



KS » January 2024 » Vol 97 » No. 01

## PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

**W**e have begun the New Year 2024 with great energy after a very fruitful Province Sammelan at the end of December 2023. The purpose of the Province Sammelan was to foster our union and to discern about how to be relevant in our mission in the present times. We are a young Province of 319 members, with 218 priests, 1 Brother, 86 scholastics and 14 novices. We have 89 young priests (ordained approved scholastics). We have 16 Jesuit communities and our average age in the province is 42.

The Province Sammelan with the keynote address, the State of the Province Report, the SWOC analysis of the various commissions, the panel discussion by lay partners and the spiritual conversations have yielded much fruit. It has helped strengthen the province internally by building bonds, brought more clarity and freshness to the province; focused on the overall growth of the province to remain relevant, professional, more systematic in achieving the vision and mission of the province, and helped discuss the future direction of the province.

Biologists talk about DNA, the genetic material in the cells of living organisms. What is the DNA of the Jesuits of Karnataka Province? First, a commitment to excellence in everything we do: Magis, depth and discernment. Second, a spirit of addressing the context in collaboration, an eagerness to work together with other groups. Third, a commitment to diversity and creating opportunities for our option groups. These three elements are the cornerstones of Karnataka Province's strength.

We are in challenging times faced by the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, the collapse of democratic institutions and a greater urban-rural divide with increasing communalization, crony capitalism, and marginalization creating divisions in the State and in the country. We are also faced by the challenges of the National Education Policy and experience the ill-effects of the devastation done to the environment. We need to combat these like warriors with a greater focus on our UAPs, PAPs and the DSS. What will help us combat these challenges is our deep and personal attachment to Jesus and his mission, being friends in the Lord, having greater love for the poor and the excluded, and discerning love.



- DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ



## APPOINTED BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Francis Noronha: Sabbatical, Ashirvad, Bengaluru

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### January 2024

03-04: Blessing and Inauguration of Loyola PU College, Vijayapura

05-06: Visitation: Loyola Sadan, Kalaburagi

07-09: Visitation: Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

11-12: Visitation: SRN, Pandithahalli

14: Funeral of Br Benedict Rosario: FRH, M'luru

17-18: Programme: General Chapter- Sisters of St Charles Borromeo: Bengaluru

20: Province Consult: LM, Bengaluru

21: Final Vows: MSJ, Bengaluru

23: Jesuit PhD Scholars' Colloquium: St Joseph's University, Bengaluru

24-25: Visitation: SAC, Harihar

26-27: Regents' Meet: SRN, Pandithahalli

28-31: Visitation: Jnana Jyothi, Anekal

### February 2024

04: Young Priests' Meet

06-08: Visiting New Priests

10-11: Province Consult (Budgets): LM (Bengaluru)

15-16: Visitation: Loyola Mandir (Bengaluru)

18-24: JCSA (Kerala)

20-26: Visiting Fr Sanji Yamaoka, Japan Province

27-29: Approval of Budgets of the missions

## THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks to the Prep-Com of the Province Sammelan (PS) 2023 - **Frs Prashanth W D'Souza** ©, **Anthony Joseph, Joseph D'Souza, Ronald Pais** and **Sch Pruthvi Rodrigues** – for wonderfully organising such a memorable event.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Request for Prayers:** While the seven first year novices are in a thirty-day retreat, since 07 January, the five second year novices are in their mission experiment. Let us keep our novices and Fr John Pradeep, the novice director in our prayers.

**January 21:** Final vows of **Frs Anthony Lawrence, Cyril Castelino, Maxim Dias and Pratap Chandru** at MSJ, Bengaluru. The Holy Eucharist will be at 11 AM.

**January 23-24:** Jesuit PhD Scholars' Colloquium: St Joseph's University, Bengaluru.

**February 24-25:** Spiritual Directors' Colloquium: Prerana, Bengaluru.

**January 26-27:** Regents' Meet: SRN, Pandithahalli

**February 03-04:** Young Priests' Meet, Jesuit Nivas, Bengaluru

### Province Retreats on *De Statu Societatis Iesu*:

**April 12-20, 2024, Place:** Dhyanaashrama, MSJ, Bengaluru, **Preacher:** Fr Michael Pavulraj, SJ (MDU).

**May 20-28, 2024, Place:** Prerana, MSJ, Bengaluru, **Preacher:** Fr Stanislaus Alla, SJ (AND).

**July 2-10, 2024, Place:** Xavier Sadan, Mysuru, **Preacher:** Fr Frederick D'Silva, SJ.

**Intercontinental online course on the theme "Towards a Constitutively Synodal Church":** This course, supported by various Episcopal Conferences and by the Unions of Superiors General (both male and female Congregations) will take place in March 2024 and will be free. You will find all useful information following the link: <https://t.ly/ehoPw>



## POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWPN): JANUARY 2024

**For the gift of diversity in the Church:** We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



## Karnataka Province Sammelan 2023



The Karnataka Jesuits gathered for the Karnataka Province Sammelan from 28-30 December 2023



at Mount St Joseph, Bengaluru with the theme "Synodal Journey with Christ towards Reconciliation and Justice." Over two hundred Karnataka Jesuits participated in the meet. Fr Melvil Pereira SJ (KHM) and Fr Joseph Xavier SJ (MDU) were the observers for the Sammelan. Fr Gabriel Kharluni (KHM) represented the Kohima Region.

Dr Brinelle D'Souza, a professor at Tata Institute, Mumbai and a human rights activist gave an in-

spirational keynote address on the first day. Reflecting on the current situation in the country, she presented a course of action based on synodality. Her scholarly presentation coupled with her deep experience of working for the marginalized, set the tone for the Sammelan. In the afternoon, the Provincial, Fr Dionysius Vaz presented the state of the province. He placed before the province, the statistics in terms of number of Jesuits, the finances, the institutions and the projections for the future. On the second day we had the SWOC analysis reports of the six major commissions of the province followed by a panel discussion with the civil society activists Mr Clifton D'Rozario, Ms Brinda Adige and Dr Jerome Nirmalraj on



strengthening lay collaboration. Their appreciation for Jesuit education, their deep respect for the Jesuits who shaped their commitment and their advice for the future of lay collaboration in our province formed the basis of our spiritual conversation. The last day of the Sammelan was set aside for "charting out a road map for the future" and the interventions of the observers and various province commissions. The provincial, in his concluding remarks, highlighted the key insights of the Sammelan.



The movement of the Spirit was palpable in the carefully prepared liturgies, prayers before each session, the examen, spiritual conversations, group discussions and in the interventions following the presentation of reports. The prayer service for the departed members of the province reminded us of our fellow Jesuits who have gone before us and are now praying for us. The presence of the younger members moving freely



with the seniors, and the diversity and the camaraderie in the group were unmistakable signs of our Jesuit vocation and our desire to give our lives to Christ in service. The Sammelan was truly

a Kairos moment as the evaluation affirmed it to be.

- Fr Roshan Castelino

## CONFERENCE ON APOSTOLIC PLANNING, ROME (DECEMBER 5-8, 2023)

In the heart of Rome, at the Conference on Apostolic Planning for Renewal and Transformation from December 5 to 8, I experienced a *kairos* moment.

The Aula of Curia hosted 120 participants, including women collaborators and 18 delegates from JCSA. Each day began with prayer, followed by talks providing a holistic framework for strategic planning, and culminating in a thanksgiving Eucharist. The emphasis was on conversion and the overarching renewal of the Society at every level. The talks underscored the importance of creating a culture of

Spirit and cultivating a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit. "Apostolic planning cannot only look at what we do; it must drink at the source of who we are. We are not only human-doers but human beings." He underscored the importance of reconnecting with the rhythms of life and mission, integral to our growth as Jesuits. In his insightful presentation, he delved into five types of conversion: shifting away from sectorial work, embracing movement and agility, connecting with the Holy Spirit, fostering interpersonal conversion, and embracing a newfound commitment to planning itself.

A moment of personal joy enveloped me as Fr General acknowledged JESCOL, the flagship programme of the Karnataka province. The conference facilitated the sharing of best practices and challenges in implementing preferences. Reuniting with three of my friends from Berkeley brought me great joy. Our Jesuit companions from the province in Rome, devoted to their studies, welcomed me with warmth and generous gestures, making me feel at home. They graciously guided me through Ignatian sites, weaving captivating stories supported by credible facts. As I left, lingering questions echoed: "What can we not achieve if only we work together? How do we re-imagine a renewed province and Society?" May our hearts pulsate with the Society of Jesus as we move with renewed agility in our mission of reconciliation and justice.

- Fr Ronald Pais



planning and discernment, urging us to attune to the Holy Spirit's rhythm and radical newness.

On the second day, Fr General stressed that apostolic planning and preferences are fountains of hope and pathways to transformation. "Discernment is intrinsically a part of the apostolic planning process," he declared, highlighting the priority of listening to the Holy

## Meeting of Religious and Lay DoWs at FRH, Mangaluru

Twenty-two religious and lay directors of works (DOWs) of Karnataka Jesuit Province met for a two-day deliberation at Fatima Retreat House, Mangaluru on December 16-17. On the first day, Fr Dionysius Vaz SJ, the Provincial dealt on the theme, 'Building mission driven teams'. He said that it was important to align our work with the ultimate purpose of Jesuit education, namely forming men and women for and with others. On the second day, Fr Joseph D'Mello, the Socius to the Provincial spoke on *De Statu Societatis Iesu*. He highlighted the need for conversion in the area of collaboration. Fr Provincial also took a session on conflict management. The DOWs had time to meet in groups for



spiritual conversations and discuss and deliberate on various issues pertaining to their work.

In his final address, Fr Dion motivated the team to always keep Jesuit ideals in mind while performing their duty. "God calls us to collaborate

in creating the world. Creation is not a one-time event, but creation is continually happening. God calls us to be co-creators, to labour with Him in building the world," he said. He also underlined that lay collaborators are equal partners. "Hence you must be motivated to do the task and you must be qualified and competent to do the task," he added. He further called upon the DOWs to understand what Jesuit education is all about. "Education in Jesuit institutions should not be simply a matter of imparting information and skill. It has to take note of the dimension of developing

potentialities inherent in each student, instilling values and principles which will create in them a sharp social consciousness, sense of social justice and above all a true outlook and culture of solidarity and service," he said.

Earlier on the first day, the DOWs visited Jesuit institutions such as AIMIT Beerri, Aloysian Student Home, Nehru Nagar, and St Aloysius College. SAC community hosted them dinner where they had occasion to mingle with Jesuits.

- Fr Melwyn S Pinto

## KJES YOUTH WORKS (PCYM)



A large group of youth took part in the strategic sessions conducted by 'Youth for Democracy' in 11 esteemed institutions of Mangalore-Udupi districts. AICUF Karnataka organised a Christmas programme for the children of Government Tamil School. In the first module of youth leadership programme, conducted by

KJES Youth Works at SJIM, there were 41 students from 17 Jesuit colleges participating. Igniters Youth Group organized a session named 'An Evening with the Youth' in which 22 youth participated.

- Fr Joel Fernandes

## ARRUPE NIVAS



The inauguration of the MCA programme in early December – the 22nd PG programme at SJU - had Mr Rajesh Rao (Founder, Dhruva Interactive Pvt Ltd) as the chief guest. The Department of Computer Science conducted a three-day Placement and Career Drive with guidance from industry experts. The students also attended a programme "Maker Lab on Wheel" on campus offered by Infosys Springboard. The School of Social Work received seven Social Work students from the University of North Carolina for a week-long student exchange programme. The School of Social Work also responded to the floods in Chennai by coordinating relief efforts. Several of our students spent their holidays offering their services to the flood affected persons. Bembala, our outreach centre, was the recipient of a certificate of appreciation from the Government of Karnataka for the programme organized in collaboration with its Department of Health on World Aids Day.

On the occasion of the 103rd Alumni Get-Together on the campus, Mr David Pichamuthu (Batch of 1951-1954) was felicitated, being the oldest alumnus in the Association. The SJU campus was quiet for much of December thanks to the end semester examinations. However, the preparations for Christmas were visible all over the campus. The staff Christmas celebrations were held with much joy and enthusiasm. Fr Victor Lobo, our Vice Chancellor, was invited by the United Nations - Principle of Responsible Management Education (UN-PRME) and the University of Dubai to attend COP-28. He also addressed several gatherings and explored the possibility of collaboration. Arrupe Nivas Jesuits organized a Christmas programme for the slum children of our neighborhood. Around 200 children from the impoverished sections of society participated in the programme.

- Fr Roshan Castelino

## ASHA KIRAN



Fr Ronald Pais attended the conference in Rome on apostolic planning and discernment. A few of the AK Scholastics happily assisted Fr Anthony Derrick in organizing the Magis Programme at Aloysian Students' Home, Nehrunagar, and a few others attended a course at St Aloysius ITI on electricity and plumbing. We also had an insightful, introductory course on Artificial In-

telligence by experts from St Aloysius College. Our other rewarding experiences were: rendering of Christmas carols in Hindi at Fatima Retreat House, attending an insightful seminar on prayer given by Fr Joseph Rodrigues, and a transformative triduum guided by Fr Edward Philip. In the brief vacation between semesters, while the Karnataka and Patna scholastics

attended their respective province gatherings, the rest of the scholastics ventured into mission sta-

tions in North Karnataka.

- Sch Anson Alex

## FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE



A half day programme (including a talk, Adoration, Confessions and Mass) was given by Fr Frederick D'Silva to senior lay persons, on December 22, as part of preparation for Christmas. Frs Joseph Monteiro, Joseph Rodrigues, Anil D'Mello and Ivan Sequeira directed retreats to groups or individuals. Fr Joseph Rodrigues conducted sessions on methods of prayer for scholastics in Asha Kiran. We were happy to host the meeting (December 16-17) of lay (non-Jesuit) Directors of Works in the Province.

An open and free "CAROL FEST" was held on December 17 evening – which included carol-singing in English, Konkani, Kannada, Hindi & Malayalam, sung by three groups: Fr Walter Albuquerque Choir, One Voice Youth Choir & Asha Kiran Scholastics' Choir. We had Christmas celebrations with the inmates of Mother Teresa Home

on December 19 and with all our staff on December 23. The community prepared for Christmas with a talk by Fr Frederick D'Silva followed with confessions. On December 24 eve, the festal Christmas Mass was at 5 p.m. in Konkani with Fr Abraham D'Souza SVD presiding, and at 7.30 p.m. in English with Fr Frederick D'Silva presiding. The community celebrated Christmas with carols in the evening with Fr Rossi Rego as tenor and Fr Ozzie Mascarenhas as the bass. The rest of us filled in for soprano and alto. The spirits were high; so were the tones of some of us.

On 31 Dec, with gratitude we bade adieu to 2023 and ushered in 2024 with an Adoration and Mass in Konkani celebrated by Fr Chethan Lobo OFM (Cap), and an Adoration & Mass in English by Fr John Sequeira OCD.

- Fr Thomas Quadras

## INIGO SADAN



The community had a recollection and a penitential service in spiritual preparation for Christmas. We paid a visit to an orphanage and entertained the children with various programmes and activities. Members of the community went round singing carols in the neighborhood. We had a "Benefactors' Day" to thank our donors and well-wishers for the services they have been rendering to our institutions.

On December 14, St Joseph's Indian Primary and High Schools jointly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the relocation of the Institution to its current location (Newfields) and recalled the glorious moments of the golden history of SJHS & SJIMS. We are planning to mark this significant milestone with a marathon on January 28 for a social cause, under the slogan "Golden Jubilee Unity Run." The students of the Primary School had a variety of games and competitions to mark the Christmas celebration, whereas the Catholic students had a day's recollection followed by the Holy Eucharist to prepare for the great Feast.

The NCC cadets of SJHS organized an AIDS awareness rally on December 6, marching through key streets, distributing pamphlets, and engaging with the public and educating them about HIV/AIDS. The Aloka Vision Programme, in collaboration with Lion's Club Bangalore, con-

ducted an eye screening camp at the school, screening 1050 children and emphasizing early detection and intervention. Thirty-six students and three staff members spent three days in Bijapur, interacting with Loyola school children and the slum residents. The Members of the NCC, PTA and Alumni paid a visit to a senior citizens' home, while the Interact Club members visited an orphanage, and interacted with the inmates.

Dr A Subramanyeshwara Rao, IPS was the chief guest at the SJICPUC Annual Day on December 2. On December 8 and 9, a group of 30 (27 students + 3 staff) visited Bijapur as part of a twinning programme, and had first-hand experience of Jesuit-led social work for the less privileged. It is hoped that the ripple effects of such an experience will leave a lasting impression on everyone involved.

An eye check-up for the students of St Joseph's School CBSE was organized with the help of Carl Zeiss India Pvt Ltd. Students of Classes 6 and 7 visited Vishwa Vidyapeeth School for Ganitha Mela, showcasing innovative ways of learning math through art and craft. Christmas celebrations at the school had Dr Robert Christopher (Chairman, Chris Group of Companies) as the special guest. Christmas festivities included a programme for younger children on December

22 in the quadrangle, with Mr Elisha Andrews as the chief guest; and the staff Christmas celebration was on December 23 with the theme

## JESUIT NIVAS



SJBHS has received, from Education Today, the distinction as one of India's top 'Dynamic Schools 2023.' Air Commodore Rohith Vijayadev VM (Alumnus, Batch of 1991) was the chief guest at the Valedictory Ceremony of Stds X & XII. Mr Francis Joseph (Alumnus, Batch of 2006) gave a talk on Self Driving Cars. Wing Cmdr Samit Eldulkar (Alumnus, Batch of 2001) motivated our students with an inspiring presentation. The Air Force 'Motivation Bus', camped in the school premises, enthused the students with a desire to join the armed forces. Students of Stds X & XII made a trip to the



villages in Anekal and Manvi as a part of their Twinning and Outreach Programme. A few students participated in the Youth Leadership Programme organised by the Karnataka Jesuit Youth Works. 'Secret Santa' took on a whole new meaning as the 'Gift of Warmth' initiative motivated students to collect blankets to be gifted to the poor and the needy.

SJCL organized 'Udbhava' on the theme of globalization as a part of the fest "Innolaunch" - product launch. The College arranged a friendly basketball match between the SJPU (boys) and SJCL (boys). The alumni of the College conducted an orientation on moot court for the I Year students as well as for the III Year students of the 5-year integrated course. Sessions on examination and cross examination of witnesses, and on the basics of mooting were conducted by Senior Adv. Sreevatsa. A workshop on "writing a research paper" had Dr Avishek Chakraborty (Asst. Professor, Christ Deemed-to-be University) as the resource person. In association with Aweksha (an NGO), the NSS organised a blood donation camp in the college. The panel discussion on 'Climate Education and the COP28' had Mr Ajai Warrior (a delegate at COP28) and Ms Sunayana

of Jesus Christ as the model for all to become 'Vishwa Manava.'

- Sch Avin A

Ganguly (Asst Prof. at Azim Premji University) as the panellists. The campus ministry organised a visit to Kutumba, a home for destitute children, and distributed ration kits to the inmates as a part of the Christmas outreach initiative.

At SJCC, renowned speakers attended the TEDx2023 programme. The different departments of the College organized workshops and seminars on a variety of topics such as: a workshop on 'Research Methodology,' the screening and discussion of movie 'Perfect Blue,' a guest lecture on "History of Economics Thought," a workshop on "How to Crack OCS?," a workshop on "Entrepreneurial Insights," etc. The Serenata Chorale of the College conducted programmes like Peace Festival, Basel Mission, Magnificat, Christmas Choir Competition and Noel. Kannada Rajyotsava was celebrated with due grandeur. The Harmony Club of the College visited St. Patrick's Boys' Home (Orphanage) and shared their Christmas joy with the less privileged. AICUF, in collaboration with Campus Ministry, had Christmas celebrations for students.

The AICUF Unit of SJPU embraced the festive spirit as they lived through a week-long celebration. Among the outreach programmes conducted in December the following stand out: Spread-a-Smile initiative of serving cooked meals to the needy; Christmas Charity Drive, a day-long celebration organized by students in collaboration with the Fashion Team; donation to Care & Shelter (home for the destitute) from the contributions made by staff and students; providing of rations and toiletries by 30 students to Shishu Bhavan and entertaining the children with Christmas cheer; a visit to St Jude's Church by students and staff to support 86 refugee children from Manipur and to gift them with groceries and toiletries and to engage in friendly interactions. The Staff Enrichment Programme organised by the KPAP Committee featured sessions on gratitude and work culture, by Fr Jose Manjackal and Fr Brian Pereira. In collaboration with the Bangalore School of Design and Technology, the College organized a career-focused workshop. The health

camp for the staff, organized by the management with the collaboration of Basket Options, Sparsh Specialty Hospital and Star Health Insurance, featured health checkups followed by a question-answer session. The staff programme 'Adventio: Prepare Ye the Way' included a poignant Christmas Musical and a delectable fellowship meal.

### JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal



Immersed in studying for the exams and simultaneously preparing for Christmas, the scholastics at JFCT did not find the month of December a "cake walk" by any means. An effective spiritual preparation for Christmas was occasioned by an insightful recollection talk by Fr Edwin Rodrigues (BOM). We took part, as a community, in carol-singing with our neighbours and a get-together with the village folk, and thus spread the Christmas joy on the theme 'Christmas Sahamila.' It was both a humbling and a gratifying experience for us when people of other faiths, visiting St Joseph's Church on Christmas day evening, sought and received our blessings.

Among the many programmes CIRW organized in order to spread the message of harmony and peace was an inter-religious dialogue in which nearly 175 persons - comprising CIRW staff, SHG leaders, and tailoring students - participated. The resource persons on the occasion

### LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE



Preparing for Christmas and getting ready for their term exam kept the Pre-Novices busy in the month of December. The crib, this time, was set up in a part of the garden for a change. In the Christmas get-together we had with our neighbours, the pre-novices sang a few Kannada carols and our domestics (Margaret and Geetha) shared the kuswar they had prepared. For the

### LOYOLA SADAN, Kalaburagi



One of the milestones of the Loyola Sadan journey was an excursion. The first ever educational tour, organized by St Xavier's English Medium School, took our students (of Classes 4 to 7) on an instructive and enjoyable excursion to Hyderabad.

Harmony was the theme of the 14th College Annual Day (on December 9) of St Xavier's PU College. At the College Annual Day of St Xavier's College, the chief guest was Dr Ambadas

### MANVI



Fr Jeevan Prabhu from Dharwad paid us a short visit in the context of writing the history of the mission. Fr Lancy Fernandes, Principal of Loyola School, Sindagi, addressed our 10th Std

St Joseph's Evening PU College buzzed with enthusiastic students showcasing their athletic prowess on Sports Day. The College Annual Day highlighted the diverse talents within the student body. Additionally, a thoughtful initiative took the form of a medical camp, prioritizing the students' well-being.

- Fr Joel Fernandes

were Dr K Venkatesh, Mrs Tabasumara, and Fr Alphonse Fernandes. The Centre also observed Mahaparinirvan Divas on December 6 in memory of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. The staff of CIRW along with the study centre facilitators and SHG representatives made a three-day visit to Vijayapura for an exposure to the initiatives of the Centre for Non-Formal Education (CNFE).

Students of the PU Section of St Joseph's Boys' High school spent a day, meeting and interacting with the workers of brick factories in the villages surrounding Anekal. A stress management session was conducted for the students of Bala Jyothi Boys' Hostel with professional help from the medical staff of St John's Medical College. The tailoring centre at Soppahalli village concluded its six-month course with a simple valedictory ceremony.

- Sch Noel Dias

celebration of the feast as such, the pre-novices went to their homes to be with their families. On January 2, we had the community celebration of Christmas during which we greeted, with dhoom dhaam, our rector Fr Melwin Joseph Pinto as he celebrated his 60th birthday.

- Fr Peter Pinto

Kamble (Department of Commercial Tax in Gulbarga), and the guest of honour was Mr Manilal P Shah (Chartered Accountant).

Various competitions marked the celebration of Christmas at St Xavier's PU College, with the Department of Commerce bagging the overall championship. The Christmas crib, designed in the shape of Noah's Ark, was the creative handiwork of St Xavier's Hostel students.

- Fr Roshan Pinto

students on study methods. Our guests from overseas were: Anna and Victor Hofmann from Germany on a four day visit, and Mrs Rosemary from England also on a four-day visit.



The Bellary diocesan CRI meeting, held in our Arrupe Hall, had 56 participants including nine Jesuits and a SDB priest. On this occasion, Fr Don Prem Lobo gave a video talk on "Where is the star taking us?" Fr Leo Pereira was in charge of the whole programme.

The final results of Loyola Degree College have been heartening: BA and B.Com 100% each, and B.Sc 96.96%, thanks to the hard efforts of Fr Vinod Paul and his team. The College conducted 'Loyola Vaibhava 2k23', a talent contest for degree students. 27 PUC students from SJBHS, Bengaluru, accompanied by four staff, had a two-day visit to our campus. Fr Vishal D'Souza joined the group on the second day. We had our Christmas celebration with our religious collaborators numbering 14. Xavier school organized 'Xplore', a Science and Arts

exhibition under the inspiration of Fr Wilson Bennis.

About 50 children of Pannur Parish ('Balaswamy's'), accompanied by Fr Rayappa went on a pilgrimage to Jawalgera parish on foot, a little over 30 kms, in preparation for Christmas. All the staff members of Loyola Institutions – teaching and non-teaching - had a Christmas get-together on December 23 at LKS Pannur. At noon on Christmas day, the Jesuits had a Christmas Friend function along with our five Sister collaborators and our two kitchen staff. Also, all the construction workers of the girls' hostel, numbering about 35, had a Christmas get-together with gift and meal. Fr Vinod Paul and the College staff were the hosts.

- Fr Maxim Rasquinha

## MOUNT ST JOSEPH



The spirit of community fellowship marked all the programmes and activities planned for Christmas and the New Year: visits to neighbouring religious houses for carol-singing, spending some quality time at the AiR Home for the destitute (Bannerghatta), a visit to the Hostel for Working Girls (Chikkakamanahalli). The Christmas get-together for the staff of Loyola Institutions was held in the Aula.

The novices, embarking on the season of Advent, experienced a lot of spiritual energy in the Ashram experiment they had at Vidyavanam Ashram (Boothanahalli). They showcased their creativity in decorating the house and presenting an attractive crib as a Christmas gift to the Karnataka Province Sammelan. They also displayed their creativity through singing of Christmas carols at the Bannerghatta Zone CRI Christmas gathering hosted by Aradhana Convent. To share their Christmas joy, the novices visited Kadabams (a centre for the mentally challenged) and a few neighbouring orphanages. The talk by Ms Kamala (Sch Royal's mother) inspired the novices to cultivate a deeper love for the daily Eucharist and their vocation. The novices enthralled the domestic

staff of MSJ with creative games on the occasion of Christmas. Fr James Gonsalves, recovering from the cataract surgery he had earlier in the month, shared with them the message and meaning of Christmas. Fr Nithin Machado, the Socius, took the First-year novices through a study of the annotations of the Spiritual Exercises and prepared them for the Month retreat.

The mini sabbatical programme (November–December 2023), successfully launched by Prerana, attracted not only religious sisters, but also Jesuits. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (at Kalena Agrahara) had a good number of parishioners joining in the preparation for Christmas and organizing many activities.

"Ignatium," the closing ceremony of the Annual Athletic Meet of Loyola Institutions, had Sri U.T. Khader (alumnus of St Aloysius High School, Mangaluru, and currently the Hon'ble Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly) as the chief guest. He felt very much at home with the Jesuits and was happy to meet his teacher, Fr John Baptist Mendonca.

- Fr Clarence D'Souza

## MUNDGOD



The 42nd Anniversary of Loyola Institutions and the Decennial Year of Loyola Kendriya Vidyalaya were jointly celebrated, with Mr Madhu Bangarappa (an alumnus of SJHS, Bengaluru, and currently the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Govt of Karnataka) as the chief guest, and Fr Anthony Joseph (Rector of Mount St Joseph) as the president. The Annual Magazine Loyolite was released during the

event. Class X students of LKV went on an educational tour to Udupi-Mangaluru prior to their pre-board exams. Fr Leo Florence gave an apt message at LKV on the occasion of Christmas.

Dr Yallappa (an alumnus) was the chief guest at the hostel day celebration of Loyola Children's Home. In addition to constructing a crib and conducting a prayer service, our hostel

students took part in the Christmas programme organized by St Rita's Parish, Mundgod.

Our social work staff put in much hard work towards successful planning and organizing the Constitution Day. The students of St Aloysius College, Mangaluru, spent a few days in the villages of Mundgod to experience the joys and hardships of rural life. Our hostel children

joined the Christmas celebration organised by the Christian Union of Mundgod as well as in the parish celebrations in LVK. LVK was also the venue for the combined Christmas get-together of all the staff of all the Loyola institutions. Following the Christmas festivities we, as a Jesuit community, went to Biccodu on a picnic.

- Fr Leo Florence

## NAVASADHANA



The pre-novices were busy in the whole of December – first with studying for their exams and then with preparing for Christmas. Apart from adorning the house with festive decorations, they went visiting and carol-singing in families in the neighbourhood as planned by St Joseph's PU College. The vibrant celebrations of Christmas festivities at Navasadhana were followed by a few days of holidays during

which the pre-novices went on a home visit. On return to base, their focus swiftly shifted to academic diligence and preparation for the upcoming exams. Fr Melvin Lobo, Superior of Mundgod Mission, visited us to assist the second-year pre-novices and get them ready for the four-sheet exam.

- Sch Darshan Kumar

## ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



The Twelfth Annual Day of St Aloysius Gonzaga School (under the theme: "Samanvay – Bridging Cultures") was celebrated with splendour on three days. On this occasion toppers and achievers of 2022-23, in academics and sports, were felicitated.

Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) organized a workshop (December 19-20) on Invention and Innovation, in collaboration with the Department of School Education & Literacy and DIET. As many as 19 schools in and around Dakshina Kannada participated in this workshop. The School celebrated Christmas on December 23 with traditional carols, Santa Claus and dance. The staff too had a short programme on the occasion which included carol singing, exchange of wishes and gifts. The students were encouraged to participate in the 'Joy of Giving' campaign by donating items like stationery and household utilities. Things thus collected

were sent to our Jesuit institutions in Mundgod. Saatwik Nayak Sujir (IX C) has won 5 golds, 3 silvers and 1 bronze in the swimming competition organized under the aegis of the Swimming Federation of India. Declared the Individual Champion of his age group for outstanding performance, he has been selected to represent Karnataka State in 8 events in the upcoming South Zone Championship in Bengaluru. The Social Science Week organized by the School, with a variety of activities nurturing creativity and critical thinking, had for its theme: "Walk to the World of Wonders."

Fr John D'Souza has been elected Regional Secretary of SKIP for Andhra and Karnataka Regions. The repair work of the roof of the Jesuit Residence (above the High School) is in progress though the unexpected rain stalled it for a few hours.

- Fr Leo D'Souza

## SWAMI RAJENDRA NILAYA, Pandithahalli



We had Christmas celebrations on December 22, with our staff and students and with invitees from among government officials, well-wishers, and a few parents; then, on Christmas day, with our staff and their families. In his welcome speech, Fr Anthony Pradeep thanked the staff for their dedicated service and for the

support of their family members. Fr Steevan Gonsalves delivered the Christmas message on this occasion. The play areas for LKG and UKG children are nearing completion and will soon be ready. Xavier Sadan community joined us in the celebration of Christmas.

- Sch Shaun D'Silva

## XAVIER SADAN, Mysuru



An animation programme for the Superior General of the MEP Sisters and her team was conducted by Fr Arockiasamy. He guided the retreat of a few sisters and a scholastic. At present he is in Gurpur, Mangaluru, leading the Bethany Tertians through a 30-day Manresa Experience. Fr Edward Philip directed a retreat for Salesian pre-novices. He was in Navasadhana, Hassan, for the screening of prospective novices. 15 Novices and postulants from three congregations attended a course on Spirituality of Advent by Fr Frederick D'Silva. He also gave a talk on 'Laudate Deum' to the Religious at FRH Mangaluru, a half-day Christmas recollection to Senior laity there, points for a penitential service to the Jesuit community of FRH, a course for Jesuit tertians in DNC, Pune, Christmas Recollection to the Clergy and Christmas

message to the Religious of Shivamogga. In the midst of all these commitments, he found time to make his own annual retreat, and to cap it all up, he celebrated the Christmas Mass and delivered an inspiring homily to some 2000 people at FRH, Mangaluru.

We had a meaningful Christmas celebration with the domestics and other support staff from the neighbouring religious communities. There were around 70 participants including sisters and postulants. We, as a community, went to Pandithahalli on Christmas day to have a joyful evening of celebration with the Jesuits there. Fr Ronald Pais, our Christmas Friend, joined us and enhanced our joy.

- Fr Edward Philip D

## DHYAN ASHRAM, Kolkata



The annual play on "Jeremiah: The Perils of Being a Prophet" was an occasion for the Juniors to hone their histrionic skills and to foresee the challenges they may have to face as they prepare to become prophets like Jeremiah. The play was staged to appreciative audiences, first in Dhyan Ashram and later in the convent of the Little sisters of the Poor. We profited a great deal from the course on Eco Spirituality led by

Fr Robert Athickal, SJ (PAT). While on their mission experiment in different stations, the Juniors shared the joy of Christmas with simple people. On New Year's day, we gathered together as one community of Dhyan Ashram to celebrate the joy of Christmas and New Year with a Thanksgiving Mass followed by a get-together.

- Sch Vivek D'Souza

## DE NOBILI COLLEGE, Pune



After our gruelling mid-semester exams, we began our Christmas preparations - crib, carols, and other decorations. The main crib at

DNC, which drew attention to the harsh reality of Manipur unrest and prompted solidarity with our brethren from Manipur, was a standout in the whole JD campus. We had our Provincial Visitation at this time, which indeed was a moment of grace for us Karnatakans. Soon after the Christmas celebrations, the would-be deacons left for their diaconate retreat to Nashik, Philosophers (3 Karnatakans among them) went to Loyola Pashan for their annual retreat, and the remainder had their triduum of renovation preached by Fr Jerry Rosario (MDU).

- Sch Maria Divij

## SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai



The vibrant preparations for Christmas at SN included appropriate recollection sessions. On December 11, our department of Philosophy organized the World Philosophy Day at Loyola College inviting participants from the departments of philosophy from all the city colleges of Chennai. The day resonated with enlightening presentations and engaging discussions

on the theme "Signs and Symbols: Riddles of Reality."

The festive celebration at SN included a captivating skit presented during the CRI gathering at which the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore was present. We extended the joyous celebrations beyond the confines of Satya Nilayam by

reaching out to and entertaining our brothers and sisters with carols and camaraderie at Karunai Illam (a home for the dying destitute cared by the M.C. Brothers), Asha Niketan (a house for mentally and physically challenged) and Stella Maris College (a renowned college in Chennai). The Christmas celebrations with the slum children of the neighbourhood were greatly appreciated by the children and their

parents alike.

The month ended on an intellectual note with a three-day programme focusing on IPP and NEP, conducted by Fr John Kennedy and Fr Tony Raj. Our community outing to VGP Golden Beach included lots of fun activities which strengthened our bonds.

- Sch Anu Vimal Raj

## VIDYA JYOTI, Delhi

Following the mid-semester examinations, students of theology embarked on a cultural tour of North India. The 4-day tour led them through Amritsar, Kullu, Manali, and Shimla. In early December, VJ held a Bala Mela for the children from our diverse ministry locations. The event was inaugurated by Ms Netta D'Souza (President, All India Mahila Congress), and had more than 350 children and 60 volunteers participating. On December 9, the VJ Jesuits came together to celebrate Community Day under the theme 'Together Towards Tomorrow.'

A good many Jesuits took part in the Mass celebrated on the feast of Christ the King, organized by Delhi Archdiocese at St Columbus School, followed by a procession through the city.

Ministry groups of scholastics organized Christmas programmes in their respective places. The pre-diaconate retreat at Burari (December 27 - January 4) was a transformative experience to the aspirant deacons.

- Sch Joswin Pereira

## VIDYANIKETAN, Thiruvananthapuram

Nearly 300 guests were in attendance at the celebration of the feast of St Francis Xavier in the College. We had the opportunity of visiting

ISRO, Thumba, and attending the annual day celebrations of Loyola ICSE and CBSE Schools at Sreekariyam. On the eve of Christmas, we had a small gathering with the college community. The Juniors participated in Christmas vigil masses in nearby parishes. Fr TV Antony attended the Province Sammelan at MSJ, Bengaluru. We had our community days 'Fluxus-23' from 26 to 29 of December under the dynamic leadership of Schs Jeevan Santhosh and Jefrin (CEN).

- Sch Lloyd Lobo



## VINAYALAYA, Mumbai

Mr Neil D'Souza conducted an insightful course, covering the basics in graphic design, video, websites, and blogs. It was followed by a workshop on films and media, conducted by the XIC team from St Xavier's College, Mumbai. On December 16, we attended the ordination of four Jesuits of Bombay Province. Christmas octave brought us a lot of joy as we received

many guests and visited neighbouring communities. We had our renovation triduum, guided by Fr Tony J D'Souza (BOM) at Premanjali, Vasai, during which we thanked God for the blessings we received in 2023 and prepared ourselves for the renewal of vows. Fr Royston Madtha paid a flying visit to our community.

- Sch Fean Almeida

### OURS IN PUBLICATION

**Fr Joseph Lobo, SJ**, "Re-telling the Story of Jesus in our Context in the Spirit of Synodality", THIRD MILLENNIUM, Vol XXVI, No 3, 2023, pp. 78-89.

**Sch Elson Lobo, SJ**, "Through the labyrinth of disconcerting spiritual conversation", IGNIS, 2023/3, pp. 44-56.



**Sch Steve Gibson Rodrigues, SJ**, "Will the Cries of innocent raise a Messiah," Indian Currents, December 18-24, 2023, p. 19.

**Fr Richard Mascarenhas, SJ**, "Signs of Growth" The MAGNET, Vol 08, Issue 01, January 2024, p. 29.

**Sch Anvil Mascarenhas, SJ**, "What will I do for Mary's babe?" JIVAN, November - December 2023, p. 08.

**Sch Denver A Pushpam, SJ**, "The Secret to Keeping our New Year Resolutions", JIVAN, January 2024, pp. 13.

## REST IN PEACE

**Br Benedict Rosario, SJ, (KAR), 76/59, on 13 January, in Mangaluru.**

**Fr George Hilarion Thakur, SJ, (PAT), 68/48, on 16 December, in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.**

**Fr Vijay Kumar Ekka, SJ, (MAP), 61/40 on 30 December, in Ambikapur. Chhattisgarh.**

**Fr Jose Panadan, SJ, (GUJ), 54/33, on 13 January, in Ahmedabad.**

**Fr Leo Florent Tirkey, SJ, (MAP), 82/61, on 13 January, in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh.**

**Mr Vincent Rasquinha, 80, nephew of Fr Maxim Rasquinha, on 18 December, in Vitla.**

**Mr Lawrence Lobo, 80, father of Fr Melvin Lobo, on 01 January, in Virajpet.**

**Mr Lawrence D'Souza, 79, brother of Fr Raymond D'Souza, (KHM), on 03 January, in Mangaluru.**

**Sr Mary Vincenza AC, 93, maternal aunt of Fr Dionysius Vaz, on 14 January in Mangaluru.**



## BRO. BENEDICT ROSARIO (2 January 1948 – 13 January 2024)



We have come together in this Church of Divine Mercy at Fatima Retreat House to bid farewell to our dear departed Bro Benedict Rosario who passed to the Lord yesterday morning at Santhrup-ti, Jesuit Residence. Our sorrow and pain notwith-

standing, we firmly believe in the reality that our dear Bro. Benedict is in the hands of God our Father. We do grieve, but as people with hope.

Born at Ferar, Mangaluru on January 2, 1948, Bro Benedict celebrated his 75th birth anniversary a few days ago. Having joined the Society of Jesus on his 17th birthday, Benna (as we fondly called him) lived 59 years of his life as a committed Jesuit fulfilling a wide variety of ministries in different houses both in and out of the Province. The following list of assignments is a pointer to the multiple talents he possessed

and the solid trust his superiors reposed in him: St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru; St Joseph's Seminary, Mangaluru; Mount St. Joseph, Bengaluru; St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru; St Joseph's Industrial School, Ooty; Loyola Industrial Training Institute, Bengaluru; Vidyajyothi, Delhi; Jesuit House, Guwahati; Loyola Industrial Training Institute, Vijayapura; Loyola Higher Primary School, Bengaluru; St Joseph's Higher Primary School, Hassan; and Fatima Retreat House, Mangaluru, his last since 2019.

Remarkable in Bro Benedict was the assiduity with which he carried out the task assigned to him, be it as infirmarian or house minister or teacher or instructor. With joyful willingness he accepted, and with unwavering obedience he carried out, his administrative roles as Principal or Director of Technical Institutes, or as Administrator, Treasurer, Finance Officer of Jesuit Houses. He could shoulder these responsibilities thanks to the training he had received in the years of his formation: Fitter's Course at St Joseph's Technical Institute, Pune;

Theology at De Nobili College, Pune; Teartian-ship at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur; and Technical Instructor's Course at Ooty, to name a few.

As a Jesuit who loved his Mother Dear the Society, he was looking forward to celebrating the diamond jubilee of his religious life later this year. Nine years ago, while celebrating his Golden Jubilee as a Jesuit, he received a congratulatory letter from the then Jesuit General Fr. Adolfo Nicolás. An extract from the letter is self explanatory: "... I can well imagine the memories and joys that must be surging in your heart today as your many friends and I join you in thanking God for the countless moments of grace that have come together to make up a half century of Jesuit commitment... With a shade of sadness ... I note that you have now the distinction of being the only Brother in the Karnataka Province..... I commend the whole Society and myself to your prayers and sacrifices...."

Writing in the column "Down Memory Lane" of the Karnataka Province Newsletter, Bro. Benna recalled the event of his final commitment in the Society in these words: "Some of my relatives were present to witness my final commitment in the Society on 15 August 1980, along with Fr Ravi Santosh Kamath, in St Joseph's Seminary, Mangaluru. Later, in 2015, ... the Golden Jubilee celebration of my entrance into the Society ... was a time to thank God for all He had done for me and through me, and to plead with Him for grace and strength to continue to work for His greater glory and for the good of His people....."

The unexpected and untimely departure of Br Benna has caused much pain and sadness to his close relatives, his former students, his

friends and his fellow-Jesuits. For Benna himself, however, there is no more pain or sadness. From now on, we will remember him as one of our own who has been raised by God to fullness of life and who, together with the saints, will be interceding for us that one day we too might live in full union with the Risen Lord.

Those of us who have had the opportunity of knowing Bro. Benna from close quarters can never forget the warmth of his friendship, his affable dealings with all, his docility and availability for mission, and his diligence as a Jesuit. Deep down in his heart he had a soft corner for the poor and the needy, particularly his students in the technical schools and the domestics in our houses, to whom he quietly extended his loving support.

Two years ago, Bro Benna suffered a stroke which severely hampered the mobility of his limbs on the left side. He who had gladly accepted the role of an infirmarian to the senior Jesuits at Fatima Retreat House now became an ailing Jesuit himself. Amidst these impediments he continued to render whatever service he was able to, while, in the meantime, he made every possible effort – diet, physical therapy, massage, regular exercise, etc – to regain his mobility. The tardy progress attained by all these means was a challenge to the hope he had cherished of giving and not counting the cost, of fighting and not heeding the wounds, of toiling and seeking for no reward. He continued to assist at the daily Mass for the senior Jesuits in the residence chapel knowing well that the Risen Lord who had given him a share in His suffering in this life would surely admit him to the glory of His resurrection.

Adieu, Br Benna, till we meet again.

- Fr Joseph Rodrigues

### Dubrovnik Airport Named after a Jesuit

*Dubrovnik Airport in Croatia was renamed Ruđer Bošković Airport on 2 November, after one of the most significant Jesuit scientists. Ruđer Bošković (1711-1787), who was also known as Rogerius Boscovicius and Roger Boscovich, was born in Dubrovnik and gained fame as one of the most influential physicists and mathematicians of his era. Bošković entered the novitiate in Rome and then worked mainly as a professor and researcher in Italy and France. He also wrote poems and worked for the diplomatic service of the Republic of Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik is a well-known tourist spot. Dubrovnik Airport has been active since 1936 and is Croatia's third major terminal, with 2.3 million passengers in 2022. The Society of Jesus has been active in Dubrovnik since its beginnings, with Nicola Bobadilla serving there for a few years from 1558. Boscovich received his education from the Dubrovnik Jesuit College, which began operating in 1658. (<http://surl.li/pjxjv>)*

