



# The Jesuits

IN ASIA PACIFIC 2019

A faith that does justice





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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# PURSuing FURTHER DISCERNMENT IN COMMON



**T**he year 2018 is another season of grace. We started the year by launching the discernment of the universal apostolic preferences (UAPs) in our conference. The process was rolled out following Fr General Arturo Sosa's letter to the Society on 03 October 2017. Through the input from Jesuit communities, formands and ministries, we were able to elevate the discernment to the provinces, regions and missions of Asia Pacific. Finally the assembly of major superiors as a discerning body gathered in Tokyo from 30 October to 01 November to go through a discernment process and finalise our UAP input to Fr General. The whole experience was positively received, by and large. The entire process of discernment in common involved most extensively the participation of Jesuits and partners in mission.

On 04 August, we had a testimonial dinner to honor with gratitude Fr Adolfo Nicolás and to launch the Adolfo Nicolás EAPI Endowment Fund two days before he left for Tokyo. After he resigned as Superior General in 2016, he was missioned to the East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI) and Arrupe International Residence (AIR). Both are common works of the conference. Both communities continue to miss his edifying and inspiring presence since he arrived on 16 February 2017.

Following the practice of discernment in common, the EAPI staff and members of the board had an executive retreat on 19 to 21 October in Antipolo to look at possible strategic directions for the future. We did not simply plan. We discerned where God was leading us. Some units of the conference are likewise deeply discerning and planning. Others are about to begin their own process.

Leadership remains a top priority programme in the conference. For this reason, we started another round of Leadership Development Program (LDP2) for Jesuits and mission partners. LDP1 had 39 participants initially which Ateneo CORD conducted within two years in 4 modules. Our first LDP2 module was done in Baguio City on 04 to 11 October. A total of 35 participants from the different units of the conference were represented. The programme was generally very well received with an overall rating of 4.5 (5 being the highest).

We are blessed to have 45 formands in AIR including those taking up graduate and special studies programme. On 27 October, we had diaconate ordinations for 15 of our brethren including one from the Philippine Province, a former AIR resident. This is a record-high figure for the AIR community.

We have started to review the Apostolic Plan (2014-19) in view of crafting a new one. Once we are given the new UAPs and have contemplated our world and church today using the lens of the Trinity, we will envisage a new apostolic roadmap for 2020 to 24. This is again another exercise of discernment in common.

From 01 to 15 December, Fr General visited Vietnam and the Philippines. Last year he visited Cambodia, Indonesia and Singapore. This is his second time to be in Asia Pacific and his first time to visit the two provinces as Superior General. He summarised his most recent Asia Pacific visit in these words: "This is another opportunity to know more about the richness of the cultures in Asia. This time, I have been in Vietnam and the Philippines... Also it's an opportunity to know face-to-face my fellow Jesuits. Really it's also a moment for me of consolation to find the people and it's an opportunity to share the same vocation in so diverse a context."

So much needs to be done in the years ahead. For now, we can only remain grateful to the Lord of the vineyard for the blessings received. May he continue to accompany us in our journey as companions in a mission of reconciliation and justice.

**Tony Moreno SJ**

President,  
Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific



# 2018 AT A GLANCE

## JANUARY



21-25

### **Bendum, Bukidnon, Philippines**

The Reconciliation with Creation programme holds the first in a series of “Living *Laudato si*” workshops, bringing together the experiences of Jesuits and justice, of communities of practice and discernment

## 22-26

### **Sydney, Australia**

Discernment, collaboration, mission: the major superiors launch the conference’s discernment process on the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus



## MAY 10 - 14

### **Chiang Mai, Thailand**

The Ignatian Spirituality Network is formally established, with two goals: to deepen the Ignatian character of all JCAP ministries; and to explore ways to use the Spiritual Exercises as a tool for evangelisation in Asia Pacific



## JULY 17

### **Marawi City, Philippines**

Xavier University hands over 60 transitory houses to families displaced by the war in Marawi City between Philippine government forces and ISIS-affiliated terrorist groups





# APRIL 30

## Kasait, Timor-Leste

Instituto São João de Brito, the teacher education institute opened in 2016, moves to its own campus, now with 12 classrooms



# MARCH 28

## Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

St Joseph Jesuit Scholasticate celebrates its first Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology graduation, after becoming affiliated with the Loyola School of Theology, an ecclesiastical faculty of the Jesuits in the Philippines



# AUGUST

## 4 Quezon City, Philippines

The Adolfo Nicolás East Asian Pastoral Institute Endowment Fund is officially launched at a testimonial dinner held at the Ateneo de Manila University, hosted by the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific and the Philippine Province

## 6 Quezon City, Philippines

Fr Adolfo Nicolás SJ, after a year and a half as spiritual director and consultant of the East Asian Pastoral Institute and Arrupe International Residence, returns to his home province of Japan





## 2018 AT A GLANCE

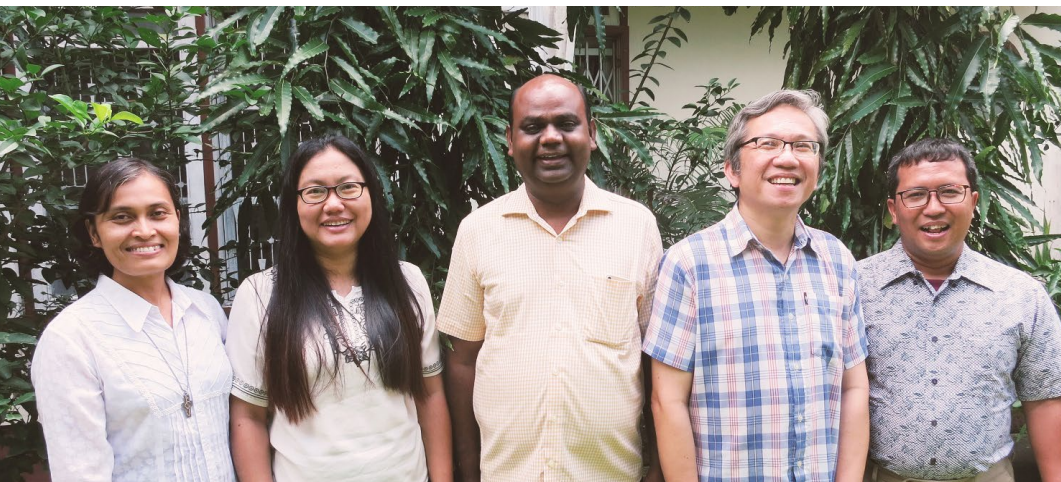


## OCTOBER

**9-31** **Quezon City, Philippines**  
The Asia-Pacific Interactive Jesuit Education Consortium and the Ateneo de Manila Institute of the Science and Art of Learning and Teaching hold the International Conference on Education Frontiers



**27** **Quezon City, Philippines**  
Fifteen Jesuits from Arrupe International Residence and Loyola House of Studies are ordained deacons at the Church of the Gesù, Ateneo de Manila



## NOVEMBER 14

**Yangon, Myanmar**  
The Myanmar Leadership Institute, an initiative of the Archbishop of Yangon, Cardinal Charles Bo, and the Myanmar Jesuits, formally opens.



## NOVEMBER 28-30

**Siem Reap, Cambodia**  
Jesuit Refugee Service Cambodia holds a regional workshop on refugees, migrants and stateless people with around 60 organisations in Asia Pacific partaking in the workshop.



# OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1

## Tokyo, Japan

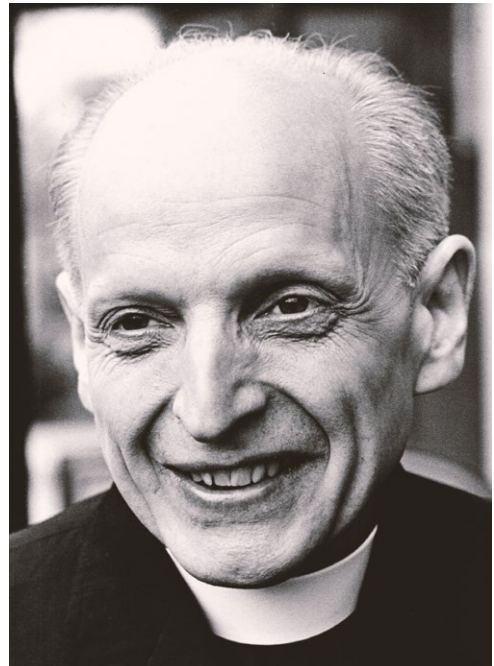
Major Superiors gather to discern in common the fruits of the provinces', regions' and missions' discernment process with recommendations of new Universal Apostolic Preferences for the Society



# NOVEMBER 14

## Rome, Italy

Fr Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, announces the beatification process of Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ, 28th Super General from 1965 to 1983



# DECEMBER 2

## Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ arrives for his first official visit to the Vietnamese Jesuit Province



# DECEMBER 7

## Manila, Philippines

Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ visits the Philippine Province, with stops in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro

# ALL THE CULTURES OF THE WORLD TO HAVE THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST



For over 50 years, the East Asian Pastoral Institute (EAPI) has become the Asian hub for theological renewal, updating, experimentation and exploration for the Church. Its current residential programmes, namely the Pastoral Leadership and Management for Mission, Pastoral Education and Renewal for Mission, and the Sabbatical Renewal Experience, encourage participants to engage faith from a perspective that is thoroughly personal and existential, and to commit themselves to gradually transforming their lives to be witnesses following the way of Christ in the world.

On August 4, 2018, an endowment fund was launched to support the work of EAPI and to honour the legacy of Fr Adolfo Nicolás SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 2008 to 2016. Fr Nicolás was EAPI director from 1978 to 1984. He had not wanted to be immortalised in an endowment fund, but he agreed because of his affection for EAPI.

The Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific and the Philippine Province hosted a testimonial dinner, where around 150 Jesuits and friends gathered to honour Fr Nico, as he is fondly called, and to bid him farewell, as he was to leave for his home province of Japan on August 6.

Fr Nicolás said in his message, "In this distinguished audience, there certainly are those who ask themselves for the meaning of today's supper: why a person, Adolfo Nicolás, who otherwise appears to be rather normal, in a time of so many, would give his name to a pastoral institute



and to fundraising? The answer is simple: because he believes in pastoral institutes." He recalled, "In my years in Rome, I had the chance to visit almost the whole world. I am convinced now that Asia is the Way, Europeans and Americans are preoccupied with Truth, and Africa and Latin America with Life. We need all the cultures of the world to have the fullness of Christ."

Fr Nicolás believes that "in Asia it is not enough to say that we must be humble and imbued by the sense of mystery and the like. Rather, we have to show the way, and this is pastoral."

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, Archbishop of Yangon and an EAPI alumnus, spoke of how EAPI has helped pilgrims like him find healing and a sense of belonging to a universal Church. "For many priests and church personnel who came from Myanmar, emotionally, spiritually bruised and broken, the stay in EAPI was comprehensively healing... We went back with a great resolve to be better disciples of Jesus."

Cardinal Bo said that EAPI needs to reinvent itself as a new generation of Christians and Church emerges. "Politically and socially the world is on a spiral. Institutions like EAPI are vital. I am glad it is seeking monetary support for new efforts. The name of Fr Adolfo Nicolás is a live wire to this effort."

The testimonial dinner raised about US\$200,000 towards the endowment fund. For the initial phase of fundraising, the target of about US\$1 million was set.

EAPI serves the local churches in Asia and the Pacific with its focus on pastoral formation in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. It envisions a new way of being Church by offering priests, religious men and women and laity a unique experience of learning and formation in community. The endowment fund will be used primarily to provide scholarships for participants from poorer countries and for maintaining its aging facilities.

**Peter Pojol SJ**

.....  
**"..it is not enough to say that we must be humble and imbued by the sense of mystery and the like. Rather, we have to show the way, and this is pastoral."**





THE PIONEER  
GRADUATES  
**OF LOIOLA**

On December 22, 2018, Colégio de Sto Inácio de Loiola (CSIL) in Kasait, Timor-Leste graduated its first cohort of students. Of the 103 graduates, there were 47 boys and 53 girls. Sixty-one graduates were part of the pioneering group of students who enrolled in Kasait even without a single building in August 2012. Their smiles were wide and clear as they marched in their blue toga. Their heads were held up high in triumph over the obstacles they had to face to get to this point – from traveling long distances daily to school to going through the rigorous formation process for the past six or three years.



The first graduation became more special because of the outstanding performance of CSIL in the National Examinations with a 100 per cent passing rate. To the surprise of many, including ourselves, Loiola occupied the top three places in the National Examinations for Senior High, both for the Natural Sciences and Technology track and the Social Sciences and Humanities track. The class valedictorian, Salvador Jubileano Leano Zota Soares, got the highest grade in the National Exams. He is finalising some details for a scholarship in South Korea. The class salutatorian, Geovania Garret Mouzinho Freitas, took the third place; while Melissa da Costa, who earned second honourable mention, took the second place. Both Geovania and Melissa are incoming scholars of Sophia University, the Jesuit university in Tokyo. They will move to Japan in April 2019. We are also very happy because the two students who topped the Social Sciences track, Fernandito (first place) and Alexandrina (third place), are both from the village of Ulmera where Loiola is located. They had their early studies at the nearby public school, and they joined us in Junior High.

There were Jesuits from all over Asia and the Pacific present at the event. We were very grateful for the attendance of Fr Mark Raper SJ, who is responsible for making this Jesuit Education Project a reality. Representatives of the local and national leaders also attended. Parents were clearly happy and proud of their children's achievement.

At the graduation Mass, Fr Plinio do Rosario Gusmao Martins SJ, the first Director of CSIL, gave a very inspiring homily. As he ended his reflections, he paid tribute to the first five teachers and the two staff members who joined the Jesuits in 2012 to begin the work at Loiola. Being current Director, I gave the Words of Thanks at the end of the liturgy. Fr Joaquim Sarmiento SJ, the Regional Superior of the Jesuits in Timor-Leste, was the main presider.

The graduation ceremonies began with the grand entrance of graduates and parents walking side by side. Members of the faculty and staff followed, with the Jesuits entering last. It was a very solemn and formal academic exercise.

The Graduation Speaker was Mr José Lobato Gonçalves, the Country Manager of ConocoPhillips in Timor-Leste. He is the only son of the late first President of Timor, Nicolau Lobato. He was chosen because he is an alumnus of the Jesuit's Canisius High School in Jakarta, Indonesia. Many of his relatives are from the district of Liquiça where CSIL is located.

Coincidentally, the recipients of the Loiola Award, the highest award that CSIL gives to the graduates, one boy and one girl, also trace their roots from Liquiça. While they are both residing in Dili, Ivo da Conceição Tilman Ribeiro's father is from Liquiça, while Geovania Garret Mouzinho Freitas' mother is also from Liquiça. The Loiola Award is given to the student who shows exemplary performance not only in academics, but also in living out the 4 Cs of Jesuit education: competence, conscience, compassion and commitment. The recipient must be nominated by the graduates, voted by the teachers and confirmed by the School Director. Geovania and Ivo gave very deeply insightful and inspiring messages for all the stakeholders of Loiola and the Jesuit Education Project as a whole.

The speeches were filled with gratitude and special recognition to the many people who have made this project a reality. While we celebrate the academic success, we constantly remind ourselves that the Jesuit Education Project is not just about continuing a tradition of excellence; it is our commitment to the people of Timor-Leste in their efforts towards nation-building.

The graduating class chose as a theme the favourite line of St Ignatius of Loyola in his letters to the earlier missionaries: "Go forth and set the world on fire." And it is our wish as well, as the first graduates begin a new journey into the world, where life is demanding and complicated. The first batch may have set the academic standards high, but we told them to never stop working for the *magis*, to give and not to count the cost, all for the *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*.

Roberto Boholst SJ





# Myanmar Leadership Institute OPENS IN YANGON



**M**yanmar Leadership Institute (MLI), a long cherished dream of Yangon Archbishop Charles Cardinal Maung Bo and the Jesuits of the Myanmar Mission, was realised at its formal opening on November 14, 2018, though MLI started its first classes on October 19 with the blessing of Fr Mark Raper SJ, our Jesuit Superior. The opening of MLI marks a new era of leadership formation in Myanmar both within the Church and on secular fronts. At MLI's festive launch, Cardinal Bo, Fr Raper SJ and myself, the first Executive Director of MLI, welcomed around 70 guests.

MLI is an arch-cathedral of learning, a pagoda of knowledge and a mosque of education. It is a symbol of unity in ethnic diversity. Its education has an international flavour. MLI's aim is to sharpen students' minds, season their hearts and soil their hands with the hard realities of the lives of the people of Myanmar.

The leadership course commences with a first quarter in which students are expected to gain greater self-knowledge and identify their own strengths and weaknesses. In the second quarter they build on their interpersonal, relational and task management skills. In the third quarter they enlarge their entrepreneurial and organisational capacity, learn to set up and manage

projects, and develop corporate social and environmental responsibility. Finally, in the fourth quarter they learn to move in the social, ethnic, cultural and religious contexts of Myanmar and of our modern world. Nation building, ethical principles, social inclusion, restoration of peace and human rights are included in the curriculum along with discernment, strategic thinking and direction setting.

At the inauguration, Fr Raper unveiled the logo of MLI and explained that the logo and curriculum combine the values and insight of the Dharmachakra's "Eightfold Path", with foundational principles of Catholic social teaching. On the one hand: the eight spokes of the wheel represent right understanding, right thought, right speech, right conduct, right means of making a living, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration. On the other hand, Catholic social teaching offers the principles and values of respect for human dignity, for the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, human rights and responsibilities, the stewardship of creation, the dignity of work and the rights of workers, and option for the poor. MLI blends schools of knowledge, values and skills developed over millennia. On top of that, MLI draws on the 500-year Jesuit tradition of organisation and education. This tradition is represented in the "sunburst" which has been a part of the Jesuit monogram since the 16th Century.



“  
**SPEAK WITH  
COURAGE &  
FRANKNESS**  
...  
**only dialogue  
can help us  
GROW**  
”

The Myanmar society is emerging from darkness into a promising yet uncertain civil future, Fr Raper remarked. Building stable organisations and reliable business on shifting sands is a treacherous endeavour, requiring leaders of integrity and discernment, flexible yet determined, sensitive yet free from fear, ready to lead to the light and above all, ready to serve. Hence our motto: “Learn to lead, lead to serve”.

Fr Raper thanked Cardinal Bo for entrusting the Jesuits with the responsibility of establishing and sustaining the institute and he thanked us, the MLI core faculty, which includes Academic Dean Dr Mark Labuntog, Sr Sisca Setiati FCJ, Ma Assumpta Mun Pi and Fr Irsan Rimawal SJ, as well as Fr Julio Giulietti SJ for having given our expertise, energy and determination to reach this point.

Cardinal Bo’s keynote speech appealed to all to “speak with courage and frankness” because “only dialogue can help us grow”. He said this was the message with which Pope Francis opened the Synod on Youth in Rome in October, at which Cardinal Bo was one of the moderators. Politics, said the Cardinal, quoting Pope Francis, is “one of the loftiest expressions of charity”. That type of leadership brings with it a concern for “the future of life and the planet, of the young and the least, in their thirst of fulfilment”. At MLI, these principles and values have been distilled into practical learning experiences. Good leaders who encourage consideration of others will help us all to move from “I” to “we”. Replace the “I” of ‘illness’ with “we” and it becomes ‘wellness’. MLI’s full time and evening classes prepare young people to speak convincingly, to dialogue and to lead.

After many decades of darkness, Myanmar needs good leaders who will lead us to the light, said Cardinal Bo. MLI exists to prepare leaders for civil society, business, religious bodies and education, as well as, of course, for government roles. Indeed, he wants MLI to be a training ground for persons who would go out and lead with courage and frankness in all spheres of community, and public life and service. We need to listen to each other, but especially to young people. With these few words, Cardinal Bo declared the Myanmar Leadership Institute open amidst strong applause.

Joseph Jacob SJ





SOCIAL MINISTRIES

# Bird's Eye View of the MISSION FOR JUSTICE

**N**early everyone is now familiar with Google Maps. We use it for finding a location and marking places of interest. With the ever more popular ride-hailing apps such as Uber and Grab, we have become masters of maps on a daily basis. A map allows us to have a bird's eye view of the world and this gives us a sense of control by pinpointing our location and the destination we are trying to reach. That feeling however disappears quickly when the map takes us to a cul-de-sac or leads us to a wrong address. The world looks very different from above.

That is the feeling that I had when working for the JCAP office as the secretary for social ministries. This office coordinates various activities, individuals and organisations across the conference. This has allowed me to have a broad perspective on what provinces do and can do together as a unit, cutting across national boundaries. From this vantage point, national identity looks less important than the mission given to the Society. Shared missions are indeed amplified as I got to see more similarities than differences between apostolic works. As the Society is learning to embrace networking as an apostolic way of proceeding, conference works seem more relevant than ever.

In 2010 JCAP major superiors designated migration and ecology (or reconciliation with creation in its proper name) as the two common apostolic preferences. This means that provinces in the conference must work together to respond to these two concerns as a collective unit. As most people would agree, these two issues define our age in unprecedented ways. No nations can address them adequately if they act individually, so these really challenge people to work in a coordinated way. Again, looking at them from the conference perspective, it looks quite straightforward. In the case of migration work, for example, one Jesuit institution in a sending



country can help prepare prospective migrant workers with skills training and sessions on workers' rights. Another Jesuit organisation in the receiving country can ensure the fulfilment of these rights by advocating on migrants' behalf when things do not go as planned.

As a global religious order, the Jesuits are well placed to do such things. After all, the Society was born out of a friendship that grew between individuals of different nationalities who were constantly on the move from one country to the next.

This is where reality bites back. Almost all social centres in JCAP started as a small initiative by one or two individual Jesuits or lay persons to respond to a very local problem. Some of them grew to become more institutionalised with resources to match, but many more remain to function at the level they started. Limited personnel and resources haunt these organisations and constrain their reach and ambition. For them networking across countries seems a tall order if not outright impossible.

That institutional profile may be dictated by necessity in certain contexts. Authoritarian or less democratic political regimes in various disguises are known to be allergic to critical voices and alternative visions coming from civil society. In other contexts Jesuit institutions are wary of being associated with foreign influences, whose condemnation is a national sport for many political leaders in this part of the world. In some other contexts, perhaps it is a vote of non-confidence in an apostolic sector that was run by people who were once described by Fr Kolvenbach as "sometimes discouraged and scattered, somehow lacking in collaboration and organisation". (On Social Apostolate, 2000)

All this complexity is often missed out when seen from a conference vantage point. I was tasked with bringing institutions and people together, connecting them as a collective unit. In other words, my job was to introduce order in what was perceived as



a rather chaotic entity. What I often forgot was that such social engineering is necessarily schematic and limited. It portrays an image of the Society according to my needs for control and interventions. In the process I might have overlooked details which tell a story of faithfulness to the mission of justice or a meaningful engagement with grassroots realities. My regret in this work is that I did not spend more time listening to those pioneers in Thailand, Japan, Korea, Cambodia, the Philippines and Australia who persevere in their accompaniment of the poor regardless of the strategic plans and measurable outcomes so beloved by international development industry.

At the end of the day we need both perspectives. The conference perspective paints the bigger picture of the mission, shows the potentials of collaboration and offers an infrastructure of solidarity. The actual action and the real presence among the poor happens at each and every site where Jesuits and lay partners work hand in hand to restore humanity. On the 2018's World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis calls us to "make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor". Be it an analysis of the causes of poverty or a simple gesture of offering help to those in need, our mission is best served if we heed that call.

Benny Juliawan SJ



.....  
***"Pope Francis calls us to 'make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor.'"***



# Vietnamese Province

On December 2, 2018 Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, arrived in Ho Chi Minh City. It was his first visit to Vietnam. Fr Provincial Vincent Pham Van Mam SJ and the Vietnamese Jesuits warmly welcomed Fr General, accompanied by Regional Assistant for Western Europe Fr Victor Assouad SJ, and outgoing Regional Assistant for Asia Pacific Fr Daniel Huang SJ. Later on that day, Fr General visited Fr Pham Huu Lai SJ, who was Superior of the Jesuits in Vietnam during the underground days and was ordained in secret and imprisoned for 10 years. After prison, Fr Lai worked as a goat farmer while secretly training people in catechism. It was a touching moment to see Fr General receive a blessing from frail Fr Lai in his bed.

Addressing the Jesuits of the Vietnamese Province, Fr General said: "I am glad to finally visit this young and promising Province, to learn more about the Province, its communities and its works, so that I can support the Province better."

On December 3, feast of St Francis Xavier, Fr General concelebrated in the presbyteral ordination of six Vietnamese Jesuits: Fr Francis Xavier Hoang Khac Luan SJ, Fr

Peter Le Hoang Nam SJ, Fr Philip Tran Thanh Minh SJ, Fr Peter Nguyen Duc Thang SJ, Fr Anthony Nguyen Ngoc Triem SJ, Fr Peter Pham Cong Tung SJ. Fr General's message to them: "to be priests like St Francis Xavier".

On December 4, Fr General also presided the final vows of Fr Anthony Nguyen Cao Thang SJ, Fr Paul Nguyen Thai Son SJ and Fr Andrew Pham Hoa Lac SJ.

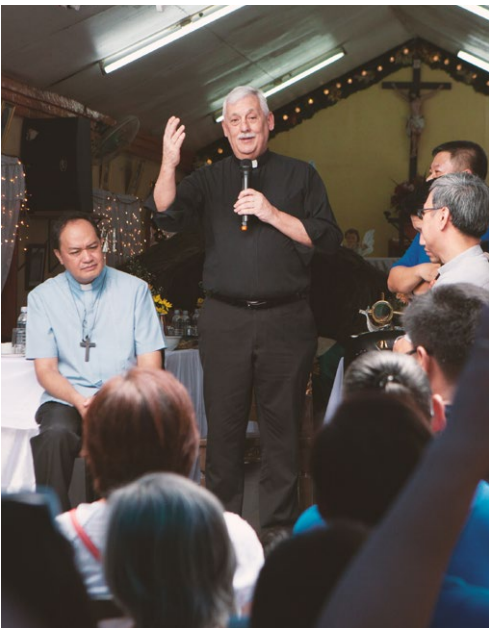
In Vietnam, around 70 per cent of Jesuits are in formation and much of Fr General's activities during the visit reflected this youthful profile. At the Sacred Heart Novitiate, he engaged in lively conversation with 34 novices. He blessed the new candidate house located in the compound of St Michael, a Jesuit-run church. Fr Dominic Nguyen Quoc Kinh SJ along with 90 candidates welcomed Fr General and his delegation with a lion dance, songs and a short dramatisation of the protomartyr of Vietnam, Blessed Andrew Phu Yen, companion of Fr Alexandre de Rhodes SJ. Fr General also met with the formands and told them: "You are not just the future of the Society but the present."













# Philippine Province

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By December 8, Fr General was on the second leg of his trip to Asia Pacific: Manila, Philippines. Fr General said: "I am happy to meet not only so many Jesuits from the Philippine Province, but also a good number of Jesuits from many other parts of the world who are connected to the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific. As you know, two of my 14 General Counselors are Filipinos! So, it is good to finally see where they come from, and to get to know more about this Province and the common works of JCAP here in Manila."

On December 9, Fr General went to Kalookan City, an area plagued by extra-judicial killings related to the war on illegal drugs. The Philippine Province established Sacred Heart Mission Station, in collaboration with Bishop Pablo Virgilio David DD, who spearheaded a community-based drug rehabilitation programme.

Next, Fr General went to Cebu, to visit the Shrine of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also blessed the *Cor Jesu* Chapel of Sacred Heart School-Ateneo de Cebu on December 12.

Fr General's next stop was in Cagayan de Oro, where he saw the housing community for displaced families organised by Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, the first Jesuit university in the Philippines. He also visited St John Vianney Theological Seminary, where he gave them the advice of Pope Francis: to be close to the people, to listen to the people because "the presbyterium is not an exclusive group of experts", and finally to commit to proclaim the Gospel, the primary ministry of the priest. Fr General said the Society's work in Mindanao was about becoming "universities of hope, parishes of hope, and seminaries of hope".

During his meeting with the Jesuits in formation, Fr General spoke about "the process of discernment of universal apostolic preferences that has been going throughout the Society for the past year". Fr General shared: "We are rediscovering spiritual conversation and discernment in common, and this itself is a grace."







JESUIT  
ASIA PACIFIC  
CONFERENCE

