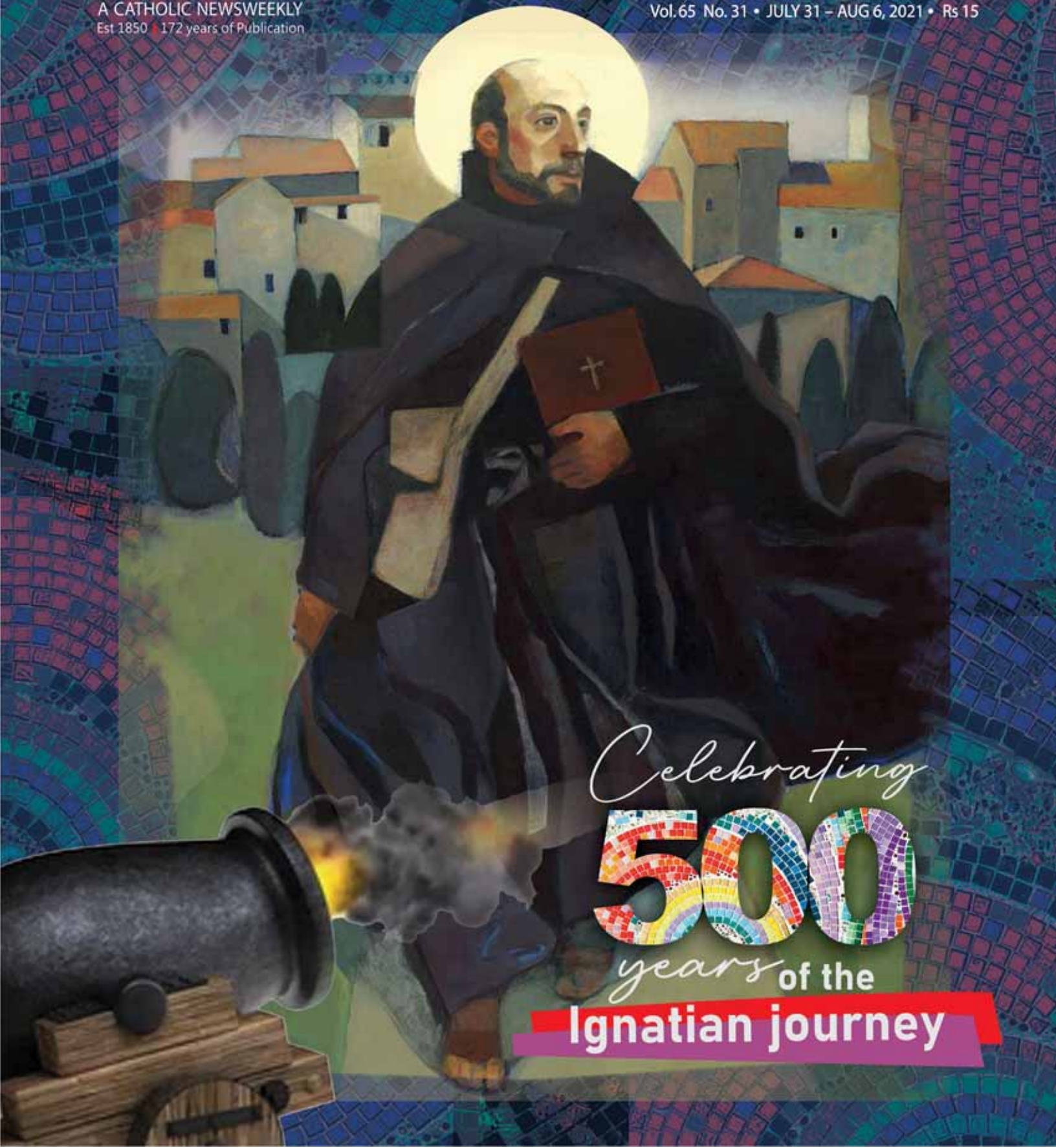


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# the Examiner

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**COVER** - composed by Rosetta Martins

The narrative of the conversion journey embodies the essence of the identity, mission and ministry of the Ignatian Journey.

Total Pages Including Cover: 28

## OFFICIALS

### RELIEF FOR MAHAD

The floods in Mahad have affected our people very much causing much damage to property and also loss of life. Fr Pravin and Fr Sunil have been in the frontline of relief. I express my gratitude that many parishes: priests, religious and lay people have expressed their desire to help in the relief effort. Fr Nigel Barrett is taking one consignment of provisions from South Bombay.

So that we can help more effectively, I am asking the Centre for Social Action (CSA) to coordinate our relief work. Fr Joe Gonsalves is going to Mahad for an on the spot assessment of the situation. Immediately after that we will make an appeal for help from our parishes.

It appears that the need will be for foodgrains, towels, bedsheets and mats. But we will make a specific appeal only after the need assessment is done. Till then I recommend we do not send anything directly to Mahad; to facilitate storage, transportation and distribution.

July 26, 2021

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias  
Archbishop of Bombay

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### PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY

Prison Ministry Sunday will be celebrated this year in the Archdiocese of Bombay on August 1, 2021. On this Sunday, the Church reminds us to listen once again to the words of Jesus, "I was in prison and you visited me" (Mt 25:36). The theme for this year's Prison Ministry Sunday is "Prisoner's Reintegration". This theme was the highlight of a meeting organised by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development during which Pope Francis gave the participants two messages to take back to their regions and countries. He said that one cannot speak about debt repayment by prisoners without first offering them a window; and one cannot change one's life without seeing the horizon. He asked the participants to make sure prisons always have a window and a horizon.

The Church offers hope and expresses love to our brothers and sisters in prison. While some are innocent, others are victims of circumstances and suffer from loneliness and helplessness. Prison Ministry Mumbai seeks to reach out to all prisoners through zealous volunteers who keep in touch with our brothers and sisters in prison. We pray that God blesses their efforts and gives them the strength to carry on their ministry with dedication.

On Prison Ministry Sunday, I invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters in prisons, for prison officials and also for the volunteers in this ministry. If you are inspired to join this group of volunteers, you could get in touch with the Office at the following email id: [rtcjpc@gmail.com](mailto:rtcjpc@gmail.com)

July 25, 2021

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias  
Archbishop of Bombay

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### APPOINTMENTS (IX)

Fr Sunder Albuquerque	: to be Additional Financial Administrator of the Archdiocese of Bombay
Mr Mario Nazareth	: continues as Financial Administrator
Fr Ronny Vaz OFM Cap	: continues as Parish Priest, St Ignatius Church, Mandvi (and not as previously announced)
Fr Praful Ekka SJ	: to be Assistant, St Peter Church, Bandra
Fr Arokia Inbaraj SSS	: to be Assistant, St Anthony Church, Tembipada
Deacon Jaime da Fonseca	: Pastoral ministry at Sacred Heart Church, Santa Cruz
Deacon Lawrence Sahayadass	: Pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem

The above appointments take effect from August 01, 2021

July 26, 2021

✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias  
Archbishop of Bombay

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## ENGAGEMENTS

### CARDINAL OSWALD GRACIAS

Sun	Aug 1	6:30 p.m.	Celebrates Eucharist for Parents Day, Holy Name Cathedral, followed by virtual Parent's Day Program
Mon	Aug 2	4:00 p.m.	FABC Core Committee Meeting (Video Conference)
Tue	Aug 3	6:30 p.m.	Disaster Management Committee Meeting (Video Conference)
Sat	Aug 7	8:30 p.m.	Participates in National Prayer Service conducted by CCBI
Sun	Aug 8	9:00 a.m.	Celebrates Vianney Sunday Eucharist

### BISHOP ALLWYN D'SILVA

Sat-Sun	Jul 31 — Aug 01	Pastoral Visit, St Pius X Church, Mulund
Mon	Aug 2	10:00 a.m. Inauguration of Training Programme - Prison Ministry India (Video Conference) 4:00 p.m. FABC Core Committee Meeting (Video Conference)
Tue	Aug 3	6:30 p.m. Disaster Management Committee Meeting (Video Conference)
Thu	Aug 5	10:00 a.m. Navi Mumbai Deanery Meeting, Vashi
Fri	Aug 6	10:00 a.m. Speaks at the Online Concluding Session of the Training Programme - Prison Ministry India

# Source, Sustenance & Splendour of the Ignatian Journey

On May 20, 2021, 500 years after Ignatius' cannonball incident, Jesuits around the world began the celebration of the *Ignatian Year*. Hence, the July 31, 2021 issue of *The Examiner* on the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola- the founder of the Society of Jesus, contains erudite articles by Jesuit religious priests, showcasing their tribute to the mystic and genius of St Ignatius. The array of topics paints the tapestry of a mosaic of the resplendent aspects representing the source, sustenance and splendour of the essence of the identity, mission and ministry of the Ignatian Journey.

The commemoration of the Quincentennial anniversary of the "cannonball moment" marks the beginning of the conversion year of the Ignatian Journey. The narrative of his life reveals that Inigo was filled in his youth with ideas about the romance of battle until he was wounded. It was only in this moment of suffering and pain that he debunked the romance of war. He had a long and painful recovery during which he read the lives of the saints and was inspired to start a religious community that would combine faith and military-like discipline to serve the Church and humanity.

Ignatius had his own struggle of conversion from which came the Spiritual Exercises, a blueprint for a thirty-day retreat to bring a person to a vocational decision and to discern and accept God's will in all things. Encountering God in the poor, the vulnerable, the suffering and marginalised may seem impossible to the ego-centred finite human understanding. But yet, when one lets go to a divine-human synergy, it makes the impossible possible- the hallmark of the Jesuit charism.

Ignatius emphasized obedience among his followers to seek and surrender to the will of God, to obtain a far superior vision of doing everything according to the will of God. It would enable one to the experience of fulfilment and lasting satisfaction. In this way the "Company of Jesus", the Society of Jesus was born. The mission is clear -to see God in all things and the motto is to work for the greater glory of God (AMDG). Always striving for the *Magis* is the secret of the Jesuit dynamism and excellence in the varied ministries that is undertaken.

The motto of the Jesuits is "*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*" (AMDG) which captures the heart of Ignatius' spirituality, which is to use all things to glorify God. "We should let our sickness or our health glorify God. We should use our wealth or our poverty to glorify God. We should use our position in society or lack of it to glorify God", are some of the deep insights and reflections by Fr Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to build up the Kingdom of Christ. It is so relevant for our times of this pandemic.

For Ignatius, a life of poverty was an expression of intimacy with Jesus, the Lord. More than words, his poverty was a sign of his interior transformation, of his growing vulnerability before the Lord, of his radical spirituality to preparing himself to follow God's will, of his sense that everything came down from above as a gift. St Ignatius teaches us to frame everything around God rather than ourselves. This is his great gift to the Church.

The Ignatian year is a call to draw inspiration from Ignatius. His inner struggle and conversion led him to a very close familiarity with God. This familiarity, this intense love, allowed him to find God in all things and to inspire others to form together solidarity communities, full of missionary zeal.

In this year of remembering St. Ignatius of Loyola and his conversion, we express our paean of acclaim, appreciation and gratitude to the colossal contribution of the Jesuits to the wide spectrum of activities for the Church in India. To mention a few, their works range from education, spirituality, social justice, the teaching principles of labour, law and politics, technology and management skills, and above all their option for the poor bringing dignity and succour to the rejected and marginalised with their trade mark stamp of excellence.

The message is that change is possible. Our hearts can be softened. Our world can find new ways forward. We place our hands in the hands of Jesus, our brother and friend in solidarity with the Jesuits and we go forth into a hopeful future, confident that He is with us and guiding us.

# Reintegration and Redemption

**PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY is celebrated in the Archdiocese of Bombay on August 1, 2021.**

**A**s we celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday, let us consider prisoners as our brethren and do whatever is possible for their integral human development. Every diocese should ideally have a Prison Ministry India (PMI) unit to look after the needs of prisoners, and Parish Priests shall take special care to reach out to the lost sheep in prisons. Consecrated people have a special responsibility to participate in the release, reformation, and reintegration of prisoners. Pious associations and lay faithful are cordially invited to take part in the prisoners' reintegration projects of PMI. For Jesus came "to proclaim good news to the poor... to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18-19).

## Prisoners' Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Alphi (43) was an inmate of Snehashramam, Kerala, a rehabilitation centre for released women prisoners of Prison Ministry India. She was married to Mr Johnson. They have an eight-year-old child studying in Standard III. They had neither land nor a house of their own. PMI bought a small plot of land for them. With the financial assistance of the PMI Ruby Jubilee housing project, they completed the construction of the house, and now live peacefully, glorifying the Lord.

The purpose of Jesus coming to this earth was to call sinners, and to redeem the lost. Jesus who cried out from the Cross, "I thirst" (Jn 19:28) continues to thirst for the souls behind the dark walls of prisons.

Savitha was in high school when her father was imprisoned. She had no possibility of continuing her education. PMI came to her assistance and now she is completing her M.Com. Though Gopal completed his life sentence, he was not released from prison, as he could not pay the compensation to the victim. PMI paid the compensation, and now he is released and leading a pacifist family life.

*Bishop Allwyn D'Silva is the Chairperson, Prison Ministry India.*



"It is something beautiful, a gift of God, to take care of the people, men and women in jail. Let us thank the Lord for his great love to share the joy of loving," said Saint Mother Teresa, a Saint of the Gutters, when she addressed PMI volunteers during the second National Convention held at Navintha Retreat Centre, Delhi in 1995. When the then Chief Minister of West Bengal met Mother Teresa, he told her about 34 girls in prison who were arrested from brothel houses. These young girls with pathetic family backgrounds had been forced into prostitution, and thrown behind bars. They were picked up by the mother of love, and were reformed and reintegrated.

## Prisoners' Redemption

God came down in our sinfulness! God came down when we were lost! In the eyes of God, we never lose our worth. We always remain precious in His sight, for God is infinite love. God cannot but love; fire cannot but warm up. PMI volunteers believe strongly that no one is beyond transformation, and our Redeemer has taught us that no one is beyond redemption as He assured Paradise to the 'good thief'. Behind the walls of maximum-security prisons, hard-core criminals are being transformed into messengers of hope. The purpose of Jesus coming to this earth was to call sinners, and to redeem the lost. Jesus who cried out from the Cross, "I thirst" (Jn 19:28) continues to thirst for the souls behind the dark walls of prisons.

What shall we do for the reintegration and redemption of prisoners? If you want to be a part of this noble work of God's redeeming mission, you can reach out by volunteering in three ways.

Firstly, Prison Ministry India originated from time spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Those hours spent before the Blessed Sacrament were powerful moments for the growth

*(Contd on Pg 9)*



# *A Cannonball struck and the world was transformed*

It was the year 1521. The Battle of Pamplona was on. Spain had conquered part of Navarre which rebelled with backing from France. Those from Navarre captured Pamplona which was the capital of Navarre, by defeating the Spanish troops. The defeated garrison included Ignatius of Loyola. On May 20, 1521, a cannonball struck and severely wounded one of Ignatius' legs and shattered the other. This led to a forced lockdown for Ignatius.

led to a transformation. His life was turned upside down. He learned to look both inside and outside of himself. His desire for constant activity was replaced by a calm and serenity of being.

In sum, these were the changes in Ignatius, the soldier for king, who became Ignatius, the servant of the Lord.

**Doing to Being:** Ignatius measured his self-worth by his accomplishments. The more he did and achieved, the more he thought he was. However, his reflection on Jesus, the man and His mission,



His initial reaction to this lockdown was agitation. He was not one who could be expected to lie in bed, even if he was sick. He was a man on a mission. He wanted to be up and about. He wanted to win battles for his king and the heart of his lady love. How could he pass the time of the day being quiet and still? He could pass the day by reading of the exploits of brave knights, and tried to see if such material was available. However, he could only find the exploits of the Son of God, Jesus, and those who were inspired by Him. Reading and reflecting on these books

*Fr Errol Fernandes SJ is Vice Principal (Commerce) at St Xavier's College, Mumbai.*

made him realise that it was the being that mattered more than the doing, and that if his being were good, all that he did would also be good. This was confirmed for Ignatius when he read that Peter, one of the closest of Jesus' disciples, described Jesus in these words to Cornelius and his household - "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38). It was enough for Ignatius to move the focus from his acts to his heart and inner being. This also led to an introspection on a regular basis where he kept checking the motivation of his actions. To do this, Ignatius

developed what is known today as the "Examination of Consciousness".

There are times when we focus too much on the external action, and not enough on the inner disposition. To be sure, many of our external actions may seem to be altruistic and selfless; however, only when we go into the deepest recesses of our beings, will we know if this is true. The "Consciousness Examen", as the Examination of Consciousness is sometimes called, is a great help in this endeavour.

## **Self-obsession to self-denying:**

Ignatius was obsessed with his physical

Spiritual Exercises will help one to realise that all the externals are temporary and passing, and that only God is absolute and eternal. This is why it is prudent and practical to focus on the permanent and steadfast God, rather than on that which is gone in the blink of an eye.

appearance and wanted to look good at all times. This was evident after the intimal treatment to his leg. He began to walk with a limp after the first intervention by the doctors. For Ignatius, this would surely not do. He forced the doctors to break the leg and fix it again, only so that he could walk straight and tall. However, even after doing so, he still limped. The leg was broken again and reset, but this too did not work as Ignatius hoped. It was then that Ignatius realised that his physical appearance was not as important as his spiritual being. The inner journey to his heart helped him to write the *Spiritual*

*(Contd on Pg 11)*

The Vision at the River Cardoner is the most fascinating of the extraordinary spiritual experiences God gave to St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus. It is, perhaps, this single experience, more than any other, that has moulded the Society of Jesus—its vision, values, institutions and apostolates, especially education.

Biographers of St Ignatius speak of the Cardoner Vision as follows: One day, out of devotion, Inigo was going to a church situated a little more than a mile from Manresa. It is called St Paul's Church, and the road to it goes by the River Cardoner. Occupied with his devotions, Inigo sat down with his face towards the river running deep below. While there, the eyes of his understanding began to be opened. Not that he saw any vision, but he understood and learned many things, both spiritual matters and matters of faith and of scholarship, and with so great an enlightenment that everything seemed new to him. According to his *Autobiography*, this experience left Inigo's understanding so very enlightened that he felt as if he were a new man with a new intellect.

#### **A transformation of life and values**

In the year 1522, when this event took place, Ignatius of Loyola (or Inigo, as he was then known) was 31 years old. The founding of the Society of Jesus was still 18 years away. The Cardoner Vision resulted in Ignatius

# St Ignatius' Vision at the River Cardoner

becoming an enlightened man. He was completely transformed by it - in his spirituality and thinking about everything. It gave him a totally new all-embracing vision of the world, which changed his life and values completely; and was to shape, in large measure, the vision, spirituality and values of the Society he founded. Yet Ignatius himself speaks about it in the most casual manner, saying only "that he experienced a great clarity in his understanding." Nothing more, nothing less. Successive generations of commentators agree that Ignatius' experience in Manresa on the banks of the Cardoner was the most decisive influence on Ignatian spirituality. We are not very clear about what Ignatius actually saw at the Cardoner, as he himself is at a loss for words to best describe his unique experience. He merely contents himself by stressing "that this single experience had taught him more than all the other experiences of his life put together."

We have good reason to believe that the Cardoner Vision found expression mostly in the *Spiritual Exercises*, but also in some other works, like the Constitutions, written by Ignatius. In the *Spiritual Exercises*, the Contemplation

to attain the love of God surely has its origin in the Cardoner Vision. It indicates that in the Vision, Ignatius perceived clearly that "God dwells in creatures - in the elements giving them existence, in the plants giving them life, in the animals conferring upon them sensation, in man bestowing understanding... in the heavens, the elements, the plants, the fruits, the cattle, etc." Hence, Jesuit spirituality is oriented to seeking and finding God everywhere and in all things.

#### **The Vision shaped his thought**

What did he learn about spiritual matters? Surely, he obtained a better understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, particularly about Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of the Spiritual Exercises - in the meditations on the Kingdom of Christ and all the contemplations on His

Incarnation, birth, life, death and resurrection. Other truths of the faith which he must have understood with special clarity are also found in the Spiritual Exercises: (1) The First Principle and Foundation which speaks of Man as God's special creature and of all other creatures made for man; (2) The Mystery of Sin and man's rebellion against God; (3) The Two Standards - of Christ and Satan; (4) The Mystery of Death, the Last Judgment and Life Everlasting.

In Theology, he would have understood better the Theology which he recommends in the 'Rules for thinking with the Church' - that of the positive doctors of the Church - Sts Augustine and Jerome, and the scholastic doctors - Sts Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure, whose teaching he felt define clearly doctrines that



*Fr Joseph M. Dias SJ is former Principal of St Xavier's College, Mumbai.*



are necessary for eternal salvation and are a help to refute all errors and fallacies. As for a better understanding of scholarship, we find it in Ignatius' ideas on culture and education instilled in the educational institutions he founded - the esteem for literature, especially Greek and Latin literature; the study of the physical sciences, like Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Biology, and promotion of

cultural activities, such as drama, poetry, art, music, painting, etc. in which the Jesuits themselves have excelled throughout their history. Ignatius surely realised that the best means to communicate what he learnt in the Cardoner Vision was Education.

#### **Schoolmasters of Europe**

Hence, the Society's sterling contribution to education and commitment to research -which seeks to push further

the frontiers of knowledge, and to strive always to go beyond, to transcend what human reason by its own efforts can reveal about the truth and reality. No wonder then, that within scarcely fifty years, the Jesuits came to be known as "Schoolmasters of Europe" for the new vision and values they imparted everywhere they went.

In the education they seek to impart, Jesuit institutions bear the hallmark of ideals

and values, inspired by the Vision at the Cardoner. One might even venture to say that the thinking of most Jesuits is characterised by key elements of the Vision Ignatius received at the Cardoner, especially, of striving constantly to "seek and find God everywhere and in all things", just the way Ignatius, at the Cardoner, "saw all things coming from God, all things going back to God, and all things in God." ■

## **REINTEGRATION AND REDEMPTION (Contd from Pg 6)**

of this ministry. Before each visit, members spend time in prayer. They recite the Rosary, make intercessory prayers and fast. One could say that, Prison Ministry India is a prayer group for the reintegration and redemption of our brethren in prison.

Secondly, you can visit prisons and PMI rehabilitation centres and homes for prisoners' children. "My family has abandoned me; society considers me only as a criminal. If you do not help me, who else will in this world? When I am released, nobody will dare to give me a job. Would you please find a job for me?" These heart-breaking cries of prisoners moved the hearts of PMI volunteers, and the result was the first rehabilitation centre, Snehashramam, established in 1991. Today, Prison Ministry India runs 20 rehabilitation centres for

released persons and their children.

Thirdly, you can financially support PMI for prisoners' rehabilitation and reintegration. One of the basic principles of PMI is 'begging'. We beg to give prisoners a better future. We beg to provide them a life of dignity. We do not have any foreign funding to meet expenses, but we actualise our plans and visions by meeting people personally. PMI volunteers stand at church doors with a bucket in their hands, begging something from those who have to give to those who don't.

#### **PMI Ruby Jubilee**

This year, Prison Ministry India celebrates its Ruby Jubilee with many new projects for the integral development of prisoners and their families. I am glad to share with you some of the major Ruby Jubilee

projects such as homes for prisoners' children, houses for released prisoners, establishment of special PMI Task Forces such as Terrorists Saving Squad, Death Row Commandos, Mafia Redeemers, scholarships to prisoners' children, and releasing prisoners with legal and financial assistance. I take this opportunity to praise and thank God for all the blessings showered upon prisoners and their families in the past 40 years, and extend my heartiest congratulations to those who pioneered this beautiful ministry.

#### **Conclusion**

As we celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday, let us remember and pray for prisoners all over the world, especially the 4.7 lakh people languishing in the 1350 Indian prisons, their families, victims, the officers and the volunteers who

serve them.

Dear brethren behind the bars, we love you, we are with you, we pray for you, and we are ready to do whatever is possible for your reformation and reintegration. Dear PMI family members, your visits to the prisoners are equivalent to visiting Jesus, for He said, "I was in prison, and you visited me" (Mt 25:36). During these COVID-19 pandemic days, we pray for you in a special way. Your continued financial support for the Prison Ministry is highly appreciated. May Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the patron of Prison Ministry India, intercede for the fruitfulness of this ministry, and may Mary, our blessed mother, be always there to protect you. ■



# RECOGNITION and REVERSAL in the Life of St Ignatius

In the movie 'The Lion King', the lion cub Simba led a carefree early life. His father, Mufasa, had hoped that his son would grow up to be a responsible king one day, and take up his rightful role as leader of the animal world. And yet things did not go exactly to plan. Simba's naivety and disobedience led to Mufasa's death. With things taking a turn for the worse, Simba runs away from the pride of lions, and meets new friends (a meerkat and a warthog). He lives a carefree existence again—one devoid of responsibility and accountability. But it wasn't long before he got a knock on the head. In a really stirring scene, Rafiki, a forest baboon, and a Shaman of sorts, brings Simba face to face with his real self. He helps Simba to recognise his true identity and purpose in life. In a blinding moment, Simba sees his dead father Mufasa. Mufasa simply tells him, "Remember who you are!" He urges Simba to look inside himself, see things clearly, and then follow his true calling.

## Moment of Recognition

I liken this moment of recognition to that dramatic moment that St Ignatius had after he got injured in the famous battle of Pamplona in 1521. While recuperating at the castle of Loyola in Spain, Ignatius might well have heard such words resound disturbingly in his head, 'Remember who you are! Know what you are created for! Recognise the reason for your existence on this planet!' Ignatius soon knew that he was led to a point from where he couldn't help but look closely at his life's real purpose. He saw clearly that lasting happiness could come only from letting God lead him forward. This was the first of many 'recognition moments' in which he would come face to face with God guiding him towards newer paths.

Aristotle, in his treatise on Greek drama (*Poetics*), makes use of a term called *Anagnorisis* (Greek for 'recognition'). It refers to that part of a play where the protagonist or some other leading character makes a startling discovery, or experiences a moment of great insight. It refers to a sudden unravelling of someone's character, or intentions, or true identity. So for instance, in the play, 'Oedipus Rex', the chief moment of recognition would be when King Oedipus finally recognises that the man he was looking for all along – the killer of his own father – was none other than himself. This was his moment of great awakening – a rude shock.

The cannonball moment was Ignatius' moment of rude



awakening. He could now see that all his bravery, his dreams, his loyalty were ill directed. They were valuable, and yet they held meaning only when they were directed towards God who had always been so gracious towards him.

Recognition moments of this kind are generally preceded by a moment of crisis. The crisis could be of a material kind, or it could be an existential crisis. A material crisis would involve a sudden change in an external situation e.g. a sudden loss of a job, or a tragic illness in the family leading to exorbitant hospital bills, or the nurturing of a special child, or some financial difficulty. Many other crises are of an existential kind, like having to put up with a troublesome spouse, or coping with abuse, or working under great duress at work, etc. Often, material and existential crises go hand in hand, and one often influences the other. This was certainly the case with Ignatius. He was physically shattered by the cannonball, but that pain was nothing compared to the darkness he experienced in his soul. He experienced utter chaos. His future was in doubt. His past troubled him. His present had turned into a boring period of convalescence in bed. That's when God found him. And to Ignatius' credit, he recognised the Lord. Like the beloved disciple in the gospel of John, Ignatius too might well have said beneath his breath, "It is the Lord!"

*Fr Learoy Rodrigues, SJ trains young Jesuits in the humanities at the Jesuit Juniorate in Vinayalaya, Mumbai.*

### Reversal of circumstances

*Anagnorisis* generally leads to a phenomenon called *peripeteia* – the term Aristotle used to refer to 'a sudden reversal of circumstances.' So in drama, a major recognition moment would generally bring about a change in the fortunes of the protagonist. Ignatius' life was never the same after the Loyola adventure. In fact, his life took such a turn, the kind rarely seen in human history. He moved from being self-centred to being God-centred.

At least three things characterise the reversal in circumstance that Ignatius experienced. After his conversion experience, Ignatius began to let God lead the way. In every decision, he consulted the Lord. At crossroad moments, he looked to God for direction. Secondly, after his conversion

experience, he cultivated new and healthy life patterns. So, for instance, he looked at every future crisis as an opportunity to learn something. And thirdly, recognising God's constant intervention in the world became for him a way of life. In any moment he wanted to, he could find God. Such was his closeness and familiarity with God.

The dramatic reversal that took place in the life of Ignatius fills us with a lot of hope. It gives us a perspective on our own crisis moments. It reminds us that all struggles hold great potential for growth. The COVID struggle, even for all the destruction it has caused, is the cannonball moment of our times. It comes as a reminder that even in this chaos, we are called to recognise the Lord, make provision for a reversal of sorts, and thus revive our lives of faith and service. ■

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### A CANNONBALL STRUCK... (Contd from Pg 7)

*Exercises* as a sharing of his own experiences, and also as an aid to anyone who was desirous of seeking and finding God's will in their lives.

In our world which gives so much of importance to clothes and the outward appearance, this experience of Ignatius invites us to the contrary. Doing the *Spiritual Exercises* will help one to realise that all the externals are temporary and passing, and that only God is absolute and eternal. This is why it is prudent and practical to focus on the permanent and steadfast God, rather than on that which is gone in the blink of an eye.

**Worldly glory to God's Glory:** As a soldier, Ignatius was extremely brave and was willing to lay down his life for country and king. This did not change with his transformation. He continued to be willing to lay down his life. However, now, the king was not a mere earthly king, but the eternal king: God. If as a soldier of the earthly king, he sought both his own glory and the glory of the king, now, his sole focus was the glory of God. It was not merely the glory of God that Ignatius sought, he sought the greater glory of God which became the motto of the Society of Jesus as summarised in the acronym A.M.D.G. (*Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam* – The Greater Glory of God). The reason why Ignatius chose the comparative rather than the superlative degree was because there would be no room for complacency. In this type of world view, the good became better, the better became better still, and the better still became still better. There was no accepting the status quo. It was a constant search for the better, the more, the higher, the braver and the greater.

**Aggressiveness to assertiveness:** Ignatius did not change so drastically so as to change his basic orientation. It was the direction of his zeal and enthusiasm that changed. His aggression and desire to win at all costs and in every circumstance was transformed into an assertiveness to transform the lives of others, and indeed, set the whole world on fire with the reality of God's love. His belligerence was transformed into firmness. This was seen tangibly when

he pursued Francis Xavier at the University of Paris, and won him over with the words from scripture, "For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?" (Mt 16:26). Ignatius used the leadership qualities he had been gifted with as a soldier to guide and direct the Society of Jesus that he founded along with his companions.

**Vanity to humility:** Not even the closest of Ignatius' friends would deny that he was vain. He was obsessed with his physical appearance, and would spend a long time with external grooming. This changed during the time he spent with God. Now, vanity was replaced by humility. One event which speaks volumes of his humility was his desire not to name the Society he founded after himself, but after the one on whom he set his gaze all through the rest of his life - Jesus. This is why the Society was named "*Societas Iesu*" (Society of Jesus).

The lockdown that Ignatius was forced to go through could have resulted in his becoming morose, depressed, disheartened, and could have led to his giving up on life. Instead, because of his positive response, it resulted in a transformation of his being.

By the time of Ignatius' death on July 31, 1556, the Society of Jesus was operating a network of 74 colleges on three continents. Besides this, the Jesuits were involved in a variety of social, pastoral and intellectual activities in various parts of the world. Already during his lifetime, Ignatius could see that the Society of Jesus had indeed transformed the world. Through its members, it had set the world on fire with God's unconditional love.

Like Ignatius in his day, we too are going through a lockdown that none of us wants, but all of us have to undergo. We can allow it to affect us negatively, and give in to depression and dejection, or we can look at it as an opportunity to look outside of ourselves and let it lead to a transformation of our lives and, through us, of the lives of others. ■



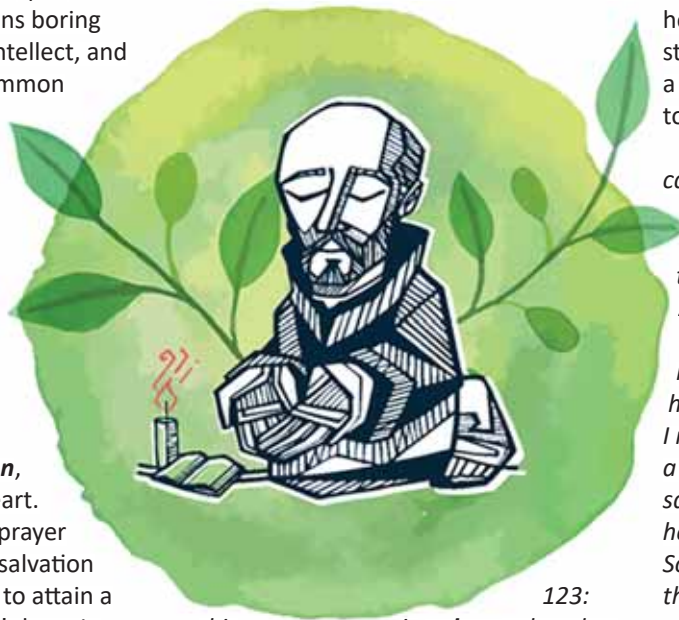
# Learning to PRAY from St Ignatius

Much is written about St Ignatius Loyola and his impact on the life of the Church over the last 500 years. But how many of the millions of wonderful laymen and laywomen living dedicated lives in today's Church know about and practise his very simple and easy Prayer Method called "Application of the Senses" or Imaginative Contemplation of a Gospel scene? Somehow the idea is widespread that Ignatian prayer means boring "meditation" using the intellect, and so, not meant for the common (wo)man!

St Ignatius recommends instead that the person praying **start by imagining, as vividly as possible**, an interaction with Jesus and/or the other characters of the biblical scene, even becoming one of them. In this **imaginative participation**, the mind engages the heart. The aim of this mode of prayer is to make the events of salvation 'present' to us, and thus to attain a direct experience of God's love. In The Spiritual Exercises, he writes: n 121, "It will be profitable with **the aid of the imagination** to apply the five senses to the subject matter being contemplated... n 122: *this consists in seeing in imagination the persons, and in contemplating in detail the circumstances in which they are...* n

**Fr Dr Fio Mascarenhas SJ** is Chairman of the Catholic Bible Institute and former Chairman of the Indian and worldwide Charismatic Renewal Services.

The aim of this mode of prayer is to make the events of salvation 'present' to us, and thus to attain a direct experience of God's love.



123: *this is to hear what they are saying... n 124: to smell... n 125: to apply the sense of touch... always to draw some fruit from this.*

Here is an example, providing enjoyable details: The story of Zacchaeus, Luke 19:2-10

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. He sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to

see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

This whole setting is filled with fun! In your mind's eye, see this short man, probably fat as well from sitting so long in a comfortable chair collecting taxes, and of course feasting daily with abundant and rich food and wine. But of all people, he wants to see Jesus! Being of a creative mind, he hits upon a plan – he will run ahead and get a bird's eye view of Jesus from up a tree! If a movie camera were to follow his path, we would see him huffing and puffing to run ahead, and then with even more effort, struggling to climb up that sturdy tree! But it was all worthwhile, because Jesus stopped below that very tree! Imagine the many in the crowd who were probably laughing and hooting hilariously as they noticed this strange sight, and imagine Jesus with a broad smile as he called out lovingly to Zacchaeus.

"So Zacchaeus made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it they all murmured, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.' And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.' And Jesus [with a happy smile] said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.'"

Zacchaeus has the last laugh! And Jesus continues to laugh with joy as he goes on his way, to bring salvation to many more.

This Prayer Method can be applied to most of the Gospel scenes, with much profit. Try it! (More examples are found in my book, "JESUS LAUGHED, a fresh look at the human Jesus" GSP, 2021). ■

The COVID-19 pandemic has practically paralysed the world; millions have lost their loved ones, and an equal number of people have lost their jobs. People around the world are waiting in hope for this pandemic to end and for a better tomorrow. If this is the situation of those who are free to enjoy their liberty in society, imagine the plight of those behind bars whose liberty is withdrawn and who are totally disconnected from the outside world. Uncertainty, fear, anxiety, pain, sorrow and grief are feelings that our brethren in prison experience on a daily basis. These concerns and anxieties were strongly raised by Fr Stan Swamy during his incarceration.

A prison is ideally supposed to be a place of rehabilitation and transformation, so that the accused, having served his/her sentence, can rejoin society. The reality is that once they are out, the inmates are faced with challenges like social ostracism, low self-esteem, broken families and unemployment. These concerns were very sharply highlighted by Pope Francis last year, while addressing the committee of Integral Human Development and Catholic Prison Pastoral Care. He said, "It is easier to suppress than to educate, to deny the injustice present in society and create these spaces for shutting off transgressors into oblivion, than to offer equal opportunities for the development of all citizens." He also added that this is an "educated way of discarding persons."

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it unto me" (Mt 25:40). The Church, through Prison Ministry, tries to put these words into action by reaching out to the imprisoned. This year, the theme of Prison Ministry Sunday is 'Reintegration of Prisoners'. Punishment and Reintegration are not contradictory, but can be complementary options, if well planned and executed. Reintegration of prisoners does not necessarily imply only legal aid so as to free them, but

**Fr Glasten Gonsalves is the Director, Prison Ministry Mumbai.**



## **Rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners post-release is a crucial element of the reforms needed in India's criminal justice system.**

"It is easier to suppress than to educate, to deny the injustice present in society and create these spaces for shutting off transgressors into oblivion, than to offer equal opportunities for the development of all citizens."

has a much broader perspective. These perspectives have been widened by Pope Francis during his address to the committee of Integral Human Development and Catholic Prison Pastoral Care where he provided two images. He said that one cannot speak about debt repayment by prisoners without offering them a window, and one cannot change their life without showing them a horizon. He asked the participants to make sure their prisons always have a window and a

horizon. Prison Ministry Mumbai aims to make these perspectives a reality at various levels, viz. psychological, moral and social. It plans on doing this by providing free legal aid to convicts, rehabilitating the inmates (especially the juvenile), giving vocational guidance and training, conducting counselling sessions, reaching out to the family members of the inmates, providing non-formal education, and even computer and cookery classes for the juveniles.

During the lockdown, a lot of attention was given by the prison authorities to reduce overcrowding in prisons, hence many prisoners were released. However, little emphasis was placed on managing post-release issues. This could have a boomerang effect, considering how Indian society looks down upon those who serve a penal sentence. This could totally derail an individual's social transformation, causing him/her to return back to his/her socially inappropriate behaviour.

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prison Ministry Mumbai reached out to the inmates and provided them with health kits comprising masks, oximeters, sanitisers, medicines, toiletries, etc. To assist the juveniles

*(Contd on Pg 15)*

# "A Gun cannot change a Prisoner, but a Nun can!"

Ravi (name changed) was born in a small village in Kerala to a strict father and a pious, caring mother. They lived a hand to mouth existence, struggling even to meet their daily needs. Yearning to become wealthy like most of his friends, he left home one day, only to land in a villainous gang of pickpockets. With the training he received from them, he turned out to be a clever pickpocket. With no one to care for him, and having no particular goal or responsibility, he enjoyed the life of a prodigal, squandering his money on liquor, etc. for 22 long years. One day, however, the law caught up with him, and he was arrested.

It was in prison that Fr Alexander Kureekkattil CMF, a dedicated Prison Ministry volunteer happened to meet him. Fr Kureekkattil consoled and counselled him, urging him to read the Bible; he strongly believed that God could deliver Ravi from the clutches of evil. And the God of the lost did pick up the pickpocket for sure! To make a long story short, Ravi today lives the simple yet respectable life of a vegetable vendor. With his family, he shines as a tool in God's hands, toiling to bring back souls who have gone astray, guiding to God the hearts that are in need of conversion. Oh



yes, the Prison can indeed be a place of Redemption!

## Jesus behind bars

Some prisoners, in their dark moments when all the doors seem closed around them, encounter God the Redeemer, and open themselves to His holy will. PMI volunteers don't carry Jesus to the prisoners from outside. Our God is already present there, for He says, "When I was in prison, you visited me" (Mt 25:36). We accompany our brethren behind bars to encounter our Crucified God, and to gaze at the disfigured face of

our God on the Cross. Can convicted and death row prisoners be redeemed too? Jesus redeemed a death row prisoner on the Cross, as He said, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43), and it continues even today in the dark cells of prisons.

## The Wounded in Death Chambers

Pope Francis said the Church should be the "field hospital" where the wounded are. The wounded are more in prisons, especially in the death row chambers. The Pope defines a holy person as one through whom God passes. We are the hands of God; we are the eyes

of Christ; we are the voice of the voiceless. When we look into the eyes of the prisoner, there is no doubt grace passes to us from them too. 90% of the death row prisoners are victims who have been abused as children, who have faced violence, witnessed violence, and finally they act out that violence that has been all too familiar to them, and the cycle is completed.

## Priest of the Gallows

St Joseph Cafasso was known as the 'Priest of the Gallows' due to his extensive work with those prisoners who were condemned to death. It was the most hardened, most vicious criminals whom he loved most. He ministered to more than five dozen men who were sentenced to death, working not only to make them repentant, but to make them saints. He prayed with these men, heard their confessions, offered Mass with them, and accompanied them to the scaffold. He even promised that if they offered their executions to the Lord, they would go straight to heaven.

## Prison Ministry – A Journey towards Redemption

Prison Ministry is a journey in which the PMI volunteers accompany our brethren behind bars. The journey of every prisoner ends only when they are redeemed by God. Thus, PMI is a journey towards redemption. In our entire society, it is only our brethren behind bars who do not create walls for themselves. For they have the external high walls which restrict their freedom, just because they made a mistake in their lives or were forced into crime or were urged to

*Sr Lini Sheeja MSC, PMI Former National Secretary.*



commit a crime by conducive situations. The external walls are not so painful in their lives compared to the walls which family members or society impose on them. The moment they are arrested, they feel abandoned. Life becomes meaningless. They tend to think that they should die meaningfully, rather than live a meaningless life. If you ever get a chance to enter a prison and meet our brethren, ask them about their first day's experience in prison, the day when they were mocked and laughed at by their enemies.

### **What a gun cannot do, a Nun can**

It was in 2002 as an aspirant that I heard in a sermon on Prison Ministry Sunday, "a gun cannot change a prisoner, but a nun can." After the Holy Eucharist, when I reached my table, I wrote down the same words in my personal diary, and my mission of praying for the prisoners started from then on. I would offer a decade of the Rosary every day for the prisoners across the globe, which was the inner motivation given to me by our Redeemer to join the Prison Ministry in 2018

with complete dedication and commitment. My call to PMI was the seed that was sown in my heart from that Prison Ministry Sunday Eucharistic celebration. In my journey with prisoners, I witnessed "what the guns of the police officers could not do in the lives of the prisoners, we, the passionate nuns, priests and lay people could do."

### **Prison Ministry Sunday**

Prison Ministry Sunday which has been celebrated since 2004 is a unique call to the Churches in India, to every member of our Church to remind us of our mission to pray for them, to reach out to them and to help in whatever way we can. His Beatitude, Moran Mor Cyril Baselios OIC (CBCI President, 2000-2004) and the Executive Committee responded to the needs of the times, as they declared on August 17, 2003 that Prison Ministry Sunday be celebrated officially every year on the second Sunday of August, taking into consideration the feast day of St Maximilian Kolbe on August 14.

### **Administration**

Prison Ministry India

The journey of every prisoner ends only when they are redeemed by God. Thus, PMI is a journey towards redemption. In our entire society, it is only our brethren behind bars who do not create walls for themselves.

is a national voluntary organisation under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), under the Justice, Peace and Development Commission, to work for the integral human development of prisoners. It runs under the able leadership of Most Rev. Allwyn D'Silva, PMI Chairman and Rev. Dr Francis Kodiyan MCBS, PMI National Coordinator.

### **Prison Ministry – A Call within a Call**

Nobody wants to be a criminal, and no one is born a criminal; PMI believes that no one is beyond redemption. You're never going to know if you can swim, unless you jump into the water. You're never going to know that you can change the life of a

prisoner, unless you become a passionate PMI volunteer. Prison Ministry is a call within a call to reach out to the broken, dejected, unvisited, the lost, the least and the last. You need not be a judge, lawyer or a police officer to work for prisoners. But you can be an ordinary human being, who can do small things with great love for our brethren behind the bars. If you have the eyes of Jesus who looks at the prisoner with eyes of compassion and the heart of Jesus who can hold the prisoner with love, just say 'Yes' to the call of our Redeemer. If you want to visit the God of the Lost, walk into the dark cells of prisons where broken beings await you. ■

## **YOU ARE A RAY OF HOPE (Contd from Pg 13)**

to cope with their online study in the Observation Homes, laptops, cellphones, books and other stationery were provided. There have been many impediments in carrying out our activities this year, because of the restrictions and protocols put up by the government. This has not dampened our spirit as the time was fruitfully utilised in training our volunteers through a course on 'Legal Skills for Social Work Practice'

conducted by the Nirmala Niketan College for Social Work and RUSA. The volunteers were also provided with the much needed spiritual motivation to strengthen them in carrying out future activities of the Prison Ministry through intercessory prayer meetings and personal sharing and reflections.

Service to humanity is service to God. No one is meant to go through the journey of life alone. We all

need help sometimes in our life. If you feel you have been blessed by the Almighty, you too must go out and be a blessing to others, because you are a ray of hope for them, thus creating a ripple effect. This is what our great hero Fr Stan Swamy did; even though he was falsely accused and was restrained, he continued to be a blessing to others. His life will always be an inspiration to each one of us to build God's kingdom here on earth. There are

many who are innocent and are waiting for our support and aid, our shoulder and assistance. Am I ready to be a beacon of hope to others?

I conclude with the words of Fr Stan Swamy, "We are (all) part of this process ... as such in a way I am happy to be part of this process, because I am not a silent spectator ... I am ready to pay the price, whatever it may be." ■

# NOTES & COMMENTS

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## Securing the Future of Children

DR MAMATHA CHETTIAR

At 472 million, children account for 40% of India's population. And yet, only 3.16% of the Union Budget 2020 was allocated to their development and welfare. In fact, the National Plan of Action for Children recommends that budgetary allocations for children should be 5% of the country's GDP; India has been stagnant at 0.43% of GDP for the last two years.

An estimated 46 million children, between 6-18 years of age, do not go to school (RGI Census Population Projection 2016 and UDISE 2016-17).

- 33 million child labourers go to work instead of school (Census 2011)
- 1 of 3 child brides in the world is from India (UNICEF 2014)
- 2 of 3 child deaths, below the age of 5, are caused by malnutrition (UNICEF 2019)
- 7.4 million children are still not immunised - the highest in the world (UNICEF)
- There has been a 500% increase in crimes against children between 2008-2018 (NCRB 2018)

According to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC), which was ratified by India in 1992, all children have fundamental rights which must be recognised by governments and citizens alike. The four key areas are:

- **Education** (Right to Development)
- **Health & Nutrition** (Right to Survival)
- **Safety & Protection** (Right to Protection)
- **Child Participation** (Right to Participation)

The Indian Constitution affirms that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of persons," and that "no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty." Despite this fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution, life, survival and child development remain areas of concern in India. Children who live in an environment of poverty are vulnerable to violence, exploitation, trafficking, substance abuse and discrimination. Lack of education further increases their vulnerabilities and risks. Children deserve a better future where their basic social rights like education, health and safety are protected and promoted. This becomes significant, especially in the context of children in shelter care homes. A majority of them lack the parental guidance necessary to help them understand their opportunities and make the right choices. Some of these children maintain some contact with their families and may even receive

some support from them, but many others are living and working on the street, without any contact with, or support from, family members. In almost all cases, these children live without adult protection and without decent income-generating employment. To cater to the ever increasing need for homes, Mumbai has been able to provide more homes to help rehabilitate the children by providing shelter, and more importantly, a homely environment by many such NGOs.

According to a report released by the United Nations, children are the biggest victims of the pandemic. Not just because of the health risk, but also in terms of their overall development. With schools closed, children are deprived of education – for online learning is not affordable or feasible for many underprivileged children. They are also deprived of the regular meals that they were provided by schools through midday meal schemes. Many children are forced back into child labour to earn because of large-scale loss of jobs. They are also vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and trafficking in such conditions. It is therefore important to understand how children are at a disadvantage and what we can do to help them.

Prison Ministry Mumbai (PMM) reaches out, renews and reintegrates such children living in Remand Homes. The PMM Executive Team regularly visits Children's Homes, involves the Superintendent to proactively engage all concerned, including the government, to delve into the matter more, and come up with viable programmes that can effectively give them a quality life that will make them better citizens of the world tomorrow. Partnering with PMM has helped them to provide the best to these children through collaborative sharing of resources.

The PMM volunteers at such Homes arrange holistic care regularly, ensuring safe living accommodation, nutritionally balanced food, constant healthcare, recreational and cultural activities, counselling, personality development, mentoring, management skills through games and quality education. Understanding that children from such Homes transition into young adults with different needs and requirements, such children should be offered a safe environment with good facilities and the required support system to study and excel, as they learn to be independent and face life's challenges in the future.

*Dr Mamatha Chettiar is the Asst Coordinator of Mankhurd BKN Unit, Prison Ministry Mumbai.*

## Lifting dispensation is not enough to get Catholics back to in-person Mass

MARK PATTISON, CNS

The mere act of lifting the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation as the coronavirus pandemic eases won't

be enough to get Catholics to come back to church, and some dioceses and Catholics are actively working to bring people back. "Just opening our doors and waiting for folks to come is a failed strategy for generations, much less for today's culture," said Marcel LeJeune, founder and president of Catholic Missionary Disciples, in a July 12 email to *Catholic News Service*.

Research by the Catholic Leadership Institute, based in Pennsylvania, indicates that 25%-27% of Mass-going Catholics say they go to church "out of habit," according to Institute President Dan Cellucci. Another 4%-6%, he added, call themselves "Catholics in name only." The research, Cellucci said, is based on 300,000 parishioners who speak one of 14 languages in 43 U.S. dioceses.

"If you were looking at that and the (Mass attendance) habit's been broken for 18 months in some parts of the country, I would posit that those people aren't going to come back if they (parishes) are not careful," Cellucci said. "If they worked through 18 months without their parish and didn't miss it, why would they put it back into their schedule?"

Parishes that didn't do anything to keep in touch with their parishioners are "most at risk" of membership drop-off, Cellucci told *CNS* in a July 14 phone interview. The parishes "holding their own," he said, or that have been thriving "are ones that have actually been in relationship with their people. They've made a deep bond of community and they work really hard at that. They check in with their parishioners, issue invitations — all the hallmarks of what we know to be practices of good evangelising all the time."

Shouldn't the parishioners return on their own? "Theoretically, they should do that because of their Sunday obligation," Cellucci replied, "but that's not our mindset and we have to recognise that."

Michael McCallion, a theology professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary says, "What we need to do now more than ever is ramp up our hospitality and invite people to hang out with us at the parish. We can no longer wait for people; we need to go out and find them. Each parish should have staff dedicated to a radical ministry of hospitality based on their own individual community with social events every week, not every month."

The Detroit Archdiocese's Department of Evangelisation and Missionary Discipleship has assembled a "welcome-back playbook" for parishes to use. In the playbook are a sample script for calling parishioners and a sample 'welcome back' letter to send to parishioners. "A letter from the pastor is one of the most essential messages to share with your parish community," the playbook said.

One teen in the archdiocese has arranged a monthly Teen Summer Mass Series at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, featuring monthly themed Masses. Anthony Schena had noticed that at his home parish, there weren't a lot of people his age at Mass. "Teens like having fun and having food," he told *Detroit Catholic*. "There will be a snow cone

## NOTES & COMMENTS

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truck and fellowship for one night, and we'll have games and fun get-togethers for a brief amount of time after each of the Masses."

In a September 2020 study from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 36% of Catholics aged 18-35 said they planned to attend Mass less frequently when stay-at-home orders were lifted. A cautionary note on that came from Tamra Hull Fromm, Director of discipleship and an instructor at the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan. "When it comes to Mass attendance, we need to ask where people were in terms of their understanding of the Sacraments before the pandemic. Do they have an understanding of how the Sacraments nourish the faith and, therefore, are part of the routine of nurturing that faith?" Fromm told *Detroit Catholic*. Fromm added, "Adoration on a screen can shift our minds and shift our theology. We're disembodied with digital culture, making it tempting for some to move away from the celebration of the Mass and the importance of the Eucharist."

LeJeune, in an undated Catholic Missionary Disciples blog posting, said, "Catholic leaders need to stop asking, 'How do we get back to pre-COVID days?' ... Our job has never been to maintain institutions. It is to make disciples." To do that, leaders need to envision "a post-COVID parish," he said. "The pandemic gives us a unique opportunity. Still, big changes need to be bathed in discernment and prayer." He added, "Mission tells us why we exist. It is the engine which drives the car. We don't get anywhere without it."

### Online Payments to *The Examiner*

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Please send your articles and reports with your name, address, contact number, author byline and relevant pictures to [editor@examiner.in](mailto:editor@examiner.in)



## NEWS • LOCAL

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### PMM Website Launch & YouTube Broadcast

'Reform a prisoner today, better the world tomorrow.' Prison Ministry Mumbai is a Voluntary Organisation working for the release, rehabilitation, reformation, renewal and reintegration of prisoners. The Archdiocese of Bombay started Prison Ministry in the year 2001 under the title of Prison Ministry Mumbai (PMM). Today we have 150+ PMM volunteers. To know more about the vision, mission and works of PMM, you may visit our new official website that will be launched on Sunday, August 1, 2021. A short video highlighting the many works undertaken by PMM during the pandemic will be streamed on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

### Webinar on Career Opportunities

The Training and Youth Forum of The Bombay Catholic Sabha invites students of Class 8 to 12 (and their parents) for a webinar on Career Planning, titled 'Discover your Future', on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7 p.m. The webinar will provide insights into Career Opportunities after Class 12. Ms Shailaja Mulay, a veteran Career Counsellor, will guide the youngsters on the various Career Options available. You are requested to register for the webinar on the link: <https://tinyurl.com/44dz2hnj>. For details, please contact Lawrence Fernandes on 90290 89915 or email: [bcscareers2021@gmail.com](mailto:bcscareers2021@gmail.com)

### Deepen Your Faith 2021-22

Deepen Your Faith is being organised online for the 29<sup>th</sup> year in succession. The classes will be held between 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. on Saturdays. Cardinal Oswald Gracias has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest for the inaugural session, followed by a talk on 'Papal Leadership in contemporary Church Renewal' on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 5 p.m. Talks will be conducted from August 14, 2021 up to January 29, 2022.

One of the greatest attributes of the Church is that she is forever being reformed by the Holy Spirit. "While Christ, holy, innocent and undefiled knew nothing of sin... the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal" (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 8). Since the leadership of the Pope is very critical in

the renewal efforts of the Church, during this year there will be a reflection on the ministry of St Peter and his successors, from the biblical, theological and historical perspectives, and an examination of the excellent strategies used by Pope Francis for a comprehensive renewal of the contemporary Church.

Registration for the course will be available for 100 participants. Registration commences July 31, 2021. There are no registration charges. You may register by *WhatsApp* on 9892952891.

*Joaquim Reis*

### B.I.R.D. Course 2021-2022 (Online)

The Bombay Archdiocesan Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue announces the Basics of Inter-Religious Dialogue (BIRD) Course 2021-2022, which will be held online. The course is open to Laity and Religious interested in the Church's Ministry of Inter Religious Dialogue and those deputed by their Parishes, Schools and Institutions. It is aimed at helping Catholics understand various religions in India, and the course material will be presented by resource persons from those religions.

**Course Sessions:** One Sunday in the month, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

2021: Aug 22, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21 and Dec 5;

2022: Jan 16, Feb 13 and Mar 20 (Graduation)

(When the pandemic situation improves, sessions may be held in person.)

**Course Fee:** Rs 1,000/- payable into:

A/c Name: Archdiocese of Bombay – Inter Religious Dialogue  
Bank: Catholic Syrian Bank, Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 093

A/c No.: 033900461028190001

IFS CODE: CSBK0000339

**Course Director:** Fr (Dr) S. M. Michael, SVD, Secretary, Archdiocesan Commission for Inter Religious Dialogue, Archdiocese of Bombay.

**Register at:** [irdbom@gmail.com](mailto:irdbom@gmail.com), attaching letter of recommendation. For further enquiries: please visit [www.archbomird.org](http://www.archbomird.org)

### Mahad Missions affected by floods

Catholic dioceses in Maharashtra have plunged into rescue and relief operations after the Konkan region in western India experienced its worst floods in four decades. Downpours lasting several days killed at least 136 people.

Rescue teams struggled through thick sludge and debris on July 24 to reach dozens of submerged homes.

Maharashtra experienced the heaviest rain in July in four decades, say experts. Floods have severely affected hundreds of thousands, while major rivers were in danger of bursting their banks. A landslide killed 49 people among Katkari tribals in the Mission area of the Archdiocese of Bombay in Raigad, one of the most affected districts.

"I express my profound grief and sorrow for the floods," said Cardinal Oswald Gracias, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India and the Archbishop of Bombay, speaking to *AsiaNews*. The floods have caused "heavy loss of lives and damage to crops, houses, cattle and property." As a result, "I share the anguish of the people affected and wish to express our closeness to them. The Catholic Church will be intensely involved with the relief work."

Fr Pravin D'Souza, diocesan priest in charge of the Jan Kalyan Trust, of the Archdiocese of Bombay, said that aid, emergency medical teams, and religious staff are being sent to the most affected areas. "As soon as I informed Cardinal Oswald of the disaster, His Eminence requested that all religious personnel rush to the aid of these people, to give comfort to the elderly, children and vulnerable people, as well as open shelters for the thousands of people who have been left homeless."

The Centre for Social Action of the Archdiocese of Bombay provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. Fr Joseph Gonsalves, Director of CSA, said that 500 kg of rice, 200 kg of dal, 100 kg each of onions and potatoes, in addition to other essentials like cooking oil and masalas were delivered on Sunday, July 25. Fr Nigel Barrett, Parish Priest of Rosary Church, Dockyard Road, has also coordinated with a number of parishes and benefactors to send a truckload of relief material to Mahad on Tuesday, July 27.

*Asia News*

## Catholic Mass Media student tops Mumbai University

It was a proud moment for her parents and Don Bosco College, Kurla when confirmation came that Shania Pais had topped the Bachelor of Mass Media Graduate Exams at Mumbai University this year with a 9.97 CGPA (Cumulative Grade Points Average). This is no ordinary achievement, considering that she outclassed 5,177 students from 85 colleges to take the top rank. Shania has consistently shone brightly in academics, scoring 96 per cent in her ICSE exams and 90.46 per cent in her HSC examinations.

Fr Joseph Braganza sdb, Executive Director of the Mass Media Department, Don Bosco College was all praise for Shania. "When she entered Don Bosco College

## NEWS • LOCAL

three years ago, she showed signs of a 'Diamond in the Making' which has now come true with this achievement of excellence. Shania always displayed an exemplary dedication to her work; her respectful nature and team-player attitude won her the admiration of teachers and colleagues alike," he said.

Shania herself says that the top rank has come as a pleasant surprise that she was not expecting. She credits her success to hard work alone, for which there is no substitute. Her interest in Mass Media was sparked by her holiday work experiences at her dad's outdoor ad agency firm. She plans to now study further and gain greater expertise in the field of Digital Marketing.

## Anthonian E-fiesta 2021

The novena in honour of our miracle-worker St Anthony began from June 4. The theme for this year was 'The holy family, a model for all families', with special reference to St Joseph. The devotees of St Anthony attended the online novena, which was conducted in Marathi and English, with great devotion and commitment. During such a challenging phase, there were no stones left unturned to make the online novena a great spiritual experience. We pray that the Parish Team members involved in the planning and animation, as well as the priests and deacons who accepted the invitation to preach at our parish novena, may be blessed with abundance of grace.

The Anthonian Youth organised a four-day E-fiesta to add to the joyous occasion. Dancing, singing and talent competitions were held, in which parishioners from all eight zones, right from kids to senior citizens, participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. The whole execution of this online e-fiesta was carried out enthusiastically. A grand online 'housie' organised on the feast day added to the fun and frolic. The efforts and commitment of the youth are highly appreciated. May St Anthony intercede for us and help us remain safe and healthy.

*Martina D'Souza, St Anthony Church, Malad (W)*



**Pope Francis**  
@Pontifex



In this time of pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics are a sign of hope, a sign of universal brotherhood marked by a healthy competitive spirit. #Tokyo2020

6:30 p.m. - July 25, 2021

# MATRIMONIALS

Replies should be addressed to: The Advertiser, Box No.... The Examiner,  
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## GROOMS WANTED

**RC** spinster Jun 82 born, 5'4", MBA, working as a HR Manager in a Pvt Co, seeks alliance from qualified bachelors upto 44 yrs. Ph: **9326503959**

**RC** Goan spinster 38, 5'7" Higher Secondary Teacher invites proposals from well settled Goan or East Indian bachelors. Kindly Whatsapp on **7208414419**

**RC** Seeking alliance for daughter aged 29, height 5'ft. Well Educated (PhD in Physical Education), talented, sincere and God Fearing. Looking for a well settled qualified individual with good family values, God fearing, caring nature preferably East Indian. Please contact me with latest photograph at **hail2603storm@gmail.com** or **9757137505**

**RC**, Goan spinster, 1988 born, 5'2", Masters degree, Working in a reputed MNC, seeks alliance from educated, well settled bachelors. Reply with details and recent photograph to Whatsapp no. **8928967161**

**ROMAN** Catholic, 34 years M.Com, CFA, Director in Audit firm currently in US seeks alliance from well educated Bachelor with strong Christian values. Kindly reply with complete details and recent photograph to **grace86a@gmail.com**

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**PROPOSAL** invited for a Mangalorean Catholic aged 36 years, 5'5" – B.Com, BSc in Hospitality Management, MBA (Finance) – Working for a public sector bank, with minor disability but independent. Seeking alliance from a Catholic girl, educated, compassionate and independent, age between 30 – 35 yrs. If interested please contact **+919969879601**, e-mail: **bosco1012@gmail.com** / **goddy1953@yahoo.com**

**SEPT** 1970 Goan RC individual athletic built working as Manager with reputed Cruise Liner abroad. Comes down after every 6 months. Lives in Mumbai. Alliances with sober, calm & cheerful disposition reply **robertevonne@gmail.com**

**RC** bachelor, 26 yrs, 5'7" MBA and PGDHRM, working in the HR department of a Pharma Company based in Ahmedabad, seeks alliance from qualified RC spinsters with good family background. Whatsapp with photo and details to **9879573754**

**RC** bachelor of Goan-Mangalorean parents 5'10" Ht 30 years MSC\_Data Analytics, Junior Data Engineer in the UK seeks alliance from RC Spinsters preferably Goan or Mangalorean though not a must 5'5" to 5'9" 25 to 29 years with calm and cheerful disposition and strong moral values preferably working in the UK though not a must reply with photo, profile and details to **mango1991rc@rediffmail.com**

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## NEWS • NATIONAL

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### KARNATAKA

## Bangalore Archdiocese honours Youth COVID Warriors

Yuva Chethana, the Youth Commission of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, honoured 102 COVID volunteers at Paalanna Bhavana (Pastoral Centre) on Sunday, July 18. Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore Archdiocese, who presided over the function, appreciated the projects of the Youth Commission and expressed his gratitude to all the institutions which facilitated COVID work during the second wave, especially the Camelian Fathers, St John's Hospital, St Martha's and St Philomena's Hospitals.

Sharing his vision on the future plans of the Youth Commission, Dr Machado said that food cabinets (community food banks) should be set up for the hungry in the archdiocese, along with clothes banks. Under the leadership of Jerry Jokin, the President of ICYM (Indian Catholic Youth Movement) Bangalore, various youth groups of the archdiocese swung into action during the second wave of the pandemic. 102 youth volunteered in COVID wards of hospitals helping 4,000 COVID patients; 28 youth volunteers, in collaboration with 'Here I am' group gave 'honourable' burials to 256 dead; 20 youth cooked food and served 300 meals daily, reaching a total of 15,000 meals to the homeless in Royapuram, Chamrajapet and Mysore Road areas. 30 volunteers distributed 500+ grocery kits to poor families, and also conducted a three-day vaccination drive where 300 people were vaccinated. The current initiative is providing 600+ medical kits worth Rs 3,500 each to COVID patients with support from Don Bosco BREADS, Bangalore.

.....ICM

### ODISHA

## Jesuit who pioneered Business Management Schools in India passes away

Doyen of Business Management schools and former Director of XLRI, Rev. Fr Abraham Enthekuzhy SJ, passed away in Bhubaneswar after a heart attack on July 14, 2021.

Rev. Fr Abe, as he was fondly and lovingly called, was ordained a priest at his hometown - Sacred Heart Church, Punalur, Kerala. He took his final vows on July 31, feast of St Ignatius Loyola at Loyola School, Jamshedpur. His tryst with XLRI, Jamshedpur began in 1983, when he was appointed Asst Hostel Prefect at XLRI; in 1985, he became Coordinator

HRD at XLRI. His hard work at XLRI being recognised by his Superiors, he was appointed Dean and Superior of XIMB, Bhubaneswar from 1987 to 1989. XLRI again welcomed Fr Abe as Director from 1989 to 1994. After completing his sabbatical at St Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, he took over as Coordinator of the Orissa Mission from 1995 to 1998. He helped to start XIMB, Bhubaneswar where he taught Management. He contributed immensely at XIMB, and finally from 2000 to 2007, he steered XIMB as its Director.

XLRI Jamshedpur expanded by opening institutes in Dubai, Singapore, Delhi, Mumbai and Amravati. The vast and skilled experience of Fr Abraham as a Business Management Guru was much sought after.

Vincent Richard Athaide

### BIHAR

## Catholic hospital ransacked after patient dies

Nazareth Hospital in Mokama, Bihar, was ransacked by an angry mob after the death of a patient. On July 15 evening, a group of 30 people ransacked the small health facility run by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. The only functioning ward had 11 patients that day. The hospital offers only medical outpatient and in-patient services, along with outpatient obstetrics and gynaecology, plus an advanced physiotherapy ward.

A nun present at the time, Sr Aruna Kerketta, was beaten up, as she tried to inform the administration. Making matters worse, the local police allegedly stood by without taking action.

The violence was triggered by the death of Pankaj Kumar Singh, a 40-year-old man who was shot while riding a motorbike on his way home. He was taken to the nuns' hospital with his rescuers shouting for a doctor. When the doctor realised the man was dead, they continued to argue that it was not true, and that he must be revived. Then they started trashing the facility, terrorising the nurses and patients.

"This incident saddens me a lot," said Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura of Patna, speaking to AsiaNews. "These Sisters serve the poor," he explained. The nuns bear "witness to a true missionary spirit, working tirelessly for the people, especially women and children, without discrimination. I pray for the hospital staff and also for those who committed this atrocity."

This is not the first episode of violence at the hospital. In 1979, Fr Francis Martinsek, a US Jesuit missionary who served as chaplain, was shot by unknown people. He eventually died from his wounds.

.....ASIA NEWS

# NEWS • INTERNATIONAL

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## VATICAN CITY

### Pope places restrictions on traditional Latin Mass

Pope Francis has issued sweeping new restrictions on celebrations of the Old Rite, saying it has been used to fuel division and reject the Second Vatican Council. Pope Francis' intervention overturns Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 legislation *Summorum Pontificum*, allowing greater use of the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass, and sets out a series of tough new conditions that give much more authority to local bishops.

Pope Benedict's ruling had allowed for celebrations of the Old Rite wherever it was requested by a group of believers. With the latest ruling, each priest celebrating the Old Rite must get permission from his bishop to continue to do so, while any priest ordained after the latest ruling must submit a formal request to his local bishop, who in turn must consult with the Holy See. Pope Francis' intervention aims to make the Tridentine liturgy very much the exception, and to clamp down on younger, traditionalist priests wanting to say the Old Rite.

Pope Francis has ruled that the liturgy which emerged following the reforms of the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council is the "unique expression" of the Roman Rite. He also states that one of the conditions for the celebration of the pre-Vatican II Mass is that "groups do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by Vatican Council II."

Pope Francis has been saddened, he explained in a letter to bishops accompanying his *motu proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes*, that the Tridentine Mass has been "characterised by a rejection not only of the liturgical reform, but of the Vatican Council II itself, claiming, with unfounded and unsustainable assertions, that it betrayed the Tradition and the 'true Church'." The Pope said that to doubt the Council is "to doubt the Holy Spirit himself who guides the Church," arguing that the Church's liturgy has been "adapted many times over the course of the centuries according to the needs of the day, not only [to] be preserved, but renewed 'in faithful observance of the Tradition'."

Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, he explained, had sought to "recover the unity of an ecclesial body with diverse liturgical sensibilities" by making provisions for celebrations

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of the Old Rite. But Pope Francis said their attempts to bring about unity had been "exploited to widen the gaps, reinforce the divergences and encourage disagreements that injure the Church, block her path and expose her to the peril of division."

.....THE TABLET

## ITALY

### Catholic Church gets a pass on Italy's 'Green Pass' mandate

Facing a worrying increase in new infection rates driven in part by the Delta variant, the Italian government rolled out new rules on July 22, requiring citizens to present a 'Green Pass' demonstrating they have either been vaccinated, or have had a negative COVID test in the past 48 hours, to be admitted to most indoor venues in the country.

As of August 6, the Green Pass mandate applies to virtually any setting where people gather indoors, from bars and restaurants to concert halls, museums, gyms and swimming pools. Yet there's one other place where scores of Italians come together inside on a weekly basis that's notably missing - Church.

The hands-off approach to the Church marks a strong contrast with Italy's first COVID-19 lockdowns in March 2020, when public liturgies were suspended, amid criticism from some Italian bishops and Catholic laity regarding possible religious freedom violations, not to mention objections to defining auto repair facilities and tobacco shops as "essential" services.

Masses were suspended for nearly three months as part of a wider ban on all public gatherings in a bid to curb the number of infections. Many argued that access to spiritual support was an 'essential service' in such a difficult time, and that the ample size of Italian churches allowed faithful to spread out without fear of contagion.

Churches were reopened to public access shortly after, and since then, most parishes have maintained strict limits on how many people are able to attend Mass at a time, with clear spacing in the pews, mask requirements, and hand sanitiser at the front of the church, instead of holy water.

.....CRUX NOW

## AFGHANISTAN

### Indian Jesuits brace for fallout after US military departure

Indian Jesuits in Afghanistan are not sure what is in store for them as the strife-torn nation slips into conflict, as the United States winds down operations after almost 20 years of war.

"We will continue to accompany and give hope to the suffering people in whatever way is possible for us," Jesuit Fr Jerome Sequeira, who heads the Society of Jesus' mission in Afghanistan, told *ucanews.com* on July 19. But with the Taliban making sweeping gains, fears of human rights and cultural abuses loom large. Fr Sequeira said "uncertainty and nervousness are very much palpable in the country," but we "are committed to our cause."

The Jesuits came to Afghanistan in 2004 to work with Afghans in rebuilding the war-ravaged nation through education. The Jesuit Refugee Service stepped in to educate young people, focusing on internally displaced persons, returnees from neighbouring countries and other vulnerable communities. In collaboration with local staff, the Jesuits trained more than 300 young teachers who are educating more than 25,000 boys and girls in four provinces.

Girls were major beneficiaries of the Jesuit mission in a country still haunted by memories of the Taliban's misogynistic rule, before it was toppled in 2001. With the Taliban's expected return, mothers and daughters are worried again.

In addition to education, Indian Jesuits have been involved in supporting livelihoods and providing long-lasting solutions for peace in the war-ravaged country. "We work in collaboration with local communities and government agencies helping victims of war and ethnic conflicts to live with dignity," said Fr Sequeira.

Suspected Taliban fighters abducted Fr Alexis Prem Kumar, who was serving as JRS Coordinator in Afghanistan, while visiting a school in Herat province in June 2014. The priest was released in February 2015.

.....CNS

## GERMANY

### Churches pray, provide aid as European death toll climbs

German Catholic churches offered spiritual and financial support to survivors of devastating floods in two regions of the country. At Masses on July 18, bishops, priests and parishioners prayed for those who died, emergency workers who continued to clear mud-lined streets and residents seeking to salvage what they could from damaged and destroyed homes, the German Catholic news agency *KNA* reported.

Officials recorded at least 196 deaths on July 19 in western and southern Germany, eastern Belgium and parts of the Netherlands. Hundreds more were missing. In a visit to the region on July 18, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the catastrophe the worst natural disaster in the country in 60 years. Pope Francis reiterated his sympathy for the victims of the flooding in the three countries, asking

## NEWS • INTERNATIONAL

God to receive those who died, comfort survivors, and strengthen rescue workers, as he addressed the crowd in St Peter's Square at the Vatican on July 18.

"I can't get over the pictures and conversations of the past few days," said Bishop Stephan Ackermann of Trier, who had visited the Ahr Valley, one of the areas of severe flooding. He described destroyed homes, streets and bridges, and told of how he spoke with people who felt helpless and "beside themselves." He also expressed support for volunteers who were helping victims.

Cardinal Rainer Maria Woelki of Cologne also expressed shock over the devastation. "Where telephones were still working, I was able to talk with many priests and deacons in the affected regions," he told the Catholic news site *domradio.de*. The Cologne Archdiocese was providing 100,000 euros as well as emergency shelter.

.....CNS

## ASIA

### Japanese prelate named FABC Secretary General

Japanese Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi of Tokyo has been appointed the new Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences. Archbishop Kikuchi replaced Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-Sang of Macau, who resigned from the post in July.

The FABC announced the archbishop's appointment in a letter sent to its member episcopal conferences on Thursday, July 22. As Secretary General, he will direct the activities of FABC's Central Secretariat, execute its resolutions and instructions, and coordinate the work of the Federation's offices.

Born in Miyako, Iwate Prefecture in 1958, he was ordained a priest for the Society of the Divine Word on March 15, 1986. He was sent to Ghana's Korofidua diocese following his ordination, becoming the first Japanese priest to go to Africa as a missionary. In 1999, he was elected Provincial Superior of the SVD missionaries in Japan.

Pope John Paul II appointed him bishop of Niigata on April 29, 2004. In October 2017, Pope Francis named him archbishop of Tokyo. Archbishop Kikuchi currently heads Caritas Japan and was the regional president of Caritas Asia from 2011 to 2019. He also served as member of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the FABC Office of Human Development.

.....MATTERS INDIA



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

.....

### Reactions to Fr Stan's Death

Sir, Reactions from the media on the death of Fr Stan Swamy have been illuminating. The print media has been overwhelmingly sympathetic, with many editorials, articles and letters castigating the NIA, courts and the government for the treatment meted out to the priest. There were some who wanted him to be canonised, while Julio Ribeiro wanted him nominated for the Nobel Peace prize. However, in the electronic media, there were some voices who claimed that Fr Stan was a terrorist, and he deserved all that he was made to endure.

The recent Pegasus spyware scandal has unearthed how highly sophisticated snooping technology was used to target prominent politicians, journalists and activists. If this could be done, is it that difficult to believe that the computers of those charged in the Bhima Koregaon riots case were hacked and incriminating documents planted? An independent international technology firm has confirmed that this has in fact happened.

We were not able to obtain justice for Fr Stan when he was alive; let us strive for justice now that he has gone to his eternal reward. Those who were responsible must not be allowed to escape the consequences of their actions. The remarks of the bench of the HC who were hearing the bail plea have been extremely gratifying, and perhaps it's an omen that justice will be done to the memory of Fr Stan.

Anthony Henriques, *Malad (W)*

### Two Cannonballs that should transform us

Sir, The corona virus pandemic has resulted in a complete shattering of dreams and ambitions of a number of individuals and families. People have lost their loved ones to this dreaded virus. There have been many young people whose untimely death has sent shockwaves across local communities. The situation of a nationwide lockdown has resulted in a very distressing situation. The loss of employment made it harder for people to make ends meet. The aspirations and hopes regarding careers and higher education have taken a huge blow. The financial burdens due to medical and other expenses have caused grave anxiety. The drop out rate from schools especially in rural areas has been alarming.

The cannonball of the corona virus has struck a devastating blow especially to those already on the margins of the society. This situation calls for a radical conversion, a metanoia. Just as

the lives of Christ and the saints were sources of inspiration for St Ignatius, for us today -- apart from these sources -- we can also take inspiration from sources such as those individuals who courageously reached out to those in need during this time of the pandemic. Medical aid, essential needs like food and ration, were provided to those who were struggling. The generous outreach acts as a source of inspiration to all of us that we may turn to work towards orienting our lives in the service of those who are poor, abandoned and forgotten.

For me, a second cannonball moment - of the struggle and death of Fr Stan Swamy SJ - calls for even more introspection. He stood for the rights and dignity of the poor adivasis in Jharkhand. His life was an outstanding witness of what Pope Francis describes as 'Prophetic Audacity'. Even in times of difficulties and persecution, he endured it all gracefully. He was not willing to be a silent spectator. He was able to see the goodness of God and humanity bubbling even in a place like prison. No prison could hold back his voice because he firmly articulated that even a caged bird can sing. His life and witness is a call to conversion for the church. A call to be prophetic in its love and charity towards the poor and needy, to give itself totally and selflessly in the service and building up of the kingdom of God.

It is essential that we pay special attention to how God is directing and guiding us during the time of adversity, and how God is trying to draw out the best in us in the midst of trials and tribulations.

Deacon Wesley D'Costa SJ  
*Our Lady of the Sea Church, Uttan*

### Extreme Weather Patterns

Sir, Climate scientists are yearning for social justice for the planet Earth. Recent extreme weather patterns in various parts of the world have world leaders and climate activists clamouring for urgency in restoring the earth's balance. The world has witnessed unusual heat waves and forest fires in the North Western USA, British Columbia, Canada, extreme heat waves in the UK and Ireland, excessive rainfall causing floods in Europe - Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland.

Closer home, the cities of Mumbai and Delhi were flooded with incessant rains causing landslides. In all these events, precious lives and property have been destroyed. Reserved lands have now been de-reserved. Forests and green cover are being slowly and surely cleared in the name of progress and development. Fr Stan Swamy fought for protection of tribal lands from the clutches of the mining mafia. The earth and its resources are not for grabs or sale.

Bonaventure Stephen Gomes, *Borivli (W)*

## *Happy Parents Day*

*Our MOM & DAD who are our blessings,  
Thank you for making us your fortunate children  
with all your love, care and affection.*



*Hyginus & Sybil D'Souza*

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