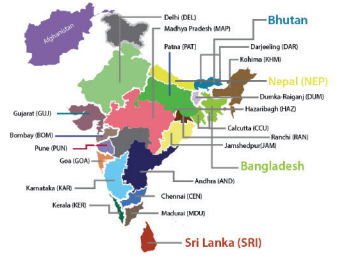




SAJN



SOUTH ASIAN JESUIT NEWS

News of Common Works of the Conference

July 2024 No: 2



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Appointments by Fr General

1. Fr Valerian Castelino as Regional Superior of Kohima Region
2. Fr Vimal Kishore as Provincial of Patna Province
3. Fr Jerome L Xystus as Socius to Madurai Provincial
4. Fr Learoy Rodrigues as Socius to Bombay Provincial
5. Fr Sunny George Kunnel as Socius to Calcutta Provincial
6. Fr Arun Kumar as Socius to Karnataka Provincial
7. Fr Peter Pappu as Socius to Darjeeling Provincial
8. Fr Roland Coelho (GOA) as Rector of Papal Seminary, Pune

Appointments by POSA - List II

1. Fr Alphonse Kispotta (MAP), Staff Jnana Deepa, residing in Papal Seminary, Pune
2. Fr Dayal Lakra (DUM), Assistant Director, CISR, DNC Pune
3. Fr Denzil Fernandes (GOA), Head, Peace and Reconciliation, ISI Bengaluru
4. Fr Dolichan Kollarath (KER), Teaching, Sophia University, Japan
5. Fr Donald Miranda (PAT), Tertian Instructor, Arrupe House, Kandy, Sri Lanka
6. Fr Francis Fernandes (KAR), Director CISR, De Nobili College, Pune
7. Fr Henry D'Almeida (KAR), House Consultor, De Nobili College, Pune
8. Fr John Karuvelil (JAM), residing in Inigo Sadan, Pune
9. Fr Joseph Lobo (KAR), Staff JD, residing in De Nobili College, Pune
10. Fr Robin Vazhaparambil (DEL), Spiritual Director, De Nobili College, Pune
11. Fr Santosh Minj (HAZ), Tertianship (Training), Shembaganur and Portland, USA
12. Fr Willaim D'Britto (BOM), Staff JD, residing in De Nobili College, Pune

Appointment by Bishop of Shimla-Chandigarh

Fr Mathew Padayatty (DEL), Spiritual Director, Kristu Jyoti, Kauli

July	
15-20	JCAP Meeting (South Korea)
21-27	Japan
31	Centenary (Loyola Chennai) Final Vows, Valerian (SN)
August	
03-04	POSA Consult (JB)
10	GB (XLRI Kol)
13-16	Visitation (ISI D)
17	GB (ISI D)
24	GB (ISI B)
25-26	Visitation (ISI B)
28-01	Visitation SN & AICUF
September	
03	POSA Consult (online – 11 am)
05-15	Expanded Consult (Rome)
14-15	CSSE (BNG)
21	MAIN (ISI-Delhi)
24-25	Visitation (Shembag)
26-28	Visit to Madurai Province

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION (CSSE)

Fr. John Ravi, SJ, Secretary – CSSE

1. ToT Program for NEP 2020 – North Zone Provinces Task Force in Delhi

Around 35 Jesuits and their collaborators from North Zone Provinces took part in the ToT Program as members of the Province/Region Task Force to implement NEP 2020 at Navjivan Renewal Centre, Sahayog, Delhi from February 2-3, 2024.



2. Zonal Triennial Preparatory Committee Meetings

Fr. Ravi attended all the four zonal triennial preparatory committee meetings to finalize details pertaining to the forthcoming Zonal Triennials with the main theme: “Reimagining & Restructuring Jesuit education in today’s South Asian Context”. The preparatory meetings were held at the following places:

Central Zone: March 16, 2024 in Ranchi

West Zone: April 25, 2024 in Pune

North Zone: April 26, 2024 in Patna

South Zone: April 30, 2024



3. JAAI Meetings

Fr. Ravi, SJ, under the capacity as the National Advisor to JAAI, attended the following meetings:

- JAAI – Governing Council Meeting in Jamshedpur from February 17-18, 2024
- JAAI – North Zone Council meeting in Delhi from March 1-3, 2024



4. Training Sessions conducted by the Secretary

Fr. Ravi, SJ conducted the following training programs:

- Seminar on NEP 2020 & NCF 2023 to all Jesuit educators of Kohima Region on Friday, March 22, 2024 in Guwahati
- Teachers Seminar for all the CJ Schools in Nepal Region (Biratnagar, Pokhra and Kathmandu) from April 6-15, 2024
- Online seminar on The Global Compact on education by Pope Francis to all the members of FMM Sisters of Delhi Province on April 20, 2024
- Teachers' Seminar to the newly recruited teachers of South Zone Provinces on Ignatian Legacy at Kodaikkanal from May 2-3, 2024
- Leadership Enhancement & Animation Program (LEAP) for all the Franciscan School Educators of Northern Province at Okhla, New Delhi from May 16-17, 2024



5. Annual ICAJE Meeting in Rome

Fr. Ravi, SJ attended the Annual ICAJE Meeting in Rome from May 21-14, 2024. He had the privilege of meeting Pope Francis during the special private audience on May 24, 2024. He presented a copy of the latest document of the Society of Jesus on Education: Jesuit Schools- a Living Tradition in the 21st Century.



6. Annual Meeting of Secretaries, Coordinators of Forums & Networks

Fr. Ravi, SJ attended the training sessions on Reimagining & Restructuring South Asian Conference held at DNC, Pune from April 21-23, 2024 followed by review meeting of Secretaries & Coordinators on April 24, 2024.



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE

Fr Xavier Soreng

Internal Evaluation

Recognized as an essential tool and integral part of the management process, internal evaluation is increasingly important. The Ensuring Social Protection (ESP) Program conducted a series of internal evaluations in March and April 2024. The process began with drafting and finalizing a template, which was then shared with all the State Level Trainers (SLTs) to be filled in with essential information. The internal evaluation was led by a team of three: a Coordinator of Social Action (CSA), a member of the National Team, and the State Coordinator assisting the evaluator in each State. The process started with meetings with the staff members of the organization and examination of the documentation followed by visits to at least of 1-2 operational villages inclusive of meetings with the CCFs (Community Convergence Facilitating Forums).

The evaluation tools included:

- Strategic Evaluation – which focuses on activities related to vision, mission, values, and goals. The aim is to determine to what extent the vision is being realized, goals are achieved, and progress is made.
- Regular Evaluation – Similar to planned evaluation, where data is gathered, progress towards goals is monitored, and the effectiveness of the program is assessed.
- Emergent Evaluation – Consists of responses to unforeseen events or issues identified through routine scanning or monitoring. This method is more spontaneous compared to the other two.

After internal evaluation, a personalized plan was created for each State, centering around their data, progress, shortcomings, and priorities to ensure ongoing improvement.

Founding Members Meet

On April 16, 2024, a reflection meeting was conducted for all the founding members of the Ensuring Social Protection (ESP) Program. This session brought key members together to reflect on what has been accomplished, what has not, and what still needs to be done. The reflection meeting focused on the following areas:



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- a. Impact of Lok Manch: What is its impact at the community level, local government level, and at the state and national level policies?
 - b. Partnerships: Who are our partners? Are we building effective partnerships? Are all partners fully committed and performing well? What challenges exist in partnership building?
 - c. Governance Structure of Lok Manch: How is it functioning? Whether the governance structure being is fully utilized to achieve the goals.
 - d. In Training: Is the investment sufficient for training community leaders? How is the budget allocated?

After a daylong meeting and in-depth discussions, several reflections brought valuable insights and paved the way for major action plans. These included strengthening the governance and decision-making structure in Lok Manch to ensure it remains inclusive, democratic, and well-represented. Evidence suggests that the participation of the Core Team Members should be amplified in major operational discussions. The importance of ground-level platforms, such as state and national platforms, should be highlighted and made visible. There is also a need for financial analysis, focusing on community programs, organizations, and professional salaries. A combination of accompaniment, relationships, and a value-driven approach with professionalism should become the unique selling proposition (USP) of Lok Manch.

Additionally, the meeting proposed conducting reflection processes with all the partners and carrying out partnership assessment instead of having an external evaluation. This approach will promote a strong and effective governance structure, facilitate smooth functioning, and provide concrete learnings for the next phase of planning and execution. It will also help assess each partner organization and strengthen the partnership-building process at all levels.

Furthermore, zonal level meetings will be organized for two days, with three participants (the head of each organization and two staff members) from each organization. Key aspects such as impacts at various levels, feedback processes, shortcomings and challenges at local, state, and national levels, and budget issues will be discussed and resolved.

New Partners:

Eight new partners have joined the Lok Manch Network from January 2024, four organizations from Pune Province and four organizations from Goa Province. So, with the eight new partners joining the program, the Lok Manch now has 100 partners. The eight organizations are: Kiran Niketan Social Centre, Good Shepherd Convent, Congregation of Handmaids of Christ and Goa Jesuit Social Action (under Goa Province) and SCOPE (Society for Community Organization and Progressive Organization), Wadimavil Lok Vikas Manch, Sisters of the Cross and Ambedkar Centre for Action and Research (ACAR), under Pune Province.

The SCOPE is one of the eight organizations and like other seven organizations has launched a campaign for obtaining various cards/documents (Addhar Card, Caste Certificate, Income Certificate, PDS Card, MGNREGA Job Card, Election ID, E-shram Card, etc.) which enable the marginalized groups and citizens below poverty line to access various government and social security schemes. This is obviously an effort to ensure income and social security to the deserving. The organization conducted a baseline survey with the help of Community Leaders. The objective was to identify the gaps between the existing government schemes and their implementation and facilitate the members of the village community to access the schemes meant for them. The organization has selected 100 poor families to help them address their livelihood and social security needs. In future, there is a plan to train the community leaders to help them obtain the necessary cards related to government and social security schemes and eventually to access their rights and entitlements.



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS-SA)

Fr Stephen Raj

JRS Regional Office Commemorates World Refugee Day at ISI

World Refugee Day, observed annually on June 20th, aims to raise awareness and show support for refugees by highlighting their struggles and resilience. JRS South Asia's Regional Office and Centres in Delhi marked the day with small programs in their respective locations. The regional office conducted a meaningful event at the Indian Social Institute (ISI).

The highlight of the day was an activity prepared by the regional team for the ISI staff. A board illustrated with a globe symbolizing the world was set up, and notes with messages of solidarity, compassion, love, hope and unity etc, were provided. ISI staff were invited to select a note they believed would contribute to a better and more welcoming world for refugees and pin it to the board, symbolizing global support for refugees. The event also included testimony sharing and poem recitals by young refugee students from Chin and Afghan communities.



Fostering Hopes and Aspirations: World Refugee Day at JRS Centres

While the event at the Indian Social Institute aimed to foster understanding and empathy towards refugees, the events at the JRS learning centres focused on fostering hope and aspiration among young refugee students.

At the Chin Centre, a day of arts and crafts was conducted, where students created leaves for a collective "Tree of Hope." They wrote their future dreams and aspirations on the leaves before pinning them to the tree. The Afghan Centre hosted a drawing exhibition where students illustrated their journeys, challenges, and aspirations. Additionally, the students participated in testimonial sharing and a role-playing activity to simulate the refugee experience.

These events collectively underscored the importance of compassion, understanding, and hope in the journey of refugees.



COMMUNICATION FOR A RENEWED JESUIT MISSION

Fr Vernard Antony

Conference Communications Delegates' Annual Meeting was held at Jesuit General Curia in Rome from 24 to 27 June 2024. A representative from each of the six conferences along with the Jesuit Curia Communications were actively involved in the discernment process of 'Communication for a Renewed Jesuit Mission.' Keeping the Universal Apostolic Planning (UAP) and Reimagining-Restructuring Jesuit Ministries, the participants were given an ample opportunity to discuss and plan on the following topics: Safeguarding, Vocation Promotion, Jubilee 2025, Father General's visits to Provinces/Regions, Youth-MAGIS Futures, Media Training, Contribution to Jesuit Media and the Jesuit Archives.

Dr Paulo Ruffini, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery of Communications, in his presentation on Jubilee 2025, invited the Church Communicators to work together in creating narratives that stands firm in faith. He emphasized saying 'telling a story is very important in our communication ministry.' He added saying 'the call for building a new digital era, where one can share knowledge, emotions and get an opportunity to pray together. Helping the youth to get involved in this process of communication is the need of the hour.'

In the fruit gathering process, I am able to take forward some concrete mission activities in JCSA Communications ministry.

- a. Making MAGIS Movement in a more creative way to bring the youth together and address them through social media.
- b. Forming group of JCSA Photographers playing the role of contributors to Jesuits.Media
- c. Networking and collaborating with the Global Jesuit Media involved in video production of common themes.
- d. Setting up JCSA Media Team in organizing Media Bootcamp to our scholastics and the youth.
- e. The JCSA Communicators in each Province/Regions will get involved in creating media materials for vocations to attract the youth.
- f. Emphasize on JCSA Communicators working in Zonal level, having common goals, sharing creative ideas and resources.
- g. The JCSA Communicators in each Provinces/Regions and in their respective Zones will contribute in taking forward UAP as 'mission.'
- h. Identifying and promoting the laity in Communication ministry in carrying forward our Jesuit Communication Apostolic works.



On the last day of the Conference Communications Delegates meeting, Fr. General Arturo Sosa addressed the group saying `the vital nature of communications that can not only spread word of the ministries of the Society, but also bring hope. The greatest mission of Communications in the Society of Jesus is to bring HOPE to people who have lost it.'

(Reported by Vernard Antony, SJ, JCSA Delegate)

JESUIT YOUTH MINISTRY OF SOUTH ASIA

Jesuit Youth Ministry of South Asia (JYMSA) - Annual Meeting 2024

The Jesuit Youth Ministry of South Asia (JYMSA) Annual Meeting 2024 was held on 02-05 May 2024 at Godavari, Kathmandu, Nepal. Fifteen Jesuit Youth Coordinators of the South Asia Conference participated in it. The annual meeting began with the holy Eucharist by Fr Amrit Rai SJ, Regional Superior of Nepal Region. He invited us to reflect on the spirit of Jesus spread among the youth today. Then Fr Vijay SJ shared about the history of Nepal Catholic Church and Nepal Youth ministry. His sharing inspired us to go deep into the roots of our early Jesuits and imbibe their pioneering spirit. Miss Titi Ghale (Youth from IMCS, Nepal) enthralled us with her personal and experiential sharing on 'Youth Addiction to drugs and alcohol.'

Fr Stany D'Souza SJ, President, JCSEA, celebrated the holy Eucharist on 5th May, who motivated the JYMSA Coordinators to reach out to the unreached unorganized youth with more focus and vigour. As the Conference is undergoing the process of reimagining and restructuring, he invited the Youth Coordinators to actively participate in this process with more focus on zonal level coordination. He also encouraged the Coordinators to listen and walk with the youth so that they bring out their potential in life. In his conclusion he said 'let us make it significant by investing our time and energy, and discerning and discovering something beautiful and meaningful for our men and others to serve our mission efficiently, effectively and efficaciously.'

On the final day, during the Zonal level discussions, Action Plans were taken up to keep the JYMSA Ministry more relevant in our Conference. The JYMSA has taken up 'Anti-Addiction Program' (APP) as a focused area for the year 2024-2025. The activities will be focused on this particular theme in all our youth activities.

JYMSA is extremely grateful to the Nepal Region Jesuits for the wonderful and unimaginable generosity and love showered through their hospitality. Special thanks to Fr Amrit Rai SJ, Regional Superior, Superior of Godavari Ashram community, Jesuit Communities in Kathmandu and Fr Tej Kalyan SJ the local organizer for their magnanimity in hosting this meeting.

(By Fr Parthasarathi SJ)

JAM MAGIS 2024: 'Embrace MAGIS - Ignite the Fire Within'

Jam MAGIS 2024, with its theme 'Embrace MAGIS - Ignite the Fire Within,' was held at XIM University, Bhubaneswar, on 26-30 May 2024. JAM MAGIS 2024 was designed to provide a holistic experience for participants, combining spiritual exercises, intellectual discussions and community-building activities. The main activities included morning Meditation, Holy Eucharist, Ignatian Immersion, Examen and MAGIS Circle. Each day was structured to offer a balance of reflection, learning and interaction, fostering a deep sense of community and spiritual awakening.

The diverse activities and insightful sessions left a lasting impact on the 236 pilgrims from all over the provinces, inspiring them to embrace the MAGIS spirit in their lives and contribute positively to their communities. These pilgrims participated in various enriching activities designed to foster spiritual growth, leadership skills and a deeper understanding of contemporary issues through the lens of faith. The event concluded

with a renewed sense of purpose and a collective commitment to foster a hope-filled future.

(By Niranjan Minj SJ)

Called to be committed youth for harmonious society: Youth Convention at Mundli, Dumka-Raiganj Province

Dumka-Raiganj JYMSA successfully conducted a three-day Youth Convention on 06-08 June 2024 at Mundli, Tinpahar, Jharkhand. The theme of the convention was 'Called to be committed youth for harmonious society.' There were 368 delegates, 5 teachers and 14 coordinators who actively participated in the convention. The program aimed to empower young individuals to prepare themselves for the future, make them aware about the Constitution of India and to become effective leaders in their community by developing their personalities.

The sole point of the program was 'Ignatian Immersion.' All the youth delegates had been divided into different groups and were sent to 9 different places for the experiment. This was a very thrilling experience and the best part of the convention. All the youth were very much delighted in going through this experiment. MAGIS Circle was conducted in all the groups. The group leaders led the MAGIS Circle successfully completing the Five Pillars of MAGIS. The youth also planted saplings as a symbol of concern for Green Earth.

The Youth Convention was a huge success with positive feedback from the participants. The convention provided the participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to prepare themselves to face the challenges and overcome it. The participant expressed their gratitude for the opportunity they received to learn for their life. They left the convention feeling motivated, empowered and ready to make a positive impact in their surroundings and in the society.

(By Sweety Hembrom)



South Zone Principals' Workshop

South Zone Workshops for our School Principals and New Teachers

1. School Principals' Enhancement and Enrichment Programme (PEEP) was organized from 1st May to 4th May in Bangalore for 32 Jesuit Principals from the South Zone (Madurai, Chennai, Karnataka, Andhra and Kerala). Fr. Ravi, JEA Secretary, stressed on the need for holistic development of the Principals and brought out the various traits of enhanced leaders, during his inaugural address on the first day.



Fr. VM. Thomas SDB, a well-known leadership trainer, was the resource person. He stressed on the need for transformational leadership in today's context and highlighted the importance of taking calculated risks, rooted in the Jesuit tradition. What we need today is the paradigm shift towards servant leadership.

On the third day, we had an exposure visit to Delhi Public School-East in the outskirts of Bangalore. Though this school is run in the corporate model with latest state-of-the-art facilities, what distinguished it were their quest and pursuit for excellence and their commitment for social causes and concerns.

We had a recollection on the last day with points proposed by Fr. Olvin Vegas SJ with spiritual conversation and personalized planning with the following questions: What is my vision for the school I am entrusted with? How do I strive to realize this vision concretely keeping in mind the goals and objectives of a Jesuit school? What are the three strengths of my school and how do I plan to enhance them? What are three weaknesses of my school and how do I plan to address them? What will be my three initiatives for the coming academic year?

There was an overwhelming satisfaction among all about this programme.

2. New Teachers' Induction Programme: 37 teachers from the five southern provinces participated in these ten days workshop from 1st May to 10th May in Kodaikanal. The twin aims of this workshop were to enhance participants' communication competence in English and empower them with expertise and confidence to teach the English language skills to young learners and familiarize our new teachers on the life of St. Ignatius, our education legacy up to the latest Jesuit documents on education.

Prof. Charles Durai from Loyola College, Chennai conducted the



English classes which covered the English pronunciation and conversational skills, speaking skills and strategies, writing skills, presentation skills and teaching of grammar and vocabulary. These sessions successfully equipped the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve their English communication. They showed improved confidence in their English communication abilities, particularly in their spoken English.

Everyday thematic sessions were conducted on the following topics: Fr. Stephen, PCF of Madurai Province touched upon the journey of St. Ignatius, the Pilgrim, the Spiritual Exercises, and the journey of the Jesuits into the world to the different parts for various ministries. Fr. John Ravi, JEA Secretary, presented on the milestones of Jesuit education, 10 Global Identifiers and the profile of the Jesuit school student at graduation. Fr. John Kennedy, PCE of Madurai Province spoke on IPP, its relevance and strategies to implement it in our schools. Fr. Henry, Rector of St. Xavier's institutions, Palayamkottai, dealt with the digital revolution, realizing the impact of multimedia, instructional strategies on curricular transaction and cybercrime and ways to safeguard ourselves and our students from this. Fr. Rohan, PCE of Karnataka Province brought out the focus areas of NEP – 2020. Fr. Thayrim, PDD of Madurai Province led the teachers into an awareness on how to integrate ICT in the teaching-learning process. Fr. Cyril from Madurai Province spoke on the duty of protection of child rights in our schools.

'I appreciate this south zone collaborative venture and such inter-province networking should be strengthened' stressed Fr. Thomas Amirtham, Madurai Provincial, during the valedictory address on the last day.

Fr. S.M. John Kennedy, PCE of Madurai and Fr. Rohan Almeida, PCE of Karnataka took these initiatives in collaboration with the other PCEs of the South Zone. (Fr. S.M. John Kennedy SJ)



DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

Fr Dinesh Braganza SJ

DSS Reflection and Spiritual Conversation: Over a period of seven weeks, the community at DNC participated in reflecting, praying and having spiritual conversation on the De Statu Societatis. Different staff members gave inputs on various chapters which was followed by time for silent prayer. The Eucharistic celebrations were also based on the themes of the various chapters and it ended with spiritual conversation according to the Living Groups. The Staff was divided into three groups for the purpose of spiritual conversation. It was a very fruitful exercises of enlightening the community regarding the status of the Society – very specifically its identity and mission today.

Diaconate: On 10th February, Bishop John Rodrigues, Bishop of Pune ordained seven Jesuit scholastics as Deacons. The theme for the diaconate was ‘Burning Hearts, Moving Feet’. The to-be deacons had prepared themselves with a retreat during the Christmas break and had a special recollection a day before the actual diaconate. Fr. Richard Lopes prepared them for the liturgy by first inviting them to reflect upon the theological significance of the Diaconate and further on giving them practice in the actual liturgy of the day. Some family members were present for the diaconate and through live streaming many other participated in the ceremony. The entire liturgy and arrangements were well appreciated and it was a memorable day for all at DNC.

Ministry Sharing: On 26th February, there was an evening set apart for sharing and evaluating the regular ministries. The scholastics going to various ministries such as parishes, social work, tuitions, slum work, migrants, old age home, orphanages, school orientations, etc. were organized into groups and shared about their ministries and highlighted the learning experiences as well as challenges which they faced. It was a fruitful exercise and the evaluation which followed helped the scholastics better prepare themselves for the future. The responsible persons in the ministry places were asked for feedback and the response about the commitment of our scholastics was overwhelmingly positive.

Evaluation and Farewell: On 3rd March, the Living Groups reflected upon their life at DNC during the academic year 2023-24. The personal journey with its consolations and desolations as well as the new learning experiences were shared by all. Overall, the scholastics strongly felt they had grown in their vocation, had a better sense of the mission, enhanced companionship, intellectual depth, greater self-knowledge and better understood the context of today. The overriding feeling was one of gratitude for all the blessings received during the year. During that week-end, i.e. on 9th March, a farewell was given to the scholastics who were completing their philosophy.

Media Courses: During the months of February and March, two courses were organized at DNC to enhance the video making talents of the scholastics. The first was a 'Media Boot Camp' during the third week of February and was conducted by Frs. Vivian and Vernard. It was well received by all and the participants felt that the inputs and guidance enhanced their skills. The second course was conducted by Mr. Paul George, a well acclaimed documentary film maker from 18th to 22nd March. He focused on script writing and advanced techniques of film making. Both the courses were highly appreciated and the scholastics enhanced their mediatic talents.

Summer Programs: Various activities took place at DNC during the summer months of April-May. Two eight-day DSS retreats for Pune Province were organized in April and May respectively. The Conference meeting on Reimagining and the annual evaluation of Conference works was held from 20th to 24th of April. From 25th April to 25th May, 29 participants from 5 different religious Congregations made the one-month Ignatian retreat at DNC.

During this time three important works were undertaken at DNC – the installation of an 80 KV solar electricity generation system, a 15000-liter STP (sewage water treatment plant) and the renovation of the Theologians Chapel. The solar system and STP will go a long way in taking forward our commitment to the protection and conservation of the environment.

New Academic Year: The scholastics returned to DNC by the 3rd of June and had an initial orientation on 4th, 5th and 6th June. In-depth orientation on intellectual life, spiritual life & spiritual direction, ministries, regular life at DNC and inviting volunteers for different forums were undertaken during the second week. A new forum set up this year is related to 'Documentation'. It will be guided by Fr. Lancy Monteiro and have its space with the DNC library. Regular life has begun and the new year has commenced with enthusiasm. This year DNC has a total of 142 members (80 philosophers, 43 theologians and 19 staff members).



ISI- Bengaluru

An interactive Session on “Safe & Dignified Migration” at the World Social Forum (WSF) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The World Social Forum (WSF) 2024 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 15th to 19th February 2024. About 50,000 participants from almost 92 countries of the world came together proclaiming “Another World is Possible”. Indian Social Institute, Bangalore was represented by Fr. Anthony Dass SJ, the Vice-President and Fr. Dr. M.G. Selvin Raj SJ, Head, Labour Migration Unit along with the Forum of Religious for Peace & Justice, India.

We organised an interactive session at World Social Forum (WSF), Kathmandu on the theme “Promotion of SAFE & DIGNIFIED MIGRATION” in collaboration with Caritas, Nepal represented by Ms. Sylvia, program coordinator, and Forum of Religious for Peace and Justice represented by Sr. Dorothy Fernandes and Dr. Martin SJ. Director of MAIN. Both Dr. Martin SJ and Dr. Selvin coordinated the interactive session on accompaniment with distress migrants who are mostly Dalits, Adivasi and OBCs. Fr. Francis Bosco SDB also joined the team in critically looking at the migration situation in the context of labour exploitation in India.

Thanks to FORUM members for taking initiative to organize this interactive session at the WSF and entrusting the responsibility to the Labour migration Unit of ISI Bangalore and CARITAS Nepal.

Dr. M.G. Selvin Raj SJ

Celebrating International Women’s Day: Inspiring Inclusion and Empowerment

“In essence, the International Women’s Day Celebration was more than just an event; it was a reaffirmation of the inherent strength and resilience of women, united in their quest for equality and inclusion”.

March 11, 2024 marked a significant day for Indian Social Institute Bangalore, where the spirit of inclusivity and empowerment resonated through the halls. Collaborating with SICHREM MANASA & Civic Bangalore, the International Women’s Day Celebration unfolded as a testament to the collective strength and resilience of women, under the inspiring theme of 'Inspire Inclusion'. Sr. Lilly and Mrs. Kanchana greeted 60 enthusiastic women attendees, accompanied by supportive men. This diverse gathering beautifully highlighted our shared commitment to gender equality and the important role women play in shaping our society. The program commenced with a dignified inauguration and lamp lighting ceremony, graced by people like Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ, Director, ISI B, Ms. Usha from BBMP, and Mrs. Margret Sampath of Sichrem. Their presence not only honoured the occasion but also symbolized the unwavering support for women’s rights and empowerment.

As the event unfolded, it transitioned seamlessly between engaging performances and insightful speeches. The vibrant renditions of a theme song and skit by Sharanamma & group, and Devi & group, captivated the audience and set the tone for an enriching

experience. Furthermore, Mrs. Margret Sampath's poignant Women's Day message and Dr. Fr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ's thought-provoking talk on inclusion stirred meaningful discussions and inspired attendees to advocate for change.

Practical aspects of empowerment were also emphasized. E-Shram Cards were handed over to women and prizes were distributed recognizing their achievements. These gestures not only provided tangible support but also served as a reminder of the progress yet to be made in bridging gender disparities.

Sr. Lilly ED, Programme Facilitator, Kerala

WORKSHOP ON "PSYCHO SOCIAL CARE FOR THE MIGRANTS"

The workshop on Psycho-Social care for the migrants, organized by the Labour Migration Unit of the Indian Social Institute (ISI), commenced with invoking of God's presence by a prayer song sung by Ms. Lakshmi, our support staff of ISI B. Ms. R. Yuktha a participant of the workshop recited the preamble of the Indian Constitution at the inaugural session of the workshop. Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ, Fr. Anthony Das SJ, and Fr. Francis Balaraj SJ graced the occasion.

Main speakers were Mr. Aditya Ligory, Dr. MG Selvin Raj and Mr. Lenin Babu who all spoke on the various aspects of Psycho-social Care of Migrants, mental health disorders such as fear, anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder normally found among the distress migrants. They emphasised on the importance of mental health awareness, healthy lifestyle practices, distribution of mental health resources and supportive policies to address these issues. Dr. Lourdunathan, in his valedictory address spoke about the split nature of the migrants. He said that the migrants' reality is seen as individuals who are both here and elsewhere, insiders and outsiders.

The participants of the workshop appreciated for the real-life experiences provided throughout the workshop. Participants expressed their gratitude for the enriching learning opportunity and to interact with migrants. They pointed out the effective implementation of the program by LM Unit. Mr. Ananda Rao who looked after all the technical arrangements deserve all our appreciations.

Report by Ms. Vandana

Visit by MSW Students & Faculty of Osmania University

On the 3rd April, 2024, 30 MSW students and faculty from Osmania University, Hyderabad on a study tour visited Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. The students were orientated about the various works of the institute, especially on the three thematic areas i.e. Social Inclusion and Democracy, Labour Migration and Peace and Reconciliation. There was free interaction with the students which enabled them to ask questions about social justice, religious harmony and Democracy. Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ, Director, appreciated the students for choosing the profession of social work voluntarily and encouraged them to develop deeper knowledge about the

society and equip themselves with critical thinking skills for creating an equitable society. Fr. Francis Balaraj SJ who coordinated the program gave in a gist the mission of ISI B through the three thematic areas of operation.

Fr Francis Balaraj SJ, Social Inclusion & Democracy



SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

Faculty Development Program

FDP for the staff of Satya Nilayam was held on 2nd and 3rd of February 2024, on the theme Innovative Styles and Methods of Teaching with Use of Technology in Satya Nilayam. The resource persons from LIBA guided this FDP.

Fr Brian Paulson SJ, President of Jesuit conference of Canada and USA visited Satya Nilayam and interacted with staff and students on 26th February 2024.

Cultural Diversity Day: On 6th March SN celebrated the cultural Diversity Day during which POSA released Sat Sopha, a student journal edited by Fr Jagadish along with student editor Sch. Paulus Dungdung. It was also an occasion to release SN Symphonies, a pictorial presentation of the yearly events edited by Sch. Pratao which was released by Fr Boniface Panna. On this occasion we had the Principal, Vice Principal and Deans from Loyola College present at Satya Nilayam to witness the release of these two books and enjoy the cultural presentation by our students.

Philosophizing session: Fr Valerian Mendonca coordinated the philosophizing session on the theme The Phenomenological Speculative Method on 18th February.

Holy Week was an occasion for many of our students to involve and participate in helping out in Holy Week liturgy services in many parishes in and around the city of Chennai.

Sports Champions: The department of Philosophy bagged the overall championship trophy which was given during Loyola College Sports day.

International Academic Collaboration: Five first-years participated in an online certificate course titled, "Philosophy of Religion and Technology", conducted by Fr. Timothy Clancy, Professor of Philosophy at Gonzaga University, USA. It was coordinated by Fr Patrick Arockiaraj SJ.

Marching for Manipur: Satya Nilayam community participated in a peace rally at Santhome Cathedral Basilica, Chennai on the 16th of March to express solidarity with the victims of Manipur violence and to protest against the ongoing violence and ethnic conflict in Manipur.



Academic-religious outreach: On 29th February 2024, under the guidance and leadership of Fr Patrick the first years visited the Planetarium and science exhibition centre at Adyar. As part of study of Contemporary Indian Thought a study visit was organized for second years to Auroville, Pondicherry in March 2024. The Second years had a religio-cultural visit to Vailankanni shrine, Nagapattinam on 24th March.

Fr. Vinod Coordinated and arranged a one-day workshop on “Alcoholism and Drug Addiction” for the Second-year students at TTK Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai on February 23, 2024. This exposure program was organized to complement the course on ‘Philosophy of Human Person’.

Semester exams got over by 24th May and results declared on 3rd June, the department of Philosophy, Loyola College has secured 100% pass results thanks to the devoted and dedicated service of staff and untiring efforts of students.

Fr Lawrence Fernandes SJ



VIDYAJYOTI

PRE-POLL SURVEY REPORT

PRE-POLL SURVEY REPORT

The renowned Apt Research Group (ARG), known for its accurate election forecasting in South India since 1989, collaborated with Vidyajyoti, Institute of Religious Studies, to conduct a pre-poll survey in Delhi. This report analyses the survey process and findings, based on a small sample size of 5000 respondents, showcasing ARG's expertise in data collection and political trend analysis. Led by Ms. Jothi R, ARG's Vice President, the survey was conducted on January 5th and 6th, 2024, by 16 students of Vidyajyoti at 8 locations in Delhi. The questionnaire was in Hindi, focusing on individuals aged 18 and above, with a target of 27 interviews per day per interviewer. Participating in the survey provided valuable insights into public sentiment towards the upcoming Lok Sabha election, offering firsthand experience in field data collection. The diverse responses shed light on people's perceptions of national development and political parties. These findings will guide ARG in understanding local needs and making informed decisions for the upcoming elections.

ETHICS & PASTORAL CHALLENGES: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CHURCH

On January 30th, 2024, Vidyajyoti College hosted a thought-provoking extension lecture addressing "Ethics and Pastoral Challenges at the End of Life" and "Artificial Intelligence and Church: A Great Opportunity." The esteemed speakers were Rev. Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy of Life and recipient of the Gandhi Award for Peace and the Mother Teresa Albania Award, and Fr. Andrea Ciucci, Coordinator for the Pontifical Academy of Life.

Rev. Archbishop Paglia commenced the seminar by emphasizing the contemporary imperative of dialogue as a foundational pillar for addressing societal challenges. He highlighted India's concerning meagre budget for health, advocating for compassionate care towards the weak and sick.



Focusing on palliative care, especially for the elderly, he stressed the need for accompaniment and hospice beyond mere medical treatment. The archbishop underscored the Catholic Church's commitment to promoting human dignity and palliative care, advocating for community-based support and solidarity in the face of demographic shifts and societal changes. Fr. Andrea Ciucci delved into the topic of

artificial intelligence, likening it to a 2.0 version of the Copernican revolution with profound implications for society.

He cautioned against the inclination to treat technology as a new religion and emphasized the Church's responsibility to engage with scientists in addressing the social dimensions of AI. Fr. Ciucci highlighted the cultural impact of AI, expressing concerns over its potential to replace human culture and alter social structures. He emphasized the need to focus on the social dimension of AI and questioned the disproportionate emphasis on the soul over the body in discussions surrounding this technology.

Throughout the seminar, participants engaged in discussions around the ethical challenges posed by AI and the imperative of compassionate care at the end of life. The seminar concluded with a call to action for collaboration between religious institutions, academia, and policymakers to navigate the ethical complexities of the modern world while upholding timeless values of compassion, dignity, and solidarity.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: IRENIC 2024

The three-day international seminar, "Peace and Reconciliation: A Journey Towards Reign of God," commenced on February 27, 2024, at Millennium Hall, Saint Xavier's School Delhi. It emphasized the urgency of fostering peace and reconciliation within oneself, among others, and in the world. The seminar aimed to explore various life situations, biblical foundations, challenges, commonalities, and best practices in peace and reconciliation. The participation of experts, scholars, theologians from India and abroad, along with students, enriched the seminar. Day 1: Theological and Sociological Perspectives: The focus was on theological and sociological perspectives of peace and reconciliation. Most Rev. Lourdu Anandam, Bishop of Sivagangai, delivered the keynote address on the role of public theology and ecclesiastical leadership in peace building. Prof. Dr. Lancy Lobo SJ explored sociological perspectives, while Prof. Dr. Valan C. Antony SJ delved into theological and biblical foundations.

Day 2: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Speakers discussed international and interdisciplinary perspectives. Topics included Rwanda's journey towards reconciliation, cultural diversity in Malaysia and Singapore, hospitality among Muslims, inter-ethnic conflicts in northeastern India, and intra-religious conflicts from various religious viewpoints.

Day 3: Best Practices in Reconciliation and Peacebuilding: Focus shifted to best

practices, with sessions on peaceful co-existence in Seemanchal, peace practices within the Sikh community, initiatives for peace and reconciliation in South Asia, fostering unity through community engagement, interconnectedness from Laudato Si, reaching the Gospel to marginalized communities, and a synthesis session led by seminar facilitators.

Conclusion: The seminar provided valuable insights and real-life examples, emphasizing the importance of reconciliation for peacebuilding. It celebrated human diversity, promoted inclusiveness, and encouraged collaborative efforts towards peace and reconciliation.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On the occasion of International Women's Day, 8th March 2024, an extension lecture was organized to commemorate the significance of the day and to shed light on the challenges and achievements of women globally. The event was graced by esteemed speaker and participants, contributing to a

meaningful discussion on the empowerment of women and gender equality. Dr. Ella Sonawane, the Associate General Secretary of ISPCK, Delhi, served as the spokesperson for International Women's Day. Dr. Ella, a strong advocate for women's rights and empowerment, shared her insights and experiences on the occasion. The principal, Fr. Rajkumar introduced Dr. Ella, highlighting her remarkable achievements as a strong woman, author, speaker, and social service advocate. On this special occasion all the sisters present were felicitated with a bouquet, symbolizing appreciation and recognition for their roles and contributions. Dr. Ella shared her insights into the roles and challenges faced by women in society, drawing attention to patriarchal norms, bias, and the lack of political and economic representation. And also Dr. Ella cited examples from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab where empowered women have made significant progress, enabling them to voice their concerns and participate actively in society. The theme of inclusion resonated throughout the discussion, with emphasis placed on encouraging a culture where women are respected and empowered. Dr. Ella stressed the importance of men embracing feminism and supporting gender equality initiatives, emphasizing that the empowerment of women is crucial for societal

development. So, the International Women's Day extension lecture provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and reflection on the status of women in society. Through the insightful discussions and reflections, participants were inspired to champion the cause of gender equality and work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

VICTOR COURTOIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

The 7th Victor Courtois Memorial lecture, organized by the Islamic Studies Association Delhi on Feb 23, 2024, at Millennium Hall, Saint Xavier's School Delhi, commemorated Fr. Victor Courtois, a Belgian Jesuit renowned for his contributions to Christian-Muslim relations in India. Fr. Courtois' approach emphasized love and respect towards Muslims, fostering deep understanding and dialogue. The lecture featured Fr. Michael Calabria OFM, a leading scholar in Christian-Muslim dialogue, discussing "From Morocco to the Mughal Empire: Franciscan Encounters with Muslims and their Significance for Interreligious Dialogue Today." Fr. Calabria highlighted Saint Francis of Assisi's respectful engagement with Muslims during the 5th Crusade, contrasting it with the Crusaders' hostility. He emphasized the enduring lesson of Assisi: meekness, humility, and service, echoed by St. John Paul II and Vatican II. Fr. Calabria urged Christians to follow Francis's example, promoting collaboration with Muslims for justice and peace. He also touched on historical instances of Christian-Muslim dialogue, including efforts in Akbar's court.

REPUBLIC DAY EXTENSION LECTURE

On the eve of Republic Day, Vidyajyoti hosted an extension lecture titled "Understanding Indian Culture Through and For Christ," featuring P.I. Jose, an Advocate on Record in the Supreme Court, as the speaker. Sch. Julius Tudu SJ introduced the theme and the speaker. Advocate Jose began by highlighting the uniqueness of the upcoming 2024 election, attributing it to the growing power of Hindutva supremacists, which poses a threat to India's democracy. He discussed culture, defining it as societal cultivation, and pointed out the polarization and weakening of democratic foundations caused by Hindutva forces. Referring to a 1996 Supreme Court verdict, he explained how Hindutva was legalized as synonymous with Indianization, enabling ultra-nationalist politics and religious-based vote solicitation by parties like BJP and Shiv Sena. He contrasted Hindutva's push for uniform culture with the Constitution's emphasis on cultural diversity, citing Article 29's protection of cultural preservation rights. He advocated for coexistence and mutual identification, drawing from Buddha's teachings and emphasizing Christ's boundless love as the ultimate cultural ethos.



FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



As we celebrate the life and legacy of our beloved founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola 31st July, let us reflect on the timeless wisdom and values he instilled in our order. Ignatius' transformative journey from soldier to spiritual leader inspires us to embrace our own call to serve the Lord and His people.

May we emulate Ignatius' courage, discernment, and compassion as we navigate the complexities of our mission. Let us remain faithful to his vision of finding God in all things and strive to be contemplatives in action.

As we continue to serve the Church and the world, may Ignatius' spirit guide us to seek Magis, to strive for excellence, and to accompany those on the margins. May our lives be a testament to the power of Ignatian spirituality, which ignites a fire of love and zeal within us.

Let us pray through the intercession of St. Ignatius, that we may remain loyal to our charism and fulfill our mission to bring Christ's light to the world.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam! (For the Greater Glory of God!)

HAPPY FEAST TO ONE AND ALL