



GOA JESUIT PROVINCE

BUILDING HUMAN COMMUNITIES OF LOVE



Apovonnem ...The Call

400th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Francis Xavier

MARCH-MAY 2022

Dear family members, collaborators, benefactors, and alumni,

Greetings as we prepare to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the canonization of St Francis Xavier, our Goencho Saib!

There have been many challenging experiences during the last few months. Yes, and there were also many moments of grace too. E.g., a few months ago, I experienced pain, hope, courage, and grace through one heart-breaking situation. There were floods in Valpoi, North Goa, and one family saw the walls (and roof) of their simple old house come crashing down. They were inconsolable. We offered very basic emergency supplies and they thanked us. “Besanv di, Father!” they requested. After a little prayer, their very small daughter (about 5 years old) said, “Don’t cry, Mama. Where our house is broken, we’ll put a bandage on it, okay?”

That little girl somehow embodied hope and courage in our broken world. As I mentioned earlier, in these challenging times, I found tremendous grace, love, and compassion through you, our Jesuit family members, our institutional and non-institutional collaborators, our benefactors, and our alumni. You have come forward and reached out—quietly and without fanfare. We are grateful for your generosity, love, and support. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Yvette, Ms. Cassandra, Ms. Prisca, Ms. Afra, Ms. Riona, Sch. Velenson and Fr. Menoy for rendering their help in making this Newsletter a reality.

In this issue of Apovnnem...The Call, Mr. Jelton and Fr. Merwin have shared with you some stories from our Jesuits who are in studies and some who are working in different areas of the Goa Province. Do keep all of us Jesuits in your prayers.

-Roland Coelho SJ
Provincial, Goa Province



PHILOSOPHY EXPERIENCE

My philosophy studies commenced at a crucial time with difficulties due to the pandemic. The online course was conducted at Vinayalaya Mumbai. Unable to go home due to the uncertainties was painful and my one consolation was my very helpful companion from the Bombay province. Looking back I realize that despite the struggles I also had cherished moments.

Presently, I am in DNC, a unique experience with more activities and exposure and celebrations of Karam festival and community days, monthly recollections and Triduum. Thus studying Philosophy solo and in a group has its advantages and disadvantages and I got to experience both sides of the same coin.

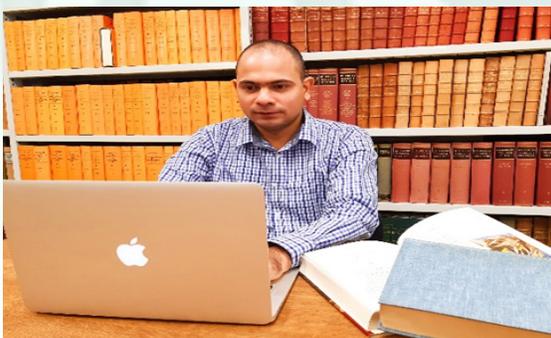


-Sch. Danzil Fernandes SJ

Sch. Danzil is currently doing his second year philosophy at Jnana-Deepa and is staying at De Nobli college, Pune. Philosophy is that stage in Jesuit formation wherein you study the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.

THEOLOGY EXPERIENCE

My contribution to Theology is to add a deeper meaning to our experiences with the sacred. God communicates himself to us freely, but he does so at the heart of human reality, history, families, communities, cultures, traditions, challenges, struggles, progress, and growth. How does this encounter, which transcends us, enlighten us not only about God, but also about the human person and about creation? What fruits and values can we harvest for living together in peace?



-Fr Shannon Pereira SJ

Fr. Shannon is presently doing his PhD in Theology at Centre Serves, Paris. He is also known for kick starting the Deepen Your Faith movement at Pedro Aruppe Institute, Raia.

EXPERIENCE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDY

Theological study is a platform that provides one with an understanding of what faith means in terms of different cultures and a deeper insight into one's ideas, beliefs, and actions in religion. My pursuit of M.Div. and STB degree at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, is a wonderful experience. It has broadened my horizon of perception, thinking, and ideology through the usage of critical and analytical tools. More importantly, it has taught me to be appreciative and open-minded to the church's teachings.



-Sch. Alendro Da Costa SJ

Sch. Alendro is currently doing his second year Theology at the Jesuit school of Theology of Santa Clara university, Berkeley. This is that stage of Jesuit formation after which the candidate will be given Diaconate followed by Ordination. Theology is basically the study of God and its religious belief.

MY EXPERIENCE OF TERTIANSHIP

We have been blessed to be sent to Bikfaya, in Lebanon, to immerse ourselves in the 'School of the heart', the tertianship, which is the last stage of Jesuit formation. Although we have just completed a month-long Ignatian retreat we still feel we are 'honeymooning' with the Lord. Presently, we are studying Ignatius' "Spiritual Exercises" so as to equip ourselves to give retreats and at the same time ruminate on our experiences with the Lord during the long retreat. Reflecting on of the reminiscences of St. Ignatius, the constitutions, and letters of St. Ignatius has helped us in having in-depth insights into Ignatian Spirituality. We are quite intoxicated with excitement as we look forward to working in this region during the next two months.



-Fr Joe Nazareth SJ

Fr. Joe is presently doing his tertianship which is the final stage of Jesuit formation before receiving the final vows.

IGNATIAN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT HELD IN SANGARGALLI

Here is a glimpse of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Trophy organized by the youth of St. Ignatius Church, Sangargalli, Gunji, on 2 January 2022. Twenty six football teams from Belgaum and Khanapur participated in the tournament. Almost 174 youth members were present and witnessed the well played matches. Our youth are the treasure of the world and we are called to indeed treasure them.

Thanks to the generosity of many good samaritans, it was quite a historical moment for all. Many thanks to Fr. Benito Fernandes, Mr. Praveen Wagh, Mr. Justin Mascarenhas, Mr. Nelson Lima, Mr. Lawrence Fernandes, Mrs Michelle Fernandes and Mr. Rohan Fernandes.

Congratulations to the St. Joseph Mansapur team who bagged the St. Ignatius Trophy and to the Runners up - The Khanapur Soccers.



-Fr Motiram Bardeskar SJ

Fr. Motiram is the Headmaster of St Paul's English Medium Primary School, Sangargalli. It is a school which is slowly picking up and catering to the rural children.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

On the 3rd of December the Feast of St. Francis Xavier reverently called 'Goencho Saib'. Masses were celebrated throughout the day with the high point being the Feast Mass. The theme this year was 'Stay with us Lord ---- To Live, Communion, Participation, Mission like St. Francis Xavier. A large pendal was erected next to the Basilica to accommodate the devotees from Goa and pilgrims from all over. Crowds also flocked to the nearby fair.



-Fr Apollo Cardozo SJ

Fr. Apollo is the Superior of the Old Goa community which houses the relics of the great Jesuit Saint who transformed many people's lives.

GROUP DYNAMICS THROUGH SPORTS

The covid pandemic has made the lives of teachers and students very stressful with the introduction of new methods of teaching and learning. As part of an initiative to make this experience of teachers a joyful one, the B.Ed trainees organised a sports day for all the staff of St. Britto's High School. It was a meaningful day for everyone and helped us to showcase our hidden talents and creativity.



-Fr Anand D'souza SJ

Fr. Anand is the Superior of the St Britto's Jesuit Community, Mapusa.

RETREATS, SEMINARS, YOUTH PROGRAMMES AT PEDRO ARRUIPE INSTITUTE, RAIA

Despite the covid scare, several programmes were held at Pedro Arrupe Institute, Raia. Every month, the youth members meet at PAI for a fruitful discussion on a topic selected by them. In the month of December, they organized an outreach programme at Fr. Agnelo Institute, Raia and a programme for the orphans which concluded with lunch. Many small groups of sisters and lay people make their annual retreat at PAI. An overnight seminar was conducted by Fr. Joseph Cardozo S.J for a group of lay people. The Lights of the World volunteers meet regularly to plan and evaluate programmes for schools and higher secondaries.

PAI is also open to people for spiritual counselling.

At the peak of the second covid wave, PAI was turned into a covid care centre for about a month, catering to the needs of around sixty five patients.



-Fr Cedric Fernandes SJ

Fr. Cedric is the Superior of Pedro Arrupe Institute, Raia. This is a center wherein various retreats, seminars, and programs are conducted for the laity, religious, and youth groups.

REDUCING THE VULNERABILITIES OF THE POOR MIGRANTS AND SLUM DWELLERS

Seeing the plight of the poor and especially the migrants during the pandemic and the successive lockdowns/restrictions being imposed, SWADES, networking with its partners is reaching out to the less fortunate and affected masses through reducing their vulnerabilities by supporting them with relief material like dry ration, medical assistance, financial aid to clear arrears of rent, medical camps, educational support to their children and conducting various awareness, motivational and counselling sessions to reorganise and instil confidence in them.



-Fr . Simon Fernandes, SJ

Fr. Simon is a Social activist based in Panjim, working for the empowerment of the poor and downtrodden.

MISSION WORK AT TORANGATTI

Torangatti which is 70 km from Belgaum district in Karnataka, India, is one of the poorest Talukas in South India. About 40 years ago, the Jesuits had a thriving residential school for the economically backward, irrespective of any caste or creed. Though we do not run a school anymore yet we are encouraging the students from the village to study well by making use of our premises and resources.

We are also propagating organic farming and vermiculture. We want to set up our farm as a model farm which is free from pesticides, weedicides, turning agricultural waste as compost and feed for organic farming. Thus we provide employment for the poor to learn and to earn. We also intend to begin a goatary and a dairy.



-Fr Prakash Figredo SJ

Fr. Prakash is presently working as a Mission Moderator of Torangatti and serves people of all faith.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, GADHINGLAJ

Christmas was an uplifting experience for us all at St Anthony's Church, Gadhinglaj. The liturgy and choir was conducted by the youth on 24 December at 11pm and was a moving experience. On Christmas Day, there were games and entertainment programmes organised by the youth for people of all religions. More than 500 children took part and also youth and parents. On 27 December at 4 pm there was Sarv Dharm Melava. Over 80 participants prayed for peace and harmony. It was a great experience and there was wide coverage in the local Marathi newspapers.



-Fr Joe Monteiro SJ

Fr. Joe is the Parish priest of St Anthony's Church, Gadhinglaj, Maharashtra. He is a missionary who has worked for the upliftment of many people in the mission parishes.

CARE OF THE AGED JESUITS

Our province rests firmly on the frail but firm shoulders of our elderly Jesuits. We draw inspiration from their pioneering work, innovative ideas and creative endeavours. The HCF (Health Care Facility) at Xavier Residence in Porvorim is a place with an attitude of gratitude towards our elderly or sick priests who need special care and love. At HCF we care unconditionally and cheerfully for the senior Jesuits where age takes its toll on their bodies but whose spirits are still aflame with the love for God.



-Fr Amit D'souza SJ

Fr. Amit is presently reaching out to the elderly Jesuits at the health care facility in Porvorim, Goa.

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY ANGELO DA FONSECA, “CHRISTMAS IN AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE”

The Xavier Centre of Historical Research organised an exhibition of selective paintings by Angelo da Fonseca entitled ‘Christmas In An Indian Perspective’. The fragrance of agarbattis and Indian music enhanced the theme. Fr. Tony and Fr. Malcom gave the welcome address and Fr. Joe Cardozo, the Superior of Xavier Residence, Porvorim inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of 20 people.

The resource person Fr. Amit discussed the background of the paintings and how Fonseca during his stay at Santiniketan was taught the techniques of painting by his gurus, Rabindranath Tagore and Nandilal Bose. A unique feature of Fonseca’s paintings, said Fr. Amit, was the Bengali wash technique used wherein completed paintings are dipped in water for a perfect blend of colour.

The gathering was delighted with the exhibition and refreshment and discussion ended the occasion.



-Fr Malcolm Barreto SJ

Fr. Malcolm is presently the Administrator of the Historical Research Centre. This is the place which houses a lot of historical treasures, be it paintings and also books.

MISSION AT MADWAL

Madwal, a village in Gokak taluka of Belgaum, has a population of 2242 and literacy at 65.14%. It is diverse in religion, caste, and culture. It is agricultural with sugarcane and tobacco fields. The vision and Commitment to this village is based on UAP and PAP of the Jesuit Apostolic body.

Walking with the poor, self help groups for women remedial classes for children and a healing touch to the sick are part of this mission.

Taking care of Our Home instills civic values through the planting of herbal, vegetable, and flower gardens. Plans are afoot to honour Swami Arulananda’s burial place with a garden and also to teach tailoring and remedial classes which will commence in Yeddalagudda and

Kanasgiri missions. An artistic community hall will be constructed between Mallarpur and Ankalgi. Thus the Way to God is shown in an inclusive, tolerant, and respectful manner to assist in creating a peaceful and caring village.



-Fr Tom Chenakala SJ

Fr. Tom is continuing the Swami's mission to the under privileged people by providing classes, and treatment and walking with people on this yatra to God.

NEW INITIATIVES AT ST. XAVIERS ITI, KHANAPUR

Solar Innovation Lab

St. Xavier's ITI, Khanapur has signed a tri-party MoU with SKIP (Skills for Progress) Bangalore and SELCO Pvt. Ltd. in order to start a new Solar Technician Course.

On-the-Job Training

This is a tie-up between our skilling partner SKIP, Bangalore and TATA Motors Pvt. Ltd. This program serves as a dual "work and learn" experience for the trainees working at the nearest TATA Motors plant.

Advanced Computer Courses

St. Xavier's ITI, Khanapur plans to start basic to advanced computer courses for the rural youth around Khanapur town area.

Industrial Training

Trainees get on-the-job training, work experience as well as hands-on practical and quality training from our industry partners.

Trainee Projects

Solar Powered Electric Vehicle and Electric Grass/Brush Cutter



-Fr Shawn Dsouza SJ

Fr. Shawn is the principal of the ITI college in Khanapur. Under his guidance many youngsters are enrolling themselves for these skill based programs.

MISSION AT CHIPLUN

Chiplun Parish came into existence because of the need of the people. The People came to teach in the convent school, to work, to do business and so Fr Joe V. D`Souza felt the need of the Parish to cater to all these Catholics who came from far away.

The Chiplun Parish is the smallest Parish of our Province with only seventeen families. This is a multi-linguistic and multi-cultural parish. People from Goa, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Kerala are here. This is also a floating community since, people come here for jobs, they are not permanent but stay for few years, and then return to their respective states. We do socio-pastoral work here. Since the Parish is very small, few Sacramental activities take place. Besides, people here are not free because of their jobs. Regular visits to families, Christian and those of other faiths, builds up the unity and understanding between the Church and the local people. Sunday Mass and feast day celebrations, are important days where the people are able to fulfill their Sacramental duties.

Recently, we have started social work among the Katkari Community in Nirbade village and all around Chiplun. We have done a survey and hope to start complementary classes for Katkari children soon. We also are planning to start inter-religious dialogue in our Khed house.



-Fr Joseph Fernandes SJ

Fr. Joseph, the Parish Priest of Chiplun, Maharashtra, not only caters to the pastoral needs but also reaches out to those people who have no one to care for them.

EXPERIENCES OF STUDENTS AT ST PAUL'S PU COLLEGE, BELGAUM

“Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.” At St.Paul’s PU College, we are given a wide range of opportunities to participate in Inter collegiate sports events. I have been coached well and I am proud to say that I have been selected for the State Level Foot Ball Team. A professional Coach is employed at our College.

-Ms. Prerana Baniya, Commerce student at St Paul’s.

I am happy to have been given a myriad opportunity to pursue my interest in Karate at the College which has supported me and encouraged me to participate in all the Departmental events. I am proud and blessed to be a Paulite.

-Ms. Quisha Salaskar 2nd Year Commerce, St.Paul’s PU.

Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will. Being the Topper of my School right from my Kindergarten to the tenth grade, I was in a dilemma as to which PU College I need to enroll myself into. Then I read about the facilities offered at St. Paul's PU where NEET/JEE/CET are all offered under one roof. I grabbed the opportunity and joined St. Paul's PU. Today I can assert that the Best Coaching for all the entrance exams for the Professional Courses is provided at St. Paul's PUC.

-Ms Shradha Varute, PU 1 Science, St. Paul's PU, Belagavi.

I always grew up passionate about NCC. I believed the best outfit is the NCC Uniform. The best shoes are the NCC Boots. The best hat is the Beret. The best place is the Parade Ground. St. Paul's PU was identified as one of the best PU Colleges when the applications & proposals from various PU Colleges were scrutinized and was approved with a platoon of 52 Cadets in October 2021. Ever since we have regular parades and empowering NCC Sessions which prepares us for the B Certificate. I am proud to be a student of St. Paul's PU where opportunities to pursue our passionate dreams are offered.

-Ms Sophia D'Souza, NCC Cadet, St Paul's PUC

I have been blessed to join the St. Paul's Pre University after studying at St. Paul's High School. It gives me a deep sense of awe to acknowledge the efficient and effective mentoring that we are privileged to receive at St. Paul's PU. Be it the Theory or the Practical, we experience an empowered rich paradigm shift in the way we think, reflect, discern, and execute. All the credit I give to the Holistic Management, the Empowering Principal and the Dedicated Staff of St. Paul's PU, Belagavi. *I am truly blessed to have joined this College that has been focussing on Excellence and All round Growth along with academic competence.

-Aditya Telang - PU 1 Science, St. Paul's PU, Belagavi.



FRIENDS IN THE LORD

St Francis Xavier has been called the greatest missionary since St Paul. In only ten years Francis opened so many doors and led so many people to Christ that it is easy to forget how simply his story began. Like each one of us, he had to meet Jesus one to one in the silence of his heart. And like many of us he got to this point because someone took the time and trouble to befriend him and lead him to God.



It began in 1527 in the University of Paris when Francis Xavier met a fellow Basque who became his roommate. He was none other than Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatius saw Francis' hidden potential and worked hard to win him over as a friend. Tactfully he found ways to help him out of his financial difficulties and recruited paying students for him to teach. He praised and encouraged Francis and engaged with him in conversation. At first Francis ridiculed his piety for he himself was a proud and ambitious young man. But very soon his resistance melted away and his love for Christ began to grow. Ignatius guided Francis through the Spiritual Exercises and encouraged him to make a full surrender to God. This was a defining moment in his life, an experience of conversion and surrender to the Lord.

From that point on Francis regarded Ignatius with the deepest affection and gratitude. He called him the 'father of my soul', and once told a relative 'Never in all my life will I be able to repay the debt I owe him.' Ignatius too found in Francis a close friend he would always be able to rely on, someone whose loyalty and affection would never waver. Francis was ordained a priest with Ignatius in 1537 and was with him in Rome when the Pope formally approved the Society of Jesus. But they would not be together for long.



Ignatius was soon asked to send Jesuits as missionaries to India. When one of the candidates fell ill, he asked Francis to step in. Francis accepted the challenge saying, 'I am here and ready.' The separation was a sacrifice for the two friends and as Francis had suspected a great one. "I believe that in this life we cannot see

each other anymore.” He wrote in one of his letters ‘to see each other face to face with many embracing’s will be for the other life...’



Through the years Francis and Ignatius stayed in touch through letters, warm, expressive and full of missionary zeal. Francis greeted mail from Europe with tears of joy especially when it contained advice and encouragement from Ignatius. Francis never had the opportunity to meet Ignatius again. He died on December 3, 1552 on the island of Sanchian. Even in his delirium he murmured the name of Jesus. Round his neck and close to his heart were the signatures of his dear friends. Francis and Ignatius were declared Saints on the same day and bound together in eternity in mutual love for God which brought them together. Francis and Ignatius are a powerful witness of the transforming possibility of friendship in the Lord.

- Fr Hector Almeida SJ

Fr Hector Almeda is currently residing at Mirimar and actively caters to the spiritual needs of the pre-novices and people.



JESUITS IN FORMATION

Novitiate



Neville Gonsalves
Xavier Training College,
Belgaum

College Studies



Cajetan Pereria
St. Britto Jesuit Community,
Mapusa



Noel Fernandes
St. Britto Jesuit Community,
Mapusa



Joswalt Noronha
Loyola Hall
Miramar



Ashwin Fernandes
St. Paul Jesuit Community,
Belagavi



Anothony Noronha
St. Paul Jesuit Community,
Belagavi



Jonathan D'Silva
St. Britto Jesuit Community,
Mapusa

Philosophy



Denzil Fernandes
De Nobili College
Pune



Irivo Callistus
De Nobili College
Pune



Swapnil Borges
De Nobili College
Pune



Glinson Fernandes
Satya Nilayam
Chennai



Mark Fizaro
Satya Nilayam
Chennai

Regency



Jovilton Afonso
Pedro Arrupe Institute
Raia

Theology



Sean Cardozo
De Nobili College
Pune



Jaeison Monteiro
Regis Jesuit Community
Canada



Shawn D'Silva
De Nobili College
Pune



Alendro Da Costa
Jesuit School of Theology
USA



Velenson Gomes
Jesuit School of Theology
USA

Dear Friends

Walking in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier, we, the Jesuits of the Goa Province, serve in the State of Goa and the District of Belgaum, Ratnagiri, and Kolhapur in various ministries, like youth, retreats, research, ecology, parishes, social, formal and non-formal education.

Would you accompany us on our Journey? You can help us in any of the needs mentioned below:

1. Towards supporting any Jesuit Ministry/Apostolate
2. Towards the health care of our senior Jesuits. These Jesuits have worked selflessly and tirelessly and are now in need of medical help and health care.
3. Towards the expense of the formation of our Scholastics (seminarians). We spend on an average INR. One Lakh Fifty Thousand per year per Scholastic.



Kindly Contact

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We look forward to your support