

GREETINGS FROM TIMOR LESTE

Dear Friends,

Let us meet some of the younger Jesuits of Timor Leste.

In early June our three Juniors, Domingos Gomes, Domingos Moreira and Nelson Marques (left to right), after having spent a little over a month with the Jesuit Community in Taibesi, proceeded to Jakarta in order to get their visa for Sri Lanka. They then flew to Colombo where they are now based for this period of formation (1 year) known to us Jesuits as the 'Juniorate'.



Schol. Marito Monteiro, a Jesuit of Timor-Leste, who has just completed his Professional and Philosophy studies in Chennai, India, is at present assigned to the Community of Casa Gonzaga. He is assisting Fr. Lester Maramara, the Delegate for Formation, in caring for the candidates. He gives a



little write-up about what the Juniorate is all about. He is in the photograph below (centre) along with Scholastics Julio Sousa and Edgerio Martins. They were then doing their Juniorate in the Philippines.

Here is what Marito has to say about the Juniorate program:

“The Juniorate is the stage of formation right after the two-year Novitiate. In the Juniorate, the young Jesuit enters into encountering the real world outside the

confines of the Novitiate. More and more, the Jesuit is given an opportunity to encounter the world as it is, and to use and apply whatever he has learned and achieved in the Novitiate.

The Juniorate, therefore, is a stage of learning a few more skills which helps the young Jesuit adjust, live, and grow profitably as a person and as a Jesuit. It is a sort of bridge program between the novitiate and college studies. In my own Juniorate in the Philippines eight years ago, I learned more about expressing myself, both in speaking and writing, in English. I also learned about the local culture and other cultures vis-a-vis my own Timorese culture. My Juniorate was a good preparation

for my college studies in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India. Today, the Timorese Juniors do the program in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They, too, have to learn and grow in their encounters with the world today. They also have to learn to express themselves in English, to learn new cultures, to appreciate their own, and finally to prepare themselves for their college studies in Chennai”.

(Schol. Marito Carlos Monteiro, SJ)

After the Juniorate these Jesuits in formation will go for further studies and for studying Philosophy which is an essential part of their formation. Then, before they go to study Theology and prepare themselves for ordination, they are assigned for 2 to 3 years for involvement in one of our ministries. This period of formation is known as ‘Regency’. Schol. Julio Sousa Costa gives us some details of this program.

Short reflection on my Regency



I am now starting my Regency in Dili. For my Regency assignment, I involve myself with the youth ministry of the Diocese of Dili, particularly, in teaching Basic English and values to young men and women. Together with this, I have also been asked to help in the Candidacy program of the Jesuit Region of Timor Leste.

My Regency assignment will normally run for 2 years. The Regency stage of formation happens right after finishing my college and master degrees in Sociology and Philosophy, respectively. Regency is a time for a young Jesuit to get a taste of the mission of the Society of Jesus first hand. The Regent is missioned to an apostolic community and becomes a member of that community and is missioned to a particular work.

Though formal studies stop for the moment, the period of regency is still an opportunity to learn more about the Jesuits’ natural skills and capacity, and to grow in the ability and capacity to serve more effectively. It is a time of experimenting one’s God-given talents and abilities. It is also a time to make mistakes and to learn to learn from them. Regency is a time for deepening one’s vocation and insertion in the Society of Jesus through the mission of the Society of Jesus.

(Schol. Julio Antonio Sousa Costa, SJ)



This is Scholastic Herculano Pereira Moniz, known as Lan to all. After spending 2 years assisting in Casa Gonzaga viz. House for the Candidates, he is now assigned to assist in the Colégio de Santo Inácio de Loiola (CSIL) for the 3rd year of his Regency.

This is his short report about the school and of Fr. João Felgueiras, who celebrated his 94th Birthday on 9th June:

June can be said to be seen as the best moments in the life of the CSIL students. This is because we are seeing how our young students, new and old ones, gave their all to prepare themselves for the mid-term exams.

The senior students are used to the demands of CSIL but even they experienced something new in the preparations this year. They realised that life is always full of surprises but it was all truly enriching.

Those who had joined CSIL this year seem to have picked up very well from their seniors. They studied hard and did not give in to laxity. We could see the emphasis of all the students on the 3 Cs: **Competence in their studies, Compassion towards others, and Consciousness in decision making**. These are being picked up slowly by the younger students who are trying hard to embody these values. While blending seamlessly to the values we are hoping of them, they are learning the value of their own strength and creativity.

This month we were graced by the oldest Jesuit of our region, **Fr. João Felgueiras**, who celebrated his 94th birthday on June 9th. He shared with all of us and the students his life, his struggles and his faithfulness to the causes he believes in. The students were able to hear from the mouth of this person, whom I consider a living saint, a living example of the values which we are trying to get them to imbibe. Fr. João's words were words of assurance for them as they were preparing for their examinations and to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, the patron of the school.

(Schol. Herculano Pereira Moniz, SJ)

Just to inform you that soon after Schol. Herculano gave me his write-up, he had to assist his mother who was admitted to the local hospital for kidney failure. On 27th night she was called Home to the Lord. **Our prayers and condolences for the family of Schol. Herculano.**

In early June, the mother of Fr. Mark Raper was also called Home to the Lord. She had lived 104 fruitful years on this world of ours. **Our prayers and condolences to Fr. Mark as well.**

At present we have the following Jesuits who are doing their Regency in Timor Leste:

From Timor Leste:

(1) Schol. Herculano Pereira Moniz (2) Schol. Afonso da Silva Alves (3) Schol. Juzito Rebelo (4) Schol. Herculano Pereira Moniz (5) Schol. Marito Carlos Monteiro (6) Schol. Julio Sousa Costa (7) Schol. Edgerio Araujo Martins and (8). Schol. Joaquim Pires.

From other countries:

(9) Schol. Francisco Cortes Ferreira (from Portugal), (10) Schol. Andy Nguyen (from Australia), (11) Schol. Michael Phung (from Malaysia Singapore) and (12) Schol. Hyoe Murayama (from Japan).

We wish all the Regents, now actively involved in the various apostolates in Timor Leste, very fruitful years in the Vineyard of the Lord.

After the completion of their Regency Program, our Scholastics will be sent to do their Theology.

Fr. Lester Maramara, who is the Delegate for Formation has written the following:

Normally, after two years of Regency, the young Jesuit Regents go back to formal studies, this time in theology. This stage of their formation, which takes about four years, directly prepares them for ordination to priesthood. At the moment, we have seven scholastics doing theology in various stages and in different countries.

Joao Purificacao, Ezequiel Ribeiro, and Sidelizio Pereira are doing theology in the University of Divinity in Melbourne. Rui Muakandala and Albino Goncalves have recently started their theological studies early this year in Belo Horizonte in Brazil. Diogo Carvalho is almost done with his studies in the Gregorian University in Rome, while Roberto Encarnacao will be starting his in August this year in Loyola School of Theology in Manila.

Sometimes, because of the need of the mission in East Timor and the situation of the Regent, the young Jesuit is sent for special studies before doing theology. At present, the region of East Timor has three scholastics in special studies. Calisto Colo is doing Counseling Psychology in Ateneo de Manila in the Philippines, Joao Paulo Lobo is doing Education in the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, and Isaias Caldas had just recently left for Porto in Portugal to start his special studies. At present, the young Jesuits in East Timor are primarily dependent on the other Jesuit provinces all over the world for their studies in College, in Philosophy, and in Theology.



In this photograph you see the two Jesuits who are studying Theology in Melbourne, Australia. They are Scholastics Joao Purificacao and Ezequiel Ribeiro.

- Fr. Joseph Lester Maramara, SJ -

Schol. Herculano had made a mention about Fr. Felgueiras who celebrated his 94th birthday. Here are some photographs taken during the functions.



In the first photograph above, Fr. Violanto celebrated the Mass for Fr. Felgueiras for which most of the members of the Region of Timor Leste were present. A few days earlier we had all been invited to the Centre of "Amigos de Jesus" of which Fr. Felgueiras is the Moderator. Next to him is Fr. Jose Alves Martins who is involved in the Retreat and Pastoral Ministry. Both of them are from Portugal and have accompanied the people during those critical years under Indonesian occupation and the struggle for independence. Both of them have been honored by being made citizens of Timor-Leste.

We request your prayers for the Jesuits in Timor Leste.

(Noel Oliver, SJ)