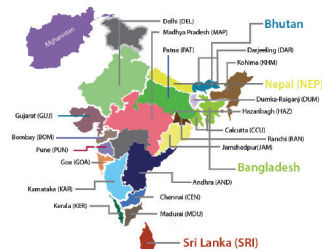




SOUTH ASIAN JESUIT NEWS



*News of Common Works of the Conference*



**May St Ignatius continue to bless us!**



August	
Date	Program
05	GB (ISI B)
08-11	Visitation (ISI D)
15	Final Vows Vinod (SN)
18	GB (ISI D)
21-22	Visitation (ISI B)
September	
Date	Program
01-04	Visitation (SN)
05	Visitation (AICUF)
07	POSA Consult (Online)
11-15	Expanded Consult (Rome)
23	JD Conference 6 pm (JD)
24	With the German group 6.30 pm (VJ)
27-28	Visitation (Sadhana)
30	Visitation (Shembag)
October	
Date	Program
01	Sec for Formation (Shembag)
02-03	Extended Consult (DAR)
07-08	COJET (HAZ)
10	POSA Consult (Online)
11-15	Visitation (VJ)
17	Meeting LS & DoWs (Online)
18	Meeting Secretaries (Online)
19	Meeting Forums & Networks (Online)
22-29	JCSA (Pune)
November	
Date	Program
03	Meeting of Sup & DoW
06-11	Visitation (DNC)
13	PWPN 9 am (GOA)
15-17	Jesuit Counsellors (CCU)
18-21	Visitation (HAZ)
25-28	Visit (DEL)
December	
Date	Program
01	POSA Consult (Online)
02	JCI (AGM &GB)
04	DLP (RAN)
06-10	Visitation (PS)
11-15	Visit (PUN)

## Secretariat for Service of Faith (CSSF)

**Fr Arun Kumar SJ**

Fr Arun Kumar, Director of the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Research (CISR) preached two retreats in the month of March 2023. Moreover, he helped Fr Francis Pudhicherry guide a group of twelve sisters from the Congregation of St Joseph of Chambéry during their month-long retreat at CISR in April.



As the Conference secretary for Service of Faith, Fr Arun gave a keynote address to Jesuits of Madhya Pradesh province at Pathalgaon on "The thrust, challenges and way forward of pastoral ministry in the Conference in general and MAP province in particular".



Fr Arun attended a seminar in Rome on 'Formula of the Institute - A Pathway to God Experience, Vision and Mission', organised by CIS. He took this opportunity to visit a few historical places in Rome, especially where St Ignatius and St Francis of Assisi lived.



The Conference Ignatian spirituality program 'Roots and Wings 2003' was ably organized by Fr Devadhas Muthaiah and Fr Patrick at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur. There were twenty-seven participants. The organizing team is very grateful to all provincials for encouraging their men to participate in the program.





## Conference Secretariat for School Education (CSSE)

**Fr John Ravi**

### Seminar/Workshops conducted by the Secretary

Fr John Ravi, the secretary for School Education organized the following seminars and workshop in the Conference:



1. Leadership Training Program for the Apostolic Carmel Principals at Pastoral Center, Jaipur from 26-27 February 2023
2. Teachers' Seminar at Sophia Sr. Sec. School, Mount Abu from 16-17 February 2023
3. Seminar on NEP 2020 for the School Leaders of Jaipur, Ajmer and Udaipur dioceses in Ajmer on 18 February 2023
4. Teachers' Seminar in Sahoday School, Hauz Khas, New Delhi on 15 March 2023
5. Seminar to the teachers of six schools of Nepal Region in Jawalakhel, Godavari and Deonia from 15-21 April 2023
6. Seminar on NEP 2020 for the Clergy of Bareilly Diocese at Jeolikot on 16 May 2023
7. Teachers' Seminar at Nazareth School, Bangalore from 22-24 May, 2023
8. Seminar for the teachers of Delhi Province Schools at Sahayog on 22 June 2023
9. Leadership Training for Holy Cross Principals in Raipur from 22 to 25 July 2023





## Assessment of two Jesuit Schools in Goa Province

Fr John Ravi, SJ travelled to Goa to evaluate two Jesuit Schools – St Britto High School, Mapusa and Loyola High School & Loyola Hr. Sec. School, Margaon from June 23-27



## Conference Task Force (CTF) Meetings for the implementation of NEP 2020

Fr Ravi, SJ attended the Conference Task Force Meeting for the Implementation of NEP 2020 at St Xavier's University, Kolkata from 18-20 March 2023

The second CTF Meeting was held at XIM University, Bhubaneswar from 29 June to 1 July, 2023.





## JAAI Alumni Congress at St Xavier's School, Patna

Fr Ravi, SJ attended the 10th JAAI National Congress as its Nation Advisor held at St Xavier's School, Patna from 9-11 February 2023.



## Annual ICAJE Meeting-2023 in Rome

The Secretary attended the annual ICAJE meeting held at the General Curia, Rome from 11-19 June 2023.



## Teachers Effectiveness Enhancement Program (TEEP)

1. Loyola campus, Trivandrum from 13 to 15 July 2023



2. Atmadarshan, Patna from 18 to 20 July 2023. Around 55 teachers from Hindi medium schools of North and Central Zones participated in this workshop.





## Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

**Fr Jagdish Parmar**

**PWPN and EYM Asia-Pacific Meeting in Seoul, South Korea from 24 to 29 April 2023.**

After a long gap of six years, a meeting of PWPN and EYM was organized in the Capital City of Seoul in South Korea for which the resource persons were Fr Frederic Fornos, SJ, the International Director of PWPN and EYM, Rome and Mrs Bettina Raed, International in-charge of the 'Way of the Heart' from Argentina, South America. The meeting had forty-two participants from 12 countries out of which 10 attended online.



The training on the 'Way of the Heart' began on 24 April morning and lasted till 27 April afternoon. The process followed was personal reflection, sharing in groups, and general sharing. We really went very deep into each point and were touched by the depth it offered and learnt to harmonize our hearts with the Heart of Christ as He sees how the humanity is facing the challenges and the mission of the Church. The last day was dedicated for evaluation as well as business session on the process of electing a new Asia-Pacific Coordinator and the venue of the next meeting in 2025.

The program was very well organized by Fr Woobae Sohn, the Korean National Director, Ms Stella and their small team at Don Bosco Youth Centre in the heart of the city. I found the Korean hospitality exquisite with every detail taken care of. I was also impressed by the cleanliness and discipline of the people and no wonder they have made so much progress in every field as they are sincere and hardworking.

Fr Xavier Tharamel, SJ (KER) and I were very fortunate to be invited for this program and we really enjoyed and benefitted from it.

### **Outreach to St Luke's Parish, Defence Colony, Delhi**

Whenever I am in Delhi, I usually go out to different parishes for Mass. On 14 May, I celebrated the Holy Eucharist for St Luke's Parish at Fr Agnel School at 10.00 a.m. and spoke about the PWPN and EYM to around 140 parishioners. Mr Antony Glenn Gomez, presently working in our office, distributed PWPN bookmarks to all.



## Mumbai-Pune outreach from 10 to 16 June 2023

As part of our thrust to make tomorrow's young priests aware of the importance of the daily offering, praying for the Pope's monthly intentions and the spirituality of the 'Way of the Heart', I reached out to the seminarians of St Pius College, Goregaon, Mumbai, where ninety seminarians and a few staff members attended my talk. In Pune twenty-one Fransalians, eleven Blessed Sacraments Brothers and three from the Society of St Paul attended my talk at the MSFS House. I gave talks on PWPN at Papal Seminary, Pune for one hundred and thirty-five seminarians and staff, at De Nobili College, Pune for one hundred Jesuit Scholastics and staff, in Andheri, Mumbai for twenty-five novices and Sisters of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, at Goregaon, Mumbai for eleven Sisters of DHM Congregation.





## Islamic Studies Association

**Fr Victor Edwin**

### Iftar



A group of students of theology from Delhi's Jesuit-run Vidyajyoti Institute of Religious Studies on 26 March attended an iftar, the ritual of breaking the fast during the Ramadan month.

They were invited by Syed Muhammad Nizami Sahib to the iftar at the dargah of Sufi saint Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya on the fifth day of Ramadan. Indian Catholic theologians attended an iftar at the Qadria Mosque,

Bengaluru on 14 April 2023. They were in Bengaluru for their annual conference. Over the last several decades several individual Muslims and Muslim institutions find iftar a suitable occasion to promote interfaith relations with people of other faiths.



### Summer School for Christian Muslim Relations at Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad

A summer school seminar on Christian-Muslim relations was organized by Henry Martyn Institute and was coordinated by Fr Joseph Victor Edwin.





## Human Fraternity Forum Established in Ooty and Coimbatore

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (Coimbatore) and Islamic Studies Association (Delhi) jointly organized two one-day seminars on 'Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together' at Ooty on 26 May 2023 and at Coimbatore on 27 May 2023.

At the seminar the participants discussed the salient features of the declaration 'Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together', co-authored by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb. The participants found the document inviting "all persons who have faith in God and faith in human fraternity to unite and work together so that it may serve as a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the

great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters." The participants came from different walks of life that included children and transgender persons. Adopting a participatory methodology, the participants discussed social interventions for a social order worthy of humanity (*Gaudium et Spes*, 24). They felt that the document is truly a model for interfaith harmony and human solidarity. They resolved to take inspiration and renew their commitment to stand together as one human family. They established a 'Human Fraternity Forum' to put into action the key teachings of the document.





## Youth

### Fr Arbind

In order to help youth animators to have sufficient knowledge and skills for an effective youth ministry, a zonal youth animators' course was organized at Upasana, Jamshedpur for central zone provinces of Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dumka, Hazaribagh and Madhya Pradesh from 5 to 9 June 2023. It was inaugurated by Fr Jerry, the provincial of Jamshedpur. There were twenty-four participants including priests, scholastics and lay youth leaders.

A youth animators' course for north zone provinces of Patna, Nepal, Calcutta and Delhi, was held from 31 May to 4 June 2023 at Atmadarshan, Patna. The course was organized with the collaboration of zonal coordinator Fr A. Prakash. There were seventeen lay youth leaders, three scholastics, two sisters and the youth animators of the provinces.

The resource person for both the courses was Fr Ashok Kujur, SDB from Okhla, Delhi. The main focus was training youth animators to conduct youth animating sessions, and teaching skills for creative interactions in youth camps such as ice-breaking sessions, action songs, fun games etc.





## INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, DELHI

**Thomas Perumalil, S.J.**

It is a great honor that Indian Social Institute, Delhi has been recognized as a Research Institute by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. We are recognized as a Public Utility Institution. This recognition will give us some privileges at different levels, including getting research projects from research institutes of the government.

### JSSSA Zonal Meetings

Zonal meetings of the Jesuit Social Scientists of South Asia (JSSSA) were organized by the respective zonal coordinators of JSSSA. The North Zone JSSSA meeting was organized by Dr Thomas Varghese and Dr Donatus Kujur at Matigara from 3 to 5 March 2023, with fourteen Jesuit social scientists participating. The West Zone meeting was organized by Dr Denzil Fernandes from 10 to 12 March 2023 in Ahmedabad with seven participants, Dr Alwyn D'Souza organized the South Zone meeting from 21 to 23 April in Trivandrum with twenty and Dr Vincent Ekka organized the Central Zone JSSSA meeting from 23 to 25 June 2023 with fifteen Jesuit social scientists. In all the zonal meetings, Dr Lancy Lobo, the Conference Coordinator, was present to motivate the Jesuit Social Scientists. All the meetings were very successful, and everyone showed keen interest in the activities of the JSSSA forum.





## Women's Day Program

This year, the Women's Day program was organized by ISI Forum on 6 March 2023 in which different speakers expressed their views on Women's Day and the empowerment of women in today's world. All the departments of ISI were present. During the program, the Institute celebrated the birthday of Fr Alwyn.



## CHRL programs

Fr Ravi Sagar organized two three-day training programs on 'Empowering Women to Lead Change' in English and in Hindi. The program in English had only five participants. The program in Hindi was held from 8 to 11 June 2023. Fr Tom gave the inaugural address. Of the seventy participants, Shanti Sadbhavna Manch were also present. During the valedictory session on the third day, all the participants expressed their appreciation for the program and the contribution of the resource persons. Fr Tom gave the keynote address on the occasion. Jesuits of ISI, who were present at the valedictory, distributed certificates to the participants.





## Shanti Sadbhavna Manch (SSM)

The Shanti Sadbhavna Manch organized a two-day working for peace trainers from 7 and 8 June 2023. There were forty participants from seven states of India. This annual training workshop was to acquaint people with the new project and to emphasize the responsibilities of the state coordinators. Fr Tom and Fr Denzil introduced the program and talked about Shanti Sadbhavna and its work. After that, the SSM of ISI gave inputs on communication, photography, and videography. Mr Joseph James of Misereor was another resource person. The participants appreciated the program and expressed their desire to put it into practice in their own states what they learned during the training program.



## Annual Picnic

The ISI family had a picnic at Madhavgarh. Four Jesuits of ISI Institute and Fr Bipin joined the picnic. Everyone enjoyed different games and the delicious food.





## Easter Celebrations

The Easter celebrations at ISI started with the evening Mass on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday afternoon, we had the Way of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross. Easter Vigil lasted from 9.00 to 11.45 p.m. Fr Arjen Tete was the main celebrant, assisted by Fr Stephen Raj and Fr Vincent. There were about six hundred and fifty people attending the services. The whole program was conducted on the lawn in front of the house. All the Jesuits from Jor Bagh also joined the services. Snacks were served after the Mass. Many remained till 3.00 a.m. for the dance that followed.



## Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Golden Jubilee of Fr Tom was celebrated on 22 April 2023. The main celebrant was Archbishop Anil Couto. Fr Stany D'Souza, the POSA and a good number of people were present. All the community members were fully engaged in making the day a memorable one. Fr Ronnie did all the logistics, Fr Denzil was the MC, Fr Alwyn was the choir in charge, Fr Bipin read out the prayers of the faithful, and Fr Stephen Raj raised the toast.



## Staff Development Program

A staff development program was organized on 4 May 2023 by the Staff Forum on e-waste management. The resource person was Mr Shiv Challa, the founder of 3R waste management private limited.





## Handing over the Executive Director to Interim ED

Fr Denzil handed over the charge of the office of the Executive Director to Fr Sebasti Raj, the newly appointed Interim Executive Director. The handing over took place in two phases. In the morning Fr Denzil explained to Fr Sebasti in the presence of Fr Thomas Perumalil the functions of the office. A formal handing over was in the afternoon at a function organized by the ISI Staff Forum during which the MoA, the Handbook and the Keys of the ED's office were handed over to Fr Sebasti Raj in the presence of all the staff. After the function, Fr Denzil, Fr Tom and Fr Sebasti signed the handing over document drafted by Fr Denzil.



## Mohammad Sahab's retirement

The Staff Forum organized a farewell program on the occasion of the retirement of Mohammad Sahab, our gardener, on 19 June 2023. He served the Institute for twenty-two years. Jesuits working at the Institute, Sr Ruby and some lay staff paid tributes to Mohammad Sahab. He was praised particularly for his evergreen smile and availability.





## Sacred Heart College, Satya Nilayam (SN)

**Rev Dr Lawrence Fernandes SJ**

### Workshop on Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

To bring in an awareness for our students on Protection of Children and Vulnerable adults we invited Rev Sr Dr Anna Mary, a specialist in this area to conduct a two-day workshop during which our students were introduced and enabled to know what the law is and how to live and love this law and promote wellbeing of the people especially minors, children and vulnerable adults.

### Philosophizing on Cybercrime

Being in a digital world, cyber and digital realities have been integral part of our life. For a deeper awareness on this and to reflect philosophically, we invited Ranjit Oomen Abraham, Head, Department of Cyberspace law and justice, Dr Ambedkar Law University, who spoke on information and insights on cybercrime.

### Life Skills training for first years

As part of personal growth a training session on life skills was organized for first years and Mr Simon Anandraj with his creative and participatory skills enthralled the students and enabled them to grow in their individual and community skills.



### Celebration of International Women's Day

Keeping in mind the need for more gender sensitivity in our life and formation, we celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March by inviting Dr Jessie Joseph, consultant Psychiatrist, Isabelle hospital, Chennai to speak to us on women and mental health. To be profited from such an insightful session, we also invited women from our neighborhood and from our ministry areas to participate.

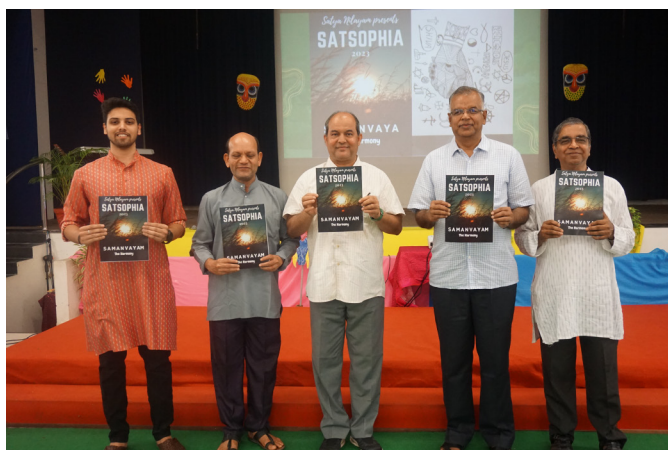


## A Day to celebrate Cultural Diversity, Release of Sat Sophia and SN Symphonies

Satya Nilayam is an international Jesuit center which respects and celebrates diversity. To mark this, we at Satya Nilayam celebrated Cultural diversity Day on 16 March. This date was also important because it was the Senate meeting day for Satya Nilayam that brought the President of Jesuit Conference of South Asia (POSA) to the SN campus. We also took this opportunity to invite the academic officials of Loyola College, the Rector, Principal, Secretary, Deans and Vice Principals, to Satya Nilayam. The presentation of cultural diversity events and programs was a feast to all the guests and friends of Satya Nilayam.



On this occasion we released **SN Symphonies**, in which we pictorially described all that happened on the campus, in and beyond Satya Nilayam in the academic year 2022-23. SN symphonies was released by Fr Boniface Panna, SJ, the SN Rector and handed over the first copy to Rev Dr Boniface Jeyaraj SJ, secretary of Loyola College. This season was also a time to bid farewell and Welcome. Fr Robin Seelan who was teaching philosophy here and also the director of SNRI for five years returned to his province. Dr Valerian Mendonca is now the new director of SNRI. Fr P.S. Arul, SJ after two years stint here as Minister, spiritual counsellor went back to his province. Fr Martin, SJ of Andhra province after completing two years of his trial teaching at Satya Nilayam, moved over to Hazaribagh for his tertianship. Satya Nilayam is grateful to all these stalwarts who served selflessly. SN wishes them all well in their new mission.



It was also an occasion during which **SAT SOPHIA**, a student journal with the theme 'Samanvaya' was released. Samanvaya contained articles, poems, photographs and write ups on the theme of Samanvaya, harmony. The POSA released the Sat Sophia magazine and gave the first copy to Fr Thomas Amirtham SJ, Principal of Loyola College. Fr Jagadish was the staff editor of Sat Sophia and Sch. Anant Abhinay was the student editor of this student volume.

Fr Anthony Raj, SJ, from Jamshedpur province has taken over the reigns as Minister of SN and has shown much interest in greening the campus.



## Staff colloquium

To prepare for the new academic year, the staff members of SN went to Sacred Heart College, our motherhouse in the cool hills of Shembaganur for a three-day colloquium. After a brief session of sharing our faith and summer experiences, we spent much time on planning community, academic and SNRI programs for the year.

## New Beginnings

Students arrived in Satya Nilayam on 21 and 22 June. Community orientation was on June 23 and 24 June.

Inauguration of the academic year was a major event here that was held on 26 June. This year we are celebrating the silver jubilee, twenty-five years of academic collaboration between Satya Nilayam and Loyola College. To mark this occasion, we invited Rev Dr Jebamalai Irudayarj, SJ, Provincial of Chennai Jesuit province to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit and to inaugurate the academic year.

Fr Dr Professor Felix Wilfred delivered the schola brevis on the theme 'Social Exclusion in South Asia: Principles and practices to overcome it'.



## Events and happenings at Satya Nilayam Research Institute



Fr Valerian's first task as director was to inaugurate the new academic year. He did it in style and elegance. At the inauguration Fr James Ponniah, the head of the department of Christian studies spoke on 'Shared Religious Spaces as Signposts of Hope for Interfaith Harmony in India.'



## Pilgrimage to Thomas Mount on 3rd July

The month of July began at Satya Nilayam with the annual pilgrimage to Thomas Mount, a location where St Thomas, the apostle of Jesus was martyred. The community walked to this pilgrim site which is 11 km away. After the Eucharist we paid homage to the site of his martyrdom and holy places in the vicinity. After a fellowship meal we returned to Satya Nilayam with a feeling of a time spent fruitfully in a graceful presence.



## Remembering Stan Swamy on 5th July, on his second death anniversary.



We remembered Fr Stan Swamy at Satya Nilayam on 5th July on his second death anniversary. The day was marked with a meaningful Eucharist in the morning and a prayer service with candlelight procession at the main gate with the public. The neighboring religious, friends and well-wishers of Satya Nilayam joined us for this prayer service.

## Social Analysis Workshop by Cedric Prakash, SJ from 13 to 14 July

We had Fr Cedric Prakash with us from 13 to 14 July conducting a two-day workshop for our students on SOCIAL ANALYSIS. His vast experience as one who is actively involved in social realities was truly inspirational. Fr Francis D'Souza, SJ, our registrar organized this workshop.





## Cultural and Educational Exposure

As a part of cultural and educational field experience, the first year students had Chennai Darshan while the second years travelled to Mahabalipuram to explore the cultural heritage of the city and the vicinity. It was an enriching experience.



## PhD Viva Voce at Satya Nilayam Research Institute

Fr Joe Bala, an SNRI research scholar who did his PhD under the guidance of Fr Lawrence Fernandes had his PhD Viva Voce at Satya Nilayam on 10th July. His presentation and defense of his thesis A CRITICAL INQUIRY INTO THE CONCEPT OF CREATIVE FIDELITY OF GABRIEL-HONORÉ MARCEL at the packed audience in Manresa Hall, Satya Nilayam was greatly appreciated.



## Outreach Program at Asha Niketan

As part of an outreach program, on 23rd July the SN staff and students participated and also helped in organizing a carnival at Asha Niketan to help raise funds for their work. It was a meaningful celebration.





## International Seminar

Fourteen students and three staff members participated on 20th July in a seminar organised by Department of Christian Studies, university of Madras and Asian Centre for Cross Cultural Studies on “World Christianity, Select Global Issues and Continental Practices.” It was an insightful experience.

## Novena to St Ignatius of Loyola

We have already begun the Ignatian Novena with the main theme as Ignatius, the pilgrim.

## Guest Lecture by Frank Clooney, SJ on 25th July

Prof Dr Frank Clooney, SJ, Parkman Professor of Divinity at Harvard University, USA, is with us till mid-august. He spoke to us on 25th July at Manresa Hall on “Journeying with Hinduism: An Intercultural Encounter”. This was his 50th year since he made his first visit to India and 19th to Satya Nilayam. The sharing had lots of personal anecdotes inviting the participants to find meaning in intercultural and interreligious settings.



## Donating blood to save lives

As part of the preparation for the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, on 25th July our staff and students participated in a blood camp organized at Satya Nilayam in which a total of 40 units of blood was donated by the staff and students. Fr Valerian Mendonca SJ coordinated this event in Satya Nilayam.





## Jnana Deepa, Pune

**Prof. Fr S. Stephen Jayard**

### A Historic Milestone for the Students' Council

Jnana Deepa (JD), Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune, always gives utmost importance to the active participation of its students in all its academic and co-curricular activities. The JD Students' Council, accompanied by a faculty member, functions with full vigour and involvement. It is formed every year by an elaborate procedure of elections in two rounds. From every batch of the bachelors' level, four student-representatives and one each from the post-graduate students of Philosophy and Theology streams are elected; no student is nominated by the staff, nor the administration. The elected representatives take part in all the Academic Council meetings, including the Senate meetings of Jnana Deepa, with full voting rights. For this academic year 2023-24, the elections were successfully conducted, under the guidance of Prof. Fr S. Stephen Jayard, the Animator of the Students' Council. On 16 June, 2023, the new Students' Council was installed in a simple but meaningful ceremony, attended by all the staff and students.

The unique feature of the Students' Council this year is that, for the first time in the long history of 130 years since 1893 (established as Papal Seminary in Kandy), a woman religious has been elected as the Chairperson of the Students' Council. She is Sr Asha Maria Jose, MSMI. The appointment of a woman as Chairperson is a very significant event in today's context. As the Church prepares itself for the great synod, where the opinions and the rights of women are taken seriously, JD is extremely happy to see a woman religious leading the Students' Council. We wish her all the best and resolve to work towards a holistic society, where women's dignity and rights are duly recognized without any gender discrimination.

Book release at the start of the academic year ..... by Fr Dolichan Kollareth, SJ

The "handing over" ceremony photo has the former Chairperson, Dn. Reagan Martins handing over files to the new Chairperson, Sr Asha.





## Papal Seminary

**Fr Doni Raja**

After an eventful two months of pastoral engagements and home-visit, the students of papal seminary (PS) returned to the 'home of love' with great enthusiasm and renewed energy on 30 May to begin the new academic year 2023-2024. We began the year with a five-day retreat preached to the students of philosophy and theology separately. The retreat provided an anchoring experience for the seminarians to dispose themselves to enter into the academic year with commitment and focus.



Fr Jagdish, the National Director of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN), was at PS for two days and he spent an evening with the seminarians introducing to them the genesis and evolution of PWPN and encouraged them to meaningfully participate in this mission.

We had an orientation day wherein Fr Bhausheb, the Rector received all the newcomers and introduced to them the history of PS starting from Sri Lanka and shifting to Pune, and explained the day-to-day living in Papal Seminary. The old-timers and new-comers spent together a fun-filled evening with ice-breaking games organized and conducted by the young staff members of the community.



The administrative team has been deeply involved in repair and renovation works on a war footing. Thanks to them that the Papal Seminary has got a face-lift and it shines in sandalwood and azure shades. To create an ecology of fraternity and conviviality, sports events were organized between new-comers and old-timers. The Freshers' Day was celebrated with lots of joy and jubilation. The freshers enthralled us with their entertaining performances. The old-timers, in their inimitable way, filled the evening with lots of parodying fun.

The different language academies had their inaugural day with Eucharistic celebrations in their mother tongue and formally commenced their annual literary programs. The 'home of love' is gifted with a lot of talented seminarians in sports and cultural arts. We believe that we will have a healthy and joyful sail this academic year.

The Papal Seminary Community gratefully acknowledges the generous help and contribution of our benefactors and assure them our continued journey with them through our everyday prayers. Kindly do keep Papal Seminary in your prayers.



## Vidyajyoti

Fr Nirmalraj

### And the baton is passed on...

Fr P R John, SJ handed over the principalship of the Vidyajyoti Institute of Religious Studies, Delhi to Fr Rajkumar Joseph, SJ on 13 June 2023. The event was marked by the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Stanislaus D' Souza, SJ, the POSA, following which a felicitation ceremony was held. In his address, the POSA thanked Fr P R John highlighting a few of his achievements and unique contributions to the College. Congratulating



the new principal, he also conveyed the best wishes and extended his support in all future endeavours. Fr Valan C Antony, SJ reminisced the achievements of Fr John and wished him well in his engagement at Georgetown University, Washington DC as a Visiting Faculty and Jesuit Chair till December 2023 and a few months of sabbatical till June 2024 at Jesuitenkolleg, Innsbruck.

### Comprehensive Exam

Thirty-five third year students of Vidyajyoti College successfully completed their comprehensive exams after months of intellectual work, group discussions and personal studies while battling the heatwaves and humidity in Delhi. The exams were held from 19 to 24 June, 2023. It was an enriching theological experience for both the students and the staff, covering sixteen theses in multidimensional context. Fr Shantha Raj, SJ of Anekal, JFCT, Bengaluru and Fr Francis Minj, SJ of Tarunoday, JFCT, Ranchi joined the VJ faculty in the examining board.



## Adieu to Fr Milianus Beck...

Fr Milianus Beck, SJ, a scripture scholar and professor at Vidyajyoti College retired after a fruitful twenty-six years of service from 1997 to 2023. Mili, as he was fondly called, was a dedicated teacher and good mentor to the students, a wonderful companion to the staff and fellow priests, and an affectionate pastor to the Adivasi community that gathers as choti kalesia in VJ. Not many know that Mili's doctorate is titled 'An Eye For An Eye, A Tooth For A Tooth,' a fascinating and mind-blowing study! If ever anyone likes to be enlightened, get a copy (free of charge, of course) and read it. The VJ community gratefully remembers the formative knowledge passed on to generations of students and colleagues through his dedicated service. We bid him adieu and wish him the best in his new role as Professor Emeritus at Tarunoday, JFCT, Ranchi.

The POSA appointed Fr Anil D'Almeida as Director of Distance Education Program in Theology at Vidyajyoti and Fr James Kulvi as Librarian of Vidyajyoti. Both are additional responsibilities given to them.

