posters; post them in front of their respective gates and then take a silent march from DNC to Papal seminary through the Nagar Road. However, we need to take the permission of the local police officials. Then Fr. Bhausahab was deputed to meet the local authorities to get the prior permission to assemble and protest.

The Second Meeting, was held online on 26th from 8.30pm to 9.15 pm. Fr. Bhausahab reported that the police have denied us permission to have this silent protest since: (a) The 'corona curfew' is still in force daily after 4.00 pm in the city of Pune, and, (b) Section 144 abrogating the right to congregate in big groups still holds under special circumstances of the current pandemic. Since we are unable to move out of the campus, we have now decided that:

- (a) The members of PS, DNC, PGB and CWS will meet at the Papal Seminary chapel at 6.00 pm for prayer and reflection, which will last for about 20-25 mins.
- (b) After the prayer, the members of these houses will move in a silent procession observing 'social distancing' to their respective residences.
- (c) When the students/staff reach their respective residences, there will be a short prayer to conclude this memorial service. The whole program will last for 45 minutes.

The Day proper (28th July, 2021): all the members of PS, DNC, PGB and CWS met at the Papal Seminary chapel at 6.00 pm for prayer and reflection. The team presented a well prepared video program on Fr. Stan's life and ministry with some touching implications for all. Then a scholastic from the DNC led us into a meaningful penitential service. After which Sr. Fabian read a passage from the Bible. Then a scholastic from the DNC led us into petition prayer and ended with a hymn.

As the hymn was being sung, the DNC community first, followed by the CWS and PG block members went out in a silent procession towards each one's chapel where each community gathered and ended with a prayer and blessing.

The process did evoke among us all a silent but strong protest vibration fused with pain and agony of the unjustly incarcerated people. We were only satisfied that we too could, in a small way, join the people of Good Will, all over India at the same time. Photos are attached herewith.

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