

Adolfo Nicholas Institute for Media Activities (ANIMA)



Adolfo Nicholas Institute of Media Activities (ANIMA)

ANIMA is the department of Communication and Multimedia Activities of Nepal Jesuit Social Institute, established by Fr. Roy Sebastian, SJ. The institute was inaugurated and blessed by Fr. Casper J. Miller, SJ on 3rd December 2020

History and Development

(Narrated by Fr. Roy Sebastian, SJ)

In 2015, a few days before I was leaving Jesuit Curia in Rome after my four years of service in the communication office there, I had a chance to chat with Fr. Lisbert D' Souza, SJ the, Assistant for South Asia. During the conversation, I shared with him my future plans back in Nepal Region. As I shared one of my dreams of setting up a communication centre in Nepal and was not able to collect any fund, he recommended that he could recommend my case to Fr. Adolfo, the Superior General, for a gift.

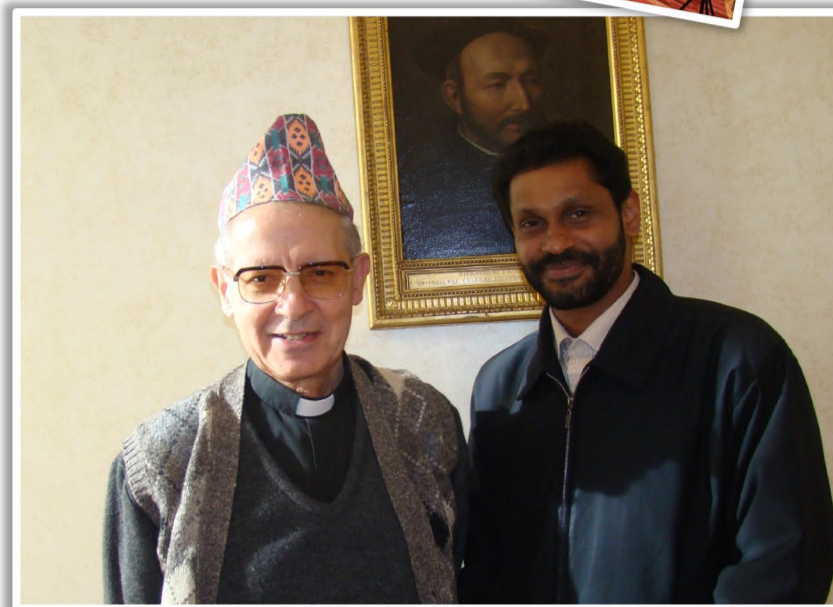
Fr. General used to give laptops to the Assistants who leave the Curia after some years of service, and I could be put along with them. I was more than happy to hear this, but requested Fr. Lisbert to consider the gift more for the Nepal Region rather than personally to me and instead of a laptop have some cameras and other equipment for some simple communication activities. He asked me to write down the details, including the amount and the purpose and goals addressing it to Fr. General. I quickly did what he told me Fr. Lisbert presented my request to Fr. General Adolfo on the same day.

The next day I had my reply from Fr. General approving the proposal and blessing me while giving 5000 Euros. That was the seed money for beginning of the fulfilment of a dream.



Fr. Lisbert D' Souza, SJ

I quickly purchased some equipment and carried the rest of the money in hand to Nepal with the permission from Fr. Boniface Tigga, SJ the Region Superior, as I didn't have many days left in Rome. Back in the Region, after taking charge as the Director of NJSI, due to the type of work and not being able to find a suitable location, the idea of the Communication Centre and the equipment remained in my back pack for about 4 years.



Fr. Adolfo wearing Nepali Thopi standing with Fr. Roy

However, I used to add more money to the fund given me by friends while travelling in Europe. The rest of the major fund came from Xavier Network. The Rural Education Improvement Program (which will eventually will become Fe y Algeria Nepal) as the post-earthquake intervention of NJSI, required creating smart education hubs in rural schools and preparation of quality education materials. The logistics of this project required special space and equipment for recording lessons, training exercises and networking. Immediately, I saw the possibility of merging the logistic requirement of this project with that of the Communication Centre. And the not-used class room in Kamal Niwas was perfect space to put everything together.

There was unanimous agreement of the community on this development at NJSI and we put Fr. Adolfo Nicholas, SJ's name to the new department, remembering him with gratitude for his initial contribution. The acronym 'ANIMA' expressed the dynamic nature of the activities done in this department.

Quoting Paulo Coelho, "If you have a strong dream, the whole universe conspires to fulfil it." It has been true in my life in many occasions, but in my case, with one condition, "provided that the dream should be for the universal goodness and not for selfish reasons." In other words, "You take the steps and God clears the way, if it goes according to his plans."