



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

March 2020

Year 41, No. 03

OUR VOCATION: BUILDING HUMAN COMMUNITIES

Father General, Most Rev. Arturo Abascal Sosa visited, Nepal at Maheshpur, Dt. Jhapa in February end. He concelebrated at Sunday Mass on 29 February. With the help of an interpreter, he addressed the parishioners, confirming the commitment of the Society of Jesus amidst them.

I am grateful to you, my brother Jesuits, parishioners, Sisters and collaborators for your indomitable spirit and relentless work that you are doing in the Jhapa district. You live in a multi-cultural context wherein you constantly encounter different languages, faiths and cultures. This is indeed a challenging situation. Some of your ancestors moved in from India to work in the tea gardens here. Some of you are bonafide citizens of Nepal. I am aware that there was a time that you could not even practice and profess your faith freely. Until the arrival of the Jesuits in late 1990s priests were not available for the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. You used to walk miles to attend the Eucharist in India. Yet you persevered in your faith. I admire and appreciate your faith in Jesus Christ.

At the end of 1990s, the Nepal Jesuit Society branched out to Jhapa with the objective of educating the Catholic children and to provide spiritual ministry to the faithful. Within 20 years, the mission has expanded to include four schools, one parish, one quasi parish and six Mass centers. Every Easter there are new families who opt to be baptized. There are great prospects of evangelization. The fact that more families are getting attracted to the Church is a sign that you are living good and edifying Christian lives. I would like to thank the catechists for their evangelical spirit. Your parish is one of the promising seedbeds of vocations to the religious life. Pray for religious vocations. I encourage the boys and girls to think about religious vocation.

I am aware that the conditions of the people are very difficult. Education is one of the means of empowerment. It widens our perspectives and broadens our horizons. It is important to remember that education is a game changer. It can help to enhance job opportunities and ultimately, the standard of life. Therefore, I encourage parents to educate your children. Motivate the youth to study well. However, education to develop the head alone is not enough; we need to educate our hearts too. Jesuit education aims at all-round development.

Today the world is changing fast; a lot of good is taking place but at the same time, there are problems that create divisions based on religion and culture. The Christian vocation and the mission of the Jesuits as well, is to promote reconciliation, justice and peace, thus contributing to the building up of human communities.

It is important to remember that whatever work we do is God's work and we are mere collaborators in His work. The work of God does not belong exclusively to any one Religious Congregation or person. Therefore, we have to collaborate with all people of good will who are engaged in and desirous of building up a world that is more humane and more just.

Source: sjcuria.global

FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

MARCH

02	Consult, Archdiocese, Raipur
05	Raj Mantrana Meeting, Kunkuri
07-08	Kohima
10	Province Consult, Bilaspur
11-14	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
16	Meeting with the Asst. General Treasurer from Rome, Bilaspur
18-21	Visitation: Kotma (18), Kota (19), Bhainswar (20), Baikunthpur & Sarbhoka (21)
24-26	Visitation: Boirdader (24), Mauhapali (25), Baramkela (26)
30-31	GB Meeting & Convocation, XIDAS, Jabalpur

APRIL

01	Visitation, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
02	Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
03	Visitation & Community Budget, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
06-08	Community Budget: Pathalgaon (6-7), Kunkuri (8)
09-12	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur (Holy Week)
13-15	Community Budget, Jabalpur (13), Bhopal (14-15)
15-19	Four-Sheet Exam, Vidya Sadan, Bhopal
21	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
22	Ordination at Kuturwan
25-26	Community Budget, St. Xavier's Ambikapur
28-29	Finance Commission Meeting, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

ANNOUNCEMENT

APRIL

- 22 : **Priestly Ordination** of **Dn. Suresh Tirkey** in Kuturwa
27 eve. : **Annual Retreat** at Asha Deep, Pathalgaon

MAY

- 07 : **Priestly Ordination** of **Dn. Anmol Lakra** in Bhelwa
12 eve. : **Province Assembly** (Till 15th Morning)
15 eve. : **Annual Retreat** for Scholastics & Priests

I. THEOLOGY:

- a. JDV, Pune: 1. Sch. Ravindra Bara
- b. Vidya Jyoti, Delhi: 1. Sch. Arvind Kujur
2. Sch. Tobias Tigga (3rd Year, RTC)
- c. RTC, Boreya: 1. Sch. Anuranjan Tigga
2. Sch. Pranay Wilson Kujur

II. PHILOSOPHY:

- a. Satya Nilayam, Chennai: 1. Sch. Basil Hadde
2. Sch. Francis Lakra
3. Sch. Anuranjan Toppo
- b. JDV, Pune: 1. Sch. Anuj Minj
2. Sch. Ashish Lakra
3. Sch. Nilesh Tigga
4. Sch. Shailendra Lakra
5. Sch. Xavier Lakra

III. REGENCY:

- a. Loyola Hr. Sec. School, Kunkuri 1. Sch. Firoz Fulgence Bara
(Asst. H. Prefect, Teacher)
- b. Prakash School, Pathalgaon: 1. Sch. Anup Minj
(Asst. Hostel Prefect, Teacher)
- c. St. Xavier's H.S.School Ambikapur: 1. Sch. Almon Lakra
(Asst. Hostel Prefect, Teacher)
- d. St. John Berchmans', Dhanwar: 1. Sch. Vimal Kumar Dhurwey
(Ast. H. Prefect, Teacher)
- e. St. Xavier's E.M. School Pathalgaon: 1. Sch. Avin Minj
(Asst. Hostel Prefect, Teacher)
- f. St. Xavier's School, Baramkela: 1. Sch. Roshan Baxla
(Teacher, Ecology in charge)

IV. COLLEGE STUDIES:

- a. St. Aloysius College, Mangalore: 1. Sch. Emilian Toppo
- b. St. Xavier's College, Ranchi: 1. Sch. Niranjana Toppo
2. Sch. Virendra Toppo
- c. Loyola College, Vijayawada: 1. Sch. Vikky Minj
2. Sch. Ashwin Lakra
- d. St. Joseph's College, Trichy: 1. Sch. Khelsai Toppo
2. Sch. Shreyash Kujur

XIDAS, JABALPUR

XIDAS Picnic Day: Fr. Binod Toppo, Hostel Warden, and Fr. Alexius Ekka, Director, arranged a day-long picnic for all the hostellers on February 02, 2020. Two buses were arranged to ferry the students to and from Payli (Bergi Dam), 47 kms from here. They carried all raw materials from the hostel to prepare everything at the picnic spot to make it a real *vanbhoj*. The total number of picnickers was 86. They departed for the picnic spot at 9.00 a.m. Their journey was full of music. All the students were given different responsibilities like cooking, maintaining discipline, entertainment, etc. In that way every student was involved in one way or another. On reaching Payli, they enjoyed the natural scenery, boating and clicking pictures. They helped each other in cooking and preparing varieties of dishes. They also enjoyed dancing and were overjoyed when Fathers joined them. The weather was sunny but cool. After the evening tea, all got into the buses and returned here safely. The joy, excitement and happiness from this picnic was visible on every one's face. This picnic was a memorable one and will remain in the hearts and minds of the students because such occasions are few and far between at XIDAS.

Conference on Environmental Challenges: On February 14, XIDAS held a one-day Conference on "Environmental Challenges: The Wake-up Call for Sustainable Development of Resources & Earth for Future Generation". The research papers presented at the conference included Women Empowerment, Detection of Chemicals as Adulterant in Foods, *Swachh* Bharat Mission, A Massive Step Towards Climate Change, Green Marketing, Need of Present Corporate World, Business Opportunities and Challenges for Startups, How Much Have We Succeeded in Making Women Empowered, Social Entrepreneurship and Climate Change, Price Description of Solar Lighting System in India, Decomposition of Solid Waste and Environment, Women Trafficking in the Phase of Women Empowerment, and Technology and Climate Change.

Fr. Provincial's Visitation: XIDAS Jesuit Community was very happy to welcome Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ, Provincial, when he reached here on visitation on February 16 morning. There is always a lot of curiosity in the community members to hear from the leader of the province about different works and plans in the province. And when he met us as a community in the evening he briefed us on all the goings-on in the province, like where the province stands now regarding the UAP-PAP sessions, construction works going on and about to begin in different places, some future plans that are afoot, and successes and failures in some areas in the province. He left for Manpur on early 17 accompanied by Frs. Sanjay Kujur and Fulchandra Kujur.

- Fr. Valentine Ekka, SJ

LOYOLA HOUSE, KUNKURI

Loyola English Medium School had a grand Sports Day on 23 December, 2019. Rev. Fr. Sikander Kispotta, V.G. graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Mr. Manish Kumar, S.D.O.P. was the Guest of Honour. The audience got fascinated with the spectacular performance of School Band. The sports-events and other cultural programmes were wonderful.

Loyola Higher Secondary Hindi Medium School had organized Bishop Oscar Severin Memorial Hockey Tournament this year too. About 70 teams participated with great enthusiasm. The final match was held on 16 February. Mr. Uttam Dan Minj, the MLA of Kunkuri Vidhan Sabha was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Loyola alumni called STEPS supported to run the tournament.

LOYOLA COLLEGE, KUNKURI

Sumit Bara, B.Sc. II, Computer Science, a student from Loyola College participated in the National Republic Day Parade on 26 January in Delhi, at India Gate. It is a pride for the institution. Prem Ram Yadav, B.A. III, got selected for National Camp which is going to be held at Konark and Jakhir Hussain, B. Sc. III, for Sate Camp in NSS.

Chemistry Department organized a Career Guidance Workshop on 27 January. Mr. Sachin Yadav, President of Prayas Academy Bilaspur, Mr. Laxmi Narayan Yadav, Director of Prayas Academy Bilaspur and Mr. Jagat Pratap Singh, Director of Vinayak Academy Bilaspur were the resource persons. Students profited much from their inputs.

The College Annual Day was celebrated in a grand way on 4 February. Mr. Uttam Dan Minj, MLA of Kunkuri was the Chief Guest and Mrs Ajem Lakra, newly elected Nagar Panchayat President was the Guest of Honour.

The Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology held a seminar on 8 February. Dr. Ashish Kumar from Gahira Guru University as the guest Lecturer at Loyola College Kunkuri delivered an excellent lecture on microbiology and biotechnology. He shared with us about the current research technology and gave a vast information about future scope. Apart from this he made the students aware of the importance of their field activities. As a result students are now much excited and have become pro-active about future projects.

The College gave farewell to the Third Year Students on 15th February. It was celebrated in a meaningful way.

- Fr. Cornelius Ekka S.J.

JVM , PATHALGAON

A meeting at Kadampara-Ghutiya para, Surguja, was held on 3rd Feb. 2020 from 7.00 PM to 9.00 PM. Fr. Yacub Kujur was invited by Mr. Telesphore Toppo, a government school teacher, on behalf of the village. More than 60 villagers attended the meeting. The talk began with displacement and it was connected with PESA, FRA, NRC, CAA, and NPR and was told that only PESA and FRA could save tribals from displacement for which claim procedure has to be followed immediately. Socio-economic and political analysis was done with the villagers. The talk was very interactive and they liked it very much. The purpose was to train our people to speak out their feelings and experiences. Keeping quiet by our people at time of need is one of the main weaknesses of our people.

One Day Seminar on FRA, CAA, NRC, NPR and other social Issues:

The Seminar began in Ghutiya para Parish on 09 Feb. at 09.00 AM and was concluded at 02.30 PM. First, Fr. Yacub did societal analysis during homily and after the Mass focused on preparing a concrete action plan. First, a plan was made on FRA (Forest Right Act, 2006) and to form Gram Sabha according to PESA and hold GS and form Van Adhikar Samiti to initiate the process of claim of FRA. To be trained for the process of claim of FRA some will participate in the training program to be held at JVM on 15 Feb. Second, a protest gathering on CAA will be held at Dhorhagaon, date and mode will be decided by the core committee. Third, efforts will be made for second crop by creating water resource bodies. Fourth, efforts will be made for business by market linkage. Our people will be encouraged to buy things from our shopkeepers. Fifth, efforts will be made to minimize social evils, such as over drinking, envy, aimlessness of youth, etc. Sixth, a follow up seminar will be held soon. The newly elected Panches and *Surpanches* were felicitated. And a separate seminar will be held for them soon under the leadership of Mr. Rajesh Tigga, new elected *Surpanch*.

A seminar on FRA to plan for campaign was jointly organized by JVM, Lok Manch and Chawpal Gramin Vikas Evam Shodh Sansthan on 15 February at Ashadeep. About 150 people, interested in claiming rights, participated in it. Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ welcomed the participants and told the purpose of gathering. The newly elected Panches, BDCs were felicitated with a shawl each. Mr. Alok Shukla, the convener of CBA (Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan) explained in detail the FRA and Mr. Gangaram Painkra, director of Chawpal narrated his field experience on the issue. Two important action plans were made; first, by April at least ten CFR (Community Forest Rights) will be claimed in Jashpur; second, to accelerate the process a workshop will be arranged by JVM, CBA and Chawpal on 16-17 March. Fr. Bipin Kujur, SJ proposed a vote of thanks.

A month training for 19 catechists is going on at Ashadeep, under the leadership of Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ., Fr. Yacub took more than thirty classes for them. He gave the societal analysis starting with "I came that they might have life and have it in fullness" (Jn. 10:10). Jesus came to give fullness of life. The fullness consists in living a life comprising of spiritual, social, political and economic factors. The purpose of life is to be attuned to Jesus. That will be possible through service and service with love and justice (Mt. 25:31-46). Fr. Yacub gave spiritual, social, political and economic analysis and taught the catechists communication skills, leadership skills, financial management, time management, Johari window, SWOT, FRA, PESA, CAA, government schemes so that their homily attracts more people to come to church on Sundays. He gave the above analysis on 16 February to the participants of Deanery Catholic Sabha Rally held at Hal-dijharia Parish. The participants decided to submit a memorandum against CAA, NRC, and NPR.

Fr. Bipin Kujur, SJ was busy in PDD work and project proposal preparation and preparation for his university exams.

- Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S, AMBIKAPUR

The month of February created an atmosphere of examination among the students. In the first week of the month there was a preparatory examination conducted for class 10th & 12th students and it was followed by the pre-board examination. *Meena Bazar* was organized at the Cathedral premises on February 9. The Apostolic and the Xavier Hostel boys put up various stalls to collect fund for the poor and needy. It was a moment of fun; at the same time it taught them to be generous towards the needy. At the end of the month all the units of St. Xavier's family bid farewell to the outgoing students.

The Xavier College of Education (B. Ed. College) had the annual function on February 29. "Education for Transformation" was their theme. To grace the occasion Rev. Bishop Patras Minj, SJ was present as the chief guest. It gave a platform to various talents of the students. It was a fabulous program. Congratulations and hats off to all the staff and the students for their hard work in making that day a successful one. Indeed it was a grand success.

Board examination commenced on 2nd & 3rd March for 12th & 10th Standards respectively. St. Xavier's School is one of the board examination centers for the students from many schools for the examination. B. Ed. second years had practical exam on March 2 and now all are going through the model examination. At the moment all students are busy with their studies and the entire staff is engaged in smooth functioning of examination at the respective units.

- Sch. Sandeep Lakra, SJ

CAMPION SCHOOL, BHOURI

Campion School Bhouri bid the first farewell programme to the 55 outgoing students of Class 12 on 4 February. The students were very grateful to all the Fathers and the staff for being taught for thirteen years. They felt privileged to be the first batch of the School.

Fr. Arvind Vinay went to XISA Raipur to attend Annual Retreat from 4-12 February and a Workshop on Financial Management from 22-25 February. Meanwhile Fr. Zach was busy in the school conducting annual exam. Just after the exam some 125 students took part in the sports camp in the school campus. The students were very eager and passionate to learn various tricks and tips of games like football, basketball, Kabbaddi, and skating.

The School faced an inspection from DPI team Bhopal on 17 February. Dr. Fr. Ignace Kindo and Fr. Milyan Xaxa had a great role and support for making inspection successful. Their stay with us brought more joy to the students and the staff.

The School is undergoing its face lift and beautification. Recently, some additional rooms were furnished in the basement of the building. The students would have various co-curricular activities there. The new parking shed for the staff vehicles is made just right side of the main gate in the school premises.

-Fr. Avind Vinay Tirkey, S.J

CAMPION, MARIADO

Campion School, Mariado is approximately 100 kilometres away from Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh state, in the west-south, off the Bhopal-Indore National Highway on Sehere-Nasrullahganj road. It is making the best of its efforts to run smoothly as it is still on its foundational stage. The total strength of the school is 300, comprising of both boys and girls coming from near and far off villages. Till now, KG I to Standard IV has come up. A majority of the staff members are working hard to impart good education in the students. But a very few parents seem cooperate with the management to run the school. Parents' contribution needs to take a better shape in order to meet the proper functioning of the school. There is a hope that the number of the students will increase in coming years. On one hand parents look for all basic facilities but on the other hand they do not want to bare even minimum expenses of education of their children. Parents, on their part, have to be ready to meet the compliances of the school. There is further a need to build hostels and staff quarters in the campus. There is a good news that the boundary wall is being raised. The students began their oral exam in the first week of March, it will be followed by the written exam. The school is committed for the all round growth of the students.

- Fr. Simon Aind, SJ

FROM KERAKACHHAR

St. Joseph's Community, Kerakachhar has got another vibrant member, Fr. Ashok Lakra, SJ who joined the community afresh from his Tertianship. He has been out to Lonawala to further and deepen his knowledge to meet the demands of signs of the time. Fr. Superior did his annual retreat at Jabalpur. He also visited his doctor in Bhopal for his spine problem. In his absence Fr. Sanjeev was the acting parish priest. The month of February had been very hectic for the members of Kerakachhar community. Fr. Theodore Kujur being one the core team members of Lok Manch attended the meeting in Pune on 28-29 February. In the meeting some important agendas were skulled out for instance, sustainability of Lok Manch and forthcoming National Workshop etc. Fr. Gyan has initiated the work of building seven village community halls in different villages. Work progress has been steadily catching fire.

- Fr. Sanjeev Tirkey, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S, CHANTIPALI, BARAMKELA

It was a period of five days January 30 – 3 February, five of our students had gone to Lucknow to play beach tennis sub-juniors single and double and mixed double representing the District of Raigarh and later the State. They returned with gold medals as Champions. At the same time two of our students had gone to play soft tennis to Delhi. To mark the achievement a grand reception was arranged in the school, on 7 February, for our Chams along with other thirteen players from various schools. Our senior students witnessed the event. Kudos to Sir Pramod Kumar Yadav, P.T.I. and the Team who trained and boosted the students to reach up to that calibre.

It was a matter of pride for St. Xavier's School. There were six boys and a girl. Among them Srishti Dewta has already played the world cup international pesa pallo juniors in Pune a couple of months back.

There was a charismatic retreat cum pilgrimage in Banhar from 30 Jan – 2 Feb. Fr. Vinoy and the Team from Hazaribag came to preach the retreat for the first time. It was well done. Comparatively there were faithful more in number. This time it was the responsibility of Jesuits working in that area to play a leading role. It was participated much. This place is famous for 'Janani Jagat Maata' (Our Lady's statue) which taken to the nearby pond with hundreds of women and young girls carrying a kalash on their heads. After blessing the pond they fill water. As the group comes back the statue is taken to each house. People pay reverence seeking for her favours. One could see the devotion people have towards Mother Mary.

Fr. Prabhu Narayan after his Tertianship with full vigour and enthusiasm is helping the institute to come up well. The school building is gradually taking its shape though it is a bit late.

The first week of March had unpredictable rains with heavy cloud, thundering and hailstone in Chantipali. The amount of destruction is so much the huge that farmers were cursing the untimely rain.

- Fr. Ajay Kujur, SJ

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS', DHANWARKALA

Dr. Renuka Kerketta and her husband Francis Sidon visited Dhanwarkala on 23 Feb. They organized a camp for health check-up for the villagers and the students. Dr. Renuka had brought along a good stock of foot wears and distributed them for the needy. Their gesture of generosity was remarkable. They bagged appreciation from young and old, men and women who had come from many villages.

29 February was a memorable day for the six newly elected *Sarpanches*, *Up-Sarpanches* and *Ward-Panches* of Dhanwarkala parish. They were honoured and felicitated by the parish members. On that occasion, the local B.D.C. also was present and he shared his opinion about the contribution of Dhanwar mission in the welfare and all-round development of the people. Fr. Sameer Minj, Parish Priest honoured them with some gifts whereas the students and the parishners felicitated them with songs and bouquets. All the *Sarpanches* were given time to speak to the audience and express their dreams and aspirations for the development of their respective *Panchayats*.

Fr. Placidius Kujur informed the people on CAA, NRC and NPR and requested all to become aware of the anti-people policies of the country. Mr. Francis Xalxo, one of the *Sarpanches* highlighted the power of the *Gram Sabha* and urged people to attend it diligently.

The birth anniversary of Lieutenant General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 22 Feb, the founder of the scouts and guides was marked with the ceremony of investiture for the scouts and guides of Dhanwarkala on 26 February. The ceremony started at around 2:00 p.m. with 1200 students of the school. It began with a prayer song followed by flag hoisting and other songs. Thereafter, the Scout Master Fr. Placidus invited 18 scouts and 14 guides to stand under the flag for the oath taking ceremony and conducted it.

Dr. Guruprasad Hote, Delhi and Dr. Shrishti, Mumbai had come to Dhanwar on 27 Feb. They were sent by Sr. Elizabeth, RAHA (Raigarh Ambikapur Health Association) Directress. They conducted a mother-child health programme for 150 women. They checked them and instructed them to take care of their health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and post natal period of both mother and child.

- Fr. Sameer Minj, SJ

XAVIER NIKETAN, MANPUR, UMARIA (M.P)

Manpur Jesuit community along with some families went to Khitauli for community picnic On 9 Feb. We had a Holy Mass there in a family and thereafter we proceeded to Berouli Water Park just few kilometers from Khitauli. Thanks to Deacon Anmol Lakra and Mr. Mukesh from Umara who joined us to share our joy. It is an eco friendly park situated on the river bank and well maintained by a company in remembrance of their owner. The statue of the owner at the entrance and the board depicting the words - "Mere Papa ki Berouli" at every corner of the park is very inspiring to the visitors to preserve the richness of Mother Earth.

It was another joyous occasion for us on 17 February when Fr. Ranjit Tigga, our provincial came to see us. He was accompanied by Frs. Sanjay & Fulchandra. The personal visit of Fr. Provincial was very enriching and inspiring to do our mission well. On this occasion a visit to Bandhavgarh National Park, Wild life Sanctuary was arranged by Fr. Theodore Toppo (A). They were very lucky to have a close look of three tigers as many as five times from different sides. The following evening we all from the three communities - Manpur, Nemha and Umara gathered at Umara for winding up the Provincial's visit, where Fr. Provincial highlighted the strengths and challenges as opportunities of the community so as to become better instruments to carry on our apostolate.

A long awaited dream of a Jesuit Residence at Manpur came true on 18 Feb when Fr. Amrit Toppo, PDD along with his Architect Mr. Pramod Toppo came to lay out for the building. Thanks to Fr. Provincial and Fr. Amrit for their initiatives. The building work is going on very fast.



The students of our school have finished their examinations on 6 March and the teachers are busy with the correction of the papers and result preparation. The result will be declared on 28 March and by 3 April new academic session will begin.

- Fr. Casmir Ekka (G), SJ

PRAKASH SCHOOL, PATHALGAON

The boys from the hostel went to *Doma Pahar*, a very beautiful mountainside at the bank of river Korja (Mahanadi) for a picnic on 2 Feb. Some of the Jesuits from the community and staff members joined them. Fr. Sunil Xalxo, the Principal of St. Xavier's E.M. School provided them with two buses for the outing. The day was refreshing, enjoyable and memorable.

A much awaited Meena Bazar was conducted in Pathalgaon Parish on February 9. The Prakash Hostel boys took part in it with great zeal and enthusiasm and collected a good amount of money for the poor, needy and orphan children. *Jalebi* among the edibles and a lottery on country chicken (*desi murga*) were the main items of centre of attraction. People flocked at these centres to try their luck.

The Prakash community started the Weekly Community Recollection discerning on UAP on 3 March. The first week of Recollection was guided by Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur who presented the subject matter very powerfully and gave enough time to reflect and share on the topic given. All the Jesuits participated in it actively. The seriousness of the recollection could be seen in the genuine sharing of the community members.

These days Prakash School is busy in conducting the Higher and High School Board Exams in the morning hours and home practical exams in the afternoon. Prakash School is the centre for the Board Examination for two schools of the town namely Saraswati Shishu Mandir and New Life E.M. School. Mr. Rajendra Toppo from Government School, Sureshpur, is the Controller of the Examination.

- Sch. Arvind Kujur, SJ

JAYANTI NIKETAN, KOTA

The pastoral visit of Rt. Rev. H. L. Jerald Almeida, D.D., Bishop of Jabalpur Diocese was an auspicious and memorable occasion for the faithful and the religious of Kota parish. On his arrival in the morning, fog covered the surroundings as a gesture of welcoming His Lordship. Though it was foggy weather, after saying the Holy Mass with the Jesuit community he set out to offer another Holy Mass in a village called Amlidamak, only in that village a few Catholic families live. Throughout his stay at Kota he emphasized on, "Be a light and guide to others". He enjoyed being with the people, his flock over there. His visit was very much encouraging and inspiring. Indeed, it was a grace-filled blessing and a fruitful moment for each one of us.

As the end of the academic year was nearing the 10th class students were bid colourful farewell and given prayerful wishes for the forthcoming board examination and bright future as well. There were varieties of cultural programmes on that occasion which expressed deep sentiments. The Board and home exams have already begun in its full swing. The students are trying their level best to perform well with a competitive spirit. To provide better facility to our hostellers a solar water heating system has been installed by the Bishop's house Jabalpur. The boys are enjoying hot water now.

- Fr. Manibhushan Toppo, SJ

CAMPION COMMUNITY RAIPUR

Greetings from Campion Community Raipur! Through this newsletter, I would like to update you with what has been going on at Campion School Raipur for the last couple of weeks. When we have a bird's eye view on the academic activities, I'm delighted to inform you that we've successfully completed the final exams of our students and we earnestly believe that they will clear the exams with flying colours. Our class 10 students are busy with their preparation for Board exams as they're going on now. The science practical for class 11 students is in full swing and the labs are being used for distinct experiments. Our teachers are found keenly busy with evaluation of answer sheets as well as the preparation of final results ahead of the upcoming PTM scheduled on 14 March. Besides these, I feel glad enough to share with you about the construction work of the 2nd floor of the school building. The work is in progress.

Xavier Institute of Social Action is able to accommodate various activities of the groups such as Jesuits' UAP programme, Workshop on Financial Management and Legal Affairs by Fr. Alex G. SJ, in which 67 Jesuits participated. The workshop was highly informative and learning opportunity for Superiors, directors of works and treasures. The resource person was impressed by the number of participants and assured to come when ever invited in spite of his packed schedule.

FVTRS, KARVY of different social, government and non-government groups too had fruitful programme over here. These days XISA is occupied for various activities

- Fr. Alex Lakra, SJ

VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI

Much awaited "Ad Auds" exams were held from 3 to 6 February for the third-year theologians. Fr. Leander, spiritual father, was busy in guiding the scholastics and giving recollection to different parishes. We had Endowment lecture in honour of Profs. S. Arockiasamy SJ, and Samuel Rayan SJ on the theme "SEEKING GOD EXPERIENCE: THE GOAL OF THEOLOGY" by Dr. Fr. Michael Amaladoss SJ. Indeed, it was enriching two-day national seminar on the concerns and perspectives of new evangelization, in which the staff and the students took active participation and discussed about personal experience of God and several relevant issues.

We also had the PAC (Plenary Academic Council) Meeting from 18th to 20th of this month, in which the RTCs (Regional Theology Centers) from Madurai, Varanasi, and Ranchi took active participation in planning for the coming academic year.

On 22nd of February 28 of our third-year theologians were ordained as deacons by Most. Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Delhi. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, our Provincial was here to witness the diaconate ceremony which brought immense joy and happiness to our deacons. After the diaconate our deacons look very fresh and enthused to work as the missionaries in the universal house of God.



- Sch. Manoj Lakra, SJ

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

As we draw closer towards the end of our academic year, we find ourselves much busy with our studies along with other activities. There was a series of cultural events for the Chotanagpur tribal Brothers and Sisters. CCA (Chotanagpur Cultural Association) organized the annual gathering for its members in Pune, at Sundarvan, DNC campus on 2 February. The Santhal ministry group organized Sarhul celebration in the hall of Papal Seminary on 16 February. Again on 23 February AHA (Adivasi Hindi Association), at JDV level, facilitated a farewell programme for the outgoing Brothers and Sisters of the College.

We were blessed with the sudden visit of Fr. Provincial, who was with us from February 8 to 11. He encouraged and challenged us through his words, boosting us to put more efforts in our ministries and daily activities. The Diaconate Ordination took place on 9 February, presided over by Rev. Thomas Dabre, DD, Bishop of Pune. There were 15 Jesuit Scholastics, 5 Capuchin Brothers and a RCJ Brother to be ordained as deacons. Our hearts were gladdened by the event. We witnessed Sch. Dino Toppo, SJ receiving his diaconate in the presence of Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ (Provincial), Fr. Ashok Lakra, SJ who came all the way from Lonawala to Pune to witness the event.

The following week was much hectic for the final year Philosophers. They were busy with their seminar papers and examinations. The rest of the Philosophers and the Theologians would begin their examinations from 2nd week of March.

- Sch. Rakesh Bara, SJ

ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

February was packed with a number of activities for the scholastics of coastal city Mangalore. Three days of national level college fest 2020 was held at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. Students from different parts of Karnataka actively participated in a large number and we scholastics too participated in various activities organized by the college. On 9th we went for a picnic with the people of Chotanagpur residing in Mangalore. The following day we had province mass celebration, the liturgy was conducted by Nepal and Darjeeling provinces. As part of the introduction the scholastics explained beautifully the vision and mission of their respective provinces through PPT. This month we were lucky to have five birthday boys in Asha Kiran community. On 11th Fr. Jagadish, SJ of Darjeeling province gave us a talk on apostleship of prayer ministry and asked us to join along with the universal church to pray for the Pope's intentions. On 16th we went for a community picnic to Udupi where we enjoyed boating and had fun with water games. The following day Fr. Jossie D'Mello, SJ gave us an inspirational talk on the life and mission of blessed Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ. Right now we have finished our second internal exams and getting back to our normal college life.

- Sch. Vikas Lakra, SJ

JESUIT NOVITIATE, LUCKNOW

In the first week of February, we had a half day Recollection to feed our souls with spiritual food. This month also was filled with many activities. We had quite many changes this month, namely, change of our jobs and cubicles. We got an opportunity to watch a movie named *Silence*. On 9th we went to see various exhibitions put up in Lucknow, very near to our house. It was indeed a wonderful and mesmerizing experience. The Air Force, Navy and BSF had mesmerizing performances. It was a very good opportunity to know about the strength of our country. On 24th we had Campus Picnic. We planned many pleasant things to do. We prepared a time table for every

activity, for morning some games and for afternoon some Movies. Along with these we enjoyed a sumptuous meal. One of our MAP Novices, Lalit Turkey, decided to leave us on 17 February. The entire community prayed for him and for his future.

- NS. Gulshan Beck

PIPERSATTI

It was a matter of joy for the students and staff of Nirmala Primary School, Pipersatti to have a new toilet in February end.

It was a landmark achievement towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by the School. Since it is an aided school there is no source of income, not enough even for the maintenance of the school. The Curia community, Bilaspur helped in building the structure. Fr. William Toppo initiated the work in 2015. It remain incomplete for long time. Now it is accomplished with tiles on the floor and plumber work. It was like a Five Years Plan, never mind. It is one of the best toilets around the Block of Akaltara. The space is enough for the use of 200 students. The staff and students are happy and grateful to the management and the Society.



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LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

The Community at Loyola Niketan had its monthly community meeting on February 14, in the guidance by Fr. Emilius Ekka, Superior. The members discussed on planning for the spiritual activities on during the Lent. The community welcomed Sr. General and one of her counselors of Sisters of St. Joseph of Leones for dinner on February 15. The Sisters are our collaborators in the school. Loyola School started annual examination for the students starting from Primary Section from the second fortnight of February onwards. The community made enough effort to be confined to home chicken before lent. It has continued taking fresh vegetables from the garden in the able guidance of Fr. Sushil Turkey, Minister. The Social Action commission had its one day meeting on 24 February. The Education Commission too had its meeting on 1 March. The community received and welcomed Mr. Christopher, the assistant General Treasure on his 10th visit to the Province on 2 March.

- Fr. Herman Joseph Minj, SJ

JESUIT MISSION IN MP

Article 25

When Fr. Van der Linden wrote the last mentioned letter, he was already in charge of Noadih. Just at that time Fr. Bressers and he were made to exchange places. Fr. Bressers was now put in charge of Tongo, and became Superior of Barway. Thus the districts of Jashpur depending on those two stations had now a change of Missionaries too. Towards the end of 1912, the Archbishop was seeking for another interview with the higher authorities in the central Provinces. On 11 December, he asked Mr. Laurie for an interview. Mr. Laurie, his old friend, was then fixed at Raipur, as Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh division. He replied on 19 December that owing to his multiple duties he would be away till the end of January. He added: "I saw the Raja Bahadur of Jashpur lately and asked him to try and make things go quietly and peacea-

bly. He has no religious *animus*, as far as I can judge, but objects merely to interference in matters of administration. I certainly sympathize with him in this. If missionaries cannot let 'begar' alone, the Raja Bahadur can hardly be blamed if he makes it uncomfortable for them to stay in the state. I am not now Political Agent: It is Mr. Blakesley I.C.S. who holds that office. He will, I have no doubt, be pleased to see you and to discuss matters with you at any time when you are up in this part of the world. I saw the Bishop at Nagpur and he was talking to me about this Jashpur business. I am inclined to think that he sees, as no doubt you do, the difficulty of interfering with state customs. I do not think that the cause of Christianity can prosper if people are encouraged to defy the rules of the state; harsh as they may be to some Missionaries appear. The converts should be made to 'render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.' This is my view." The last sentence looks like a reference to Mr. Napier's proposed tract. It is certainly strange, and must have been painful to the Archbishop, that a man who knew Jashpur and had rendered signal services to the Mission, would now throw all the blame on the Missionaries and their converts, praise the Raja and totally ignore that the root of all the trouble was the open persecution overtly encouraged by the Chief, and aiming at stamping out Christianity.

On 27 December, the Archbishop wrote to Sir B. Robertson, Chief Commissioner of the central provinces, asking for an interview with him. A personal letter was sent in reply two days later on 27-12-1912, stating that he, Sir B. Robertson, had received the request and the details about the state of affairs in Jashpur. As the programme at Durg was so charged, all he could arrange for was to meet him between 12 and 1 o'clock that day, 5th January: "I have already heard that there had been some trouble between the state authorities and the Native Christians. But from what I know of the Feudatory Chief, he appears to me to be a well disposed and goodly man and I can hardly think that the fault is all on his side. I shall be prepared, however, to listen to what you have to say and take the matter further into consideration when I have consulted the political authorities.

It must have been very disappointing to the Archbishop, that after all the contrary testimonies of his Missionaries sent to those high authorities; one and all persisted in looking on the Raja as "a well disposed and goodly man." (Robertson), "who has no religious *animus*" (Laurie), who cares only about his rights and submission of his people and "not two pence what religion they profess" (Napier), "a liberal minded man; a gentleman who would consider it below his dignity to persecute any of his subjects on the grounds of their creeds alone, a just man," (Blakesley). It was precisely because of the persecution he led or inspired or encouraged, that the Archbishop sought these interviews.

About the interview, the Archives contain only the draft of a small letter. 2nd January 1913: The Archbishop states that he will reach the bungalow at Durg at the appointed time. "My main contention is that the Christians of Jashpur do not enjoy the religious freedom which the British Government guarantees to all its subjects: (1) they have a right to the proper, lawful exercise of their religion: chapels, residences of missionaries of their religion: a) for divine service, b) for instruction. (2) They are molested on account of their religion. This is refused, avowedly the fact of the Rajah himself. It is a fact, either willed or permitted by the Rajah, or if neither he cannot control his subordinates (in any case maladministration).

Happily the Memorandum to the Viceroy throws some light. It took place on 5th Jan at Durg. "When, in answer to my representations, the Chief Commissioner told me that Jashpur was as independent as Germany or France, that he, the Chief Commissioner, could interfere as

little in the Jashpur matters, as he could in those of Germany, the impression that I could no longer hope for redress from the authorities of the Central Provinces was very naturally forced on me."

Whilst appreciating and sympathizing with the reasons which led Sir Benjamin Robertson to give the principle of non-intervention the widest possible play, I would respectfully draw attention to the indisputable inference that, if pushed too far, this principle turns automatically into a positive intervention of a very objectionable kind, in as much as it becomes equivalent to declaring practically that the British Government no longer intends checking any kind of maladministration in the Feudatory states. Such a point has, in the matter of religious toleration and freedom, been actually reached in Jashpur. After Sir Benjamin Robertson had read to me certain directions of his predecessor, Sir Reginald Craddock, in which, *inter alia*, it was stated that the Chief of Jashpur was obliged to grant his Christian subjects leave to erect places of Christian worship and residences for their pastors. Sir Benjamin Robertson said that he was not prepared to oblige the Chief to this. I submit that this practically amounts to encouraging the Chief to in his persistent refusal. And I furthermore maintain that, for the Chief to pretend that religious toleration is safeguarded in his state, when his Christian subjects are neither allowed to have places of worship, nor to have their pastors residing amongst them is an evident contradiction.

Mr. Blakesley was present at Durg on that occasion. We see this from a letter of his to the Archbishop, dated 19 February 1913, in which according to the desire expressed there, he communicated the list of his camps at his coming visits to Jashpur for the benefit of the local missionaries. Fr. Van den Driessche, in consequence of Mr. Blakesley's talk with the Archbishop, had a dispute with him about "excessive begari".

Fr. Bressers knowing the intention of the Archbishop to try and meet Mr. Blakesley sent to him some information on 17 February 1913:



Fr. Petrus Kerketta (MAP) 71/51 passed away at Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur on 9 March, 2020.

Fr. Edwin Rasquinha (BOM), 91/60, passed away at Mumbai on 20 Feb.

Br. Thomas Rama (KAR), 69/41, passed away at Bengaluru on 1st Feb.

Br. Joseph C. K. (PAT), 81/58, passed away at Patna on 7 February

Fr. Geoffrey Michael Meagher (HAZ), 77/59, passed away at Kolkata on 5 March

Mrs. Veronica Tirkey, Mother of Fr. Vincent Tirkey expired on 11 Feb at 88 at Amberatoli

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN MARCH FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	NAME	DEATH	BIRTH
01	Fr. Robert Phelan	06 Mar 1988	14 May 1903
02	Fr. Benjamin Ekka	07 Mar 2015	21 Jun 1940
03	Fr. Victor Tucker	13 Mar 1988	19 Jul 1909
04	Fr. Emile Van Eynde	25 Mar 1980	13 Jun 1910
05	Fr. Gabriel Ekka	25 Mar 2006	24 Mar 1944
06	Sch. Joseph Jugal Baraik	26 Mar 1989	17 Dec 1957

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"Your Grace desires no doubt to know whether any new important events have occurred. I am glad to state that there are none. I see nothing about which the Christians might with some success forward a complaint to the Political Agent. But there is a statement of the Rajah which clearly gives the lie to Mr. Laurie's pretension that the Chief does not want to do anything against the Christian religion." Then comes the case of the 7 Bhudkela people, already related by Fr. Van der Linden, who were taken to the Chief after having been to church on Sunday. On their refusing to give up the Christian religion, the Chief said: "Go to *girja* as much as you like, but in that case, give up your fields. Gather the crops of this year, but do not work in the land anymore."

Fr. Bressers says that it would be very injudicious to mention that they were subsequently sent to Jharsuguda and that they had to wait there for the return of the Raja from Nagpur, because others who were not Christians were forced to do the same. Fr. Bressers little suspected that the calm would soon be disturbed by two events of the utmost importance, and of painful worry to him: one of Patratoli, the other at Badka Koronja. Whether the Political Agent came as announced, is stated nowhere. Anyhow from the correspondence left, we may conclude that neither the Archbishop nor any of the Missionaries interviewed him.

- Compiled by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ

Birthday List

MARCH

- 02 Toppo Anuranjan
- 03 Ekka Godfried
- 03 Khalkho Prabhu Narayan
- 04 Tirkey Sikander
- 05 Xalxo Ravi
- 05 Baxla Roshan
- 06 Xalxo Amarjeet
- 08 Tigga Ashwin
- 09 Badne Rajkumar
- 10 Ekka Cornelius (R)
- 11 Lakra Nelson
- 11 Minj Cyril
- 12 Beck William
- 16 Lakra Pingal
- 13 Beck Cyril
- 18 Minj Fabianus
- 20 Tigga Santosh
- 21 Lakra Edwin
- 22 Tirkey Michael
- 24 Kujur Charles
- 26 Tigga Robert Pradeep
- 28 Ekka Michael
- 28 Kerketta Bartholomis
- 28 Tirkey Herman
- 29 Toppo Abraham
- 30 Lakra Shailendra

APRIL

- 01 Lakra Anmol
- 04 Kujur Placidus
- 06 Lakra Ashwin
- 07 Ekka Fedrick Vivek
- 07 Kerketta Zacharias
- 10 Kujur Pranay Wilson
- 11 Ekka Marcel
- 12 Ekka Neelam
- 13 Tirkey Deepak
- 14 Toppo Alok Kumar
- 14 Toppo Sunil Kumar
- 15 Lakra John Crus
- 19 Minj Elphiz
- 20 TIGGA RANJIT
- 22 Barwa Prabodh
- 23 Toppo Vinay
- 24 Kerketta Ajay (P)
- 25 Kujur Arvind
- 25 Minj Kalyanus
- 25 Xess Deepchand
- 27 Lakra Aemilianus
- 29 Lakra Sebastian
- 30 Kujur Justin

