



VOL. XXIII, No. 4

NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA JESUITS

July-Aug 2019

FR REGIONAL SUPERIOR HAS APPOINTED:

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| Fr S. Philomin Raj (AND) | Retreat Ministry, St Paul's, Phesama |
| Fr Clement Kujur (JAM) | Campus Ministry, St. Xavier's, Moirang |
| Fr Nuchiso Lawrence | Administrator, Jagriti, Guwahati |
| Fr Athikho Kashüsü | Prepares for Ph.D. attached to JH, Guwahati |
| Fr Robert Chawngthu | Director, JTC, Jakhama (Additional) |
| Sch. Jokim Nongkhlaw | Language Study, attached to JH, Guwahati |

REGIONAL SUPERIOR' S PROGRAMME:

August

- 16 Labour Commission: Key note address
- 17 Ph. D. Viva of Fr Varghese, Guwahati
- 19 Board of Study Meeting, MLCU, Shillong
- 23 Handing over charge at NESRC
- 26 Visit to SXC, Umoid
- 28-29 Regional CRI meeting
- 30 NE Pastoral Council Meeting, Guwahati

September

- 01-03 NE Pastoral Council Meeting, Guwahati
- 05-06 Visitation: Jesuit House
- 09-10 Visitation: Jagriti Jesuit Community
- 11-16 B'pong, Palizi, Bana, Trizino, B'gaon & Bomdila
- 18 Region Consult, Guwahati
- 19 Animation Program for SVD Provincials
- 20-27 Visitation: Mawshohroh, Umbir, Jalaphet, Umoid & Maweit

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR:

Deacons' recollection: 19 Sept 2019, Arr. on 18th, dept. on 20th morning, at Jagriti

Young Priests' Meet: 2 Oct 2019, Arr. on 1st, dept. on 3rd after lunch, at JH Guwahati

Ordinations:

Melwyn Fernandes on Oct 18, 2019 in Mangalore

C.M Khathing on Dec 6, 2019, in Hundung

Liavi Nukhu on Dec 30, 2019 in Razeba

Rejin Joseph on Jan 1, 2020 in Cherthala, Kerala

Cluster level RAPs

Meghalaya on Oct 11, 2019 at Jesuit novitiate

Nagaland-Manipur on Oct 28, 2019 in Phesama

Assam on Nov 04, 2019 at JH Guwahati

Arunachal Pradesh on Nov 07, 2019 in Palizi

KOHIMA REGION APOSTOLIC PLAN (RAP):

The first phase of the Region Apostolic Plan (RAP) was held on the 3rd & 4th of August 2019 at St Paul's, Phesama. Fr Wendell D'Cruz SJ from Bombay Jesuit Province was the resource person. This workshop was meant for superiors, region consultors and the RAP Core Group Members (the RAP core group consists of Fr Richard Jarain [Leader], Julian Fernandes, Arul Susaimanickam & Paul Coelho).

At the outset, Fr Wendell explained to the participants the role of the UAPs while working for an RAP. This RAP workshop, and the subsequent workshops to be held in the Region are expected to help the Region translate the UAPs into a workable action plan both at the Local and Regional Level.

The pedagogy used in the two-day programme consisted of “spiritual conversations”. It was found the contents were relevant to us in the Region and the participants appreciated the workshop. It was an invigorating experience.

We thank Fr Wendell for his willingness to guide the Kohima Jesuits during the first phase of the RAP and until the final phase. In the future, we hope to benefit more from his wisdom and insights in the cluster-level sessions later this year. - R Jarain SJ

REGAE FOLLOW UP MEETING:

“Starting August 14th, I attended a four-day **REGAE follow-up workshop** at ISI Bangalore. The POSA, ADF, and the Conference secretaries met with those of us who were zonal and province REGAE representatives. We were 50 members in all.

During the first two-days of the workshop, we focused on the collated responses from 61 REGAE workshops, finalizing the proposals for: (1) the Zonal and Conference Apostolic Priorities, (2) the Role of the POSA, (3) the Realigning of Governance structures, and (4), the Reconfiguring of Province Boundaries. The subsequent two days were focused on proposing a structure for the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the Conference Apostolic Plan.

We used “spiritual conversation” as the tool for our deliberations, and kept Fr General’s UAPs as the backdrop for our conversations. From an initial state of “divergence and confusion,” it was inspiring to see how we were able to come up with a clear list of priorities and a unanimous plan for the Conference. It is up to the JCSA to discuss and finalize these proposals at their October 2019 meeting.

At the end of this workshop, I find myself more comfortable with the idea of helping our Region finalize its Apostolic Plan (RAP), while also being extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to see how God’s hand is guiding the South Asian Jesuit Conference.” - Paul Coelho SJ

DAWAGRE:

The community at Dawagre was glad to receive the much awaited arrival of **Dn.**



Melwyn Fernandes. He is not new to the place. He took over as the Vice-Principal of Loyola Secondary School and the accounts of the school which brought some relief to **Fr Albert**, the principal.

Apart from helping out in the School, he is very actively involved in the diaconate ministry of preaching on Sundays in Garo and also baptizing the children. Loyola Secondary School had a very

meaningful celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society. The school performed a short musical play on the life of the pioneers of Kohima Region. Moreover, the school conducted a quiz on the life of St. Ignatius and the Jesuits to make the students aware of the history of the Jesuits. It was a fulfilling moment when the children show their knowledge of the Jesuit contributions.

The extension of the School building and the Jesuit residence is showing some shape after the concrete *dhalai*. We hope to complete the school by December. The children are excited to occupy the building as early as possible.

Fr. Yan is busy organizing marriage preparation classes for the couples. Moreover, the parish was fortunate to receive 3 *bighas* of land from Mr. Francis Pondith, the ex-MLA for the parish cemetery. May God bless his family for his generosity.



In the Hostel, **Sch. Gerry Myrthong** and Melwyn are trying to put some order in the hostel with regard to English language and discipline. In addition, the hostellers are thrilled to have a Table Tennis board in the hostel which they make use during their free time, along with learning the musical instruments. We have 8 budding guitarists who can manage to play a guitar. In the coming days this number of musicians is set to go up.

DIYUNGBRA:

On June 15th we organized science and craft exhibition in our school, to improve the knowledge in science and in the local tradition, which made each student to feel proud of their own great tradition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mrs. Rupali Langthasa. The winners were congratulated and honoured during the assembly.



To improve the skills of our students in mathematics, we organized a summer mathematical camp for the students from classes six to ten from July 1st to July 13th. We are grateful to Didambra Jesuit community for sending their class10 students to participate in this camp.



To make the alumni/ae feel our support and our accompaniment, we organized the alumni meeting on July 14th.

After the summer vacation we resumed our school on 1st of August with full vigour.

-Sch. B. Ebenezer Amalraj

GUWAHATI, JAGRITI:

The community rallied round **Fr Alphonsus D'Souza** as it discovered that he is terminally ill with carcinoma of the lungs. With a total surrender to the Lord, he is coping up well in spite of the heavy drugs, he has to take. **Frs Owen Chourappa** and **Samir Talati** took rounds to look after him, till more help came in.

Fr Hector D'Souza, the superior designate was rushed in to take up the responsibility of the community at an anticipated date of July 1st at the Mass. Later on July 22nd **Fr Nuchiso Lawrence** joined the community as administrator, and he has taken to heart the wellbeing of Fr Alphonsus with help of Ms. Jacintha Maram., a committed co-worker of ours. Fr Alphonsus has lost weight but is at ease with himself and the disease. Keep him in your prayers.

Streams of well-wishers, sisters, co-workers, students and Jesuits drop in to say hello to Fr Alphonsus and offer a prayer. To each one of them, he gently says, "I am going back, pray for me. I will pray for you." His brother Ronald and his family were with us for few days. **Fr Valerian Castelino** was a loving host and guide to them.

In between two events rattled the balance of the community. **Fr Gideon Warisa's** father, Mr. Abraham was brought in, in a serious condition from Halflong to Apollo Hospital, Guwahati on July 7th. His condition worsened and he was shifted to palliative care at St. John's, our neighbour's. He finally went back to the Lord on 28th July as the whole family rallied round him as he breathed his last. It was an act of faith and an offering of love. Fr Gideon reached on 8th July from Rome and became part of our community. We too participated in the pain and in the anxiety of the family with total support of prayer and action as the events unfolded.

In the meantime, Fr Hector, literally licked the dirt as 'Humpty-Dumpty' had a great fall on GS road near Apollo Hospital and broke his right arm. He had gone to give communion to the sick at the Apollo hospital on a rainy day evening and as he was returning, he slipped and fell. The good Samaritans helped him on his feet, gave him first aid and informed Fr Owen, who took charge of the situation in minutes. The x-ray revealed the fracture and Hector was tied down for four weeks. Presently the physio-therapist is putting him into shape and loosening the atrophied muscles.

The Jesuits of Guwahati hosted our guests for a celebration of the feast of our Founder. Jesuit House shouldered the major part of the responsibility. Fr Samir who was a transient member of this community was able to get his work done, obtained a visa for his studies in USA and flew away on Aug 12th to Chicago, Loyola University for his Ph. D. Though he was here for few months, he added joy to the community and gave company to the elders.

Fr Walter Fernandes was on the move participating in seminars and animating the displacement projects in different parts of the Northeast. When at home, he walks miles on the terrace creating a furrow with his weight and his walking stick. It looks like crater from the moon. Out of respect, we have named it as “Walterian Crater”. Do visit the site, when you are at Jagriti, next time.

LIYAI:

Dn Changhongnao Khathing's arrival to the centre brings much joy to the Parishioners. His dynamic leadership quality and his great enthusiasm to serve the people of God bring happiness to the School, Boarding and Parish. His diaconate ministry has been hectic at times going from village to village relieving the parish priest in his ministry. He is picking up the local Poumai language in the course of his interactions with the village folks on one hand and revising the state language (Manipuri) at the same time. The Boarders are benefiting much from his contribution regarding the soft skills of life – the much awaited and needed skills of the place.

The monsoon arrived late this year which is hampering the much needed toilets construction work of the workers. Clouds and rains hovering us day in and day out and hardly any sunshine over here but that did not deter the spirit of planting saplings to protect the environments by the staff and students. Thanks to the Forest Department of the Government of Manipur particularly of the Mao and Paomata Forest Range for supplying the saplings for us to fill our campus and surrounding areas. The Forest Department encourages and promises our staff and students that more saplings will be supplied in the years to come if they grow well and are protected. Around 800 saplings were planted this year; we hope to improve in the years to come.

People in Paomata areas wait for the arrival **Fr Valerian Castelino** always because his jeep is filled with goods whenever he comes. SHGs are profiting much under his guidance and supervision. The Numbers of SHGs are multiplying, so much so, that he does not get proper time to relax or to eat. Varieties of vegetables and fruit plants that are on experimental basis are bearing fruits. In the years to come we expect more production. Fr Valerian conducted training programs for co-coordinators of various areas for three days. Some coordinators joking said, working in the field is more relaxing than attending these hectic classes and homework. Co-incidentally most of the time whenever he conducts programme, electricity in this place used to get scared of him. It would be off and on and he would say “it is part of life”. Ms Jade, a volunteer from Mumbai (specialized in bakery items) is with us to help the centre as well the SHGs. Welcome Jade and enjoy the rural life over here with us.

As the weather plays hide and seek games so also is the mood of the students and staff over here in the last two months: sweet and sour, joy and happiness because of the movement and transfer of personnel. Sr Shiljah Joseph, Superior as well as the Headmistress and Sr Mercy, the much loved teacher moved to their respective new

places which leaves the entire atmosphere of the school look gloom and empty for weeks. We thanked them for their tireless service they have rendered in the school and in the parish.

We welcomed the New Head Mistress and Superior Sr Helen Malsawmi and Sr Tsiipila Rosly, the new asst teacher and girls' hostel warden with warm hearts. Their presence in the school and parish brings great happiness to all.

With the creativity of the newly appointed staff along the precious ideas of the old, the celebration of the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola was entirely new and of quality standards. The audience of parents and others was mesmerized by the performance of the students and hardly some parents could believe that it was their own children performing the shows. Different Church leaders, Village Headman, village council members, Youth, Women, Students and Parish Council Leaders joined us in celebrating the patron saint of the School and Jesuit Feast days. We thanked the Leaders for extending their whole hearted co-operation for the growth of the parish and the School. The various Leaders reiterated their continual commitment for the wellbeing of all.

The sudden and unplanned visit of **Bp Gabriel Kujur SJ** gave tremendous joy to the students and management. The staff and the students of higher classes benefitted a lot from his messages while the students of lower classes may not have been able to grasp the full content of his message.

Fr Ashuli Phimu is working hard on getting full the recognition of the school. Even though Loyola School has got an NOC to start from the Government of Manipur, the second process to get recognition from the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur, is a more tedious job. To fulfil all the demands of the Board it takes lots of energy and time.

PFUTSERO:

The celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius was in a grand manner at the parish, school



and community level. The community invited the neighbouring religious and the clergy for the Feast. **Bp Gabriel Kujur SJ** was the chief celebrant of the Feast of St Ignatius. Bp Gabriel shared the characteristics of St Ignatius with the students and he appreciated the staff and the management for inculcating value education to the students. The cultural programme was the highlight of

the feast day. A variety of cultural items enthralled the audience. There was an Inter House Literary Competition in the school. Many students exhibited their talents by Reciting Poems, Spelling Bee, Debate and Speech. The students gain confidence by participating in various competitions in the school.

Girls' Band Music Competition Pfutsero Sub-Division, Phek District was organized by ADC Smt. Zeneikhonuo Vimero, Pfutsero in collaboration with District Level Centre for Women – Mahila Shakti Kendra. Our Girls' bagged the first prize in the Zonal level which was conducted in Government Higher Secondary School, Pfutsero. The Girls' Band bagged the first Prize in the district level too which was well appreciated by all. The Girls' Band also swept the entire list of awards on offer best vocalist, best drummer, best bass guitarist and best keyboard including best band. Kudos to **Fr Philip Abraham**, the Principal and the staff members who trained the Girls' band who brought laurel to the school.



St Peter's School, Kikruma celebrated the feast of St Ignatius. Bp Gabriel was the main celebrant for the feast here too. The highlight of the feast was the cultural programme which enthused the audience to be like the pilgrim St. Ignatius. There was a basketball match between the staff and the students on the feast day. **Fr Dhazü**, the Principal of St. Peter's School organized the feast day in a meaningful manner. Staff members from Porba and Sakraba too joined the celebration which enhanced joy to the celebration.

THRIZINO:

The month of July was quite an eventful month here in Thrizino. With the heavens opened, the roads closed and the taps run dry, many people, including our very own **Fr Michael Kerketta** were left stranded in the middle of nowhere quite a couple of times. We barely managed to survive the blockade on dal and rice for a couple of weeks. Life in this part of the world turns out to be quite unpredictable and challenging during the monsoon season. At the same time we are being schooled on how to be happy and contented in spite of the difficult circumstances we are living in. It taught us to treasure and cherish whatever little things we had.

The feast of St Ignatius was celebrated in a sober manner, but meaningfully. The morning Eucharist was solemnized by Fr Mike, our Principal. A quiz competition on the life of St Ignatius, was conducted for the students. We also had a short cultural program which comprises of items like dances, a skit on the life of St. Ignatius, fancy dress and of course the popular action song by the little ones.

It was a blessing in disguise to have the unexpected visit of Sir Jumkar Basm, the newly appointed officer in-charge of the PHE department in Thrizino, on the eve of the feast day as well as on the actual feast day. Since his visits, our taps have not stopped flowing. He also sponsored some things for the students. We are grateful to God for sending us good and generous people like Mr. Basm in times of need. Right now, our students are busy practising drills and march-past for the Independence Day celebration.

- Darimio SJ

WILLIAMNAGAR:

The visitation of **Fr Melvil Pereira SJ** to Loyola, Dawagre and Williamnagar for a week from June 24-29 was a blessing to us Jesuits and to the mission.

Sch Mark Mackey SJ of UMI province, USA, left a lasting impression among Loyola students and staff with his charm in and outside the classrooms during the 6 weeks he spent here. The college students recall his concern for the environment, value education classes and the invitation to make the voices of the indigenous people heard. One of the goals of his stay was to explore the possible areas of collaboration with Loyola University, Chicago on environmental sustainability. Welcome back, Mark!



Fr Philip Endean SJ

was the Chief Guest at the College Day celebration on 31st of July. The multi-cultural programme with dances and songs from the various tribes of the North East was for all, and for him too, a call to rise above

narrow tribalism sweeping the world, as is evident, according to him, in the Brexit and other such movements. He was the main celebrant at the College Day Mass.



The degree students and staff were thrilled with the academic results of the very first batch of B. Com students, 100% Pass. The second batch of Education and History

students of semester system also had 100% pass results. The NEHU inspection team visited the College on March 3 as part of the accreditation of the B. Com course with the University, and were impressed by the facilities offered to the students inside and outside the classrooms and the interaction of teachers with them.

The final year degree students had a two-day training in soft skills, confidence building and career options by a professional team called BICS. Students stayed on for extra time on both days which is rare. The same team conducted a day programme for the staff. An overwhelming response of appreciation was their spontaneous expression.

The freshers of Higher Secondary and Degree of the college were fortunate to get AVENUES, a professional team, to organize a week-long soft skill coaching with multi-media facilities, funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, initiated by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya. Loyola was the first in the state to avail this opportunity. The programme provided a solid starting for the freshers in the college.

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI:

We reached Vidya Jyoti, Delhi on 4th July. The first years were warmly welcomed by the community and it was a homecoming for second and third years. **Sch. James Vaiphei** was actively involved in conducting orientation for theologians. All the First Years, including RTC Third Year Theologians had a Delhi *darshan*. It was a great opportunity to see many historical places in Delhi.

St Ignatius Feast was celebrated with much joy and happiness through a meaningful and significant novena based on various themes especially which focused on the Universal Apostolic Preferences. It was a great boost for all of us to review, refine and renew with great vigour and zeal to strive for AMDG.

All VJ theologians participated in 'Adivasi Tribals Indigenous protest' (Maha Darna) at Janthar Mantar on 9th of August in solidarity with our Tribals. **Sch. Pheiga** successfully completed his term as the Community Beadle. The community was gratefully acknowledged and appreciated for his magnanimous service rendered to the community. In the meantime, **Sch. Mark Iawbor** is elected as the class Beadle for the First Year students.

- Sch. Joji

DE NOBILI, PUNE:

The chill of the cool breeze and the bond of the Scholastic's meet cum Kohima Region jubilee celebration kept us busy in the train until we said "we are in Pune." Ah! Holiday, relaxation made us to get into reflection as we met first time in the DNC Kohima province room to celebrate **Fr Gratian Carlo's** birthday and to welcome the first year Kohimites. Apart from the Province members, the DNC gave us a rapturous welcome to begin our life journey in the campus. Before the newcomers got into confusion and lost their way, the seniors made sure that there was a Campus *darshan* on the same day.

Safe ride on Pune City *darshan* was a fun time to enjoy each other's company. Fr Edward Mudavassery, the Rector, addressed the community and urged us to focus on our present mission and have a vision for the Society. We were briefed on the different ministries, liturgy, house responsibilities', etc. by the respective staff in-charges.

With the inaugural mass by Bishop Prakash Mallavarapu and the welcoming note by the President of JDV Fr Selva Rathinam SJ, and with the prayerful wishes and the presence of the fathers of JDV campus we began on a positive note our academic year.

JDV conducted the inter-class football tournament, in the last week of July. Kohima Scholastics played a natural game. As they kicked the ball to the goal post the crowd shouted “they are warming- up”. Among the many, **Sch. Goldenstar Dkhar** became the star of the match as his team won the tournament.

As a preparation for the feast of St Ignatius we had recollection and faith sharing in the living groups, which brought greater union among us. The Novena prayers were conducted by the living groups in a prayerful tone, held in the evenings. We, along with the religious in and out of the campus, people from our places of ministry, and the staff from the campus attended the feast day prayer and sumptuous meal. The choir, decoration and the presence of religious added delight as the Rector was the main celebrant for the feast day mass.

A few of the Kohima scholastics are part of the JDV Students’ council, **Sch. Thomas Varghese**, was unanimously elected as a treasurer and class beadle of 2nd B.Th. On the other hand, **Sch. Reginald Kurkalang** is the class beadle of 2nd B.Ph.

Besides the classes, we are also engaged in our ministry. The CONER ministry headed by the Kohima scholastics witnessed a large crowd gathering in the JDV campus for the Fresher’s day. Prior to the day, there was an election of the office bearers and Sch. Thomas was elected as the treasurer of the CONER ministry.

Kohima scholastics engaged the old and young in lively and highly motivating group activities on the Fresher’s day. Through games and fun activities, they helped the CONER members to rediscover and rekindle their creative dimensions by involving them in creative activities.

MUMBAI JUNIORS:

Mumbai Juniors are gearing up to the track to begin the race as we set for the new academic year. We kicked off the new session with the Inaugural Mass on 27th June at 11:00am by Fr Arun de Souza, the provincial of Bombay province, with the theme “Treasures in the earthen vessels”. It was truly a moving experience of God. There are 21 juniors coming from 6 provinces and 2 regions which made the true spirit of the Society of Jesus, friends in the Lord.



On 29th of June we had a day's session on group dynamics by Fr Aubrey. Moreover, we had the first two days' workshop on the theme 'Self-Awareness and Community building through creative art', with Dr Evelet Sequeira MD. This workshop has boosted up the spirit of all the juniors to be creative and discover our hidden potentials within us, all for the Greater Glory of God.

IN CHRISTO:

Fr. I. Savarimuthu (HAZ, 76/56) on 08. 07. 2019 at Kulithalai

Fr. Aloysius Murzello (BOM, 77/57) on 10.07.2019 at Mumbai

Fr Augustine Silveira (BOM, 82/59) on 11.07. 2019 at Mumbai

Fr Hedwig da Costa (KAR, 83/66) on 31.07.2019 at Bengaluru

Fr Theodore Toppo (MAP, 80/57) on 08.08.2019 at Ambikapur

Father of **Fr Gideon Warisa, SJ**, Mr P. Abraham Warisa (82) on 28.07. 2019 at Guwahati (Halflong)