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KARUNĀḌA SAURABHA
KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

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KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

We begin the Jubilee Year under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." The Holy Year began officially with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis on 24 December before the Christmas Eve Mass.

In May 2024, Pope Francis introduced the Jubilee Year 2025 with the Papal Bull *Spes Non Confundit* (translated as "Hope does not disappoint"), inspired by Romans 5:5. In the Bull, the Holy Father underlined that the coming Jubilee will "be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God" and prayed that it may help us "to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation" (SNC No. 25).

We began the New Year 2025 and we are grateful to God for the gift of 'Time'. Margaret Silf in her book, *Inner Compass*, defines Time as "the duration between God's desires for me and my fulfilling it." It is not important how long we live but how fruitful we live in love and service, the deepest call of a human person.

Two of the great stalwarts of our province, Fr Devadatta Kamath and Fr Richard Sequeira, went to their eternal abode recently after completing 90 years of age. They contributed much to the history of the province and its archives. They were in true sense "men of *magis*". They were linguists, philosophers and historians who valued effort over outcome, shunned the limelight and accolades but relished intellectual rigour. They had a polite word for everyone and yet sharp in their critique when called for, threw no tantrums and didn't bruise the weakest reed or quench a flickering candle. It is their invincible spirit that will long endure in the province.



- FR DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ

APPROVED BY FR GENERAL

Fr Dolichan Kollarath SJ (KER) is appointed as the President of Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

January 2025

02-03: Visitation: SRN, (Pandithahalli)
04: Meeting of KRRCR Executive
06-07: Visitation: Loyola Sadan (Kalaburagi)
08-10: Visitation: De Nobili College (Pune)
16-18: Visit of South Zone Provincials: (Bengaluru)
19: Final Vows: Jesuit Nivas (Bengaluru)
20: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)
21: SJ PhD Colloquium: SJU, Bengaluru
24: Talk to UFS Chapter (Hubli)
25-26: Regents' Meet: Hassan

30: Blessing of St Joseph's Boys Hostel

February 2025

03-06: Visitation: Jnana Jyothi (Anekal)
08-09: Province Consult (Budgets): LM (Bengaluru)
10-14: Course on Religious Leadership – Sri Lanka
16-22: JCSA (Chennai)
23-28: Visit of Fr John Dardis to the Province
25-27: Visitation: MSJ Novitiate (Bengaluru)
28: Blessing of Joseph Nivas, Hassan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

21 January 2025: Jesuit PhD Scholars' Colloquium: St Joseph's University, Bengaluru

25-26 January 2025: Regents' Meet: Hassan

30 January 2025: Blessing of St Joseph's Boys Hostel (Bengaluru)

07-09 February 2025: RRSJSA Actual Process: Prerana, Bengaluru

15-17 February 2025: RRSJSA Actual Process: FRH, Mangaluru

28 February 2025: Blessing of Joseph Nivas (Hassan)

16 May 2025: Province Jubilee Celebration at Mt St Joseph, Bengaluru

Sch Daran Cardoza left the Society on 09 December, 2024

Sch Sohan Jessal Fernandes left the Society on 19 December, 2024

We wish them God's abundant blessings as they begin a new phase in their lives.

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWPN): JANUARY 2025

For the right to an education: let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



AICUF, Karnataka

As part of the AICUF centenary initiatives, the second State Convention of AICUF Karnataka was held on December 14, 2024, at St Aloysius University, Mangaluru. This significant gathering brought together over 350 young members of AICUF, primarily from the Coastal region, under the theme "Marching Together in Reconciliation and Peace."

The convention celebrated AICUF's centenary with a renewed focus on inspiring youth leadership and fostering democratic and social values. The keynote address by Dr Manoj Luis highlighted the crucial role of youth as nation-builders. At the same time, Fr Melwin Joseph Pinto provided

insightful perspectives on peace and reconciliation. The day included valuable sharing sessions by experienced AICUF members, moving testimonies, thought-provoking group discussions, uplifting action songs, and engaging spot games, creating a dynamic and inspiring experience for all participants. The event was meticulously planned and executed by AICUF and the Student Council under the visionary leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Dr Praveen Martis. This landmark event united participants and deepened their commitment to AICUF's mission of promoting justice, fostering reconciliation, and cultivating peace within society.

- Fr Maxim Dias

Workshop on the Archives in Jesuit History



The Xavier Centre of Historical Research (XCHR), Goa, in collaboration with the *Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu* (ARSI), Rome, organized a workshop (December 14-15) titled “*The Archives in Jesuit History*.” The event took place at the Xavier Retreat House, Baga, Goa. Representatives from various Jesuit provinces participated, including Fr Royston Pinto and Ms Alphonsa Ngoruh from the Karnataka Province.

The workshop featured the presentation of papers by renowned Jesuit archivists from India and abroad. Chief among them were: Rev. Dr Rinald Souza (Director of XCHR), Dr Dale Luis Menezes (formerly a researcher at Georgetown University), Fr Agnelo Mascarenhas (Provincial of Pune), Rev. Dr Festo Mkenda & Rev. Dr Raul

Gonzalez Bernardi (Academic & Administrative Directors respectively of ARSI), Rev. Dr Robert Danieluk (Pontifical Institute of Historical Studies in Warsaw) and Schol. Anthony Noronha. The Workshop proved to be an enriching and transformative experience for all participants.

Fr Royston Pinto and Ms Alphonsa Ngoruh presented an overview of the Archives of the Karnataka Jesuit Province. Their efforts were lauded by Rev. Dr Festo Mkenda and Rev. Dr Raúl González Bernardi. After the workshop, Fr Royston and Ms Alphonsa visited a few historical landmarks in Goa, and also witnessed the exposition of the Relic of St Francis Xavier.

- Fr Royston Pinto

ARRUPE NIVAS, Bengaluru



A delegation from SJU faculty recently visited Loyola Degree College on Bannerghatta Road to discuss the initiatives regarding infrastructure development for SJU’S new campus at Mount St Joseph. Fr Victor Lobo, Vice-Chancellor, was a speaker at the Education Summit organised by the Economic Times. Fr Victor and Deputy Registrar Dr Syed Wajeed attended the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education. The Alumni/ae Association of SJC/SJU had its 104th Annual

Get-Together. The University hosted “Emmanuel-24,” a Christmas program for staff and students. Also, the AICUF of SJU hosted “Christmas Unfolded,” an intra-university celebration.

The Provincial’s annual visitation was an occasion for us, the members of the community, to renew our spirits for continued dedication to the mission entrusted to us. As part of Christmas preparation, we visited the Senior Citizens’ Home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Caroling in the neighbourhood of Arrupe Nivas elevated our Christmas spirit. We organized a Get-Together for the superannuated staff at which many of the retired staff and co-workers of the University reminisced about the happy moments of their service in the institution.

- Fr Aravind Royce

ASHA KIRAN, Mangaluru



We began the month of December with a session of sharing and reflection on our mission experiences of a few weeks following the semester exams. Our cultural tour to Mysore, Madikeri, and other places of interest helped us get better acquainted with the rich cultural heritage of this region.

Back at the University, some of our Scholastics played a vital role in organizing and animating the AICUF State Convention. We also organized a Mass, followed by a simple cultural programme,

for a group of migrant labourers. As Christmas approached, our Scholastics joined the FRH community to organize a festive program for orphan children. We also spread joy and cheer through carol singing in our neighbouring families and nearby religious communities. We had a friendly cricket match on Christmas Day followed by a tridium of renovation guided by Fr Pradeep RS at Rishivana. The month culminated in a pilgrimage to Goa, a perfect blend of faith, fun, and fellowship.

- Sch Anson Alex

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Mangaluru



Our Christmas celebrations were vibrant and inclusive. We shared our Christmas joy with different groups, beginning with the Zonal-level CRI, the doctors and nurses who provide medical care for our senior Jesuits, our collaborators and their families, close family members of Jesuits, choir members and volunteers. The well-attended Christmas eucharistic celebrations, in Konkani and English, had Frs Walter Mendonca, SVD (Mulki), Kenneth Crasta (St Joseph's Engg College, Vamanjoor) and Ronald Pais (Asha Kiran)

as chief celebrants. The New Year celebrations had Frs Anush D'Cunha and Leo Lasrado for the Konkani and English Masses respectively. Fr Ajay D'Silva attended a course in Dindigul on "Healing the Inner Child." He gave an inspiring talk to the Bethany Provincial team on "Pilgrims of Hope." Fr George Cordeiro (BOM) was here guiding the retreat of the Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus. Our senior Jesuits contribute their share in providing spiritual ministry.

- Fr Edward Rodrigues

HOMBELAKU, Manvi



December was a month of celebrations at Pannur-Manvi Mission. The alumni meet held by Loyola PU College on December 1 had 95 alumni participating. St Xavier School held a simple but meaningful celebration of the feast of St. Francis Xavier. During the lunch arranged on the occasion, Fr Maxim Rasquinha shared a few words of reflection. Fr Dr Melwyn D'Cunha and Sch Kanchan Minj (HAZ) were our guests on the occasion. Loyola School organized "Eureka," a Science Craft Exhibition on December 6. The CRI of Bellary had a recollection (December 8) at Arrupe Hall, attended by nearly 80 religious including Jesuits, Capuchins and Sisters. The event included confessions, Eucharist, Christmas celebrations, and a festive lunch. Nearly 60 PU students from St Joseph's PU College Bengaluru, accompanied by Fr Ashwin Cordeiro and a few staff members, participated in a two-day village exposure programme at Pannur-Manvi Mission.

Hospital) was the chief guest, and Fr Leo Pereira presided over the function. The construction workers of our hostel building were treated to a Christmas party with songs, games, and a sumptuous meal, organized by Fr Vinod Paul and his college team.

Fr Anthony Das conducted a two-day computer programming session for BCA students of Loyola Degree College. Xavier School Day was celebrated on December 19. Dr Harish Murthy (Suraksha

Loyola School celebrated its 20-year jubilee along with the Annual Day on December 21. The event featured felicitations, entertainment, and a nostalgic look back at the school's journey. Fr Maxim Rasquinha, one of the founding members of Loyola School, was felicitated along with Frs Jeevan Prabhu, John Crasta, and John Thomas. Frs Praveen Kumar, Cyril Raj and Avinash Lobo represented the community at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Loyola English Medium School at Vijayapura. Fr Vinod Paul organized a Christmas programme for all the teaching and non-teaching staff in which our Jesuit community participated. Bishop Henry D'Souza visited Pannur on December 27 and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 34 candidates.

- Fr Maxim Rasquinha

INIGO SADAN, Bengaluru



A pilgrimage to Goa, organized for the scholastics of our community, was a help in deepening their vocation. We celebrated Benefactors' Day to acknowledge the support we receive for our mission. Christmas became more meaningful to us thanks to our outreach programme to New Ark Mission Centre, Bengaluru, our carol singing in a few families in our neighbourhood, and a get-together of the children of Spandana Study Centre. We celebrated Christmas together with Loyola Mandir community. The scholastics are thankful to Fr Jerome D'Souza who took a few introductory classes for them on the Bible.

ing, Mr Madhu Bangarappa (Karnataka Minister for School Education), one of our distinguished alumni, shared a few cherished memories of his days at the school. During the high school alumni meeting, the members presented scholarships to 155 students. The members of the Interact Club and the NCC organized visits to an orphanage and a senior citizens' home and donated to them the funds they had raised. At the combined celebration of Christmas with the School's Annual Day, the school presented a captivating cultural programme and a Christmas tableau. The Pre-University College observed Human Rights Day, participated in the Gospel fest EL-SHADDAI held at Jyothi Nivas College, and celebrated the

festive spirit of Christmas with a series of competitions. Ms Geetha Prabhu (adm. Staff) was felicitated on this occasion on her completion of 25 years of dedicated service. A heartwarming



message was delivered by Fr Cyril Menezes at the staff celebration of Christmas.

The decennial celebration of St Joseph's CBSE School had Mr B. Shivaswamy (Jt Secretary to the CM, and MD of KMF) as the chief guest. The presence of several distinguished dignitaries and the participation of artists from various parts of India and Sweden added flair to the event.

- Fr Vishal Melroy Pinto

JESUIT NIVAS, Bengaluru



SJBHS has been awarded the 'Dynamic Schools 2024 Award' by Education Today. Many schools participated in the popular literary and cultural festival, PHENOMENON 2024. "Grameena Utsava" (a fest celebrating the rich cultural heritage of rural Karnataka) was inaugurated by Sri Ravi D Channannavar, IPS. 'Secret Santa' took on a whole new meaning as it motivated students to collect blankets to be given to the poor and the needy. Music, laughter and cheer filled the air as the school celebrated the joy of Christmas.

St Joseph's College of Law and the PUCL jointly organised *Nyayakkagi koogu* (A Cry for Justice), an event aimed at highlighting the rights of

prisoners and their families. Christmas Charity fest, organized by the AICUF, raised funds for the education of children of migrant labourers. AICUF and BIRDS jointly organized a Balamela for underprivileged children. The College arranged "Christmas with Women" in which 130 widows from Kothanur and KS Garden slums participated.

'VERVE,' the annual national-level business fest at St Joseph's Institute of Management, saw 1,100 participants from 45 institutions across India descending to SJIM. Fr Olvin Veigas gave a half-day workshop to the Dominican Sisters on "AI and its integration into daily life."

- Fr Olvin Veigas

JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal



We celebrated Christmas with our neighbours. Around 400 people of various faiths joined us to celebrate the joy of Supreme Love becoming human. It has strengthened our bond with the neighbours. St Joseph's School had its Annual Day on December 13. Dr Vasundhara Bhupathi (former President of Karnataka Book Academy) delivered an inspiring speech on the occasion. On the following day, St Joseph's PU College had its Annual Day. The chief guest was Dr Raj Gopal (HM of St Philomena School, Chandapura). The inter-religious celebration of Christmas organized by CIRW had some distinguished speakers: Shri Basavalong Murthy Swamiji, Fr Rojo Thomas and

Mr Mudasir Ahmed. The Lok Manch leaders were honoured during this programme, underscoring CIRW's commitment to fostering interfaith harmony and community development.

The parish choir of St. Joseph's Church bagged the second prize in carol singing during the Deanery level carol competition. Keeping up the tradition, nearly 3000 people of different faiths came to see the crib at the Church on Christmas Eve and received blessings from the Priests and Brothers.

- Sch Arun Lobo

LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE, Mangaluru



For the first two weeks or more of December, the pre-novices sweated it out through their term exams. Then they plunged into preparations for Christmas. This year, we did not invite our neighbours for a Christmas gathering at Loyola. Instead, the pre-novices went from house to house in our immediate neighbourhood distributing kuswar and singing carols. In the vocation camp we held at Loyola (Dec 26-28), the pre-novices were enthusiastically engaged both in preparing for the camp and assisting in conducting it. Fr

Joyson Vas, who celebrated the inaugural Mass, preached a stirring homily and shared the story of his vocation to the Society of Jesus. In all, there were 38 boys who took part in the camp, of whom 11 were of Class 10. Needless to say, the lion's share of the success of the camp goes to Fr Leston Lobo and Sch. Vivian planned it and, of course, conducted it with the support of Schs Lloyd and Santosh from Inigo Sadan, Frs Anthony Derrick and Vishwas Misquith from St Aloysius College, not to mention the quiet support of

Fr Peter's prayers. Fr Vishwas Misquith offered the concluding Mass. After the camp, the pre-novices

spent a few days on home visits before resuming their classes.
- Fr Peter Pinto

LOYOLA SADAN, Kalaburagi

Students of St Xavier's English Medium School – 60 of them from Classes 5 to 8 – had an educational tour (December 19-20) to Hampi, Belur, Halebidu, Chitradurga, Mysore, and Bengaluru. The rest of the school enjoyed a one-day picnic at Asian Fun World on December 21.

In view of upgrading the school to 9th and 10th Stds in the coming academic year, a committee led by Fr Robert Rodrigues has started meeting periodically to make plans for the infrastructure, departmental permissions, etc. Additionally, efforts are in progress to implement a photovoltaic system on campus to meet energy needs sustainably.

MAITRI SADHANA, Vijayapura

The highlight of the month was the Silver Jubilee of Loyola English Medium School on December 22. Among the array of distinguished guests on the occasion were: Shri U.T. Khader (Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly), Most Rev. Robert Miranda (Bishop of Gulbarga), Fr Dionysius Vaz (Jesuit Provincial), and important public figures of Vijayapura. The event witnessed the presence of approximately 4,500 attendees including parents, alumni, representatives of various religious congregations, and well-wishers.

Loyola School Sindagi celebrated Founder's Day to honour the memory of the late Fr Lawrence Pinto. The School's Annual Day had Mr Pa Gu Siddapur (Rajyotsava Awardee) as the chief guest. The Christmas Tableau enthralled the audience. Christmas festival became significant by an exchange of gifts with Christmas friends among the staff.

A meaningful inter-religious Christmas celebration was hosted by Sangama CIRD on December 23. Representatives from major religions addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of Christmas. The event also featured a gift-giving ceremony benefiting around 150 persons, including differently-abled groups, orphans, children of

MOUNT ST JOSEPH, Bengaluru

A series of inspiring activities marked our preparation for Christmas. These included a visit to AiR (Atman in Ravi, a humanitarian home) and interaction with the inmates; an outreach programme in Chikkakammanahalli where we put up a programme for working women and shared

The Annual Day of St Xavier's PU College on December 7 had distinguished persons as guests such as Mr Sharanabaveshwar B. Bajanthri (SP), Mr Mehaboob Saheb YJ (Professor) Smt. Hanumakka (Joint Director) and Mr Kiran George (President, D.I. of Nursing Science) graced the occasion. Fr John Thomas, Principal, led the staff picnic to Basavapattana. Christmas festivities at SXPUC infused a spirit of merriment, culminating in the grand celebration on December 21 which had Sr Vasantha Prathipati (Advocate) as the chief guest and Fr John Crasta as the guest of honour.

- Fr Roshan Pinto

single parents, widows, and Devadasi mothers.

Fr Josephvaz accompanied the Christabhaktas and parishioners on a day's pilgrimage to Goa. Nearly ten thousand people paid visits to St Anne's Church on Christmas Day. It is to the credit of the tireless efforts of the parishioners, Jesuit Fathers and Scholastics that the "pilgrims" received blessings on the occasion.

The programmes held during the month of December were: celebration of Human Rights Day with a youth training session by Fr Edward Philip for nearly 100 participants; the Chinnara Mela which brought together more than 700 children; a memorandum submitted by Devadasi women which was taken up for discussion in the winter session of the State Assembly in Belgaum. 25 students from our tailoring classes successfully completed their three-month course and received their certificates. We were privileged to have Fr Arun Luis visiting us for an evaluation of our social work initiatives. His insights and feedback have been instrumental in guiding our efforts toward achieving greater impact and better outcomes for the communities we serve.

- Fr Suman Balu

At the community level celebration, we joyfully shared gifts with our "Christmas friends".

The Novices prepared for Christmas with a vibrant spirit of anticipation. The decorations, crib and carols were a token of the inner joy of awaiting the Lord's birth in their hearts. Our novices were thrilled to participate in the carol singing competition organized by Holy Spirit School; they proudly secured first place and a cash prize of Rs 10,000! Two weeks before Christmas, we organized "Makkalotsava," a joyous programme for the children of our locality. Other events during the joyful season were: a visit to Cadabams, a centre for the differently-abled; attending the Christmas celebration of Zonal CRI (Bannerghatta unit) held at Christ Academy; and attending the unique Christmas celebration at Aradhana Academy with the transgender community.

Fr Joe Mathias directed a course on Personality Integration in Consecrated Life for a group of 75 Diploma students of the Indian Institute of Spirituality, Rajaji Nagar. Our Schs, Avin and Larren Menezes, conducted a quiz for the parish children on the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The Christmas programme for the catechism children was on Dec 15, and for the parish community on

Dec 22. We had almost 1200 faithful gathered for Christmas night mass in the parish church.

Fr Daniel Fernandes, Rector of Jesuit Nivas, presided over the combined celebration of Christmas and Annual Day on December 15 at Loyola Higher Primary School-Kannada Medium. The annual report, presented by Principal Mrs Getrude Jayamary, highlighted the school's outstanding achievements in academics and sports throughout the year. The cultural programme, with its value-based themes and meticulous choreography, had all 705 students participating and captivated the audience.

The Loyola ITI signed new MoUs: one with AR4-TECH for training in electric vehicles, solar systems, etc, and another with Sheya Foundation for EV Repairs, 4-Wheeler Driving, etc. A session on Corporate Etiquette and Mock Interviews, led by Ms. Mitali Kushwaha and the Deloitte team, prepared our students for professional environments. The Electric Vehicle Lab, with the collaboration of Sheya Foundation and Maahndras, was inaugurated on December 19. We celebrated Christmas with cultural performances and community outreach with gifts and cake distribution.

- Fr Clarence D'Souza

NAVASADHANA PRE-NOVITIATE, Hassan

The season of Advent began with a recollection led by Fr Yesunath Karlekar, setting the spiritual tone for the month. The highlight of the month was Navasadhana Day with the theme "ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಗಳಾಗಲು" (To Become the Witnesses of Christ's Love). Fr Vishal Pinto presided over the Eucharist. In preparation for the day, a series of competitions were organized to promote union and foster creativ-



ity among the pre-novices. The highlight of the day was the moving play on the "Servant of God, Pujya Rajendra Swami," directed by Sch Princen Michael. The Pre-novices skillfully balanced their study for internal exams with preparations for Navasadhana Day and Christmas. After months of earnest efforts, they enjoyed a short but well-deserved Christmas holiday.

- Sch Princen Michael

SADHANA, Mundgod

The highlight of our Christmas celebration was the tableau presented by the staff. Other items of celebration included singing of carols, a fellowship meal and the exchange of gifts. At the ecumenical celebration of Christmas, Fr Vijayaraju gave an inspiring message that touched the hearts of all present.

LVK-Hangal organized a workshop for students and their parents on Children's Rights. A good number of women took part in the skill training

programmes held in two clusters. The two-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (facilitated by Ms Ashwini) met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the participants.

Under the scheme of our Sustainable Development initiative, we extended educational support to 170 children. The project entailed conducting a workshop for parents of children-with-disabilities to equip them with means and methods of supporting their children's growth. The day-long

session was led by Adv. Fr Jerald D'Souza, and was followed by a half-day training, conducted by a local advocate, for a representative group of religious of Haveri Deanery. The month culminated in a grand Christmas celebration for the staff and hostel students, graced by the presence of Fr Melvin Lobo.

The much-awaited event on Social Security for Tribal and Marginalized Communities ('ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಲಾ ಮೇಳ-2024', with the theme, "ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಯತ್ತ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ತಳ ಸಮುದಾಯಗಳು"), planned and executed by the LVK staff, was inaugurated by Miss K.V. Kavyaraani (ACP of Sirsi Division). Over 700 participants from surrounding villages gathered together to engage in panel discussions with government officials, addressing crucial social issues. Students from St Aloysius College, Mangaluru, spent five days living in the villages of Mundgod, gaining firsthand knowledge of the joys and challenges of rural life. Our hostel children took part in the Christmas festivities organized by the Christian Union of Mundgod. In the month of December, we organized a few community events like health camps, workshops on responsible parenthood, AA meetings, and a skill training session.

Loyola Kendriya Vidyalaya had Fr Dionysius Vaz, our Provincial, as the chief guest at its Annual Day on December 21. Fr Sujay Daniel conducted a motivational session for the Class X students to prepare them for their upcoming board exams. Eight of our high school students participated in the AURUM – STEM Programme organized by SJBHS, Bengaluru.

Loyola Children's Home celebrated the Hostel

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru

The 'Joy of Giving', a programme organized by St Aloysius Gonzaga School in collaboration with Loyola institutions in Mundgod, was an initiative that encouraged students to respond generously to the specific needs of Mundgod. The school celebrated Christmas in a festive spirit, beginning with the Holy Mass for Catholic students, followed by a cultural programme highlighting the message of love, peace, and unity. The Annual Day celebrations (December 18,19 & 20) had "Ekata – One World, One Future" as its theme. Among the esteemed dignitaries who graced the occasion were: Mr Mullai Muhilan, IAS (Deputy Commissioner), Mr Anupam Agrawal, IPS (Commissioner of Police) and Ms Hera Pinto

Day, with Fr Jerald D'Souza as the chief guest. Fr Leo Florence delivered a Christmas message that touched the hearts of all present. The spirit of Christmas was further enhanced by the Staff Christmas Gathering during which gifts were exchanged, spreading love and goodwill in the LCH family.

The memorial service, held on December 16 for the Late Fr Lawrence Pinto, helped us recall the great contribution the visionary had made to the education of the poor in our region. Inspired by his legacy, our schoolchildren generously contributed their pocket money as a token of their support for the education of underprivileged children.

Loyola Composite PU College celebrated its 20th Anniversary on December 4. The event was graced by the presence of Rev. Dr Praveen Martis SJ (Vice Chancellor of St Aloysius Deemed-to-be University) as the chief guest. Fr Johnson Pinto



(who had served the institution for more than 20 years) and Fr Bartholome were also honoured on this occasion. The Christmas celebration included a student-led play depicting the birth of Jesus. Delivering the Christmas message, Fr Leo Florence added to the festive celebration by emphasizing the spirit of love and sharing.

- Fr Melvin Lobo



(a renowned event planner).

The month of December was an eventful time for St Aloysius Deemed-to-be University. Commander Libin Johnson (Commanding Officer, 5 KAR Naval Unit NCC, Mangaluru) visited the University for the annual inspection of the NCC Navy Sub-unit. A group of 80 (71 students and 9 faculty) embarked on a five-day international exposure programme to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Final Year B.Sc. students (42 students accompanied by 2 faculty members) went on a study tour to Nirma University, Ahmedabad. The following events were held at the University: Human Rights Day, a Blood Donation Camp, International

Conferences on Advanced IT-Engineering-and-Management, Emerging Trends in Insurance and Investment, and workshops on a wide variety of subjects and skills, including a Theatre Workshop under the auspices of Ranga Adhyayana Kendra. Delegates from the University of Olivet, USA visited our university. The 145th annual athletic meet was held on December 19 engaging a good number of students in games and sports competitions. A group of our students (from the departments of MSc-Food Science, and MSc-Nutrition & Dietetics) went to Mundgod for a rural immersion programme.

Other programmes held at the University are: a multi lingual kavigoshti as part of the celebration of Christmas, an impactful street play staged by our NCC Naval Unit at the Mangalore Railway Station and Rajaji Park premises on the occasion of Indian Navy Day, a guest talk on energy conservation, and participation in the Kargil Vijay Diwas celebration organized by the NCC Army Wing.

SWAMY RAJENDRA NILAYA, Pandithahalli

At the Sports Day at SJS, held on December 13-14, the chief guest was Mr Anoop Sridhar (an Olympiad and an alumnus of SJBHS). The event was particularly memorable as the Class of 1977 from SJBHS played a key role in organizing it. In addition to sponsoring meals and medals, they were physically present on both days, sharing in the joy of the children. Beyond organizing the Sports Day, the Class of 1977 has proved to be a benefactor of the school by promoting sports culture, providing medical care, enhancing reading skills through an upgraded library, and supporting

VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad

We began the month of December with a pilgrimage to Goa for the exposition of the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier. In mid-December we organized a Guru Vandana programme to honour our teachers from the colleges in which our scholastics pursue their studies. Our Christmas celebration included a few pleasant activities: Carol singing in a few religious communities in Hubli and Dharwad, a get-together with our friends and benefactors, visits to the neighbouring Catholic families, and a joyful community get-together with exchange of gifts.

Sch Robert represented Karnataka University in the dance competition held at Christ University, and has been selected for the national-level competition. Six scholastics travelled to Belgaum on December 29 to take part in the inauguration

Our Centre for Environmental Concern (CEC), in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and the Karnataka Forest Department, organized a beach cleanup drive at Tannirbhavi Beach.

The University held a felicitation programme to congratulate Sri Kanyana Sadashiva Shetty - our alumnus and currently a notable industrialist - on his being awarded the Karnataka Rajyothsava Award 2024. A Bus shelter near the University Entrance Gate on Light House Hill Road – newly constructed by the University – is a boon to many of our staff and students who commute by public transport. Our NSS Volunteers took part in an Awareness Programme, organised by Ramakshatriya Seva Sangha, Mangaluru, on Substance Abuse. As many as 58 students of various departments of communication visited IIIT Hyderabad on their industrial tour. We celebrated Christmas on December 23 with all our staff.

- Fr Melwyn Anil Lobo

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martial arts programmes.

The campus was lively with Christmas celebrations, with separate events for students, staff, and collaborators. The annual visitation of Fr Provincial (January 2-3) truly enlivened the campus as he engaged not only with the Jesuit community but also with all campus stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, and collaborators. We are happy to inform you that the campus now benefits from having a direct access to the newly widened 50-foot road.

- Fr Anthony Pradeep

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of the Jubilee Year, while others were engaged in conducting the Balamela organized in Dharwad by the Salesian Fathers. Fr Joyson Vas, in the midst of his youth programmes, found time to organize *Christanjali*, a deanery-level carol singing competition. The Family Day, celebrated by VN scholastics with the cooperation of the youth, strengthened the bonds of unity within and between families. Fr Pratap Chandru, PCF, visited Satya Nilayam, Chennai, to meet the Karnataka scholastics, and later attended the Jubilee celebration of Loyola School, Bijapur. Fr Francis D'Almeida attended the AIACHE Conference at XIM University, Bhubaneswar, where he was felicitated on his appointment as a Member of the Task Force of the Karnataka State Education Policy.

- Sch Little Merinth Aamose A

XAVIER SADAN, Mandya

We, as a community, together with Fr Anthony Joseph, visited Karunalaya Home for the destitute in Nanjangud (run by Sisters of St Charles Borromeo), and celebrated Christmas with the inmates, gifting new clothes to each. We also distributed toiletries and groceries to the mentally challenged boys and girls of Maria Seva Sangh (run by JMJ Sisters) in Dornalli.

Fr Edward Philip attended the Jesuit Psychologists and Counsellors Meet in Patna. He also gave a session to the Unorganized Youth in Vijayapura and conducted a two-day programme for the Siddi parents in Mundgod on Responsible Parenting. He was actively involved in organising the Diocesan level Jubilee 2025 Inaugural Ceremony. He also gave the Christmas message and



addressed the parents in Kudluru and Gundlupete, CSST and Ursuline schools respectively. Frs Steevan Gonsalves and Edward went around to the nearby convents and parishes for recollections, confessions and masses.

Frs Jason Furtado, Harry Terry and Praveen Martis were with us on Christmas eve and went to the parishes to celebrate Christmas vigil masses. Fr Arokiasamy gave a one-month Ignatian Retreat to the Diocesan seminarians in Dibrugarh. He also spent a few days visiting the Kohima Region. Fr Freddie D'Silva gave the DSS triduum to the scholastics in Dhyanaashrama. Frs Arokiasamy and Steevan are currently busy directing a one-month retreat and an eight-day retreat respectively.
- Fr Steevan Gonsalves

XAVIER TRAINING COLLEGE, Belagavi

Twelve of us novices, including Shawn D'Souza and Sanjan Babu of our Province, had our long retreat lasting through the whole month of November. It was indeed an experience of encountering Christ, deepening our faith and committing ourselves to Him. The retreat was guided by our Novice Director, Fr Francis Fernandes (BOM), to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude. We thank Fr John Fernandes (GOA) who worked behind the screen to cater to our material needs during the month of silence.

After the long retreat, we had a five-day course



(Dec 9-13) by Fr Francis Fernandes (KAR) on the Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises. Our second-year novices - Adarsh and Gevin - had their mission experiment in MPSM, Nasik and Srirampur respectively, followed by the pilgrimage/begging experiment which they undertook on foot from Belgaum to old Goa. We first year novices, accompanied by our novice master, joined the second years at Bom Jesu on December 20 for the veneration of the relics. We felt truly blessed to get an opportunity to witness this once-in-ten-years event and the great devotion of millions of pilgrims.
- Nov Sanjan Babu

SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai

December was filled with activities in preparation for the joy of Christmas. Fr Pratap Chandru, our PCF, came to SN on December 7 for his annual visit. In the annual drama at SN, held on December 13, many of us played an active role, with Sch Sujay Paul taking the lead character. The play titled "The Book of the Mormon" was directed by Sch Rudolf D'Souza. We celebrated Christmas with our support staff on December 23, and had our community get-together on Christmas day. The community outing to "Queens Land" two days later was a time of fun and companionship. Having taken active part in the celebration of



Christmas in our ministry places, including one with the MC Brothers and their inmates, we bid adieu to the year 2024 with grateful hearts.

- Sch Arun Raj

VIDYAJYOTI, Delhi

December, the winter month, witnessed many activities in VJ, beginning with Balmela at St Xavier's School Campus on December 8, under the leadership of Fr Anil D'Almeida and Scholastics. We had a special Christmas celebration with the Rickshaw Pullers and our support staff. The



scholastics visited MC sisters' houses in different locations of Delhi for carol-singing and spent time with inmates. Sch Pruthvi Ryanal Rodrigues presented a paper on the theme, "Missio Dei to Gen Alpha and Beta: A Younger Generation Defying Gender Norms", in the VJ-JD seminar held

in the DNC, Pune campus on December 6. POSA and CISF visited VJ College and Community, listening and guiding us from December 14-17. Towards the end of the exam week, we celebrated Christmas in VJ College on December 21, and every class presented a cultural item. The

third-year Theology students had a meaningful diaconate retreat in Burari from December 27th to January 4th. We thank Sch Noel Dias for serving the VJ community as a beadle for the past four months.

- Sch Pruthvi Rodrigues

VIDYANIKETAN, Thiruvananthapuram 

Alongside our academic pursuits, we participated in Loyola CBSE School's annual day celebration and enjoyed a friendly football match with the diocesan brothers of Thiruvananthapuram. A CRI Christmas gathering was held at St Martha's, where our Brothers rendered multilingual carols for members of various religious communities. After our second-term exams, we participated in the Christmas Vigil Mass. The month ended with three days of community bonding under the theme UBUNTU ('I am because we are') which strengthened our companionship through a variety of activities. The New Year began with a



Triduum preached by Fr Xavier Tharamel (KER). We have begun the New Year with renewed enthusiasm and vigour.

- Sch Anthony Jackson

INNSBRUCK, Austria 

In August, I participated in two significant meetings in Switzerland: one for planning the establishment of the Integral Ecology Research Network (IERN) at Campion Hall, Oxford, and the other for discussing environment challenges and justice issues at the Post-Conference Summit of Emerging Jesuit Scholars in Environmental Justice. I found this year exceptionally productive academically since I could dedicate much of my time to writing and successfully publishing research articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Union (AGU) in Washington, D.C., a gathering of scientists with others - around 31,000 in number. At the conference, I presented my research



findings and engaged in enriching discussions with peers from around the globe.

In November and December, I had the privilege of visiting several Jesuit universities in the United States. These visits provided opportunities to interact with faculty and Jesuits, and explore potential collaborative research projects. A highlight of my trip to the US was my presence and participation in the Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical

Returning to Innsbruck for Christmas was truly special, as it was a picturesque white Christmas this year. On December 19, I delivered an online interreligious talk on the Christian perspective of protecting the earth. I thank God for the year 2024 which has been for me a year of growth, collaboration and impactful engagements.

- Fr Lumnesh Kumar

GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY, Rome 

The Community of Bellarmino has a new Rector in Fr Fulgence Ratsimbazaty from the province of Madagascar. The community welcomed him and bid farewell to Fr Joao Renato Eidt the former rector on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Fr General was present for the handing over. We celebrated Christmas as a community on the 18th, during which the different conferences had some presentations for us all. We were also for-

tunate to serve in the parishes for Christmas for two or three days. The Bellarmino community celebrated the final vows of three of our brothers. After the joyful celebration of Christmas, we are back again at our desks, preparing for the exams coming towards the end of this month. Fr Anthony's proposal for the doctorate has been accepted by the Gregorian University.

- Fr Anthony D'Souza

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OURS IN PUBLICATION

Fr Bala Kiran Kumar Hrudayaraj, "Grassroots Activism and Representational Politics as Integral to Evangelization: A Christian Response," *Asian Horizon*, Vol. 18, No 3 (September 2024): pp. 481-501.

Fr Bala Kiran Kumar Hrudayaraj, "Exploring Social Justice Beyond Distributive Justice: The Reclamation of Its Participative Dimension" *Hekima Review*, No.69, (December 2024): pp. 110-130.

Fr Joseph Lobo, "He Holds the Cosmic and the Historical Together: Christological Foundations of a Response to the Current Ecological Crisis", *Jnana Deepa: Pune Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 28/3, (Sept-Dec, 2024), pp. 32-52.

Fr Lancy Monteiro, Demise of Religion Spell demise of a Civilization? *VJTR* 89, (2025), pp. 46-69.

Fr Nithin Monteiro, "Reducing Emotion to Mere 'Information': A Phenomenological Critique of a Partial Understanding of Emotion in Affective Computing." In *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity: Critical Reflections on the Social, Ethical and Religious Impact of AI*, edited by Job Kozhamthadam and Stephen S Jayard, pp. 54-78.

ISPCCK; IISR, 2024. <https://books.google.co.in/books?id=5ywEOQEACAAJ>.

Fr Royston Pinto, Incarnational Theology in Indian Context, *Smart Companion*, Vol. 14, December (2024), pp. 18-20.

Fr Ryan Savio Rodrigues, "Dilexit Nos: On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ," *The Tabor Kirana*: Vol. 14, no. 12 (December 2024): pp. 08-09.

Sch Cannon Antony Fernandes, Nameeta Jesudoss M., Joddy Neves Cruz, Vasantha Veerappa Lakshmaiah, Whispers of Healing: Navigation of Nanomaterials for Wound Restoration and Inflammation Control, *Materials Research Foundations*, Vol. 171, pp. 93-134, 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21741/9781644903339-4>

Sch Arun Lobo, "ಜಾನಿಗಳ ಆರಾಧನೆಯ ನಡೆ; ಜೀವನದ ಪ್ರೇರಣೆಯೆಡೆ...!", *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 14, January (2025), issue 01, pp. 07-08.

Sch Royster Monis, "ಸಂತನಿಗೊಂದು ಗತಕಾಲವಿದೆ, ಪಾಪಿಗೊಂದು ಭವಿಷ್ಯವಿದೆ", *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 14, January (2025), issue 01, pp. 24-25.

Novice Oswin Fernandes, Let Them Come To Me: Children and Their Legacy, *Magnet*, Vol. 9, January (2025), p. 24.

REST IN PEACE

Fr Richard Sequeira, SJ, (KAR), 90/70, on 10 January 2025, Bengaluru.

Fr L. Alphonse William, SJ, (MDU), 75/57, on 22 December 2024, in Dindigul.

Fr K.C. Philip, SJ, (RAN), 80/61, on 26 December 2024, in Sikkim.

Fr Patrick Eaton, SJ, (CCU), 82/61, on 26 December 2024, in West Bengal.

Sch Anand Minj, SJ, (RAN), 28/06, on 02 January 2025, in Jharkhand.

Fr Raska Gaudentius Soren, SJ, (HAZ), 75/55, on 05 January 2025, in Hazaribagh.

Mr John Rodrigues, 78, beloved father of Fr Marcel Rodrigues, on 19 December 2024, in Buskull.

FR RICHARD SEQUEIRA, SJ (90/70) (12 MAY 1934 – 10 JAN 2025)

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and family members of Fr. Richard,

We have gathered today to bid farewell to Fr. Richard Sequeira, whose 90 years were filled with service, wisdom, and kindness, leaving behind countless cherished memories for all of us.

My first encounter with Fr. Richard goes back to April 1986, when I was a pre-novice preparing for my Four-Sheet exam. He was one of my four-sheet examiners. Almost 39 years have passed, yet his words of advice and guidance continue to echo in my mind. It was during this early meeting that I began to appreciate his humility and wisdom.

In 2007, when I served as the province treasurer, I had the privilege of living with Fr. Richard at Loyola Mandir. During those years, I came to know him not just as a spiritual guide but also as an academic mentor. I would often seek his help with the documents and letters I drafted, and he would go over them with an eagle's eye. His attention to detail was meticulous, ensuring that every word and phrase was just right. He took the time to explain not only the correction but also the reasoning behind it, making sure I understood the process.

I particularly recall one instance while working on my Ph.D. thesis, which included complex mathematical formulas. Fr. Richard, with his MSc in Mathematics, noticed an inconsistency. He gently pointed it out, saying, "Charlie, something is missing here," and explained the missing elements. He didn't just correct my work but helped me understand the problem in a clearer way. Fr. Richard never sought to impose his knowledge. Instead, he focused on empowering others to grow and learn.



In addition to his academic brilliance, Fr. Richard's spirituality was profound. His ability to communicate deep spiritual truths with simplicity was extraordinary. He never pushed his views onto others but allowed them to reflect and find their own insights. His teaching was not just intellectual—it was life-altering. His quiet humility and grace were a constant reminder of the essence of true spirituality.

There was an element to Fr. Richard's life that often reminded me of Dr. Manmohan Singh. I often thought of Fr. Richard as "Manmohan Singh without a turban." Like Dr. Singh, Fr. Richard had an innate ability to navigate complex situations with clarity, all while maintaining a humility that was deeply inspiring. He didn't seek accolades or attention but worked tirelessly behind the scenes, lifting others up with his wisdom and guidance.

Beyond his intellectual and spiritual depth, Fr. Richard's greatest quality was his boundless compassion. He was a man who truly listened. Whether offering spiritual direction, comforting the sick, or caring for the elderly at Pratiksha, he was always there. His empathy was remarkable, and he embodied the spirit of Christ, serving others without seeking recognition.

Even in his later years, when his body became frail, his spirit remained strong. He lived simply, with few material needs, and found joy in giving-of his time, wisdom, and love. His generosity knew no bounds, and he was always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear.

Fr. Richard's Jesuit life was a reflection of the Society's charism: deep prayer, intellectual rigor, and above all, a commitment to service. He served the Society in many roles: Socius to the Provincial, Province Archivist, Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary, and professor of philosophy, anthropology, and cosmology. His meticulous work as an Archivist preserved the history of the Karnataka Jesuits, ensuring that their legacy would be remembered for generations to come.

Throughout his life, Fr. Richard's focus was never on titles or accolades but on service. His legacy is built on his commitment to the mission entrusted to him, his deep humility, and his genuine desire to help people grow and flourish. Whether in his academic work, spiritual ministry, or personal relationships, Fr. Richard always sought to empower others.

Fr. Richard leaves behind a legacy of love, humility, and service. He was not only a priest, teacher, and scholar but also a friend, mentor, and guiding light. His life was a living example of Jesuit values—always giving, always serving, and always leading by example.

We will miss Fr. Richard dearly. His gentle spirit, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering dedication will never be forgotten. His impact on our lives is immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to inspire us.

Fr. Richard, may you rest in the peace of the Lord, surrounded by His love and grace, as you take your place among the saints. Amen.

- Fr Charles Lasrado

Delivered on 12 January 2025 at Mt St Joseph Chapel

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Fr Julian Fernandes SJ

Whenever I am asked to share something personal, I sense an instinctive reluctance to open the door to that private space. I myself often seem to encounter there a stranger in the mirror. For what it is worth, here is a brief corner-peep into this mirror.

Among the innumerable, often unknown influences that have shaped me, the years I lived at home have a foundational significance. My parents' and siblings' deep Christian faith and trust in God, nourished by the daily rosary, the weekly Eucharist and devotions in the parish. A family atmosphere of love and caring, of contentment with a simple life, no luxuries. Treated as a bright lad, I was allowed undue privileges and freedoms which, in retrospect now I deeply regret. As an altar boy, not overly pious, I attended the weekday Masses only when I was marked to serve, not regularly.

Don Bosco Primary and St Mary's High School, Shirva, offered me plenty of opportunities for leadership: class leader, debating society secretary, main part in annual drama, on the stage for public functions. The headmaster, appointed just after graduating from St Aloysius' College and a year of B.T., ran the school in a climate of broad all-round education modelled on the Jesuit ideal of liberal humanism he had assimilated at St Aloysius'. Our teachers, most of them Hindus, were truly inspiring models for us and we respected them. Those were the days of heady dreams for a newly independent India. We hero-worshipped Gandhi, Nehru, Patel.... In the final year farewell class photo I was the only one who wore the Gandhi topi. Unlike today, politics was a clean and attractive option, call to build a new democratic India.

Why, therefore, I did not join politics and why God called me to the SJ, I have no idea. I did not know any Jesuit, and had only vaguely heard about them. In March 1955 I completed high school final exam (VI Form = Class 11) and was waiting for results. In early May vocation promoter Fr Denis Pinto SJ visited Shirva and asked the parish priest about possible candidates. I was called to meet him. In a brief



two-minute conversation I told him I had no plan to join the Jesuits. That was that and he went away. Years later, when I was at Mount St Joseph on visitation, Fr Denis told me that the moment he saw me he was absolutely sure I was going to be a Jesuit!

My elder brother working in Bombay and closely associated with the Jesuits in CLC, on his home holiday that month, heard about my meeting with Fr Denis and spoke well of the Jesuits and encouraged me to reflect on the option. Tentatively I went to Fr Denis at St Aloysius' with my SSLC results, planning to get admission to Intermediate as a possible candidate. He took my marks sheet to Fr Boniface D'Souza, Superior of the Mangalore-Calicut Mission headquartered there. I was called upstairs to meet him. *This village boy is going to be sent back home*, I thought, and nervously went up. He looked at my marks, raised his eyes to me, a light smile lit up his face. "Would you like to join the novitiate now?" Shocked, I asked, "Can I join NOW?" "You may, if you wish." "Yes, Father, ready!" Where this unprepared answer came from, without even the consent of my parents, is a mystery. My 18th year was six months away. *The awful daring of a moment's surrender which an age of prudence can never retract!* (T.S. Eliot). So there I was, on 1st July 1955, on the train to Calicut with other novices-to-be.

Eighteen years of rigorous Jesuit formation. Calicut, Shembag, Trichy, Innsbruck, Paris. At each phase the challenge of adapting to a different culture and mastering a new language. The joy of rubbing shoulders with companions from a wide diversity of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and national backgrounds and establishing strong bonds of friendship with men and women across the globe. The first thirteen years in the classical, pre-Vatican near-monastic mould. The next five in the excitement of the liberal Vatican-II spirit, the thrill and inevitable confusion of questioning everything, letting go of past certainties, discarding rigid structures and moving on seeking freshness of the Spirit. A thrilling adventure, this kaleidoscopic memory! This latter phase of formation – questioning, searching, seeking freshness – set the pattern of my way proceeding for the rest of my life's journey.

College teaching, my first ministry after formation, lasted just seven years, the last two of these as principal of St Joseph's College, Bangalore (a year and half), and of St Aloysius College, Mangalore (six months). Students' protests erupting in France in the 1960s had spread all over the world and reached India in the '70s. Frustrated youth were protesting against widespread corruption, injustice, poverty and unemployment. Youth work was joyful as well as challenging.

When Arrupe appointed me provincial of Karnataka in 1980, the Province seemed to be in desolation, feeling stuck on the 'Mangalore-Bangalore axis', vocations were a trickle. In my first year I listened to and prayed over the frustrations and the best desires of our men, and in the 1981 Province Sammelan I articulated a vision of giving priority to vocation promotion, deeper insertion in Kannada culture and moving to North Karnataka. The province, experiencing consolation, responded enthusiastically. Several bright brave men volunteered and were given all the freedom they sought to realize that vision, making mistakes, changing strategies, the dream taking shape in the process. The fruit is there for all to see. Not my merit. Led by the Spirit, these courageous pioneers, despite limited material resources, creatively faced enormous challenges in the North Karnataka outreach and Nagaland Mission, and rejuvenated the province.

The twenty-five years spent in Jesuit governance – Loyola Mandir, Jor Bagh, Rome – came as a surprise at each stage. But I am grateful for the grace of getting a deeper understanding of Ignatian-Jesuit way of proceeding, a more intimate knowledge of the Society worldwide and a glimpse of the inspiring spirit of Arrupe and Kolvenbach. The account of conscience and confidentiality, the DNA of Jesuit governance, had to be safeguarded when some of my actions and decisions provoked criticism I could not counter. I had the joy of being involved in the preparation of GC-33 and GC-34 and of participating in both. Other provincials while in Rome that I specially treasure: organizing and conducting the colloquium of new provincials in different languages, and facilitating the general chapters of other religious congregations of men and women. Some of these congregations invited me to guide their general councils and renewal programmes.



As elected *assistens ad providentiam*, I would have had stayed in office till the next General Congregation. Pope John-Paul II refused Fr Kolvenbach permission to call a GC and submit his resignation. With no prospect of a GC in the near future, and feeling stale in the last few of the 13 years I spent in Rome, in 2005 I successfully begged to be relieved and returned to Kohima Region, to which I had been ascribed when it was created in 1995.

For nearly 20 years now, except for three years as rector and parish priest of Jakhama, I have been engaged in spiritual ministry: directing retreats, facilitating provincial and general chapters. I was called to organize and conduct the Spiritual Animation

Process of the South Asian Jesuit provinces, as a foundation for the restructuring of governance, mandated by GC-35. Hands-on experience, learning by doing, is the only training I had for most of the tasks I have handled all these years. Whatever has been accomplished is a gratuitous grace, far beyond my own capacity or planning.

Now in my 87th year God has given me enough work to do and sufficient health to do it, while intimations of mortality are not wanting. Of the seven Karnatakans who joined in 1955 only Ozzie Mascarenhas and I are still living. Plenty to do as long as the Lord keeps me here on earth, heaven can wait. I am still questioning, learning, letting go of securities and certainties, to seek freshness of the Spirit for those I guide as well as for myself.