



KS » March 2022 » Vol 95 » No. 03

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

We have just celebrated the 4th centenary of the canonization of two of our precious jewels and founding fathers of the Society, St Ignatius of Loyola and St Francis Xavier in the different zones of the province. While Ignatius was gifted with visionary insights, Francis was gifted with missionary zeal. What strikes me is that both of them went through conversion experiences, one struck by a cannon ball and the other through a gospel axiom; both of them were deep friends in the Lord and yet could let go of each other for the sake of the mission.

These days a number of our communities are reflecting on the vow of poverty. Fr General says, "Living poverty more deeply involves conversion. We want to follow Christ poor; be close to Him; accompany Him in all the wounded places of the world. We do this if we are truly poor, ourselves, know our utter dependence on God and live discerning where the Spirit is leading us." In the pilgrim journey of Ignatius we see a clear movement from ascetical poverty to apostolic poverty. He followed Jesus who embodied the spiritual poverty of the anawim and promoted an incarnational spirituality. It is important that we move out of our comfort zones and reach out to the peripheries, going beyond borders and plunging into frontline ministries.

Pope Francis calls the Church to discern a path forward as a community of faith, to become a Synodal Church that focuses on communion, participation and mission and reaches out to the world, especially to those who are outcast or rejected, a Church that joyfully proclaims the infinite, unconditional, and universal mercy of God. How are we sharing our lives together as friends in the Lord, living very close to the lives of the poor and preaching the gospel with joy? Our journeying together in synodality will make us a province that is truly pilgrim and missionary.



- DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ



APPROVED BY FR GENERAL

Fr Arun Luis – Superior of Ashirvad, Bengaluru

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Committee for Evaluation of Pre-Novitiates – Fr Ronald Pais (C), Fr Alphonse Fernandes and Fr Pratap Chandru.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

March 2022

12: GBM: ISI, Bengaluru

12: Celebration of 4th Centenary of the canonization of St Ignatius Loyola and St Francis Xavier: MSJ, Bengaluru

20-02 Apr: Colloquium of Provincials (Rome)

April 2022

02-15: Visiting Karnataka Jesuits studying in Europe and Donor Agencies

18: Laying of foundation: Loyola PUC, Vijayapur

19: Jubilee: Mundgod

20: Review of Jesuits in Pastoral Ministry

21-24: Visitation: MSJ Novitiate

26: Meeting with would-be Tertians

28: Meeting with Tertians

30: Meeting with second year Theologians

CONGRATULATIONS

To our newly ordained deacons

Schs Anthony Derrick JD, Ashwin Praveen Cordeiro, Ashwin Rebello, George Jaison Pinto, Jaison Glen Pais, John Rayan Pereira and Shantharaj A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Province Retreats

April 20-28, 2022: Dhyanaashrama, MSJ – Retreat Guide: Fr Henry D'Almeida. The retreat will begin on April 20 evening.

May 08-16, 2022: Xavier Sadan, Mysuru – Retreat Guide: Fr Clarence D'Souza. The retreat will begin on May 8 evening.

June 02-10, 2022: Retreat for young priests at Xavier Sadan, Mysuru - Retreat Guide: Fr Lawrence Fernandes. The Senior priests could join this retreat. The retreat will begin on June 02 evening.

April 19, 2022: Thanksgiving Eucharist – 40 years of Jesuit Presence in Mundgod Mission: Holy Eucharist at 10.00 am.

May 22, 2022: Province Level Felicitation of the Jubilarians at MSJ.

May 22-27, 2022: Province Congregation at Prerana, MSJ.

June 09-12, 2022: Sahodaya 2022 will be held under the theme: "ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನೊಡನಾಟ: ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಸನೋಟ!" at Jnana Jyothi, Anekal.

New E-mail ID and Cell Number

Xavier Sadan: <xaviersadanm@gmail.com>, Cell: 90353 64385

Left the Society

Novice Hadlee Ignatius Nazareth on 19 February 2022.

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWP), MARCH 2022

For a Christian response to bioethical challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

STATUS OF SCHOLASTICS

Philosophy

1. Sch Dilip Xavier - DNC, Pune
2. Sch Merwin Mathias - DNC, Pune
3. Sch Princen Michael - DNC, Pune
4. Sch Suman D'Souza - DNC, Pune

Theology

1. Aravind Royce - DNC, Pune

JFCT, Anekal

1. Sch Johnson R.
2. Sch Nishanth Noronha
3. Sch Noel Dias
4. Sch Preethesh Misquith
5. Sch Pruthvi Rodrigues
6. Sch Roydon Misquith
7. Sch Sandeep Gonsalves
8. Sch Sharun D'Souza

Regency

1. Arun Lobo - CNFE, Vijayapura
2. Avin A - SJS, Hassan
3. Chetan Kumar - Navasadhana, Hassan
4. Darshan Kumar - CIRW, Anekal
5. Deslon Vas - Loyola School, Mundgod
6. Larren Menezes - Kalaburagi
7. Marvin Apose - LVK, Mundgod
8. Melwil Vas - SAPUC, Harihar
9. Noyel Serrao - Loyola School/
Sangama CIRD Sindagi
10. Royster Monis - Loyola, Mangaluru
11. Santosh Kumar - Loyola Inst. Manvi
12. Steven Joseph - Pandithahalli



MEETING OF THE LOCAL SUPERIORS, COMMISSION COORDINATORS AND DIRECTORS OF WORKS



A two-day meeting of superiors, DOWs and coordinators of province commissions was held at Ashirvad, Bangalore on March 1-2. The meeting began with the presentation by Fr Shantharaj T. on synodality. In his presentation, Fr Shantharaj said that synodality is a call for conversion with the triad of participation, communion and mission. "Leadership through synodality is towards collaboration, cooperation and co-responsibility," he said.

Fr Shantharaj also brought insights from the personal conversion of Pope Francis, especially his Cordoba experience which had made a deep impression on the Pope. Pope Francis defines himself as a sinner and knows that he also has gone through conversion moments. "It is in this context that the Church through synodality seeks to be bottom up or goes to the periphery," Fr Shantharaj said. Later, the assembly spent time in adoration and spiritual conversation, before coming for a plenary session.

Thereafter, it was presentation time for various commissions. As many as eight commission coor-

dinators of the province made presentations about their work in the last one year. The whole exercise was in the mode of fruit gathering, with a healthy discussion following each presentation.

After the presentations, the Provincial, Fr Dionysius Vaz, made a presentation of the letter of Fr General to JCSA. He said that Fr General had called upon Jesuits to be universal with a focus on synodality, inter-ministerial collaboration and restructuring. Towards the end of the second day, Fr Vaz also addressed the gathering. He called upon the commission coordinators to be proactive. He also discussed with the members on various issues concerning the affairs of the province. He asked suggestions to respond to recent issues such as anti-conversion act and hijab row. Many came up with different insights and suggestions.

Earlier, on the evening of the first day, Ashirvad community hosted a dinner for the members with a pleasing ambience spread on the terrace. Superior Fr Arun Luis led from the front roasting omelettes for one and all. – Fr Melwyn S Pinto

ANEKAL



In association with St Joseph's Community College, CIRW conducted an online programme ('Tie & Die') for the tailoring students. We are grateful to Fr Cyril Raj, Mrs Marie Jacqueline, & Mrs Ze-

hara for conducting the workshop. Six batches of 50 students each from St Joseph's Evening College had a two-day rural immersion experience in different Anekal villages. The staff of SJPU used the

occasion of 'hijab holidays' to visit some 33 villages on a publicity drive to promote admissions to the college. The community took active part in the recollection held on 25-26 February on the vow of poverty. Fr Francis Fernandes, PCF, was with us for his annual visitation. The Novices from Mount St Joseph, accompanied by Frs John Pradeep

and Merwyn Fernandes, visited Jnana Jyothi and played a game of Basketball with us. Frs Albert and Salvadore (OFM Cap) from Darshan Institute of Theology, were here for courses on Mariology and Gospel of Mark. Currently, Fr Maria Arul Raja (CEN) is taking a course on Subaltern Theologies. – *Sch Wilson Saldanha*

ARRUPE NIVAS



The College hosted a two-day meeting of Jesuits in Science and Technology (Forum of South Asia). The theme was "Science as an instrument of our mission". On the occasion of World Cancer Day, the NSS of the College held a webinar "Close the Care Gap". The Ignitors' Integral Formation Programme for UG and PG students focused on Jesuit education, soft skills, life skills and social analysis. The teacher enrichment workshop was designed to help teachers to enhance teacher competencies and classroom management skills.

Frs Maxim Dias and Joyson Vas attended the National Youth Training Programme organized by ALCUF at Bhopal. Sch Ruel (DAR) conducted a work-

shop on 'Pragmatic Leadership' for the students of St Joseph's Community College. Fr Richard Rego is at the prestigious Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) in Shimla for the final leg of Fel-



lowship which was secured in 2017. We had a presentation by Fr Cyprian Tellis, followed by discussion, on the subject of Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. – *Fr John Baptist*

ASHA KIRAN



Fr Pius Kerketta, PCF of Hazaribagh, came to Asha Kiran for his annual visit. The third year Scholastics were privileged to go to Attur, Karkala, for the annual feast of St Lawrence. Fr Ronald Pais took classes for the Pre-novices in Hassan, preached an eight day retreat to the diocesan seminarians in the propaedeutic program at St Joseph's Seminary and also conducted a workshop for the

Holy Cross Brothers at Katapadi.

The Karnataka scholastics are currently engaged in preparing a video presentation of the Karnataka mission beginning from the arrival of the first Jesuits to our province, specially to Mangaluru.

– *Sch Macwin D'Souza*

ASHIRVAD



Ashirvad hosted a two-day meeting of Local Superiors, Directors of Works & Coordinators of Province Commissions. Fr Kuldeep Bara (MAP), second year student at SJCL, led a group of 12 students to Manvi and Pannur to conduct Women's Day celebrations. Fr Eugene Lobo gave a talk on "Inter-religious Dialogue in the Indian context" at NBCLC, Bengaluru.

The Spandana Centre of Ashirvad is functioning very well. The tuition classes for the slum students, conducted with the help of a few volunteers, have resumed after a short break. Thanks to the Rotary club we now have two laptops in the study centres which are very useful in arranging online classes. Fr Arun Luis conducted a half-day session for the Jesuit Novices at MSJ on North Karnataka missions and on social analysis. Along with Ashirvad

community, he also led a group of over 500 volunteers on a candle light vigil in support of women's education. Under his leadership, a medical camp was organised at St John's Medical College and Hospital for one thousand slum children. Fr Arun also attended a 3-day meeting of MAIN (Migrant Assistance and Information Network) in Pune.

Fr Joseph Lobo preached a four-day Ignatian interreligious retreat – the first of its kind - for 10 of our lay collaborators at Dhyanaashrama, Bengaluru, as part of the JESCOL III program. He was assisted by Frs Joseph Mathias and Anthony Joseph in offering the much-appreciated personal direction to the retreatants. Five more such retreats are on the anvil. Fr Joseph also animated a half-day program on "Synodal Life and Synodal Mission" for the superiors of Claretian Congregation, Ben-

galuru. He was one of the resource persons at the 4-day Ignatian Leadership program at Prerana for

the South Zone Jesuits and collaborators.
– Fr Eugene Lobo

BIJAPUR



We are happy that St Anne's Church received the 'ICI-Ultra Tech Award' for the best outstanding building in the North Karnataka region. The evaluation was based on the criteria of concrete structure, aesthetics, interior, visual appearance, etc. On 2nd February – the Day of Consecrated Life - the zonal CRI members had a day of recollection at which Fr Santhosh Fernandes gave an inspiring talk. The mission team went to Jamakandi for a day of outing to refresh and rejuvenate ourselves. Fr Cyprian Tellis gave a talk on creating spaces for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.

Loyola PU College renovated two class rooms and equipped them with new desks and benches. Thanks to the contribution from the Province, the compound wall of the school has been raised, and the front portion of the school premises is being reconditioned with interlock tiles. The generosity of the Province, augmented by the contributions of various donors, was a great help in providing ration kits to 77 students and their families and also

a few tablets for study. CNFE organized a health camp for the senior citizens. A few progressive groups of Bijapur conducted a workshop in our parish hall for the LGBTQ community on "religion, gender and sexuality".

The National Science Day was marked by a science exhibition –

SPARK-2K22

- organized by Loyola CBSE School, Sindagi. The teaching and non-teaching



staff of CBSE went on an excursion to Hyderabad. Sangama CIRD initiated a number of rights-based protests connected to MGNREGA, and the safeguarding of the Indian Constitution. The winners among the government school children who took part in the online Preamble contest were awarded with trophies and certificates. – Fr Jeevan James

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE



The community recollection on the vow of poverty, held on Feb 22-23, led the members to tighten their belts and brace up to the forthcoming Lent. Academic work these days has taken Fr Alphonse Fernandes away from here to places near and far. Br Benedict Rosario suffered a mild stroke a couple of weeks back. He is back home after a few days of hospital care at Fr Muller's. With the daily physiotherapy and a positive upbeat disposition, he is making fast progress. Do keep him in your prayers, so he bounces back to his usual,

active, vibrant life. The youngest in the Community is Fr Denis Rasquinha who just completed 92. He calls all others here "aab" (grandfathers). Fit as a fiddle, his brisk walk puts the rest of us to shame. We were delighted to have some 30 and more of our young priests here for a two-day program in March. Their vivacious presence and interaction with some of us in our twilight years has cheered us up to feel fifty years younger!

– Fr Thomas Quadras

HASSAN



The community took a much-needed break and went to Kalasa for a two-day trip. The students of the V, VI & VII Stds were taken to Karnataka Milk Dairy at Hassan as part of their study tour. The X Std students are given special coaching classes to prepare them for the upcoming final exams. A parent-teacher meeting was held to evaluate the progress of the IX and X Std students.

The Staff had a day out for a refreshing and fun-filled visit to 'GRK – Nature Resorts'. Fr Henry

Saldanha, the HM of the school, went out on official work to plan for the secondary school accreditation.

The flagship event for PU students - 'ZEST' - was organised as a promotion strategy. The response was indeed overwhelming with nearly 20 colleges participating in the event. Another grand success was the cricket tournament, SJPL, which brought cheers to both students and staff and uplifted their spirit of sportsmanship. – Sch Arvind Royce

A fruitful session on safeguarding and protection of minors was conducted for the community by Fr Cyprian Tellis. A special event of this month was the gathering of our religious collaborators.

SJIPS organised an awareness program 'Healthy Minds = Healthy Lives' for the students. A day of outdoor sports provided the much-needed relief to the staff and helped them to rejuvenate themselves amid their hectic work. To be distinguished as "the Best School at the National Level" was indeed a proud moment for SJIPS when it was recognized for its active participation in the International Level Maths Talent Examination conducted by Putani Vignana in memory of Charles Babbage. Also, one of our teachers, Mrs Rekha Rajpurohit, was awarded the title of 'The Best Maths Organizer at the National Level'. In the same contest, four of our students secured national level ranks, six secured state level ranks,

and ten secured district level ranks.

Having successfully completed their semester exams, the students of our Community College are right on track for the second semester. Sch. Reuel Paul (DAR) conducted a seminar on Leadership. Other notable events of this month are a one-day Parent-Teacher meeting; and a seminar for the nursing assistant students conducted by a team from Nightingale (a mental health care institute).

A seminar on Zero Waste Homes & Composting was conducted at SJS CBSE. An online session on career guidance was conducted by Ms Sheela Thyagaraj. Ms Maria Reena, Special Educator in our school, conducted a session on positive parenting so as to bridge the learning gap. Matribhasha Diwas was celebrated to promote the use of Mother Language. – *Fr Felix Anand*

For the first time in the history of SJPU, we organized a celebration to convey our wishes to the newly wed couples among the staff. Prior to its valedictory, the Student Council organized a seminar on Stock Market and Trading. The NEP task force of the college and the heads of the various departments held meetings to understand the implications of the upcoming National Education Policy and to work out strategies for its implementation.

St Joseph's Institute of Management held a two-day virtual International Conference, Utkarsh, on 18-19 of February on the theme, "Sustainable business models in turbulent times." Nine eminent leaders of industries delivered keynote addresses, and others joined the panel discussion.

The faculty of St Joseph's Evening College (Autonomous) attended an online session organized by St Joseph's College, titled 'Understanding National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) 2022'. While the NSS organized a Polio

Drive in collaboration with government hospitals, the Bembala team organised a two-day outreach programme to Anekal for the II year BCom and BBA students.

SJCL organized a film screening of the award-winning movie 'Visaranai' (interrogation) followed by discussion. The Commerce & Entrepreneurship Development Cell organized a weeklong intercollegiate event on 19-22 February. Several events (such as Let's Combat, Launchpad, Nation's Entrepreneur, Digital Pamphlet Making, and Entrepreneurial Legacy) saw massive participation of students from various top B-schools across the State. The AICUF unit of SJCL participated in the gospel fest "Revelations", organized by SJCC. SJCL bagged the Overall Runner up prize in the intercollegiate event. The Public Policy Club organized a workshop on Public Policy Analysis. The Law and Gender Studies Committee organized an introductory talk on Law and Gender by Ms Shilpi Roy (School of Law, Christ University). – *Fr Antony Pais*

While Fr Melwyn D'Cunha, along with a few staff members, visited Harihar and Mundgod for publicity for the college, Fr Kiran Cotha, along with a few other staff members, went to Bijapur and Sindagi on the same mission. Fr Francis Fernandes,

PCF, was with us to meet the scholastics.

Opturn Company conducted an orientation programme for the passed-out degree students on medical coding with a view to placement. We had a community outing to the Tungabhadra river side

at Chikalparvi in the afternoon, and had our dinner at the Church Camp Jawalgera, thanks to the hospitality of Fr Paul Moras.

Fr Melwyn organized an NSS camp for 50 Degree

MOUNT ST JOSEPH



The entire staff of Loyola Institutions had an input session by Fr Cyprian Tellis on Protocol - safety of minors and vulnerable adults. Frs Jeevan Gomes and Denzil W Lobo attended a seminar on synodality, organized by the zonal CRI at Jeevalaya. Fr Provincial conducted the recollection at Dhyanaashrama for the superiors of our Province on Poverty.

The novices were spiritually and apostolically enriched after spending a month of inward journey (Month Retreat) and outward journey (Mission Experiment). We owe a debt of gratitude to the Jesuits of our missions in Anekal, Mundgod, Vijayapura and Pannur-Manvi for their hospitality to and accompaniment of our novices. Fr Arun Luis gave an enlightening seminar on the theme 'Dynamics of Social Action of Jesuits in Karnataka.' Fr Clarence D'Souza instilled in the novices the Ignatian spirit through a 5-day course on 'Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises.' Meanwhile Fr John Pradeep paid a short visit to the homes of Novices Joel Lobo and Darwin D'Souza in Mangaluru. The novices had an intensive one-week course in basic English given by Frs Merwyn Fernandes and Edward Rodrigues. The novitiate community paid a visit to Atman in Ravi (AiR), home for the destitute at Bannerghatta, and interacted with the inmates. We also had a friendly visit to Jnana Jyothi where our novices had an informal Basketball match with the local community members and enjoyed their generous hospitality. The novices lost the match by a whisker but won the hearts of all. We have commenced the sacred season of Lent with a new team of officials led by Novice Noel Prabhu.

NAVASADHANA



With the planting of new saplings, Navasadhana is now an all green and eco-friendly home. The pre-novices had a day's outing. The second year pre-novices have completed their four sheet exams and are now awaiting the results. As always, Fr Dheeraj D'Souza has been visiting different towns and villages to promote vocations. We had

students for five days at Yeddaldoddi with the help of Fr Anil D'Souza. The village Panchayat members appreciated their services to the village. Five priests from Goa Province paid us a good will visit and stayed for a night. – *Fr Maxim Rasquinha*

Prerana was full of life during the past two months as there were 34 junior sisters – from 10 different congregations and from different parts of India – attending a course in preparation for their final profession. They were happy about the transformation they experienced. In early February Fr Joseph Mathias conducted a five-day workshop on "Mid-life Transition, a Call to Launch out into the Deep" for a group of Sisters of St Ann's of Providence at their provincialate in Mangaluru. Fr Prashanth D'Souza addressed the staff of Dharmaram College on the importance of spiritual direction. He also took classes on discernment for the pre-philosophers of St Joseph's Seminary, Mangaluru.

Three of the Loyola PU Students who lost their parents during Covid-19 attended a programme in Indian High School organized by Fr Arun Luis. The family received groceries and a Tab. The staff attended a meeting related to ecology conducted by Mr Manohar from the Department of Horticulture. Mr Somshekar, ASI of the Traffic Police, gave a talk on the meaning of traffic signals and the importance of observing traffic rules. The programme was organized following the death of a II PUC student due to an accident near the college. Loyola Degree College has started a certificate course 'Anveshana' on Gandhian Studies. The NSS arranged a lecture on, "Sleeping Disorder" by Dr Sameema, from Apollo Hospital. Three of our Catholic students participated in the "immersion programme" organized by the ALCUF in Mundgod. – *Fr Francis D'Almeida*

a much-appreciated course on Psycho-spirituality given by Fr Ronald Pais. Schs Sanson D'Souza and Joyal D'Sa have been working round the clock assisting the principal in publicity work so as to ensure more admissions in the coming academic year. The recent fest 'ZEST' has been a witness to their hard work. – *Sch Noel Dias*

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



The Ninetieth Birthday of Fr Leo D'Souza was celebrated with due grandeur in our different institutions: beginning with a Concelebrated Mass for

the Catholic staff of St Aloysius College, presided over by Bishop Francis Serrao of Shimoga; followed by a felicitation programme in the college

hall by all the staff, alumni and well-wishers. On this latter occasion, a souvenir "Leonine Achiever" was released by Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha; and the "Dr Fr Leo D'Souza Staff Welfare Fund (for Non-teaching Staff)" - with an initial contribution of Rs. 1 lac by Fr Leo's brother Mr Austin D'Souza - was launched by Bishop Francis Serrao. Other institutions - Laboratory of Applied Biology, St Aloysius ITI, Aloysian Students' Hostel, and of course, the Jesuit Community - followed suit by holding functions to felicitate the nonagenarian, thanking him for his guidance and support, and wishing him *ad multos annos*.

The Environmental Cell and the Alumni Association of the College jointly organized a 'bird feeder and bird nest making' competition for students of our schools and colleges. There was also an exhibition at the Alumni Office (SACAA) which displayed the specimens of birds visiting our campus.

At the PU College, SAPMUN (St Aloysius PU Model United Nations) Team distributed grocery kits to needy families, and donated a water tank to Government High School, Bengre. The Centre for Social Concern organized a beach clean-up drive at Thannirbhavi; and conducted a collection drive (under the banner 'Be someone's reason to smile') to gift toys to orphaned and homeless children. Sixteen of our PU students have cleared CA Foundation exam conducted during December 2021.

Believe it or not, one of the students of the VIII Stan-

dard in our Gonzaga School, Shinead Fernandes, has published her first novel, 'The Incident'. The book - the first of a series of six volumes titled Celestium - was released at a simple ceremony in the presence of Fr Rector and the parents of the promising author. The Principal, Fr Melwyn Lobo, felicitated the young prodigy on her extraordinary achievement. On this same occasion two other students - Chinmay Sachidanand (Class VIII) and Adil Arun (Class VI) - were recognized and appreciated for their achievements in publishing four short stories each in the book titled 'Stories and Sense'.



At AIMIT, Beeri, admissions for 2021-22 are finally closed. This year there has been a significant increase in the number of admissions. Hostels too have more inmates. A few designated leaders among hostel students facilitate communication between the students and the management. Fr Melwyn S Pinto received the Sandesha Special Award on behalf of Amar Konkani journal of the Konkani Institute of which he is the director.

The Jesuit community had their annual picnic on the eve of Ash Wednesday in a beach villa near Suratkal. - Sch Ovin Rodrigues and Fr Pradeep Sequeira

SWAMI RAJENDRA NILAYA, Panditahalli



Thanks to the efforts of Frs Jason Furtado and Arun Luis, who acquired 2.7 guntas of land in the name of KJES, we now have a total of 4.3 guntas in our name. A two-day health camp for students was conducted at Holy Angels School. Fr Anil D'Mello

came over to our place to make his annual retreat. Frs Norwin Pereira and Lancy Fernandes, along with Sch Marvin Apose, are now focusing on publicity for admissions in the coming year.

- Sch Prajwal Apose

VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad



Most Rev Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga, was our guest for a day as he was on his way to Sevalaya to address the members of the CRI Diocesan Unit. Fr Francis Fernandes has been elected Coordinator of the CRI group of the Hubli-Dharwad zone. The Scholastics did their triduum (3-5 February) at Mundgod, mentored by Fr Maxim Dias. Fr Edward Philip flew to the Kohima Region to conduct psychological assessments of fourteen Jesuit pre-novices at three places in the region. On his return he took the

youth of the OLPS Parish Dharwad on a pilgrimage to Dornahalli, and to some scenic spots in Mysore. With Covid restrictions lifted, we have resumed our ministry to the children at Dhanunagar. It is no easy task to regroup the children, but they are happy to learn their lessons in addition to singing, dancing, and group games. We have also resumed visiting the Catholic families of the parish, praying with them, interacting with them and encouraging them. Fr Francis visited Mundgod to keep company with the regents of

the province who had met there over two days. In the course of the month, he also made time to

visit the regents, theologians and other scholastics of the province. – *Sch Sujay Paul A*

SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai



At the departmental seminar on the theme of “Discovering Self – Multidimensional Perspectives”, Rev Dr Francis Xavier (CEN), Rector of Loyola College, Chennai, delivered the keynote address. Sch Royster Monis compered the seminar.

Fr Thomas Amirtham (MDU), Principal of Loyola College, visited our campus and addressed the staff and students. The Loy Memorial Lecture on 25th August was delivered by Rev Dr Vincent Chinadurati, Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese, who spoke on “Synodality - Journeying Together.” On this occasion we remembered the late Sch Loy Fernandes of Karnataka Province who was a student here sixteen years ago.

International Women’s day was celebrated at Sa-

tya Nilayam with a guest lecture by Prof Dr Asha Alexander (Women’s Christian College, Chennai) on the theme, “Women and Education”. On this occasion the women support staff of Satya Nilayam were honored. Fr Lawrence Fernandes conducted a session on *Ethnomethodology, a way of Philosophizing*. He has been appointed by the University of Madras as an external examiner for the soon-to-be-held viva voce of a PhD candidate from Madras Christian College.

The entire SN community observed the eco-awareness week by being actively involved in the cleaning and greening of the campus. Sch Santhosh Kumar took the initiative to create a beautiful mural combining the theme of UAP and the Ignatian year. – *Sch Darshan Kumar*

VIDYANIKETAN, Trivandrum



Our weekly outings have resumed, and the Juniorate cycles have dashed ceremoniously down the road to Kazhakuttam. We visited our neighbouring communities this month. On 16 February, we visited Sneharam, a social service centre in Anjengo. Anjengo’s fort and seashore also captured our attention. That afternoon, we visited a zoo, a museum, and an art gallery located in Kanaga Kunnu, Thiruvananthapuram. Additionally, we visited the brand-new LuLu Mall. We were

happy to have our Provincial, Fr Dionysius Vaz with us for the annual visitation. He accompanied us to the Loyola Community, Sreekariyam. On 28 February, we had a meeting of the Provincials from Chennai, Karnataka, Kerala and Madurai. Despite a wide variety of activities, the juniors applied themselves wholeheartedly to their studies of Indian Culture, Poetry Appreciation and Shakespeare. – *Sch Sohan Fernandes*.

XAVIER TRAINING COLLEGE, Belagavi



Though hectic, the month of February was enriching formation-wise. We had our study experiment on presenting the General Congregations 31 to 36. Through these presentations, we learned quite many things about the life, the mission, and the charism of the Society of Jesus. The first-year brothers, who had a mission exposure in Mund-

god, stayed in villages and learned about the life-style, culture and work patterns of the rural folk. We thank the Jesuits of Mundgod and Hanagal for making this exposure a fruitful one. We also thank the families, the staff and the animators from whom we learned a great deal. – *Novice Anthony Roshan*

REST IN PEACE

Fr Conrad Mascarenhas, SJ (BOM), 84/63, on 17 February, in Mumbai.

Fr Suman Minj, SJ (HAZ), 51/28, on 19 February, in Bhurkunka, Ramgarh.

Fr Mathew Pullattu, SJ (KER), 87/66, on 23 February, in Calicut.

Fr Marc De Brouwer, SJ (RAN), 97/78, on 25 February, in Ranchi.

Br Anthony Stevens, SJ (JAM), 86/14, on 28 February, in Jamshedpur.

Fr Ignace Canis, SJ (GUJ), 64/41, on 06 March, in Vadodara.

Mr Cyprian Miranda, 75, maternal Uncle of Fr Melwin Mendonca, on 17 February, in Kallianpur, Udupi.

Mrs Katherine (Teresa) Pinto, 86, maternal grandmother of Fr William Marcel Rodrigues, on 17 February, in Fathimapur, Sakaleshpur.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

(In this section some of our Senior Jesuits will share their experiences of Jesuit life and mission)

FR EUGENE LOBO, SJ

I was born at Neerude, Mangalore, the second in a family of six children. Attending regular masses, being an altar server, and joining daily family prayers were the seeds of my vocation. When I was in the higher primary school, Fr. A.S. Rodrigues visited our school for vocation promotion. It was he who gave me the initial stimulus to join the Jesuits. After my Pre-University at St Aloysius I joined the Novitiate at Mount St Joseph on 15 June 1965 along with five others; and we were welcomed by the Novice Master Fr Apoline D'Souza.

The period of my BA studies at St Aloysius was memorable. I not only took part in sports and extra-curricular activities but excelled in studies as well. I secured the third rank in English; eighth in General Science and first rank with three gold medals in BA - of Mysore University. I even received lucrative job offers from three Banks which, of course, I declined. I earned the State Award for Rank Students. Looking back upon these achievements, I am filled with gratitude for the encouragement I had received from Frs. Stany Coelho, Stany Vas and Alexander Castelino. I had my regency at Hassan under the paternal guidance of Fr JB Frank and Fr Betram Sequeira.

After my philosophy studies at Shembaganur, I went to Bombay University for MA in Economics, and then to Vidyajyoti, Delhi, for Theology. I cannot forget the dedicated faculty and my affable Jesuit companions at VJ. Since I was the beadle, I was entrusted with the task of getting preparations under way for the inauguration of the new building - soon to be blessed by Fr Arrupe. To my bad luck, I met with a bike accident on the eve of the inaugural and landed in Holy Fam-

ily Hospital with a dislocated elbow. I was placed in the maternity ward, ostensibly for want of hospital rooms!

On 30th of April 1978, I was ordained a priest at St Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore. Soon after the ordination, I was assigned to Christ the King Church, Malleshwaram-Bangalore, for my priestly ministry under the supervision of Fr Stany Viegas. I had hardly completed six weeks of ministry when Fr Provincial requested me to take charge as Novice Master, for a few months, in place of Fr Hilario who was to go on a short sabbatical.

Before long, I was appointed to St Joseph's College of Commerce as Vice Principal and lecturer. There was at that time a condition stipulated by the government that a candidate to be appointed as lecturer should have completed 30 years of age before April 5. Fr. Francis Rebello, Principal, applied for my appointment to the post on the first of April which happened to be a Sunday! At any rate, thanks to Fr Rebello's efforts, I got my post approved in good time. He did more for me than merely getting my post approved. I am grateful to him for introducing me to the art of administration and of holding responsible positions in the college. In the following year I was shifted to St Joseph's College as Vice-Principal and lecturer. Here it was Fr. Joseph Nelapaty, the Principal, who was my mentor.

I had the privilege of having a wonderful spiritual experience under the guidance of Fr Maurie Dullard who was my Tertian Instruc-



tor at Hazaribagh. It was during the time of my tertianship that I lost my father; but due to the transit delay in the telegram, I could reach home only 9 days after the funeral. Tertianship gave me opportunities to give retreats in Nagaland and Manipur.

Thereafter, I reached Bombay University for doctorate in Economics. On my return after the doctorate, I was appointed Principal of St Joseph's College of Commerce, and remained in that post for five and a half years. SJCC was, in those days, a small college with about 800 students, but it could boast of outstanding leaders and sportspersons among its alumni. I was then transferred to St Joseph's College as its Principal. During the nine years that I spent there, I had also been entrusted with the task of planning the new building for the college to be put up on Lalbagh Road and raising funds for its construction. By then I was due for a well-earned sabbatical. I spent a few months each in Boston, Belgium, and Berkeley, and enjoyed my exposure to new people and places.

On my return after the sabbatical, I was appointed principal of St Aloysius College, Mangalore. In the four years of my tenure there, I enjoyed the cooperation of Jesuits and lay staff alike particularly in the task of preparing the institution for the status of an autonomous college. Also, I had the task of arranging for infrastructure for the beautiful new building my predecessor had put up. Just before my retirement in 2007, I received an invitation to work at the Vatican Radio, Rome.

The next five years of my life I spent at the Vatican. It was a struggle for me to learn a new language, Italian. Radio programming was also new to me. We were 27 in our community representing 19 nationalities – an agreeable mix, and a genial compan-

ionship. I had the opportunity of meeting Pope Benedict XVI when our Director had sent me on an errand. The Pope was warm and cordial, held my hand in his, and inquired after my family, my fellow-Jesuits and my work. Two blissful minutes! Once when I had gone to Milan, I had the experience of being robbed of my wallet, retreat notes, books and bag. When I was back in the community, depressed and dejected, the Minister consoled me by saying I was fortunate to return physically unharmed! I cherish the moments I spent with our Indian Jesuits – Tony, Ralph, Charles and Sunil – meeting, celebrating, cooking and sharing Indian meals.

After my stint in the Vatican, I returned to the Province, this time to be Superior of Fatima Retreat House, Mangalore, and to oversee the construction of the Divine Mercy Church. Our meagre funds were complemented by the generous donations of our friends and benefactors, so that the church building was completed in sixteen months. The FRH Jesuit community had several senior members; and it was edifying to see them supporting each other despite their age-related ailments.

Shortly after the blessing and inauguration of the new Church, Archbishop Bernard Moras, with the concurrence of Fr Provincial, requested me to take charge as Secretary of the Karnataka Regional Commission for Education. This was the work to be in charge of 2000 schools and colleges in Karnataka. The work involved understanding the problems and suggesting solutions for the same. I have completed seven years and 8 months in this responsible work. After the passing away of Fr Ronnie I was appointed PRO for the Archbishop and Bishops of Karnataka. I express my gratitude to God for all his blessings.

HOLY MASS ON THE 400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONIZATION OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Church of the Gesù, Rome

Saturday 12 March 2022

Today's Gospel of the Transfiguration presents us with four actions of Jesus. We would do well to dwell on them, in order to discover in these gestures clear directions for our own journey as his disciples.

The first verb, the first of these actions of Jesus, is to *take with him*. Luke tells us that Jesus "took with him Peter, James and John" (9:28). Jesus "takes" the disciples, and he ourselves as well, to be "with him". Christ loved us, chose us and called us. Everything begins with the mystery of a grace, a choice, an "election". The first decision was not ours; rather, Jesus called us, apart from any merit on our part. Before becoming men who make their lives a gift, we are persons who received a gift freely given: the free gift of God's love. Our journey, brothers and sisters, needs to start anew each day from this *initial grace*. As he did with Peter, James and John, Jesus has called us by name and taken us with him. He took us by the hand. Where? To his holy mountain, where even now he sees us with himself forever, transfigured by his love. Grace, this first grace, leads us there. So, when we feel bitterness or disappointment, when we feel belittled or misunderstood, let us not wander off into complaints or nostalgia for bygone times. These are temptations that block our progress, that lead us nowhere. Instead, let us take our lives into our hands, starting anew with grace, in fidelity to our calling. Let us accept the gift of seeing each day as a step along the way towards our ultimate goal.



Jesus took with him Peter, James and John. The Lord takes the disciples together; he takes them as a community. Our vocation is grounded in communion. To start anew each day, we need to experience once more the mystery of our election and the grace of living *in the Church*, our hierarchical Mother, and *for the Church*, our spouse. We belong to Jesus, and we belong to him as a Society. Let us never tire of asking for the strength to form and foster communion, to be a *leaven of fraternity* for the Church and for the world. We are not soloists in search of an audience, but brothers arranged as a choir. Let us *think with the Church* and reject the temptation to be concerned about our own personal success or attainments. Let us not allow ourselves to be sucked into a clericalism that leads to rigidity or an ideology that leads to divisiveness. The saints we commemorate today were *pillars of communion*. They remind us that, for all our differences of character and viewpoint, we have been called to be together. If we will be forever united in heaven, why not begin here? Let us cherish the beauty of having been "taken", brought together, called together, by Jesus. This is the first verb: take.

A second verb is *go up*. Jesus “went up the mountain” (v. 28). Jesus’ path is one of ascent, not descent. The light of the transfiguration is not seen on the plain, but only after a strenuous ascent. In following Jesus, we too need to leave the plains of mediocrity and the foothills of convenience; we need to abandon our reassuring routines and set out on an exodus. Jesus, after going up the mountain, speaks to Moses and Elijah precisely about the “exodus, which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem” (v. 31). Moses and Elijah had gone up to Sinai or Horeb after two “exodus” experiences in the desert (cf. Ex 19; 1 Kings 19); now they speak with Jesus about the definitive exodus, that of his Pasch. Brothers and sisters, only the ascent of the cross leads to the goal of glory. This is the way: from the cross to glory. The worldly temptation is to seek glory in bypassing the cross. We would prefer paths that are familiar, direct and smooth, but to encounter the light of Jesus we must continually leave ourselves behind and follow him upwards. The Lord who, as we heard, first “brought Abraham outside” (Gen 15:5), also invites us to move outwards and upwards.



For us Jesuits, this journey of moving outwards and upwards follows a specific path, nicely symbolized by the mountain. In Scripture, mountain peaks represent the extremity, the heights, the border between heaven and earth. We are called to go precisely there, *to the border between heaven and earth* where men and women “confront” God with their difficulties, so that we in turn can accompany them in their restless seeking and their religious doubt. That is where we need to be, and to do so, we have to go outwards and upwards. The enemy of human nature would persuade us to keep to the path of empty but comfortable routines and familiar landscapes, whereas the Spirit impels us to openness and to a peace that never leaves us in peace. He sends disciples to the utmost limits. We need think only of Francis Xavier.

In this journey, in following this path, I think of the need to *struggle*. Think of poor old Abraham, there with his sacrifice, fighting off the birds of prey that would devour it (cf. Gen 15:7-11). With his staff, he chases them away. Poor old man. Let us think about this: struggling to defend this path, this journey, this, our consecration to the Lord.

In every age, Christ’s disciples find themselves before this crossroads. We can act like Peter, who responds to Jesus’ prediction of his exodus by saying, “It is good to be here” (v. 33). This is the risk of a static faith, a “neatly parked” faith. I dread this kind of “parked” faith. We risk considering ourselves “respectable” disciples, but are not in fact following Jesus; instead, we passively stay put, and, without realizing it, doze off like the disciples in the Gospel. In Gethsemane too, the same disciples would fall asleep. Let us think, brothers and sisters, that for the followers of Jesus, now is not a time for sleeping, for letting our souls be sedated, anesthetized by today’s consumerist and individualistic culture, by the attitude of “life is good as long as it’s good for me”. In that way, we can continue speak and theorize, while losing sight of the flesh of our brothers and sisters, and the concreteness of the Gospel. One of the great tragedies of our time is the refusal to open our eyes to reality and instead to look the other way. Saint Teresa helps us to move beyond ourselves, to go up the mountain with the Lord, to realize that Jesus also reveals himself through the wounds of our brothers and sisters, the struggles of humanity, and the signs of the times. Do not be afraid to touch those wounds: they are the wounds of the Lord.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus went up the mountain “to pray” (v. 28). This is the third verb: to pray. “And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white” (v. 29). The Transfiguration was born of prayer. Let us ask ourselves, even after many years of ministry, what does it mean today for us, for me, to pray? Perhaps force of habit or a certain daily ritual has led us to think that prayer does not change individuals or history. Yet to pray is to change reality. Prayer is an active mission, a constant intercession. It is not distant from the world, but changes the world. To pray is to bring the beating heart of current affairs into God’s presence, so that his gaze will shine out upon history. What does it mean for us to pray?

We would do well today to ask ourselves if prayer immerses us in this change. Does it shed new light upon others and transfigure their situations? For if prayer is living, it “unhinges” us from within, reignites the fire of mission, rekindles our joy, and continually prompts us to allow ourselves to be troubled by the plea of all those who suffer in our world. Let us also ask: *how we are bringing the present war to our prayers?* We can look to the prayer of Saint Philip Neri, which expanded his heart and made him open his doors to the street children of the Rome of his time. Or to that of Saint Isidore, who prayed in the fields and brought his farm work to his prayer.

Taking up each day anew our individual calling and our community history; then *going up* towards the heights that God points out to us; and *praying* in order to change this world in which we are immersed.

Yet there is also a fourth verb, which appears in the last verse of today’s Gospel: “Jesus remained alone” (v. 36). He *remained*, while everything else passed away except for the echo of the Father’s “testimony”: “Listen to him” (v. 35). The Gospel concludes by leading us back to what is essential. We are often tempted, in the Church and in the world, in our spirituality and in our society, to give primary importance to many secondary needs. It is a daily temptation to make any number of secondary needs primary. In a word, we risk focusing on customs, habits and traditions that set our hearts on passing things and make us forget what remains. How important it is for us to work on our hearts, so that they can distinguish between the things of God that *remain*, and worldly things that pass away!

Dear brothers and sisters, may our holy father Ignatius help us to preserve discernment, our precious legacy, as an ever timely treasure to be poured out on the Church and on the world. For discernment enables us to “see anew all things in Christ”. Indeed, discernment is essential, so that, as Saint Peter Faber wrote, “the good that can be achieved, thought or organized, may be done with a good, not a malign, spirit” (cf. Memorial, Paris, 1959, n. 51). Amen.



Karnataka Jesuit Province
96 • Lavelle Road • Bengaluru 560001
www.karnatakajesuits.org