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PASSIONIST INDIA ACTIVITIES NEWS OUTREACH



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"A Caged Bird can still Sing"

Dear Friends,

Greetings of peace and joy! Hope you are all doing well.



As I write this short note today, the 28th of July, the Catholic Church in India is observing this day as National Justice Day. It is a day to remember and pray for all those who cry out for justice, and in a special way, it is a day to remember the legacy of Fr. Stan Swamy, S.J. who died while in judicial custody on the 5th of this month. His crime? Refusing to be a silent spectator! He spoke against the growing inequalities, violence and atrocities committed against the most disadvantaged people of India-the Dalits and the Adivasis (the indigenous people).

Fr. Stan was picked up from Bagaicha, the Jesuit Social Action Centre, in the wee hours of 8th October 2020 on the pretext of being a threat to the national security and for being actively involved in the Maoist outfit banned by law, both of which were false accusations. For more than 40 years he worked among the tribal people of Jharkhand whose lives and livelihood were being plundered by the rich, the powerful, the corporates and those in political power. Obviously, he was a thorn in the flesh of those who had vested interest in the tribal land rich with mineral wealth. He had to be removed once and for all! The easiest way, slap him with the most atrocious law of the land, the UAPA, under which no one can get bail easily and they can be detained indefinitely. That is precisely what the NIA did, kept this frail 84-year-old priest suffering from Parkinson's disease in custody, refusing even to give him a straw and a sipper. Despite the cruel treatments meted out to him in prison, they could not silence him. In a letter he wrote from prison to a Jesuit confrere, he highlighted the plight of the under-trials and ended the letter with the words: *"But we will still sing in chorus. A caged bird can still sing"*.



Dear friends, as we remember this martyr of our times, let us stand up for what we believe in. Our faith takes us to the One who endured the passion and death on the cross because he refused to remain a silent spectator.

When asked why he always remained in silent reflection in front of a monolith bearing the names of the slain tribal activists, Fr. Stan used to say: *"I pray that my spirit may be infused with the spirit of the Adivasi martyrs"*. So now, as we pay homage to him, let us pray that we too may be infused with the spirit of this martyr for Christ who sang of gospel justice even while *caged in* in jail.

I would like to conclude this reflection by quoting the words of an American writer, poet and philosopher, Suzy Kassem: *"Stand up to hypocrisy, because if you don't, the hypocrites will teach. Stand up to ignorance, because if you don't, the ignorant will run free to spread ignorance like a disease. Stand up for truth, if you don't, then there is no truth to your existence. If you don't stand up for all that is right, then understand that you are part of the reason why there is so much wrong in the world."*

Fraternally,

Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.
Vice Provincial

UPDATES

AUGUST

Birthdays

Titus	02
Jerson	03
Einstein	06
Prem	06
Thomas	11
Saji	22
Christudasan	25
Antony Thomas	28

Ordination

Xavier USA	24
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Feast

Assumption	15
Independence Day	15
Bl. Dominic Barberi	26



Fr. Paul Presided over the celebration of the Inauguration of the New Academic year at St. Gabriel's Minor Seminary, Kochi. (Above) Hearty welcome to Fr. Benson as he joins Kochi Community as Vocation Director. (Right Below)



Fr. Francis is appointed as Superior of Calvary Ashram, Angamaly. Congratulations dear Fr. Francis and Welcome Back to India. (Left Below) Retired Supreme Court Judge visited Palliport Community. (Right Below)





Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle was celebrated at Jeevadhama. Fr. Paul presided over the Eucharist and conferred the Ministry of Acolyte to Bros. Alphin, Don and Christudasan, joined by Carmelaram community. Fr. Sony joins Jeevadhama community on his sabbatical year (Left & Below)



Jeeva Ootru Community and Fr. Louis (Vocation Director) welcomed William and Roshan, candidates for Minor Seminary. Due to Covid situation the students will be staying at Randham for a short period of time under the guidance of Fr. Rajan. (Below)



Appointments and Transfers...



Fr. Paul visited St. Gemma Novitiate, Nilambur and Fr. Muthappan joined the community as Administrator who will pursue his M. Com Studies (Left)
Fr. Jithin began his classes at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore for his Masters in Formation Course. All the best. (Right)



Fr. Sebastian KX re-joined the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health, Velankanni for Malayalam speaking pilgrims.
Fr. Paschal will minister to the Konkani speaking pilgrims and Fr. Antony John will continue to assist for the Kannada speaking pilgrims. All the best dear Fathers. (Above)



Fr. Sugun joined St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore for his studies of Masters in Canon Law. Best wishes...

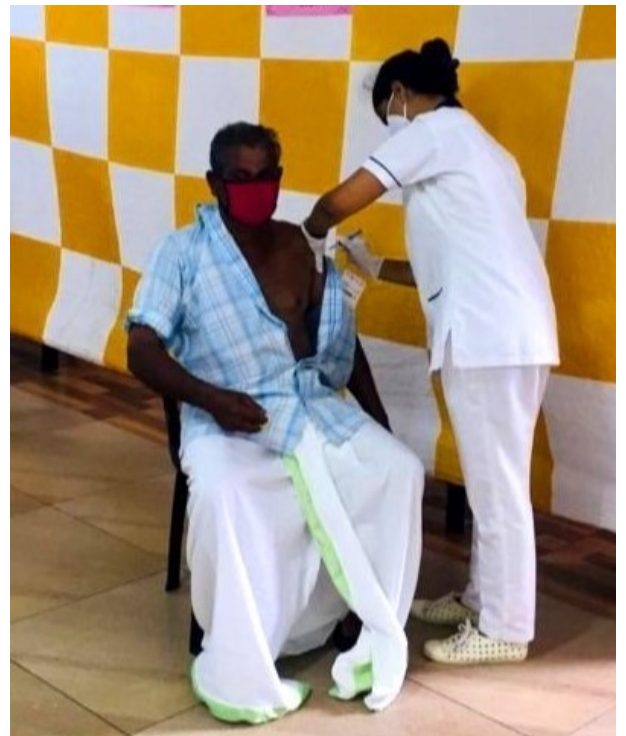


THOM Vice - Province: On-going Covid Relief Works at Palliport



Fr. Paul visited the Palliport community and initiated the on going Covid relief works. (Above)

Vaccination Camp organized by Passionist Congregation at Palliport Parish in collaboration with St. Joseph Hospital, Manjummel. 300 people were vaccinated with their first dose. (Below)



Study materials were distributed to the School/College going students in the Parish at Palliport as the on-going Covid Relief Work. (Below)



THOM Vice - Province: On-going Covid Relief Works at Randham Mission



Thanks to the Members of MFC Missionaries from Bangalore for their generosity towards the Second phase of Covid Relief works in Randham mission. The relief materials were distributed to the poorest in the parish. (Above & Below)



Renovation works and Painting of the Church is going on at Sennatur, one of the substations of Randham Mission. The finance was fully funded by the parishnors and the people were very generous with their free labour amidst the trying times. (Below)



THOM Vice - Province: On-going Covid Relief Works at Randham Mission



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Educational help to the poor at Randham Mission.

Thanks to the Passionist and to the MFC Missionaries, Bangalore for their contribution . Most of these students are first generation of Graduates in their family. (Above & Right)



Compound wall around the Church at Ladapady: The parishnors funding this work under the leadership of Fr. Nambikairaj, a much needed facility for safe worship. Every family is contributing to this cause by their little money and their free labour in this difficult time. (Below)



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 Verba volant, scripta manent!

