

FROM POSA'S DESK



## Administering to Animate

Roman ‘Tempo Forte’ in the Curia is beginning to bite, in spite of the ‘space’ that is to be covered to make it happen! By enlarging his council, inducting Secretaries of various sectors and the Presidents of the Conferences, and scheduling Council meeting on regular intervals, Fr. General is giving out a message to the whole Society: that administration in the Society should be geared to animation of mission and to listen to the wider Society. One is reminded of the saying of Mahatma Gandhi: “That government is the best that governs the least!

Much of our Jesuit energy is spent in administration, managing matters efficiently, at least that seems to be the case in South Asia. Our ministries, often if not always, exhaust and de-energize us as we are engulfed with administrative details and spreading ourselves too thin!

Fr. Nicolas spoke about ‘depth’ in all that we do and accomplish. One of the ways in which we arrive at depth is by ‘listening’ – listening to i) what is being spoken in the media, in the conversation, in the happenings around; ii) by listening to the unspoken words, to communications that happens in being ‘present’, and iii) listening to the silence in between the words.

It is said that ‘Fuzzy logic’ helps us capture the multi-dimensionality of reality. May be we need ‘Fuzzy administration’ in order to animate our mission and capture the ways of the Spirit. What happens in between the administrative pauses really matters! There the animation takes place in spite of us and beyond our binary thinking.

**George Pattery, SJ**  
Provincial of South Asia

### FR GENERAL'S EXTENDED COUNCIL



## Fr General's Extended

**Council:** 27 May – 10 June Fr George Pattery, (POSA) took part in the 8 day Retreat (outside Rome) and thereafter in the *Tempo Forte*, at the Jesuit Curia. In all there were 24 members excluding Fr General, in the council. It was a follow up of the GC 36 process to identify the

apostolic priorities before the Society at the Universal level. The process took the form of a “Communal Discernment Process”. The Extended Council aims at involving the Conferences and its constituent provinces & regions, as well as the major Secretariats at the General Curia level in greater interaction with one another, as a new form of governance post GC36.

**NEW PROVINCIALS 2017**

## Newly minted Provincials 2017



(L-R) Fr Jeerakassery Sebastian (DEL); Fr Dexter Gray (SRI); Fr Santosh Minj (HAZ); Fr Arun de Souza (BOM)  
Fr Danis Ponniah (MDU); Fr Andrew Fernandes (PUN); Fr Raphael Hyde (CCU).

### **Ignatian Family (IGFA) Meet May 12-13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at ISI Delhi:**

A successful maiden attempt to gather the Ignatian Family (Congregations who have adopted Ignatian Spirituality as their Life and Mission) was made by Fr George Pattery (POSA). Ten women religious congregations responded. The meeting was held at ISI-Delhi on the 11-12 May, 2017. Through an in-depth sharing, using the process of ‘discernment in common’ for better listening to one another and the Spirit, an effort was initiated to enhance areas of collaboration among the members.

Participants were happy to have been taken into confidence on GC 36, its way of functioning, its decrees, especially on the instruments of discernment, collaboration and networking. They felt

humbled to be considered part of the Ignatian family; given a chance to share about their own congregation's charism, mission, hopes and aspirations; and a engaged in planning to move ahead, collaboratively in mission.

Suggestions for future collaboration included:

1. Create more opportunities for many more to benefit from the Spiritual Exercises; Training women religious to give the Spiritual Exercises and become adept Spiritual guides.
2. Form mixed teams (women & men religious) to conduct leadership trainings for staff and students, based on Ignatian principles.
3. Revive, AICUF with its rural exposure component & the Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm for educational institutions.
4. Offer more courses to deepen Ignatian Spirituality, which could lead to greater collaboration in mission.
5. Engage in common planning and a sharing of resources in the fields of Education and Social involvement.
6. Collaborate on issues such as: migration, child labour, trafficking, hindutva, etc.
7. Shanti Sadbhavana groups could be started in the areas where we are engaged in, in mission.
8. Create a zone wise resource directory, for ready reference to invite persons for different programs, when needed.

From all this it was finally said that rather than focusing on inputs by way of talks and seminars, the focus could be on mission and the spirituality underlying it. It was decided to make efforts to get more women religious provincials to attend the meeting. Of the ten women congregations a second provincial could also be invited; an additional Jesuit provincial would also be invited.

A Core-Team was set in place, consisting of: **Sr. Pratima CJ, Sr Jyoti BS, Sr Blanch FC, & Fr Jeerakassery SJ (Convenor)**.

The next meeting was scheduled for the **10-11 Feb, 2018**.

### **JRS hands over to the Sri Lanka province:**

JRS started its work with the Sri Lankan Tamils, in the early 1980s. For two decades the local Jesuits represented JRS with the support of some lay people. JRS initially began with small interventions to empowerment and bring dignity to the life of a beleaguered people. As the need increased, JRS ran modest projects of nutrition for children, tailoring classes for women, construction of shelters, informal education, emergency relief and advocacy. After the many years of JRS involvement in Sri Lanka, once again the work has been handed over to the Sri Lankan province, with gratitude and confidence that they will take the mission forward, keeping alive the legacy of JRS.

The decision of JRS to withdraw from Sri Lanka after decades of presence was taken in 2013. This important change was questioned, leading to the setting up of an independent team

revisit the decision and discern what was the way forward. The committee subsequently endorsed the decision and in December 2016, the Sri Lanka Province committed itself, to carry forward the JRS mission.

A transition team was put up in place to paving the way for a smooth transfer to the Sri Lanka Province. This June 2017, the transition took place in the presence of JRS International Director, Fr, Tom Smolich, SJ, JRS South Asia Regional Director, Fr. Stanislaus Fernandes, SJ and Fr Dexter Gray Provincial Sri Lanka and his team. Heartfelt thanks to the transition team of Frs. Benedict Saverimuthu, Alexis Prem Kumar, Alex Yagoo and Mr. Thiranjala Weerasinghe for their dedication, in re-visioning the journey ahead.



JRS stands with the Jesuits of Sri Lanka in solidarity and support as they launch out towards the goal of Peace building through Reconciliation and Justice in Sri Lanka. A booklet titled “The Right Action at the Right Time” was released by JRS South Asia during the handing over function. It highlights the JRS strengths during its involvement in Sri Lanka. It also carries interviews of Jesuits, members

of other religious congregations and lay persons who formed part of the JRS Sri Lankan family over the years.

JRS has planted a seed. It is now up to the Sri Lanka province to water the new sapling, and nurture it to bear abundant fruit - fruit that will last.

Contribution by **Fr Jayakumar Gnana SJ**

## NEWS ITEMS:

### PEACE INITIATIVES IN SOUTH ASIA – A MISSION OF RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE

GC 36, D1 “Companions in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice,” is the latest in a series of appeals made to all Jesuits to become ministers of reconciliation – in their life and mission, involving justice and resulting in its much needed corollary, peace.



GC 36 cannot be read in isolation, GC 32, D4; 35, d 3, n 12 and Pope Francis' Encyclical, "Laudato Si", all lead up to the same appeal for reconciliation.

Responding to this call, amidst the prevailing seemingly intractable conflict ridden situations in the countries of South Asia, **Fr George Pattery, SJ (POSA)** called for a meeting of all existing Peace Initiatives in South Asia. The meeting took place on 19-20 Aug, 2017 at ISI-Delhi. There were 18 participants; representatives of peace centers and a few other invitees. The representatives were: Joe Kalathil (peace building between Indian & Pakistan along the western border with Pak.); Walter Fernandes (Kohima Region- tribal reconciliation; migration from Myanmar); Joy Karayampuram (Shanti Sadbhavana Manch of ISI – Delhi); Binoy Pichalakkatt (LIPI center (Cochin) - Kerala province); John Chathanatt's (Delhi Prov.); Tony Dias (SAMANVAYA-Mumbai Prov.); Rajeev Chakranarayan (Xavier's Social Service Centre – A'bad) & Xavier Manjooran (RSSS in South Gujarat).

The meeting was effectively conducted through a process of 'discernment in common'. It involved an in-depth listening to the Spirit in the movements of self, the other the group.

Existing initiatives when shared were eye openers, testimonies to the silent, dogged efforts in remote areas to usher in peace. They spanned the spectrum from people to people contact, to academic

research, publication and advocacy; from border engagements to empowering peace-makers in interior areas.



The proposal, being made to JCSA, was of setting up an Assistency Nodal Platform, to facilitate / provide: sharing between centers, support, provide visibility, training, research, advocacy, linkages with civil society groups: national and international and all Jesuit ministries so as to make reconciliation the overarching thrust of our mission toady.

The road before us is, to "seek to understand how God invites us – and so many people of good will – to share in that great work." (GC 36, d 1, n. 3).

Reported by Keith Abranches, SJ

**CORE TEAM TO COUNTERACT SECULARISM IN SA:** A Core Team has been set up under the leadership of Fr Denzil Fernandes SJ (Exe. Dir. ISI-D) to study the current threats and challenges to secularism in SA. They will identify, articulate the core issues, propose long term strategies and short term tasks for Jesuits and their collaborators to undertake. The first meeting is on the 3-4<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at ISI-Delhi. The teams work was whetted by the JCSA and was circulated widely as the JCSA Statement on "An Alternative Narrative and strategies for Reconciliation in the New India." It can be found in JIVAN (August 2017 Issue), Pgs 4-6.

**REGAE (Reorienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness) PHASE II:** – Set in motion. Fr G. Pattery, SJ, constituted a new commission headed by Fr Fernando Franco, to take forward the process of REGAE in the Second Phase. A detailed account of the process envisaged can be obtained from his letter to the Assistancy, POSA Circular 2017/05\_3<sup>rd</sup> May, available in [www.jcsaweb.org](http://www.jcsaweb.org).

Fr Franco has written to all provincials about the consultation in zonal groups between the core-team and the zones from Jan – May 2018, followed by the Training of Trainers in July 2018. Thereafter the zones take over to conduct in the programs in the zone. The timetable is as follows:

Jan 19-22	at JDV PG Block Pune	Western Zone
Feb 2-5	at NRC Delhi	Northern Zone
Mar 9-12	at XLRI Jamshedpur	Central Zone
May 11-14	at ISI – Bangalore	Southern Zone
July 20-24	at JDV PG Block Pune	Training of Trainers for all zones.

### **JWL (Jesuit Worldwide Learning) marches forwarded – A note on JWL centres in South Asia:**

The JWL learning centers are growing globally. In South Asia we are working on new centers. Fr Peter Balleis would be visiting these centers in October and he would give the final approval for the centers. In all these centers we have started with JWL Global English Language program and subsequently we aim to introduce some professional & diploma programs.

**Sri Lanka:** JWL has signed an MoU with the Provincial of Sri Lanka. In all there will be seven learning centres.

1. Centers at Vavunya and Mannar are already functioning.
2. Centers at Hatton, Sampur, and Puthiyakudiyiruppu (Mulaitivu) will soon be operative.
3. Next year Two more centers in Trincomalee and Monaragala will be opened.

#### **India:**

1. Maduria Province: Already learning centers in DACA (Madurai) and Loyola College (Vettavalam) have taken off.
2. Mumbai Province: St Xavier's Engineering College in Mumbai will soon have one. The provincial wants two , one for the Dalits and the other for the Tribals. Fr. John Rose has been appointed as the Coordinator, by the Provincial of Bombay.
3. Kerala Province: On the invitation of the Kerala Provincial, three centers are under consideration around Triuvanthapuram - These centers will serve the children of fisher folk.

#### **Nepal:**

The Nepal Superior is interested in opening up JWL centers in Nepal. Soon a center in Kathmandu will be opened. Fr. Jiju, the Principal of St Xavier's College, will be the coordinator. In the future, one more center could be thought of.

**Afghanistan:**

In Afghanistan, there are three centers in Herat, Bamyan, and Domiz. The enthusiasm of the students is overwhelming. There is request for one more center in Daikundi. Orville is doing well. We will need a replacement for him when he goes for his tertianship.

We are happy that JWL is growing globally - Thank you for your support and encouragement.

**Report from Fr Francis Xavier P., SJ (MDU)**

Vice President for Academics and Research, Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Geneva, Switzerland.

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**Port Blair - Letter from Fr Tony Andrade SJ** (Appointed to Andaman & Nicobar Islands by Posa at the request of the Bishop Alex Dias of Port Blair Dioceses).

Loving greetings from Port Blair capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. I have been assigned by POSA to assist the Diocese of Port Blair as Spiritual Director, Counselor and conduct programs for priests, religious and lay people of this diocese.

I landed here on July 1<sup>st</sup> and I am residing at Stella Maris Cathedral community. We are 5 of us in this community. The other 4 are diocesan priests involved in different ministry. Port Blair Diocese is spread throughout Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The total population of these islands is nearly 5 lakhs and Catholics are nearly 40,000. Stella Maris Cathedral where I am residing at present has nearly 1500 Catholic families and 8000 parishioners. This parish has nearly 15 sub-stations. This diocese has nearly 45 priests (both diocesan & religious) and 100 women religious working in 15 parishes and sub-stations.

The nature of my ministry is visiting all these parishes and spiritually animate priests, religious and lay people. This involves a lot of travel by land, where roads are in bad condition, and by sea since many of these parishes are located in different islands. Here people are very hospitable and warm.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas in Stella Maris Cathedral parish. Bishop Alex Dias of our diocese presided at the Eucharist and I was officially introduced to the parishioners. Bp. Alex Dais is very happy that I have opted to work in his diocese. I am also happy to be here to serve the Church of Port Blair Diocese.

This place is really beautiful with sea all around, lots of trees and forest and the environment is fresh and clean, so no pollution which I enjoy very much. It looks almost like Mangalore or coastal Kerala. It rains here very often. I am just back after 17 days of visit of North and Middle Andaman. Met all the priests, religious and lay people who stay in remote places. I received warm hospitality from them. I spent enough time in each mission parish and gave them a talk and had confessions, recollection and triduum and even staff programs. The response was very

encouraging. Most of my apostolate here is in Hindi. Wish more Jesuits could come here and contribute their mite in the pastoral, educational and social apostolate.

*Fr Tony Andrade, SJ's email Id: tandradesj@gmail.com; (M) 890094340/9870536430.*

### **VIP VISITS FROM OUTSIDE THE ASSISTANCY**

**Visit of Fr John Lee Hua SJ** (Provincial - Chinese Province) to SA: Madurai, Kohima & Ranchi.

This is his second visit to India, after 2007. He plans to come again with his Educational delegate Fr Stephen Chow. During this visit he was encouraged by the willingness of SA Jesuits to go to the frontiers; to respond to local needs; the courage to reflect on the current reality against the



background of what we are called to do as part of our mission post GC 36. His observation was that like in the Chinese Province there could be a tendency to settle down in our institutions. They could become comfort zones: attending to routine work, the realization of personal ambitions, with a gradual loss of the MAGIS spirit. He made it a point to welcomed those who were willing to consider being missioned to the Chinese province.

(Taken from JIVAN Aug 2017, P.18)

*Seen in the picture at the Province Days in Ranchi.*

### **DEVELOPING VISIONARY LEADERSHIP – A Workshop On Discernment and Apostolic Planning:**

The Calcutta Newsletter of August 2017, carried a news item under the title, “Jesuit Superiors in India learn Leadership Skills” It is reported here as it involves the visit of **Fr John Dardis SJ** – General Assistant for planning in Fr General’s curia.

The workshop was held at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara, in West Bengal, from 22-24 July. 65 priests from the six units of the north zone (provinces and regions) participated in the three day workshop. It was termed, “Developing Visionary Leadership: A Workshop on Discernment and Apostolic Planning.”

Fr Jose Vadaserry (Prov-Patna) said that brought greater clarity to Jesuit superiors – post GC 36, in the areas of discernment and leadership as it relates to apostolic planning.



The participants were also introduced to “Adaptive Leadership”, a new perspective on leadership.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JEPASA** (Jesuit Pastors in South Asia) National Convention in Vijayawada (AP). 27-30 Sep, 2017.

**JEA** (Jesuits in Education – school and technical), Triennial Convention at XIM-Bhuvaneshwar, 6-8 Oct, 2017.

**JESA** (Jesuits in Social Action), National Convention at JDV PG Block, Pune. 15-18 Oct, 2017.

**Assistancy Common House Gathering** at JDV P.G. Block, Pune. 17-19 April, 2018.

#### COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CONFERENCES

Fr Paul Chemperati (NEP)

Missioned to Guyana Mission for 3 Yrs, wef 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

Fr Stephen Selva (MDU)

Missioned to Guyana Mission for 3 Yrs, wef 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

Fr Syriac Panjikanan (KER)

Timor Leste (JCAP)

Sch. Pradeep R.S. (KAR)

Timor Leste (JCAP) for Regency.

Sch. Kadavil Puthaneed (AND)

Timor Leste (JCAP) for Regency.

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