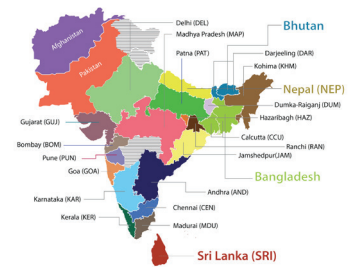




SAAJN

SOUTH ASIAN ASSISTANCY (CONFERENCE) JESUIT NEWS



Issue-7 | October 2020

News, Events & More...



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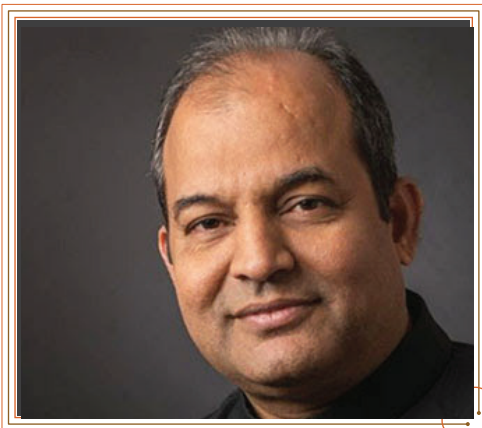
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FROM

POSA'S DESK



At the dawn of a New Year, usually, the calendars of different sizes, colours, and designs adorn the walls of our rooms and offices to signify the arrival of the New Year. However, we know that it is not the calendars, which usher in or facilitate a New Year, but a new attitude, a new perspective and a new commitment.

Any mission in the Society is not merely a change of place and office. It is primarily a change in attitudes and perspectives and a renewed commitment to mission.

As I embark upon my new mission two anecdotes strike me deeply. I believe that they offer two paradigms. The first is: the missing tile syndrome. It is based on a negative human behaviour trait. One

enters the room and looks up at the ceiling. The ceiling has all the tiles except one. Surprisingly what catches the attention of the onlooker is that one missing tile. Isn't it the same with us? Often we focus on what is absent and crib, instead of looking at what is present, relishing it?

The second is called: we can fix it. The speaker says that he wanted to marry. His mother arranged a beautiful girl for him. At first sight the boy and the girl were drawn to each other and within a few days were married. However, the relationship met with rough times within a month. They began to fight; were on the verge of a divorce. At the time his mother whose counsel he sought, advised him by saying, "we can fix it". Her suggestion was simple: be like a bow. When the string is pulled the bow bends. It is the same with us. There are conflicts among us because we do not bend and those who bend easily resolve issues.

These two paradigms to see, judge and act in daily life, apply to everyone of us. It is true that we live in difficult times. Evil seems to be rampant everywhere. However, focusing on the evil may disappoint, discourage and lead us to despair, as it happened to the apostles in the upper room. We need to be positive, proactive and productive. We need to be trouble-shooters, finding new ways and means to fix things.

Being positive and being humble is required for apostolic fruitfulness. It makes one to listen and learn. In this context, I gratefully remember the contribution of my predecessor, Fr George Pattery. He was positive and humble that is what made him listen and learn, creative and constructive. There are many good things that can be credited to him. One of the them is the REGAE I & II process, which has awakened the universal sense of our vocation among us. As we gratefully take leave of Father George and sincerely wish him well for the journey ahead, we also assure him that, like him, we too will be positive and humble, listen and learn and make a difference within and around us, as he did as POSA.

Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ

(President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia)



W. KEITH ABRANCHES, SJ



Welcome Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ

The pandemic has dictated what and how we conduct ourselves in everyday life. Considering that a change of POSA takes place once every six years, the handing over ceremony would have, in the least been attended by the Jesuits in and around Delhi. In the altered circumstances though, the gathering was restricted to the curia of the POSA, while those who wanted to participate, viewed the proceeding as it was live streamed to them.

As expected the ceremony was simple, spiritual, profound and meaningful. Two sentiments were uppermost in those who participated in it: immense gratitude and vibrant hope.

Gratitude was the ambiance for all that transpired that Oct 10th, 2020 evening. The Conference was grateful to Fr George Pattery, who spearheaded many new initiatives and provided clear guidelines for the Jesuits in South Asia to follow. Gratitude to God for providing us with a young, able Jesuit in the person of Fr Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza.

Amidst the foreboding dark clouds contextualizing the world we live in, the arrival of a new face, with enthusiasm and youthful vigour, was a message of hope.

The handing over took place during the Holy Eucharist, Jesus' fellowship meal, reminding us to serve and not to seek to be served; to give and not to count the cost; to govern with love, concern, *cura personalis*, the *Magis*; be a steward accountable for one's actions, but above all conscious that the opportunity to serve is a privilege, and notwithstanding the challenges that will beset the mission, God will be there as a sure support.



Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ (President, JCSA)



**Soosai Mani SJ
(DELHI)**



**Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ
(RANCHI)**



**Jerome Cutinha, SJ
(JAMSHEDPUR)**



**Fr Dionysius Vaz, SJ
(KARNATAKA)**

New Provincials of South Asia

Conference Secretariats

- Formation
- Jesuit Education
- Higher Education
- Faith
- Social Justice and Ecology
- Development

The Response of the Six Conference Secretariats to the Pandemic





W. KEITH ABRANCHES, SJ | THE CONFERENCE DELEGATE FOR FORMATION

Formation, Grappling With the Pandemic

The pandemic struck like a bolt of lightning, sudden and lethal. It has disrupted life as we know it. In India till the Janata lockdown of 23rd March, and the subsequent total lockdowns thereafter, no one had the slightest inkling of what was about to strike the world. Today 188 countries have been adversely affected by the novel coronavirus; 32,416,405 have been affected; 987,742 have died so far. Disruption can be seen everywhere: to national health care systems, economies, trade & commerce, travel, societal life, the church and individuals and their families. The misery caused to people is untold. The hardest hit have been those who do not have resources to fall back on to, think here of the migrant workers in their thousands, trudging their way home bereft of possible help from governments.

Formation that takes place within the fabric of society was bound to be affected by the sledgehammer blow of the pandemic. Academic schedules were in disarray; uncertainty loomed large and prevented the formulation of clear future plans. The question uppermost in everybody's mind was, will the situation return to a new normal after six months, one year, two years? No one is willing to hazard a guess. We do not know, is all that could safely be said. To remedy and make the best of a bad situation, virtual classrooms have sprung up; chat sites, zoom sessions have replaced physical interaction even for important meetings. The desire to forge ahead is there but the road ahead is still unclear and uncertain.

In the midst of all of this confusion, formators from the vocation promotion to tertianship, pcf's/rcf's, provincials and the staff of our common houses, have labored to find innovative ways to get formation back on track. Without letting up on safeguarding the health of the formees, they have resurrected the stages of formation, as best they could.

From information that has reached me, our pre-novitiates, novitiates and juniorates are up and running. The Southern Juniorate was suspended but the concerned provinces have arranged for the juniors to meet the requirements of the juniorate within the province, for this year. The faculties of VJ (Vidyajyoti), JDV (Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth) and SN (Satya Nilayam) have embarked upon online classes; preparing for this new medium assiduously. SN has had to postpone classes for

the first years, as many were still engaged with secular college exams. Of the three tertianships, Sitagraha has 26 tertians; Shembagh, shifted temporarily to Bangalore and has 23 tertians; while Kandy has had to suspend operations for this year.

Immediate concerns are (1) to organize province-wise Arrupe Month for the second year theologians; (2) make provision so that scholastics do not lack the facilities needed for online classes; (3) Material on Ignatian spirituality and spirituality in general needs to be provided to the scholastics in addition to the academic work they undertake.

From the point of formative processes, someone should be on hand to accompany the scholastics. It is important that they allow the experience of the pandemic to touch and affect their lives. Besides this, formees like all of us, will undergo a variety of uncomfortable emotions and moods, brought on by physical distancing, lockdowns, and the monotonous grid of daily chores for months on end, without opportunities to refresh our minds. All of this will affect their mental makeup, their thinking and behaviour. All of these must be dealt with so that they grow stronger and well integrated persons by learning to cope with unforeseen adverse circumstances and remain positive, hopefully, loving and serviceable.

The pandemic, problematic though it is, also provides many possibilities for growth. It has ironically pulled down the false mask of complacency we as a society have slipped into. While millions suffered the debilitating effects of globalization, we reveled in the fruits of modernization and development provided only for the creamy layer. We rejoiced in our new found interconnectivity through mobile and internet, we forgot we actually were ensconced in our isolated cocoons, disconnected from the burning issues of the common person on the street. Science and material progress, gave us a false sense of invincibility. Assuming we were in control of the natural elements, we plundered at will, living for the moment, only to realize that the world can go on without us. From the formation point of view the pandemic provides many eye openers to humanize us and orient us better to God, one another and Mother Earth.



SUNNY JACOB, SJ | THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR JESUIT EDUCATION

NEP 2020 and Our Concerns

After 34 years we have come out with the NEP. It is the 3rd major Education Policy the country has. NEP 2020 is not an isolated entity. In order to understand the policy we must understand the ideology and the overall policies of the Govt. economic, foreign, labour, CAA, NRC, environment, disinvestment, farmers, mining, FCRA, education.....all these policies are aimed at Centralization, Commercialization and Communalization.

Issues of Concern

The vision of the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is "creating the education system holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, and aligned to the needs of the 21st century and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals". India's first visionary PM, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and our first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, pioneered the concepts of 'education for all' and 'education for social change'.

Many social groups and minorities apprehend that they will be affected by the NEP 2020 if it is implemented in its present form. The linguistic and Religious Minorities are a social reality that has been recognized by our Constitution. The NEP 2020, from the perspective of the Minority communities, has many concerns.

The first concern regarding NEP 2020 is its non-inclusive approach. It confines itself to seeking inspiration only from Ancient India (10.2). Educational institutions that flourished in Medieval and Modern India seem to have been skipped altogether. There is no mention of the glorious progress made by post-Independence India in the field of education. It is intriguing to see no mention of the contribution of Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Banaras Hindu University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and several top ranking Christian institutions in the country.

The second concern is the near absence of the word 'minorities' in the entire document. To be specific, it has been mentioned only once in the NEP 2020 (Section 6.2.4). 2 other times it uses the word minorities along with SC/ST. Minorities are also worried about the policy's silence on the Rights of Minority educational institutions enshrined in Article 30 of the Constitution.

The third concern is regarding the overarching tilt of the NEP towards centralization of the education system that will weaken our federal polity as a natural consequence. It will also affect minorities and minority educational institutions.

The Fourth Concern is of School Complex. The policy is not specific about whether the Minority institutions come under the School Complex. In the chapter 7, it talks; "To further enhance cooperation and positive synergy among schools, including between public and private schools, the twinning/pairing of one public school with one private school will be adopted across the country, so that such paired schools may meet/interact with each other, learn from each other, and also share resources, if possible. Best practices of private schools will be documented, shared, and institutionalized in public schools, and vice versa, where possible". (Ch. 7.10). Since there is no mention about Minority schools, we urge the Ministry to clarify it.

The Fifth Concern is about the status of thousands of Muslim madrassas. There is not a single word on it in the 62-page policy document. When early childhood education in Ashrams and Ashram-shalas can be addressed, why have madrassas not mentioned?

The SIXTH concern is of the role of philanthropy for funding educational institutions and education volunteers to raise the standard of education. If funding flows through the corporate CSR route, it will lead to apprehensions of misuse and commercialization of education.

The Seventh concern is that there is no measure to regulate the ideological bias of education volunteers and may harm our pluralistic, syncretic, and multi-cultural ethos..

The Eighth Concern is that this policy also lacks any mention of accommodations of minorities under reservations or affirmative action(s).

The Ninth Concern is of the HECI and other Central Bodies. These will centralize powers and more and more bureaucratic interference will happen. This will hamper the smooth function of institutions. The new overseer of higher education 'Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)' is actually going to overstep the Federal powers enshrined in the Constitutions.

The Tenth Concern is the NEP fails to recognize the social and educational backwardness. Historically, in India, educational backwardness of a particular community is not because of economic incapacity, but due to social oppression and denial of opportunity. NEP 2020 categorizes only the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).

Suggestions Placed Before the Ministry by JEA-SA

1. Include scholarly-representatives (academicians) from all sections of the Society; Minorities, SC, ST, Dalitis, women in various committees that form the Curriculum and Pedagogy.
2. Do not undermine the Constitutional Rights of the Minorities.
3. Do not alter the present Affirmative Action like the Reservation for the weaker sections of the Society.
4. Do not infringe the Rights of the States and undermine the Federal Structure of India.
5. Language Policy must not be a forced one. Let the parents decide what language their child should study.
6. Bring back the Composite culture and the diversity of India as the focus. Avoid the danger of interpreting the 'dominant' culture as Indian Culture.
7. Give stress on Universal Values (as it was in the 1968 Policy) instead of Indian Values.
8. Give stress on Constitutional values; Fundamental Rights must be upheld.
9. Remove the idea of 'Samagik Chetana Kendras' in the schools, as suggested in the NEP 2020 (7.12). This will lead for indoctrination of young minds by the ruling or dominant political groups of the area.
10. There is ambiguity regarding final policy. What is published online by the MHRD as the NEP is a 66 page document. However, there are at least three other documents that have circulated from official.



JOYE JAMES, SJ | THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HEIs During the Pandemic in 2020

There are 63 Jesuit Higher Education Institutions in South Asia including 2 Universities. 243 Jesuits are working in these JHEIs along with 6820 staff and 1,24,177 students are studying in the year 2019-20. Covid-19 pandemic erupted in the early months of 2020 has pose serious challenges to JHEIs in South Asia and the following activities were taken up to cope with the challenges:

1. In order to continue the teaching-learning process, the teachers and the administration had to adopt online teaching in a very short time. To facilitate online Teaching-learning, professors have been asked to prepare e-learning materials. They have been encouraged to use Information Communication Technologies like Video Lectures, Power-Point presentations, Movie links, Google Classroom, etc. Orientation programmes for faculty members have been organised so that online teaching could be carried out effectively. Students were receiving online learning materials from College as well as they were made aware of online resource materials.
2. Several National and International level webinars have been conducted for keeping the knowledge system vibrant and also exposing the staff and the students to the latest developments in the field of academics throughout the globe.
3. Many Colleges have arranged online counselling facility for the students as well as their parents by professional Psychologists. This service has also been extended to the teachers aiming at their mental well-being.
4. In order to keep the students free from any anxiety, regular communications were being made

through College websites. The same is being done for the staff members.

5. Colleges had to defer the dates of payment of tuition fees. This also has a deep impact regarding the payment of salary to the staff. Some colleges have created fund and disbursed full salary in time to the staff.
6. Most Colleges provided food and other essential items to a number of migrants and poor families during lockdown period.
7. Some Colleges have provided PPE kits, Gloves, Sanitizers, etc. to a number of health workers.
8. Some unaided colleges were unable to pay more than 75% of the staff salaries to their staff. And though present circumstances create fewer enrolments of students and correspondingly higher fees are charged, yet the increased income is not able to meet the running costs of the establishments and sustain talents. Those students who cannot pay the fees, have returned to their rural homes, distance away from the cities, hoping to make ends meet.

The challenges faced during this pandemic to provide higher education, helped Jesuit Higher Education Institutions to adopt more tech-friendly education system. The new normal and all the challenges we have been able to identify will continue to call us to be more relevant in 'being magis' in our educational apostolate. Students and teachers have been largely cooperative and it is a blessing in this challenging time. Surrendering all our efforts to the Lord, we continue to strive for excellence!



ARUN KUMAR, SJ | THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR FAITH

The Secretariat of Faith During the Pandemic in 2020

Introduction: The South Asian Conference comprises of 200 parishes and around 1358 mass centres. Most mass centres are directly linked to parishes though some are connected to mission stations. There are 293 full time, and around 294 part time pastors. Most pastors multi-task since they are equally involved in pastoral, social and educational sectors. According to the REGAE data, SJ personnel allotted to the pastoral sector in the conference is 28.35%. Most parishes have Pastoral and Finance Committees along with traditional associations like the Altar Servers, Youth Groups, Legion of Mary, Small Christian Communities etc. Few parishes have Jesuit Volunteers and Care for Creation Groups.

The Apostleship of Prayer and Ignatian Spirituality are introduced on a regular basis in our institutions, city parishes, and on certain occasions in our rural parishes. Additionally, some parishes organize inter-religious prayer services, festivals and inter-denominational celebrations annually.

The Context

The Covid 19 crisis was a catastrophe which closed all churches and prayer centres for the public for about 6 months. Everything has been up in the air with a cloud of apprehension looming over us for what lies ahead. People were compelled to make their homes, domestic churches. Those who succumbed to the virus did not have a decent farewell to heaven. This has left a void in the hearts of the faithful leaving them with questions such as 'Where is God? Why has this befallen on me/us and my/our family? The poor in the parish have faced job losses and struggled a lot for food and healthcare despite many of our parishes being in the forefront in procuring ration kits and distributing to the needy nearby. School going children in these poor families who are unable to attend online classes for lack of smart phones or computers are deprived of their basic education and skill acquisition.

The stoppage of Sunday collection has affected the parishes badly. Resources of our parishes have depleted, and this has impacted the social service efforts to help the needy.

Elders and children who frequented the Eucharist daily were the first and only ones to be, and continue to be discouraged to attend masses. They are forced to resort to online masses. The poor who do not have android phones

have had no connection with the institutional church except through the prayers of their hearts.

The Secretariat's and pastoral challenges could be classified into the following four burning issues:

1. Family

Due to 'work from home', 'salary cut', 'job losses' situations in cities, and 'stay at home without work' ones in rural areas, online classes and online masses, some families have had turbulent times in the area of relationships, tolerance of each other, and the restlessness of the elderly and children who are confined within the four walls of the house. Though many started regular family prayers and reading the word of God, many poor families have suffered much beyond imagination.

2. Collaboration

Some of our pastors did reach out to people of goodwill, NGOs and Government officials, to help the poor with food and health care products like masks and sanitizers. Irrespective of the position that one had in an office/organisation/company/MNCs etc, people lost jobs without any notice and are struggling to make ends meet. The challenge continues with the inability to find jobs due to the collapse of our country's economy.

3. Existential Vacuum

People could not attend the Holy Week services and subsequent Sunday masses until the lockdown was relaxed. The dear departed were not given a decent burial and many were not paid their last respects due to the lockdown and the limitation of the number of people attending funerals. Weddings and feasts have been deferred. Priests are unable to reach out to people in rural areas both materially and spiritually. It has been an uphill battle for everyone involved, and it takes lot of willingness and faith in our abilities to keep going the way we have. The questioning of God's presence, the absence of Church's assistance, the silence of politicians, the mishandling of the Covid crisis by leaders are only increasing despair and decreasing hope. How do we respond adequately to these queries? One blatant and brutal honest need is to respond to the individual and institutional pain by taking the necessary steps to heal the pain.

4. Faith Formation Through Technology

The South Asian conference organized the inter religious retreat and has kept the group together by feeding them constantly with inter religious resources, The information and intentions of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is disseminated to the faithful. The webinars on Ignatian Spirituality and Interreligious dialogue are being organized. Some of our parishes still carry on with online masses, catechism classes, ward meetings, and community prayers like the Rosary and Divine Mercy through Google Meet and Zoom to recreate the community virtually while keeping our connection intact. However, there are some who still cannot go beyond WhatsApp. It is a clarion call to our pastors to equip our faithful with the modern means of faith formation. The pastors struggle to bridge and cope between poverty, illiteracy and training the faithful on the modern means of communication to instil faith in these days of physical distancing and social isolation.

Conclusion

To conclude, the worst evil of the Church would be to lock itself within its comfort zone, and be safe and healthy. That would make the church/parish worldly, existing in itself, of itself and for itself. If the Church has to be the true church/parish of Christ, priests, religious and faithful have to venture out and reach out to needy neighbours like many of our saints who served the plague stricken and brought healing and happiness to the helpless and voiceless. No amount of reasoning can help remove the pain and anxiety of the people of the present pandemic. Only humble surrender, deep trust and staunch faith in Christ and in the goodness of humankind can help people to move on by accepting the situation and working hard to be relevant in this new normal. All stakeholders of the Secretariat of Faith have to reinvent themselves to help the faithful rebuild themselves with spiritual stability and economic security.



ANTHONY DIAS, SJ | THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY

SJES: The Pandemic and Challenges ahead

From March 2020 onwards the situation in SAsia, and India in particular, was dominated by the Pandemic and the Lockdowns, with all their consequences.

Our Social Centres, GIAN Networks, JYMSA, JEMAI & Lok Manch and the Social Institutes were engaged thus: Providing dry ration and or cooked food. This was extended to villages affected by the lockdown as well as to Migrants; Legal aid was provided to those who were detained by law enforcement agencies; some were set free from 'bonded labour'; in some centres PPEs, Masks, Medicines, Soaps, Sanitizers were distributed; Stranded migrants were given help to reach their destinations with dignity; space was made for quarantining, for treatment and for housing migrants; awareness programs about the disease and its spread and how to contain it were conducted.

What was striking was that there was inter-ministerial and civil society collaboration and networking. Also, several social centres worked closely with the local government establishing in the process credibility. Governments made use of the facilities our centres provided. The Church was at the forefront of relief and medical care. The government was nowhere in the picture initially, especially during the lockdown. Had it not been for the NGOs and committed groups, things would have been very bad for the poor.

This was also a period of abuse of democracy, arrests of human rights defenders, suppression of dissent, rapes and murders and the passing of several anti-people and un-constitutional laws resulting in mass protests with attendant health risk. The nation has been on the boil since months. And there does not seem to be any respite. At the time of writing this piece, the news of an 80 year old Indian Jesuit who worked for and among the poor especially the tribal people for several decades has been arrested on serious charges. The nation has been shocked and dismayed, especially Christians and tribals who know Fr Stan Swamy. Several others have also been arrested

despite the raging pandemic and social and economic distress. Propagation of Hate is rampant and the poor count for nothing.

There is no doubt great uncertainty associated with the Coronavirus – about how long it will go on spreading etc - but there is certainty that it will be brought under control. However, that is not the case with the Hatevirus. There is good reason to believe that even at this stage if nothing much is done to control this deadly virus , the whole nation will be engulfed in a communal conflagration.

The Church, and we Jesuits, seem to have failed the people of India. Even if we are not able to seize the narrative forthwith, some serious and sustained efforts have to be made if we want to be relevant and alive to our times. This will be an Inter-Ministerial and Multi-Disciplinary Task. Work has to be done on several fronts immediately. There is a need for us to come together. That will open up many avenues.



SIJI CHACKO, SJ | THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Conversations of the Heart

Inter-Religious/Cultural Prayer

Jesuit Conference of South Asia organized 'Conversations of the Heart', a virtual prayer for Jesuits and Collaborators in Preparation For the Feast of St. Ignatius on 27th July 2020 that was a live broadcasted on YouTube channel from 6.45 to 7.30 pm IST.

The event started with the reflection on the pandemic which has brought the world and the human dominance over the universe to a complete halt destabilizing the world order while altering the hopes, and perceptions of millions of lives. The introduction invited the participants to look at the world with the eyes of God and to partner with God like St. Ignatius to fulfill God's dream and vision for this world. Participants were called to partner with God's vision, a vision that promotes interconnectedness, reconciliation, peace and justice. A brief life story of St. Ignatius was broadcasted live.

Fr. George Pattery, the President of the Conference had said, that even in times of despair and darkness, through faith we can still dare to dream a different world because we know the One whose power working in us can do infinitely more that we can ask or imagine. (Eph 3:20).

Fr. John Dardis, General Assistant from Rome said that the pandemic situation has given us an opportunity to exercise the spirit of "Magis" to the fullest. He also reiterated that for Jesuits, Compassion is action. The authenticity of the encounter with God is defined by how much we are moved to compassion and action towards the redressal of suffering of the vulnerable and the excluded.

Jesuits and collaborators from various walks of life shared their stories of inspiration in learning from St. Ignatius and working towards the dream and vision of God, especially reaching out to those affected by COVID-19. The live broadcasted videos from different provinces, captured the relief and rehabilitation work done by JCSA in Asia including Afghanistan through its various partners reaching out to the most needy and vulnerable people during the pandemic.

Prayers were offered for the victims of Covid-19, people affected due to Corona and the Covid Warriors: Doctors,

Nurses, Health Care workers, Relief Workers, etc., and to restore hope and courage of the humanity. Being inter-religious and intercultural in nature hymns taken from the Gitanjali, Peace and Unity Songs, sharing of experiences, etc were meaningful for the 3000 plus participants/visitors of the channel from India and abroad.

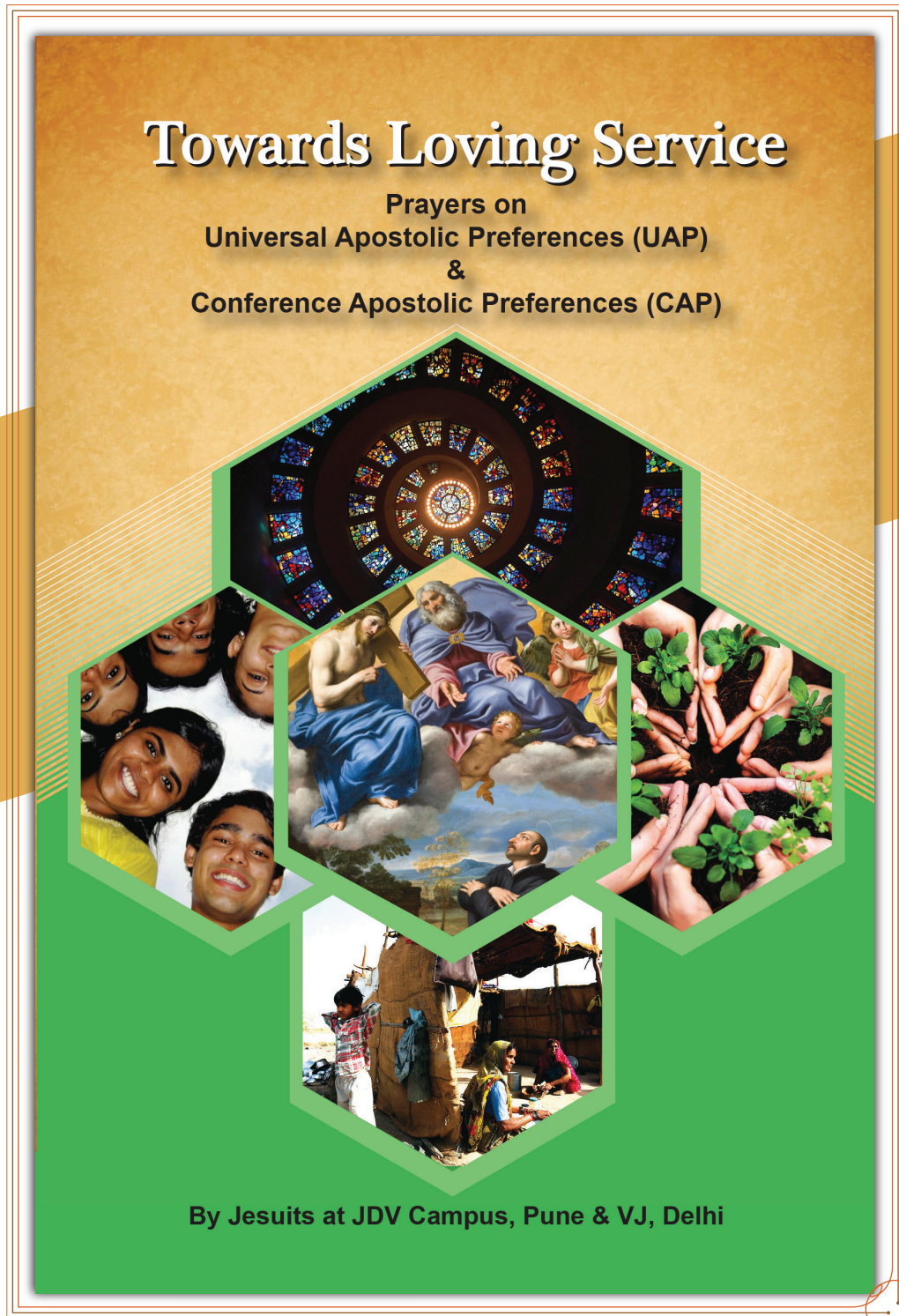
Richard Jerain, SJ from Kohima wrote in the chat during the love broadcast, "Our lay collaborators in all their capacities are the strengths of Jesuit Missions" Nalini Gupta wrote, "Amazing work done all around the world. Proud to be part of this family." Selvin Raj wrote, "One with the Jesuits all over the world at this time of prayer, I pray may the Lord protect all those Jesuits and collaborators working for Justice, peace and human rights in this broken world."

One Step For Migrants: A Virtual Creative Event

Jesuit Conference of India (JCI) and Jesuit Resource and Response Hub (JRH) in collaboration with Jesuit Alumni Association of India (JAAI), Jesuit Educational Association – South Asia (JEASA) and Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA) organized a virtual run/walkathon event called 'FUN RUN 2020-One Step for Migrants'. This was the first virtual event of this sort, conducted with the purpose of creating awareness among people to come forward and help the Migrants. The fund raising cum awareness creation event invited people to creatively participate in the event and contribute to the cause of migrant workers from 19th September to 2nd October 2020.

A separate webpage was created for the event (events.jesuitconferenceofindia.org) and registration was open for a week which culminated on 2 October, Gandhi Jayanti Day with a virtual programme called 'VOICED FOR MIGRANTS'. Altogether the virtual event was subtitled, 'One Step for Migrants' we reached out to over 13,000 people through direct mailers, posts. There was an enthusiastic and overwhelming response from 3853 persons. They actively visited website taking part in the activities planned. The activities were: relay run/walk, miles together, vocal for local, I burn they earn and direct connect. The event was also able to mobilize some local resources. Print and online media India and the Jesuit Networks across the globe covered the event.

The South Asian Conference, recently published a prayer book titled, “Towards Loving Service,” on the UAPs and CAPs.



Follow the link below to download the full version of the PDF

Prayer Book: Towards Loving Service



STAND IN SOLIDARITY



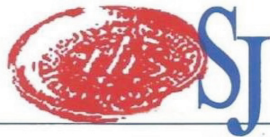
STAND IN SOLIDARITY



The arrest of Fr Stan Lourduwami (JAM), on the 8th of Oct, and subsequent arrest on trumped up charges, has stirred the Christian and Human Rights community....

Visit us

standwithstan.jcsaweb.org



PRESIDENT *Jesuit Conference of South Asia*

Conference Appointments

Between 30th Apr, 2020 – 10th Oct, 2020

Appointments by Fr General:

Fr Danis Ponniah (MDU) South Zone; Fr Melvil Pereira (KHM) North Zone; Fr Santosh Minj (HAZ) Central Zone. Appointed by Fr General as Consultors to the President JCSA, & ex-officio convenors and chairs of their respective zones, w.e.f. 9th July, 2020.

Fr W. K. Abranches (GUJ) Appointed Rector, Collegio Internazionale del Gesu, letter dated 22 Aug, 2020.

JDV Pune:

Fr Ryan Rodrigues (KAR) Appointed to JDV for M.Ph & Trial Teaching, w.e.f. 1st Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr George Karuvelil (PAT) Appointed to P.G. Block to continue Research work, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020. Belongs to DNC community.

Fr Devara Joji Babu (AND) Appointed for M.Th in Spirituality at JDV Pune, w.e.f. Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr (Dr) Francis Gonsalves (GUJ) Appointed to reside at JDV PG Block; continue as community member of PS, w.e.f. 3rd Aug, 2020.

Fr (Dr) Victor Sagayam SVD Appointed as Lecturer, Missiology Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st July, 2020.

Fr (Dr) Gregory Arokiaswamy OMI Appointed as Lecturer, Pastoral and Moral Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020.

ISI-D:

Fr Paul D'Souza (GUJ) Appointed as Acting Superior ISI_D, Jesuit Community, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Conference:

Fr W. Keith Abranches (GUJ) Appointed as CDF w.e.f. 1st June, 2020, additional charge.

Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) Appointed as Coordinator of Conference Secretaries w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) Appointed as GIAN Ecology in-charge in the capacity of the Director-CDO (CDD), w.e.f. 1st Oct, 2020.

Studies for Conference Common Works:

Fr Sandeep Jagtap (PUN) MA in Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan, June 2020.

Assistancy Committees:

Leadership Program Team for SA. Fr Joe Arun (Convenor), Fr Nelson D'Silva (Joint Convenor) Joye James & Siji Chacko (Members).

Gratitude for services rendered to Common Houses & Works of South Asia:

Fr Joy Karayampuram (PAT) as Superior ISI_D (from May 2013).

Fr Raj Irudaya (CEN) as ADF (from June 2014).

Fr George Pattery, SJ
President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia
Date: 10th Oct, 2020

Looking Ahead

JCSA online. The biannual meeting of JCSA will be held online from the **26-29th Oct**, under the leadership of a new president **Fr Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza**.

WOMEN AND THE PANDEMIC

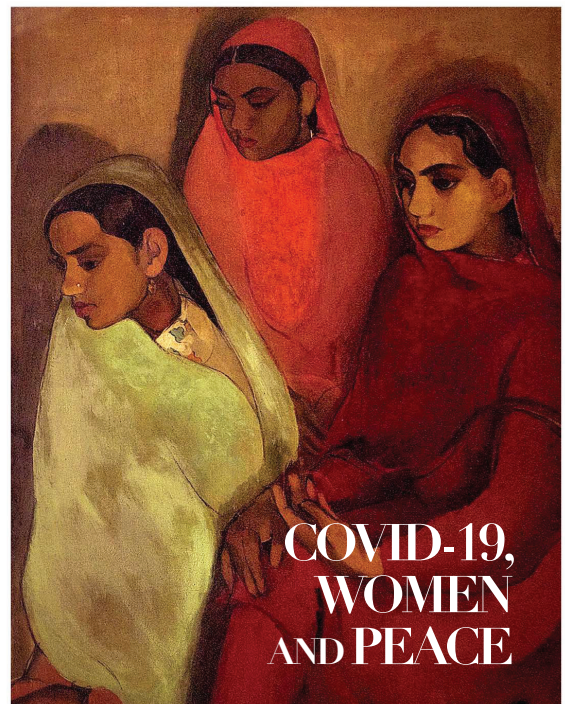
A Quest for Peace and Reconciliation

(E-Publication from LIPI in Collaboration with Peace and Reconciliation Network, JCSA)

This issue of Pax Lumina features 'Three girls' by Amrita Sher-Gil. She was a Hungarian-Indian painter (1913-1941). Trained in Paris and worked in India she painted Indian life especially that of women with compassion and pathos. Raja Ravi Varma had also painted women, palace women and goddesses. The Bengal school showed them stylised and abstract. But the women of Sher-Gil were ordinary Indians working and living their harsh lives in the tropical Indian sun hoping for hope. The Art and Peace column features her story. Women's lives haven't changed much from the Sher-Gil times as we find from our contributors to this issue which has women and Covid as its focus. It may be simplistic to infer life's complex truths from easy, often binary categorisations. But certain divisions are inescapable. Gender is such a one. Being a woman has never been easy. And when a pandemic such as Covid-19 strikes, the weak, the excluded and the vulnerable suffer most and women are all of these. Our contributors, as usual, from all over the world look at women and their fight for survival in these Covid times with empathy, with the hope that things can change if we try to discern the structural faults beneath the apparently peaceful crust of our society which is getting ripped apart by the pandemic. Admittedly the task is difficult and the situation grave especially for the 'wretched of the Earth', those beyond the margins of the society and women form a disproportionate number amongst these. Let us not forget that there is no lasting peace without justice. In these pages, you can find an actor-activist sharing her anguish and hope, the story of a pioneering biostatistician and inspiring figure for the medical community, courageous and lonely struggle of a young woman with cancer and much more including the re-conversion of Hagia Sophia and the violence of identity. We can't promise you happy reading. We don't wish it either. But we hope for reading leading to action, action for peace in this chaos. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay peaceful.

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SAAJN

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