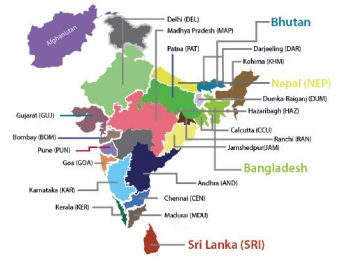




SAJN



SOUTH ASIAN JESUIT NEWS

News of Common Works of the Conference

March 2024



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POSA's Program

APRIL

21-22	Reimagining (DNC, Pune)
23-24	Review (DNC, Pune)
25	POSA Consult (DNC, Pune)

MAY

02-03	EC (KHM)
12	Companions (Kodagu)
24-25	AICUF (Trichy)

Appointment by Fr General

Fr Pedro Rodrigues: Provincial of Goa

Appointments by POSA

1. Fr Leo Anand (MDU), Conference Secretary CSSF, Jor Bagh, New Delhi
2. Fr Vernard Antony (DUM), Coordinator, JYMSA, Jor Bagh, New Delhi
3. Fr Caesar D' Cunha (GUJ), Spiritual director, Papal Seminary, Pune
4. Fr Zachaeus Dungdung (DAR), Spiritual director, Papal Seminary, Pune
5. Fr Herman Tirkey (MAP), Moderator Inigo Sadan, JD, Pune
6. Fr Ivan Sequeira (KAR), Minister, De Nobili College, Pune
7. Fr Parciush Marak (KHM), Trial teaching at JD, residing in De Nobili College, Pune.
8. Fr Ryan Rodrigues (KAR), De Nobili College, Pune
9. Fr Selvarathinam (KAR), residing in De Nobili College, Pune
10. Sch Joshua Kishanth (MDU), studying in JD, residing in De Nobili College, Pune
11. Sch Rex Reuban (MDU), External Assistant CSHF, De Nobili College, Pune
12. Fr Joel D' Souza (BOM), Trial teaching, Satya Nilayam, Chennai
13. Fr Lindsay Lobo (GOA), Trial teaching, Satya Nilayam, Chennai
14. Fr Rajiv Ranjan (PAT), Trial teaching, Satya Nilayam, Chennai
15. Fr Patrick Arockiaraj (PUN), Librarian, Satya Nilayam, Chennai
16. Fr Jose Mathew (KER), Registrar and Librarian, Vidyajyoti, Delhi
17. Fr. Jimmy Dhabhi (GUJ), Assistant DEPTH, Student Mentor, Spiritual Director, VJ
18. Fr Sameer Minj (MAP), Labour Migration, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru
19. Fr Savari Joseph (PUN), Administrator, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru
20. Fr Erentius Minj (RAN), Education Coordinator, JRS, North-East
21. Fr Paul Chemparathy (NEP), Spiritual Director, Vinay Gurukul, Gurgaon
22. Fr Pradeep Perez (CCU), Spiritual Director, Paris
23. Sch Milton Mervin Raj (CEN), Assistant, Secretary of SJES (Rome)
24. Facilitators of Conference Apostolic Planning: Fr Brian Pereira (KAR), Fr John Ravi (DEL), Fr Somy Mathew (JAM), Fr Wendell D' Cruz (BOM)

JCSA Meeting at Calicut

Thomas Perumalil, S.J.

All the major superiors of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) headed by Fr Stanislaus D'Souza along with the General Assistants from Rome, Fr Vernon D'Cunha and M K George gathered at Christ Hall, Calicut, Kerala from 18th to 24th February 2024. JCSA is the highest decision-making body of the Jesuits of South Asia. During these seven days, the Major Superiors deliberated on several issues and took many decisions for the good of the Society of Jesus in South Asia and society in general. Continuing with the last JCSA meeting in Pune, the main concern of the Major superiors was the Re-imagining and Re-structuring of the Society of Jesus in South Asia. Fr Doinysius Vaz, the Resource Team Head, shared with the Major superiors the progress report of the team and the way forward. Afterward the Major Superiors shared among themselves in different groups the measures in their Provinces regarding Reimagining and Burning Issues.

One full day was dedicated to Fr Sebastian Jeerakassery, the General Treasurer, go explain to the group the Statutes on Poverty (SOP) and Instruction on Administration and Finance (IAF). Fr Jeera was thorough with the topic and meticulously went through the whole book to provide a clear understanding of the new Statutes on Poverty and Instruction on Administration and Finance.

Another day was spent on sharing by the Secretariats. The different secretaries of the Conference before sharing their report with the Major Superiors had a meeting with the coordinators of the forums and networks under them. They summarized the report under different headings like main focus/vision/goals/objectives for the academic year 2023, Programs & Activities, Achievements & Challenges, and Future Plans & Expectation from the Major Superiors. The Secretaries presented their reports and the Major superiors had interaction with them during the session.



Fr Vernon had a session on governance in the Society of Jesus and cautioned the Major Superiors about the problems vocation promotion, planning of personnel, and Jesuits for global needs. The others who spoke were Fr Brian Paulson about the challenges they face in the States and Canada, and Fr Jesu Benjamine about the support from Major superiors on the occasion of the centenary of AICUF.

The Major Superiors spent a good amount of time in spiritual conversation in groups. At the end of the meeting, the budget of Jesuit Conference of India for the financial year 2024-25 was passed, and the three outgoing Major Superiors, Fr Roland, Fr Donald and Fr Melvil were felicitated and appreciated for their services to JCSA for the last six years.

All the participants were very happy and appreciated the hospitality they received from the host province. The host Provincial, Fr E P Mathew and the team of fathers, the Christ Hall Community in particular, went out of their way to make the meeting a memorable one. The varieties of delicious food served were highly praised. Above all the company of the senior citizens at table and in the campus added flavour to their stay at Christ Hall.



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION (CSSE)

Fr John Ravi

1. Assessment of three Delhi Province Schools

- The Secretary, Fr. John Ravi, along with three other members conducted the assessment of three Delhi Province Schools – Xavier's, Jaipur; Xavier's, Newta and Xavier's, Mahwa from November 5-8, 2023.

2. National Symposium on Education by CBCI

- The Secretary, Fr. John Ravi, presented a paper on 'The Global Compact on Education by Pope Francis' during the National Symposium on Education by CBSE at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore from November 23-25, 2023. He was also a member of the Organizing Committee.

3. Seminars & Workshops

- Fr. John Ravi, conducted a half-day seminar for a group of religious on 'Decoding the National Curriculum Framework 2020 & its requirements and implications' on Sunday, November 5, 2023
- Fr. Ravi, conducted a session on 'the responsible parenthood' for the parents of senior students at Sahoday School, New Delhi on Saturday, November 4, 2023 followed by a motivational talk to the senior students on the same day.
- Conducted a couple of sessions on Transformational Leadership to a group of UMI Sisters at their Provincialate in Greater Noida on Friday, November 10, 2023.
- Conducted two days seminar for the teachers and Parents of St. Patricks, Vidyalaya, Jodhpur from December 7-9, 2023.



4. Discerning Leadership Program (DLP)

- Fr. John Ravi participated in the second DLP at Manresa House, Ranchi from December 11-15, 2023.

5. LEAP & TEEP for Sri Lankan Jesuits and Teachers

- Fr. Ravi, along with Fr. Norbert Menezes, (PAT) travelled to Sri Lanka immediately after the new year celebrations to conduct The Leadership Enhancement and Animation program (LEAP) for Sri Lankan Jesuits and other Religious Educational leaders from January 3-5, 2024 at Good Shepherd Spirituality Centre, Negombo followed by Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Program (TEEP) to a group of 133 teachers from our Jesuit schools from January 7-9, 2024 at Jesuit Residence of Mount Calvary School, Galle. Both the programs were well received and appreciated. We hope to keep up such collaborative educational initiatives in future as well.



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE

Fr Xavier Soreng

1) Workshop for Finalizing the State and National level draft study reports on Social Protection Floor (SPF) as recommended by ILO (International Labour Organization): The workshop was held on 18-19 December, 2023 in the Rose Hill, Port Area, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It was for the State Coordinators of ESP, State Level Trainers (SLTs) and Core Team Members of ESP (Ensuring Social Protection). The participants in the workshop were 21 in number. The draft reports were presented by all the SLTs from 13 States. After each presentation, the Core Group members and State Coordinators gave their observations for correction and improvement. The SPF study is focused on four key areas: Health (PHCs, CHCs, Ayushman Bharat, etc.) and income security for children, working population of the age group of 15-59 including PWDs (people with disabilities) and senior citizens. The draft reports presented were based on the secondary data and primary data. In addition to this, each State prepared an annual plan in the workshop itself. The draft plans were presented by each State in the plenary session, which further are to be finalized in a meeting of the State Coordinators, State Level Trainers, Unit Coordinators, Organization Heads and Community Trainers. All the States have committed themselves to finalize their reports by the end of January 2024 including their policy recommendations for advocacy with their local MLAs, MPs. The recommendations are to find a place in the election manifestoes of different parties. The operational issues and challenges arising out of the implementation of ESP were also addressed by the Consultant and National Team. Mr. Vijay Bhai, National Consultant, and the National Team of ESP, Mr. Jayanta Patra, Sr. Ruby Mary Kujur, and Fr. Xavier Soreng were present in the workshop.

2) Monitoring Visits of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh: Mr. Jayanta Patra and Fr. Xavier Soreng went to Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh for their monitoring visits of ESP (Ensuring Social Protection) program from 12-19 January, 2024. A meeting was organized in Jharna, Namkum, Ranchi for finalizing Jharkhand State Annual Plan where 21 members participated. The participants included the State Coordinators, SLTs (State level Trainers), Unit Coordinators, and Community Trainers. On 14-15 of January, the National Team visited ESP Centres of Hazaribag, namely Jharkhand



Mahila Utthan, Lara, Konar Social Extension Centre, Dumer, Prerna, and Patra centres, including the villages of, Balidih, Hewai and Jam Vihar in their operational areas. Similar meeting for finalizing the annual action plan was held on 17 of January for the partners in Chhattisgarh in which 16 members participated; following which the National Team visited the ESP centres of Keracacchar and Korba and held meeting with one CCFF (Community Convergence Facilitating Forum) in the operational area of Korba on February 18, 2024. During these visits, some important operational issues in the implementation of ESP were also addressed.

3) Orientation Program for Pune and Goa Partners of ESP: There was an orientation program for the new ESP Partners of Pune and Goa from 23-25 of January, 2024 in De Nobili College, Pune. There were 27 participants from eight different organizations. The Pune and Goa Provinces have joined the ESP Network which so far had 92 organizations. Now onwards with 8 more organizations joining, the network will have hundred (100) partners in the ESP Network. Thanks to MAGIS Italy, especially Ms. Francesca, who played a pivotal role in getting the necessary funds from Italian Bishops Conference to support the two partners for one and half years. We were lucky to have Fr. Stanislaus Jerome D'Souza, SJ (POSA) for a photograph as he was on his canonical visitation to the Community. The orientation program covered the context, vision, goals, objectives / indicators, key activities budgeted and non-budgeted (rights and entitlements, Social Protection Floor & ecology), strategies and approaches, core values, approach to capacity building, criteria of selection of community leaders, MIS and reporting formats, Agreements, contracts and policy documents, financial transactions, etc. The partners have been asked to identify and select work areas, Unit Coordinators, State Level Trainers, Community Trainers, and community leaders from the work areas. Mr. Vijay Parmar, the National Consultant, Mr. Jayanta Patra, National Coordinator, Sr. Ruby Mary Kujur, National Program Officer, and Fr. Xavier Soreng, Director of the Program were present as resource team for the orientation program.



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR SERVICE OF FAITH

Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Research(CISR) has been utilized for various programmes, seminars, and workshops of CISR, Centre for Safeguarding and Human Formation (CSHF) and Conference meetings (MAIN & LokManch), 2 Province Congregations of CCR sisters, retreats (individual & group) and is heavily booked till 31st May 2024. CISR organized Post Tertianship Programme from 3rd December 2023 to 3rd January 2024 for 35 Jesuit tertians from Shembaganur and Sitagargh. Frs. Freddie D'Silva, Tony da Silva, Joe Arun, Dionysius Vaz, Claudius Tauro, Francis Pudhicherry and Konrad Noronha dealt on various topics that are relevant for the Jesuit ministries in South Asia.

The Secretary for Service of faith conducted a seminar on 'Faith Sharing' to a group of 51 Charity Sisters in Secunderabad and visited Dumka Province including 3 days sessions on 'Pastoral Management' for 31 Jesuits and their collaborators in Jisu Jaher. The annual meeting of CSSF was held in Dhyanashrama Kolkata. Fr Joseph Scaria (Shaju) SJ (CCU) and Fr Michael Biswas were the resource persons. Both of them helped the secretaries of Faith to actualize Ignatian Spirituality, Dialogue with the people of other religions in our pastoral jurisdiction and imbibe the spirit and sense of Synodality in our parish ministry.



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS-SA)

Fr Stephen Raj

News from JRS, New Delhi

Chin (Burmese) Refugee Centre Sparks Festive Joy with Carol Singing Service

The Chin (Burmese) Refugee Centre orchestrated a heartwarming carol singing service at Agape Mission School, New Delhi on 8th December 2023, fostering community unity and spreading the true essence of Christmas. JRS Urban Refugee staff joined the joyous carol singing by Chin centre students. Sch. Swethan delivered an inspiring address on peace and Christmas. Ms. Roesline, Delhi urban project director expressed gratitude on behalf of JRS, Delhi to the school run for the Burmese refugee kids and presented sports items to enhance students' physical well-being.

This event, aiming to promote harmony and positive change, featured Chin Centre students creating Christmas cards. These cards were later distributed to Afghan students and staff at JRS Tilak Nagar Centre and the ISI office, spreading joy across cultural boundaries. The JRS Chin Refugee Centre's festive initiatives highlight the power of community engagement and the transformative impact of spreading goodwill, emphasizing unity, peace, and the joy of giving back.



Marquette University Students Explore JRS Programs, Connect with Afghan Refugees in Delhi Visit

A group of Undergraduate students from Marquette University, USA visited JRS South Asia Regional Office at Indian Social Institute (ISI), Delhi on January 11, 2024 for a half day exposure to JRS programs and interaction on peace building initiatives. Fr. Stephenraj, JRS Regional Director welcomed them and Sebastia L. Raj, Executive Director of ISI, gave them an insightful overview of Jesuits in India and their impactful social development initiatives. Ms. Ankita Gupta, JRS South Asia's Regional Programmes Officer, then shed light on JRS and its diverse activities with a PPT presentation.

The students later visited Afghan refugee centre in Bhogal, New Delhi and immersed in the vibrant interaction with Afghan refugee Tailoring and Global English class students on peace and reconciliation. This interaction provided a firsthand understanding of the refugees' experiences and their role in promoting peace within the JRS and refugee communities. The exchange of questions and answers was profound, leaving a lasting impact on both the Marquette University students and the Afghan refugees

Expressing gratitude for the enriching experience, the Marquette University students highlighted the significance of their connection with JRS programs and the valuable insights gained during their visit.



JNANA DEEPA, PUNE

Fr Dinesh Braganza SJ

Jnana Deepa Day 2023 - A Historical Event at JD

The Jnana Deepa (JD) Day 2023, held on 17th November, 2023, was a memorable event at JD, Pune. With reason greets faith as a running theme at the back-set, the theme for this year's JD Day was UBUNTU – Unity in Diversity Builds Community.

More than a memorable event, it was also a historical event. We had the first ever African liturgy Eucharist at JD animated by the Mill Hill Missionaries (MHM). The congregation experienced a deep-felt joy by partaking in the vibrant liturgy. The unique and deeply evocative symbols in the liturgy moved us in the right disposition of devotion and reverence for the Lord, who welcomes us to his banquet of love traversing all the boundaries set by the world. This holy Eucharist echoed the real meaning of 'catholic', i.e., universal.

Post the vibrant Holy Eucharist in the morning, we had the cultural fiesta at Papal Seminary Hall in the evening. Dr. Sr. Maria Goretti, The Superior General of Fatima Sisters, was the Chief Guest for the cultural programme. Under the aegis of Sr. Asha Maria Jose MSMI, the first Women President of Jnana Deepa Students Council (JDSC), we had an enthralling evening which enriched the audience at various domains: intellectual, faith, entertainment. The students put-up a 2-hour play loosely based on Peter Kreeft's "Socrates Meets Jesus: History's Greatest Questioner Confronts the Claims of Christ". The writing team under the leadership and guidance of Sch. Vysakh Titus SJ, did a scintillating job of making the audience to introspect on how we live our Christian life. JD Day concluded with handing over the first ever JD Literary Wing Rolling Trophy to the victors – the first year Theologians.

Indeed, as mentioned earlier, this year's JD day was not like any other event, but a historical one, and the whole JD as one family participated in this event reverberating the theme - Unity in Diversity Builds Community.



PAPAL SEMINARY, PUNE

John and Doni

In the last few months, the home of love has had a lot of activities. During the semester holidays, we all celebrated the community day programmes, organizing various events to mark the occasion. It was five eventful days filled with lot of creative competitions for all the community members. We divided the whole community into two groups including the staff members. It was a spectacular show of talents, friendship, camaraderie, team spirit and communitarian sentiments. It became an occasion for all of us to rejuvenate the bonds of fraternal spirit. The mutual encouragement of the teams, active participation of the seminarians, the meticulous planning and diligent and cordial execution of the various events by the co-ordinating committee animated by Fr. George Lijo made these days remain deeply etched in the memory of the budding seminarians.

After the semester holidays, the community resumed its regular programmes. New beadles, sub beadles and other office-bearers took charge with renewed vigour. As a symbolic gesture to represent the change of portfolios, the beadles in the presence of all the community members and Fr. Rector have exchanged their files in the Refectory. Fr. Rector also thanked the outgoing office-bearers for their service and encouraged the new leaders and wished them the best. A meeting of the new office bearers was held at Refectory around 7.00 pm with Fr. Rector and Fr. Minister. He thanked everyone for taking up the responsibilities. Both of them gave a few guidelines and reminders about some of the important functions that all of us need to do in the coming days. Fr. Rector gave us the details about the charismatic convention about to be held in the papal seminary ground.



We celebrated the all souls' day with the whole campus. All the fathers, brothers and sisters from various communities in the campus participated in the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Rector of MSFS house. After the mass, the entire congregation gathered at the papal seminary cemetery and prayed for the departed souls of all our brethren.

Bishop John Rodrigues conferred the ministry of Acolyte and initiation to candidacy to our first-year theology brothers in papal seminary Chapel. Fr. Beck and Fr. Rector concelebrated. Fr. Rector welcomed the Bishop for the official visit. Bishop John also gave a talk as part of the preparation for receiving the ministries. The following day, Bishop John Rodrigues conferred the ministry of Lector to





our second-year theology brothers and a few scholastics from DNC during the mass, con-celebrated with Rectors of Papal Seminary and DNC. Thereafter the entire community had a lunch in honour of Bishop's first official visit to our Home of Love, after he began to shepherd the diocese of Pune.

The papal seminary had a unique moment of home-coming, as the reunion of 1980 ordained batch was held in the seminary. The fathers gathered here remembered with grateful hearts, papal seminary and all the fathers who walked with them during their days formation. They expressed their sentiments of gratitude for all that God had done to them during their stay at the home of love. They were received and honoured by Fr. Rector. They all together celebrated the Eucharist for us here on 8.11.2023. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath who also belonged to the same batch arrived here and inspired us with his experiential sharing of his days as a student here.

National Charismatic Convention was organized here at Papal seminary ground by the diocese of Pune for three days from 11.11.23 to 13.11.23. It was a spiritually enriching experience for all of us here in the campus. There were thousands of devout Christians and faithful gathered to participate in the convention. Different liturgical ways like Praise and worship, interesting and enlightening sessions, Eucharistic celebrations, prayers in groups, separate facility to spend time in front of the blessed sacrament all through the convention and enlivening orchestra with boisterous Christian hymns facilitated all the participants to have an encounter with the divine. For the seminarians, it was an experience of deepening faith-commitment to the Lord.

On 13.11.23 Archbishop Andrews Thazhath paid a short visit to Papal Seminary. He was received and honoured by Fr. Rector.

We celebrated the feast of the Patron of our house, St. Xavier, on 4.12.23. Fr. V. M. Jose celebrated the Eucharist and Fr. Rector preached the homily. After the mass we had a festive meal together. The home of



love had the moment of grace from 5.12.23 to 8.12.23 as we began the POSA's Visitation. It

was an occasion to look into the passing academic year and introspect and gather the graces and blessings that the Lord has showered on us in the current academic year and also a time to see where



we have failed to listen to the call of the Spirit. Fr. POSA and Fr. Somy, CSIF helped us examine our life gone by and inspired us by their presence, prayers and Eucharist with us and appreciated and encouraged us for all the good and graceful moments in the home of love and also helped us see our shadows and guided us with their valuable suggestions. We thank God for their constant support and accompaniment.



Blood Donation was conducted by Students' Council of Papal Seminary on 9.12.23 in honour of Fr. Stan Swamy. The student council, on their own, came up with this suggestion to celebrate the Martyr, Fr. Stan Swamy.



There was an overwhelming response from students and fathers in the campus. There were more than 90 people who came forward to donate their blood to remember the saint of our times. The presence of Fr. Stany, our POSA added joy to the organizers. We thank Mukthi Blood Bank for facilitating this Blood Donation.



The home of love anticipated the celebration of our Lord's birth on 17.12.23. The Crib was blessed by Fr. Antony Raj SJ and the Christmas message was given by Fr. Rector. On the day of Christmas, we also celebrated our Rector's birthday.



After the mass, we had a small gathering to greet Fr. Rector. The third-year theologians went to Sindudhurg to have their retreat in preparation for their diaconate ordination. Fr Patras, despite his slow recovery from the operation, accepted to preach the retreat and accompany the would-be deacons. We resumed our classes after Christmas holidays on 3.1.2024.

Month of January is usually filled with a lot of academic programmes, like endowment lectures. Despite the busy academic engagement, our brothers remembered the farmers of our country, while celebrating Pongal on 13.1.24. The Tamil Academy brothers coordinated the whole event. We were given a glimpse into the Tamil culture through dances, songs and sumptuous Pongal meal with variety of dishes. On 26.1.24, we gratefully observed the Republic Day with the Eucharist celebrated by Frs. Selvarathinam, Tom Chillikulam and V. M. Jose with the whole JD family. Fr. V. M. Jose unfurled the national flag.

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

Fr Jagdish Parmar

Each year we have the training seminar for the newly appointed Province Coordinators and the Diocesan Directors as well as our Annual Meeting. This year we had it at Pilar, Goa from November 13th to 15th. The main topic of the training was: "Spirituality of the Way of the Heart" dealt by Frs. Jagdish Parmar and Xavier Tharamel and also by Mr. Jesu Raj. On the 16th, we had 2 meetings: one for the Province Coordinators and Regional Directors and another one for the members of the National team.

Philip Neri Cardinal Ferrao of Goa inaugurated the meeting and released the South Asian Edition of the EYM Handbook while the POSA launched our new website: www.popesprayers.in, also the pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter as well as the YouTube channel. E-Bulletin 2023 was released by Frs. Philikutty and Naresh Lobo, VG of Belgaum and Lucknow Dioceses respectively. On the last day Fr. Roland Coelho, the Provincial of Goa celebrated the Mass for us and distributed the mementos to all. There was a half-day pilgrimage to Bom Jesu, Old Goa where the body of St. Francis Xavier is kept. Among the participants, there were 21 Diocesan Directors among whom one was a Carmelite priest and two laymen, 9 Jesuit Province Coordinators including 2 laymen representing 2 Jesuit Provinces, 8 members of the National Team among whom one was the National Director of Sri Lanka. Plan of Action were made by 9 CBCI Regions. The next meeting will be in November 2024 at Pastoral Centre, Lucknow.

In December, Fr. Jagdish visited the Archbishop of Gandhinagar and 2 Bishops of Ahmedabad and Baroda in Gujarat.



SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SATYA NILAYAM

Fr Lawrence Fernandes, SJ

- Philosophizing session by Fr Jagadish on 15 December on Anumana, An Indian method for Philosophizing and another Philosophizing session by Vinod on 16 January on Analytical Method was held to train our students in the art of philosophizing in different philosophy methods.
- Pongal and Onam celebration. Celebrating local, national and international cultures is an integral part of Satya Nilayam. Keeping with this rich tradition we had the Onam and Pongal festival celebrated. It brought in the staff and students together to celebrate the richness of these festivals, the awareness of legends and myths associated with it along with decking the campus with pookalam, rangoli, fun games, not to forget the festive meals.
- Satya Nilayam, Chennai and Jnana Deepa, Pune interfaculty student seminar was held on the theme “The Shadow of Power: Philosophical Perspectives on Violence and Politics” at Satya Nilayam on 24 November.
- Unprecedented rains in Chennai disrupted normal life on 3rd and 4th December. In SN too the water has brought our community and academic life to a standstill. It took nearly a week for the city to bounce back to normalcy.
- World Philosophy Day in Loyola College on 11 December 2023 with the theme Signs and Symbols: Riddles and Realities awaiting curious minds. Fr Vinod coordinated the event inviting students from the department of philosophy of neighboring colleges participating.




- Christmas with Neighbors: Apart from celebrating Christmas in our community, we took time to celebrate it with the less privileged that led us to Asha Niketan, the house of mentally challenged, Karunai Illam, a home for dying destitute, slums and neighborhood children surrounding our campus, to Stella Maris college and also to the CRI group in Chennai.
- National Seminar on Peace and Harmony on 18th and 19th January, 2024: Two-day national seminar was held on the theme of Peace and Harmony: Philosophical Reviews. On 18th January the seminar was held at Loyola college and on 19th January it was in Satya Nilayam. Professor Dr Chandrasekar, Principal of Vivekananda College, Mylapore delivered the keynote address. Rev Dr Louis Arockiaraj SJ, Principal of Loyola College and Rev Dr Boniface Panna SJ offered felicitations. In total 14 papers were presented on this occasion. It was a reflective, analytical, practical and insightful seminar.
- JFFSA Annual Meet in Satya Nilayam on 20th January 2024. The Jesuit Faculties Forum South Asia, gathered for its annual meeting in Satya Nilayam on 20th January. Under the leadership of Rev Dr Stanislaus D'Souza SJ, the President of Jesuit Conference of South Asia and under the able coordination of Rev Dr Somy Mathew the Conference Secretary for Integral Formation, the forum reflected on current trends, challenges, opportunities in formation today and studied how to be more effective in our formation today.
- Winning Football final: Keeping up the sports spirit our students who are also a department of philosophy secured gold medal in football and were runners up in Basketball interdepartmental competition. In badminton too our students secured runners up in both singles and doubles.



VIDYAJYOTI, ISLAMIC STUDIES

Fr Victor Edwin

A VISIT TO RAMPUR RAZA LIBRARY

Let us remember the words of Pope Francis, who once said that Christians and Muslims are not just friends, but brothers and sisters. As such, we have a responsibility to treat each other with kindness and respect and to work together towards a more peaceful and harmonious world.

In Jesuit formation, individuals are equipped with knowledge about various religions and given ample opportunities to interact with followers of those religions at different stages, particularly during theological training. ISA and VIDIS are actively involved in providing opportunities for deep learning and constructive dialogue that align with the teachings of the Church. This approach to formation is essential in building bridges and fostering a culture of mutual understanding and respect among people of different faiths.

In addition to offering courses on Popular Islam, Islamic Mysticism, and Theology of Christian-Muslim Relations, Joseph Victor Edwin SJ also organized several seminars covering a wide range of topics. These included "Interpretation of the Qur'an – New Approaches" by Professor Herman Roborgh from Lahore, Pakistan, "Trinitarian Theology Today: A Christian Engagement with Islamic Critique" by Professor Felix Körner SJ from Humboldt University in Berlin, "The Spirituality of Taj Mahal" by Professor Michael Calabria OFM from Bonaventure University in New York, USA, and "Towards an Islamic theology of non-violence" by Prof. Adnane Mokrani from Rome.

While the intellectual aspect of the conversation is crucial, it is equally important to have a personal interaction with Muslims. Such experiences can enable us to construct bridges between both religions - Muslims and Christians. Edwin arranged a series of "dialogue of life" sessions with collaborators.

During a course on Christian-Muslim dialogue for students at the Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad on November 8th, 2023, he organized a visit to the Hauzah al-Mahdi, a Shia madrasa located in the old city area of Hyderabad. Maulana Raza Abbas Sahib at the madrasa shared with us the Shia religious perspectives.



On December 20, 2023, the Islamic Studies Association, along with some of their friends, organized an event to promote intercultural interaction at St. Xavier's School in Civil Lines, Delhi. The guest speaker was Dr. Zeinab Rastegar-panah, who has over 16

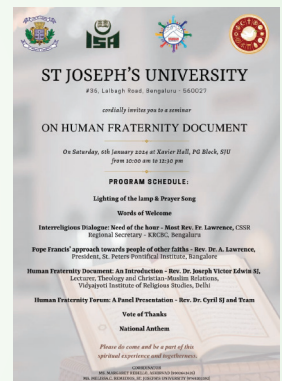


years of experience working in the field of intercultural interests. Her research focuses on women and family rights as well as gender studies. As a social activist in Iran, she completed her PhD in gender studies at Valencia, Spain.

On January 4th, 2024, Ms. Sarah Fatima and her team from the Bangalore chapter of the Centre for Peace and Spirituality met with Jesuit students of Theology at the Jesuit Formation Center for Theology in Anekal. The occasion was a session on "Listening to Muslims" as part of a course on Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations taught by Joseph Victor Edwin SJ. "Bearing witness to one another's faith" was the focus of the discussion, and Ms. Fatima emphasized that the benefits of interaction are mutual. It was a fruitful experience for all involved.



On January 6th, 2024, an informative seminar on the Human Fraternity Document was organized for university students at St. Joseph's University in Bangalore, in collaboration with the Interreligious Harmony Movement, Bangalore. The seminar aimed to promote religious harmony and understanding among the students.



Meanwhile, the Jesuit students of theology from the Jesuit Formation Center for Theology (JFCT) in Anekal visited Babul Hawaej, a replica of the Holy Shrine of Hazrat Abbas AS in Karbala, Iraq, and the Aza Khana of Imam Hussain in Richmond Town, Bangalore, to meet with Shia Muslims. The visit was facilitated by Dr. Zakaria, and it provided an opportunity for fruitful conversations with Shia clergy.

On the 10th of January in the year 2024, the Islamic Studies Association successfully held a thought-provoking workshop that centered on the topic of Interreligious Dialogue. The event was specifically tailored for a select group of students hailing from the prestigious Marquette University, situated in Milwaukee, USA. On January 19th, 2024, I had the privilege of giving a lecture to a group of students at Bismillah Education Trust (B.T.E) College in



Bangalore about Christian-Muslim relations. The lecture was part of the Christian-Muslim Relations course offered to Licentiate in Missiology students at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute in Bangalore. Professor Akhtarul Wasey Sahib introduced me to B.E.T. officials, and I am grateful for the opportunity. During the lecture, I was pleased to answer various questions about the Christian faith posed by Muslim students. Overall, it was an enriching and fruitful experience for all involved.



Youth

Fr. Arbind Beck, SJ

- North Zone and Central Zone Youth Animators' course-** North Zone youth animators' course was held at Atamdarshan, Patna. There were 17 participants. In this programme Patna, Nepal, Kolkata and Delhi had participated. Central Zone youth animators' course was held in Jamshedpur. There were 24 participants for the programme. Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dumka, Madhya Pradesh and Hazaribag have participated in the programme. The course was arranged with the collaboration with zonal coordinator. For both the places the resource person was Fr. Ashok Kujur, SDB from Okhala, Delhi. The main focus of the TOT Programme was- to help youth animators to prepare a session, to teach some skills for youth ministry and to teach action songs, creative ice-breaker and some fun games.



- Annual meeting of province youth coordinators- Vijayawada-** The annual youth coordinators' meeting was held at Yes-J (Youth Empowerment service) Centre in the Andhra Loyola College campus, Vijayawada from 17th -19th August 2023. The twelve youth coordinators of various provinces gathered for the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to share our youth activities in the province, learn from each other, plan out how to work together as a conference, as conference take up one or two areas and work on them. As a conference we had taken a goal to create a voter id and encourage people to cast their vote.



NEWS FROM CONFERENCE

- **Visit of provinces- This year I could visit only 5 provinces-** Nepal, Darjeeling, Delhi, Madurai and Kerala. The purpose of the visit was to encourage, guide, learn the best practices of the youth ministry and suggest how to make the youth ministry active in the province.



DNC Times

Events of De Nobili College, Pune, from October 2023 to January 2024:

The following were the major events in DNC Pune from October 2023 to January 2024.

1. Community Days – 23rd October
2. JCSA Meet – 22nd to 27th October
3. Visitation of the POSA and CISF – 5th – 11th November
4. North Zone Cultural Evening - 21st Dec
5. Co-workers Christmas celebration - 23rd Dec
6. Christmas celebration - 25th December
7. Triduum by Fr Jerry Rosario - 28th Dec
8. South Zone Cultural Evening - 19th Jan
9. Chotanagpur Adivasi Association Annual Gathering – 14th Jan 2024
10. Bal Mela - 21st Jan

Community Days – 23rd October



The Community Days event at DNC began on 23rd October with an inaugural mass, establishing a spiritual connection that resonated throughout the subsequent festivities. The morning started with a lively march past, featuring participants showcasing their creativity through amusing themes and costumes. A delightful breakfast

preceded the Talent Hunt, where various competitions such as painting unfolded, setting the stage for individual expressions of skill. Post-lunch activities included engaging games, most notably basketball, providing participants with both enjoyment and healthy competition. The evening was dedicated to cultural performances, featuring impressive singing and dancing routines that captivated the audience.

The second day commenced with an early morning marathon around the DNC campus, promoting fitness and camaraderie. This was followed by an intense Volleyball competition, adding an element of sportsmanship to the event. The afternoon featured a stimulating quiz, testing participants' knowledge and wit. The day concluded with another enchanting cultural program in the evening.





The last day of the Community Days event was really exciting. It began with the Literary Events including Poetry and Essay writing. Then a tug-of-war tournament added brawn to brain. And perhaps the most exhilarating was the nail-biting basketball finals. The final event was the splendid valedictory program, where teams

screened short films, they had crafted. The evening was further elevated as all the provincials joined for dinner, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared celebration.

The Community Days at DNC were a resounding success, blending spiritual connection, creative expression, sportsmanship, and intellectual pursuits. The diverse range of activities ensured active participation from the community, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. The event provided a platform for individuals to showcase their talents and engage in friendly competition, contributing to the overall vibrant and inclusive atmosphere at DNC.

JCSA Meet – 22nd – 27th October

A historic moment for DNC was the JCSA Meet of Major Superiors held at DNC from the 22nd to 27th of October. The two Regional Assistants, Fr. John Dardis, the POSA, the Socius to the POSA, Provincials, Regional Superiors, resource persons such as Frs. Prakash Louis and Hans Zolner as well as other administrative staff were present in DNC. There were five intense days of reflection about reimagining and restructuring the S. Asian Jesuit Conference for greater apostolic effectiveness. The facilities of the house were enhanced for this occasion. It was also an occasion for some of the Provincials to complete the visitation of the scholastics from their Provinces/Regions. The participants of the JCSA were extremely satisfied with the hospitality and facilities at DNC.

Visit of the POSA – 5th – 11th November

A moment of grace for De Nobili Community was the visit of the POSA, Fr. Stany D'Souza. The CISF, Fr. Somy visited DNC prior to the visit of the POSA. The POSA met the staff members, the students and exhorted the community to rediscover and redefine the mission at DNC with the spirit of the Magis.



A truly momentous occasion for DNC during the POSA's visitation was the Final Vows ceremony of Fr. Dolichan. POSA led the celebration as the main celebrant, and Fr. Thomas Karimundakal SJ delivered a profoundly impactful and even humorous homily. The day was graced by the esteemed presence of numerous Jesuits and other distinguished priests, imparting an extra layer of sanctity to the event. The agape, a communal meal following the Eucharist, infused even more joy and vibrant hues into this auspicious day.

North Zone Cultural Evening – 21st Dec

On the 21st of December 2023, the North Zone Cultural Evening was held, showcasing the rich and diverse cultures of North East India under the theme “Celebrating Diversity”. The event began with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Robert SJ, assisted by Frs. Gabriel and Rajesh.

Following the religious service, a video presentation highlighting the Jesuits' mission in the Kohima Region was shown, along with the release of a new song performed by Stephen promoting peace and harmony in Manipur. The evening continued with a grand dinner, providing an opportunity for attendees to mingle and enjoy the cultural festivities.

The presence of tertians and brothers added a sense of grace and blessings to the event, further enhancing the celebration of cultural diversity. Overall, the Cultural Evening was a memorable occasion that brought together various communities to honor and appreciate the unique traditions and heritage of North East India.

Co-workers Christmas celebration – 23rd Dec

On the afternoon of December 23rd, De Nobili College in Pune embraced the spirit of gratitude and festivity, hosting a heartwarming Christmas celebration dedicated to the diligent co-workers who toil tirelessly in the kitchen, garden, and farm. Recognizing their invaluable contributions, the college orchestrated a memorable event to express appreciation and spread Christmas joy.



The festivities kicked off with an array of fun-filled games, sparking laughter and camaraderie among the participants. Prizes added an extra layer of excitement, turning the celebration into a joyous competition. The air was filled with the melodies of Hindi Christmas songs.



A highlight of the event was the felicitation of the dedicated co-workers, acknowledging their hard work and commitment. Expressing gratitude took tangible form with cash bonuses, a heartfelt gesture that resonated with the true spirit of Christmas giving.

As the college community came together to celebrate the season, this event underscored the importance of recognizing the unsung heroes who contribute to the college's daily functioning. The Co-workers' Christmas celebration at DNC Pune became a memorable testament to appreciation, joy, and the festive bonds that unite the entire college family.

Christmas celebration – 25th December

Christmas at De Nobili College in Pune was a tapestry of joy, spirituality, and festive camaraderie. On the eve of the 24th, many brothers dispersed to their ministry places for the vigil mass, while others went for ministry in the morning, weaving the college community into the broader fabric of Christmas observance.

The pinnacle of the Christmas Day festivities was the Community Christmas mass led by Fr. Henry at noon. The resonant echoes of hymns and prayers filled the air, uniting the college in a shared celebration of the season's significance. Post-mass, a festive lunch became a moment of communal bonding, fostering the spirit of togetherness. As the evening descended, the college came alive with a vibrant program. Brothers from different zones serenaded the gathering with traditional Christmas songs in various languages, creating a harmonious blend of cultural richness. The atmosphere was charged with excitement as spot prizes added an element of surprise. The traditional game of Housie followed, featuring enticing rewards, bringing both thrill and laughter to the occasion.



The festive crescendo reached its peak with a delightful dinner, a fitting conclusion to a day marked by shared joy and the warmth of Christmas spirit. In this blend of tradition, community, and merriment, the Christmas celebration at DNC Pune became a cherished chapter in the college's festive chronicles.

Triduum by Fr Jerry Rosario – 28th Dec

The 2023 Triduum, a departure from past iterations, ignited a dynamic introspection within the Jesuit Scholastics. Guided by the prophetic fire of Fr. Jerry Rosario, SJ, a Madurai Jesuit known for his unwavering commitment, the Triduum delved into a series of introspective analyses: human, Christian, Marian, and, most importantly, of one's vows. This profound exploration prompted self-examination, inviting each scholastic to scrutinize their personal and religious commitments with renewed clarity. This introspective journey, fueled by Fr. Rosario's captivating talks challenged each Scholastic to confront their personal and religious realities. The resulting rejuvenation, refreshment, and recommitment to their vows painted three days of profound grace and blessing.

The Triduum's impact resonates beyond the immediate experience. It stands as a cherished touchstone, a reminder of the transformative power of self-examination and the unwavering dedication exemplified by Fr. Rosario. In the spirit of gratitude, we acknowledge the enduring impact of this transformative Triduum.

South Zone Cultural Evening - 19th Jan

The lively celebrations of Pongal and Makar Sankranti brought warmth and joy to DNC, as the Scholastics of the southern regions: Chennai, Madurai, and Andhra, displayed the cultural richness of these festivities. The cultural celebration brought our diverse community together, transcending cultural boundaries in a delightful fusion of traditions. The festivities started with the Eucharist followed by a cultural evening. The chapel echoed the sweet strains of traditional hymns, creating a festive atmosphere. This was then followed by small video presentations showcasing the beauty and ethnicity of Pongal and Makar Sankranti. And finally, our taste buds were treated to an incredible journey through the flavors of South India, with our talented scholastics preparing and serving a delightful array of dishes. It was a joyful day, allowing us to appreciate and revel in the abundant beauty of our cultural heritage

Chotanagpur Adivasi Association Annual Gathering – 14th Jan 2024



In a joyous assembly, the Chotanagpur Adivasi Association marked their Annual Gathering on January 14, 2024, at the splendid DNC Sundervan garden. The event brought together nearly 300 faithful and tribal fathers, brothers, and sisters from the campus, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie.

The festivities commenced with a Holy Mass, setting the tone for a day filled with cultural richness and community spirit. Following the spiritual start, a light breakfast was shared by all, fostering a sense of togetherness among the attendees.

The day unfolded with vibrant cultural programs that showcased the diversity and traditions of the Adivasi community. From traditional dances to melodious songs, the audience was treated to a visual and auditory feast that celebrated the unique heritage of the Chotanagpur Adivasi.



A delectable lunch was served, (which was also cooked in the Sundervan garden itself,) bringing everyone together around the table to share not just a meal but also the joy of unity. The organizers ensured a good sound system was in place, adding rhythm to the air and encouraging a common dance, where participants immersed themselves in the joyous occasion.

The Annual Gathering provided a platform for the community to come together, connect, and celebrate their shared history and culture. The event not only strengthened bonds but also served as a reminder of the richness found in the traditions of the Chotanagpur Adivasi.



In essence, the day was a testament to the spirit of community and togetherness, with laughter, music, and dance echoing through the DNC Sundervan garden. As approximately 300 individuals partook in the festivities, the Annual Gathering of the Chotanagpur Adivasi Association proved to be a resounding success, leaving cherished memories in the hearts of all who attended.

Bal Mela - 21st Jan

Balamela, a heartwarming initiative organized by Karnataka Scholastics, unfolded with joy as 85 children, 25 youth, and 20 parents from Kalayani Nagar came together for a day filled with excitement and camaraderie. The air buzzed with the laughter of children who reveled in the diverse activities, from entertaining games to cultural performances.



The event seamlessly blended education with entertainment, providing a holistic experience for participants of all ages. The children relished the delightful spread of



food, creating moments of shared happiness with the community. The vibrant cultural performances added a touch of creativity and showcased the diverse talents within the group. A highlight of the day was the enthralling campus dharshan, where both young and old enjoyed the beautiful greenery and serenity of

the campus. This immersive experience deepened the connection between the participants and their surroundings. To express gratitude and foster a sense of unity, the organizers served delectable food and generously distributed gifts to everyone present, leaving a lasting impression of warmth and togetherness.

Balamela became a tapestry of shared moments, building bonds among the children, youth, and parents from Kalayani Nagar. Through this thoughtful initiative, Karnataka Scholastics not only created a day of joy but also strengthened the sense of community and connection among the participants.

