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NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA REGION (KHNL)

Jul- Aug 2020

APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Fr Danis Ponniah (MDU), Consultor to POSA, South Zone JCSA Convenor

Fr Melvil Pereira (KHM), Consultor to POSA, North Zone JCSA Convenor

Fr Santosh Minj (HAZ), Consultor to POSA, Central Zone JCSA Convenor

Fr Hermann Rodríguez Osorio, Provincial of the Province of Colombia

Fr Victor Hugo Miranda Tarazona, Provincial of the Province of Peru

Fr Soosai Mani, Provincial, Delhi Province

Fr Kizito Kiyimba, Provincial, Eastern Africa

Fr Joseph O'Keefe, first Provincial Superior of the most recently created Jesuit Province: United States East (UEA)

Fr Christie Maria Joseph (MDU) the Secretary of Higher Education of the Society of Jesus

Fr Jerome Cutinha, Provincial, Jamshedpur Province

Fr Peter McIsaac, Regional Superior of Guyana and Jamaica

APPOINTMENTS BY REGIONAL SUPERIOR

Fr Charles D'Souza, Acting Superior, Jagriti Jesuit Community, Guwahati

Fr Hector D'Souza, Parish Priest, Principal of Loyola School, Bishnupur

Fr Cyprian Lobo, Director, Jesuit Training Centre (JTC), Jakhama

Fr Robert Chawngthu, Formator of prenovices, Vocation Promoter for Manipur, Moirang

Deacon Pradeep, Region Vocation Promoter, Jakhama

Fr Clement Kujur SJ (JAM), Pastoral work, Bishnupur

Fr Felix Monteiro, Acting Superior, Manipur Jesuit Community (Additional)

Fr Joseph Coelho, Acting Rector, Loyola School Jesuit community, Jakhama; Acting Region Treasurer

Fr Lancy D'Costa, Acting Superior, Pfutsero Jesuit Community; Parish Priest and Principal of Nazareth School

Fr Victor D'Mello, Acting Parish Priest, Jakhama (Additional)

DIACONATE MINISTRY

Deacon Pheigathuipao Gangmei, Ka Rympei Arrupe Novitiate, Mawshohroh

Deacon Joseph Zoliana, St Xaiver's Parish, Umbir

Deacon Joseph Victor, St Xavier's Centre, Umoid

Deacon Pradeep Kora (KHM), Diaconate ministry in Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kalena Agrahara Parish (assignment by the Provincial of Karnataka)

REGENCY

Sch. Reginald Kurkalang, Regency, St Xavier's School, Diyungbra

Sch. Roynal Machado, Regency, St John Berchman's School, Thrizino.

LANGUAGE AND SPECIAL STUDIES

Sch. Alshedai Amos, B.Ed, Bishnupur

Sch. Edbert Marbaniang, Angami Language Study, Phesama

Sch. Richard Pinto, Angami Language Study, Phesama

Sch. Ronald Kharsohtun, Dimasa Language Study, Didambra

DAWAGRE

This pandemic has caged everyone at home. Despite the never ending lockdown, Dawagre community is trying its best to go beyond the problems and reach out to the people. We have upgraded our online teaching method in the school from whatsapp to zoom classes. Our community is blessed with the presence of **Br Lambok**. He is initiating a *Loyola School Band* and at the same time he is also doing his online philosophy studies. We are extremely grateful to our three generous donors who provided the musical instruments for the *Loyola School Band*. The members of Loyola dance club, who called themselves *Loyola Dream Team*, continue to come to the school for dance practice and to enhance their dancing skills. Miss Pritia is teaching them different style of dances.

This year Loyola school got an excellent result in HSLC examination. We got a better percentage even after allowing all the 39 students to appear the board exams. We got second rank in the district along with three subject wise toppers.

Besides the academic and extra-curricular activities, many campus developmental works are in progress. The new basketball court will be ready soon. **Fr Melwyn** has been sitting with the workers every day, instructing them and making sure that the works are done properly. The painting of the school was also done during this lockdown. Lots of carpentry works like making benches and decks, computer room for the new school building, community chapel and Loyola boys' dressing room had been completed.



Jose who was the main celebrant in the holy Eucharist.

We had a Community Recollection for a collective sharing of spiritual conversation and reflection on the five RAPs based on our faith experience followed by Eucharist Celebration from 10th and 11th July.

-Sch. Gaibirei Phaomei

DIDAMBRA

Life in Didambra campus goes on as usual with no surprise as the confinement period continues but it never held us so long due to the celebrations and feast days. We celebrated the birthdays of Sr Ancy and Sr Vanita (The Vedruna sisters) on different dates. It was a great occasion for the campus to celebrate along with our guests - the Maibang Jesuits.

Fr Jesuraj, on the occasion of the feast of the Sacred Heart of Betharam Fathers invited us to Langting for the feast with a solemn mass followed by a festive meal. Then came the feast of our founder, St Ignatius of Loyola, where it was celebrated in the Campus itself and a simple celebration at the end.

Two weeks of complete lockdown was imposed in Dima Hasao District. It was difficult to travel during those days. However we were able to manage with whatever was available in the garden and what we get from the village.



The Jesuit residence is almost ready. The work is in progress, but the presence of the workers worry the villagers as they do not expect non-locals to come and work in our campus at this particular period. **Fr Thomas**, the superior of the Dima Hasao, is taking a lot of trouble to keep the work going on in our campus amidst the unpredicted situation due to the pandemic.

The NEP came out when no schools are opening but one class is active in Didambra school – the Dimasa class. Mr Sumit, a Dimasa, was ready to teach us the language. It has been a good opportunity for Sr Ancy, **Fr Rejin** and **Sch. Ronald** to attend the class and benefit from his presence in the campus. Though it is not an implementation of the NEP yet progress could be seen. The language class will open new opportunities for us to communicate better with the people and those who pass by our campus. **Fr Melvil**, the Regional Superior and **Fr Valerian**, the Didambra pioneer, paid a visit to our campus. It was such a joy and a blessing for all of us who are in the campus. Overall, life has always been a blessing for us in different ways, despite the challenging situation we are in.

-Sch Ronald Kharsohtun SJ

DIYUNGBRA

Working together is a joy and coming together, a blessing. “It is a joy to see a big number of Jesuits” said **Fr Thomas**, during the Dima Hasao Jesuits community meeting in Gunjung. The new regents, the theologians both the senior most and the oldest among scholastics were welcomed by the Dima Hasoa Jesuits and wished good luck for the language studies to the previous regents.

As we enjoying the hard works and sweat of the earlier co-workers and Jesuits, we also have been planting new trees, varieties of banana plants and vegetables for the future Jesuits. We are blessed with so many things said **Fr Vilezo** from Diyungbra and in turn we have to be generous to people. Life in Diyungbra is full of gifts. We could see this in the generosity of the parents, students and our gardens. Even though there are no students in

the campus but it is filled with the music of the birds, greenery and ripening of the fruits on the trees. We talked at table that even though we had so many fruit trees, fruits used to disappear from the trees. At least this year we could have fruits on our plates. This year, for some, it is a burden a curse; for a few, it is a blessing a grace whereas for us it is a gift.

The community is also blessed to have **Sch. Joji**. While Joji was busy doing the library work, **Sch. Regi** was busy in collecting school fees. We also, along with the sisters, under the leadership of Joji planted grass and flowers. As a community we celebrated with a sumptuous dinner for the gift of life of Sr Pomila. Our celebration of St Ignatius feast was simple, silent but sweet. It is so because there were no students, no chief guests but only few teachers, co-workers, etc. These were the people who shared our joy. It was a delightful day to see them relishing the moment with mutton. Thanks to St Ignatius. The registration of our school is in the process. We hope and pray that it may come true.

Fr Thomas celebrated the feast mass for the Jesuits of the Dima Hasao, where **Fr Rejin** reminded us that we are not working for the people but instead we are saving our own soul through our service to them.

-Sch. Reginald

GUNJUNG

The lockdown continues to hold Good shepherd campus in silence. On the other hand, the people inside the campus are keeping themselves busy in gardening and cleaning the surrounding. The online classes and the weekly tests for the students are in full swing. The feast of St Ignatius was celebrated in simple and meaningful way. The teaching staff and the Parents body were present for the celebration. The staff thanked the Jesuits for their service to the people of Gunjung. With the assistance of **Fr Gerald**, our helpers finally completed the small Calvary above the football ground. The Dima Hasao community meeting was also held in Gunjung recently. It was a moment of sharing and joy for all of us.



-Sch. Cassini

JAGRITI

Covid19 quarantine has surely affected the movement but life goes on along with lockdowns and immunity building measures. Offices are kept open to keep the work going on and reaching out to the needy is on. When needed and allowed **Fr Owen Chourappa** visits the court. **Fr Hector D'Souza** along with **Fr Thomas Mathew** visited Didambra to see the progress of the building of Jesuit residence and the High school building at

Maibang. **Fr Walter Fernandes** attended the meeting of Guwahati Christian Forum to take stock of the Flood Situation in Assam and Covid19 effects in the state.

Fr S. Paul Raj and **Fr Jeevan Prabhu** were quarantined on 5th Floor of Jagriti and their names were prominently displayed at the entrance, warding off any intruders. With quarantine period was over, Fr Paul Raj was officially driven to Dimapur and again home quarantined at the Good Shepherd Seminary, his new home. Fr Jeevan was not so lucky, he waited for 50 days, but kept helping us and specially tutoring **Fr Boniface Lewis** in the intricacies of the computer world. You could reach Fr Boniface Lewis at bonalewissj@gmail.com Finally, on 30th July, Jeevan was able to enter Arunachal and thankfully home quarantined within our campus. In spite of the quarantine, the Regional Superior, **Fr Melvil Pereira**, dropped in to have a friendly chat with Fr Paul and Fr Jeevan.

Since most of our work is sedentary and within the walls, the building of body immunity is the mantra of the community these days. The terrace is fully booked for walks at different hours of the day for the community members. Fr Walter's skewed track has deepened a bit with his weight and the hitting of the walking stick. Fr Hector has created a standard forty-meter parabolic track and Fr Boniface Lewis has a track of figure running number eight. The terrace above the refectory has another big track of number 8, which has been created and blessed by Jeevan and now perpetuated by Owen. The 110 steps to the five stories from the ground floor to the top reverberate with the fast-climbing steps of our young men Fr Owen and Fr Anup to sweat it out in the evening. The Ayurvedic concoction of *kashayam* with natural condiments, early in the morning is another added morning ritual. There are a few of us basking in the morning and evening sun for natural Vitamin D. Thus the immunity of the Jesuits here has reached the optimum level.

The Feast of Ignatius was a sober event with just 20 of us, mainly with two neighbouring religious communities of FMA Provincialate and St John's Hospital. Fr Owen led us into a well-prepared prayer and Fr Anup along with Ms Jacintha and Ms Mary hosted the delicious dinner, all homemade.

When the **Legal Cell for Human Rights (LCHR)** office resumed on July 20 after a three-week lockdown in Guwahati, the staff hurried to catch up a few deadlines and finish unfinished works. Modules were prepared on various children-related laws and Government social welfare schemes to equip the volunteers. The work pertaining to getting Minority Status Certificates for some more schools is on the anvil. The Annual Report 2019-20 was released in July end. On July 4, Anup represented the Northeast Region in the executive meeting of National Lawyers Forum of Priests and Religious (NLFPR). He also presented a paper to the representatives of Small Christian Community of Tezpur Diocese on various welfare schemes of the Assam.



Besides this, **Fr Anupchand** was able in a joint venture with lay philanthropists to garner dry rations, like rice, dal, oil, salt, etc. and distribute it in different parts of Assam for the marginalized from the Government agencies. It was surprising within days, things reached the areas he had specified to the officials. Wherever possible, Fr Anup was there to receive the officials and to see the distribution process for 821 poor and needy

families in and around Guwahati, the provision supplied by the D. C. of Kamrup (M). On July 18, LCHR

facilitated distributing dry ration provided by the Kamrup District Administration to 52 needy families in and around Christian Basti, Guwahati.

North Eastern Social Research Centre (NESRC) joined Don Bosco College, Golaghat in organising an international Online Seminar, July 16-17 on "Politics of Tribal Exploitation in Northeast India: An Unexplored Paradise." Melvil chaired the first day's sessions and Walter gave the first talk on "Tribal Land Alienation in the Northeast."

On 21st May Walter gave the keynote address "The post-Covid economy" at the national Webinar "What is Normal after COVID-19?" organised by Oikotree India.

The father of Ms Ashpriya Rohman, Administrative & Accounts Assistant of NESRC passed away suddenly on 22nd June.

JALAPHET

At times we wonder how time passes by in spite of the lockdown. Besides celebrating our usual daily Eucharist with the Sisters with more profound reflection and devotion, we find our own way to engage ourselves. **Fr Wilfred** continues his prayer and healing ministry but preferably (online) through the mobile but still many people are healed through his prayers. In fact he is busier as people want more prayer to face and survive the challenges of this pandemic.

Fr Gabriel keeps updating himself reading more and more on the culture and lifestyle of the Pnar people of Jalaphet. This is substantiated by watching most of the local movies to learn more about the language and the ethos of the people. He is also experimenting his farming skill with great passion and love for the fruit of mother earth in the vegetable garden. How long will we go on in the snare of this pandemic? We don't know! If the situation goes on like this, soon we will be out of our job and our salary in will be exhausted by December 2020. There is no income in the parish as well, except from the prayer ministry. We need to find new ways to reach out and to serve our people. During the past few months the people started cultivating more and more in waste and fallow lands in Jalaphet going back to their traditional farming lifestyle which was disrupted by the coal mining activities.

- Gabriel Kharluni

JESUIT HOUSE, GUWAHATI

To many of us here, Jesuit House, Guwahati, has been more than just a transit house; it is a home. The house is bubbling with life: spiritual activities, communion at the dinner table, common recreation, games, studies and so forth. I just interviewed some persons here to prove my point (*ahem*). This is how they responded:

Me: Are you happy to be in this community?

Sch. Ngashan: Aasssh yeah man. I'm so happy here, especially with my prayer life!

To myself: *Hmm... something to be inspired by.*

Me: How do you find life here at the Jesuit House?

Sch. Joseph W: Fantastic! Lovely! Joyful! I feel so much at home and cared for. The fathers, brothers and sisters, all are good to me.

To myself: *Well, that's a load of words from someone like you, methinks.*

Me: Sr Sheetal, what would you like to say about the life here?

Sr Sheetal: All the fathers, brothers and the girls (working in the kitchen) treat me with love and respect. I got an opportunity to preach as well. And I am very happy because whatever I cooked everyone ate without complaining!

Well said dear friends – Sr Sheetal, **Ngashan** and **Joseph**. Thanks to all of us and, in particular, those who make this beautiful experience possible.

The house has become a popular visiting spot for the medical team of the government, given the number of persons who were quarantined here in the last four months! **Fr Anand** could jolly well join the team, as he has become an expert in quarantine procedures! We were glad to have so many friends staying with us, some were here for a sojourn – others will be here for a little while longer.

The DNC scholastics (**Rex, Goldie, Royal, Tom** and **Gaisin**) and the Chennai scholastics (**Pele**, Ngashan and Joseph) are continuing with their online classes. **Sch. Persy** has also joined in the fun as the online classes have started for the VJ students as well.

Sr Sheetal, the headmistress of Maibang, who had come to Guwahati for a dental checkup couldn't return to her place of work due to the lockdown. She was here for a month, and she contributed to the well-being of the community members by preparing special dishes.

On June 27 and 28, the community participated in the two-day deliberations on Region Apostolic Plans (RAPs). During the concluding mass, a few scholastics shared their thoughts on the experience. According to Goldie it "...was a grace to be part of the process of discernment with the senior members of the Region." We are all happy and grateful to have been involved in the process of the RAPs. The scholastics felt educated and enriched by the Ignatian way of proceeding.

Our drivers, Sambaru and Tarun have gone for their home visit. In their absence, **Fr Valerian** has been our unofficial driver. He has been generous driving our brothers up and down to Dimapur and Bhalukpong. Thank you, Fr Vally, for your generosity.



The highlight of the last part of July was the novena and the feast. Nine Ignatian themes were presented by different individuals. It helped us to reflect and ruminate on the life of our founder. We are grateful to all the fathers and brothers who conducted the novena and brought to life the divergent aspects of the person of Inigo.

We had a meaningful and joyful celebration of the feast of our founder. **Fr Melvil** celebrated the Holy Eucharist for us. First things first! In his homily, Fr Melvil shared the three points culled out of Inigo's life: a) The grace of being

“interrupted” in life, b) The grace of bringing men and women to God, and c) The grace of discernment. The final message was, “... let us seek to find God in the ordinary moments of our lives; in the routine chores that we do, in the free and unconditional relationships we hit upon in our Jesuit communities and beyond.”

There was a friendly badminton match organized by **Royal** and **Tom**. It was titled “Pamplona War.” The competitors waged the ‘war’ relentlessly – to fight and not to heed the wounds. To labour and to seek reward (wink) for the reward was great! It was **Fr Melvil** and **Sch. Joseph** who ran away with the trophy after defeating **Sch. Sumit** and **Sch. Goldie** in the finals. Congratulations to all the participants and the organizers. Let’s keep marching on with Ignatius leading us till we die!

-Sch. Persy

MAIBANG

The Covid-19 pandemic abruptly halted the constructions of our new School building over three months and fortunately the timely arrival of our construction workers permitted us to resume the building constructions by the end of June. Presently, the ground floor slab was over and done with and first floor slab will follow suit. **Sch**



Remo is immersed himself with his B.Ed online classes. **Schs. Steve** and **Biji** too have their own share of Theology online classes to attend to, which will commence from 10th August. Online classes for our students have been going on well and well appreciated. The community joined the whole Dima Hasao Jesuits in the exercise of deliberating the Region Apostolic Plan at

Gunjung. The feast of St Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated in a low scale, yet deeply meaningful and spiritual. To add more colour to our feast day celebration, Langting community joined us for festive lunch and the Holy Eucharist. Fr Jesu, the Principal of St Mary’s School, Langting, was the main celebrant during the Holy Eucharist. Initiated by **Fr Thomas**, a new Badminton Court has been built in front of the School building. Thanks to Sch. Steve and Sir Bublun, self-made engineers, for making the court to see the light of day.



The well maintained campus looks alluring and ravishing under the watchful care of Fr Thomas, who, with all his humility and simplicity does not permit the grass to overgrow flowers and plants even

an inch. Our farm in-charge, Sch. Biji left no stone unturned in making sure that our kappa (Tapiocas) obtained the best possible manure by baptising them with highly nutritious mud. The surprise visit of **Fr Hector**, during this trial and unprecedented time reminds us that we all are in this together. We are heartened to recall his presence with us. Thank you Fr Hector.

Though, some part of Assam experience a severe deluge, the Dima Hasao district entertains minimum rainfall this year which is far from an encouraging sign.

-Sch. Stephen L

MAWEIT

St Mary's School:

The Meghalaya Board of School Education (MBOSE) declared the SSLC result on the 20th of July. Out of 22 students who appeared for the exam, 19 of them passed and while three failed. As of now the school will remain closed till the end of August. The rest will be told by the Government.

Loyola Boys' Home:

Without school there are no boys in the hostel. Yet three boys come to stay in the hostel per week when their turn comes. They help out in maintaining the Boys' Home premises, keeping them tidy and also cleaning the surroundings of the school. In the evening, **Sch. Jokim** spends time to teach them computers.

Jesuit Community:

On the 9th and 10th of July all four of us attended the RAP sessions in Ka Rympei Arrupe Jesuit Novitiate, Mawshohroh. **Fr Julian Fernandes** led us to do this exercise meaningfully till the end. **Fr Anba** and **Fr Caldi** went for audit to Mawshohroh on the 22nd of July. **Sch. Gerry** also joined them for a day of recollection and spiritual direction.

Community members' Day out:

June 26th we went on a visit to Umoid Xavier's community and spent the day with them going around the mission area in spite of heavy showers around. But due to COVID-19 spread in West Khasi Hills District we were not in a position to receive them on their planned visit in reciprocation during the feast of St Ignatius on the 31st of July.

Feast of St Ignatius:

We had simple and meaningful celebrations of prayers every evening during the novena this year which concluded with the Feast day Eucharist only along with the MCJ Sisters without the presence of the faithful. This was a little weird that so few of us were there yet the celebrations brought in much spiritual relish. Many faithful continue to contact us over phone for prayer requests these days; and only on emergency we visit the villages and faithful for administering sacraments.

Sch. Jokim Nongkhlaw is still with us in Maweit. From 3rd of August he has been attending his online class for his master's programme.

-Sch. Gerry and Fr Anba

The Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola:

The novena to St Ignatius was a prayerful event among the community members to reminisce about the life and mission of our founder. The celebration of the feast of St Ignatius was in a simple manner because of the pandemic. The Jesuits and the sisters are the only people who celebrated the feast but in a meaningful way.

Welcoming Fr Lancy D Costa:

The community welcomed **Fr Lancy D Costa** the new Superior, Parish Priest and Principal of Nazareth School. **Fr Charles** and **Fr Victor** accompanied Fr Lancy in order to take charge of his new assignment.

Adieu to Fr Philip & Inauguration of the Grotto:



ADIEU TO FR PHILIP

The long awaited grotto in front of the Jesuit residence was inaugurated and blessed by **Fr Philip**. Fr Philip celebrated the holy Eucharist and he explained to the staff members and some the faithful the importance of Mother Mary and the purpose of having a Pieta statue. Some of the staff members sang a farewell song for Fr Philip. Sr Elizabeth, UFS the headmistress thanked Fr Philip for his wonderful service to the

school, parish and the Jesuit community. The staff members, the parishioners and the Jesuits at Pfutsero will miss Fr Philip who is a person of magnanimity, creativity and integrity. As they bade farewell to Fr Philip, their hearts were filled with gratitude to Fr Philip for his efficient service.

The Jesuit community : Fr Dhazii, who is staying at Kikruma busy with online classes and other works in the campus. The sisters help us a lot in our works in the campus. We have a lone chicken in the community which survives without her mother.

Sch. Ebenazer attends online theology classes and he is busy reading articles and writing of assignments. Fr Philip, the rusty theologian gave lots of guidance to Ebenazar helping him to write the assignment well and he has notched up his marks in those assignments. The table talks in the community are very meaningful and enriching and we learnt a lot from Fr Philip. We feel the absence of Fr Philip not only in the community but also in the campus.



INAUGURATION OF THE GROTTA

-Anto

PHESAMA

We had a community celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of **Fr Jerry Rego S.J** on the 30th of June. It was a simple and very meaningful celebration in the presence of Jesuits and sisters from our neighbouring communities and some TTC students and friends from Jakhama and Phesama.

On the 6th and 7th July, we had a two fruitful days of recollection and discussion on the Region Apostolic Plans (RAPs). All the members took active participation in this important discernment on RAP.

Two of our members left on 28th July for their next destination **Fr Emma** to Sitagarha for tertianship and **Fr Philomin Raj (AND)** to his own Province. We are grateful to them for their presence and the service they rendered to the people.

This year on the feast of St Ignatius, we had a very simple celebration within the campus. A high tea was served in the morning to the entire campus which included the sisters, teachers, and co-workers who were in the campus.

We have new arrivals, our new community members, **Fr Francis Xavier** and **Sch. Felix Movi** who are still under home quarantine. **Schs. Richard Pinto** and **Edbert Marbaniang** are attending Tenyidie classes conducted by one of our teachers. Soon they will join the community. We are still three more scholastics to join us for their online classes. The lockdown is making our staff very creative in online teaching method. Now the exams are going on for all the students at JESON level.



THRIZINO



As the corona cases kept on increasing by the day, chances of reopening our school too get dimmer. We are left at the mercy of this pandemic and the endless lockdown. The month of June was pretty quiet here in Thrizino, except for the unceasing rain. We went about our daily work quietly without much difficulty.

After bearing the pain for about three weeks, **Sch. Darimio** finally decided to go to Seppa to remove two of his wisdom teeth along with **Fr Lawrence**, who also needed to do some filling up for one of his teeth. The Dentist in the government hospital advised him to go to a private clinic to do the filling up because, in the words of the Dentist,

“Here we only extract, we don't have the facility to do any filling up. You can go to a private clinic in the town to do the needful.” To his utter surprise, Fr Lawrence was greeted by the same Dentist in the private clinic when he went there in the evening for the filling up. The same Dentist did the filling up and charged him Rs. 600.

On the day when the second tooth was removed, Darimio along with **Sch. Sumit**, Sr. Sumita, and the driver had a memorable experience of spending the night on the road between Palizi and Bana as the mountain caved in because of the incessant rain. That night they had their supper only after reaching Palizi at 3:30 A.M.

The month of July was quite eventful: Fr Lawrence, went to Bhalukpong for a week, but the landslide kept him there for another two. Darimio was alone with the driver looking after the animals, cleaning the campus and chasing after mithuns.

Meanwhile, **Fr Mukti** along with Sara, came and spent one week in Thrizino visiting houses and praying for people. The following week they proceeded to Kayavally, Richikrong and Talamsima (on foot) for pastoral visit and healing services. They had memorable and fruitful experiences, in spite of the smell and the many inconveniences they had to face.

After three weeks of road block, Fr Lawrence finally decided to travel back to Thrizino via Balem (through Assam), Kalaktang, Rupa, Bomdila and Ziro. After a non-stop drive, which took him almost 24 hours and sleeping in between on the road side, he reached Thrizino the following morning. He gave such a fright to the people of Palizi and Thrizino so much so that he was asked to do 7 days of home quarantine. At the end, he neither brought corona to Palizi and Thrizino nor did any health care workers come to check in on him. Meanwhile, Fr Mukti and Sara returned to Thrizino for another pastoral visit and to say Mass for the sisters as Fr Lawrence was under home quarantine. His presence in Thrizino for a week up to the feast of St Ignatius brought Joy to everyone in the campus and companionship to Fr Lawrence.

On the third week of July, the Education Department of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh gave order to begin the admission process without delay and also to start the online classes from class I onwards from August 1. We've just began the admission process, but are still wondering how to conduct online classes when most of the villages in our area do not get proper network connections, leave alone owning a smartphone.

Sumit and Darimio left Arunachal on July 29 for Guwahati. As the roads were blocked, they had to walk a distance of about 5 km, (2 hours) carrying their luggage on their backs, crossing rivulets and streams and climbing cliffs to get to the other side of the road. Meanwhile **Fr Jerry** was patiently waiting for them on the other side of the road to take them to Bhalukpong. Just like the Israelites walking through the Red sea on dry ground, God was gracious to them too because prior to and after the two hours of walking, there came a heavy downpour. They spent the night in Bhalukpong and proceeded to Guwahati the following day. They left Guwahati on August 4 for Bishnupur. Now they are under home quarantine for five days in the Old residence.

On July 30, **Fr Jeevan**, along with **Sch. Francis** and **Sch. Roynal** arrived in Bhalukpong. They were kept for 7 days home quarantine. After being tested negative, on July 5, Fr Jeevan and Sch. Francis left Bhalukpong for another 14 days home quarantine in Palizi and Sch. Roynal in Thrizino.



-Sch. Darimio Susngi

UMBIR

This Pandemic has brought many great changes and we are in a sort of a 'New Normal'. We see in Umbir, that a 'small Presbytery' has grown itself into a 'Scholasticate', consisting of 4 Scholastics, attending their **online Classes: Schs. James Vaiphei, Mark Wungchang, Norbert kharumnuid and Daniel Khriem** (yet to join the team). **Fr Robert Pohrmen** has shown great love for the brothers and welcomed them with warmth and affection.

This New Big Family is also blessed with good cultivation especially Ginger Plantation, where the cash crop helps in boosting the economy of the house.



ST STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH, UMNIUH KHWAN



to Umbir is still 'work-in-progress'.

The ever-smiling Parish Priest, Fr Robert is evermore delighted as he continues blessing one more marriage and rectified 2 more marriages, ofcourse with special permission from the proper authorities. Furthermore, he is engaged in blessing of new houses and giving Holy Communion for the sick. Thus, Christ's mission ever continues and brings about joy and a sense of hope in the people during this time of pandemic.

This young Parish continues the Great Work of constructing churches and chapels in different centres of the Parish. The Construction of the **St Stanislaus Kostka Church, Umniuh Khwan**, close

UMOID

The monsoons in Umoid this year have been awful, bad even by Umoid standards. And when you realize that Umoid is just 15kms away from Mawsynram, the rainiest place on the planet, it is only then that you begin to grasp what it must be like. It rained non-stop for 12 days, hard and heavy downpours with constant gusts of sharp piercing wind. There were times when David and Paul wondered if the torrents would ever stop, and if the little rented house where they live would withstand the unrelenting hammering. Fortunately, the rains have eased off at the time of writing, giving us a momentary break. Until mid-August, one is never sure about whether or when there could be a relapse.

This is Admission time for us in Higher Secondary schools in Meghalaya, delayed because the Matric results got deferred. This year's Matric results have been unusually bad. As a result, fewer students have sought admission into higher secondary schools. Add to this, a concern about travel expenses in the coming year, knowing that the new social distancing norms will entail fewer students sharing a ride.

Notwithstanding that, we are starting the Commerce stream this year. For a while we held off, afraid of the financial implications of a small class. But we then began losing our best applicants because we were waffling. So we decided to bite the bullet and go ahead. The Commerce section class this year will be very small and hopefully the decision to start Commerce is not one we will live to regret.

The school enrollment has not been the only victim of the pandemic. The construction work on the school building slowed down, initially because of the unavailability of workers due to the lockdown, and later because of the heavy rains. The building shell is ready, but the finishing works— on the flooring, the doors and windows, the painting, and the toilets, have been dragging on. Hopefully by the mid-September, after the weather clears up, the building should be ready if the required men and materials are available. In the meantime, the temporary classroom structure that came up because of the uncertainty of completing the main building, is close to completing. It is an Assam-type building and will temporarily house the higher secondary classes.



The architect working for the Region has also provided us with a rendition of the Girls' Residence Hall. With the plans ready, hopefully we will be able to break ground when the pandemic is behind us.

In the midst of the dread and gloom brought about by the pandemic, there have been some rays of sunshine. Through our generous donors, we have received a few substantial financial gifts for the library, for a new computer laboratory and for the corpus of the Poor Children's Fund. We are grateful to these generous people.



Because of the pandemic, the Meghalaya government mandated that all Higher Secondary schools and Colleges this year would have to do online admissions. Our DC, realizing the ground realities would make this impossible in our district, since most students neither having access to computers nor to an internet connection, permitted us to give out paper forms. The sudden pressure from the government, however, was enough to make us work on setting up a website. Though still in its nascent stages, St. Xavier's Umoid is now on the worldwide web and can be found at www.stxaviersumoid.com.

So these past couple of weeks have left us with some things to cheer about, some things to worry about, and many things to look forward to.

-David Nukhu & Paul Coelho



WILLIAMNAGAR

The celebration of the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola and the College Day was rather mute with only the campus staff and a few student leaders of the present and the past on July 30. And on 31st the new Auxiliary Bishop of Tura, **Rt Rev. Bishop Jose**, blessed us with a Eucharistic celebration for the nearby Religious and priests. Social distance was maintained but spiritual closeness was felt by us.

After many farewells, far and near, **Fr Arock** took off to Xavier University, Kolkata, in the early morning of 3rd August. He spent two years in Loyola College as the Head of Science Department and as counselor at the Hostel. He also kept alive the CRI of East Garo Hills zone with periodic get-together and recollection. Thank you Fr Arock and know that you are missed.

The Higher Secondary results brought mixed feelings: Arts and Commerce -smiles; Science – a resolve to do better. Admissions to the 7 Undergraduate courses and three streams of Cl. XII are on. 650 new admissions are expected.

The newly allotted land is being walled in and the preparations for the boys' hostel are going on. Sr Amritha, HoD, Economics Department, has got selected for her Ph.D. programme in Don Bosco University, Guwahati. As her classes are online, she is able to continue guiding the Department on site.

The online classes of the college students are a work in progress. The customized Learning Management System (LMS) hosted in the newly installed college server is expected to serve the students better. Many of the teachers from beyond the Garo Hills are even now unable to reach the college and the students struggle with weak net connectivity.

The college consciously makes efforts to observe 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health as declared by the UN. The collaborative environment project of Loyola College and Loyola University, Chicago, has picked up its momentum with zoom meetings, in spite of the pandemic restrictions.

-E.C Sebastian S.J.

AHMEDABAD: Scholastics

The ubiquity of corona virus defies explanation of the predicament of the situation around us, but we are in the pink of our health. The Premal Jyoti house which buzzed with vibrant scholastics looked desolate after most of the scholastics moved back to their respective provinces or were sent to mission stations. **Bosco** and **Sylvester** were sent to Unteshwari mission. They are still helping out the mission through their selfless work. Some of their contributions are worth mentioning: building of a check dam and a water tank, cutting firewood, cleaning around the Mandir and the field. They organized sports for children and distributed gifts which witnessed a great success. They are looking forward to visiting houses of the faithful and teaching catechism to the children as well as to the elders.

After staying in the mission stations **Titus** and **Polseng** and came back to Ahmedabad refreshed. The former, in Kalol mission station, spent his time attending philosophy lectures, playing basketball with the parishioners and helping out in the community as lock-down limits their movement. While the latter, in Vyara mission, spent time in attending philosophy lectures, doing gardening and visiting villages in the evening during the first week of his stay prior to the pandemic's arrival in that town. Furthermore, Polseng visited with the parishioners, two shrines of Mother Mary: Kurvi Mata and Gidhmadi Mata which were famous in South Gujarat.



Titus and Polseng were moved by their experienced with the Jesuit fathers: the way the Jesuit fathers live their community life, their commitment, and the daily conversations during meals which were informative with humour and listening to the stories of early Spaniard missionaries who came to Gujarat and so forth. Every experience helped them to grow spiritually and it increased their love and admiration for the fellow Jesuits and for the mission. They are currently in the process of applying their visas for their philosophy studies in France and at the same time preparing for their final exams. We request your prayers so that everything may go well.

-Sch Polseng B Marak

BENGALURU: Jesuit Nivas



Sch. Stephen Naulak joined the Jesuit Nivas community on 9th June. He was welcomed by nineteen fathers and a scholastic. He started his classes on 30th June. He is gradually getting used to the online courses. To anticipate the feast day of our founder, St. Ignatius Loyola, the community started a novena from 22nd July. Jesuit Nivas community had a LAGORI game on 26th July to boost the community spirit. We had Faith-sharing on 26th as part of our preparation for the feast day. The exercise enriched every member of the community. We had Mass to pray

for the soul of Mrs. Hilda Carnelio, the younger sister of **Fr Michael John**, on the 29th. We had the feast day celebration in the community on 31st July. Newly ordained priests in the community celebrated the Eucharist. The community celebrated the birthday of **Frs Melvin Lobo** and **Praveen Raj** on 5th and 7th August, respectively. Schools and colleges remain closed in Bangalore due to the pandemic.

-Sch Stephen Naulak

DIMAPUR- GSS

Reflections on the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola -2020

The first symbol is IHS- These are the first three letters of Jesus in Greek – For Ignatius, Jesus is everything, like for all of us: Christians, Priests and Religious. The name of Jesus became so sacred to him, powerful and energizing, that he wanted his company (group) to be named: Compagnia de Jesus, Society of Jesus, as we are all to be considered **companions of Jesus**. After some initial difficulties, the Pope confirmed this name in 1540. I have considered myself, ever since I joined the Jesuits, a companion of Jesus, belonging to his society! This constantly made a difference in my life. Not just a follower, a missionary of Jesus, but his companion, a fellow worker in his mission. We relate with one another as companions, and we break bread together as companions

of Jesus. And God looks at me as a companion of his son Jesus when I come before God in prayer. I become what I admire, and who I am, a unique expression of Jesus mystery in myself and for others. Like St Ignatius, as made known in his vision at La Storta, I have been placed with Jesus, carrying the cross, in his mission of making God known to the poor, the tribals, the neglected and marginalized. This has been my life story all these years. Belonging as I do to this Society, I see myself shaped and formed into a companion of Jesus, IHS (Jesus) engraved within me, as engraved in our Jesuit buildings, chapels, seals of officials, our logos, reminding me who I am before God and before God's people. It's a continuous journey of becoming a companion of Jesus, a conversion process in a sinner, called to be a companion of Jesus.

The second symbol is AMDG –Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam –For the Greater Glory of God. I want to just pay attention to the word Greater, a comparative degree word, the more, what Ignatius called Magis. This too is a sacred word for him and to the Jesuits. The context is the mission and ministries, as members of the Church, and as Jesuit priests. When I contemplate Jesus' life, and my own life, I have been formed and trained to see more than what appears, beyond the surface, as Jesus did. When I face my life (in prayer), when I encounter people in their life stories (as part of my ministry), I ask, Is that all? Is there anything more? What would Jesus see in a particular situation, deeply, and how would he respond? He would invite me toward the more: more understanding, more inclusion, more grit, more compassion, more voices, more courage, more actions of justice. Ignatius has provided tools that assist me in seeing not only who Jesus is but how I am called to see Jesus' way of love, forgiveness, and justice as a path laid out for my own life. This Ignatian way becomes the Jesus way! **What more does God want of me? What more can I do for God's people? God calls. I respond.**

The third is Examen which is Ignatian spirituality in a nutshell. This is the daily prayer Ignatius has suggested to find God in all things of our daily life. At the end of the day I am enabled to monitor how I have discovered Jesus in others, and how I had been this Jesus mystery for others; also, to monitor how I had striven for **more** in my loving, in my caring, and in my sensitivity, going beyond my mechanical activities and routine exercises. **Where was God calling me to be more, and to do more, today? How could I have done certain activities in a more effective way?** Growth is what God desires for me, and God gives me, therefore, opportunities for it. In my past and present ministries of accompanying people, I have been asking myself what more I can do for those under my care. In what ways can I be of more help to them? This is my desire and my daily prayer. I need God's help and your prayers too.

- Fr Paul Raj SJ,
Dimapur Good Shepherd Seminary

HAZARIBAG, SITAGARHA

On 28th July, **Fr Philomin Raj** and **Fr Emmanuel Patton** went to Tadubi and spent the night there in the Parish. On the following morning, Fr Atheo Mathew took us to Imphal airport. After a day long journey from Imphal to Guwahati via Delhi, I reached Ranchi at 9 pm. I spend the night at St Xavier Dorontu and on 30th July, I safely reached my tertianship place Sitagarha.

We are home quarantined now till 14th of August. However, classes have started and activities of the tertianship are in full swing. We are 25



Tertians all together from 15 provinces. We were told that we are the 2nd batch to have occupied the new building build for tertianship. Praying for the needs of our Region and for all of you brothers in Christ. Do keep me in your prayers.

PARIS: Scholastics

The last few months were marked by a chain of events. Despite the pandemic and the lockdown, the students in **Centre Sèvres** have fared well in their exams and successfully completed the academic year of 2019-2020. When Common worship and gathering of a big congregation were not encouraged due to Covid-19 that has enveloped the globe, the diaconate ordination of **Deacon WK Pradeep** and 10 other Jesuits companions on 20th June was a sign of Hope from above that HE would not abandon his children.

The *déconfinement* in late June opened the door for the scholastics to rejuvenate themselves after three months long confinement within the four walls of the community. Many of them had gone to various parts of France for their vacations and summer apostolates. Deacon WK Pradeep made himself available in preaching the word of God in various parishes in Europe as his schedule flight was cancelled. **Sch. Ramnganing**, had the opportunity to spend a few days with the French family. He, then, moved to **Taizé** to do his summer apostolate as a volunteer to lend a helping hand to the brothers of Teizé community. From there he will be going to **Lourdes** for another apostolate.



Sch. Daniel was held back in France as his flight to India was cancelled and his return to India was delayed. It was a wonderful moment for the Kohima Jesuits in Paris (Pradeep and Robinson) to meet an old friend of KHM Jesuits **Sch. PV Josephin** Paris. We celebrated the feast of **St Ignatius** together. **Sch. Robinson** spent his vacations in the Alps. Then he went to **Calais**, in the North of France for his summer apostolate, working with the migrants. After working for two and half weeks in Calais he has moved down to the South of France to do his ministry in Lourdes.

-Sch Robinson Timung SJ

OURS IN PUBLICATIONS

Walter Fernandes:

"Do Lowered Caste Lives Matter?" The Citizen, 27th June 2020

"Post-Covid Economy in India", Religion and Society July-September 2020.

'The Problem' (of Peacemaking by Civil Society)" Seminar, No. 732, August 2020, pp. 14-19.

IN CHRISTO

Fr Gaudentius Kongari SJ (HAZ 86/66), on 12.08 2020 in Ranchi.

Fr Isidore Pinto SJ (PAT 78/57), on 7.08.2020 in Patna.

Fr George Gispert-Sauch SJ (BOM 90/74), on 29.07. 2020 in Mumbai.

Fr Paul Jackson SJ (PAT 83/64), on 05.07. 2020 at Holy Family Hospital, Patna.

Fr Marcus Murmu SJ (DUM, 63/38) on 20.06.2020 at Ursula Hospital, Dumka.

Fr S.M. Xavier Irudayaraj SJ (MDU 79/61), passed away on 16.06.2020

Cecilia Mathias (105), Mother-in-law of Mrs Metilda (sister of Fr Gerald D'Souza) on 07.07.2020

Eliza Fernandes (90) sister of Fr Julian Fernandes on 20.07.2020

Sr Maria Jacintha A.C (70), sister of Fr Gerald D'Souza on 06.07.2020

A. Lourdummy (90+), mother of Fr Philomin Raj, on 26.06.2020 in Kottarapatty, TN



“Nothing more desirable or gladsome can happen than to die for Christ’s sake and our neighbour’s salvation.”

[Thoughts of St Ignatius Loyola for every day of the year. From the Scintillae Ignatianae compiled by Gabriel Hevenesi, S.J. page 69, on 31 July.]