

ZONAL SECRETARIES MEET

@ JOR BAGH, DELHI on MARCH 26, 2015



It is not sufficient that our teachers be competent in their field of expertise, nor that they be good teachers. To enable our pupil to become “men and women for others”, we have to invest a lot of time and effort in making our teachers “men and women for others”

Peter McVerry on Compassionate Person



The new creation of four Zonal Secretariats with the respective Secretaries for the South Asian Assistency paved way to a hopeful and a new horizon of possibilities for both renewing and restructuring of Jesuit School Education Mission in this largest Assistency of the Society of Jesus. A one-day meeting of the JEA Secretary and the Zonal Secretaries – Fr. Tommy SJ (BOM) of Western Zone, Fr. Augustin SJ (RAN) of Central Zone, Fr. Sebastin James SJ (CCU) of Northern Zone and Fr. Stephen L Pragasam SJ (MDU) of Southern Zone and Fr. George Pattery SJ, the POSA, was held on 26th March, 2015 at the Jesuit Residence, Jor Bagh, Delhi. After a grace filled invocation of God’s presence and His guidance, Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ., welcomed the Secretaries of Four Zones and introduced them to Fr. George Pattery S.J.



Fr. GEORGE PATTERY SJ,
POSA



Fr. SUNNY JACOB SJ,
SECRETARY, JEA

To enable and encourage the students to reflect on their experience, the staff in the school must share the same passion for justice and for the poor. **Peter McVerry on Compassionate Person**



FR. SEBASTIN JAMES SJ

Northern Zone Educational Coordinator



FR. STEPHEN L PRAGASAM SJ

South Zone Educational Coordinator



FR. AUGUSTIN KUJUR SJ

Central Zone Educational Coordinator



FR. TOMMY VAZ SJ

Western Zone Educational Coordinator

Fr. George Pattery SJ., in his inaugural address, invited all the Jesuit Educators of the South Asian Assistency to take up Education Ministry more seriously in the context of the present market-oriented and profit-centered educational scenario. He asked us to formulate an innovative approach which will enable our Jesuit school teachers, students and also their parents to have a thorough coordination with the 'interior-movements' that direct every one of us. Our Jesuit Legacy-Programmes may be an effective tool for both our Jesuits and to our collaborators to help them reflect on those inner movements of interiority.

A collective and continual reflection and discernment along with our institutional human resources will certainly help us renew and rededicate our commitment to provide an educational experience, which would transform everyone to be **"Men and Women for Others"**. These Jesuit Legacy-programmes should be formulated and done in a secular manner i.e. without the religious touch for the cumulative and overall benefit of multi religious people in the South Asian Assistency.

Today's Education is for an unknown tomorrow. So a change in our educational paradigm forces us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges the future offers in order to allow all students to develop not only a broad knowledge but the competencies they will need for a new situation.

Mother Montserrat del Pozo on Competent Person.



Promoting and fostering experiences and activities of growth in spirituality for students, educators and families as part of the foundation of our schools.

The deliberation of **SIPEI**, Spain.

POSA also highlighted the existing practise of 'corporate-sense' of forming our students in all our schools. As a result, every one of us is caught up with the day today activities of mostly province or local concerns. More than often, our schools run because of our very existential and institutional prestige which is measured and weighed on the demand for admissions and performances in the examination than the real witnessing to the kingdom with creative content and methods. This is the high time to query ourselves. South Asian Assistency, as a single body, how are we going to address such serious concern as this? When the universal society at large is reflecting seriously to move towards '*amalgamation and restructuring*' the entire activities and ministries of the Society, in what way, as a Conference, are we going to function? The creation of four Zonal Secretariats in our Assistency is the first step towards bringing in a change in our educational system.

Since Fr. General is proposing the entire Society to think and reflect to have formation and mission in the zonal level, there is an immediate need to identify a fine-tune and scrutinize of the most common issues, concerns. There is also yet another immediate need to formulate common modules in order to address these concerns. Some of these modules could be like Common-Formation-Programmes, Sharing-of Expertise, Networking-Programmes at various zonal levels, School-Students Project-Exchange-Programmes, Conducting-Seminars & symposia. Fr. George is eager and willing to authorize the respective Zonal Secretaries as the agents in this new structure to triumphant accomplishment of this creative works of the Society.

In his concluding note, **POSA** stated that South Asian Assistancy, as one body, is convinced that a revolutionary and downright change is required in our schools. We need not take the business-oriented and profit-centered schools as our neck-to-neck competitors as they often strive for a short-term fame and benefits. On the contrary, let us be open minded to experience the immense possibilities of thinking, working and discerning together as a universal body with a universal mission. This is not the time to withdraw ourselves from the educational ministry, rather it is the moment to feel that the public opinion is with us and we cannot leave on from this God-given mission to the corporate sector to make business. He iterated on the point that we should believe in our own strength and the legacy that is left behind by our founder St. Ignatius.

The second part of the Zonal Secretaries Meet was coordinated by Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ. He called upon all the Zonal Secretaries to reflect collectively on “How can we prepare students suiting to the needs and demands of the modern global society we live in? How can we propose values, a vision and mission that will contribute to a real change in the world? How can we understand Ignatian pedagogy and Ignatian Spirituality? What are the programmes that we can design for an ongoing formation and training of the teachers and students of Jesuit schools?



He believes strongly that Jesuit Educators, with their vision and passion, are called to be leaders with a difference. Schools with good leaders, turn out to be outstanding schools. Leaders do make a difference in our schools. If our schools have good leaders our schools will become leading schools. It is noticed that there is paucity of such leaders. In this changing scenario, the onslaught of Hindutva forces targeting the minorities, we need to be prudent and pro-active too! It's time for us to revisit and reinvent the contour of leadership in Jesuit schools. We need a paradigm shift from a result-oriented education to transforming education. It is here, we Jesuit leaders play a catalytic role. We have the onerous but joyful responsibility of inspiring the teachers and students to bring about this transformation by bringing out the best in them.

If our heads of schools are infused with dynamism, energy and enthusiasm, they can make a tremendous difference in this noble mission. He highlighted as an end note, *“It is an appropriate time to reflect on a new understanding of learning that grows out of the forces of change present in each moment and it is our responsibility as Jesuit educators to respond to them appropriately”*.

Keeping these reflections as a backup and supporting factors, the Four Zonal Secretaries widely explored the various Ignatian-Legacy-Programmes which are under practice in all the Provinces of the South Asian Assistancy. While they were doing this collective exercise, with the perfect coordination of Fr. Sunny Jacob. S.J. the following action plans surfaced and which will help us drive pedagogical renovation as a global network.

Action Plans for the Pedagogical Renovation

- Three days Ignatian Retreat for our Jesuit school teachers.
- Jesuit-Legacy-Programme for the newly Recruited Teachers.
- Seminar for newly-appointed Principals of Jesuit School at the National & Zonal level
- Ignatian Leadership training for both Jesuits as well as lay teachers
- Inter-Province Students exchange programme – Games, Cultural and Educational tour.
- A seminar on *“Minority Rights”* could be conducted at the National or Zonal level
- A professional sample evaluation of our Jesuit schools, one in each Province by an outside agency called *“ADHYAYAN”*. JEA will fund this project.
- Giving more importance to build social and moral characters of the students in the curriculum and syllabus formation.
- Sharing all the programmes which help us develop the personality and social consciousness in students; like making use of JEA web site <http://www.jeasa.org>
- All of us becoming members of the ‘*Educate-Magis*’ community as a global platform for connecting, collaborating and transforming our worldwide network of schools.
- Commit ourselves completely to make a paradigm shift from the result-oriented education to transformation-oriented education.

In the concluding session, Fr. George Pattery S.J. insisted much upon the importance of disseminating these reflections and discussions at the Zonal level which will be of effective exercise. He asked the newly appointed zonal secretaries together with JEA secretary to find a popular device or a brand name which will reflect the idea of Jesuit Legacy, could be common to all the Jesuit schools in the South Asian Assistency.

A REPORT PREPARED BY

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