

him dhwani

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No. 06

Newsletter of the Darjeeling Jesuits

AUGUST~2019

From the Provincial's Desk

August 15 is a very significant day for the people of India. On this day, two historic events are observed and celebrated – India's Independence and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The former is a political event, the latter is spiritual. While India's independence is a national event, the Assumption of Mary is a universal celebration. Both these events remind us of our freedom. Independence Day is celebrated as freedom from domination to self-rule and Assumption of Mary as freedom from incomplete life to perpetual life.

But the signs of our times are very much disturbing and depressing. On the political front, we experience much turmoil and upheavals. Violence and crime are the order of the day. Justice is being denied to innocent victims. The gap between the rich and the poor is sadly widening evermore. The economic scenario is alarming and afflicting the common man. The underprivileged are the targets of the powerful. The common man lives in fear. Freedom of expression is curtailed. On the spiritual front, the modern man is losing the sense of sin. The loss of the sense of sin leads insensitivity to the truth.

In Mary's Assumption we see her victory over death. The feast has a salutary impact on our lives. Mary invites us to work out our own freedom from sin and death by reaching out to those in need just as she went hastily to lend a helping hand to her cousin. Mary is a sign of hope and comfort to the people of God on a pilgrimage.

Let the celebrations of Independence Day and the Assumption of our Blessed Mother be wake-up calls for us to rouse ourselves from the bondage of evil and superficiality. May the celebrations take us to deep interiority and reflection allowing us to understand reality more deeply. And thus we may be able to joyously serve more effectively through works of mercy our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

AUGUST – 2019

- 05-06 Visitation: St Xavier's School, Alipurduar
- 07-08 Visitation: Uttar Salbari
- 09-10 North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj
- 12 Visitation: Jesu Ashram
- 13 Meeting with Patrizia
- 14 Visitation: Premanjali
- 15 Visitation: Prabhat Tara/LPC/PJG
- 17 Visit to Darjeeling with Patrizia
- 18 Lunch with Patrizia and Bishop Vincent Aind
- 20 Visitation: Sakyong
- 21 Visitation: Gandhi Ashram and 5th Mile

- 23 Interviews: St Peter's H.S. School
- 24 Planning Commission Meeting at NP
- 26-27 Visitation: North Point School
- 28 Visitation: Hayden Hall
- 29-31 Visitation: St Joseph's College

APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

PROVINCE COMMISSIONS

Higher Education: Fr Lalit Tirkey (Convenor), Fr Donatus Kujur, Fr K.J. Jose, Fr Joseph Sandanasamy, Fr Francis George, Fr Daniel Bara, Fr Xavier Alangaram

Secondary Education: Fr Lawrence Thanislaus (Convenor), Fr Kevin Moktan, Fr Santy Mathew, Fr Cherian Maliekal, Fr Paul D'Souza, Fr Sebastian Minj, Fr Leo Alphonse Raj, Fr Jayantilal Patel, Fr Nicholas Christuraj.

HIM DHWANI NOTICE: Please send in your news for H/D to the Province Office by the 25th of every month. Those who have access to Internet, may email news to us at this address: dar.socius@gmail.com

Formation: Fr Xavier Alangaram (Convener), Fr Shaji Joseph, Fr John Kennedy, Fr Frank Subba, Fr Zacheus Dungdung, Fr Shajumon

Finance & Development: Fr Joseph Victor (Convener), Fr Lawrence Thanislaus, Fr P.D Vincent, Fr Gabriel Tirkey, Fr Siby Joseph, Fr Shajumon

Communications: Fr Pragasan Chinnappan (Convener), Fr Edward Arokiaraj, Fr Peter Jong Lepcha, Fr Kalyan Tirkey

Social Action: Fr Pascal Xalxo (Convener), Fr Paul D'Souza, Fr Julius Kujur, Fr Basil Toppo, Fr KA Thomas.

Pastoral: Fr Peter Pappu (Convener), Fr Peter Jong Lepcha, Fr John Banerjee, Fr Peter Bhujel, Fr Basil Toppo, Fr Benny Paul, Fr Benoy Lama, Fr Alex Beck, Fr John Tigga, Fr Arun Pradhan

Vocation and Youth: Fr John Kennedy (Convener), Fr Nabor Dungdung, Fr Peter Jong Lepcha, Fr Francis Basumatari, Fr Amid Kujur, Fr Benoy Lama, Fr Frank Subba, Fr Divyanadam, Fr John Banerjee, Fr Bosco Michael, Fr Santy Mathew.

Coordinator for Young Priests: Fr Peter Pappu

Ignatian Spirituality: Fr Zacheus Dungdung

PWPN: Fr John Banerjee

Dialogue and PCAA: Fr Kinley Tshering

BHUTAN

It is over one and half years since I left India to be missioned here in Bhutan. It was wonderful to meet the Darjeeling Jesuits during the Province Days in May this year, especially to meet the scholastics on their summer holidays. I missed many familiar faces specially, the latest friend to have gone beyond, **Marcel Benedict**. Our Holy Founder's Feast is just around the corner and this year will be the second time that I will celebrate the Feast all alone but knowing that I belong to the universal Society, so in a way I am not alone. I have had a few Jesuit visitors in the last one year, **Frs. Parmar**, the Gujarat Provincial, **Arul** of Nagaland, **Vinayak** of Jivan and **Teyol** from Karnataka. **Arun Pradhan** spent over a month to help me set up my house last year. The **Provincial** made his visitation along with **Frank Subba**. Many diocesan fathers and sisters also visited along with people of Darjeeling. So on the road, but not alone, I wish all a very Happy Feast! On 31 July, we will bless our first community chapel, the chapel of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Now for the latest news. Thirty-six Catholic youth from three different places in Bhutan were at Sacred Heart Parish for eight days. They had an immersion in the life of the larger Catholic Parish life organized by **Frs. Benoy Lama** and **John Banerjee**. It was a great experience for the youth who have never seen a formal Church or never gone out of their place. **Bishop Stephen** gave a half a day input and was thrilled to see the Catholic youth of Bhutan. They had a day of pilgrimage to Kurseong and Sonada and a day of Darjeeling *darshan* and saw 'Appa', a famous Nepali movie at INOX, Darjeeling. They were happily invited for lunch by St Paul's Parish, Kurseong, Bethany School, NP College, Hayden Hall and NP School graciously accepted my request for a dinner. The heavy rains did not dampen the spirit of the youth and on the last day, 6 July, the youth of our Jesuit Parishes from the hills had a joint programme. The youth from St Francis Xavier, Sakyong, SPP of Kurseong, SJP Fifth Mile, Kalimpong, SMP Kankepong and the youth of SHP Singamari attended. The youth, many in tears have reached safely back home in spite of heavy rains and road blocks. Our Lady of Bhutan has kept them under her protective mantle. Once more, we are grateful to **Frs Benoy Lama** and the parish for their unstinting support and **John Banerjee**.

Happy Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola! Please pray for our mission in Bhutan.

Fr Kinley

HLDRC-LPC-PJG

HLDRC organized a three-day seminar on Plantation Labour Act,

Minimum Wages in tea gardens and Food Security Act for seventy tea plantation community leaders of the Terai and the Dooars region at LPC, Matigara from 21-23 July. **Fr Joy Karayampuram**, **Fr Ravi Sagar** and **Sr Theresa** from ISI, Delhi were the resource persons. HLDRC started a computer training program for closed tea garden students at Carron. **Mrs Nirmala**, one of our staff through her persistent efforts found Dibya Oran, a girl missing from Satbhaya Tea Estate in Islampur and handed her over to her family. **Fr Tommy** made his annual retreat at Woodcot, Kurseong. **Fr Pascal** attended a National Workshop on 'Social security and Good Governance – towards a broad based strategy for accessing and realizing entitlement' in Delhi from 21-26 July.

Fr John organized a seminar on SCC for the parishioners. **Fr Rajesh Kujur** was the resource person. **Rev Bishop Vincent Aind** and **Rev Stephen Lepcha** conducted a seminar on Proclamation of Faith at LPC for eighty participants.

Fr Pascal Xalxo

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

The university examinations and the admission Process kept all of us busy in June and July. We admitted a total of 992 new students this year 53% of them are women. A three-day induction programme was arranged to initiate them to the culture of the institution and to groom the overall personality of students. St Joseph's had an overall pass percentage of seventy-three in the recently declared Part III results.

The department of Nepali organised a cultural event commemorating the 205th birth anniversary of the first Nepali poet Bhanu Bhakta Acharya on 13 July 2019. The event was marked by recitation of *Shlokas* from Ramayana along with performances of songs and dances. **Mr Chandra Prasand Rai**, an alumni of St Joseph's college was the Chief Guest.



Fr Binay Kandulna directed an eight-day retreat for Loreto sisters. **Fr Chiranjilal Kujur** participated in the UGC sponsored Refresher Course on "ICT and MOOC (IDC)" at Human development Centre, Guwahati University from 4 to 17 July 2019.

Fr Donatus Kujur

MESSAGE FROM FR JAGDISH PARMAR

As I shift the National Office of the Apostleship of Prayer (now called POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK and EUCHARISTIC YOUTH MOVEMENT) from Matigara to ISI, Bangalore, I am going with a mixed bag of feelings:

First of all, I feel gratitude to God who has been directing my life from its beginning till now, especially after I joined the Society of Jesus in this Province. And I feel gratitude to my Superiors and POSA who reposed their trust in me to do this job and the cooperation of so many Bishops, priests, Religious and laity.

I am rather nervous and anxious at my age of sixty-seven to move away

from the known and comfortable circumstances into an unknown territory to start from scratch to establish the National Office with so many difficulties and challenges. But I feel the Lord's assurance of His continuing help as I have always experienced it when I was put in challenging situations in pastoral life. With Him at my side, and the cooperation of my new Community, I can accomplish everything well. I also appeal to you all to keep me and this Mission of our Beloved Pope Francis in your prayers.

Fr Jagdish Parmar

SITONG MISSION

7 July 2019 was a historical day for Sitong Mission. **Fr John Lobo** blessed the foundation for a Church building cum Community Hall. **Fr Paul**, **Fr K. L. George**, **Fr Pramod**, Cluny Sisters, all the Catholics of the mission, parents, staff, students and heads of neighbouring villages were present. **Fr Immanuel** is working on the land papers and supervising the construction work.



The school gave a meaningful farewell to **Fr Paul Lepcha**, the former principal of Infant Jesus Primary School on 28 June. **Fr Donatus** visited the mission with students and staff of St Joseph's College on 6 July.

Fr Henricks Immanuel

SACRED HEART CHURCH, SINGAMARI

Sacred Heart Church, Singamari, celebrated the Parish Feast on 30 June, 2019 with fanfare and gaiety. On this day, the newly renovated and modified Church altar was inaugurated followed by Holy Eucharist concelebrated by the Parish Priest, Rector of St Joseph's School, Superior of St Joseph's College and other priests. On this occasion the parish felicitated eminent people who helped the Church in different fields like the choir, teaching catechism, helping to establish new Churches, sub-stations at Lepcha Busty, Soom, Lebong, Kankebong



and Liza Hill and those who made valuable contributions in the social field.

Before the Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Parish had novena. The following priests gave talks during the novena: **Fr Benoy Lama, SJ** on devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus, **Fr Samuel Lepcha**, on faith with reference the Apostles' Creed, **Fr Arun Pradhan, SJ** on Holy Eucharist, **Fr Michael Singh** on Sacrament of Reconciliation, **Fr Alex Gurung**, on Sacrament of Matrimony, **Fr Patrick Pradhan**, SJ on vocation, Christian, Religious and Married life, **Fr Peter Bhujel, SJ**, on devotion to Blessed Mother Mary, **Fr John Banerjee, SJ**, on joyful Catholic family, **Fr Benoy Lama, SJ** on compassionate Heart of Jesus.

A group of forty youth from Bhutan stayed in our Parish from 6 to 14 July. They had interactive programs with the youth of Darjeeling Diocese.

HATIGHISA

Sch. Rajasekar joined the community on 26 June for his regency. **Fr Pascal Ekka** left for Calcutta for medical treatment on 15 July. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** gave an orientation to the staff on protecting children and the vulnerable adults from any form of abuse. **Fr Alex** takes great effort in visiting the sick and sub-stations of the parish.

Sch. Rajasekar

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Fr Paulus Ezhakunnel joined the community as Minister on 1 July. He takes care of the kitchen of the community and hostel, besides various works in the College campus.

The ICYM unit, South-West Deanery organized a summer camp under the guidance of **Fr Ronee Trikhatri** at Loyola College of Education. About 100 youth of the Deanery participated in it.

Fr Lawrence Monteiro, the President of All Roman Catholic Educational Institutions in Sikkim (ARCEIS) organized a one-day seminar on Draft National Educational Policy 2019 for the clergy and the religious at Loyola College of Education. **Fr Joseph Manipadam SDB**, Secretary, office for education and culture CBCI presented the Draft NEP 2019 to the participants.

Fr John Wilfred Lobo inaugurated the academic session 2019-2020 on 15 July 2019. He in his inaugural address, said, "The campus is blessed with an enviable, serene environment conducive to learning. It is my expectation that you will take advantage of this environment to religiously strive not just to complete your two year programme but to excel in your academic work."

From this academic year the college's intake of students increased from 50 to 100. **Fr Patrick Pradhan** celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Loyola family on 19 July. All the staff and students invoked the blessings of the Almighty God for the new academic session.

Sikkim University announced the result of the 2nd and 4th semesters. All the students of 2nd semester secured above 60%. In the final semester **Fr Manish Osta SJ** (Patna) secured 96%, **Sch. Rajashekhar** 93% and **Sch David** 88%. Congratulations to staff and students!

Fr Francis George

NBSC, RAJGANJ/SILIGURI CAMPUS

Admissions this year has been quite encouraging in both the campuses. Over three hundred first year students have been admitted including 50 students in Siliguri campus. Results for outgoing students of Part III have been just satisfactory with 28 securing 1st Class, 187 securing 2nd class, 29 either failing or getting back papers with some hope of changes after re-assessment. Results for the just declared 2nd Semester (1st Year) under CBCS have been expectedly quite good. Of the 262 who wrote from Rajganj Campus, the following SGPA was scored: SGPA 9.0-9.4 points (4); 8.0-8.9 points (46); 7.0-7.9 points (62); 6.0-6.9 points (75); 6.0 points (40) and SNC or Back paper (35). In Siliguri Campus, of the 29 students who wrote, 8.0- 8.9 points (4); 7.0- 7.9 points (10); 6.0- 6.9 points (6); 6.0 points (6), SNC (3). (Number in the bracket indicates number of students).

The college experienced some frustrating moments when there were two back to back accidents involving our college buses, and in the first accident the Principal, **Fr Lalit** had to make multiple visits to two places he hates the most – the court and police 'thana'.

Fr Xavier after having attended a workshop on Community College in Chennai was struck by typhoid and has been taking a rest in Gayaganga. Thanks to that community for being so hospitable. **Fr Deven** has become multi-tasking. Besides taking care of the hostel, part-time teaching, he is seen going to the bank, shopping and also taking care of the campus. **Fr Gabriel** and **Fr Lalit** gave recollections to MC Sisters and St Anne Sisters respectively. Our college Chapel is ready and will be officially inaugurated by **Bishop Clement** of Jalpaiguri Diocese on the Feast of St Ignatius. Now our aim is to get a new residence!

Fr Lalit Turkey

MANRESA

The month of July was rather quiet but a memorable one. The first years successfully completed their first probation on 4 July and proudly wore a cassock for the first time. On that day we went for an outing to Gandhi Ashram School and St Joseph's parish, 5th mile. We are grateful to **Fr Binod** and **Br Gilbert** for providing us with lunch and **Fr John Banerjee** for giving us a 'high tea'. The first years are slowly getting into the mood and rhythm of novitiate life. We were blessed with good rain for many days but with unpleasant consequences. A huge tree fell just outside our gate and broke our main electricity line. We were left without electricity for two weeks. Intense preparation, both spiritual and physical, for the feast day of our founder St Ignatius is going on. **Fr Roshan Kiro**, our new Socius joined the community on 24 July.

Novice Justin Kashung

ST PETER'S GAYAGANGA

The month of July blessed us with lots of rain. Farmers were seen in the fields working hard with new enthusiasm and zeal. In the absence of **Fr Cherian Maliekal**, **Fr Simon Kerketta** was acting as community Superior and Headmaster of the school. **Fr Simon Kerketta** also became the first animator of the youth group called "Young Adults for Christ", which was recently founded by **Fr Peter Pappu**, the parish priest. **Fr Nabor Dungdung** gave a retreat to the St Anne's Sisters of Goomgoma, as a preparation for their foundation day. On 22 July, **Fr Cherian Maliekal** came back from England and shared with us his rich experiences.

On 6 July, **Fr Nicholas**, attended the seminar on "Draft NEP 2019"; which was held at Don Bosco School, Siliguri. On 22 July, during the monthly staff meeting, the Headmaster presented his critical views on "Draft NEP 2019" and encouraged the staff to submit their suggestions and comments to the drafting commission and to MHRD. The students are getting ready for 'Loyola Day' celebration. The inter-house football matches were held and the final will be held on 29 July. And the 'Loyola

day' will be celebrated on 30 July. We wish you all a very happy feast of St Ignatius!

Sch. David Donald Minj

JESU ASHRAM

In the last two months, Jesu Ashram admitted seven terminal cancer patients. Sadly, none of them survived.

We gave a farewell to **Fr Paulose** on 1 July. All of us, the Jesuit community, staff, students and patients miss him, his delicious dishes, and his care for each one of us and for various needs of Jesu Ashram.

Jaipur Foot, an NGO from Rajasthan set up a camp at Jesu Ashram, providing prostheses for those who lost their legs, free of cost. A total of 71 persons got an artificial leg each. They came from the Hills, the Terai and the Dooars. Our joy was seeing them walk.

Jesu Ashram's email ID was hacked recently. Fortunately we were able to retrieve it.

Fr Marianus who is suffering from cancer is improving day by day. In April he left the wheelchair and walked with the help of a walker. In June he left the walker and was able to move around with the help of a walking stick. In July he left the walking stick. It is a miracle. He had a review of his situation with the help of PET CT scan according to which there is no new growth and healing is taking place. Thank you for your prayers. Please continue to remember him in your prayers.

Sr Josephine, **Sr Agatha** and **Sr Rani** who worked at Jesus Ashram for many years paid us a visit. Sr Josephine worked here for 19 years. Sr Agatha for 6 years and Sr Rani for 3 years.

The students of Jesu Niketan School are busy with their half-yearly examinations. The students of grade IV have all new desks and benches. The class rooms have been furnished with a false ceiling on which are fitted electric fans. The play equipment such as slides and swings have been repaired and painted. The students love the new look of the school. All thanks to contributions from CJI.

Fr Julius Kujur

ST PAUL'S PARISH, KURSEONG

From 1-7 July special catechism classes were conducted by **Fr Peter Jong Lepcha** to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. From 2-4 July nineteen youth of our parish went to Mirik to participate in "Exuberant 2019" organized by ICYM Darjeeling. On 11 July forty youth from Bhutan visited our Church. They were led by **Fr Kinley**, **Fr Binoy Lama** and **Fr John Banerjee**. **Fr Andrew Pradhan** of Nepal Diocese also visited the Church and celebrated the Eucharist for the people. The diocesan charismatic team conducted a prayer service in the parish on 6 July. Seventeen youth from our parish went to Sacred Heart, Singamari to participate in a youth program. Rt. Rev Bishop Stephen Lepcha, DD came for his pastoral visit to our parish on 21 July. He celebrated the Eucharist for the people and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty-seven candidates and First Holy Communion to three candidates. The parish celebrated the feast of St Ignatius on 28 July. All Jesuits were felicitated by the parishioners after the Mass.

Fr Peter Jong Lepcha

RETREATS AND COURSES

Fr Sebastian Painadath SJ: Indian Contemplative Retreat with the theme, the Divinisation of the Human, and Initiation to Jesus Prayer, NBCLC, Bangalore, from Nov. 17, morning till Nov. 24 noon. Registration with: seminar@nbclcindia.in director@nbclcindia.org Ph. 080-25472369

Rest in Peace

Fr I. Savarimuthu, S.J. , (HAZ)	76/56	08 July, 2019
Fr Aloysius Murzello, S.J. , (BOM)	77/57	10 July, 2019
Fr Augustine Silveira, S.J. , (BOM)	82/59	11 July, 2019