

Dumka - Raiganj Province

Jesuit Bulletin



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Fr Provincial's Message



Dear Friends, this Friday afternoon I heard our neighbours conducting Way of the Cross in their house as there is no public function due to lockdown. I too went to my room and put on an audio version of the Way of the Cross and was listening. As I listened, I asked myself: Why doesn't participation in Way of the Cross change me? I could get only this answer: Jesus' suffering that took place 2000 years back is the centre of reflection and prayers and the whole Way of the Cross is in past tense and impersonal. This generates a sort of sympathy for Jesus and I feel bad for him. I may even shed a few tears for him. Occasionally I feel that my sins have made him suffer but at the same time at the back of my head I ask how Jesus could suffer 2000 years back for my sins. So I end up accusing Judas Iscariot, Pilot, religious leaders of His time, Roman soldiers and all those who were involved in inflicting suffering and death on Him. I am a bystander who feels bad for Jesus, sympathize with him knowing that it happened 2000 years back. I am not affected. But Jesus suffers in humanity even today. Jesus suffers in all those who are unjustly sentenced to life imprisonment or death. Jesus suffers in all those who suffer such ignominy even without any formal sentencing. I think we have to think of what is happening in today's world and how Jesus suffers in today's humanity. So, I found the IPP method very useful: context is the unjust world of today where rich and the powerful have everything and poor and voiceless suffer inhuman treatments. This context should lead us to experience. All of us live among the most exploited and marginalized people. We have personal experience of their helplessness, suffering, marginalization and subhuman level of existence. We should at least vicariously experience this human suffering that is happening today in our world and that experience should lead us to reflection of whether we have a part in that unjust

structure in any way. We might have contributed to it by our silence, unconcern or by being a part of that unjust structure. So participation in the Way of the Cross of Jesus who suffers in humanity today should lead me to action. I should do whatever is possible for me to mitigate the sufferings of humanity, to eliminate unjust structures from our institutions and from our midst and to raise our voices against such inhuman treatment of human beings. An evaluation of my life and that of my community will help me improve the situation further. WISH YOU A VERY GLORIOUS EASTER.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

Holy Father's Intention for April 2020: Freedom from Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied. **Pope Francis also makes a special request for prayers for all the sick and suffering, in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic.**

Appointment by Fr General

Most Reverend Father Arturo Sosa SJ has appointed Fr Ajit Kumar Xess SJ as the New Provincial of Ranchi Province

Incorporation into the Society

On Thursday 19th March, Solemnity of St Joseph, Jisu Jaher at Dudhani, was brightly decked for the celebration of the taking of Final Vows and incorporation into the Society of Fr Dominic Marandi SJ. The community chapel, extended into the adjoining hall, welcomed numerous religious and diocesan priests from far and near who came to concelebrate and a large congregation of religious Sisters, candidates, the family of his brother, other relatives and faithful from Fr Dominic's home village of Goari, from Kodma where he is presently engaged in mission and from other places close by. At 10:30 am Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ, assisted by Fr Dominic Marandi SJ and Fr Paul Aquilina SJ, made his way to the altar while the congregation led by the candidates under the direction of Fr Ravindra Darshima SJ, sang the entrance hymn. After incensing the altar, Fr Provincial began

Holy Mass and, in a brief introduction, recalled how wonderfully God had led Fr Dominic through the years in the Society up to the present moment. Fr Dominic read the gospel and then delivered a short sermon in English and then Santali, tracing briefly the various stages and stations of his life at home and in the Society. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for all he had received, at every stage, from God, from his parents and family, from Superiors and companions in the Society. The high point of the celebration arrived when



Fr Provincial, after receiving communion himself, raised the Sacred Body of Christ and Fr Dominic Marandi, on his knees, pronounced devoutly and clearly his Final Vows. He signed the document and handed it to Father Provincial

and then received Holy Communion. After the Eucharist, in the hall, Fr Mathias Kisku SJ compeered a short felicitation programme which included honouring Fr Dominic by Fr Provincial, songs and a dance by the Candidates, songs and a dance by the Girls of Maharo St Xavier's College Hostel, and a song by Kodma group. Various individuals came forward to present gifts to Fr Dominic. At the end, he rendered thanks to God, the Jisu Jaher community, the Candidates and to who had participated. All proceeded to the refectory to the accompaniment of music and the beating of drums and sat for a grand dinner. Jisu Jaher Community members and Candidates saw to it that the celebration went off well to the satisfaction of all. We wish Fr Dominic a fruitful apostolate towards the integral uplift of his dear Santal brothers and sisters and others. *(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).*



Diaconate in Pune

“Call to Reach Out to the Peripheries” was the theme chosen for this year’s diaconate ordination held in DNC. A total of twenty two brothers of whom, six brothers belonging to the Capuchin and sixteen brothers of De Nobili College received the diaconate on 9 February 2020. Out of the sixteen brothers who received the diaconate from DNC this year, fifteen belonged to seven Jesuit Provinces of India and one belonged to the RCJ congregation. The remote preparation began under the able guidance of Fr Paul Raj SJ who meticulously led the two weeks of preparation which put the would-be deacons at ease on the D-day. The beautifully decorated theologians’ chapel was the venue, where the diaconate was conferred

upon the deacons by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, the Bishop of Pune. The Holy Eucharist was concelebrated by Fr Edward SJ (Rector of DNC), Fr Andrew Fernandes SJ (Provincial of Pune), Fr Joby Kavungal RCJ (Provincial of the RCJ congregation) and Fr Philip Gonsalves (Provincial of the Capuchins). A short felicitation program followed the Mass, which was organized in the community hall to congratulate the deacons followed by refreshments for the invitees. Congratulations to Deacon Emmanuel Murmu SJ of Dumka Raiganj Province on his diaconate ordination and all the best for his diaconate ministry ahead. *(Sch Innocent Tudu SJ).*

Retreat at Belwa

The Belwa Parish organized a three day retreat in one of its village centres known as Bansbari. Mr Marcus Soren, the Head Catechist of Dola Punsia Parish of Dumka Diocese, and his team conducted the retreat in which about 500 people participated. The retreat began with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr Silas Toppo SJ and concluded with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr Marianus Minj of Baghwakhhol Parish. The village centre committee of Bansbari bore the retreat expenses and the youth of the centre led entrance dance and devotional singing. *(Fr Silas Toppo SJ).*

A Course on Administration and Financial Management

Our Province arranged a course on administration, financial management and statutory compliances for registered societies from 8th to 12th February at Jisu Jaher, Dumka. Our resource person was Fr Alex Gnanapragasam (JAM) SJ. It was indeed very constructive and useful management course and we all of us were profited a lot. Fr Alex, in an extraordinary manner explained with suitable examples how we can manage our resources within our budget and and we can tackle any legal issues in the taxation point of view. He further explained that budget is roadmap to achieve any specific goals and planning the money accordingly. Budget is understood as drawing up a proper utilization plan for the resources we have and it allows us to determine in advance our future goal and the way to get there. It helps us to manage our money wisely so that we can have enough money to do the things we need to do or would like to do. Depending on the circumstances, it may also mean cutting down on other things so that we can save enough money to do the things we need to do. Budget enables us to save money for our greater goals and in the light of it to



spend only on our actual needs and not on all our wants. It is an important planning and forecasting process to help us manage our money by balancing our expenses with our income.

Most of the time we take for granted that ours is registered society or trust therefore we are free from taxation but it is not so. Taxability on the income of trust (Sec 164/2). The income of a charitable trust can be grouped under one of the following heads of income. Income which is derived from property held under trust for charitable or religious purposes. Income derived from part of the corpus of the trust. Income from incidental activities (e.g. canteen, Bus, bookstore) Capital Gains, Anonymous donations. Many of our Province house treasures and Superiors attended the course in an



eager anticipation and gained a lot. During the session there were many questions and clarification addressed to the resource person and he explained everything patiently. We are sincerely grateful to Fr Alex G. SJ for the life experience that he shared with us. (*Fr Carter Thomas SJ*).

Kolkata NAAC Mentor Visit

7th March proved to be a historical day in the 2020 calendar of St Xavier's College, Maharo, as very special delegates from Kolkata honoured the college premises with their precious visit. The guest of honour was the Principal of the prestigious St Xavier's College, Kolkata, Rev. Fr Dominic Savio SJ who was accompanied by two other gentlemen of prominence, Dr Partha Pratim Ghosh who is the IQAC coordinator and Dr Ayan Chandra, the President of the Academic Council of the aforementioned place. It was an official visit and direction cum interaction with the Management and faculty members of Maharo of whom the visiting college is the mentor (NAAC). The chief purpose of this academic meeting was related to the IQAC (Internal Quality Assessment Cell) for the forthcoming inspection of the UGC body of NAAC which evaluates and marks all the academic institutes of our nation based on their excellence and performance in various fields of knowledge and research. The meeting started with a welcome song by students after which the management felicitated and honoured the guests of the day with flower bouquets and mementos. Thereafter, the Principal of the college, Rev. Fr Stephen Raj SJ formally welcomed and

the gathering. Then, the guest of honour, Rev. Fr Dominic Savio SJ delivered his valuable and inspiring talk where he expressed his appreciation for the mentee institute for its progressive approach in every field since its establishment in 2011. He also offered precious suggestions for further developments and promised to provide every possible aid and direction for this. After this, the two delegates presented a detailed outline of the various technicalities related to the IQAC format and work through PowerPoint presentation. They also interacted with the faculty members and answered the various queries put forward before them. Together, the two institutes of excellence promised to join hands for the cause of academic excellence and enrichment



in every possible way in the times to come. The programme was anchored by Ms Preety Sagar, Assistant Professor from the Department of English. It concluded with a vote of thanks and speech by Rev. Fr David Raj SJ, the IQAC coordinator and director of the Research centre of the college. (*Mr Himadri*).

Orientation for the Teachers

Rev. Fr Mahendra Peter Tigga SJ of Ranchi Province conducted a short orientation programme for the teachers of St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, 13th March, just a day before the School resumed for the new academic year 2020-2021. The Orientation programme began with a short Staff Meeting conducted by Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ, the Principal. Then Fr Mahendra Peter was introduced by the Principal and was warmly welcomed by the Staff. A lawyer and social activist, Fr Mahendra began the first session prayerfully through meditation helping the teachers to do some breathing exercises and at the same time reflecting on life of St Ignatius of Loyola and St Francis Xavier - life before conversion (life of luxury) and life after conversion (life of poverty and simplicity). He then beautifully connected with it, his own life experience - a life when he was the son of an MLA and a life as a Jesuit. During the course of Orientation, as a lawyer, he repeatedly advised the teachers what to do and what not to do while dealing with the students. He reminded the teachers that a teacher holds a dignified position. This dignity has to be kept intact till the end of one's teaching career. He also added that a teacher may be a very good teacher, an honest



and dedicated one. But if he goes against any he goes against any current existing law in dealing

with the students (for instance, Inflicting Corporal Punishments), no one can protect him from going behind the bar. Though limited in time, the Orientation programme conducted by Fr Mahendra Peter was much appreciated as it centred around his life experiences as a lawyer and a social activist. The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr Pranav Shankar, our teacher, (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Orientation for the Students

On Tuesday 17th March, as St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, reopened for the classes IX, X & XII, an Orientation cum Prayer Service was arranged in the School auditorium for the students of these classes so that they begin the new



academic Session (2020-2021) with a renewed spirit. The programme began with a short prayer service when the staff and the students, joining together, invoked the blessings of God for the new session. This was followed by the addresses of three different teachers including Mr Ashok Tiwari, the Co-ordinator of the Senior Section, who updated the students with rules and regulations, expectations, discipline and ways and means to achieve success. A few of the students, too, share the dais to share with all, their expectations and resolutions for the New Year. On this occasion Sch Marianus Ekka SJ, the regent, made a heart touching PowerPoint Presentation that inspired all. The programme ended with the final message given by Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ, the Principal. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Hathimara News

With the arrival of the new academic year we were enthusiastic about the new admissions. But this new creature called Corona Virus turned everything upside down. The result giving date is postponed, and so is the date of new admissions. We are unable to conduct Church services for the faithful, but encourage them to have meaningful prayer services at their own houses, like Bible reading and having family prayers like the Angelus and the Rosary. We maintain social distancing with others and within the community. It is social distancing and not emotional distancing. We pray for the whole world. Every day we have adoration from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm. We feel like Noah's family locked up in that boat. The only

difference is that there is no rain. The villagers around us look totally confused. They know that some harm will come to them if they go out, but do not know what exactly it is. Many families whose members go out every day for work are finding it difficult. A small creature which is not even visible to the naked eye has turned the whole world upside down. (*Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ*).

School Fights Corona

As the dreadful Corona Virus hits the nation, St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, like many other schools, closes for an indefinite period of time as per the direction issued by the Government. The ICSE and the ISC Board Exams which were still going on had to be postponed by the Council. The School Campus, without the teachers and the students, looks almost a deserted place, though a few Campus teachers, who are caught up due lockdown, still dwell on the Campus along with Jesuit Fathers and DSH Sisters. But they are hardly seen outside their living quarters, following strictly the government instructions of keeping social distance. However the Christian teachers, who are present on the Campus, join the Priests and the Nuns of Campus for Sunday Mass and evening Adoration in Chapel. In order to fight the Corona crisis, the teachers of St Xavier's School have also decided to sacrifice their one day's salary to strengthen the Prime Minister's Disastrous Relief Fund. May our little efforts and constant prayers help in winning the battle against Covid 19. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Being with Sick Fathers

I had an opportunity to be with our sick Fathers, namely, Frs Benjamin Tigga, Michael Panimegam, Marcus Murmu and Sylvester Kerketta at the St Xavier's Infirmary, Kolkata, from 4th to 12th March. I tried to share their pain and suffering in my little ways. I would say it was a good experience to come out of my comfort zone and to spend sleepless nights and be at their disposal generously. Though it was challenging but I felt renewed and enriched at the end. All of us feel that they are recovering though yet a long way to go. At this critical juncture of lockdown they too will be deprived of visitors from outside for encouragement, motivation and positive energy. However, we should keep them in our continuous prayer for their speedy recovery. (*Sch Marianus Ekka SJ*).

Rest in Peace!

Fr Geoffrey Michael Meagher SJ (HAZ, 77/59) on 05.03.2020 in the Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Fr Petrus Kerketta SJ (MAP, 71/51) on 09.03.2020 in Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh.

Fr Jacob Arakal SJ (AND, 96/75) on 11.03.2020 at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Fr Dominic Muthedath SJ (PAT, 85/63) on 20.03.2020 in Patna, Bihar.

Fr Andrews Koluwan SJ
(06.02.1948 - 29.03.2020)



Fr Andrews Koluwan SJ was born on 6 February 1948 in a traditionally Christian family at Moozhikulam in Ernakulam District, Kerala. They were four boys and four girls. His younger brother, Paul was a diocesan Priest for the Diocese of Ernakulam and died in 2005 and his married elder brother, George died in 2007. His youngest brother, Jose is the only surviving brother. Out of the four sisters three are in the religious congregation (SABS) and one is married. Andrews joined the Society of Jesus for the Santal Region at X.T.T.I. Patna on 2 February 1972. He completed his Juniorate studies in the same institution. After his College studies at Loyola College, Chennai, in 1978, Scholastic Andrews began the study of philosophy at DNC in Pune. He found time for screen printing of cards and the entire income from the venture was given to the MC Sisters for their work among the poor. He studied theology Vidya Jyoti, Delhi, from 1981 and was ordained priest on 2 June 1984 in his parish of Moozhikulam. After his ordination, he worked in Chilimpur, Alampur, Rajibpur and Majlispur as assistant pastor. He is credited with pioneering Belpahari Mission which was part of Chilimpur, Katnidanga Mission which was part of Rajibpur and Nichitpur Mission which was part of Majlispur Mission. Fr Andrews was to spend his life-time close to the people, as a loving and caring pastor. He took care to cultivate mission schools, wherever he was, thus assuring a good future for the children. He was also an eco-friendly person who planted trees wherever he was posted. For instance, on his transfer to Majlispur from Katnidanga, the Bishop of Raiganj praised and thanked Fr Andrews for transforming Katnidanga into a beautiful mission, with a fruit garden, flower garden, timber trees and especially with the care of the faithful and the education of children with the starting of a primary school and a hostel for boys with their infrastructures. The Bishop praised him for his missionary zeal, hard work and dedication. In 2007, Fr Andrews was assigned to pioneer Nichitpur in North Dinajpur District of West Bengal where he dedicated himself to the building up of the Christian community. He also started a Bengali High School to tie up with the Bengali Primary School began some four years earlier by the Holy Cross Sisters (SCSC) who had settled in Nichitpur before him. Death snatched him away while a hostel for children is still under way there. Fr Andrews was a soft spoken man, quietly carrying out his mission. He was always unobtrusive, keeping himself in the background yet carrying out consistently the mission given him. Whatever talents the Lord had given him, he used them all in the service of the Lord and His People. May His Dear Soul Rest in the Peace and Joy of the Lord!
(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).

Fr Andrews Koluwan SJ



Fr Andrews Koluwan SJ, Father-in-charge of Nichitpur Mission in North Dinajpur District of West Bengal since its inception by himself in 2007, met with a serious accident near Purnea Mor and died on the spot at 5:30 pm on 29 March 2020 as he was returning from Purnea Mor to his place with a catechist as a pillion rider. Due to the lock down in the country, the highway was rather free except for a tractor and Fr Andrews overtook it. Unfortunately

there was a big gutter in his way and Fr Andrews slowed down and was hit by the tractor and dragged, killing him instantly. The catechist was thrown away and sustained minor injuries. Hearing the news, Fr Arul Doss SJ and the Fathers of the Majlispur community reached the spot and with the help of the Police, took him to Dalkola Primary Health center. He was declared brought dead. After completing all the formalities with the Police, the body was brought to the mortuary of Raiganj Sadar Hospital. By 8:15 am on 30 March the post mortem was completed and the body was brought to Jeevan Dhara by 9:30 am. After preparing the body for the funeral, the office of the dead was led by Fr Sunny, the diocesan treasurer, with the Jesuits present. The body was taken to the Cathedral of St Joseph the Worker at 10:45 am for the celebration of Holy Mass at 11:00 am. Flanked by Frs Deonis Baghwar SJ and Fr George U. SJ, Bishop Fulgence A. Tigga presided over the Holy Eucharist. The Jesuits of Nichitpur, Majlispur, Nichamari, Raiganj and two from Purnea along with Fathers of Bishop's House and a few Sisters were present in the Church but keeping a safe social distance. A short biodata was read out at the beginning of the Mass and the Gospel was read by Fr Arul. In his inspiring homily, Bishop Fulgence lifted our saddened spirits by pointing out how the disappointments of the disciples on the road to Emmaus were turned into joyful hope. He said that, though we are confused at the tragic death of Fr Andrews, we need to accept that God's plans are different and greater than ours and wait in faith and hope for the full realization of God's glory. After the Mass, the body was taken to the cemetery and Bishop led the funeral prayers. Everything got over by 12:30 pm. A simple lunch was provided at Jeevan Dhara for those who had come from far. A special thanks to Bishop Fulgence for presiding over the Eucharistic celebration and conducting the prayers.



We are also grateful to the Parish Priest Fr Kennedy and the treasurer Fr Sunny for all their cooperation. All the Jesuit communities cooperated and everything went smoothly and timely. Thanks to one and all. (*Fr George U. SJ*).