



Foster Collaboration: Jesuit General Tells Indian Seminarians

Arturo Sosa SJ

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Jesuit Superior General Father Arturo Sosa has asked seminarians in India to become priests who care for the people at the margins by developing a sense of collaboration with all.

“We are invited to go to the peripheries to take up ministries that are challenging, where no one else will dare to go,” Father Sosa said while addressing a gathering of Papal Seminary community in Pune on March 6.

Father Sosa arrived in India March 1 for a week-long visit of various Jesuit houses, including Papal Seminary in Pune, which celebrated its 125 years of existence last year.

The 70-year-old Jesuit General expressed his happiness to be with the staff and students of the seminary. He based his talk to the community on the Jubilee theme: “Looking Back with Gratitude, Looking Forward with Trust.”

“The universal Church needs you,” he said assuring semi-

narians that “the Jesuits, will always stand by you: we are partners in the Mission of God.”

“The Church is facing challenges all over the world. These challenges are hampering the Mission of Christ. To meet these external challenges, we need to form ourselves well, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually,” said the global Jesuit head.

Father General invited the seminarians and priests to have their lives characterized by Margins, Magis and Discernment.

He wanted the seminarians to heed the advice of Pope Francis to “go to the peripheries” by taking up challenging ministries, standing up for the “underprivileged, migrants and women who are exploited.”

This needs to be accomplished with a spirit of Magis (which means more), always seeking “the Greater Glory of God in everything you do. Mediocrity has no place in the spirituality of the magis, he said.

He also wanted them to foster discernment because “we are doing the Mission of God and it cannot be done without the promptings of the Holy Spirit.”

“In order to work together in a spirit of collaboration and networking, we need to inculcate a spirit of discernment, individually and in common,” he said.

The Jesuit head also recalled how Papal Seminary was founded in Sri Lanka inspired by the words of Pope Leo XIII. The Pope had said: “Filii tui India, administri tibi

salutis!”(Your own sons, O India, will be the ministers of your salvation!”)

The national seminary was set up in central Ceylon's capital Kandy in 1893 to avoid India's caste differences and entrusted to the Belgian Jesuits. It was moved to Pune in 1955.

He recalled how Papal Seminary, together with other major seminaries, reached out to the flood-affected victims in Kerala with 7 truck-loads of food materials. He also remembered that the seminary also helped those affected by Gaja cyclone in Tamil Nadu.

He appreciated the “good collaboration” existing in the Papal Seminary between the Jesuits, the diocesan staff and the Indian bishop’s conference.

“I am grateful to the Bishops for giving the Papal Seminary their best Priests as Formators,” he said.

Father Sosa also thanked Bishop Thomas Dabre of Pune for his steady support for the the seminary.

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Pune, Collaboration , Jesuit General, Seminarians

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