

## FROM THE CURIA

## Father General has appointed:

- **Fr. Ron Anton**, of the Province of Maryland, as Secretary *ad interim* of Higher Education. He will begin a one-year assignment on 1 September.
- **Fr. William J. Currie**, of the Province of Japan, Delegate to the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae.

## AROUND THE PROVINCE

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME  
SEPTEMBER – 2010

10	Social Centre, Ahmednagar – AGBM
11-12	Harigaon
25	Province Consult
26-27	Shrirampur - Visitation
28	Social Centre - Visitation

## Berchmans Training College, Pune

This month has been very eventful for BTC. We, Juniors, have been engrossed in our studies and in other activities. On 13<sup>th</sup> August we finished 20 days of lectures on world history by **Mrs. Radhika Sheshan**. She opened our minds to the trends in the story of our human family. Did you know Newasa near Pune is 2000 years older than Mohenjo Daro! It is the oldest civilization in India. On Independence Day, **Fr. Adrian** celebrated the Holy Eucharist and inspired us by his homily. **Mali mama** who was the chief guest for the programme hoisted the flag. In the programme which followed we sang patriotic songs and gave speeches. The match between us and the scholastics and candidates from St. Joseph's Technical and elsewhere was exciting and enjoyable. We won!! On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> we had the REBT course conducted by **Mr. Allan Cordeiro**. He showed how we could benefit in our spiritual quest through psychological

processes that promote self-worth (self-esteem), worth in others (empathy) and worth in life/in the Society (enthusiasm). Now BTC is ready to launch its own blog. The blog site is <http://berchamdg.blogspot.com>. However, the blog is under construction. The first semester exams are on the horizon.....!

Sch. Francis Lobo, S.J.

## Loyola High School, Pune

On the occasion of the 68<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Citizens Integration Peace Society of India - New Delhi held a high level Symposium on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 on Rajiv's role in promoting National Integration. The high light of this symposium was the presentation of the **Rajiv Gandhi Shiromani Award**. There were fifty awards in all to be distributed for achievers in their respective fields from all over the country and abroad. From these fifty, five had to be selected for this year's Special Award "**Gold Medal for Excellence**". **Fr. James Thorat** was unanimously selected for this Gold Medal for his personal contribution in the field of Education. The Students, Staff and Management of Loyola High School and Junior College held a special assembly to felicitate Fr. James Thorat on this rare & proud moment. Congratulations, Fr. James!

The feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated with great pomp and splendour at Loyola High School. A special Mass was organized by the students. The main celebrant was **Fr. Selvarathinam** from De Nobili College, with eight priests concelebrating. There was a special assembly put up for the students depicting the life of St. Ignatius. Tea & snacks were offered to all. The teachers were given a sumptuous lunch in a hotel close by.

Fr. Peter D'Cruz, S.J.

## St. Vincent's Pune

A number of memorable occasions marked the month of July. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the Socius of the Provinces of South Asia and the POSA paid a visit to St. Vincent's Jesuit Residence and joined the Community for dinner. On 9<sup>th</sup> July, **Fr. Andrew Fernandes** was installed as Rector of St. Vincent's Community by **Fr Bertie**, the Provincial, by reading out the appointment letter from Fr. General. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday school teachers of St. Xavier's Church were commissioned by **Fr. Ovid Pereira**, the Parish Priest, to teach Catechism. We had a few students from Bellarmine School, USA, visiting St. Vincent's School. They had a basket ball match with the school boys. We are grateful to **Fr. Robin** who preached the recollection on "Creative Fidelity" to the Pune Scholastics on 17 - 18 July.

The month ended with the feast of our founder, St. Ignatius. On this joyous occasion, **Rt. Rev. Valerian D'Souza**, Bishop Emeritus of Poona, celebrated the Holy Eucharist at St. Xavier's Parish. Thereafter we had a fellowship meal with our religious guests, priests and friends. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August we celebrated Parent's Day in the parish. We also celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, Independence Day and Justice Sunday in our parish.

We, the scholastics of this community, are very happy to join the children of St. Vincent's High School for their picnics. We get a chance to mingle with the children and get to know them. The school teams of St. Vincent's are doing very well in different sports at the different levels. **Fr. Andrew** participated in the City Church youth football tournament, and their team won the match in the finals and he was awarded the best player of the tournament. The priests of this community are busy with their various ministries, and the scholastics with their studies.

Schs. Roshan Toppo, S.J. & Prashant Shaharao, S.J.

## Loyola Institute of Management and Technology (LIMT), Shrirampur

The Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune has recently announced the BCA and BBA 1<sup>st</sup> Year Results. The LIMT's students did well and the Institute achieved good results in its first year since its commencement on 03 August 2009. The overall results were 65% for BCA and 86% for BBA. The Institute is making an all round effort to form its students, and is also inculcating in them the spoken English communication ability.

The Institute's students enthusiastically and at their own initiative organized the Institute's First Anniversary function. The students felicitated **Fr James Shelke, Dr Patole** and the faculty while expressing gratitude for their efforts in the past year. They expressed profound gratitude and appreciation for the work of Society of Jesus and their initiative to start this new Institution of higher education. The students made informative speeches on the life of St Ignatius of Loyola on the occasion of his feast. They were guided to imbibe the qualities of St Ignatius Loyola. A thanksgiving Mass was offered in the morning, in which the hostel students participated.

Fr. James Shelke, S.J.

## St. Joseph's Technical Institute, Pune

The month of August began with full of zeal and enthusiasm as July ended with the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, our Founder. SJTI community and the community of the candidates prepared themselves to celebrate the feast meaningfully by organizing the Novena with various inspiring themes. The Novena themes motivated us and instilled in us a new spirit of Magis in our ministries and studies. To mark the joy of our celebration we played a volleyball match with our BTC Juniors, and SJTI team won the match. The celebration ended with festive and fellowship meal with our neighbouring Parish Priests, Sisters and with our honorable guests from Germany, **Mr.**

**Joseph Huel**, an ex-employee of SJTI, and his family members.

On the Independence Day, **Fr. Francis D'Souza**, offered the Eucharist and **Mr. Chandrakant A. Ninale**, District Officer of Vocational Education and Training, hoisted the flag and gave an inspiring speech to the staff and students.

As usual the community members are fully immersed in their ministries and studies. **Fr. Tony Viagula** gave orientation programs to the staff members of various schools in Pune, Miraj, Vaduj and Nagpur. He also conducted some sessions for the Midlife Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity in Nagpur. **Fr. Subhash Tribhuvan** is always at his best to form and foster candidates for the Society. SJTI Community was happy to have **Fr. Joe Menezes** for a week. He is ill at the moment and is admitted to KEM. Our Scholastics and hostel boys are taking good care of him. He is recovering well. Do keep him in your prayers.

Sch. G Jesus Vivian Raja, S.J.

### **Vidyajyoti, Delhi**

As always, this year, too, the whole campus of Vidyajyoti is brimming with lots of activities. Doing theology in the Capital of our country adds a lot of advantages in our theologizing. The students just do not do theology at the bookish level alone. Besides our regular ministries, the whole faculty takes active part in planning and supporting just causes, like protests at Jantar Mantar regularly, demanding reservation for the Dalit Christians, observing black day in respect of the Kandhamal victims at their first anniversary, and very many other causes. The classes are in full swing with regular inputs, assignments and presentations. The fourth years are busy preparing for the fast approaching comprehensive exams and also trying to figure out answers for most of the queries in the newly revised thesis. The weather this year has been very pleasant with lots of rain. Though all of us are busy in our theologizing process, we also

make time to come together as province members regularly for prayer, recreation and faith sharing.

Deacon T. Nelton, S.J.

### **SADDAC, Miraj**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, **Fr. Luis** was presented with a donation of Rs. 1,50,000 by the Suryakant Pawar Foundation in recognition of the work done by him with SADDAC at Miraj and Daund. This foundation is headed by **Suryakant Pawar**, brother of our Union Agricultural Minister, **Shri. Sharad Pawar** and **Shri. Prataprao Pawar**, Editor of SAKAL. The donation was presented by Shri Sharad Pawar at a function organized at the S.M. Joshi Hall, at Navi Peth, Pune. SADDAC was short listed from 500 other organizations from all over Maharashtra.

Earlier at an interview, as part of the selection process, Shri Suryakant Pawar, reviewed the work done for the street kids at Miraj. Besides many other questions he asked "Father I appreciate the work you are engaged in. I have selected you among the first 20. Is it the work with Religious motives?" I said to him, "Love has neither religion nor color. I am living from hand to mouth with the street boys from local contributions. Few who are with me in the tiny rented rooms have decided to make a U turn in their lives. I live with them and they live like me". My heart was full of joy when he expressed and recognized the work we were engaged in. My heart resounded with the "Magnificat". On my journey back home to Miraj, my heart was again filled with a sense of gratitude to the Society of Jesus for permitting me to live the Spirit of our GC.32, D-4, "Option for the poor", and allowing me to live the MAGIS, each one is called to live.

Fr. Luis Rebelo, S.J.

### **St Xavier's, Kolhapur**

St. Xavier's Community, Kolhapur celebrated our founder's Feast with religious fervor and in a festive mood. It was indeed very

nice to see the Parish and the School coming together to celebrate the Feast of our Founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. It all began with the assembly conducted by the students and teachers. The theme, of course, was based on the life of the saint. **Fr. Kenny**, the Superior of the community, added the religious fervor by his meaningful and apt speech on the occasion. The students and the teachers showered their floral wishes upon their beloved Jesuits, and in return received tasty ice cream, and the Staff a sumptuous meal. The community celebrated the feast on the next day. After the Concelebrated Mass we, the Jesuits, came home to enjoy the Agape. The neighbouring religious communities were invited for the feast. Fr. Kenny, the Superior, conducted the prayer. With his powerful power point presentation, he conveyed to all those present about the inspiring life of our Founder.

15<sup>th</sup> August was also celebrated with religious fervor in the School. One of the parents, **Mrs. Manisha Jadhav** (a PTA member), was invited as the Chief Guest on this auspicious day. The N.C.C boys added beauty to the Independence Day by their Parade. After the flag hoisting, along with the chief guest, the PTA members, the Xesocop (The Ex-students of St. Xavier's High School), the Manager and the Principal had a tree plantation in the campus. It was a very eventful day indeed!!!

Fr. Sampat Bhosale, S.J.

### Scholastics' News

As Jesuits we are called to enkindle fire in others. This is exactly what the scholastics of Pune Province did. As we had planned at the Scholastics Meet, we have started giving various programmes in schools. On 17<sup>th</sup> of July we had gone to Loyola High School, Pashan, to give a talk on the life St. Ignatius of Loyola, the patron of the school. Though it was our first attempt, it was really a wonderful experience for all of us. The same power point presentation was shown to the Sunday School Children of St. Xavier's Parish. Special and heartfelt thanks

to all the scholastics who have been working hard to do their best. We want to really thank **Fr. James Thorat**, the Principal of Loyola High School, **Fr. Ovid Pereira**, the Parish Priest of St Xavier's Parish, and **Fr. Bhausahab**, our PCF, for giving us this opportunity to enkindle fire in ourselves and others.

Sch. A. Michael Raja, S.J.

### Swiss Mission Procurator

Our Mission Procurator **Fr. Toni Kurmann** and his right hand in the Mission Procurator's Office, **Mrs. Anna-Maria Brahm**, paid a visit to some of our Institutions and Stations in our Province from 28<sup>th</sup> August – Sangamner, Kolwada, Shrirampur, Ashankur, Shevgaon, Social Centre, JDV and St Vincent's. At Shevgaon they met **Fr Bertie**, the Provincial, and at St Vincent's they met **Fr Andrew**, the Province Treasurer. This meeting was followed by dinner hosted by the community of St Vincent's. Early on 31<sup>st</sup> August, they proceeded to Darjeeling.

Mrs. Anna-Maria Brahm was especially happy that she had the opportunity of visiting Dharwad where her Great-great-grandfather, **Rev Kittel**, had worked as a Missionary in the Basel Mission. Rev. Kittel studied ancient Kannada works which were written on palm leafs and he also learnt Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Tulu and Sanskrit. He also prepared what could be said to be the first Kannada-English Dictionary which he started in 1872 and had it ready by 1892. It contained a total of seventy thousand words then.

Bro. Noel Oliver, S.J.

### Vocation and Youth Commissions Combined Meeting

On 14<sup>th</sup> August, a combined meeting of the Vocation and Youth Commissions was held at SJTI, and it was presided over by our Provincial, **Fr. Bertie**. In his keynote speech he reminded the Commission members of our Jesuit responsibility in the formation of the

youth in our schools, institutions and parishes. He asked the members to spread the fishing-net wider in our neighbouring schools and parishes to catch vocations for the Province. Both the Coordinators and the members of the Commissions are planning to have various relevant and value-oriented programs for the youth to mark the international year of the youth.

To make the vocation promotion and youth work lighter and better, effective and efficient, various zones have been created and zonal leaders have been assigned by the Provincial.

#### Zonal Leaders:

- **Ahmednagar:** Frs. Francis Patekar and Joshy K. K.
- **Kolhapur:** Frs. Joseph D'Souza and Sampat Bhosale
- **Pune:** Deacon James Selvaraj and Sch. Jesus V. Raja
- **Goa:** Fr. Francis D'Souza
- **Kerala:** Fr. Thomas K.
- **Tamilnadu:** Sch. Savari Joseph
- **Jharkhand:** Sch. Emil Xalxo

Besides zonal leaders, each community and each member of the community / province is expected to promote vocations.

Fr. Subhash Tribhuvan, S.J.

### PRAY AND WISH

#### SEPTEMBER

03 Jacob Gaikwad      03 Sachin Thorat  
08 Anish K.            20 Walter de Souza  
30 Sampat Bhosale

#### OCTOBER

02 Roshan Toppo      09 Denis Borges

### TO THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE

- Fr. Anthony D'Costa, (BOM) 87/71, on 16.08.2010.
- Fr. Donatus Slapsys, (PUN) 89/73, on 19.08.2010.
- Fr. Maria Arul Kulandairaj, (GUJ) 49/28, on 31.08.2010.
- Mr. Lawrence Benjamin, brother of Fr. Alfred Benjamin, on 21.08.2010

### FR. DONATUS SLAPSYS, S.J. (1921-2010)

**Fr. Donatus Slapsys, SJ** who was sent by the German Jesuit Province to work as a missionary in the rural parts of the Ahmednagar District, breathed his last at the Nitya Seva Hospital, Shevgaon, Ahmednagar, on August 19, 2010.

Fr. Slapsys was born on March 13, 1921 in Siauliai, the third biggest town of Lithuania, but grew up mostly in Kauna. After the first four years of Jesuit formation in his home country, Fr. Slapsys was sent to Germany for studies in Philosophy and Theology in Berchmanskolleg in Pullach near Munich. He studied philosophy and theology very diligently and was a Jesuit who meticulously adhered to the laws and rules of the Society not only during his studies, but all his life. He was ordained Priest on July 27, 1947 in Pullach. During his studies in Germany, his home country was attacked and occupied by the Bolshevik forces of the Soviet Union. The Catholics underwent bloody persecution and his return home became impossible. After theological studies in Munich, he went to America, where the Jesuits who had been sent out of Lithuania were looked after by their banned fellow countrymen. He did his Tertianship at the Grand Coteau, USA. The American Jesuits were generous in financing the higher studies of



Fr. Slapsys, and he completed his Master's Degree in Education in 1950.

During his stay in America, Fr. Slapsys got acquainted with a number of American Jesuits who had been missionaries in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), and through them his interest to work in the Mission Stations grew and developed. He thought of going to Sri Lanka as a missionary, but circumstances led him to the Pune Mission. He arrived in India on October 26, 1950, and went immediately to Sangamner in the Ahmednagar District to learn Marathi under **Fr. Zinser**. He worked alongside his German and Swiss friends, some of whom had studied with him in Germany.

Right from his Scholastic days it was Fr. Slapsys's wish to make people aware of the teachings of Christ and bring them to Him. His own faith in Christ remained the most important thing in his life. Christ was his Guru. The response of Fr. Slapsys to the teachings of Christ has been his faithful service to God's people in the Ahmednagar District. Fr. Slapsys was a very shy person and consequently very sensitive to praises. He very rarely spoke about himself and refused to answer questions about his person, relations and achievements.

He was a good administrator, he prepared his sermons well and his catechism classes methodically. He was also very systematic in keeping records of the names and families he visited, the sacraments administered, etc. He was very faithful to his prayer life, loyal to the Society of Jesus and was known for his great charity. Fr. Slapsys was laid to rest in the Holy Spirit Church compound in the presence of a large number of people and Priests from the Pune and Nashik Dioceses.

GOD GRANT HIS SOUL ETERNAL REST  
(Source: Dr. Ajit Lokhande, Juelich, Germany)

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