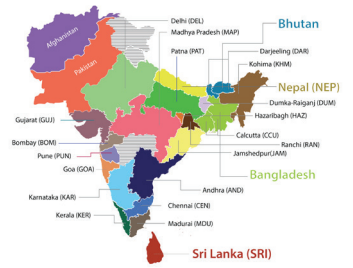




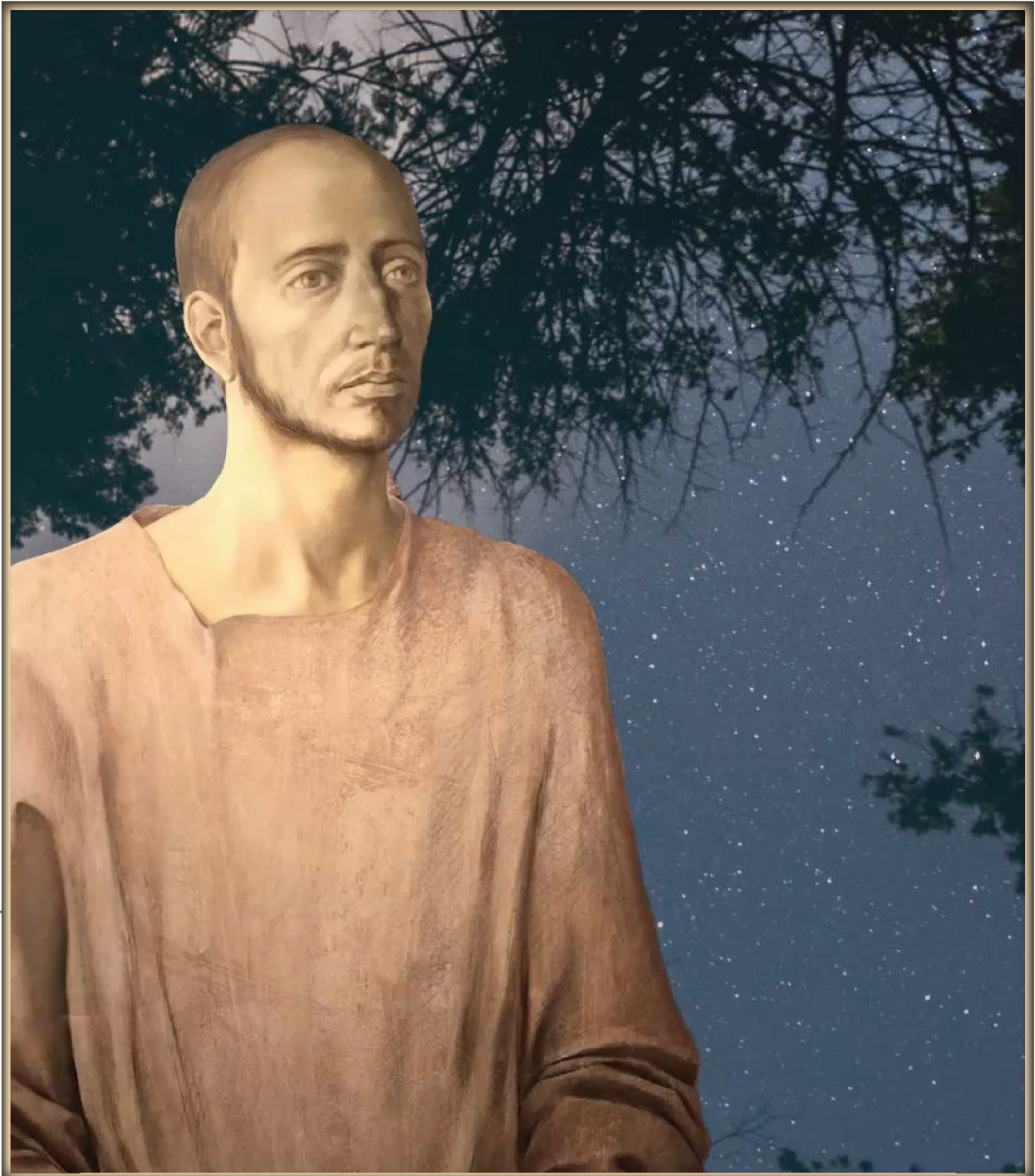
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SOUTH ASIAN ASSISTANCY (CONFERENCE) JESUIT NEWS

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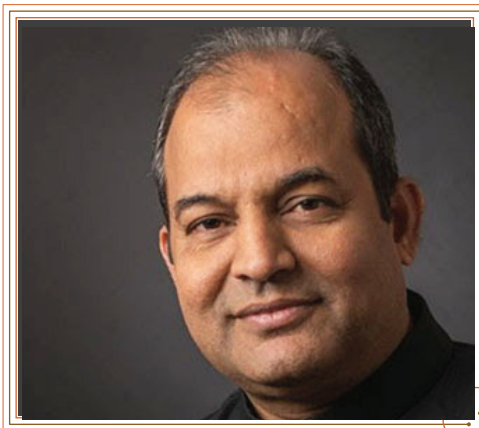
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FROM

POSA'S DESK



Can a short man with a pronounced limp, almost unlettered and born in a hill country, become a person who set millions of hearts afire? Yes, he can. And the example is St Ignatius of Loyola.

The root word of the name Ignatius is 'ignis' meaning fire. Ignatius was indeed a fire and he kindled many other fires. Just see the galaxy of men he formed and sent as missionaries.

The name, 'Ignatius', can be a metaphor, which stands for the fertile imagination, realization of a great dream, fulfilment of a determined effort, achievement of a great goal amidst all odds. Ignatius was a relentless seeker, or a pilgrim as he would say, and this search took him beyond the limits of his time and limitations of his own self.

What enkindled this 'fire' in Ignatius? Through a process of conversion God made him row deep into himself and discover God's spirit, within and without. The conversion of Ignatius was ultimately a conversion to Jesus. Hence, to seek and find him or what he famously said, 'to know him intimately, love him ardently and follow him closely' became an obsession for him.

Once he was placed with Jesus in and through two pious books in Loyola, the person of Jesus enveloped Ignatius. Jesus became the centre of his life, work and choices. Unlike the earlier days, his heart and mind were filled with the thoughts about Galilee, apostles, miracles, bread and fishes, which inspired him to know Jesus better, to love Him more, to live like Him, to speak of Him, to labour with Him, and to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. In other words, he had a strong desire to dedicate his life to Jesus.

When he goes to Jerusalem, he makes efforts to stay there; he visits every site and scrupulously observes every detail. His Spiritual Exercises are basically Christo-centric contemplations. His visions including 'La Storta' are basically God's affirmation for him to be a companion of Jesus. And finally, he names his religious order, the Society of Jesus, after the name of Jesus, and gives it a mission to do what Christ did.

In other words, Ignatius who met Jesus, the 'fire' lived like a shadow of Jesus. The proof of it is the pathway to God he has left behind. During the Ignatian Year let us walk that pathway to make our lives meaningful and our ministry fruitful.

Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ

(President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia)

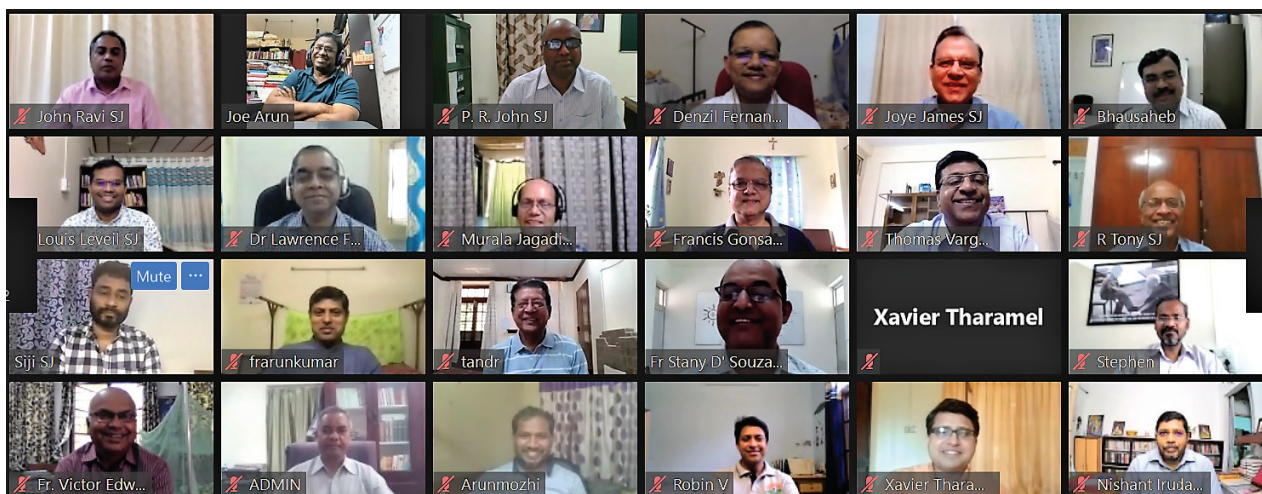
POSA's Meetings

The POSA had a series of online meetings with the Superiors, Directors of Works and the Conference Secretaries on 16 July, 17 July and 18 July respectively. The agenda of the meeting included sharing on the activities undertaken, the progress of the Apostolic Plan, beginning of the new academic year, celebration on the Ignatian year, collaboration of women in our ministries and inter-unit collaboration. The POSA attended the extended council of Fr General online from 7-11 July.

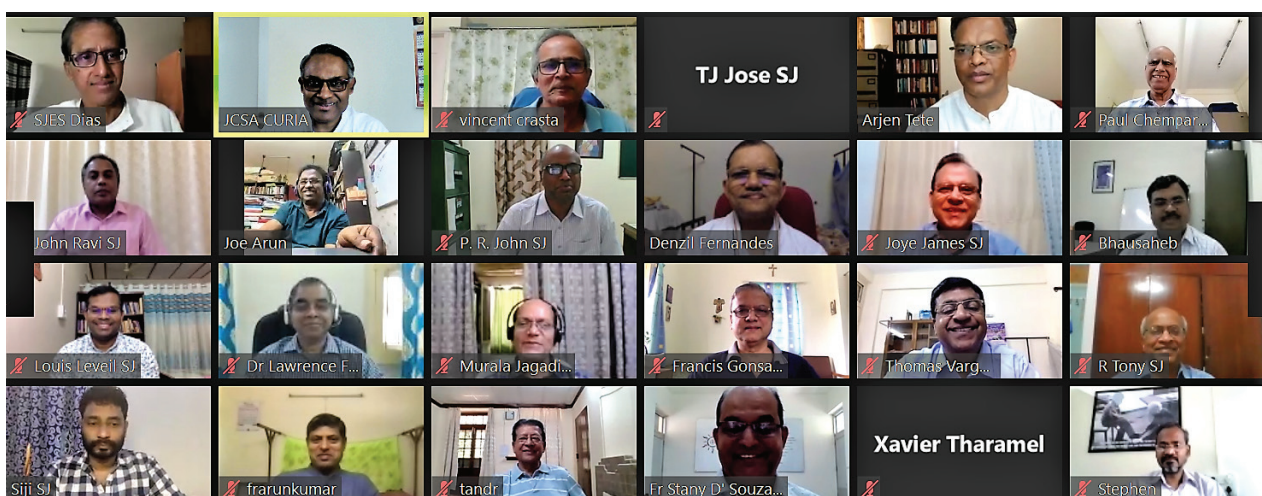


Meeting of the Conference Secretaries

Apostolic Plan: Training of Trainers



In preparation for Conference Apostolic Planning, a three-day 'Training of Trainers online workshop' was conducted by Fr James Arjen Tete, Fr Joe Arun and Fr Shajumon from 8 to 11 April 2021 attended by representatives from communities, works, and Secretariats. The training included prayers, spiritual conversations, and inputs on the Conference Apostolic preferences. Fr Stany, the POSA stressed on the need for a proper disposition to the enter into the discernment process. Those who were trained would animate the apostolic units and secretariats to work out their Apostolic Plan.



Satya Nilayam, Chennai

Fr Sathya Balan, SJ



The ambiance at Satya Nilayam on the morning of 20th May was indeed great as we celebrated the Inaugural Mass of the Ignatian Year. In fact, the preparations for the momentous occasion were in full swing on the preceding couple of days. It was decided to have the Mass near the garden adjacent to the academic building, where Fr Robin had put up a creative arch made up of scrap metal – that carries the official logo of the Ignatian Year. Br Christuraj, the Minister, made all the necessary arrangements to beautify the place for the celebration.

Fr Boniface, the Rector, gave a fitting introduction to the Mass, initiating us into the Ignatian year – 500 years since the conversion of St Ignatius and 400 years since the canonization of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier. Fr Rector then blessed the newly-made scrap metal design. Fr Michael Alosanaya presided over the solemn Eucharist and made sure that all of us – the staff and a handful of scholastics from Africa and East Timor – took up some role during the celebration. Fr Michael preached a touching and spiritually igniting homily stressing that

the conversion of St Ignatius must permeate every level of our Jesuit life! He delved deep into the enigmatic verse of the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, Lord, I want to see again, from the Gospel text aptly chosen for the day, to expound on the theme of the grace-filled year: To see all things new in Christ!



The animated choir sang hymns chosen from different languages, including those from Africa and East Timor. We also remembered in a special way all the Jesuits of East Timor as 20th May marked their National Day and they delighted us, at the end of the Mass, by



singing their national anthem. The Mass was celebrated in the morning so that the staff and scholastics were free to attend the online celebrations of their respective provinces during the day. Indeed, it was the most wonderful day of the summer vacation.





Formation Secretariat

Arjen Tete, SJ

Meeting of the PCFs/RCFs (24th April, 2021):

An online meeting of the PCFs/RCFs was held on 24th April, 2021 to discuss on Covid19 crisis and the JCSA Apostolic Planning. All the members were present. **Fr Stany D'Souza**, the President of JCSA, addressed them in the context of the pandemic and the scholastics' return to their Provinces. Assessing the covid situation, he underscored that that we might have to streamline formation by setting up transitory mini-scholasticates in the provinces with mentors assigned.

The second part of the message of the President revolved around Conference Apostolic Planning. He acknowledged that REGAE process had resulted in two fruits: a) growth in Conference sense; b) Conference Apostolic Preferences; and c) Zonal Collaboration. Affirming that it was time for Conference Apostolic Plan, he exhorted the Secretariat to evolve one or two inter-provincial goal and to suggest a few activities.

In the third segment of his address, he emphasized the importance of formation in the Society. To leave a mark in the area of formation, he gave them three tips to be a good formator: constant discernment, continual accompaniment and continual appraisal.

The PCFs/RCFs gave voices to the sentiments of gratitude for dissemination of right decisions and right information at the right time by all common houses. Whenever

the scholastics could not travel back to their provinces, the host Provinces or the centres of study were gracious to continue to accommodate them. They said that solidarity in formation was very palpable in the pandemic year.

But they said that it had been a challenging time for Vocation Promotion, Pre-Novitiates and Novitiates. Vocation camps could not be held and candidates could not be brought to the Pre-Novitiates. Similarly, it was challenging to conduct Four-Sheets Exam. These challenges were being faced again in the second wave in 2021. Scholastics' summer ministries, summer programs, and vacations have been hampered. PCFs/RCFs expressed their concern that they have not been able to address their scholastics as a cohort regarding some common issues.

Subsequently, Stephen L Pragasam (MDU), Pius Kerketta (HAZ) and Wendel D'Cruz (BOM), the organisers of POP 2021 apprised the members about the program. There were 23 participants at Shembaganur, 39 at Sitagarha and 8 at the West Zone. Wendell reported that the face-to-face POP, planned at Khandala, was cancelled and an online program began from 23rd April as 5 Gujarat Scholastics got infected with covid19. Hence, there were only 8 participants. The members looked forward to normal POP 2022. Xavier Alangaram (DAR) affirmed that he would be ready to organise one in Kurseong in case of normalcy returning.

As has been agreed before, the **Annual Meeting of PCFs/RCFs** will be held in Kohima (Sept 30-Oct 4) if the situation



permits. **Anand Pereira (KHM)** said that the situation there was still volatile. The members were told to wait until June end for confirmation. In case of difficulty with the offline meeting, we will go for an online platform.

To President's exhortation regarding Apostolic Planning, there were various reactions. One said, "We already have apostolic plan for our provinces which will largely be accomplished in the common houses. Another Apostolic Plan might overburden the scholastics." Having had engaged conversations, the Formation secretariat has fixed 25th-26th June, 2021 for the JCSA Apostolic Plan. **Joe Arun (CEN) and Shajumon (Socius to POSA)** will animate the sessions.

Meeting of the PCFs/RCFs with Common House Rectors (29th May, 2021):

Having received the information about commencing of the academic year 2021-22 in an online mode, a web colloquy of all the PCFs/RCFs and Rectors of the Common Houses was arranged on 29th May, 2021 to share and plan creatively and constructively for our formees. The principals of SN and VJ and the Superior of philosophers at DNC were also invited to this meeting. Some of the highlights of the meeting:

Formation in the Society stands on four pillars - human, spiritual, pastoral and intellectual. It was said that the common houses could

take care of academic and the PCFs/RCFs would look after the other three areas of formation within their provinces until the scholastics go to the common houses.

The PCFs/RCFs preferred face-to-face spiritual direction within the provinces and not in an online mode. It would reduce screen load of the scholastics who seem to be overburdened with too many assignments.

The principals said that PCFs/RCFs needed to monitor their scholastics regarding their complain of too many assignments. Most of the exams are oral. It is difficult to understand that they are regularly burning midnight oil to do their assignments.

To the suggestion that online education could include more group discussions, it was reasoned that each institution was bound by a plan of studies approved by Congregation of Catholic Education (CCE). Basic systems of Catholic faith have to be taught at the BTh level as laid down by CCE.

Satya Nilayam, an ecclesiastical faculty, is affiliated to Madras University through Loyola College. Hence, for the academic purposes it abides by what Loyola College directs it. Satya Nilayam cannot rely only on oral exam. Hence, assignments are given. Furthermore, it was said that without adequate input and introduction to philosophy, group discussions would not be productive.

Those pursuing theological studies could be put in the mini-scholasticate under the care of a priest preferably one who has done MTh and not be left in different communities.



Scholastics could be encouraged to read few good books, study class materials, and to write articles. This is the right opportunity to make the students of theology to study local culture, local language, and their interaction with faith—inculturation and contextual theology.

We should not put too many things online like spiritual direction, online recreation, etc. The scholastics are in their respective provinces or communities. It would good opportunity for them to see in their own communities how the apostolic preferences are being lived out.

The PCFs/RCFs and the Rectors were reminded about the implementation of the graded syllabus on Ignatian Spirituality. For the implementation the local superior with spiritual directors and other staff members is in charge. PCFs will need monitor it for those Scholastics who remain in their provinces and the Secretary of Formation can monitor that in common houses.

In the same meeting, **Jossie D'Mello (KAR)** spoke about "Depths in the Spirit" – A Handbook for Spiritual Directees. Having heard about the content and scope of this booklet as well as its advantages and disadvantages, the PCFs/RCFs greatly appreciated it.

Webinar on Spiritual Direction (5th & 7th June, 2021):

An online colloquium of the Spiritual directors of the Conference was organized on 5th and 7th June, 2021. Fifty-five spiritual directors participated in it. Welcoming the spiritual directors to the colloquium, **Fr Stany D'Souza (POSA)** said: "A director need to be familiar with God's ways, have the capacity to listen to and understand, and the skills to discern God's communication." **Arul Sivan (MDU) and Jossie D'Mello (KAR)** shared their personal experiences and expertise of accompanying people and showing them the way to God. Jossie also introduced to participants the handbook – "Depths in the Spirit." The Spiritual Directors found the inputs stimulating, enlightening and enriching. Their patient work of accompaniment is all the more vital as most of our scholastics stay behind in the provinces to attend their online education. Face-to-face spiritual direction will certainly lessen their screen time. It was heartening to learn that six PCFs have affirmed the introduction of the "Depths in the Spirit" to their scholastics.

It has been a challenging time for formation. We all hope that as the covid situation eases, the scholastics will be invited to the common houses in phased manner so that they benefit the formative value of being in the formation centres.



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES, South Asia): News and some Views

Anthony Dias, SJ - (Secretary of SJES, South Asia)

Covid Relief: Taking cognizance of the enormity of the suffering of the people, especially those in rural areas both in terms of the spread of the disease, economic distress and hunger, SJES and Lok Manch (LM) are focusing their attention on providing immediate relief. A collaborative effort with LM and other partners such as ISI, CDO and so on is launched. Four states in which the LM is active are being attended to.

Another related initiative is a locally funded one and involves our Jesuit institution, XLRI, Jamshedpur. This is a promising one in terms of the opportunities to reach relief (both medical and food) through a lot of networking efforts with secular organizations. It is titled # MISSIONVISHWAS.

Lok Manch: Launched in the year 2015, it completes its second 3-year phase in October 2021. We have undertaken an Evaluation of LM which is now complete and we are awaiting the final report by the end of the month. We have started the process of applying for the next 3-Year Phase. LM has been instrumental in changing the lives of people, especially the most vulnerable sections of society. Grassroots leadership has been created and a large number of women leaders have emerged. LM has disturbed the status quo and so it faces stiff resistance in many pockets of the country.

Think Tank (TT): The newly-revamped TT had its first meeting 10 May, 2021. The

members made short presentation on the state of our civil society and the impacts of the Pandemic. Many felt we should have such meetings every month. As the Republic goes through its toughest and most difficult period, the need for such a group becomes very important.

All-women Webinar Volume: In order to listen to the voices of women especially in the context of the arrest and imprisonment of Fr Stan Swamy and other Rights Defenders (Rights of Nature plus Human Rights), SJES had organized a women's Webinar early this year. It was well-attended and highly appreciated. Among those who spoke was a woman whose husband is still in prison (Adv. Ms Susan Abraham). Younger students, one of them hailing from Kashmir also had spoken. A follow-up in the form of a Book was planned and is now in the final stages. The editor of this volume is Dr Astrid Lobo-Gajiwala. The book is published jointly with the Indian Social Institute, Delhi.

Meeting on the 2nd Wave: This was a collaborative venture with LM. Several women from LM presented their views. There were also experts from Sri Lanka who spoke. We noted the best practices.

Apostolic Planning: SJES, SAsia provided the lead having its Apostolic Planning well ahead of time. It was held online from the 28th to the 30th May. One goal for 3 years has been set for each of the Conference Apostolic Planning. The feedback received from the participants was very



encouraging. The method of Spiritual Conversations employed seemed to have helped a lot. Several participants said that the three days of prayer, intentional speaking and active listening made it a truly spiritual experience. A proper disposition for this is vitally important.

A unique feature of the process was that it was truly an experience of South Asia, as most of the countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan were represented. Their resource persons such as Fr Milroy (Sri Lanka), Raja/Vijay Toppo (Nepal), Fr Jerry (Bangladesh) and Fr Jerome (Afghanistan) explained the situation in their respective countries and how they are approaching and implementing the CAPs. The main resource person for the three days was Fr C J Arun, currently the Director of LIBA. His inputs and guidance were appreciated by all the participants.

Campaigns: SJES and Lok Manch have been promoting and participating in some important campaigns such as the Right to Food; the Right to Health, Free Vaccinations to all and also promoting vaccinations as a means to combatting the spread of the corona virus. There is a lot of awareness material that has been circulated. Our staff members have participated in several online campaigns.

Dissemination of literature for ongoing reflection: The Secretariat is regularly disseminating articles, posters and other publicity material to promote an ongoing

reflection and analysis of the situation. It believes in evidence-based Advocacy. We also do some writing work as and when asked by various forums.

Farmers' protest: We were involved in responding to the protests which were interrupted by the 2nd wave of the Pandemic. These protests are continuing and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) report mentions it clearly. This is a protest we must try and understand and support because it has to do with the farming community, which is going through very rough times. It is also a lesson in conducting peaceful long-drawn-out protests to fight for the rights and dignity of peoples. It is a great teacher of the art of Democracy itself!

Concluding Comment: The danger to the secular fabric of the nation and an existential threat to the Republic itself have come from anti-democratic and anti-people forces. The root causes of many of the problems we witness today are due to a decline in democracy and rise of authoritarianism rule; or, to put it in the words of a woman analyst, a genocidal majoritarianism. The spectre of fascism stalks our land. The biggest and the most urgent need are to restore and strengthen democracy in all its manifestations. This is a herculean task which would succeed only if all the Ministries and Institutions work together and join hands with secular and democratic forces within and outside of the country. This is difficult but not impossible.



Jesuit Educational Association (JEA)

John Ravi, SJ (Secretary of Education)

Fr. John Ravi, SJ (DEL) assumes charge as the new JEA Secretary

The outgoing Secretary, Fr. Sunny Jacob, SJ handed over the charge to the new Secretary, Fr. John Ravi, SJ during an online meeting of the PCE's and some of the Conference Secretaries on Tuesday, March 30, 2021. Fr. Stan D'souza, SJ, the POSA welcomed Fr. Ravi, SJ to the Conference and thanked Fr. Sunny, SJ for his valuable services to the school education sector of the Conference and to the Church in general. He made a special mention of Sunny's contribution towards establishing a strong network among the people of goodwill inside and outside the Church. Fr. Ravi, SJ thanked Fr. Sunny, SJ for his contribution to the JEA Secretariat for the past seven years and wished him well for the new international assignment in Galway, Ireland.

Strategies & Plans to respond to the second wave of Covid Pandemic

During the PCE's Meeting held online on Sunday, May 8, 2021, Fr. Ravi, SJ initiated a detailed discussion on the question – **how can we, as JEA SA Secretariat, respond to the devastating consequences of second wave of covid-19 pandemic?** The following are some of the concrete suggestions proposed by the members:

1. We need to promote healthy living/ healthy life style/ hygiene among our staff and students through various programs. We could involve our Alumni to chalk out various programs. Digital Teams could be formed to disseminate right and proper information about Covid-19 and to conscientize people about the false propaganda and fake news related to Corona Virus and the pandemic.
2. Encourage all our stake holder to strictly follow the Covid Protocol/SOPs/Guidelines issued by both the central & state governments.
3. Create a Helpline with the help of core groups (Jesuits/Doctors/Counsellors) for counselling and mentoring the students, parents and teachers in order to promote positive mental health and emotional growth among students.
4. Concrete strategies to help the economically deprived children to have access to online classes by providing internet facilities, required gadgets, etc. This is to be done to narrow down the digital divide resulting from digital learning through online classes. A separate corpus could be created for the same by every institution with the collaboration of alumni and parents and the target group needs to be identified.

5. There is urgent need to strengthen the faith formation of our staff and students through spiritual accompaniment as the whole world is going through a faith crisis resulting from the pandemic. Online prayer services could be conducted for the staff and students. A separate link could be established.
6. Establish Covid Care Centers in collaboration with the alumni in our institutions for the poor and others who cannot afford for Covid treatment. Several examples were cited in this regard.
7. We can distribute medical kits, dry ration to the poor families from our social service centers. Financial resources for the same could be pooled in from our institutions, communities, alumni and other donations.

Province Level Ignatian Year Programs

The following are the suggestions which emerged from our discussion during a meeting of PCEs held on Sunday, May 16, 2021:

- » Hold a virtual colloquium on IPP for the staff
- » Recollection (at least once in every three months) on Ignatian themes for the staff
- » Special writings and depiction on St. Ignatius of Loyola and the important aspects of his life in the school diaries (like Darjeeling Province)
- » Special webinars on Ignatian themes for the staff
- » Special workshops on 'Examen' and 'Discernment of Spirits' for the staff and students and conduct online examen for the students on a regular basis
- » Exhibition on St. Ignatius and his life
- » A day of initiation for the Jesuits, staff & alumni to have 'Canon ball moment'
- » Have a 'vocation day' to promote and motivate young boys to join the Society of Jesus
- » Prepare a short documentary on the life of St. Ignatius and his relevance today in English, Hindi and Gujarati, Bengali, etc., and circulate it among all the Jesuit schools to be shown to all our staff and students
- » Create a YouTube channel or a Blog to hold regular Talk Show on various Ignatian Themes by the staff and students of different schools across the Conference
- » Ignatian Leadership Training for the staff
- » Making a flex focusing on Ignatius' conversion experience and display it in all our school campuses
- » Inter-school quiz competition on the life of St. Ignatius for the staff and students

Fr. Ravi, SJ requested all the PCEs to consider these suggestions seriously and plan out for themselves in their province level by choosing a few concrete suggestions from the given above and work out their implementation in terms of time, resource persons and technical expertise. He suggested to the PCEs that each PCE could form their own core team at the province level to facilitate better coordination and implementation.

Conference Level Ignatian Year Programs

1

A Short documentary film in English & Hindi on St. Ignatius of Loyola and his relevance today

Core Team:

- » Fr. Francis Macwan, SJ (GUJ -Chair)
- » Fr. Anand D'souza, SJ (GOA)
- » Fr. P.J. James, SJ (HAZ)
- » Fr. Erentius Minj, SJ (RAN)
- » Fr. John Kennedy, SJ (MDU)
- » Fr. Lawrence, SJ (DAR)
- » Fr. Alben Minj, SJ (DUM)
- » Fr. John Ravi, SJ (Secretary, JEA SA)

2

Create a YouTube Channel or a Blog to hold regular Talk Show on Ignatian Themes by the staff and students of different schools across the Conference

Core Team:

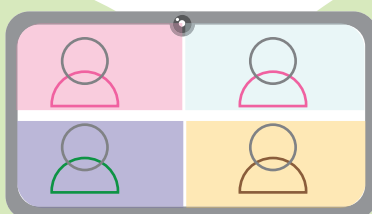
- » Fr. Norbert Menezes, SJ (PAT – Chair)
- » Fr. Sebastian James, SJ (CCU)
- » Fr. Francis Swamy, SJ (BOM)
- » Fr. Rohan Almeida, SJ (KAR)
- » Fr. Tompson, SJ (KER)
- » Fr. Paul Benedict, SJ (CEN)
- » Fr. Tony, P, SJ (JAM)
- » Fr. John Ravi, SJ (Secretary, JEA SA)

Virtual International Colloquium

Fr. Ravi, SJ, the Secretary, convened an online meeting of all the Colloquium Delegates on Sunday, May 30, 2021. Most of the delegates attended the meeting. Fr. Ravi, SJ explained the dynamics of the colloquium to the delegates and strongly urged all the delegates to listen to the pre-colloquium video inputs on the four strands – Educating for Faith, Educating for Depth, Educating for Reconciliation and Educating for Global Citizenship. The theme of the colloquium is 'Discerning for a Hope-Filled Future'. It is being organized by Asia Pacific Assiatancy from June 28-July 2, 2021. Fr. General along with the worldwide Secretary of Education, Fr. Jose Messa, SJ will participate in the opening& closing ceremony of the colloquium.

ICAJE Online Annual Meeting -2021

Due to Pandemic, this year's ICAJE meeting was held online from May 25-28, 2021. Fr. Jose Messa, SJ, the International Secretary of Education presided over the meeting. Fr. Ravi, SJ, the Secretary, JEA SA attended the meeting for the first time. Fe Y Alegria and JRS- Education were invited for the first time to attend the first part of the ICAJE meeting along with other ICAJE members. Fr. Ravi, SJ presented a short report on various covid relief related activities undertaken by the Jesuits and their collaborators including the alumni in South Asia through a PPT. Various issues were discussed during the meeting – Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic in our schools and the challenges ahead, II Colloquium- Global 2021, Ignatian Year Celebrations, Global Compact on Education, Integrated Perspective Infographic, etc.





Faith Secretariat

Arun Kumar, SJ (Secretary of Faith)

Fr Xavier Tharamel (KER) and Fr Arun Kumar attended the online Training of Trainer's programme from 8th April till 11th April 2021 organized by JCSA. This training helped them to plan and conduct the Conference Apostolic Planning for all the members of the Secretary of Faith. The meeting is scheduled from 1st July to 3rd July 2021 with better preparation. All the province secretaries have been helped with the necessary materials and sufficiently motivated to make the forthcoming meeting effective.

Another meeting was held on 21st April for a few Jesuit pastors, to encourage them in their pastoral care. The topics dealt in the spiritual conversation were: how to destress oneself and parishioners, and how to make sense of God in this darkness of death and deprivation of medicine and some practical ways of caring for oneself. The suggestions of the meeting were shared among the pastors.

The meeting of all the Province Secretaries of Faith was held on 9th May 2021. It helped us to listen to each other with solidarity for those suffering due to Covid and pray together for the repose of the souls of all the departed Jesuits.

The Secretaries of Faith of Kerala, Chennai and Karnataka provinces have been organizing regularly webinars relevant to the

Secretariat of Faith. Many of our stakeholders were encouraged to take part in it by sharing the links. Similarly, the resources on liturgical feasts and social concerns like environment etc... are shared regularly with all the secretaries and through them to the people they serve.



An online meeting of Interreligious experts of our Conference was held on 20th June 2021 to take stock of the present works and engagements in this ministry. The practitioners of the Interreligious dialogue shared at depth, their pain and problems, hope and aspirations and above all suggested some concrete plans to carry on this

ministry fruitfully in this Covid era. Victor Edwin conducted the entire session using the methodology of spiritual conversation. There will be a meeting with larger group of Jesuits soon to discern and concretize the suggestions which emerged from the meeting.

The details of the Secretary of Faith along with the history and resources on JIGSA, JEPASA, IRD, PWP (former commissions) are sent to the Province Secretaries of Faith to go through and for documentation.

The Secretary keeps in touch with the Province Secretaries through phone calls and other communication channels and updates himself on all the 4 ministries of Faith.



Jesuit Higher Education in South Asia (JHEASA)

Fr Joye James SJ (Secretary, JHEASA)

Right from its inception Jesuits have been involved in the ministry of Education. The first Jesuit College was established in Rome in 1551 by St Ignatius of Loyola. The first Jesuit College in India was St Joseph's college, Trichy, established in 1844. With the advent of changes in the educational sectors vis-à-vis a globalizing world, a spurt in new higher educational institutions was seen in this century in South Asia. With this, the need to establish an Association for Higher Education was expressed, and the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) held in October 2008 in Patna approved the setting up of a New Secretariat for Higher Education.

Intellectual Apostolate influenced and enhanced our capability to serve the Church and secular culture. Serious intellectual work and reflection will impact on our global capacity, to give the level of excellence that evangelization needs today. Hence JHEASA will comprise all Jesuit Higher Education Institutions in South Asia. That will include the Graduate, Post Graduate Colleges and

Research Centres, Colleges of Education, Management and Business Administration Institutes, Engineering, Law and other Professional Institutions, Theologates and Philosophates.

Right now, there are 61 members in JHEASA. Among these 61 Jesuit Higher Education Institutions (JHEIs), 25 are Government aided colleges and 36 are self-financing. According to the statistics of last academic year, there are 243 Jesuits and 6820 teaching and non-teaching are working, and 124177 students are studying in these JHEIs. Annual Conference of Principals and Directors of Jesuits Higher Education Institutions is held every year to deliberate on the current issues of Higher Education in South Asia as well as the priorities of International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU). Last annual Conference of JHEASA was held at St Xavier's College, Kolkata on October 6-7, 2019. Due to the pandemic, we could not hold the annual conference in 2020.



Breaking the Chain of COVID Pandemic - Secretariat of Development
Tanvi Dogra - Manager, Communication

Breaking the Chain of COVID Pandemic: Jesuit Collective's Community Health Surveillance System in India

India was one of the first countries to execute a national lockdown to contain the global pandemic COVID-19. However, the lockdown failed and within a few months, it is now on the list of countries most affected by the pandemic and its second wave. The pandemic has not only brought life to a standstill threatening the lives of millions across in the country, but also overwhelmed its healthcare system. According to the latest Government reports, the fatalities due to the pandemic pushed India's death toll to 390,660 (Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India).



The Jesuit Collective has established a Community Health Surveillance System (CHSS) to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission, especially among migrant workers, slum dwellers and rural communities. The Collective is led by Indian Social Institute (ISI)-Delhi, Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES)/Lok Manch, Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) and the Conference Development Office-JCSA (Jesuit Conference of South Asia).

We know that no one is safe from this pandemic, until we are all safe...

Since May, the Collective has been undertaking interventions related to COVID relief and response in states such as Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland based on the felt-need in the communities there. It focuses on awareness building for infection prevention and on importance of vaccination, as well as providing access to critical health services. The Collective is also ensuring provision of emergency healthcare kits and food packets to poor people in the intervention locations. The important components of the intervention, considering the huge rise in COVID-19 cases, especially in the rural areas, and the immense pressure on the health system, are as follows:

- **Establish Community Health Surveillance System (CHSS):** The intervention prioritises contact tracing, containment and surveillance to arrest the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the community, especially among migrant workers, marginalised, slum dwellers and rural population through trained community health workers.
- **Awareness and information sharing:** Activities under the intervention focus on awareness building for infection prevention, COVID protocols and importance of vaccination, vaccine-related myth busting, and info on access to critical health services. Sharing local knowledge, home remedies specifically for cough, breathing trouble, fever, headache, etc., thereby reducing pressure on public healthcare services is also undertaken under the intervention.
- **Provision of healthcare kits with generic medicines, face masks, dry ration and food packets:** The intervention provides for healthcare kits with generic medicines and vitamin tablets, face masks, and dry ration and food packets to neglected/left out and vulnerable people such as migrant workers, daily wagers, rag pickers, tribals, people with disabilities, artisans, transgender, homeless, widows, children, etc.

Over the next few months, the Jesuit Collective aims to stop the spread of the pandemic and offer critical support for many vulnerable people and families in dire need across many states in India.



“The supply of dry ration kits was like a Sanjeevani for our settlement”

“At this time when most people have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, the relief material distribution by the Jesuit collective in our slum has been a great respite. We have been staring at the crisis... many families have been broken; some people have lost their dear and near ones to COVID. Some families have lost their main earning members. In such a situation, the supply of dry ration kits was like a Sanjeevani (mythological cure-all plant) for our settlement. I want this support to continue even further because our slum is located on the Aravalli in Gurgaon city. Our settlement here has been continuously demolished by the city corporation administration and we have been struggling continuously. The relief and support given by the Institute provides the courage to live further, despite our struggles. We are heartily grateful to the Indian Social Institute and team.”

Ms. Sonal Singh



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