



**Number 727**

**March 2020**



**Dear Rajitha & Atputha  
Congratulations!**

### *From the Provincial's Desk*

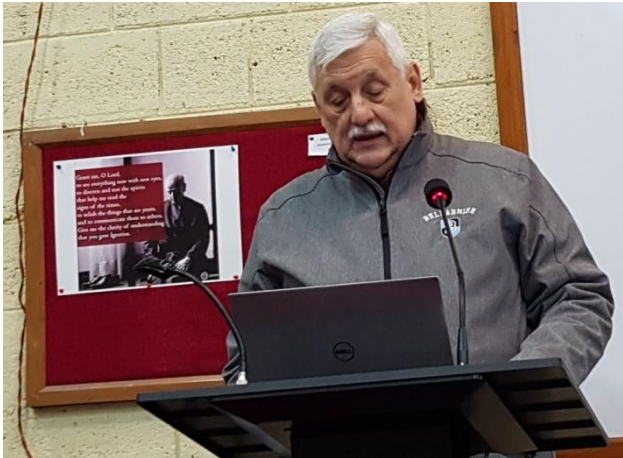
The biannual meeting of the JCSA for 2020 was held in Godavari Kathmandu. The meeting began in the evening of Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Eucharistic celebration which followed the inaugural session, welcoming all of the delegates by the Nepal Regional Superior Fr. Amrit Rai.



Fr. General and the Regional Assistant for South Asia were present and besides them Fr. Douglas Marcouiller, General Assistant for USA and Canada (USC) and Fr. Franck Janin, President of European Conference (JCEP) and Fr. Pierre Belanger the person in charge of the Communication and Publication of the General Curia were also present with them.

The main topics presented and discussed at the meeting were the Orientation to be adapted for greater Apostolic Effectiveness aligning with the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) and the Conference Apostolic Preferences (CAPs). Fr. C.J Arun gave an all-inclusive presentation about the process aligning the UAPs with the CAPs.

Fr. General delivered his speech touching various topics currently influencing the Society of Jesus. He spoke to us about the UAPs, the Universality of the worldwide Society and also about the Ignatian year (2021-2022).



When Fr. General touched upon the topic of the Universality he emphasized saying that; *“this is a theme you have heard of, often. However, this time I want to stress the fact that the Society, more than ever before, is looking to South Asia to give the lead and provide for the future. You are aware that you have the largest number of Jesuits. If you have to provide the universal Society*

*with the kind of service that your numbers warrant, it is imperative that you form Jesuits who are men of competence, qualified and of spiritual and intellectual depth with the knowledge of at least another international language other than English. Self-confidence and a good self-image are also important requirements to serve the needs of the world-wide Society”.*

In his Final remarks Fr. General emphasized saying *“before I end, I would like to remind you that we have taken steps forward in the process of **beatification of Father Pedro Arrupe**. The diocesan phase might be completed as early as the fall of this year. The petition will then pass on to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. I am convinced that the figure of Father Pedro Arrupe can be a source of inspiration for the Society of Jesus, for other religious communities, and for the whole Church. I invite you to continue praying for the recognition of the holiness of this faithful follower of Ignatius in our way of proceeding, a figure from whom we learn that we can advance in this way only by putting all our trust in Christ and only in him.”*

#### **NB**

**Please find the complete message of Fr. General, addressed to the JCSA members at Kathmandu, attached as a supplement to this Newsletter**

#### **Important Events of March**

**March 8-9, 2020-UAP Workshop** for the Superiors and Directors of Work; others also are welcome. The resource person will be Fr. George Pattery. The workshop starts on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and ends on March 9<sup>th</sup> with dinner. The schedule will be sent to you soon.

Please inform the Director, Fatima Retreat House, Lewella of your arrival & departure.  
Director Off: 081 2240726; mobile: 0777822420; email: [jeyaraj.rasiah.sj@gmail.com](mailto:jeyaraj.rasiah.sj@gmail.com)  
Reception: 081 2240716

**March 13-21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>** Please take note of the timetable of the Province Retreat and the Workshop on Province Apostolic Planning (PAP). The resource person will be Fr. John Dardis (Rome), Assistant ad providentiam.

The retreat starts on the 13<sup>th</sup> March at 8.15 pm and ends by lunch on the 21st.



The Workshop on the Province Apostolic Planning (PAP) starts on 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am and ends on the 24<sup>th</sup> by lunch.

Please inform the Director, Fatima Retreat House, Lewella of your arrival & departure.

Director Off: 081 2240726; mobile: 0777822420; email: jeyaraj.rasiah.sj@gmail.com ;  
Reception: 081 2240716

## **BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

### **St. Sebastian's Church, Puliyadikudah**

There were many activities and festivals celebrated in the parish during the month of February. Among these celebrations the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Periya Uppodai was very prominent. Novenas began with the hoisting of flags on 7<sup>th</sup> February and the festive mass was celebrated by Fr. Benedict Santosh SJ on 16th February 2020.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, there were 15 children from the parish who received first Holy Communion given by His Lordship Rt.Rev.Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Bishop of Batticaloa.

According to the traditional practice, the statue of our Lady of Lourdes was taken in procession from the shrine to the main Church at the commencement of the novena and returned at the end of the feast, a distance of nearly 200 meters.



The Parish Priest, Fr. Richard expressed his sincere thanks to all the Jesuits of the Batticaloa District and those Jesuits and Religious who helped him during the novena.

**St. Ignatius Parish, Dutch Bar, Kallady.** On 18th January 2020, a tuition Centre was inaugurated by a NGO named 'Kilakkin Sirakugal' at MC hall, Kallady. Fr. Roshan and Fr. James were guests of honor. The Government Agent Mr. Manickam Udayakumar was the Chief Guest and he declared open the building by cutting the ribbon. Fr James planted a coconut sapling and gave the key note address.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, Parish council members and Pius group members totaling over 60, gathered at the Church for a meeting chaired by Fr. Roshan, Parish Priest, to plan out different pastoral activities to be executed during the year 2020. The Parishioners preferred to have the Eucharistic celebration every first Tuesday of the month at St. Anthony's church,



Kallady, Batticaloa. The first Eucharistic mass was celebrated on February 4<sup>th</sup> with the participation of both Catholics and many non-Catholics.

The HMSP Sisters organized three Anbiyam Masses in three different houses during the month of February 2020. People enthusiastically gathered to celebrate the Eucharistic celebrations. To integrate PAP into pastoral ministry, Fr

James is preaching the 19<sup>th</sup> annotation retreat to 18 persons at St Ignatius Parish, Dutch Bar. On Sunday 23rd February 2020, more than 100 parishioners actively took part in cleaning the Church campus in view of preparing the place for meaningful Lenten prayers and worship.



## **Eastern Technical Institute, Batticaloa**

The Jesuit-ETI team meetings were held on 26th January and 9th February 2020 at the Jesuit Residence, St. Michael's College. Frs. Dexter Gray (Provincial), Winston Rosario (District Superior), George Fernando, Sahayanathan, Paul Satkunanayagam and Anthony James were present to discuss and discern about some issues related to the closing of the ETI. The Methodist Church had openly expressed their desire to terminate the ETI-program and to take possession of the land. The Jesuits, however are for the continuation of Technical Education. The Jesuits strongly feel the need to have a Technical Institute of their own for the sake of better administration and future growth as well as for the development of the youth apostolate in the Batticaloa District.

## **Kalkudah Estate**

Due to frequent weather changes, the harvest of coconuts in the estate has been low during the recent months but the market prices have gone up. The profit is only marginal.

Construction work of the Ayurvedic Medical Centre and the Rainbow Kids' Basketball Court is nearing completion. It is expected that the ceremonial opening will be held towards the end of April 2020.

## **Community News**



Fr. Paul Satkunanayagam SJ was 82 on February 24, 2020 and his Birth Day was celebrated at various venues among different groups.

- St. Lourdes Church at Periya Uppodai by members of the CLC
- Professional Psychological Counseling Centre by the staff
- Lillies of the Field by the children
- Jesuit Residence by the community

We wish him long life with good health and fruitful service to the community.

## **Arrupe College, Batticaloa**



Every Monday Morning at an assembly of the students we begin with physical activities and a thought for the week. National Independence Day was observed by the students and staff of the college with the usual honours paid to our motherland. Singing activities were conducted by Rev. Sr. Josefa (HMSP) during aesthetic sessions providing all the students with a lot of fun and enjoyment. A trainee from Lyceum International School came for 02 days to practice her teaching

skills. A special visit has been planned by the administration of the college to Mount Calvary High School in Galle. Having closely monitored the activities of the college, necessary facilities and guidance were provided by the Director of Arrupe College, Batticaloa.

## **Loyola Campus Batticaloa**

Time flies and so in Loyola Campus Batticaloa we are basically in mid-term with this energetic and promising January-April batch. Our center is still filled with the youthfulness of more than 170 young people who have taken their studies seriously and are moving towards the completion of the course. These young people have kept our staff busy with their challenging desire to receive more than just English, which is exactly what we are obliged to give with Jesuit education.



As an evident rapid change in the generation of young people is taking place, the director of Loyola Campus has seen the need to give an integral orientation to our students. For this reason, we were blessed to have Fr. James Suresh SJ as the main speaker for a half day program in which he spoke to the students about the need for self-knowledge. At the same time, a half day meeting was held for the student's parents in which the director Fr. Roshan and some staff members explained the main objective of the integral education of the campus. Parents were pleased to hear what our centers offer and left with the conviction that their children are in the correct campus for their English education.

In addition to the busy but fruitful month, on 13<sup>th</sup> of February we were blessed with the visit of three amazing visitors, (though not from the East,!) Fr. Orville De Silva, the Academic Director of JWL for South Asia, Bro. Pascal Meyer, JWL Chief of Staff and Fr. Roy Fernando, Country Director of JWL and of Loyola Campuses in Sri Lanka. Everyone had a good time enjoying such a visit. All these events have filled the staff and the students with keen interest and we hope for more in the days are to come.

### **St Ignatius Parish, Dutch Bar.**

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Rev.Fr. James Suresh was the chief celebrant for the Tamil cultural mass at Infant Jesus Church, Palameenmadu. Children from the parish took out a cultural parade to welcome the priest for the Eucharistic celebration that highlighted Tamil culture and tradition. During the homily, the celebrant brought out the significance of Pongal as a harvest festival recognizing the universality and dignity of human labour. The mass was divided into four parts integrating four days of Pongal celebrations. Tamil folk songs were sung during the Eucharistic celebration. It was a very meaningful and spiritually enriching experience for the parishioners.

On Friday 31st January 2020, evening Eucharistic prayer and worship was conducted by Fr James at St. Mary's Church, Akkarapattu to commemorate the year of the Eucharist in the parish. On 3rd February 2020, Eucharistic adoration and worship was conducted on the occasion of the feast of our Lady of Lanka for the parishioners of St Joseph's church, Thannamunai.

From 19th to 21st February 2020, Fr James went to the Novitiate of the Holy Cross Sisters, Matale to conduct study-courses for three days on three different themes: 1. Time management, 2. Study Methodology and 3. Introduction to the Synoptic gospels. The novices found these courses very useful and relevant.

## **COLOMBO DISTRICT**

### **DAHAM SIHILA - NOVITIATE**

Daham Sihila community commemorated the National Independence Day on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The hoisting of the National Flag, in front of the Juniorate building was done by Fr. Sujeewa

during the singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter both novices and juniors proceeded to the Novitiate chapel for the Eucharistic celebration.

Our first year companion, Wishal suffered a burn injury on his hand and received treatment at Ragama hospital. He has now recovered and is able to attend to his daily activities.

While the second year novices were away for their experiments, the first years continued with their normal schedule of classes and other activities. They had some sessions with Fr. Stephen Perera on Psychosexual Integration. There were several presentations and discussions. Clarifications pertaining to the theme helped the novices to understand their own psychosexual development.

Fr. Master continued to take classes on “The Preservation and Progress of Those Who Remain in Probation”, Part three of the SJ Constitutions. Along with that we also learnt about the early companions of St. Ignatius, “The First Companions” who did not quite persevere in their commitment to the Jesuit way of life.

During one of the weekends, the first years went for a work experiment to a village near Chilaw. It was the work of harvesting the paddy. For most of them, it was a novel experience. After a couple of hours of hard work, they had a simple but delicious meal and in the evening a dip in a tank nearby. It was a time well spent on hard work followed by a well-earned relaxation.

Before the second years returned at the end of February, the first years had an outing to Kurunegala. They stopped at the Claretians’ novitiate for lunch and proceeded to see our new novitiate still under construction at the Heraliyawala estate.

The novitiate is now back to normal routine. A new beadle and new office bearers have been appointed for the next four months until June.

On Ash Wednesday we celebrated the Eucharist with a few juniors in the novitiate chapel. Being Lent we pray for the renewal of life for one and all in the Province.

### DAHAM SIHILA – JUNIORATE

Each month adds rich experience to our lives enabling us to make a gift of ourselves to the world around us. Moreover, the goodness of the gift diffuses itself when we use the experience we have gathered throughout our days. Therefore, all that we gather into our lives each day cannot be considered trivial but precious and pivotal.

Having the upcoming *South Asian Assistancy Standardized Examination* in mind, we juniors have been immersed in serious studies. Truly, it has made us feel how important it is to place our priority in serious and in-depth studies. The themes of synergy and teamwork have figured frequently in our lives more than in the past. Nonetheless, it is a healthy balance of all the aspects that would enrich our lives as Jesuits.

Among the few celebrations we had, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day of Sri Lanka holds pride of place. It was on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February we, the juniors along with the 1<sup>st</sup> year novices and the other community members celebrated the Sri Lankan National Day. On the same day, we also commemorated the feast of our martyr **St. John De Britto**, who is also the patron saint of one of the juniors: **John Britto Lambert, S.J.**







The dual celebrations of the birthdays of **Frs. Ahil and Sanjeeva** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of February respectively, redoubled our joy. It was a jubilant occasion for us all and the whole community gathered to share the joy of that wonderful day. We wish them to lead their lives as Jesuits with joys and consolations and we pray that all their apostolates may bear abundant fruit by the Grace of our Lord.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month, we Juniors along with the team at Thulana Media Unit made our way to Negombo in order to do a shooting session for a short feature film, based on Vocation Promotions. **Mr. Dulhan** directed the video cuts while **Mr. Sanjeeva** dexterously handled the camera and **Mr. Yohan** took care of the sound and light. We are also very grateful to all those who helped us in the preparatory work of this feature film. We offer our gratitude to **Fr. Thushara, Bro. Randika** and all those who helped us at Akkarapanaha. Further, our sincere thanks to the people at Poruthota for the deep affection and support they offered us during the making of the film. As we enter the Season of Lent, we earnestly ask you all to pray for us so that we will be able to excel in our examinations and do our best for the Greater Glory of God.



## KANDY DISTRICT

### Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC)

Dry weather and incidents of scrub fires these days have created a water shortage in Cholankande area the CYTC too has been badly affected.



On February 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, as scheduled, an Assessment was held

for 3 NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Level students of the Motor Mechanic Section. Sixteen (16) students sat for the Assessment and ten (10) obtained Level 3 passes while six (06) obtained Level 2 passes. The examiners were Messrs. N. D. Ratiyala and H. M. J. K. Bandaranayake.



Under the theme “*Drug Free Nawalapitiya*”, a symposium on drug addiction and related issues was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Pavilion Hotel Auditorium, Nawalapitiya, for schools of the area. It was organized by the Police and Pradeshiya Sabha of Nawalapitiya. Officers from the Police Narcotic Bureau, assisted by Medical Doctors conducted the sessions. The CYTC

students with Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi and staff members participated in the seminar.



As a follow up, a dialogue with the parents of CYTC students was held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, at St. Joseph Moscati Auditorium, with Frs. Peter, Ranjan Jayamanne and Mr. D.S. Nawaratne facilitating the dialogue.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February Messrs. Prasanga Muthukumarana and Suminda Gamage of TVEC (Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission)

visited the Computer Section in order to prepare an accreditation status report.

**Visitors:** Rev. Fr. Dexter Gray, S.J. (Provincial Superior) on 10<sup>th</sup> February, for the Annual Visitation. During the Visitation, Fr. Provincial visited all the sections at CYTC and interacted cordially with the staff and students.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, the Province Consultors were here with the Provincial for the Province Consult.

So far, this year, pepper, tea and areca-nuts have yielded a good harvest. (CYTC Reporter)



## CENTRE FOR SOCIAL CONCERN - LOYOLA CAMPUS HATTON

**Reflection on new University and new divisional secretariats in Nuwra Eliya District (Kalam).** Mr. Siva Rajendren, former principal of teacher training college, Batticaloa, who was the resource person envisaged that new university would be situated near Kotagala and would have research departments in tea cultivation, environmental issues, culture and history of the plantation community. More than 70 people who participated in the programme



felt that the plantation community must get ready to avail of the opportunities provided by the envisaged university. Ms. Mohana Priya, the NGO coordinator of Ambegamuva divisional secretariat informed that starting of the new divisional secretariat is postponed. The Plantation Social Sector Forum (PSSF) which cosponsored the Kalam workshop took responsibility to do advocacy on this issue. The meeting started around 10.30 am with tea and ended at 1.30 pm with lunch on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Two Parents meet at Loyola Campus:** The meetings which were held on 7<sup>th</sup> February for the parents of A1 students and 28<sup>th</sup> for the parents of A2 and B1 students brought joy of tears when the students one by one started sharing the sacrifice of their parents and their grandparents. The staff introduced themselves and the programmes offered at CSC Loyola Campus. A2 and B1





students performed a few cultural items in English thanks to the creative and hard work of **Sch. Shiran SJ**. At the end the parents along with their children met the class teachers to have a better knowledge about the educational growth of their children.

**Visit of JWL international staff: Fr. Orville SJ**, the academic officer of South Asia and



**Sch. Pascal**, in charge of the students' desk at international office, Geneva spent quality time with our students on 14<sup>th</sup> February along with **Fr. Milroy SJ**, the country director. Fr. Orville after addressing all the students met the students of professional courses and explained on how to profit from online learning. Sch. Pascal interacted with the B1 students and motivated

them to do the online professional certificate and degree courses offered by JWL. This visit gave deeper insight to Sch. Pascal on the influence of culture in learning new languages.

**Special meeting and exam for the CSC tailoring students:** Tailoring students from Mount

Jean, Dickoya and Tientsin estates and Aluthgama village came to our centre on 16<sup>th</sup> February for a discussion on strength and weakness of the training. A few expressed that their dream of self reliance was being fulfilled through this training but majority shared their inability to have proper training. Overall they were happy with the training at Aluthgama-Dickoya but not so with Mount Jean and Tientsin. Though the teachers at Mount Jean and Tientsin went in the morning and received training at Hatton from Mrs. Maria, they were not able to transfer the same training to the women in their respective villages in the evenings. However the students had their final exam on 27<sup>th</sup> February and it was unfortunate that no one from Tientsin attended the exam.



**Inauguration of the renovated building and welcoming the new preschool students at**



**Welioya Estate:** Last year CSC started its preschool at Welioya Estate in collaboration with another NGO and the parents. The building belongs to the NGO and the parents share in the expense with CSC in running the preschool. Thanks to the support of **Swiss Jesuit Mission**, CSC could renovate the dilapidated building and on 10<sup>th</sup> February Ms.

Soundar, the village administrative officer of Welioya inaugurated the building and gave a warm welcome to the new preschool students along with the CSC staff and the parents. After the short inauguration, we had the parents meeting where parents were given proper guidance on how to care for the children.

**Inauguration of Pre GEL programme at Annfield and Abbotsligh estates.** On 11<sup>th</sup> of February, the principal of Annfield along with the English teacher and 9<sup>th</sup> STD students gave a warm welcome to CSC Loyola Campus to start Pre Gel programme and assured his fullest support to us in his opening remarks. Fr. Premkumar explained the history and the programme of CSC Loyola Campus and requested the students to remain with CSC Loyola

Campus for 8 years until they complete BA Sustainable Development online degree programme offered by St. Xavier University, Bhubaneshwar, India. Around 50 students along with a few parents participated in the event. Similar event took place at Abbotsleigh School on 13<sup>th</sup> February. It is good to note that we completed our service at Dickoya Fine Arts College and started our English programme at Annfield from 11<sup>th</sup> of February whereas we continue our service in the third year at Abbotsleigh School.



## Satyodaya

### Young leaders' educational trip to Polonnaruwa

The participants of the Satyodaya Leadership Training Course 2020, left for Polonnaruwa historical city early in the morning on 23rd January, to end their training with an educational trip which is an integral part of the leadership course. Respecting the inter-ethnic, inter-religious and inter-cultural aspects promoted by Satyodaya as part of its vision, there were Hindus, Buddhists and Christians together in this particular group of youth. Satyodaya training team was also there with them to make it truly a learning experience of Sri Lankan history and culture. Though it was physically tedious for the youth to cover all the historical monuments in one single day all participants were extremely curious to see them all without skipping any. Some of them visited Polonnaruwa for the first time and others who had visited it earlier, never understood the history behind the monuments. At a feedback session, the youth leaders expressed their gratitude to Satyodaya for offering such a productive programme that gave them not only fun but also an opportunity to learn and think anew.



### Prize Giving Ceremony of the Madduma Bandara School

The "Annual Prize Giving Ceremony of the K/Madduma Bandara School, Kandy, was held on 7th February 2020 at the school premises, and Satyodaya too was invited to this important event appreciating its service to the school. Ms Priyanthi Wijesinghe and Ms Malkanthi Kahanda represented Satyodaya. Delivering a short speech, Ms Wijesinghe conveyed Satyodaya's message to the Principal and teachers expressing its willingness to facilitate motivational programs for the students.

### The Revisor for Houses visits Satyodaya

The Revisor of the Jesuit Province, Fr George Fernando, SJ, visited Satyodaya Centre on 13th February 2020. As part of his job, he inspected the accounting and internal administrative system of Satyodaya that has been adopted over many years. Employee relations and the statutory obligations connected to the same were some of the important topics he discussed with the administrative staff. Besides, Fr George wished to be enlightened on the welfare measures carried out by the institution. Deputy Director, Mr. Harsha and the accountant Ms. Nilmini briefed the Revisor with regard to the queries.

### Coordinating the Meeting of the Doluwa Divisional Secretariat

Ms Priyanthi Wijesinghe, the Secretary of Satyodaya attended the Coordinating Meeting of the Doluwa Divisional Secretariat on 13th February 2020. Satyodaya usually finds and learns a great deal of facts, related to community development in the Galaha area, at this coordinating meeting. *(Galaha is the main geographical location where Satyodaya*



*implements its community development programmes*). The meeting was presided by Hon. Anuradha Jayaratne, a Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka.

### **Fr Provincial meets Satyodaya community**

It was a great opportunity for the Satyodaya community to meet with Fr Dexter Gray, SJ, the Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus, Sri Lanka, on 14th February 2020. Even though it was a short meeting, Satyodaya staff members made use of the opportunity given to explain to Fr Dexter SJ about the educational and the community development programmes, continuously carried out by Satyodaya for a long period in the plantations and rural villages primarily in and around Kandy district. Fr Provincial thanked Fr. Kamal for directing and motivating the Satyodaya team to serve the poor happily and joyfully. As lay collaborators, Satyodaya staff members assured Fr Provincial that they would continue to work together with the present director walking extra miles in their effort to fulfil the mission of the Society of Jesus.



### **Tertianship, Kandy**



We are at the end of our Tertianship programme in Kandy scheduled to conclude on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. As we leave the 'School of the heart', we are overwhelmed with a sense of joy and gratitude for the generous support of the Sri Lankan Province. We witnessed and cherished the hospitality of the Province wherever we went. We thank **Fr. Dexter Fredric Gray**, the Provincial for providing all the facilities for our stay here in Arrupe House. The accompaniment of the Tertian Instructors, **Fr. Baylon** and **Fr. Anthony Samy** was tremendous. They guided and helped us transform ourselves through different studies on



Ignatian writings and our 'way of proceeding'. We experienced privileged moments of the "School of the heart" by recognising the love of God, and the love of our mother, the Society of Jesus. The delicious food served by **Bro. Lalith** kept us healthy and active. As we depart from Kandy, we carry good memories of community life that we cherished in Arrupe House.

Rajan (MDU)

### Support and Accompaniment – From Kakuma JRS- Lasantha

My activities at the Kakuma Refugee camp with the JRS and my break in Nairobi during the month of February could be summarized as Accompaniment with support.

We were blessed with a Jesuit Tertian from Dublin joining us for his apostolic immersion.



Robert Murphy from New Orleans, a professional physiotherapist joined our JRS team on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. It was a providential coincidence. It was in September 2019, that one of his Theology companions from Boston, Alex from the Province of AOR connected me with Robert, when he was thinking of his apostolic experiment. I bombarded him with news, photos and video clips of our JRS work in Kakuma, especially with the news from the department of Children with Special needs. After a long process of deliberation with his superiors, Robert is here with us

now. We prepared a very systematic and practical Program for Robert to acquire his skills and empower our teachers, occupational therapists and lead trainers.



When we were preparing a plan of activities for Robert, one of our staff questioned saying, "It seems this program doesn't include any resting time for Fr. Robert". I immediately responded saying, "He is a Jesuit. We Jesuits die with our boots on. We are trained for that. We take rest in Peace with God". It proved well in bringing awareness of Jesuits' way of life to JRS. Robert landed in Kakuma at 9.30 in the morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and at 10.30 he was in the camp visiting the children with cerebral palsy even in the heavy rain.

Robert visits every centre and imparts his knowledge and skills to our staff and meets the children with physical disabilities and severe cerebral palsy and even energizes the parents. I



**walk with him and support** the program logistically. Robert enthusiastically celebrates the Eucharist in our JRS residence and at the Mass centres during the weekend. He enjoys the pastoral activities so much. I enjoy the Jesuit Company with Robert who is energetic, methodical and lovable and especially his noisy affectionate greetings, "LASANTHAAAAAA"



Fr. Sanjeewa from our Province in Sri Lanka contacted **me and wanted support from me to get** some video clips and voice cuts, to accompany his presentation on Pope Francis' intentions for the Month of February on Refugees and Migrants. I did my best by giving him some from the Kakuma camp. One Saturday evening (Kenyan time), I received many WhatsApp calls from Sri Lanka, even from Canada and USA, "Fr., we saw you and your work in Kenya on Verbum TV". I was really happy that the Church in Sri Lanka is becoming aware of the plight and pain of refugees; the most beloved of the LORD. Thanks to Sanjeewa for appreciating and valuing our work of JRS.

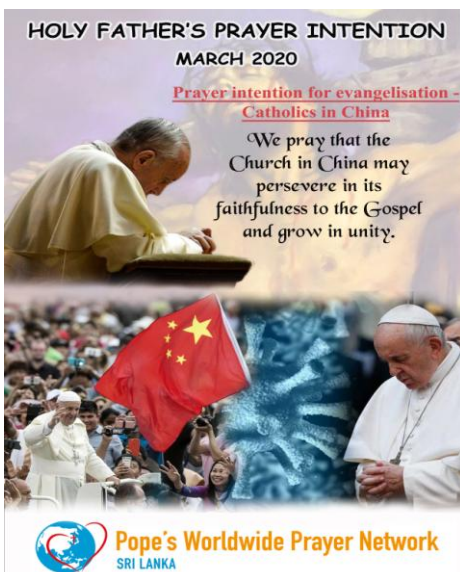
**Next support** was for our own in Nairobi; to be with our newly ordained Deacons Athputha and Rajitha at Hekima College, Nairobi. I joined the ceremony with Patrick, Francis and Patras, vested Rajitha, celebrated their joy as a senior Jesuit, danced with the Sri Lankan guests and enjoyed meals and the hospitality of Sri Lankan friends. Then I accompanied our Jesuit friends from Harare to the Holy Family Basilica in Nairobi, JRS office and to Mwangaza Retreat House in Karen. We had time to pray at the graves of Frs. Pio Ciampa and Ed Brady.

This month I was blessed to have the company of Fr. Orobator, the President of JCAM and Curia at AFRICAMA, at a dinner at the newly blessed residence.

Yes, meanwhile **I too was supported** with a beautiful violet chasuble gifted by Pedro Arrupe Community of Mwangaza to JRS Kakuma. Fr. Leo Amani was the one instrumental for such a precious gift and some text books for our poor students in Kakuma by Fr. Oscar Momanyi from Loyola community.



*I experienced accompaniment as a way of supporting others in their work and in sharing others' joys and sorrows in depth: making them as my own.*



*We pray that the  
Church in China may  
persevere in its  
faithfulness to the Gospel  
and grow in unity.*

## **MARCH REMEMBRANCES**

01/1918	Fr. Joseph Cooreman	67/39
02/2004	Fr. John Ratnasekara	53/30
04/1994	Fr. Rohantha Nissanka	47/28
05/2014	Fr. Kingsley Adikaram	54/32
09/1960	Fr. Paul de Niese	45/16
10/1887	Fr. Herman Ignatius Koch	58/29
11/1970	Fr. John Linehan	71/45
18/2005	Fr. Francis Battaglia	99/78
23/1976	Br. Antonio De Paolo	74/58
24/1987	Fr. Vincent Gnanapragasam	66/45
26/1949	Fr. Edward Cassidy	54/36
27/1914	Fr. John Schaeffer	64/43
27/2016	Br. Andrew Fernando	76/55
28/1998	Fr. William Moran	73/56
29/1989	Br. Quintus Fernandez	65/41

## **MANY HAPPY RETURNS**

### **MARCH**

04/1937	Ashley Samarasinghe
04/1989	Janith Lakmal Perera
05/1963	Dexter Gray
21/1994	Amalanathan Kingsley
23/1975	Jeevaraj Thangarasa
23/1978	Anthony James Suresh

### **APRIL**

09/1934	Aloysius Pieris
16/1989	Shiran Fernando
24/1944	Anton Pieris
24/1977	Thushara Sampath
27/1950	Angelo Ponniah
28/1978	Leonard Michael
28/1987	Atputharaj Sahayanathan

## **NEXT EDITING**

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020  
to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER,

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