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From the POSA's Desk:



From an Argumentative Jesuit to a Listening Companion

'Discernment in Common and Apostolic Planning' seem to catch the imagination of South Asian Conference. Just now, It is operating in us at three fronts: i) The second phase of REGAE (Re-orienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness) has just completed the Zonal level meetings, equipping the participants with tools of spiritual conversation; ii) the discernment team, after their coaching in Rome are busy conducting sessions in different zones eliciting good responses; iii) the Universal Apostolic Preferences are

being discerned at the Province level around the Assistency.

What do we seek in discernment? We seek the will and desire of the Lord on a particular issue of our life and mission. We enter upon this process by listening to our interior movements, as we pray over the matter proposed, and as we listen to one another with respect and reverence. By active listening and intentional speaking, we expand the horizons of our thinking and intensify the levels of our experience.

In and through GC 36, we revisited the way of our First Fathers in deliberating on major issues. We are as it were rediscovering a tool that we had taken for granted although Ignatius and his companions nurtured it with care. Perhaps in the course of 'mission history' we dwelt more on the rational approach to reality, giving a one sided

emphasis on an analytical rationality at the expense of an integral rationality. In recent times, R. Girard and others have shown that reason can be subtly hijacked by emotions and emotions can be instrumentalized by reason.

Ignatius has assiduously worked out a way whereby we are led to a path of 'interior movements' – a world beyond the binaries of 'feelings and arguments'. The sphere of interior movements is not easily recognized. After a period of 'prayer' over a given issue, one is invited to review and recognize interior movements of 'consolation/desolation'; on the one hand it is a process of deepening the awareness of one's self; on the other hand it is based on theological insight that the Spirit of God is present and active in and through these interior movements. One discovers an integral approach of meeting point of the human and the divine; the interiority and exteriority; of emotions and reason. We grow in this integral way to the extent we are interiorly free.

Discernment and spiritual conversation are being received with enthusiasm by today's Jesuits because of a certain 'tiredness' we feel with our endless meetings, based on arguments and counter arguments where 'the monkey-mind' controls and wins the arguments, leaving the rest shattered and dissatisfied. Spiritual conversation is a refreshing way for the argumentative Jesuit to walk the way of 'integral path' of active listening and intentional speaking.

Fr George Pattery, SJ
Provincial of South Asia

Fr Posa's visit to Lahore

Lahore! So close yet so far.

In an air conditioned forty seater bus, with two security guards, two drivers and one manager, I was the only passenger to travel from Delhi to Lahore on 23rd April. That was not all. There was an escort vehicle with siren to clear the way for 'Dosti' (friendship) bus between the two neighbouring countries to reach its destination. It dawned on me then; we need to spend such a lot of resources to safeguard enmity! Thankfully the return journey in a Pakistani bus had around 25 passengers; but the rest of the arrangements remained the same. Indeed a journey down the memory lane of struggles together for independence and then, battle it out to live as 'enemies' ever after!

At the designated bus 'adda' (terminus) Renato Zechin SJ, Superior of the mission in Pakistan and Mr. Nadeem, a lawyer friend of Pakistani Jesuit community, received me and drove me to Loyola Hall in Lahore. The Jesuit contingent, besides Renato, consisted of Frs. Maria Anthony Sebastian and Jeyaraj Rashiah, former provincial's of Sri Lanka and Fr. Juan Carlos (Islamic specialist), Fr John Imran – the only Pakistani Jesuit, three scholastics Chemika Nipun (whom the provincials met in Vaovuniya in Sri Lanka) now a regent in Pakistan and Asim and Amir – two Pakistani scholastics – and six candidates.



Standing L-R: Imran, Maria Sebastian, George, Renato, Jeyaraj, Juan Carlos;
Sitting L-R Chemica, Asim & Amir.

Renato (Superior) had worked out a schedule that enabled me to meet all Jesuits individually and as a group, besides visits to our three schools. A well-equipped Islam specialized library, the center for non-violent communication (NVC), multi-purpose hall and other facilities for conducting sessions – all located in the same campus – provided space for a rich combination of ministries, of this ‘tiny’ but dynamic group of Jesuits in Pakistan in the historic city of Lahore.

The three schools, named St. Mary’s cater to about 2000 children, boys and girls, hailing from lower middle class and in locations bustling with life and people. Imran and Renato look after these schools, as animators rather than administrators. Three lay people administer the schools as principals, while the Jesuits animate the schools with general guidelines based on Jesuit educational principles. The same is true with the research and NVC centers. Lahore model could challenge us! Fr. Joseph Kalathil SJ has made in-roads into these and other schools, inviting children to cultivate friendship beyond borders.

Are these children showing us a way forward? I had occasion to meet with Jesuit associates at a session organized by the Peace group led by advocate Anthony Nadeem on the theme of Eucharist and Peace building. The table-fellowship, of which Eucharist was a continuation, builds peace, while breaking down boundaries. While Jeyaraj continues his writing of Pakistani Jesuit History, he also caters to the spiritual animation of the clergy and the religious. Maria Sebastian guides the NVC initiative, and Sch. Chamika teaches Yoga in the schools besides offering his expert support through computer science.

In the common meeting with the Jesuits, we dwelt on promoting vocations and strengthening formation for which a formula of support to Sri Lanka from India and from the former to Pakistan was proposed. We also reflected on collaboration with Indonesia in Islam ministry and formation. JWJ and JRS could be initiated in Pakistan if there are personnel. There are many possibilities and opportunities to support Pakistan mission if only we tickle our imagination and creativity!

All the struggle and waiting for the journey to Lahore was worth it! For zealour Jesuits, borders are spaces to traverse to discover the emerging possibilities! The Lord of supprises is around the corner, we can be sure!

George Pattery, SJ--Provincial of South Asia

1st May, 2018

South Asian Assitancy Common House Gathering

16th_ 19th April, 2018, JDV P.G. Block, Pune

Connect - Collaborate - Celebrate

After months of preparation and expectation the Assitancy Gathering of Common House personnel, under the leadership of the organizing committee:

Fathers Joseph Rajkumar, Patrick Arokiaraj, GeorgeCordeiro, & John Karuvellil, began at 6 pm on 16th April, 2018 at the JDV P.G. Block, in Pune.



*The theme “**Connect, Collaborate & Celebrate**”, highlighted and underscored the purpose of this special occasion crafted only for us. After some ice breakers to get to know each one, **Fr George Pattery, (POSA)**, in his opening address, culled out 16 graced moments of the South Asian Assitancy as a corporate body on mission.*

*On 17th April, **Frs. George Cordeiro and Dinesh Braganza** led us through the daylong exercise, “**Connect through Inner Journey.**” It began with Fr G. Pattery familiarizing us with the method of Spiritual Conversation, and the need to make it our way of proceeding. What followed was time for personal prayer on each one’s inner journey, and*

then a sharing of it in eight mixed groups, following



the method just outlined.

At the plenary session we became aware of a deeper tug on our consciousness, inviting us to pay greater attention to the prevailing socio-political situation in the country. The movements shared brought out the



anxiety, anger, helplessness felt around what is happening, coupled with the assurance of God's guidance, generating hope in us. To the question by Fr George Cordeiro, "What is the Lord calling us to do today?" The corporate response was a desire to wake up to the challenges before us, acting pro-actively by collaborating, networking with others to respond to the happenings around us.

***Jossie D'Mello** drawing from the Autobiography of St Ignatius, presented the evolution of Ignatius's inner journey, which moved from vain glory to adopting the view point of God, viz., a 'people oriented introspection'.*

18th April, after a cooling shower at night the temperature dropped. Pune returned for a time, to what it used to be in the summer, a respite from the heat of the plains.

*The entire morning was taken by **Fr Mike Thanaraj** who introduced us to, the '**Technology of Collaboration**' based on the Positive Psychology of Martin Seligman. It provided us with a way to understand ourselves and institutes; to gauge what were our strengths and areas where we could collaborate with one another. In the process we discovered hitherto hidden areas where the possibility of collaboration among ourselves and with others existed.*

*In the afternoon, **Fr Edward Mudavassery** chaired an open session where areas of challenge and concerns were aired. Unfortunately there was little time to address the concerns but they have been noted for reflection, later at other forums in the assistancy.*

Fr Denzil Fernandes summing up the day's proceeding pointed out that our training does not prepare us for collaboration as envisaged in today's documents. Efforts should be made forthwith to inculcate in us and our formees the values required for genuine collaboration.

19th April, the last morning together, began with a group photo, capturing for posterity the faces of

young and old, armatures and veterans, from the four corners of the country. The group of Common House personnel had grown, large, too large for the wide angle lens to capture everybody in its frame.

*The morning session was taken up with deliberation on a draft document outlining the Guidelines for Common House personnel. A presentation of the document circulated during the meeting was made by **Keith Abranches**. After personal prayer and the spiritual conversation process in mixed groups, the plenary session gathered together the fruits. There was in general a positive appreciation and a sense of ownership of the guidelines. The suggestions and modifications will be worked into a revised draft to be circulated to all, before they are approved and promulgated by the Fr. POSA.*



The three days together did provide us, as planned, opportunities to get to know, to connect in an informal way and to grow in appreciation of one another, as brothers engaged in a common mission. The prayers conducted by each group were well conceived, devotional, challenging, creative and well-articulated.



The dinner gatherings at DNC, and Papal Seminary were a concrete realization of the triple CCC: Connect, Collaborate, Celebrate the theme of the gathering. The scholastics and the house staff in both places, left no stone unturned to make us feel at home and relax in the company of one another.

The days spent together will continue to energize us, for a long time to come. They will act as a motivating factor goading us to give of our best and cherish the remembrance of companions connected even if we do not get a chance to interact face to face. Now that we have met, we can put a face to the names we read off in the Assistancy Catalogue, looking back and savouring the good experiences we have shared up in Pune.

Fr Keith Abranches, SJ
Socius to POSA.
7th May, 2018

SCHOLASTICS'S SUMMER PROGRAM ON MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

The formation program of the Province/Region should promote the training of scholastics and junior priests for development of benefactor relations and the administration of projects NC 391 §1; IAG [302,303]. Training should include: a) Spirituality of fundraising b) Relationship with benefactors c) Management of resources d) Skills in managing projects and reporting/accountability.

Development work in the Society of Jesus is a service to the poor empowering and liberating them in the process. The strategic interventions which it involves calls for good management and resource mobilization. Preparing Ours for this work begins, even as they are in formation, by exposing them to the social-political-economic-cultural context, educating them on the new development paradigms and facilitating the acquisition of the required knowledge and skills for this work. (Quoted from a letter written by the former Superior General Fr. Adolfo Nicolas)

Towards this end, a nine-day intensive summer course on 'Management of Development Programmes' was collaboratively organized by the Assistancy Development Office (ADO) and Secretariate for Jesuits in Social (JESA) and Patna Jesuits Society (PJS) from 22nd April to 30th April, 2018 at Atmadarshan - Patna. Eighteen participants hailing from seven different provinces took active part in the learning process. Two Scholastics from Kenya and East Timor along with four core staff from a few social action centres of Patna Province added to the flavor of the programme. The participants benefitted immensely from the programme.



The design and planning of the programme was structured in a way to enable the trainees obtain both theoretical and practical knowledge. Lok Manch Project implemented by JESA on Right's-based issues across 14-provinces was the model used for field exposure and practical training in Patna. The Lok Manch project is a unique experiment involving 100 CSOs from Jesuit Institutions, Church Organizations and Lay Collaborators. Their combined expertise is brought on board through networking and close collaboration to a large platform to tackle various social issues of the people.

The programme was inaugurated by Fr. Robert Athikal, SJ, Founder and Director, Tarumitra on 22nd April. The next day 23rd, the trainees availed the opportunity of a short visit to witness the pioneering work of Tarumitra.

The following main topics related to developmental work were covered during the training:

- Concept and Approaches to Development, Right's Based Approach, SDGs
- Introduction and components of Project Management
- Project Proposal Writing
- Problem Analysis, Baseline Study
- Planning Methodology, Formulation of Goal, Objectives,
- LFA-Outcomes, Outputs, Activities,

- Costing and Budgeting
- Monitoring and Evaluation, Development of Indicators
- Documentation and Report Writing

The team of resource persons consisted of Mr. Manoj Pradhan, Senior Programme Manager at ADO, Fr. Siji, Coordinator-PDOs and Mr. Vijay Parmar, Senior consultant of JESA for Lok Manch. After being introduced to the Lok Manch project, the trainees were sent for a 3-day field visit in teams of five, to 5-partner organizations in Bihar. Fr. Anand, the Zonal Coordinator of Lok Manch for Northern Zone, coordinated this exposure. Based on reporting guidelines, given earlier, the trainees made excellent presentations on PPT of their experience and learning. During the evaluation session at which Mr. Elmar, Representative, MISEREOR, who was visiting the Bihar Lok Manch Programme, gave his feedback and shared his own insights.



At the end, there was an evaluation of the program and a feedback session. The program was meticulously planned, organized and facilitated by Fr. Siji and his team who worked tirelessly to make the programme a great success. The Amtadarshan team provided excellent hospitality and conference facilities. XTTI and St. Michael's communities invited us for a fellowship high tea.

Overall it was a good initiative by the ADF and PCFs to equip the scholastics with the tools and techniques of project management. This was a good initiative by the Assistency keeping in mind the development work as a service to the people. The program concluded with a short Patna Dharshan, a visit to the Development office at St Xavier's, Patna and an agape at the Provincial House. Fr. Jose Vadassery, the Provincial of Patna gave away certificates of participation to all the participants.

Report by Sch A. MICHAEL RAJA SJ

JCSA WORKSHOP ON DISCERNMENT IN COMMON & APOSTOLIC PLANNING

In keeping with the spirit of GC 36 and as a follow-up of the recommendations given in the recent letters of Fr. General on Discernment in Common, the Assistency organized two workshops on 'Discernment in Common and Apostolic Planning' for to be trainers from the North - Central Zones and South - West Zones. The first was held at Navjivan



North & Central Zone Provinces @ NRC Delhi

Renewal Centre (NRC), Delhi from 6th evening to 8th evening April 2018. Twenty-five Jesuits from the provinces of Darjeeling, Delhi, Jamshedpur,



South & West Zone Provinces @ ISI_B

Madhya Pradesh, Patna, Ranchi and Nepal Region participated in it. The second workshop for representative Jesuits from the Provinces of South and West zones where all except the Pune province were represented. It was held from 4th evening to 6th evening, May 2018 at Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru.

Frs. Siji Varghese (PAT), Brian Pereira (KAR) and Raj Irudaya (MDU) were the animators of the workshop. Earlier four of us had attended a training workshop at the Jesuit Curia in Rome in October 2017, where we were initiated into the process & where we picked up the skills we were not handing over to province trainers.

At both the workshops the participants were invited to reflect on the deliberations of the first fathers in Venice and the development of discernment in common in the Society after Venice till now. The letters of Fr. General on Discernment in Common and Universal Apostolic Preferences were also shared and reflected upon. The method of spiritual conversation was used for the group sharings, consisting of the three stages of sharing & listening. The participants also underwent an exercise to discern the universal apostolic preferences, asked of them by Fr General. They were also introduced to the objectives, method and process of apostolic planning. The active participation and involvement of the participants made the workshop very fruitful. The participants were moved by the rich heritage of the Society, and felt a sense of bonding with one another, and a keen desire to continue the process they had been initiated into. The happy outcome of the workshops was the confidence the participants felt in being called upon to conduct similar workshops in their respective provinces.

We sincerely thank all the Provincials who sent their men to these workshops. We are also grateful to the administrators of NRC Delhi and ISI_Bangalore for having helped us conduct these workshop in a conducive ambience.

Raj Irudaya, S.J.

16 Apr, 2018

Critical Thinking on Contemporary India

As part of an effort to inculcate critical thinking in Jesuits in formation, courses in social analysis; research methodology and the like are being reintroduced during their summer holidays. Under the able guidance of Fr Lancy Lobo (Director CCD – Centre for Culture and Development, Sevasi – Gujarat), for a second year in succession, a weeklong training course, “Critical Thinking on Contemporary India” for 12 scholastics of the Assistency, was conducted.



Fr. Fernando Franco gave the inaugural address, ‘A learned approach to our ministries’. This was followed by inputs from learned professors: Biswaroop Das, Priyavadan Patel, A.M. Shah, J.S. Bandukwala and Lancy Lobo on rural and urban changes as also political paradigm shifts in contemporary India.

The role of social science research in nation building was also highlighted. After the inputs, the participants were sent for guided field exposure and a given time to submit written assignments as well as make presentations of them to the group. (report taken from Gujarat Samachar – Gujarat Province newsletter, May 2018.

AMDG
