



Delhi Jesuits

News Letter of Delhi Jesuit Province

April 2020 Vol. XXXII No.3

PROVINCIAL APPOINTS

Fr. M. Amaldass, XLRI Delhi Campus, Jhajjar wef May 1, 2020

Fr. Jinesh Njammatholil, XLRI Delhi Campus, Jhajjar wef June 1, 2020

Fr. Shaju Kalathingal, Behror wef Jun 1, 2020

Fr. Anil Kispotta, Principal, SX Shahbad wef June 1, 2020

Sch. Nitish Ekka, Maria Sadan, Bhiwadi, Regency Yr 1

PROVINCIAL'S APRIL PROGRAM

01-04 Visitation, Shanti Sadan, Allahabad

06-08 Visitation, Xavier's, Shahbad

10-12 Easter Triduum

13-16 Visitation, Xaviers, Raj Niwas

17-18 Province Consult

20-30 Home Visit

PROVINCIAL'S MAY PROGRAM

05 Back in the Office

08-10 Nevta House Blessing

16-20 Scholastics' Sharing, Allahabad

23-28 Jaipur & Mahwa, Visitation

30-31 Province Consult

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNGEST DOCTOR

Fr. Tom Kunnunkal was conferred the degree of **Doctor of Divinity**, Honoris Causa, by Henry Martyn Institute, International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation, Hyderabad, on 18 March 2020.

FROM THE DIASPORA

Louis: I am happy to share with you that I have successfully defended my thesis and

completed my Ph.D. studies on February 21. At this moment, I express my sincere gratitude to all the members of the Delhi Jesuit Province and the JST Jesuit Community (Berkeley) for their love and support. I extend my sincere thanks to Fr. Varkey Perekkatt, who missioned me to the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University for studies, and Fr. Sebastian Jeerakassery, who has continually supported me since 2016. I am grateful to Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, the President of the Jesuit Conference of the United States and Canada, for providing financial assistance for the successful completion of my studies. I was hoping to move to Pune, the place of my next mission, on March 20, but due to the current crisis and lockdown, I could not fly as scheduled. Since, in a short period, COVID-19 has rapidly spread in many states of the US, the State of California has declared "Stay at Home Order" for entire California from March through May 3, 2020. In Berkeley, we are entirely shelter-in-place. I am looking forward to returning to India as soon as it is safe to fly. Together with you, I pray for an end to the COVID-19 that is gripping our world today.

Tony: I spent part of March at Prothrapur Parish assisting them. Conducted a meeting for 20 *pracharaks* (catechists) of that parish. We discussed some of the major issues affecting our parish especially family life and how to resolve them through concrete action plan. At Port Blair I had recollection for MC sisters, AC sisters and Diocesan priests of South Andaman. Our CRI recollection which was planned was cancelled. Our Emeritus Bishop Alex was supposed to come here for Chrism Mass

and visitation of diocese which was cancelled due to Covid-19. I was planning to accompany him and visit all the parishes of Andaman before leaving this place but this plan too didn't materialize. At Andaman & Nicobar we don't have any cases of Covid-19 as yet but the tourists who had visited till mid-March could leave behind traces of this virus. From Mid-March all precautions are taken and no tourists are allowed to enter the island. No petrol and diesel are provided for private vehicles including transport vehicles. As a result, there is no movement of vehicles on the road, just like self-imposed curfew. Only essential stores like groceries, fish and meat and dairy products are allowed to keep open. Since all the flights and ships are cancelled we are totally cut off from the rest of the world. After 70 years we are having this sort of situation here. All our church services are totally banned and church gate is locked as per Diocesan Administrator's instruction. No daily Mass in neighbouring convents. We are having severe water crisis for last few days. Even tankers are not allowed to operate since diesel is not supplied to them. I have lot of quiet time for relaxation, reflection, prayer and prepare some programs. Hope and pray this situation will improve soon.

SAHAYOG

Sahayog: The month of March began with a surprise visit by General Fr. Arturo Sosa, our Regional Assistants and Fr. Pierre Balanjre from Rome. On their way from Kathmandu to Kohima Region they missed their flight in Delhi on March 1; so they decided to stay overnight in Navjivan-Sahayog. After a good night's rest they departed immediately after breakfast on the next day. Many Jesuits residing in Delhi got opportunity to interact with the dignitaries. Thank you, Fr. General, for your unscheduled visit and blessings on us. On the 8th, the community celebrated the birthday of K.P. George with Mass in the evening and a delicious dinner organized by our Minister **Fr. Arun Panackal**. Within eight days followed another birthday celebration, **Fr. Sebastian Jeera's** 50th birthday on the ides of March. The Delhi Province members who came for the Leadership Training also joined the

birthday celebrations besides the usual crowd. **Fr. John Chathanatt** returned from Kerala after his research tour on 16th. He brought a lot of goodies from God's own country and the community relished them. Everyone in the community strictly observed the 'Janata Curfew' declared by Prime Minister on 22nd and appreciated with clapping those who serve silently the people in our country. **Fr. Alex Chinnapparaj** was admitted in Fortis Hospital on 23rd as he had developed acute chest congestion. After almost a week of treatment in the hospital, he is back in the community and now is resting and recuperating. **Fr. Ed Daly** is still in Jivodaya Hospital. His health has improved considerably, but not enough to be back at Sahayog. **Fr. Xavier Ignatius** who was out in Kohima to carry out Revisor's work managed to return home by the last flight from Guwahati. In spite of all the difficulties, our Minister Arun manages to feed the community and keep the members in good cheer.

K.P. George

NRC: In NRC March began with a retreat by an SMI Sister guided by **Fr. K.P. George** while Missionaries for Christ (Couples and Singles for Christ) ended their retreat on the same day. Then from 2nd to 6th the Global Disciples had their training program in which 45 people attended. Although another program by EFICOR was to follow but due to the disturbed atmosphere it had to be cancelled. However, the North Zone Leadership Training Program was successfully carried out without any apprehension from 16th. This program was conducted by Fr. George Sebastian of XLRI, Jhajjar and Fr. Sebastian Jeera. There were twenty-eight participants from the six NZ Units. Before serious problems popped up all were able to get back to their own places. Two SMI Sisters under the guidance of Fr. T.K. John made their retreat from 22nd. From 24th on Navjivan Renewal Centre was shut down in view of the rising pandemic. Announcements about future programs will be made at appropriate time.

K.P. George

IISR Report: IISR Delhi organized a national seminar on “Being Human in an Age of Artificial Intelligence,” in collaboration with Science and Religion Sangam Goa, on March 12, at the International Centre Goa. **Fr. Job Kozhamthadam**, the principal speaker, spoke on “Being Human in an Age of AI: Humans and Humanoids as Collaborators.” Just before that Job attended the “Jesuits in Science Meeting” at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad, on March 7-8, and shared the various activities of IISR Delhi with fellow Jesuit scientists of South Asia.

Job

ST. XAVIER’S, BEHROR

School: At the beginning of March, the school was in exam mood with the ongoing Board exams and our school exams. On 2nd, the new academic session began for Classes X and XII. Our school has been made a centre for evaluation of the CBSE Board exams; evaluation of Class X answer sheets began on 11th. **Fr. Joe Vila** is appointed as the Chief Nodal Supervisor of the whole process; he has meticulously planned the evaluation process and monitored the team of evaluators from various schools. Corona lockdown brought our school to a standstill. The last school exam was cancelled. To the request from the govt sectors to avail of our school infrastructure for the corona pandemic victims in case of extreme emergency, a positive response has been given from the school side.

Community: We celebrated the birthday of **Fr. Joe Manna** on March 1. At this joyful celebration the neighbouring Jesuit communities joined us. **Sch. Anish** went to Bhiwadi to attend the triduum for the Regents. On 8th Fr. Dayal, Sch. Ruben, Sch. Arvind visited us. Fr. Dayal stayed on for a couple of days. On 15th the Jhajjar community and the sisters were with us for lunch. Due to corona lock down the community members are indoors and spend their time in prayerful silence. The community members showcase their creative cooking skills when our cook is on his day of break. Miss Krishna Rai, one of our teachers staying in the school hostel, joins us for the morning prayer and the

meals. Her helping hand in the kitchen and cleanliness drive around the campus are well appreciated.

Parish: Though the Sunday services for the parishioners were cancelled due to corona lockdown, the parish priest **Fr. Sebastian A.** encouraged the parishioners to continue with their personal devotions and family prayers.

Anish Raj

ST. XAVIER’S, BHIWADI

School: March was the month of nerve wracking exams, sleepless nights due to exam fever as well as fear of results. Our school is one of the centres for the CBSE exams and **Fr. Sangeeth CA** (examiner). Promotion meeting of Classes 1 to 9 took place in the presence of the principal in spite of his being busy as CA. The campus reverberated with joyful shouts of students on 11th, the last day of exams. Corona virus doubled the joy of students as the holidays were extended. But Fr. Sebastian was deprived of his evening walks as school is locked down.

Community: The regents made their triduum under the guidance of **Fr. Amal**. We had community recollection, along with regents, following the guidelines of UAP. Community had a meeting to prepare well to face corona pandemic. Following the instructions of the govt, fathers have confined themselves to their rooms. We are having adoration every day, instead of evening community prayer, to pray for Covid-19 affected people. Corona has provided some relaxation to **Fr. Glenn** as he does not have to go to BIDA for a few days. **Sch. Prakash Toppo** is rendering his service in teaching the candidates “Communicative Hindi.”

Parish: On 15th we had jubilee celebration of Sr. Sherine FSLG. The youth arranged creative liturgy that was followed by homemade refreshments for everyone. With the idea of enhancing the devotion of parishioners, **Fr. Sebastian M.** has allowed to have the Way of the Cross on Wednesdays also. But due to corona virus we had to stop all lenten practices in the church.

Maria Sadan: Our house is filled with life with the arrival of 6 new candidates.

Keeping in mind their entrance exam, we thought of imparting some basic knowledge about their subjects. The cancellation of Board exams made our second years to stay back and prepare for the remaining subjects.

Pawan

ST. XAVIER'S, JAIPUR

College: We started March with an enrichment program. The Faculty Enrichment Committee organized a Staff Interaction Program with Prof. S.P.M. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, on 6th. All the teaching staff attended the session. Then it was time for a short celebration. In sync with worldwide celebration of Women's Day on 8th, the Gender Study Cell organised screening of a short film - JUICE on 7th, followed by a group discussion. The celebration concluded with the staff members taking the Pledge to Honour and Respect Women. We have given an advertisement in the newspapers for the required faculty members, including Principal. Later in the middle of the month, corona scare ravaged the campus. Everything came to a grinding halt. All Rajasthan University practical exams in the college have been postponed till further notice. The college is also on a total lockdown mode.

Jose V. K.

School: The Board exams of 10 & 12 and final exams for Stds. 1 to 8 continued. On March 4 we conducted the last exam for Stds 1 and 2. Meanwhile remedial classes for the ones who couldn't make it to Stds 10 & 12 were conducted. The last exam for Stds 3 to 8 was held on 6th. Before the commencement of Holi holidays the Principal **Fr. Dominic** had a meeting with the teachers wherein a number of observations were shared and new decisions regarding leave and other things were informed. Parents of wards, who were detained in Stds 9 and 11, continue to press for the promotion of their wards with the principal even though their marks were never near the neighbourhood of the qualifying percentage. In the pervading ambience of COVID-19 the State Govt declared Section 144 on 19th thus bringing

to a grinding halt the Board exams and the evaluation of Board papers. All the repair and whitewashing works came to a standstill. As soon as the Janta Curfew culminated at 9 pm on 23rd news reached that from midnight on the State would enter into Lockdown till March 31, thus becoming the first state to announce a full scale lockdown in the country. As the prevailing situation wasn't conducive for a tete-a-tete between parents and teachers on PTM day the result was posted on the website of the school. With the announcement of the nationwide Lockdown by Prime Minister from March 25 to April 14 all grandiose plans of reopening the school on March 29 fizzled out. To make best use of the confinement the teachers are engaged into online tutoring of the students. A Std 10 student qualified after many rounds of tests to be among 5 students pan India to participate in the Hanoi International Maths Olympiad. In the recently announced Kishore Vigyaanik Protsahan Yojana results two Std 12 Xavierites secured 22nd and 278th ranks pan India.

Sobin

Parish: March, dedicated to St. Joseph, began with a series of programmes starting with the diocesan level Marriage Preparation Course. Three "to be couples" from the parish participated in the programme from 8th to 10th. The Parish Women's Commission made sure that the International Women's Day was celebrated with due preparation on 8th with specially prepared Prayer of the Faithful and refreshments for all after the Mass. On the same day, in response to Holy Father Pope Francis' declaration of the year 2020 as the Year of Nurses and Midwives, the Diocese organised a day of prayer and recollection for all the nurses of the city parishes; four nurses from our parish took part in the programme. Similarly three teachers participated in the one day recollection for the teachers on the 9th. On 10th the Parish Community started the Novena in honour of St. Joseph in preparation for the feast on 19th. March 15 was a day of celebration for the whole parish as Bishop Oswald J. Lewis made his Pastoral Visit. Bishop in his homily stressed on the importance of building up the faith of a parish by building

up the families, the basic unit of the Church. After the Mass he had a meeting with the members of the Parish Council and the youth where he reiterated the need for building up a faith community of laypeople who can play their legitimate role as the social face of the Church in the larger society. He also reminded both the parents and youth of the need to nurture vocation to priesthood and religious life in the family. Bishop also took out time to inspect the records and account of the parish. The plan to visit the families had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 alert. Bishop interacted with the Jesuit Community while enjoying a good lunch. All the other programmes of the month were affected by the Corona virus alert. Hindi retreat on 20th had to be cancelled. Celebration of the feast of St. Joseph had to be limited to the minimum with the celebration inside the Church. From then on we are in the grip of the restrictions of Corona alert commencing with Janata curfew on 22nd to this day praying earnestly for the *achche din* to revisit us.

Varkey

Community: Beginning of March brought special joy to Fr. Dominic, as he was visited by his elder sister Sr. Cecilia AC along with three of her community members, two fathers and one layman from the diocese of Vellore. Fr. Michael Ekka (PAT) called on us as he made a friendly visit to Jaipur. **Fr. Jose Vatta** took the XVI staff to Agra for a picnic on 2nd. That day **Fr. Varkey** and **Fr. Mani** returned from Patna after their 8-day spiritual renewal and reminiscing the good old days in the 70's and 80's with the veterans over there. The community en masse took part in the clergy recollection of the diocese organised at Nevta where Fr. Amal gave the reflection interspersing it with his experiments with faith, struggle and perseverance which was appreciated by all. On 7th at the threshold of Holi holidays Frs. Dominic, Vatta, Packiam, Sherry and Sobin packed their haversacks and went for rejuvenation and solitude at the bosom of the Himalayan mountains in Almora. When the Young Turks were out, the senior most priests of the diocese, the octogenerian trio - Frs. Tony, Mani and Varkey - attended to the spiritual and

temporal affairs of the mission. Frs. Pradeep and Joshy brought 40 plus animators from Almora to the vast stretches of Rajasthan. They were our guests for 2 days; the Pahaadis thoroughly enjoyed their stay and visit. Frs. Tony and Dayal were here for visiting their apothecary. Fr. Arunmozhi explored the possibility of holding the Magis 2020 at Jaipur in a combined meeting of Jaipur Jesuits wherein it was decided that Nevta would be the venue in November. On 21st at a thanksgiving mass and dinner held at SCJM convent the services of Sr. Sunita, who is on transfer, was acknowledged. On 25th as per the request of the Pope, a 12-hour adoration was held during this pressing time to pray for the cessation of COVID-19 and to bring relief to the afflicted nations. Observing the guidelines of the Govt we quarantine ourselves from the outsiders and make use of the time for updating ourselves and involving in passionate prayers for the termination of the pandemic.

Varkey

ST. XAVIER'S, NEVTA

College: In connection with the World Science Day, the Eco Club started Glob Program – Open Lab by installing various instruments to monitor environmental parameters – rain gauge, pH and TDS factor. Work started on fixing the fire alarm system in order to get a fire-safety certificate, which is a precondition for getting permanent NOC from the Dept of College Education. By 20th when the govt announced the closure of all institutions, we closed the college for the teaching and office staff. On 21st the maintenance staff reported. Rajasthan Govt declared lockdown March 31st. So even the maintenance staff were sent on leave. The construction workers, except those who were staying in the campus for unavoidable works, also left. Some of the hostel students left when the Rajasthan government had announced the lockdown. Others who waited, are now locked down in the campus. Otherwise, the campus is quiet, waiting for the lockdown to lift.

Augustine

School: The Life Skills Enhancement Camp concluded on March 7. The final results were given out during the PTMs on 13th-14th. In order to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and innovative ideas put in by the students throughout the academic year, the departments of Science, Social Studies and Craft & Fine Arts organized an Exhibition during the PTMs in which selected projects were displayed. All the parents were highly appreciative of the exhibition and the models displayed. We are grateful to all the teachers and students for their wonderful display of creativity, scientific temper and critical thinking. As we were gearing up for the new academic year, the announcement of lock down came because of corona virus scare. The school is completely closed now. The school management along with the teachers have taken various initiatives to keep the student community actively involved in curricular and co-curricular activities through technology during the lock down period – online classes for senior students, various modules for subject related topics, life skills development, PPTs on social issues, environmental concerns, COVID19, etc. A group of teachers have been assigned to monitor these programs through special domain within the school website and guide the students accordingly. All are eagerly waiting for the school to re-open at the earliest. The entire staff has generously contributed one day's salary to feed the daily labourers' families in our neighbourhood who have been affected by the national lock down. With the help of local Sarpanch, labourers' families are being identified in the five villages of Nevta Panchayat and each family will be given a food kit consisting of 5 kgs of rice, 5 kgs of flour, 3 kgs of onion, 2 kgs of dal, 1 litre of edible oil, masalas, salt, etc. The school management is grateful to all the staff for their love and concern for the poor.

Ravi

X.V.I. Nevta: We celebrated the second Graduation Day and International Women's Day on March 15 with great elation and gusto. Chief Guest **Mrs. Priyaka Sharma**, Sarpanch, *Nevta Gram Panchayat*, expressed immense happiness

on being part of the Graduation Day celebrations. She showered accolades on XVI for its stellar role in grooming underprivileged girls into all round personalities. The Guests of Honour **Frs. John Ravi**, Sangeeth, and **Amaldass** with their encouraging words made the event a very special one for the students as well as staff and parents. This occasion saw the presence of around 250 villagers, well-wishers and our Jesuits in Jaipur. All who witnessed the event remained spellbound seeing the mesmerizing performance of our talented students. Graduates were presented with certificates, sewing machines and toolkits worth of Rs. 96000/- . A BIG Thanks to Fr. John Ravi, Mr. Sunil Mittal, Mr. Anil Salecha, Mr. Rajiv Goyal, Mr. Mukhtiar Singh, Mr. Sameer Jain and Mrs. Gloria and team for their generous support and guidance.

Vincent

Community: Fr. Jijimon left for Delhi in the first week of March for massage treatment and vocation promotion in Kerala. He had planned to return in the last week of May after meeting his doctoral guide. But he is stuck in Delhi with the lockdown! The scheduled installation of **Fr. Arock** as superior on 31st could not take place due to national lock down; it will take place after he returns from his home visit. The community extends a warm and cordial welcome to Arock. **Fr. Augustine P.** will move to C-scheme community only after the national lock down ends. The community members are enjoying the lock down period in their own creative ways within the premises. No one is allowed to venture out of the campus.

Ravi

ST. XAVIER'S, SHAHBAD

School: We started special classes for Stds X and XII already in the month of February. The Board exams, school final exams for Classes I to VIII and new session were going on hand in hand. Many teachers went for evaluation work. And then came the threat of Corona virus. There came notifications from CBSE to spread awareness regarding Covid-19. Flexes bearing the messages and precautions were put up at different places

to make children aware of the deadly threat of Corona virus. Talks were organised for the children of classes X and XII. Virus related messages were put on the school website also. The parents of students of Classes Prep to V got an opportunity to see the answer sheets of final exams of their wards on March 9 and the report cards were given out on 14th. Headmistress Sr. Tomsy had a session with the teachers of Junior School on 16th and encouraged them to introspect and learn from their experiences. The teachers discussed about some of the main problems that they face. The time table for the new academic year was given to the teachers. From 20th the school was closed completely following the order from the government because of corona virus.

Parish: On March 1, the parish celebrated the birthday of **Fr. Shaju Varghese** as well as the Women's Day. Fr. Shaju was the main celebrant. Refreshments were provided for all the parishioners after mass. We had the Parish Pastoral Council meeting after refreshments. Some of our youth participated in Youth Convention "Ask, Seek, Knock – Who loves you?" organized by ICYM Delhi from 6th to 8th. Some of the parishioners participated in the Lenten Convention "Hosanna 2020" organized by DCRS on March 6-8 at J.J. Ashram, Burari. On 8th we had a meeting of all the altar servers with their parents; the Parish Priest **Fr. Scaria** explained to them the role of altar servers in the liturgy and the parent's responsibility in encouraging the children and bringing them early enough before the mass. Catholic Association also had a meeting after mass. On 15th, we had a short meeting of the parents of the First Communion and Confirmation children to plan out their special classes during the summer. This was followed by a meeting for our catechism teachers. We held the Way of the Cross on all Fridays and Sundays of Lent till 15th. Then all parish public activities were closed on 20th because of the corona virus.

Britto

LVI: After the UAP Retreat at Atmadarshan, Patna, Fr. George Peter met many of his old friends in Patna after a gap

of nine years. Then he visited Bettiah after 25 years, and participated in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Ratanpurwa School. On the way back to Patna, he got down at Muzzaffarpur and spent two days in DB-Tech, ASHA DEEP, learning about the various vocational training courses there. They conduct three month residential training programmes for three trades. After that he returned to Delhi on 9th and started the NIOS Practical Exams for X & XII in various subjects, for about 500 students allotted to our LVI centre. We conducted exams for one week when the Govt order came on 18th asking us to postpone the rest of the exams. So we have closed down the LVI, our Bawana project and all the 21 tuition centres until April 15. All our SHG meetings and Lokmanch activities are closed down; but we had two audio-conferencing of our animators. Hope and pray that things would be under control soon.

George Peter

Community: On March 1, community celebrated the birthday of Fr. Shaju; our attached community members too were present. On 4th, **Fr. Joy John** left for Varanasi and Patna to participate in the death anniversary of Br. Tom Karuka and returned on 10th. After making the retreat in Patna and visiting old friends and acquaintances **Fr. George Peter** came back on 9th. We hosted CRI North Zone meeting here on 15th evening; Fr. George Peter was the resource person. On 20th **Br. Gyan** fell ill; doctor advised him to take rest. From 21st on all except **Fr. Remy** is at home taking enough rest and spending time in prayer and reading. After the retreat in Patna Fr. Remy went to Bettiah where he got stuck because of corona lock down; he has taken shelter at K.R. Bettiah. Please note **Remy's Mob: 9958432328**. Fr. Joy John directed the retreat of two CJ sisters from 22nd to 30th at St. Xavier's CJ Convent.

Britto

ALMORA

Fr. Pradeep went for monthly meeting in Hawalbagh and Someshwar on March 1 while **Fr. Rakesh** stayed back in Almora to offer mass for parishioners. Next day **Fr. Joshy** returned from Jaipur after attending

his seminar over there. On 3rd Fr. Pradeep and Fr. Joshy went to court to get information regarding renewal of the SEVA Governing Body members. On 4th, they went to Barecheena and Salla for spoken English classes and reached one more tailoring machine to Salla. On 6th, Fr. Pradeep left for Delhi to submit bills and to meet with PDD regarding a new project with CARITAS. Fathers from Jaipur arrived on 8th; they were taken to Gaijool and Jalna and left for Jaipur on 11th. Meanwhile we visited Barecheena to get the place ready for Mahila Diwas cum Mahila Sammelan. We were afraid heavy rains would disrupt the program. Fortunately the weather was clear on the 12th. Women, children and staff took part in the celebration with full enthusiasm. Chief Guest was Mr. Bittu Karnatak, a former State Minister. Other Guests of Honour were Neema Devi, Gram Pradhan Digoli, Rajendra Singh, Sarpanch Channi, Hem Joshi, Manager DK Memorial Public School and Anita Goswami, Teacher and Trainer. On 13th our tuition teachers, 41 of them, staff and fathers proceeded for a two-day trip to Jaipur and returned on 17th. However, Fr. Pradeep stayed back to meet his nephew who was coming from Bangalore for +2 Study in Bhiwadi. Four fathers from our neighbourhood came to Almora on 18th to celebrate the belated birthday of Fr. Rakesh. On 19th March Sch. Manish and Sch. Cyril arrived here and then left for Bageshwar to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph Baba. With the corona lockdown in force, we are really locked in and go out to grocery and vegetable shops between 7 am to 10 am and only for urgent needs.

Rakesh

ROPAR

Parish: On March 15 there was a meeting of the Altar Servers. Mr. Peter Bhatti, the husband of our cook Raj Mata took flight to heaven on 17th. The funeral took place at 2:30 pm and the body was buried in the village cemetery. On 21st there was a prayer service for Mr. Peter; it was followed by lunch. As govt regulations regarding the gathering of people because of COVID-19 came into force, it was not possible to give people proper information regarding Church services.

School: On March 7 there was PTM and result declaration. On 11th and 12th books were sold for Nursery to VIII. On 16th our new academic year was to start but was postponed because of corona virus. This year more than 125 students have taken admission in our School.

Community: Sch. Ruben went to Bhiwadi for *triduum* held on March 5-7. **Fr. Jinesh** and Fr. Viren attended the Leadership Training Programme at NRC Delhi from 15th to 20th.

Ruben

KHARAR/MORINDA/GSSSC ROPAR

At the Kharar centre, regular training for village women on beauty culture was held till March 21. Now the classes are suspended due to lock down. The caretaker boy stays at the centre and the property is maintained. De-addiction awareness programs in the institutions were at a low ebb during the month due to the exams. A long stage play and a *nukkad* were put up in the rural areas before the lock down. One of the youth volunteers working for the de-addiction sensitization program gave a short lecture on de-addiction for the youth of Simbal Majra Village near Ropar. **Fr. Viren** animated a two-hour session for 80 youth members of Nehru Yuva Kendra Nawashahar Unit on 14th at the premises of youth hostel Ropar. The session was well appreciated by Nehru Yuva Kendra staff and the youth members.

Regular animation of SHGs was done by our three animators in the villages of Ropar area until the lock down. On March 7, GSSSC celebrated Women's Day in Samrala Village community centre. Women, children and SHG members from other villages showcased their talents with a cultural program which ran for about three hours. It provided opportunities for girl children to come forward with their talents and put up a commendable display of events. It was a successful program despite incessant rains on that day. Animator Surinder Kaur presented the annual report of the programs under GSSSC Ropar in Punjabi before the gathering. The other two animators Sr. Agnes Kujur CHF and Mrs. Sunita Bhatti looked after compering and basic logistics.

Director **Fr. Robin** delivered a message relevant to the occasion. Associate director Fr. Viren proposed vote of thanks. The program concluded with *langar* for everyone present. The village folks especially Samrala SHG members took care of langar expenses.

On March 1, Robin went to Allahabad to give the pre-novices a seminar and administer one of the tests meant for them. Viren returned to Morinda in time on 21 March, after participating in the leadership program for young Jesuits at NRC Delhi. We are now in talks with different like-minded individuals to provide relief rations to the marginalized during the time of lock down.

Robin

GYANODAY, KHASPUR

In March we had many rare experiences. On March 1, all the juniors went to Ara together with Fr. Edward Dungdung (PAT) to help out in entrance exams conducted for the students of Classes 1 to 3. It was a new experience for all the juniors. From 2nd to 4th we had a course on research methodology given by Fr. Martin Poras (PAT). The course was very helpful and soon after the course we started our research as part of our curriculum under the guidance of fathers here. XISR in St. Xavier's College of Management and Technology provided us with the books needed for our research. On 10th we wrote the assistant exam. Then on 16th we were happy to welcome Fr. Donald Miranda, Provincial of Patna. On the same day Fr. Tony Matta (PAT) returned from Pune after attending a course of two and a half months on Ignatian Spirituality. On 19th we celebrated the birthday of Sch. Ajith (KER). On 20th we were saddened by the news of the death of Fr. Dominic who was the assistant parish priest of Danapur Parish. On 21st we attended his funeral in XTTI. On 27th and 28th we had recollection. As the corona virus is spreading everywhere we have taken some preventive steps to protect ourselves.

Alan

SHANTI SADAN, ALLAHABAD

Some women of our parish participated in a programme held in the Cathedral Church on March 1 as part of the International Women's Day. It began at 10 am and concluded in the afternoon with lunch for all participants. To honour the women of our parish a chiku sapling was planted by them in the garden adjacent to our church. Fr. Robin V. reached here on 2nd and conducted psychometric and psychological tests. He also explained in detail about Child Abuse, POSCO and how, as religious, we can protect the minors from perpetrators. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Robin for conducting our exams. **Fr. Robert Athickal** took our Four Sheet exam. On International Day of Forest, he started the community Mass behind the Jesuit Residence among the trees, but a strong wind accompanied by shower forced us to complete the Mass on the corridor. **Fr. Abraham** was down with viral fever; he recuperated after a few days of rest. **Fr. Chacko** celebrated his 85th birthday on 13th by presiding over the community Mass. On this auspicious occasion, the OLP sisters, who were making their Long Retreat, joined us for Mass and breakfast. **Fr. Pius** directed a 4-day retreat for us from 16th to 19th based on the gospel of St. Matthew. We were rejuvenated and reinvigorated spiritually and physically by this retreat. We were privileged to have a week of Bible classes; we had yoga meditation in the morning followed by three classes and Mass in the evening. And the driving force behind all these was Fr. Pius. We celebrated his birthday on 29th. In the midst of corona scare, we allowed the cruel syringe of the nurses to take out our blood for medical examination. After the imposition of lockdown, the main gate of our campus is locked till further notice. With the lockdown, access to the church is out of bounds for the parishioners.

Adwin

LOYOLA SADAN, LUCKNOW

In order to feel our Lord's Passion intensely we incorporated in our community and personal prayers themes such as repentance, God's love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. **Fr.**

Christopher took Classes on *Affective Language*. We learned a lot on how to articulate our thoughts, ideas and feelings and affectively communicate them. On 6th **Fr. Mariathas**, the would-be Novice Master of Sri Lanka Province came here to spend some days with us. From 9th to 20th **Fr. Jose Philip** took classes on *The History of the Society of Jesus*. We did group Studies, Discussions and Presentations. We not only gained knowledge but were also motivated to get into the spirit of our forefathers and to march ahead in their footsteps. We also watched a documentary on Delhi and Patna Province. We got a clearer picture of the different apostolates we are engaged in. Due to corona virus pandemic we could not go out for ministries and Sunday parish Masses. We stay at home having regular classes. We do pray for everyone.

Anthony

XAVIER NILAYA, BENGALURU

Sch. Ashwin was away in Chennai to do his pending exam. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary (1971-2021) of Xavier Nilaya an Evaluation Team consisting of Fr. Louis Prakash and Fr. Johnson Kelakath came to XN and met many people, both Jesuits and Laity. They also visited the neighbouring four Jesuit communities. All the ground level work was done by them and the local community here in Bengaluru well before their arrival. Other visiting Jesuits of the month were Fr. K.P. Dominic, Fr. Albert and Fr. Britto. In the middle of the month 'The Bread of Life' prayer group organized a two-day retreat here in our community chapel for the laity. We too made use of this blessed occasion for our candidates' spiritual nourishment. Meanwhile four Delhi candidates returned to XN after their short home visit. Sch. Ashwin accompanied them to Delhi. These 4 from South and 2 from North are promoted for their next stage of formation in Bhiwadi. On his return, Sch. Ashwin is quarantined in his room. Right now we are 15 candidates and 3 staff. Even though the fear is all around, our cook Mr. Dass comes without fail and keeps us well fed. Due to the lock down the atmosphere in our neighbourhood is clean. Because of the

corona virus scare we remain indoors, praying unceasingly for the whole world. May this pandemic of COVID-19 cease to exist soon.

Ashwin

Please Pray for

Fr. Ed Daly convalescing in Jivodaya Hospital.

Fr. Alex Chinnapparaj struggling with kidney related problems.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April	May
01 Chathanatt, John	05 Mani, Soosai
05 I., Vincent Paul	09 Jose Kuriakose
05 Leveil, Louis	11 Arackal, Joy John
09 Kindo, Jugal	11 Selvan, John Ravi
19 Lakra, Cyril	12 Pallipadan, Ittoop
23 Elampassery, Jose	19 Panackal, Arun John
	21 Kumar, Sasi K.
	22 N.S. Jinesh

Gone for their Eternal Reward

Fr. Felix Tirkey (DUM,52/28) on March 2.

Fr. Geoffrey M. Meagher (HAZ,77/59) on March 5.

Fr. Petrus Kerketta (MAP, 71/51) on Mar 9.

Fr. Arakal Jacob (AND, 96/75) on Mar 12.

Fr. Dominic Muthedath (PAT 85/63) on Mar 20.

Fr. Andrews Koluvaan (DUM, 72/48) on Mar 29.

Fr. John Ravi's father Mr. Michael Samy, 94, on March 7.

Mrs. Rani, 61, wife of Fr. Job's first cousin Augustine Kozhamthadam. She died of cancer on March 20.

Reports and photos for the next DM are due on or before April 30, 2020.