

Ignatian Year 2021-22

Madurai Province

Approved Proposals

Ignatius



Vincent Sekhar SJ

Convener, MDU Province

Ignatian year 2021-22 (initials)

- 1st of October, 2020: Fr. Provincial constituted a **7-member Committee on Ignatian Year 2021-22** with me as its Convener “**to evolve action plans** in consultation with communities, commissions, and various stakeholders of our apostolates, and particularly significant to the three events....” (**inaugural, mid-time, and end-time celebrations**), plus a tentative budget, etc. Fr. Provincial also attached **Fr. General’s letter dated 27th of September, 2019**, regarding the Ignatian Year.
- The main **focus of Fr. General’s letter**: “It is my desire that at the heart of this Ignatian year we would hear the Lord calling us, and we would allow him to work our conversion inspired by the personal experience of Ignatius.”
- 26th of October, 2020: Fr. Provincial sent me an email (after the address of Fr. General to JCSA major superiors) **proposing my name to Sch. Pascal Calu SJ, a Regent in the General's Curia**, who would stimulate collaboration between different provinces and with the Ignatian family and to help avoid duplication of materials and projects.

Initials (contd.)

- 30th of October, 2020: A webinar with the Committee was held to see “**how the *Soul of Madurai Province* could be prepared for the celebration** of the Ignatian Year 2021-22, starting on 20th of May, 2021 and ending until 31st of July, 2022.” evolving action plans for the communities / institutions, and at the Province and Zone levels.
- Basically, the **Committee agreed to leave these proposals to the individual communities and institutions** to pick and choose from among these freely (or even apart from these) to make the celebrations more personal / communitarian/ institutional, and contextual.
- We all agreed that these will be **first placed before the Superiors and Team Leaders** for their comments and suggestions.
- 8th of November, 2020: Since the preparation for the **Annual Wall-calendar** would start, I sent by attachment to all communities / institutions an outline on **Ignatian themes and events according to months**, proposing these to be included in their Wall-calendar. I am sure, the outline was helpful to the communities/institutions to work on it.
- 9th of November, 2020: **Fr. Provincial responded to the Ignatian timeline and the proposal Report** our team made with encouraging words.

Webinar with Fr. General



- 9th of November, 2020: **Sch. Pascal Calu SJ** (a **Regent from Belgium Province**) sent me an email acknowledging Fr. Provincial's appointment of me as Convener for Madurai Province, and asked me **to join the webinar with Fr. General** on 4th of December.
- 4th of December, 2020: I joined the webinar with Fr. General. Fr. General's talk was **personal, simple, direct, and inviting**.
- **He made a humble beginning with himself**: "54-years in SJ, fragile, facing difficulties and failures, low progress of transformation..."
- **A new opportunity has dawned**: "to allow myself to be soaked to be **better hands of God**, to dialogue in brotherhood and peace; to see it far from being self-centred to a bigger dream – in God and His people!"
- To "**see the whole celebration with an *eye of spirituality*** of the excluded, the migrants, the youth, and the suffering creation"

With Fr. General (contd.)



- To make the year **a year of personal and group transformation...** “to see him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly....” (*13th Century prayer of St. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253), City of England*)
- To **bring in the whole of Ignatian family** to this experience of transformation
- To **see our own roots and to stimulate collaboration with others**
- To **think big....** to share the Ignatian dream with others.... How it links to 5-UAPs....
- Finally, Ignatian Year celebration should be seen as “**not Ignatius-centred**” but as a means of seeing oneself and one’s experience “**God-centred**” and to see all things **NEW in CHRIST!**

Post-talk

- Sch. Pascal Calu, the Curia representative for coordinating the IGY 21-22, gave us **information on Fr. General's new** on the theme of the Ignatian Year in 12 chapters and in 7 languages (to be released on May 20, 2021), an **audio-book on St. Ignatius' autobiography** (can be translated in one's language), a **Newsletter**, and a **Smartphone App on Pilgrimage in Ignatian Rome**.
He encouraged Coordinators to send **projects on "Canon ball moment videos" (CBM)** (personal conversion experiences of diverse testimonies of anyone).
- Pascal Calu is planning for a **Conference-level coordination** Feb/March 2021. (We already had a webinar with **Fr. Francis Pudhicherry**, for JCSA on 13th of December, 2020)
- There were **short presentations** from the Spanish and Dutch provinces about their **plans for the IGY 21-22** and an **example of the CBM** was played.
- In the QA session, Fr. General said "Make the celebration personal and local."



! REQUEST FROM THE GENERAL CURIA, ROME !

Sch. Pascal Calu, SJ, coordinating the Ignatian Year 2021-22 from the General Curia, Rome, has requested us (our Province) **to collect and send the “CANON BALL MOMENT” Videos (taken for 1.5 to 2.00 mts.)** (that is, *personal conversion experiences* of anyone whether Jesuit or non-Jesuit (our Lay collaborators, male or female, students....). *Note: If it is in done local language (Tamil....), there should be English subtitle.*

Can the Superiors/Team Leaders ask someone in the community/institution to do the needful as quickly as possible and send one or two Videos to me in the earliest? This request is URGENT. Please consider. And may MDU Province be heard all over the world!



Proposals at the Community / Institution level

- Jesuit communities could organize a meeting in the month of, say, Jan/Feb 2021 to discuss about the ways of celebrating the Ignatian Year 2021-22. A small team could be constituted in every community, specially assigned to facilitate the year-long celebrations. If the meeting is held well ahead of time, it is easier to include the cost in their Annual Budget 2021-22! (Note: To this effect, the following proposals are of great help.)
- A community-wise Common Retreat could be organized by the individual communities during the Ignatian Year, preferably in the month of April-May 2021 or April-May 2022. Community Jesuits could be the resource persons for talks, etc. (or/and)
- The Spirituality & Dialogue Sector of our Province could prepare Pep-talks based on the Sp. Exs. in contemporary contexts. (Just as the JCSA which prepared daily talks during the online retreat in April 2020). These talks could facilitate the communities' common retreat.

Community/Institution level (contd.)

- The communities are requested to strengthen PAP-5, which deals with Ignatian Spirituality, to chart out *special* programmes to the Jesuits and their Collaborators during the Ignatian Year. Can something be done in this regard to non-Christian students in our institutions? (like *Interfaith Ignatian Retreat*? Fr. Vincent Sekhar will be helpful in this regard.)
- Jesuit communities could think of having 3 to 4 recollections during the Ignatian Year, centred on Ignatian themes and events.
- Our communities could bring together their neighbouring *Ignatian Families* (congregations founded by or animated by Jesuits) for a meaningful seminar cum celebration.
- Our communities could buy the *Ignatian Evening Prayer books* prepared by Gujarat Sahitya Press (GSP) and use them often during the year. (also related to PAPs – example: Fr. Ignacimuthu's "*Prayer with Creation*")

Community/Institution level (contd.)

- Our Institutions could think of **strengthening organizations like *Manresa* and *Grace* (or initiate a similar forum anew).**
- Our Institutions could think of ***Permanent Sign-boards* in their campuses** with Ignatian pictures and attractive captions (like the ones written on the barricades in Loyola Campus, Chennai).
- Our Institutions could **stage a *Sound and Light programme* on St. Ignatius (example: *Nazarethur Naayagan* with the help of Fr. K. A. Augustine and others).**
- Our Institutions could plan out **an *Ignatian Day* before July 2022 for the whole Campus'** multi-pronged celebrations.
- Our Institutions could think of **starting an *Ignatian Scholarship*** given to a few outstanding students expressing Ignatian Ideals & Values in their lives and activities.

Proposals at the Province level

Book publications:

- 1. *A Contemporary Re-reading of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius* in today's multiple contexts with the help of Vaigarai Publications, Dindigul.
- 2. *Tamil rendering of Fr General's Book* "Walking with Ignatius"
- 3. *Three Novena Booklets* to be prepared and distributes among Province members and Ignatian Families. (a) Just before the Ignatian Year Inauguration (May 20, 2020) (b) Before the Feast of St Ignatius in July 2021 and (c) Before the Feast of St Ignatius in July 2022.
- 4. *Ignatius for the Youth and Children* (attractive and quick-witted anecdotes, quiz, etc. in Story form)

Province level (contd.)

- A *Province Pilgrimage* could be planned during the Ignatian Year, perhaps to a Parish dedicated to St. Ignatius.
- The Province can bring out a *Music-CD on Ignatian themes* (12 to 15 songs), a collected venture of talented musicians and lyric-lenders in MDU Province Jesuits and their Collaborators, from IGFA members.
- An *Ignatian exhibition* could be thought of at the Province level, the material of which will further be useful for Vocation promotion.
- **At the Commissions level:** Commission Coordinators would be approached to propose *two affordable proposals* for each Commission. Already Sp. & D. and JesCom in their GBM have been informed about a few proposals related to the Ignatian Year.

Province level (contd.)

- *Two or Three Comm Recollection Talks* could be arranged during the Ignatian Year.
- ~~*A Common Retreat*~~ could also be organized for Jesuits and others to benefit by it.
- *Two Quiz Programmes* could be organized on the Ignatian Life-history, Jesuit Heritage, and the Province History and Heritage.
- *Senior Jesuits, residing in various Jesuit communities, could share their Cannonball Experiences*, which could be inspirational to all in the Province.
- Similarly, *two sessions of CBM sharing of the younger members* could also be done online.

- **Zone Celebrations:** Jesuit communities in the **New zones** (to be created) could *Get-together* (minimum twice during the Ignatian Year) to celebrate Jesuit Life Together! (Jesuits could informally share their Ignatian wisdom & feelings in being together, like *faith-sharing*), along with *festive dinners*.
- **At the Inter-province level (MDU+CEN):** MDU and CEN Provinces could think of a *Common Gathering of the Ignatian Families* (at a centre place) anytime before the Feast of St. Ignatius in July 2021 or July 2022. (Fr. Jerry and I agreed on this and our committee has approved this)
- Similarly, MDU and CEN Provinces could think of *bringing together Former Jesuits* anytime before the Feast of St. Ignatius in July 2022. (Fr. Jerry and I agreed on this and our committee has approved this)
- It may be good to have *One or Two Recollections Talks* together.

I am happy to say that ALL the above proposals were approved by the Provincial and a Budget was allocated for the same.



Thank you

Vincent Sekhar SJ
Convener, MDU Province