



## General Curia

Fr. General has appointed ...

**Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza (KAR)** the new President of South Asia

**Fr. Sebastian Jeerakassery (DEL)** the new Assistant General Treasurer

**Fr. Boniface Panna (MAP)** the Rector of Satya Nilayam

**Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess** the new Provincial of Ranchi

**Fr. Kim Yong-su Paschal** the new Provincial of Korea

Along with this issue of the Samachar, a separate report has also been sent to you giving an overview of our province outreach efforts during this Covid pandemic.

### Fr. Provincial's schedule – June 2020

10 – 12	St. Xavier's High School
16	Ambadi Road
17	Premanjali
20-21	Novitiate, Belgaum. First Vows
24	Xavier Inst of Engg. Mahim
27	Juniorate inauguration,
30 June – 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Tempo Forte

### Prayer written by Fr. Adolfo Nicolás

Lord Jesus,

What weaknesses did you see in us that made you decide to call us, in spite of everything, to collaborate in your mission? We give you thanks for having called us, and we beg you not to forget your promise to be with us to the end of time.

Frequently we are invaded by the feeling of having worked all night in vain, forgetting, perhaps, that you are with us.

We ask that you make yourself present in our lives and in our work, today, tomorrow, and in the future yet to come.

Fill with your love these lives of ours, which we put at your service.

Take from our hearts the egoism of thinking about what is “ours,” what is “mine”, always excluding, lacking compassion and joy.

Enlighten our minds and our hearts, and do not forget to make us smile when things do not go as we wished.

At the end of the day, of each one of our days, make us feel more united with you and better able to perceive and discover around us greater joy and greater hope.

We ask all this from our reality. We are weak and sinful men, but we are your friends.

Amen

### Status – List 3

#### **Ashagad**

Sanjeev Gonsalves Socio-pastoral work

#### **Holy Family,, Andheri**

Stephen Ghosasl Teacher, Asst. PP \*

#### **St. Peter’s, Bandra**

Thomson Lopes Asst. PP \*

#### **St. Pius, Goregaon**

Lisbert D’Souza Teaches Philosophy

#### **Shrine, Nashik**

Assis Rodrigues Minister, pastoral work

#### **Ambadi Road**

Joe Albuquerque Minster, Asst. PP \*

#### **Manickpur**

Michael Almeida Asst PP \*

#### **Chicago, USA**

Ternan Monteiro M. A. in Counselling

#### **Juniorate, Vinayalaya**

Rohan Brahmane

Joel Mendonca

\*Subject to appointment by the local Bishop

### St. Xavier’s College News

St. Xavier’s College has been **ranked No.1** in India by Education World in April 2020 among 747 Private Autonomous Colleges (out of a total 39,931 Colleges in the country) with top scores in (i). faculty competence, (ii). faculty welfare and development, (iii). curriculum and pedagogy and (iv). leadership. It was noted that during the last year alone Xavier’s Mumbai has introduced several new courses such as M.Sc. in Big Data Analytics, M.Sc. in Astrophysics, M.A.

in Lifespan Counselling and a Postgrad diploma in Expressive Arts Therapy, among other **innovative study programmes**.

Responding to the corona situation, SXC has just announced its first **fully online** 15-week Certificate course in Applied Philosophy and Ethics starting May 2020. **New courses** planned for the coming academic year are: MA in Economics, MA in Art Conservation and Economics, Diploma in Tourism Management, Diploma in Inter-Religious Traditions, and Diploma in Event Planning and Experiential Marketing offered by XIC.

Xavier’s organized a public debate on the CAA, NPR, NRC issue earlier this year. Given the liberal tradition in the college, it was hard to find speakers and supporters for the central government plan, but the discussion was animated and the jam-packed audience had a chance to listen to both sides.

#### **SXC Community**

### **In Christ’s Peace**

+ **Fr. Adolfo Nicolás (JPN), 84/67**, passed away in Tokyo on 20 May

+ **Fr. Jerome D’Souza (BOM), 70/45**, passed away in Mumbai on 1<sup>st</sup> May

+ **Fr. Sidney D’Souza (BOM/AOR), 86/69**, passed away in Nairobi on 19 May

+ **Fr. Joe Aizpun (GUJ/ARU), 90/72**, passed away in Buenos Aires on 8 April.

+ **Fr. Michael Hawkins (DAR), 83/63**, passed away in Toronto on 30 April

+ **Fr. Thomas Anthraper (KER), 90/70**, passed away in Kozhikode on 6 May

+ **Mrs. Carmen Pereira**, the sister of Fr. Tony V D’Souza passed away on 12 April

+ **Mrs. Grace Fernandes**, the mother of Fr. Errol Fernandes, passed away on 14 May

## Adolfo Nicolás: In Memoriam 1936 - 2020



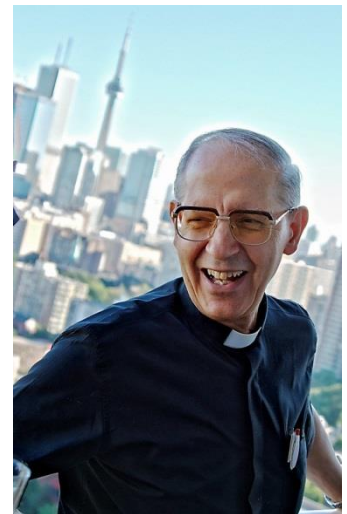
In recent years, a very special gift to the Society has been Pope Francis' cordial relationship with us and his ongoing support and guidance. Adolfo Nicolás, as General, initiated this warm relationship. His initiative evoked a personal call from Pope Francis and the rest is history.

Among the many traits that Adolfo admired in Pope Francis was his simplicity and his approachability; a Pope who claimed no special privileges and put on no airs; a Pope admirable for his "ordinariness". "This Pope," Adolfo would say, "has brought *normality* to the Papacy." What Adolfo admired in Francis found an echo in his own life and governance style. In a manner of speaking, Adolfo brought normality to our Generalate. As General, he joined us for the main noon meal regularly, preferring to have Bishops and Cardinals, who stayed for meals, dine with the community rather than in the General's private dining room. Adolfo occupied no special place in the refectory, participated in the special community

gatherings on the terrace (loving the summer BBQs), moved freely among the Jesuits from Roman Houses, to whom he was "at home" early in each new calendar year. His free and informal style in these contexts extended to formal contexts. Hence, we, General Counsellors, felt remarkably at home with him to discuss and disagree with him as General.

However, Adolfo's simplicity should not blind us to the sharpness of his intellect and analytic/synthetic mind. At our "*tempo forte*" meetings, in particular, when each session would last 90 minutes, I would wonder what would emerge from our conversation, made more confusing by the variety of cultures, perspectives and Italian language skills represented in our Council. I soon learnt not to worry. At the end of the general session, Adolfo would offer a succinct synthesis that revealed the meat of our discussion, identified the lines that he deemed significant and listed aspects that needed further study. It was very consoling to end a somewhat meandering conversation with a sense of focus and purpose.

Nevertheless, alongside this sharp mind, Adolfo manifested an enchanting pleasure in telling and listening to jokes. Unfortunately, just as he approached the



end of his joke, he would explode into laughter. A gale of merriment and eyes streaming with tears would sweep away the punch line! Since I travelled quite a lot with Adolfo, I managed hear several jokes in their entirety. Even as I write, I find myself chuckling to myself as I recall some jokes that poked fun at the rivalry between Catalonians and Basques!

We in South Asia are especially grateful to Adolfo. Thanks to his immersion in Japanese culture, he manifested a genuine grasp of and appreciation for Asian religious and cultural realities. This led him to expand the Secretariat for inter-religious dialogue, which had narrowed primarily to dialogue with Islam, to embrace also Hinduism, Buddhism and indigenous religions. Even more, he sympathised with and greatly encouraged the efforts of our Asian theologians, requiring only that solid scholarship support creativity and concern for inculturation. He was always ready to go to bat for our theologians when the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith sought clarification on certain sensitive themes.

Very fortuitously, we celebrated a community Eucharist the day before Adolfo went to his heavenly reward. The Eucharist was dedicated to pray for Adolfo. In lieu of the homily, we spent nearly 30 minutes sharing experiences of Adolfo. One intervention I found specially touching was the information that, in his room at the infirmary in Tokyo, as also in his personal room, there was a photograph of us as a

Curia community. To know that he, whom we had joyfully welcomed into our hearts and who still has a place in them, should also have continued to hold us in his, brought a rush of emotion I do not easily feel.



Adolfo died, as he lived, very much the “ordinary person” Due to COVID-19 people all over the world have died in insolation with no loved ones and no loving words to soothe their final days and moments. So it was with Adolfo, who was isolated in a hospital for some weeks because of to the COVID-19 restrictions, with none of the Jesuit companionship he treasured. Thanks to the kind thoughtfulness of the hospital, the Provincial of Japan was summoned and was at Adolfo’s bedside though he had slipped into a coma sometime previously. At least we have the consolation that the Society, so dear to him, was there, represented by his Provincial, as he breathed his last. He died as he lived, very much an “ordinary person”. May this extraordinary “ordinary” Jesuit rest in peace eternally, even as he rests always in our grateful minds and hearts.

- **Lisbert D’Souza**

**Jerome D'Souza, SJ**  
**(10 May 1949 – 01 May 2020)**



Jerry was a companion who over the years became a friend, a confidant and a brother with whom I shared a deep level of trust and love. My mother referred to him as her third son and my sister treated him like a brother.

Our friendship of 45 years began at a camp in Ashagad in 1974 when Jerry was a 1<sup>st</sup> year Novice and I was a Postulant. It deepened when Fr. Rasquinha sent us for Theology together. Those were years of some studying besides the usual mischief and sharing. Every night a cup of coffee lasted for over an hour of *bakwas*. We'd share about everything—our community living, friendly or conflictual relationships, plan our *musti* for the next days, our ministries and also our studies. Having worked in the real world before joining the Society of Jesus, Theology was far from

reality for us. By that time, the level of trust between Jerry and me had grown tremendously.

That trust kept increasing in depth and quality after ordination when I joined the Holy Family parish community. There, among other ministries, Jerry was in charge of the Konkani Sodality. Its members felt respected and valued because they received much from him through his gentle yet firm ways. Jerry had a way of winning over people. It was the same when he took charge of the CLC at Seva Niketan, giving CLC members from all over India practical applications of the Spiritual Exercises. His years at the Retreat House, Bandra while being another season of learning, were also difficult years and took a toll on his health.

His going to Loyola University, Chicago, and getting a Master's in Pastoral Counselling opened up a new resource in him. It was a delight when he would share how he had helped people, through psychospiritual accompaniment, to engage in their inner healing and to grow into freer and happier persons. He continued the same ministry in St. Pius X Seminary, Goregaon. Jerry's psychospiritual approach helped him in assisting seminarians, religious women and men, couples, singles and youth.

It was difficult for Jerry to say "no" to a request. I exploited him in that regard. When I was unable to respond positively to people's request for psychospiritual accompaniment I'd refer them to Jerry. He'd scold me with, "why are you



recommending people to me? *Tumko kuch kaam nahin kya?*” To that I would reply, “Jerry, until I find someone else with your skills, I will continue to recommend you to people.”

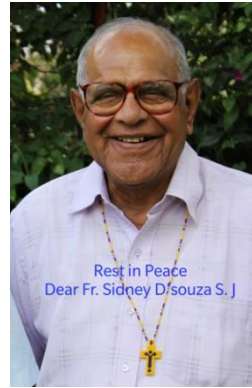
Jerry had a gift which used to draw people to him for help. That skill was his capacity for “empathy”—the ability to ‘feel’ what his counselees were going through and to mirror it back to them so they would be able to gradually become rid of those emotions which kept disturbing them and go away feeling lighter and freer, a loving peaceful presence of God within them, discovered through Jerry’s assistance.

Spending time with Jerry during his final days was a gift for me. Thanks to Sr. Maria (Infirmarian) for pulling me to be with him. I was able to hear and see his suffering in its various forms. When he died, I was startled at first with the news. By the next morning, even through his funeral Mass, I found a quiet joy present in me because his suffering had ended, and he had entered the afterlife. Four days later a deep grief hit me. I processed through all the disturbing emotions and drained them out of me during the next few days. Once done, even today, the thought of the death of Jerry leaves me with a quiet delight because his soul is in the spirit world processing his whole life until he moves onwards into the fullness of Life in God.

➤ **Dudley Mendonca**

## **Fr. Sidney D’Souza, SJ (BOM/AOR)**

**1934 - 2020**



Sidney D’Souza joined the Society of Jesus at Vinayalaya in 1951 and was ordained a priest in 1964. He served at Seva Niketan for several years and did much for the formation of lay CLC leaders. Later he was appointed to the Curia

at Rome, working for CLC Youth all across the world.

In 1983, Fr. Sidney D’Souza came to Eastern Africa Province (AOR) and worked at Mwangaza Spiritual Centre briefly, before he was missioned to Zambia as Socius to the Novice Master. From 1987 – 2002 he worked in Moshi, Tanzania as part of the Team for On-going Formation of Religious. He then moved back to Mwangaza Spiritual Centre, Nairobi.

Fr. Sidney D’Souza dedicated his whole life to directing retreats and forming spiritual leaders. He was a renowned confessor for many congregations and individual religious and lay people. An eloquent and powerful preacher, he taught with zeal and conviction. He continued to direct retreats until it was clear that he had finished the race and was only waiting to be crowned by our risen Lord (2 Tim 4: 7-8).

**(taken from the AOR Province circular)**

