



Stan Lives in the Hearts of Many

- Fr. Joe Xavier SJ, ISI Bangalore

As I blessed the mortal remains of Stan on 6 July 2021, I asked myself, what do I carry with me? I learnt from him what it means to be a Christian and a follower of Jesus, by his life and work, pains and sufferings, forgiving and surrendering. I felt very proud of him as he had already risen in the hearts of many people of goodwill, who were in search of meaning for their lives.



Fr. Stan with Fr. Joe Xavier and others at ISI in Jan 2020

While he was in Bangalore in 2019, he was loved by all staff members of Indian Social Institute, Bangalore. Despite Parkinson's disease, he used to carry his plate, request someone to serve food and gently walk towards the dining table with his shaking hands. Whenever the staff members offered to assist him, he would say, "I can still manage. I do not want to be a burden to anyone." He was a regular visitor to the institute library and never stopped reading. Even while he was in prison, he asked for books and journals. Many public protests took place in Bangalore in 2019 at which he was present, to express his solidarity support.

His friends on the mission were his family members. Mr. Duarte Barreto was one among the many, who was his

colleague at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore (ISI-B). On hearing of his death, Stan wept and wrote to me, "I miss my friend Duarte Barreto. 'Stan, continue to do what you are doing' had been his last words when I visited him in 2019. That I will try to do, and that will be my homage to him." After Henry Volkan, it was Duarte and Stan who introduced the 3-month social analysis in the ISI-B course as early as 1975 which transformed the students, youth, academics, activists, priests and religious.

While Stan was falsely implicated and put behind the bars, many of us were concerned about him. But he was concerned about others. He never made complaints about his health or his life in Taloja prison until he was affected by Covid-19 in mid-May.

Stan had three concerns at the end of his life. Firstly, he was not pleased that he was kept in the ICU and treated for long. He said, "Do not waste money on me. My time is nearing". Secondly, Stan wanted to donate his body after his death. As he was under judicial custody the Jesuits could not fulfil his last wish. Thirdly, he wanted to spend the last few days with his people in Ranchi. However, at the end he surrendered and said, "You have been taking care of my needs. Talk to the Provincials and do the needful".

'Truth, justice and paying the price' was his mantra of life. By his life and mission, Stan has given a clarion call to the Jesuits, priests, religious and collaborators not to be silent spectators in a broken world and to appreciate the implications of walking with the excluded in the mission of Reconciliation and Justice. Learning from His masters' life Stan believed that truth and justice are inseparable, and love must be the foundation of all our actions. This is the message that I carry with me. **F**

Stan as A Mentor

- Elina Horo, Ranchi, Jharkhand

In 2005 when I met Fr. Stan for the first time, I was very much impressed by his simplicity and a much grounded personality. I knew him as an activist, working for the rights of the Adivasis as well as his theological background from where he stood up/forward to practice liberation theology which motivate my own work. At that time I was at cross roads after finishing my Master of Theology in Women/Gender Studies and looking forward to work where my knowledge could be most utilized.

I joined an organization which was working on Adivasi issues particularly on mining issues with which Stan was

closely connected. It was an opportunity for me to be part of his social analysis workshop at Bagaicha, a training centre for social workers from different fields/sectors. Though I went there to attend the workshop as a learner, on the very first day after the session by Fr. Alex, Fr Stan just told me, 'you should take the sessions'. He quickly assigned me a session the very next day. As a trainer, I was very new to this field and so very nervous but I took it as a challenge to try, that too with his outlined training structure. His support and motivation helped me immensely. He supplemented with information and perspective wherever I missed important points during the