



# IGNATIAN FOOTPRINTS



Volume 1 - Issue 1 - April 2015

## From the Editor's Desk

With open arms dear readers I welcome you to the first edition of the 'Jesuit Volunteers' first bulletin. It's one small step but I hope it will go a long way in bringing this community of the 'Immaculate Heart Church' together to walk arm in arm and step by step to fulfill the aspiration of its people to serve and succour every one; specially the less fortunate members of this community; so that they do not feel that they are the 'children of a lesser God'.

The 'Jesuit Volunteers' is a small group, but we need more hands to work in the Lord's vineyard. There is much to be done for the community specially in these harsh times both spiritually and materially. We have to strengthen the faith of our younger generation, with so many distractions around; and the catechism classes are doing their bit; but it is up to us to see that they succeed in the goal that they have set themselves.

I appeal to the parents to make that extra effort to send their children to these classes. There is much to know about our faith, than merely rattling off prayers and paying only lip service to the Almighty. Jesus had told Peter 'you are the rock, and on this rock I will build my church'. We would like our children to know how His church was built, the struggles that it has gone through down the ages; and how they – the young generation have the responsibility to prevent this rock from disintegrating or crumbling. This the Parish Priest or the Catechism teachers alone cannot

accomplish. They need your help and support; and I am sure that everyone will rise to the occasion to support this endeavour, for it is our faith that we must protect. I am sure that many of us are not fully aware of the persecution that the Catholic Church is facing around the world, and since of late even in India. If we are strong in our faith, we will have God's grace to be a strong people to face the problems that may face us.

### Message from our Parish Priest

*Fr. John D'Souza S.J.*

There is always a desire in every human being to achieve something or to do the same thing in a different, but better way. In spirituality it is to reach the Ultimate or the Supreme.

In spite of many compromises in life, we are unable to reach the goal fully but the desire is always there. For Ignatius, to see the world through the eyes of God made him give up his worldly life and set him apart on his mission. Once he had achieved his mission in life he wanted more and more people to be committed to Christ to carry out the will of God.

As the parish priest of this church I came across many committed men and women who wanted to do something in their leisure time for the social and religious causes. I spoke to some of them, and their desire to serve gave birth to the forming of a small group of likeminded volunteers into 'Jesuit volunteers'. Thus we now have a lay catholic group of people who are interested in offering their services to the church on a voluntary basis.

Though a year passed, there are no fixed rules and regulations. This group draws its inspiration from the spiritual exercise of St Ignatius. The main objective of Jesuit Volunteers is the Glory of God through personal holiness in the footsteps of St Ignatius and service of humankind. For this, members gather together in prayer and also participate in the life of the parish through conducting catechism class, liturgy, etc.



As the Jesuits all over the world are inviting more and more lay participation or collaboration in their missionary work, Jesuit volunteers in our parish would be 'a response that call'. They would not only share the apostolic work of the church, they could also serve as a link to other parishes also in the not too distant future.

### "From a Selfie to a Selfless Culture"

*Joseph (Jassie) A. D'Mello SJ  
PRERANA, Mount St. Joseph*

We are quite familiar with the word "selfie" which was named as the word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries in 2013. Selfie is defined by Oxford Dictionaries as "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website". Earlier we used to request someone else to click our photos but for a selfie, I do not need others to click my photo. I

can manage on my own. How individualistic we have become! Earlier when someone clicked the photo, the person who clicked it did not appear on those snaps. We live in a culture where self is deified and absolutized. The other is for me and not I am for others. In a selfie culture, "I", "Me", "Mine" and "Myself" are important. What type of relationship one can envisage in this environment? It will be a relationship based on self-centeredness, exploitation, pleasure, abuse and discrimination.

Till the age of thirty, St. Ignatius of Loyola was a man given to the desires of the world. His primary concern till then was to gain name and fame, to live for oneself. The other had no place in his worldview. But after his conversion, he thought the other way. I

need to help others, I want to help souls. It



was a transition from a selfish culture to a selfless culture! Then on, the other took a primary place in his life. He drew inspiration from the life of Jesus, for whom the other was a child of God. Jesus looked himself as the child of the Father and he loved his true self and in his true self (child of the Father), there was place for others. Therefore, the Scripture tells us that he loved us till the end (Jn 13: 1). He offered his self to the world for its redemption. Isn't it that the other was a primary concern for Jesus?

The Jesuit Volunteers of our parish want to be true witnesses to Jesus in a selfie culture. But the path is less travelled by! They want to live the spirit of selfless culture by taking active part in parish activities, by being sensitive to the needs of the marginalized. The core values of selfless culture are compassion, justice, sacrifice, sharing and service. Let us promote the

culture of Jesus which is the selfless culture wherever we are.

## Jesuit Volunteers' Group ... An Introduction

*Amy Saldanha*

In August 2013, Fr. John D'Souza, our Parish Priest, took the initiative to start a group of laity at our parish who are willing to do social work in the community; help the parish priest in enhancing the pastoral work in the parish and in learning the Ignatian Spirituality. In response, fourteen people joined together and called this group "Jesuit Volunteers".

In the first few months, the Group spent their time in learning about the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, his works, his philosophy and his spirituality. The members along with their family members then attended a two days residential retreat at 'Prerana' which gave them an insight into Ignatian spirituality, importance of spending some valuable time in quiet prayer, and Examen of Conscience as part of spiritual life.

Fr. John identified some areas that needed help in the parish, such as organizing and managing the Sunday School/Catechism Classes for our parish children, mass animation, counseling and motivating the youth, Bible Classes for adults, etc. The Jesuit Volunteers' Group took up the tasks assigned, enrolling 77 students for catechism classes, and managed to retain most of them; by motivating the children and talking to their parents, whenever students missed classes. We also conducted children's choir, readings at masses and offertory gifts by children. We also prepared English medium children for their First Holy Communion and on 23<sup>rd</sup> November Sixteen children received first Holy Communion in a ceremonial mass that included classical dance by our children. The catechism classes ended on March 01, 2015 with a party and prizes awarded to children in all

classes for the best test results and attendance.



The Bible Classes also received good response in attendance from the parishioners.

With regard to social work, our volunteers visited Anekal Jesuit Seminary to know about the work done by Jesuits in that area and to see how we could help the youth, especially school drop outs. We discussed the possibility of encouraging the girls to attend short courses in 'Office Assistants', Nursing Aides etc. and the boys for short technical/job oriented courses that are run by an NGO in Gottigere area. We were disappointed as the parents of the girls did not want their daughters to travel away from their home town and the boys were not interested in courses such as plumbing, electrician, etc. We will revisit those areas if they show any interest to develop their skills.

In December 2014, the Jesuit Volunteers organized a Christmas Bazaar as a fund raiser to help some local charitable institutions. The bazaar was first of the kind in our parish and was well appreciated. We received a total of Rs.35,020/- from this Christmas Bazaar and out of this sum Rs.15,000/- was donated to Lourdes Old Age Home, run by Alverna Sisters and Rs.20,020/- to Jesuit Mission in Manvi who are running a school for Advasi/Tribal children in that area.

A short Lenten program was held on two Sundays in March for the catechism children. A good number of students attended. We thank our speakers Fr. Scotus Fernandez of Prerana and Sr. Pauline of Holy Spirit Convent.

At this time we also want to thank Fr. Francis Menezes SJ for giving us an insight on the initial program of two years the young Novices go through at Mount St. Joseph, before making their first vows. We appreciate and thank Fr. Anthony Joseph SJ, Fr. Francis Fernandes SJ and Fr. Arun Kumar SJ for their valuable talks at the retreat held for us. Our heartfelt thanks are due for our mentor, Fr. Jossie D'Mello SJ who is moving out to Pune in May. We wish Fr. Jossie all the best and thank him for his guidance in all our activities.



The Group is in the process of organizing itself by writing a hand book of rules and procedures and to have a managing committee to guide the group for the coming year. In a recent meeting it was agreed that Fr. John D'Souza, our Parish Priest will be the President, Ms Roushnee Sur will be Vice President, and Mr. Cyril Raymond, will be Secretary cum Treasurer. With this committee in place, we plan to embark on many new projects in this year.

## As I Look Back

*Victor Francis*

In all humility I joined the Jesuit Volunteers (JV), in our parish of the Immaculate Heart Church, Kalenaagraharaon BG Road, Bangalore 560076.

JV group started in the month of Aug 2013, under the leadership of Rev Fr. John D'souza, Parish Priest; and Rev. Fr. Jossie D'Mello, as its spiritual advisor.

The main intention to start this JV group is to know more about St. Ignatius Loyola's Spirituality and the missions of the Jesuits. We soon learnt that the life of St. Ignatius Loyola was that of an ordinary lay person. It's only

when Jesus entered his life he become very spiritual and founded the 'Society of Jesus' in 15<sup>th</sup> century. I was greatly impressed by St. Ignatius of Loyola's, teachings and his complete surrender to God; Self discernment, and the examination of conscience on a regular basis.

I practice every 4hrs of my daily life examining my conscience and pray to God for forgiveness and submission to His Holy Will. I now wish to dedicate my life to God, by asking St Ignatius of Loyola to intercede with Jesus on my behalf.

St. Ignatius of Loyola always used to say that "Everything comes from above and goes back to God". We are only God's instrumental through which he works. Nothing is ours in this world. Everything belongs to God.

Inspired that the gospel mandates us to Love, serve and be charitable in order to provide care and services to improve the lives of others and specially those whom we serve. Let all this be a vocation or God's calling to serve his people.

We are happy to be Jesuit volunteers to serve God's mission through the Catholic Church. This is now also a request to join the Jesuit Volunteers and be God's instrument to serve Him through his people.

## The Alarm

*Irene D'Souza*

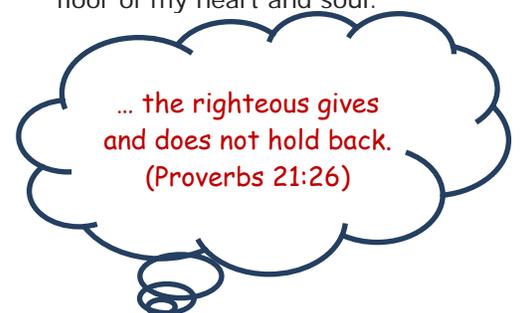
"Tick tock, tick tock" went my tiny little clock. Well, it wasn't time to get up for sure. I rubbed my eyes and strained them to check the time. I dozed off; again I felt it volley at my brain, echo in my ears. What was it saying? I listened intently. "Get that out of your mind, right out, right out." Gosh, what was it? Was it really the ticking of the clock or someone knocking at my mind? I wasn't certain. My sleep half gone but eyes still weary, I stared hard at the ceiling. I tried to listen again. Suddenly, in a flash, the words "Get that out of your mind, right out, right out" yelled at me again. Quite confused, I

said a prayer and held on to my rosary and was soon dead to the world.

Day broke. I awoke. Those words haunted me again. "Get out of my head, right out, right out" I cried back. Nothing shook the voice. It lingered like etching on a record that played itself repeatedly. The morning's chores done, I sank into a chair for a while to catch the headlines. "Nothing very newsy, let's do the crossword" I said to myself as I reached for my pen. I read the clues as I usually do – across and down – down and across - and there was this one particular clue that I kept repeating several times over. "It's just a clue!" Never mind, I thought. "Now did you understand" sprang the voice again "Get that out of your mind, right out, right out." A chill ran down me. I looked around still muttering the clue and my eyes caught the Bible sitting gently in its place. "Go get it and stop staring....." I heard again.....ah! Someone's talking to me.... "Grandma, is it you?" I asked in a loud tone, looking right into her picture. No reply. She just smiled. "Open the book and I'll talk to you better" the voice jolted me really hard. I opened, I read; I wept. I wept; I read. I understood.

The clue: "the ultimate truth"  
The verse: "Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given....." Mark 4:21-25

The verdict: Love, generosity and forgiveness should not have barriers or restrictions "Yes, I now understand," I answered humbly, "I will speak your language not mine" I conceded.  
Then on, Grandma smiles, the Word talks, my little clock tick-tocks and the Spirits walk the floor of my heart and soul.



## An Incident which changed my life as the Cannon hit/ Injury changed Ignatius Loyola

VIJAY STEPHEN SHARMA  
[JVB service instructor at LOYOLA ITI]

On a late evening in October 2012, I waited to see Fr. John, SJ, outside Immaculate Heart of Mary' parish office who had just returned from his visit to Interior Karnataka, I mentioned to him to start a 'JCB construction Equipment course' at Loyola ITI as he was the Principal. Fr. John, sj without waiting to know JCB owner's mind, told me to support him on the Jesuit Charism of providing employable skills to underprivileged school drop outs at the non-formal section of Loyola ITI.

In June 2013 I was ushered into a hall full of almost 100 youngsters who had just begun their course towards a future full of hope. Their energy was so infectious that I found myself doing something which I have never done in 24 years of intensive technical training with ready availability of JCB machines, which were live laboratories fitted with pressure gauges, flow - meters onboard computer interface along with diagnostic componentry.

I was teaching them Oxford Pronunciation Symbols to youngsters without knowing a word of their mother tongue. The language barriers turned out to be ice-breakers and in fact the winning edge because from phonetic symbol, the youngster started sketching the engineering symbols of Electrical Circuits, Oil Hydraulic and Pneumatic symbols. From reading, referring and drawing the technical symbols the youngster found themselves navigating the Electric and Hydraulic circuits Equipment work. This sums up the Loyola ITI motto of giving a taste of Engineering to school drop outs

towards their employability in service skills sector.

The incident which triggered this Lay Apostolate actually happened on 13 March 2013 when surprisingly a new voice on the world stage suggested that the "culture of temporary" was a road to ruin. "Almost without being aware, we end up being incapable of feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else's responsibility.... The culture of prosperity deadens us." These are the words of the first Jesuit Pope Francis 1 which inspired me to change my attitude towards Catholicism. What changed my attitude was again from the words of Pope Francis, "True peace is not balancing of opposing forces. It is not a lovely façade which conceals conflicts and division. Peace calls for daily commitments."

I am entirely indebted to God our Lord who through the Jesuit charism of Loyola ITI taught me as to how to struggle through absence of capital intensive training equipment. I can now do what is right for the youngsters whom the Lord brings to Loyola ITI. It has helped me to be more of a husband to my dear wife Lisie, a father to Livin 35 yrs, Ignatius 15 yrs, Marie Therese 12 yrs, a father-in-law to Reema and a grand-father to Michael Augustine 2 yrs old. Jesuit Spirituality taught by Fathers at Mount St. Joseph community has immensely helped me to be a good neighbour and also a responsible brother to the rest of my family in far away Delhi. All for the Greater Glory of God.

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### Colors of Day

Irene D'Souza

Varnish a Vibrant Violet on Sunday  
Match an Inky Indigo onto a Monday  
Patch on a Blooming Blue on Tuesday  
Garnish Groovy Green on Wednesday  
Pep up with Yoked Yellow on Thursday  
Dress up in Organic Orange on Friday  
Attire in Radiant Red on Saturday.  
Be your best all days  
Every day is your day  
Always.

Chase the rainbow of your dream  
Ride the clouds both bright and dim  
Spin on hill tops: gaze down at valleys  
Nod and smile at the dazzling sun Bathe in the moonbeams of the night  
Forget not eventide or dark shadows  
Remember the Master's summon.  
Try your best all days  
Everything is not your way  
Always.



**"I AM THE RESURRECTION  
AND THE LIFE."**

**HAVE A BLESSED EASTER**