



Number 726

February 2020



*Final Vows –*

*Fr. George Fernando*

*Bro .Lalith Fernandopulle*

*Yours companions wish you abundance of grace to  
serve the Lord and his people being protected in His  
Company.*

### *From the Provincial's Desk*

#### **Our unique call**

When we sit back and reflect on our call as Jesuits and our life and the way we carry out our ministries in the Society, we relish some of the Characteristics that are unique to our Mother Society.

We have been called to a type of religious life that is deeply spiritual in its perspective and approach and at the same time highly professional in the manner in which we carry out our ministries. In order to be truly Jesuit in its characteristics, we need to grow in this process of integrating these two dimensions of our ministries.

We are called to a Universal Society with a Universal Mission and yet we need to be deeply rooted in the culture, traditions and the ethos of the people whom we serve. In other words, we are called to be universal in our outlook and perspective, yet we need to be totally rooted in the place of our ministry, regardless of whether one is located in one's own soil or in any other socio-cultural background and social-political reality.

We are called to be men of the Magis, never being satisfied with the status quo, but with an ability to think out of the box, keeping ourselves open to the promptings of the Spirit through the realities and persons around us. This implies that we are ever awake, alert and are willing to adapt our thinking and functioning.

We are called to be monks in the market place. We are called to be contemplatives who can see the presence of the Divine in every creature, and be immersed in deep and continuous spiritual conversation with the Creator. We are called the men of the market,

since we take active part in the struggles of the people, particularly the poor, and the marginalized, with the aim of liberating them from their economic, social and spiritual miseries and ensuring that they gradually grow in the experience of the love of Abba, resulting in the building up of a social order where there is peace, harmony, love, justice, equality and fraternity.

We are religious by our call and vocation and hence we should adopt only religious or spiritual way of proceeding, in a manner that is unique to the Society of Jesus - Our Way of Proceeding. This implies that we do not take to other ways that may go contrary to what we are expected to do as religious. Particularly, it is totally wrong to adopt purely political methods of handling a given situation- having recourse to muscle power, money power, etc. Our approach ought to be based purely on discernment, through which the will of God for our life and ministries is discovered and identified.

We have been responding, though in different degrees, to this unique call, with all these characteristics, and we have certainly made our contribution to the Church and to the society at large. We are aware of the commendable ministries that we are engaged in and the good will we enjoy and experience from the people and from the ecclesiastical authorities.

### **Provincial's Program: February 2020**

8-9 ETI Jesuit Board Meeting Batticaloa

10-14 Visitation Kandy District

19<sup>th</sup> Canonical Consult in Cholankanda

23-29 JCSA in Kathmandu Nepal.

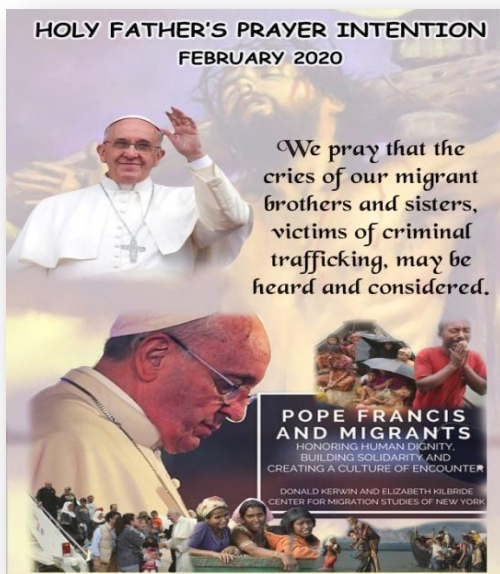
**22<sup>nd</sup> February -Diaconate Ordination** of Rajitha Waas & Sahayanathan Atputhraj in Nairobi Kenya.

**Fr. Thierry Robouam** is back in the province with his usual smile after his mission in Japan. He will continue his research work in Tulana Research Centre.



### **Appointments**

**Fr. Angelo Ponniah** transferred to Fatima Retreat House Lewella, awaiting assignment.





## BATTICALOA DISTRICT



**Arrupe College** Arrupe College in Batticaloa was blessed and opened by Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Bishop of Batticaloa on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. On this occasion, a statue of very Rev. Fr. Arrupe was unveiled by Rev. Fr. Provincial, Dexter Gray SJ.



All the Jesuits in Batticaloa, Diocesan Priests and Religious attended this event which is expected to be a milestone in the education of the children of Batticaloa.

The event was well organized and Fr. S M Roshan SJ was named the Rector of the College. We wish Fr. Roshan and his staff all the best.

### ***Loyola Candidate House***

#### **Formation of Candidates**

Currently, Loyola candidate house is having two boys. One will sit for his A/L examination in August 2020. The other boy is in grade 10. He joined us recently. Fr. James Suresh was instrumental in recruiting this boy to join our candidate house. There are also four other possible candidates who are in their respective homes having the desire to join us after their A/L. examinations. We wish them good luck for their success in studies and future plans.



### ***Residential program***

After our community discussion and discernment, the Batticaloa community decided to offer this opportunity to catholic boys who sat for their GCE O/L examination in December 2019. This is a new venture in Batticaloa to provide opportunities to Catholic boys to spend their time, about three months to live in a catholic environment and learn some value education in leadership, psychology, spirituality, responsibility besides English Language. This being the first batch of this nature, only 6 boys are attending the program which is expected to go on till end of March 2020. Of course, this effort has a deeper understanding to inspire some to join the Jesuits.

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



On January 1, 2020 the midnight New Year mass was organized by the Parish Council and presided by the Parish Priest, Fr. Roshan. After a solemn liturgy, some students were honoured for specific achievements in their school and catechism classes.

The Pongal Eucharistic Celebration was held at 6:30 am on 15, January 2020. Large number of parishioners participated wearing their traditional

dressess. The traditional “Kolam” was beautifully made by the members of the Youth group. A simple decoration but it gave the people a feeling of the spirit of Pongal. At the same time Fr.Roshan encouraged the people to thank God for the harvest of farmers who make it possible for us to have our food. Pongal was also cooked by the members of the parish council and distributed to the people after mass.

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual feast of St. Anthony of Padua was organized by the people of Dutch bar. On 17<sup>th</sup>, January 2020 the three-day celebration began with the hoisting of the flag by Fr. Roshan, followed by the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. James Suresh. The following day the traditional car procession took place around the main streets of Dutch bar ending with the Eucharistic adoration conducted by Fr. Norton, the parish priest of Thannamunai. On 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, the festive mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Crayton, the Rector of Minor Seminary, Batticaloa, and also a son of the soil. At the end of the mass, a common meal was served to all the participants for the first time in 40 years. An environment of unity was felt, as all the parishioners joined hands to make the feast happened and participated actively in all the events. At the same time, the parishioners gave witness to their true love and devotion to a great patron St. Anthony manifesting a deep attitude of prayer.

### ***Puliyadikudah Parish***

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 we had New Year celebrations in St. Sebastian’s Church Puliyadikudah and St. Lourdes Church, Periyauppodai.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> we had the Sunday school teachers meeting and the Christian Life Community (CLC) meeting. We have regular Sunday school in both the churches.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January we had Thaipongal festive Mass at St. Sebastian’s Church Puliyadikudah and St. Lourdes Church Periyauppodai. Fr. Jeevaraj was the main celebrant at St. Lourdes.



On the 19<sup>th</sup> we had the Parish council meeting where we discussed about the election of new parish council members. As decided the voting ended on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and the results were announced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. The newly elected members will begin functioning from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. Those in charge of the altar servers were Miss. Matilda Rajendram and Mrs. Saroja Thambipillai.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> there was a Dengue awareness programme held at St. Lourdes church and followed by a Sramadanam. On the same day we had a meeting in which we discussed about the annual feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, CYA (Christian Youth Association) had their annual meeting at the Mayer hall. There were 45 to 50 participants.

### ***Eastern Technical Institute (ETI)***

Staff meeting was organized on December 14, 2019. All the staff members actively participated in it. They shared their aspirations and dreams for the growth of ETI. Fr James organized it. It went on for three hours. Everyone felt the need of such meetings and sharing to be held every month.

From the last academic batch of students, out of 22 students, 15 students wrote JWL final exams on 7th January 2020. This was the first batch to receive JWL certificate, additional to their vocational trainings. It would be very helpful for their employment. Thanks to Fr Roshan, responsible for integrating the JWL program with that of the ETI Programs.

New batch of students joined the ETI for the academic year 2020. Forty students attended the one-week orientation programs from 20 to 24 January 2020. The students were enthusiastic and actively participated in the orientation programs organized by Fr James and Mr. Satkurunathan.

## **COLOMBO DISTRICT**

### ***Daham Sihila - Novitiate***

The dawn of the New Year was greeted by us novices with a thanksgiving service and Mid night Mass in the parishes where we served as Eucharistic Ministers and as Assistants to those Parish priests. We like to extend our warm wishes to one and all for a happy new year with God's abundant blessings.

We began our regular classes and Fr. Master introduced the Letters of St. Ignatius for the first years while the second years kept themselves busy studying Sinhalese and Tamil languages.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, our Novices and Juniors celebrated Thai Pongal, rising early morning and cooking the traditional milk rice in front of the Juniorate building. The Novices and the Juniors decorated the place where the cooking was done, with plantain trees and colorful Kolam artworks. Then we had the Eucharistic celebration together in the novitiate chapel bringing a plate of cooked milk rice as an offering. After mass we enjoyed a delicious breakfast with the milk rice with several other traditional sweets.

In the third week of January, five second year novices were sent out to various parishes namely, Diyalagoda, Mathugama, Pallansena and Enderamulla for a four week pastoral exposure. The four remaining Pakistani novices were sent to Mannar for a different experience. Their mission was to teach at the Loyola Campus in Mannar and in the public school in Adampan under the direction of Fr. Roy. Before leaving for the mission in Mannar, Akash our second year novice from Pakistan received the sad news of the death of his own brother who suffered from kidney failure. Akash was able to communicate with his family and offer some comfort to his grieving family.

During the month of January, Fr. Socius went to Trincomalee to make his annual retreat, and the first years continued their studies on the Letter of St. Ignatius with Fr. Master.

The first year novices were invited to the feast of St. Sebastian's church at Enderamulla, celebrated on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Lots of devotees came to church on that day and our novices were there to bless them. It was a good occasion for the novices to witness the profound devotion of the people who seek divine intervention in their helplessness.

Vishal, our second year novice from Pakistan had a burn injury while working in the kitchen and was admitted to Ragama hospital. Even though it is a minor injury, he is still under treatment in the hospital. We hope he will get well soon.



## *Daham Sihila - Juniorate*



The month of January was filled with various joyful events and occasions. In a special way, we have received the grace of God to move ahead in our lives as Juniors with a fresh beginning at the outset of the NewYear2020. Having enjoyed the holidays with our family members and friends, we returned to the Juniorate community on 04<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and began to move forward with our studies.

On the 05<sup>th</sup> January, we made our way to the Provincialate chapel in Negombo to witness to a glorious evening: it was the Profession of the Final Vows of **Fr. George Fernando, S.J.** and **Bro. Lalith Fernandopulle, S.J.** We all wished them both, to live ever more joyously in the Society of Jesus.



From 06<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January, we had a wonderful opportunity to acquire and deepen our knowledge on Media and Communication as we followed a block course based on Media Education. It was conducted by **Mr. Robert Cruze** and **Mr.**

**Dulhan** - the chief editor of Tulana Media Unit. At the end of the course, we were requested to produce a short video clip based on Vocation Promotions. Hence, we are working hard and the preparations are underway.

On 11th January, the Tertians visited our Daham Sihila Community accompanied by Bro. Lalith Fernandopulle, S.J., the formed brother in the Society. On the 15th of January, we the juniors along with the novices celebrated the Thai Pongal festival on a grand scale. That was an opportune time for bonding and offered us a grand possibility to witness, a unique cultural celebration.

It was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, we juniors made our way to Negombo to play a friendly Basketball match with the Candidates at Akkara Panaha. **Fr. Provincial** who invited us for the match joined the Candidates' team to play. After a crucial and enthralling game, the juniors bagged the victory. The event was followed by a fellowship dinner at the Candidate house. We placed a record of appreciation of **Fr. Thushara Sampath**, the Director of Youth Centre and **Bros. Randika, Randil** and **Mrs. Shalini and Wijai** who looked into the nitty-gritty of the match and the dinner thereafter.



On the 18th of this month, we celebrated the birthday of Sch. Shehan Appuhami. All the members of the Daham Sihila Community were present at the celebration. We all wished

him to be a joyful messenger of God's love in the vineyard of the Lord. We kindly ask all of you to keep us in your prayers and we promise to keep you all affectionately remembered in our prayers.

## KANDY DISTRICT

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

The New Year started with an influx of students to begin studies in different sections. Accordingly, the Computer Section has forty five (45) students, the Mechanical Section twenty (20) students, and Electricals Section Level 3 fifteen (15) students and Electrical Section Level 4 six (06) students, with a total number of eighty six (86) students (boys & girls).



The classes officially started on January 7<sup>th</sup>, after a welcome address by Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi, the Director, and an inaugural address by Fr. Ranjan Jayamanna, the Principal. Speaking at length, Fr. Ranjan stressed the importance of technical education which has to be on par with global standards due to a high demand for it in Sri Lanka and abroad.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by Fr. Peter, the hostellers participated in an educational tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. On the same day, the Novices of the Marist Congregation, with their Director visited Cholankande area and CYTC. Under the guidance of Fr. Ranjan they visited several rural and plantation areas. And for the first time they came to know the crucial problems of the rural and plantation sectors such as education, health, sanitation, housing, employment, etc.



On January 16<sup>th</sup> six (06) students who had completed Electrician NVQ L<sub>3</sub> and L<sub>4</sub> at CYTC, were introduced to SYNEX International (Pvt) Ltd, located at Kohuwala, Nugegoda, for further practical training. Fr. Ranjan accompanied them and introduced them to the new surroundings.



After a well-organized preparation mainly spiritual, the annual feast of St. Sebastian's Church, Cholankande was celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January with great solemnity. The Feast Day Holy Mass was presided by Most Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, with several concelebrants. On the previous day His Lordship stayed at the Jesuit Residence





and found time to discuss with the Director and the Principal matters related to the total formation of the students and further development of the facilities at CYTC.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Guiseppe Yasso with two of his Italian collaborators accompanied by Bishop Vianney Fernando paid a memorable visit to CYTC and observed with great appreciation the technical education CYTC is giving to its students. Bishop Vianney speaking to the students stressed the importance of skills development for nation building and encouraged them to dedicate themselves more diligently to develop their skills.

Reporter – CYTC

### *Centre for Social Concern (CSC) Loyola Campus, Hatton*

**Visitation of Fr. Provincial:** Fr. Provincial spent the whole day from 9 am to 5 pm on



31<sup>st</sup> January at CSC Loyola campus receiving the account of conscience from Shiran and Prem and meeting Loyola Campus staff in the morning and CSC staff in the afternoon and all of them in the evening. He requested all the staff to focus on the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) in their ministries. The staff

felt touched when he showed interest in their personal and spiritual well being. The Jesuits and the staff felt that his presence at Hatton was a moment of God's grace. Fr. Provincial was happy to personally meet all the staff, listen to their joys and struggles and offer suggestions for a fruitful mission for the most neglected plantation community. His personal encounter with the staff and quality time he spent with them helped Fr. Provincial to grasp better the mission of CSC Loyola Campus and to plan for sustainability of the mission in the future.

**CSC Pre-schools annual concert:** On 21<sup>st</sup> December the pre-school children from Diyagala, Mount Jean, Lonak, St. Aubins, Hallowela, Welioya and Tientsin gathered at Mannikapillaiyar Cultural Hall, Hatton in their fancy costumes for their annual concert. Mrs. Luxmipraba, Assistant Education Director, Hatton was the chief guest and a few school principals were the guests of honour. All the speakers reiterated that preschool is meant



for learning good habits and values and initiating them to move into the larger world from the family with self-confidence and freedom. Each preschool gave three programmes and totally there were 18 programmes which included drama, group songs, dances and recitation of Thirukural. All the children received school bags as gifts and the school leaving children received medals, certificates and bags. The programme ended with a mesmerizing dance performance by **Sch. Shiran SJ** as Christmas Papa (Santa Claus).



**International Tea day celebration:** On 15<sup>th</sup> December, the 14<sup>th</sup> International Tea Day was celebrated in Hatton with a few NGOs including Centre for Social Concern (CSC)



headed by National Council of Churches. The celebration started with the rally at Malligaipu junction and ended at D.K.W Hall where the cultural programme took place. In the rally, the traditional cultural dances like Karahattam, Kummiyattam and Kaavadiyattam were performed. The people in the rally shouted out slogans, 'give us proper housing and land', 'stop becoming unskilled laborers in cities', and 'eradicate drug

and alcohol'. The staff of CSC mobilized and brought to the programme around 150 people from the estates they work. 'Dignity for the plantation workers' was the theme of the event and people are hopeful that the government will ensure the dignity of the plantation community in the years to come.

**January-April 2020 batch students:** The new academic year at CSC Loyola Campus

started on 2<sup>nd</sup> January with the intake of the post Ordinary Level students. The procedure for admissions unlike other years began with bridge courses conducted for a few days followed



by placement test and filling in of application forms except for the students of B1 level who completed A2 Level in December 2019.

Since the number is more this year, we plan to conduct certain classes at the pastoral centre Hatton by paying a reasonable rent. We have recruited two part time teachers: one for English and another for computer and two local volunteers have joined us to help in English.

**Pongal celebration:** Pongal, the cultural and harvest festival of the Tamils was



celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> January by cooking sweet pongal rice in the morning and performing a cultural programme in the afternoon. It was so attractive to watch the students and the staff in their traditional dress. While pongal was being cooked in front of the centre, the students watched a Tamil debate as preparation for the afternoon programme. There were two debates:

one was on advantage and disadvantage of modern technology and another was on the freedom and oppression of Upcountry women. The class teachers helped their students to prepare the programme for 10 minutes and the students delighted the audience with their creative performances. When the students left for their homes around 3.30 pm, the staff had a short evaluation which would be helpful for better planning in the future.

**Pre-school welcome:** The pre-schools in Diyagala and Mount Jean estates had their welcome function of the new students on 21<sup>st</sup> January and Halloowella and Tientsin on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The seniors with bouquets were welcoming the new recruits who were standing at the gate with their parents. Each school had something special in their programmes. Diyagala School had the motto ‘learn with love’. Mount Jean School had a reflection session on early childhood development. In Halloowella, there was a procession of the students and the parents with rhythmic drum beats. The senior preschool students at Tientsin estate gave a wonderful cultural performance.



**Joint staff training at Fatima Retreat House, Lewella:** Thanks to the generosity of Fr. Jeyaraj, the director of FRH, 22 staff of CSC Loyola Campus had two days orientation programme. The tertian Fathers Poondy Rajan and Richard both from Chennai Province were the resource persons. Fr. Richard took care of the skill development of the staff and Fr. Rajan the cognitive aspect. Fr. Prem based on the input given by the resource persons helped the staff to apply their learning with their mission at CSC Loyola Campus. The place itself gave our staff certain serenity and the travel in the train was very relaxing.



### ***Fatima Retreat House (FRH), Lewella***

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 Fr. T. Mariathas officially handed over the Directorship of the Retreat House to Fr. Jeyaraj Rasiah, which was followed by a simple celebration to bid farewell to the outgoing Director. Fr. Superior, Kamal Andradi thanked Fr. Mariathas for his services and welcomed Fr. Angelo Ponniah who joined the FRH community during the last week of December. The community at Lewella wishes Fr. Mariathas God's choicest blessings in all his future undertakings.



After a further two stent interventions Fr. Jeyaraj has become more active and alive. While continuing his lectures at the National Seminary, Ampitiya and his spiritual ministry in different parts of the Island, he lends a helping hand to the co-workers in their daily chores.

FRH has new faces and more hands: Mr. Rohitha Fernando is appointed Manager and there are three more, some old and some new, to the farm and garden. All staff salaries had been revised to reflect ‘Just Wage’ not mere ‘minimum wage’ w.e.f.01.01.2020.

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Frs. Kamal, the District Superior and Jeyaraj joined the final vows celebrations of Fr. George Fernando and Bro. Lalith at the Provincialate. The following day the FRH, SJ community and the Tertians' Community from Arrupe House celebrated the Annual Christmas and New Year gathering. The Tertians entertained the community with their melodious singing of Carols. Brother Lalith's birthday, the community's live wire, was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> the day after the due date. Similarly, Fr. Maria Anthony's birthday too was celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> the day after the birthday.



On 14<sup>th</sup> January Fr. Jeyaraj and Bro. Lalith were invited by the Community of the *Bhikkhunis* at Lewella for the laying of the foundation stone for a Chaithiya at the Aramaya at the Lewella junction. They were warmly welcomed and invited to light the traditional oil lamp and to lay the Foundation stone along with other VIPs.

*Dialogue of Life 'in Action*  
**FRH Reporter**

## **TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

### **Loyola Campus GEL Admission & CAA Course Accreditation**

As the beginning of the year, the new intake of the batch for 2020 was arranged and as the initial stage three placement tests had been conducted for the new students. At present we have 205 students who joined us for this term. We are sure we will be able to accompany them for the greater good.



An orientation program was conducted under the leadership of our Director along with the members of staff. The history of the Loyola campus was narrated and the much needed discipline and educational guidelines were given to the students in a proper way. Furthermore, the staff members were introduced to the students to create a greater rapport within the learning environment. The primary step of intake of the students was completed as scheduled for the year of 2020.

Two volunteers from Australia, Mr. Sam and Mr. Angelo, arrived in Trincomalee. We thank Fr. Thushara for making necessary arrangements for their travel to Trincomalee.

We are very happy to inform you that we have started the process of getting NVQ-3 certificate in Computer Application Assistance course. Mr. Sajan who is our alumnus has been appointed as the new computer instructor and he started to prepare the documentation for the accreditation of the course.

### **BA Sustainable Development Degree**

We are very much delighted to inform you that five of our students have been admitted for the BA degree programme in Xavier University Bhubaneshwar (XUB). They will



have a wider exposure globally. They are introduced to faculties of Regis University, Newman Institute, Ekima College and XUB. They feel that they have got a good opportunity to do this degree programme. We encourage them and motivate them to complete this degree successfully.

### Visit of the Country Director



Fr. Roy, the country Director of Loyola Campus made a visit to Loyola Campus, Trincomalee (LCT) and evaluated the academic programme and addressed the staff. He appreciated the systematic approach and quality education that we provide in LCT. He also made some changes in the administration. Mr. Diron another alumnus, has been appointed as the Administrator of Loyola Campus

and Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), Online course Facilitator.

### Pongal Celebration



The Pongal celebration was held in LCT to transcend the barriers of religion and language into a very well socialized and friendly mindset among the students by accompanying the youth in this celebration. The Tamils, Muslims and Sinhala students joined together and celebrated Pongal. It gave much meaning to all of us.

The students wore traditional dress and it was quite colorful; it also gave a certain degree of contentment and created a very friendly and delightful atmosphere where the students engaged themselves with openness, breaking social barriers and traditional ways of relating to one another.



### Opening Ceremony of the Arrupe Block

The awaited day has come to bless and open the first floor of the existing building of Loyola Campus. The Arrupe block was blessed by Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Immanuel, the Bishop of Trincomalee and was declared open by the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Dexter Gray SJ. We are very grateful to Fr. Provincial who took a lot of initiatives to

make this dream come true. We are also grateful to Jesuiten Mission for their generous contribution to this extension block.

## Pre-Novitiate

### Visit of Fr. PCF

Fr. Roy, the PCF, made his official visit to the pre-novitiate and evaluated the programme with the formators and candidates. He met all of us individually and got to know about our formation methods. Pre-Novices were encouraged and motivated by his presence and encouraging words. He explained what the Society of Jesus expects of us at this stage.

Fr. Benny addressed the Pre-Novices and encouraged them to study well and explained the life and mission of the Society of Jesus to the Pre-Novices.



### Pre-Novitiate Day – Feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka

As a community we have celebrated the feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka. Rt. Rev. Dr Noel Immanuel and Fr. Provincial were our guests who appreciated the programme with their encouraging words. Fr. Lazar conducted a prayer service and Fr. Robert, the Director thanked all those who accompanied the pre-novices in their formation.

Pre-Novices portrayed a short skit on the life of St. Oscar Romero. All of them were taken up by their acting and dialogue. They have put in great efforts to make this programme very successful.



A Piano was gifted by Fr. Provincial to the Pre-Novitiate. We gratefully remember the donor who has so kindly donated it to the Jesuits. After its arrival, most of the pre-novices show their interest in learning musical instruments.



## Fr. Lasantha from Kekuma, JRS Kenya



**Celebrating another birthday tomorrow?"** Another girl with hearing impairment requested through sign language a lollipop for her mother. **HOW SWEET.** Later I walked with the supervisor visiting several children with cerebral palsy at their homes in the community.

Fr. Tom Smolich the International Director of JRS on his maiden official visit to Kakuma during the time made my birthday more meaningful. He brought me an expensive birthday gift too (guess???)



It was heartwarming to note Tom's first words of our friendly chat, "Thank you Lasantha for **News from Kakuma, JRS Kenya.....from Lasantha**

### Accompaniment & Affirmation

My work and of JRS in the Kakuma Refugee camp, during the beginning of this year 2020 could be summarized as effective ways of **accompaniment** in minute means and **affirmation** of its spirit.

There was a violent situation in the camp due to the tribal clashes between Nubian and Nuer communities during the Christmas season. It was connected to a careless mistake made by a child during a friendly football match and led to a few deaths, injuries and destruction of property. The prevailing fear within these communities was far more than all that was destroyed and damaged. The JRS has many members in our incentive staff who belong to both these groups and we found that many of them had either fled or were in hiding.

Fr. Bill O'Neil sj from Nairobi office, Bro. Gilbert from Charles Lwanga Community and I made a bold decision to visit our staff that were displaced within the refugee camp. At first we visited the Nubians and then along with the Nubians we had the opportunity to visit the Nuers. We had to walk a long distance through tiny paths to meet these people. A few days after we were able to bring together the block leaders of these two groups to sit and plan out an effective process for reconciliation within the camp.



It worked out very well. Although there was an initial fear, our staff had reported to work and had even encouraged the children belonging to these two clans to come back to school and to be together.



The first step of this reconciliation happened because we accompanied them to meet the affected ones and to feel and share their pain.

The UNHCR management remarked saying, “JRS was unique in visiting the affected even during the holidays... they have a greater concern”

As JRS celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary this year, I had the blessing to address the members of the Incentive and National staff of the JRS at the beginning of the year to motivate them for a stronger commitment during the year. I stressed on the theme “Accompaniment and Advocacy with Compassion”

I mentioned that attending to the needs of our beneficiaries and their family members are other aspects of accompaniment.

There were times we had to accompany our beneficiaries to the various agencies to get the help they needed such as to the Humanity Inclusion (HI) for a wheel chair, to the Registration office of Refugees to get an inactivated Manifest activated, to see the plight of a mentally challenged child locked up in the house by the parents and to direct them for help or accompanying a cerebral palsy child to the clinic could be some of these.



*My birthday was celebrated in a unique way the first in JRS Africa. Soon after the morning mass with the JRS staff and members of other agencies, I decided to be with the children with special needs in one of the centres where the supervisor himself was a person with physical disabilities. They all sang “Happy Birthday” in various tunes and prayed for me. They touched me and even pressed on to me with their tiny hands and prayed for me. I was filled with tears. I distributed lollipops to the children as my birthday treat. Some children asked, “Father, are you accepting the invitation of JRS”. And I replied, “Thank you for opening the doors of JRS to me and I am ever grateful for JRS for giving me a passion for mission”. With his witty smile, Tom promptly responded, “Thank you Lasantha for walking through the opened doors of JRS”. On our final chat he appreciated all my work during the past 9 months, “Thank you..... You have done so much”. These sentiments were very warmly endorsed in his “Thank you” card with **another gift (???)***

#### NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits’ NEWSLETTER,

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

# REMEMBRANCES

## FEBRUARY

02/1963	Fr. Paul Delwaide	89/71
02/2010	Fr. Angelo Stefanizzi	91/74
04/1948	Fr. Joseph Piron	77/60
07/2016	Fr. Vito Perniola	102/87
12/2002	Fr. Alfonso del Marmol	80/63
13/1946	Bp. Gaston Robichez	80/42
13/1970	Br. Francis Giglio	76/60
13/1990	Fr. Lionel Champagne	71/50
16/1977	Fr. John Lange	69/50
17/1947	Fr. Santiago Marian	61/31
17/1973	Br. Frederico Vittorini	72/45
18/1998	Fr. Boaventure Perera	77/52
19/1943	Fr. Dionysius Murphy	81/61
19/1950	Fr. S. G. Perera	68/45
21/1952	Fr. Joseph Fallon	80/59
21/1984	Fr. Joseph Fengler	75/55
23/1986	Br. Evrard Booth	69/52
24/1933	Fr. Michael Soden	50/32
28/1973	Fr. Luigi de Mattia	72/48

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

### FEBRUARY

01/1979 Anil Kispotts (Tertian)  
 04/1981 Chandrakumar A. Pratapraj  
 05/1977 Francis Rohan Fernando  
 08/1933 Frederick Leon  
 10/1968 György Tőkés  
 12/1991 Ladiston Rexman Delima  
 14/1972 Sivarajah Ahilaraj  
 15/1980 Prabhat Sanjeeva Fernando  
 17/1955 Lakshman Peiris  
 24/1938 Satkunanayagam Paul  
 25/1997 Shudipto Peter Rozario

### 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