



E-SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

Vol. 35 No. 4

Nepal Jesuits

April 2020



Congratulations to

Fr. Roy Sebastian and Fr. Juel Kispotta for pronouncing the Final Vows on February 27, 2020.

REGION SUPERIOR APPOINTS

Fr. Tek Bahadur Paudel

Teacher, St. Xavier's School/ Spiritual Ministry, Quasi-parish, Sadakbari

Sch. Jaeison Monteiro (GOA)

Regency, St. Xavier's School, Deonia

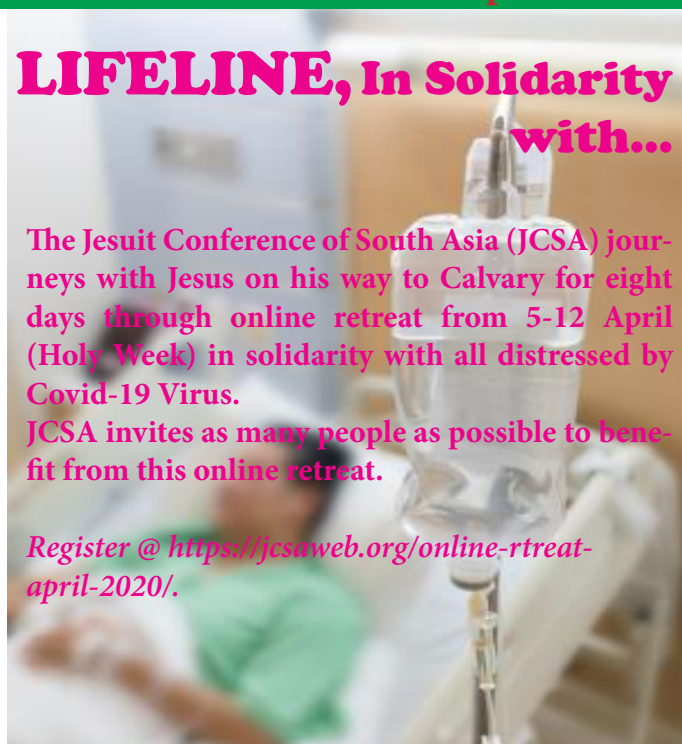
(Appointments effective from April 2, 2020.)

LIFELINE, In Solidarity with...

The Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) journeys with Jesus on his way to Calvary for eight days through online retreat from 5-12 April (Holy Week) in solidarity with all distressed by Covid-19 Virus.

JCSA invites as many people as possible to benefit from this online retreat.

Register @ <https://jcsaweb.org/online-rtreat-april-2020/>.



ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

After the JCSA in Godavari a few of the fathers stayed in our community. Prominent among them was Fr. Janin, the president of the European Conference, well taken care of by our Etienne. George made a quick visit to Jhapa for an education commission meeting. Daniel Bara, Irenius, and Paul K.C. were our guests for a few days. Now Anil is staying at Baniatar and others are quarantined at SXJC. Tomson has made sure that we will have at least "dal bhat" to survive this crisis period. Your prayers are requested for Sanjay's mother who passed away on 27 April. She had a brain hemorrhage. Mathew is busy cleaning the room and packing as he plans to move, after eight years, to Sanepa next week. We gave farewell to our senior most teacher, Vice-

Principal Mr. Nanda Thapa, who served the school for more than 30 years. Others who retired after many years of service are Mr. Raju Aryal, Mrs. Pushpa Yonzen, and Eugene Fetz. We had the class one entrance test on the 18th and the results are not yet published. Because of the present emergency situation many things did not happen as we had planned in the calendar. Class 11 had to be closed early and the send up exams and practical could not be conducted. Distribution of report cards was cancelled at school and they were sent to individual parents by the school app. Work is in progress to put up a roof covering for the new Niesen Building to use it as a multi-purpose hall.

Fr. A.V.Mathew

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, GODAVARI

“Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think”, says Albert Einstein. The teachers from Dang, West Nepal visited the school



Teachers from Dang

to discover the values which they were attracted in the field of education.

The community had a wonderful gathering of local

religious community on the occasion of Fr. David's birthday. We had number of guests from different places - diocesan priests from Tamil Nadu and Jesuits Fr. Frank and Fr. Daniel from Darjeeling.

The Flag Handing Over and Award Distribution ceremony was held for the junior and senior students. On the 6th of March a grand farewell was given to our class XII students. Our students were busy and serious in writing their final exam.



Flag handing over ceremony

Fr. Samuel attended the meeting of Education Commission at Deonia.

All SXG Mela Committee members had an evaluation of the program. The school also arranged thanksgiving dinner for them for their generosity and contribution. Kudos to all the team members.

Our school has filed a court case



against the government on the land grab issue. After coming to know about it, the government officials came for the meeting and wanted to compromise concerning the same/land issue problem. They appeared to be playing with power and money.

Fr. David flew to Delhi to attend leadership training program that was held for a week.

The journey was adventurous for all the participants in all airports and

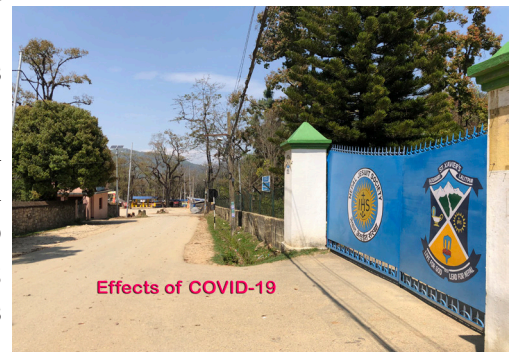
railway stations due to COVID-19 virus. All Jesuits depended on God's providence. Before lock down of Kathmandu valley Sch. Pankaj succeeded to go to Tipling and made himself virus free.

Our school has been closed due to COVID-19; all programs have been cancelled.

We concluded the month with prayers and joined universal church for healing from recent epidemic COVID-19.



Meeting with govt. representatives.



Effects of COVID-19

SXG Jesuit sources

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAITIGHAR

As the month of March began, COVID-19 scare forced us to abandon our annual staff picnic and postpone the Plus Two commencement program. However, Pre-board examinations for Class 12 took place. A Levels and class 11 pre-board examinations and class 12 NEB practical examinations had also begun. Likewise, we were able to conduct the BA Family Week and the events of the Social Work week.

On 8th Jiju received the sad news that his father breathed last after a few months of battle with the cancer of the prostate and spine. Jiju went to Kerala to be with the rest of the family for the final rites of

his father and returned to the community on 18. Following the directives of the government, the college suspended all classes and examinations from 19th March keeping only the administration, library and support departments open. However, everything has been shut down since the announcement of the lockdown.

Since the lockdown began, community is busy taking care of itself. The hidden culinary skills and house cleaning skills of the community members are at display during these days.

Campion House correspondent

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DEONIA

The campus of St Xavier's School Deonia is in a state of eerie silence as all the academic activities in the school remain suspended in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic. Fortunately, we were able to complete the annual examinations as well as the BLE examination just in time before the national lockdown.

The staff and students of the school organised a farewell function for Fr. Dennis and Schs. Ravi and Ivin as they bid adieu to the community for the next assignment. Fr. Arul thanked the outgoers for the invaluable services they had rendered to the school.

The teaching staff of the school had one-day orientation program which was ably guided by Fr. Dennis and Fr. Boniface. At the end of the session, they came up with the theme for the next academic year: "Touching hearts and transforming lives."

The community has taken a string of measures in solidarity with the victims of the covid infection. Most of the construction works in the campus have been suspended. We also have one hour adoration and the recital of the chaplet of Divine Mercy, imploring God's mercy on the suffering humanity.

Sch. Ivin Tomy

MORAN MEMORIAL, MAHESHPUR

Final exams went on according to the schedule; we did not lose any class day. Nursery admission forms are distributed and the rest is pending. Farewell and the best wishes program for class 10th was organized by class 9. The rest everything is suspended as the community is praying for the Corona affected people.

Deepak has gone to Gayaganga for his retreat. Nor-

bert went to Delhi to attend a five-day Leadership Training. It was guided by Fr. George Joseph. Fr. Norbert's travelling experience was unique this time because of travelling restrictions. Clarence and Sanctius play table tennis whereas Paleshwar and Boniface spend some time playing Basketball and jogging.

Fr. Boniface Tigga

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, SADAKBARI

Fr. General's visit brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm in our mission. Month long planning and meetings more or less went as planned so there was a greater sense of involvement. Staff was happy that

closure of all schools and colleges. So class 1-4 could not write their Science exam, class 6 it's Math, Science and Computer Practical exam. Even after the closure teachers reported to school and completed their paper



they have of on 29 February evening.

A teacher of SXS instructing students got a chance to see him and to a group photo and got the feeling belongingness to the larger Society. We came back to Sadakbari on 29 February evening. We had regular classes till March 9th, then the final exams.

By now already lots of talk on Corona Virus was on.

Hence, students and staff were told about it, how to take precaution and to drink lots and lots of water. On 5th of March polio drops were given to the Nursery and LKG students below 5 years of age; even the locals came for the polio drops. On 8th of March Lady staff were surprised

Cl. 6 putting up a dance for lady staff corrections. They now remain at home as it is now a complete lockdown. The entire academic plan has to be changed due to Covid19.

During the exam time Education Department of Jhapa Rural Municipality In charge, Mr, Jivan Dhakal Sir and Resource Person Mr, Khadga Kharel sir visited the school. They were impressed by the presentation and the facilities.

Fr. Peter had gone to Delhi for a Leadership course along with Frs. Norbert and Nicholas. Br. Irenius too had gone to Kathmandu to submit his papers. Fr. Amrit visited us after his visit to Kohima on his way back to Kathmandu.

All the Parish activities, Holy Mass and Way of the Cross were suspended, when Government announced the closure of all religious gatherings.

All Jhapa Jesuits met in Deonia community on 21st of



A short felicitation program by Gents staff for Lady staff.

by a short felicitation program by Gents staff with the help of class 6, by putting up few colorful dances. Final exam was held from March 11-20. Class 5 wrote its Rural Municipality Level Board Exam. We were almost finishing our exam when Government announced the

March regarding the health and hygiene project. Things look completely different; place is dead silence even in the village. A time of quarantine has given an opportunity to reflect, meditate and pray.

Fr. Vijay Toppo

SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA – POKHARA

The regular classes of Shishu Bikas Kendra (Child development center) began in full swing in the month of March and most of the students were exhilarated to celebrate holi, festival of colors in a grand manner but the fear of COVID – 19 subdued their high soaring spirits. The celebration of holi just remained with a simple “Tik-ka on the Nidhar-ka and



St Anne's Catholic Church, Pokhara

Chapak on the gallas” this year. Students had drills outdoor for few days. On 17th of March our SBK students gave farewell to Fr. Paul. They wished him good luck by singing songs and showed their final and best dances to him. From 18th of March onwards SBK remains closed indefinitely due to the COVID – 19. The SBK compound remains silent without the students except the noise of some familiar birds and our lucky – dog charging them on the ground.

The church public services also remain closed due

have grown into family bond. The catechist training at Dharan was cancelled. On 21st of March our Parishioners gave farewell to Fr. Paul from the church.



A farewell troupe.

SCC Sisters rendered their helping hands to beautify the church compound in the holidays.

Fr. Frank, a Darjeeling Jesuit visited SBK. Fr. Amit introduced to him the kind of enterprises SBK has taken to enable the unables. Fr. Paul had an eye check up in Kathmandu and spent few days with his well wishers. On 15th of March Fr. Jomon returned to SBK after visiting his brother in Dubai. Due to COVID – 19 the tourist city Pokhara is locked down completely and seems to be in a great slumber. Easter wishes to all the



Deserted street of Pokhara city.

to COVID – 19. The faithful are given awareness of keeping social distance, wearing masks, avoid visiting crowded places and social gatherings and wash hands often to prevent infection. Our faithful are praying at home together keeping the Lenten observances and

well wishers of SBK in advance.

“I hope this Easter holiday fills your home with peace, joy and plenty of colorful Easter eggs”.

Fr. Amit Lakra



Cultural performances by students of SBK

ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

The month of March 2020 will be remembered in the history because of novel coronavirus pandemic that has affected many parts of the world including Nepal. All the educational institutions, shopping malls, public places are closed down. Students wrote their final examination in great hurry and in an emergency situation. Children of SXSSC centre were sent home after their examination to avoid the pandemic. Mr. Balkrishna Devkota remained back at boys home, two children at Aruna Bhawan along with three in-house staff and all the members of Gafney Bhawan. Due to lockdown K. Toppo has been residing home to take care of the property.



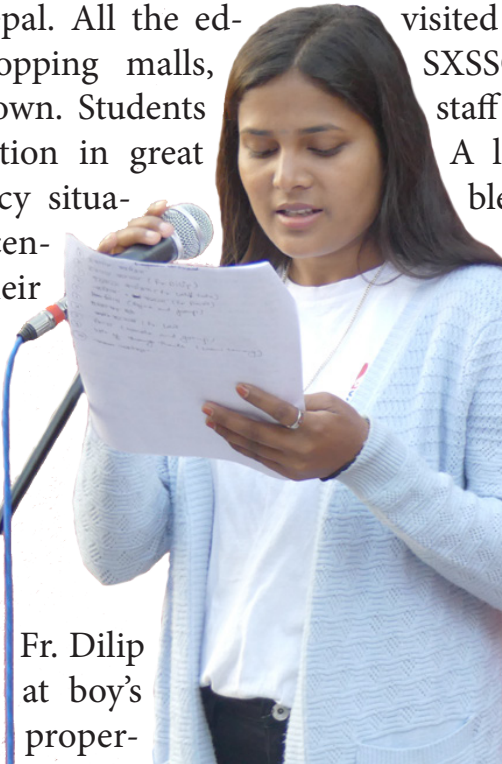
A small felicitation programme at Aruna bhavan.



Fr. Lalit Tudu accepts appreciation letter

Four staff from SXSSC went to Jhapa and conducted an awareness program on bad effects of alcohol consumption and tobacco chewing to 8th and 9th grade students of Moran Memorial School and parishioners. The staff also visited the homes of students staying at SXSSC. It was a first exposure visit of staff to tea gardens. A lavatory as Aruna Bhawan was blessed by the Regional Superior, Fr. Amrit Rai SJ, and inaugurated by the Director of Caritas Nepal, Fr. Lalit Tudu. Cultural programs were organized by the children to express their gratitude to the donor organization. Caritas Nepal assisted in building the lavatory for the earthquake affected children. Thanks to Caritas Nepal and the team for their generosity.

Fr. Dilip K. Toppo



Ms. Margaret doing the MC

Fr. Dilip K. Toppo



Newly built lavatory at Aruna Bhavan



ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH, BANIYATAR

A few volunteer youths of parish committed themselves in helping the children of the parish and neighbourhood to help them in their studies for the upcoming annual exams. They are studying in various schools including St. Xavier's School Jawalakhel. Meanwhile, 8 parishioners approached the parish priest for their



kids' admission in class 1 among whom 7 appeared for the admission test conducted by the school and for which results are waited anxiously by them.

From 29th February onwards parishioners were made aware of COVID-19 and its symptoms along with its harmful health consequences and how to avoid. Parish priest followed the general hygienic advisory given by the experts following what was happening in China and South Korea. It was, later, again on 14th of March, the parish priest conveyed to the parishioners about the advisory guidelines given by the Bishop Paul Simick on Corona virus. He made the parishioners understand the gravity of the pandemic and how to keep oneself safe and healthy. Keeping in mind the advisory given by the Rev. Bishop, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Baniyatar suspended its all common gatherings including the catechism classes for all groups until further notice. However, we continued with the Holy Eucharist which usually followed after the Way of the Cross on Saturdays. On 28th March, Saturday for the first-time the parish did not have Holy Eucharist for entire congregation but only for a few as advised by the authorities.



Due to the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown by the Nepal Government, the parishioners are forced to stay home; that is affecting them financially terribly. Most of our parishioners are weekly or daily wage laborers and live in tiny rented single rooms. They are finding it very difficult, specially, the kids. So far, among the parishioners, we haven't seen any serious problem due to nationwide lockdown or Corona virus. However, everybody seems to be worried for their basic needs, such as food and cooking gas since their source of income has stopped; they have no works to earn. At the same time, as said by Miss Binita Thapa Tamang, a parish youth, "I am concerned more about a few parishioners who are sick not because of Corona-virus but with their previous health issues and have been taking regular medicines". There are some families who are really struggling to meet their daily basic needs such as food and cooking gas. The parish priest is helping them at least with the food items. Parish priest is taking daily updates from parishioners on how they are doing. Perhaps that was one of the reasons he decided to stay in the parish itself in case if he is needed during lockdown.

The lockdown has given rise to illegal activities in the area such as break-in houses and stealing things in the absence of occupants. On the night of 28th March, our neighbor's house belonging to a Doctor was broken-in and robbed of everything. The



house was locked and whole family had left Kathmandu for their ancestral homes in Terai to escape total lockdown and also to avoid feared Covid 19.

Fr. Anil Beck

GOOD SHEPHERD, TIPLING

We bade farewell to our class 10 students before the corona virus struck. However, their SEE exams were cancelled the evening before they were to write their exams in Satya Devi School, Khanyabas, Tipling. Frs. Mike and Ayar had gone to Kathmandu to attend Fr General's visit to Nepal. Fr Pierre, the General's communication man, interviewed Fr Mike and Fr Ayar regarding the importance of Tipling mission for future of the Region's planning.

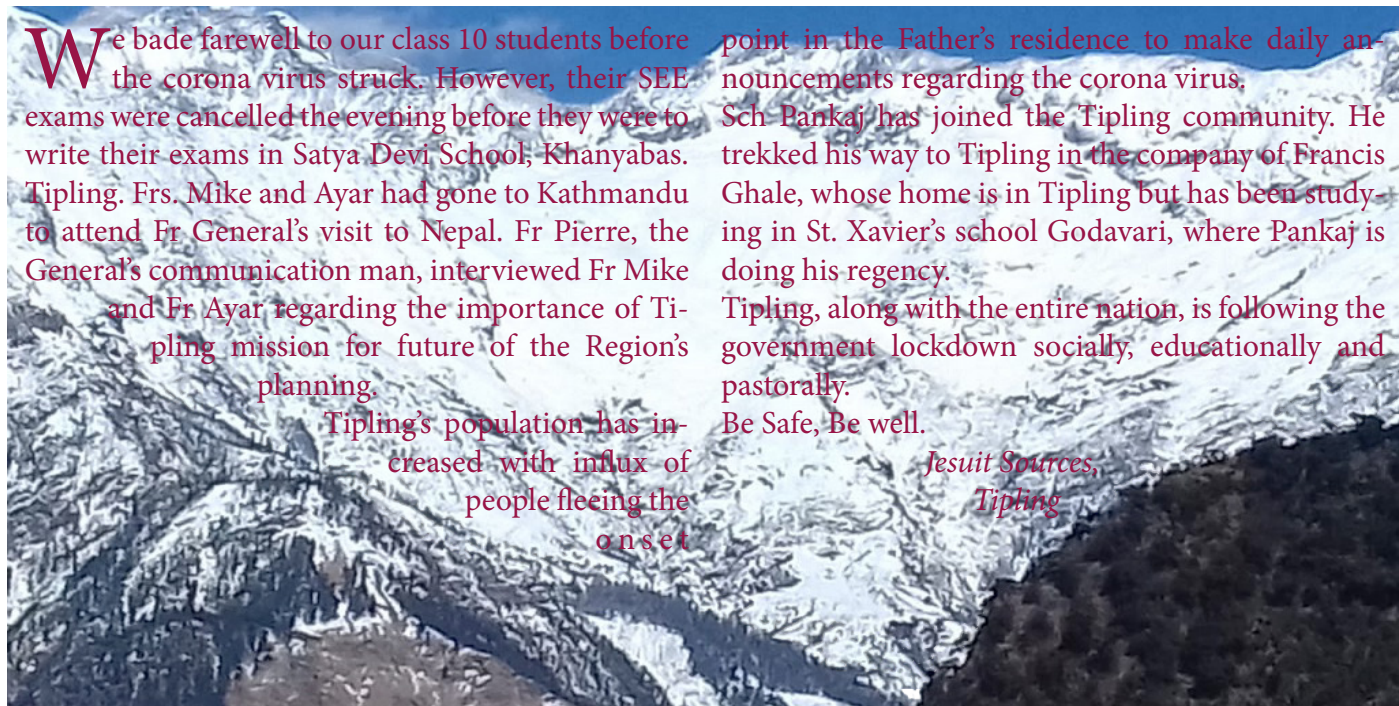
Tipling's population has increased with influx of people fleeing the onset

point in the Father's residence to make daily announcements regarding the corona virus. Sch Pankaj has joined the Tipling community. He trekked his way to Tipling in the company of Francis Ghale, whose home is in Tipling but has been studying in St. Xavier's school Godavari, where Pankaj is doing his regency.

Tipling, along with the entire nation, is following the government lockdown socially, educationally and pastorally.

Be Safe, Be well.

*Jesuit Sources,
Tipling*



Magistic Ganesh Himal



Farewell of Standard 10 at Dong Den Devi School, Tipling



HRDRC

After the JCSA programme ended Fr. Juel found himself privileged to ferry the Provincials to Tribhuvan international airport for next two days. Fr. Amrit paid a visit to Kohima Region and attended its golden jubilee celebration along with other JCSA members. In the absence of Fr. Amrit, Fr. Juel was delegated as an acting Region Superior. Fr. Juel went to Panchkhal with Frs. Arul, Roy and Thomas to see the NJSI regional centre and progressing construction work. He offered mass for all three who were making a day of recollection. Fr. Amrit returned from Kohima on 12th March; and on his way back he made visits to Sadakbari and Simalbari. Fr. Bobby arrived to Region

Curia on 21st March just one day before the Nepal government banned flights from India. The community members are following the government order of complete lockdown. However, since the Region office is in the same building one often sees the Region Superior, Region treasurer and the Socius at their working desks. Fr. Dilip is staying in Social Service center, Jawalakhel since the lockdown. Fr. Juel completed video editing of footage from Fr. General's visit. One is of 5 minutes summary that was sent to Rome and other is of 14 minutes for Nepal Jesuits. He has already transferred them to a person each in a community.

Fr. Juel Kispotta

DIASPORA

COLLEGIO INTERNAZIONALE DEL GESÙ

A joyful city, with many visitors from many nations looks very dry and lifeless. For almost a month we are in lockdown situation, yet the rise of the quarantined has not come down in Rome. The death rate also has come up to more than 6000 in whole of Italy. But the city is as usual very welcoming and caring. Therefore, we have some public services. Hats off to those who are out there to help the civilians with the public transportation, medical assistance and the services provided by the police. In spiritual sense the COVID 19 has made this Lenten as a real Lenten



using the website called Zoom, some by sending the materials to read and some others send some recorded lessons to listen. So we are still having our classes in one way or the other. We even had a talk on, "The challenge of pornography and social media," by Fr. John Cucci, SJ through Skype. We had a meeting with the Jesuit Cardinal Michael Czerny, who talked about the Synod on the Amazon. We had a day of adoration regarding COVID 19. The community had organized a prayer, 'Praying with Pope,' on Wednesday, March 25 at noon, where the Our Father



for many of us to experience the suffering Christ in our daily life.

While the schools, colleges and universities remain closed, we have online lessons. Some professors teach

was recited for the world situation, caused by the virus. We had some sport activities and movie nights to refresh our minds.

Sch. Devadhas

SACRED HEART CHURCH, SINGAMARI

After having ordained to the priesthood on 16 Jan 2020, Manu started his pastoral ministry at Sacred Heart Church, Singamari (Darjeeling) in the first week of February. He stays at Our Lady of Snow (under the Arrupe community) with Fr. Binoy Lama, the Parish Priest.

The parishioners at Singamari gave a warm welcome to the newly ordained priest and they were happy to have one more priest at their service. At the parish, Manu is improving in his Nepali Language skills for Liturgy, Homily and prayer services. He goes to offer Mass at Lebong Mission station every Sunday. During the weekdays, he is learning about Small Christian Communities (SCC) and participates in their prayer groups, home visits and communion service to the sick. After the St. Joseph's feast on 19th March, church services are suspended at the parish due to the ongoing corona crisis. Looking forward to having regular services at the parish!

Manu Mathew

ASHA KIRAN, MANGALURU

In month of March we were busy with presentation on Letters of St. Ignatius. At the same time, we also gave homilies during masses. On 5th of March we had living group meeting. We discussed about various ac-



Sch. Niroj in white T. Shirt and black cap

tivities in groups as well as outing. We also celebrated one of our neighbours' birthday in our community. They conducted many activities after the mass. They also sponsored meal for us. This really made our relationships stronger with our neighbours. On 11th of March we had an evaluation of our ministries. We discussed about happiness and joy as well as difficul-

ties and improvements in our respected groups.

On 19th of March, third year Jesuit collegians went for an outing for the last time. On 21st we gave farewell to all the third year collegians. We had creative Eucharistic celebration where each one of them spoke about their happiness and joy and presented their gifts as remembrance. Soon after the mass, we had farewell programme which was followed by sumptuous meal. At present we are busy with our study and community activities.

*Schs. Niroj Minj
Ruben Hembrom*



PREMAL JYOTI, AHMADEBAD

Month of March 2020 will be remembered in the history because novel corona pandemic that has affected many parts of the world including Nepal. All the educational institutions are close down, shopping malls and all the public places are closed down. Board exams are postponed and it has affected world economy all around the world. In spite of all the scenario prevailing around us we did not fail to our responsibilities.

On 7th of March we the Scholastics of Premal Jyoti had a day of recollection and reflected over temptation of first parents Adam and Eve and how it leads towards distraction. Talk was given by young Jesuit priest of Gujarat Province Fr. Patras Munda S.J, (Director of pre-novices).

On 8th of March we had community movie day in open cinema. All the community members enjoyed this outing and a thrilling movie.

16th March onwards our college is shut down because of novel corona pandemic. Initially during the corona vacation we tried to do some activities such as film appreciation, corona safety basketball tournament and rest of the time we invested for

exam preparations. But when PM Called for 21 days lockdown we decided for self-isolation and cut down all community activities such as mass, meditation, games and community prayers. We are doing everything individually. Cooks are also not able to come due to lockdown. Therefore, we are spending sometime in kitchen to help cook.

At present Ahmedabad is deserted. All the city dwellers are back to their native places and whosoever is in the city, they are confined in four walls. People are scared to come out of their homes due to insecurity and uncertainty and same thing is happening with us. Premal Jyoti gate is closed. No one is allowed in and out. But we could see lots of positive things happening like atmosphere is fresh and peaceful, birds are chirping and new leaves are coming. All these things are adding beauty amidst all this situation. Poor daily labourers, migrant workers are in dilemma. We are also not sure whether we will have exams or not. But we are making use of this break and finding out our inner talents i.e. music, reading and writing.

Sch. Bipin Bara

VINALAYA, MUMBAI

This month we were engaged in various productive and energetic activities. We stepped into Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday and regular monthly recollection. During the recollection Fr. John Cyryac had a mass in the Indian Rite. It gave us opportunity to observe and cherish inculturation. On 10th of March we wrote ASET exams. On 11th of March we were graced to meet Fr. General, Fr. Arturo Sosa S.J. We had a photo session followed by Eucharist. Soon after the mass we had formal interaction with Fr. general. On 16th of March we attended seminar on CAA and NRC by Fr Cedric Prakash S.J. His broad knowledge opened our eyes with sufficient information regarding CAA and NRC.

At present we are under lockdown inside campus because of corona virus outbreak in India. In this tragic situation, with absence of staff and cooks we are busy in cooking, gardening; studies and preparation for final exams, which will be held from 3rd to 7th of April.

Sch. Krish Murmu



April 01	Fr. Lawrence Maniyar
April 07	Br. Hermon Anthony
April 08	Fr. Dennis Soosai
April 16	Fr. Peter Chettri
April 18	Fr. Tek Bahadur Paudel
April 23	Br. Clarence Joseph
April 27	Fr. Leo Cachat
April 29	Sch. Ruben Hemrom
April 29	Fr. Tej Kalyan Kujur
April 30	Sch. Paleshwar Lakra

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED SOULS



*Fr Andrews Koluvan SJ (DUM, 72/48) met with an accident in West Bengal, and died on 29.03.2020.

*Mrs. Ursella Ekka 77, mother of Fr. Sanjay Ekka passed away on 27.03.2020 in Ambikapur, Chattisgarh.

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

*Fr. Arakal Jacob SJ (AND, 96/75) passed away on 11.03.2020 at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad.

*Fr. Petrus Kerketta SJ (MAP, 71/51) died on 09 March 2020 in Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur.

*Mr. Varghese Kevillil 84, father of Fr. Jiju Varghese passed away on 08.03.2020 in Kerala.

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

*Fr. William J. Kidd, S.J., (UMI, 86/70) died on 03.03.2020, in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

James E. Chambers	03/04/2018
Marshall D. Moran	14/04/1992
John Blanchard	20/04/2001
William Schock	20/04/2001
Fredrick Moore	27/04/1999

**REGION
DAYS 2020**
May 16 and 17