



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

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From Provincial's Desk

New Education Policy 2020: More than Meets the Eye



It is very encouraging to note that many members of our Province working in schools and colleges are showing interest in the New Education Policy 2020 and are attending the webinar organized by Fr. Sunny Jacob, S.J. Secretary of Jesuit Education Association (JEA). Fr. Sunny Jacob, S.J. continues to organise webinar and therefore, I strongly recommend others who did not have the opportunity to take part in the webinar to read the New Education Policy (NEP).

NEP 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29th July, 2020 paving way for transformation in schools and higher education. It is the result of a long consultation with various educational institutions, organizations and expert individuals. It has many positive points which will improve the quality of education in our country. But, it also has some grey areas and concerns we must be aware of.

The opening sentence of the Policy "Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential, developing an equitable and just society, and promoting national development" focuses on the development of the human potential to its optimum for the creation of a just society. It aims to have "an education system that ensures equitable access to the highest quality education for all learners regardless of social and economic background." This indeed is the strength of the Policy and all educational institutions should work collectively to achieve it.

NEP 2020 is based on 22 basic principles, of which ten principles are worth mentioning: (1) Recognizing, identifying and fostering the unique capabilities of each student, (2) respect for diversity and the local context, (3) full equity and inclusion, (4) multidisciplinary and holistic education, (5) creativity and critical thinking, (6) ethics and human and Constitutional values, (7) community participation, (8) continuous review and regular formative assessment of learning, (9) emphasis on conceptual understanding and (10) vocational and life skill education at an early stage.

While the NEP 2020 has many good things, it has some grey areas we must be concerned about. It is approved without a discussion in the Parliament and it is launched at a time when the whole country is battling with the pandemic Covid-19 which leaves no space for a public discussion and deliberation on the subject. It lays too much emphasis on privatization. The autonomy and regulation of education is not clear. Some important fields of studies like developmental studies, women/gender studies, environmental studies, cultural studies, and studies of fundamental human rights, etc. are not included. It does not talk about reservation for the marginalized and the minority communities which need special attention and support. I have mentioned here only a few grey areas, but there are more issues we need to be concerned about.

Certainly there are many positive points in the NEP 2020 which will improve the education system in India and ensure a quality education. But, there are also weaknesses in the Policy which need to be reflected upon, debated and rectified. I encourage all of you to read the NEP 2020 and be familiar with its strengths and weaknesses before it is implemented.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.

Provincial's Programme:

August

- 10 Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 11-13 UAP-PAP Core Committee Meeting, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 18 Governing Body Meeting of JVM, Pathalgaon
- 19 Meeting of the Legal Cell, St. Xavier's Ambikapur
- 24-25 Visitation Baramkela and Mauhapali

Appointment by Father General:

Fr. Soosai Mani – Provincial of Delhi
Fr. Christie P. Maria Joseph (MDU) - The new Secretary for Higher Education
Fr. Dennis Ponnai, Fr. Melvil Pereira, Fr. Santosh Minj — Consultants for of the president of South, South Asia and Central Zone respectively
Fr. Francis Gonsalves (GUJ) - President of Jnana Deep Vidyapeeth, Pune
(Confirmed by the Congregation of Catholic Education)

News and Views

St. Xavier's Ambikapur:

Construction and Renovation: AICUF HOUSE: At the initiative of Fr. Sushil Tigga (D), the Director of AICUF unit Ambikapur an old hall that was almost abandoned is renovated well and is waiting for the blessing and inauguration. Fr. Sushil Tigga is looking for a chance to organize a programme with his AICUFers and then to start using this AICUF House in Ambikapur. Fr. Alok Kujur, the Province AICUF Director generously contributed to meet the renovation cost. The work of renovation was successfully completed except the replacement of doors, by Architect & Engineer Mr. Pramod Toppo who is also the consultant to the Province Development office. The community is very much thankful to Fr. Alok Kujur for his financial help and to Mr. Pramod Toppo for his supervision and guidance.



Xavier Girls' Hostel: A long pending plan of the community to have a separate Hostel for girls and B.Ed. trainees in the campus are slowly being materialized. A two-storey building with 150 seats is being constructed under the supervision of Mr. Pramod Toppo. This project could have been completed by this time but due to Covid-19 lockdown we could not



complete as per our plan. We hope to complete the work in a couple of months and would like to have the blessing and inaugural function on 3rd December 2020. We Hope that Corona will be back to China by that time.

St. Xavier's College of Education: Fr. Jerome Minj the Principal and Director of the Institution is busy in roof lifting of the college Building. The red coloured profile sheets are already fixed but sidewalls are yet to be raised. Unfortunately, the

Pandemic situation is not cooperating with us as the work cannot proceed as desired by Fr. Jerome. We admire Fr. Jerome's patience and capacity to bear with every odd situation.



New members:

Our community is waiting to welcome the new members; Fr. Kalyanus Minj, Fr. Jaiprakash Toppo, Fr. Fulgence Lakra, Fr. Nirdosh Ekka, Fr. Badne Rajkumar and Scholastic Almon Lakra. They are expected to join the community as per their convenience. Out of five new members, Sch. Anmol and Fr. Nirdosh Ekka has already joined the community so far. Fr. Fulgence Lakra came for a little while and then went away for his legal ministry. Fr. Jaiprakash Toppo is still holding the portfolio of Home Minister at Asha Deep Pathalgaon and Fr. Kalyanus Minj is locked down with Lalu Prasad in Patna, Bihar. The community is praying for his safe return to the province.

Xavier Quarantine Centre:

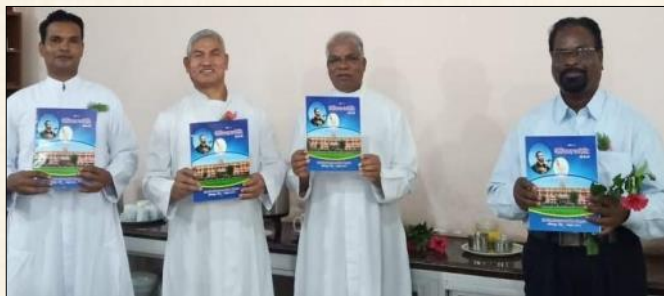
The Apostolic school infrastructure was used as a Quarantine centre for our SSC Sitagarha Juniors from 17 June to 1 July 2020. Seven Juniors were kept under strict observation following the norms given to us by the district authorities. Scholastics Basil and Sandeep functioned as guardian angels to the Juniors. Thanks and congratulations to our regents for taking care of our Junior brothers.

This Jesuit Quarantine centre was privileged to accommodate 29 MAP Scholastics from 6 to 9 July for UAP-PAP Orientation programme conducted by four members (Fr. Stany, Fr. Alfred, Fr. Anil and Fr. Amrit) of the province UAP core team. Fr. Ranjit, the provincial, took time to be part of this programme. The Xavier community is grateful to Fr. Provincial and the Core team for giving us an opportunity to accompany the young scholastics who are the future of the province.

Preparation and Celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius:

The whole community was fully engaged in Novena Prayer in preparation for our Founder's Feast. The members took turns to prepare the prayers well based on Ignatian themes and helped the community to pray well. The Novena prayer was very meaningful as everybody participated with one heart and mind. All of us attended the Online Novena on 27 July and felt that it was very much contextualized and thought provoking.

The actual celebration of our Founder's feast was without much pomp and show as per the instruction of the Provincial. The community members with Kitchen staff and two religious collaborators (Srs. Monica and Joswina HC Amrawati) began the celebration with Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Amritlal



Toppo. After the Mass at breakfast the "Xavier Jyoti" 2019-20, the school magazine was jointly released by Fr. Amritlal Toppo, Fr. Jerome Minj, the Manager, Fr. Anil Tirkey, the Principal and Fr. Vijay Ekka, the Vice-Principal. The Manager thanked and congratulated the school staff and students for this intellectual work.

The younger members organized badminton matches in the afternoon for four teams. All matches proved to be neck to neck fight as the desire to win the match was seen in every player. These young Jesuits proved to be hyperactive on the court leaving no room for any lethargic spirit.



The Ignatian festivity reached the climax in the evening with the "Corona" Cultural program. Our religious Collaborators conducted very entertaining activities involving all the community members. We played some fun games. The balloon dance, fixing buttons while wearing a shirt and keeping the balloon up in the sky and putting the pens in the bottles while dancing were some of the interesting games. We were strictly advised to keep social distancing while participating in the games. Everyone got some prize for active participation.

Fr. Amritlal Toppo, S.J.

UAP– PAP at St. Xavier's Ambikapur

The Society of Jesus has been reading the signs of the times and acting upon them down the history. The Universal Apostolic Preferences and Province Apostolic Planning are efforts to respond to the Lord in His mission in the Society of Jesus and the Province in the Spread of His kingdom where He reigns forever.

It is indeed a *Historical* and a *Kairos* moment in the history of the Society of Jesus.

The UAP and PAP programme was organized by the core committee of the province which was held from July, 06 to 09

evening. There were altogether 28 scholastics of the province who participated in it. Among the organizers, Fr. Stany, the convener of the programme, Fr. Amritlal, the Rector, Fr. Alfred and Fr. Anil as the members of the core committee led the programme efficiently and fruitfully. It was gracious that the Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, availed his presence throughout three days.

A three day seminar opened up with a devout evening prayer led by the Juniors which was followed by the formal welcome guided by Fr. Anil Tirkey, Principal, St. Xavier's School and one of the core committee members, to all the guests first, then to the Juniors and finally, the Provincial on his arrival during the same time. Fr. Amritlal Toppo, Rector towards the end welcomed us on behalf of St. Xavier's Community and told us the whereabouts of the house. Once supper was over, Fr. PCF addressed the scholastics and informed us about the status of the Scholastics at this time in the province and also in the common houses since the Scholastics could not come together due to COVID - 19.

We started our programme on the 7th morning with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Provincial who emphasized the four major points which our former General late Fr. Kolvenbach emphasized keeping in mind the universal needs, namely, China, Africa, Intellectual Apostolate and Mission in Rome. On this day Fr. Stany presented the external context. The internal context was highlighted by Fr. Alfred on the second day. Then the Common Discernment by Fr. Amrit and finally the Province Apostolic Planning by Fr. Anil articulated very well.

There was an ample opportunity for the group discussions where the Scholastics were divided into six major groups in which we learned the three-step method of sharing. The Scholastics were given more chances to speak out their views during the programme. The core committee along with the Provincial listened to the presentation patiently and responded to those points too. We learnt many things from this programme, like; deep awareness of the province internally and externally and its planning, we feel oriented to prioritize our mission, initially many felt reluctant however,



towards the end most of us felt satisfied and fruitful, need to collaborate what God is doing at present as our General speaks, and in this pilgrim church we ought not to occupy spaces rather learn how to do something and not what to do in *Missio Dei* received from the Heavenly Father. There were plenty of other things to learn from the programme which my companions must be consciously aware of.

"*Atithi Devo Bhawah*". The Xavier Community was very loving and kind in welcoming, accommodation in Xavier Centre and, the sumptuous meals which added energy to participate more

generously in the programme. Sch. Tobias helped us out as he was appointed a three-day term beadle during the programme. *Grazie*. We were heartily grateful to the Rector and the entire community for their love and service. Our special gratitude to Fr. Stany, Fr. Alfred and Fr. Anil for their relentless effort to make this programme a success. The programme was over with the supper on July 09, 2020.

-Dn. Preetam Prakash Panna, S.J.

St. Xavier Niwas Baramkela:

The normal life was not smooth at all levels in lieu of Covid-19. It devastated the regular rhythm of people. The Baramkela community bid farewell to Fr. Blacius Kerketta. We the members of the community appreciated him for his selfless works, done in Mauhapali. We wished him for his further mission. Frs. Ajay and Alfred reached him to Bhaiswar. Soon after that Xavier Niwas welcomed two new members. Fr. William Beck and Deacon Anmol Lakra joined Mauhapali and Baramkela respectively on 16 June. All the community members welcomed them with open hearts. We were engaged in cultivation and paddy transplantation under the guidance of Fr. Ajay and Deacon Anmol during period of lockdown. Deacon blessed a bundle of *ropa* and prayed to almighty God that cultivation might bring bountiful crops. We to beautify the campus by planting trees, gardening and cleaning.

Fr. Prabhu Narayan Khalkho kept himself busy since his arrival in school. He was often on and off to Bilaspur for the same assisted by Fr. Martin Turkey. He worked hard to get recognition for the school. He also went through some medical treatment for which he went to a Doctor at Raigarh staying in Boirdader. Sch. Roshan Baxla travelled to Ambikapur to attend UAP and PAP programme from 6 to 9 July. He was very much delighted to know the Jesuit history, internal and external challenges of the province, eventually the process of UAP and PAP planning of the province. It was a wonderful experience when many scholastics came together.

We commenced the Novena to saint Ignatius, founder on 22 July. This novena helped all of us to go back to the roots of the Society of Jesus. We tried to imbibe, internalize and personalize the Jesuit qualities and charism. We prepared ourselves spiritually to celebrate the feast of Ignatius of Loyola in a simple manner.

-Sch. Roshan Baxla, S.J.

Corona Virus at Mauhapali

Corona virus broke out in Wuhan, China in December 2019. We heard that it was deadly. Many people became its prey. Initially, India did not seem to bother about it. Life was cool and normal. Unexpectedly a few people fell prey to it, especially coming from abroad. The thermal screening was introduced at international airports to diagnose Coronavirus carriers. Nevertheless, Corona virus entered the country. Some interesting comments of politicians went viral in the social media. Some organised “यज्ञ” (religious sacrifices) and ordered the virus to go back to China saying “Go Corona, Go. Go Corona, Go”. Some others said, “कोरोना वाईरस चीन से आया है, ज्यादा दिन टिक नहीं पायेगा।” The connotation of this comment

said a lot about Chinese goods, sold very cheap but lasted only a few days. The virus was adamant to remain in the country spreading its reign. Still we were untouched and unbothered thinking Corona was an elite virus.

First phase of countrywide lockdown was a distant reality; we thought that we were in a safe zone. However, main entrances of villages were sealed with barricades following the guidelines of the administration. A placard was attached to a tree scripted “गाँव में बाहरी व्यक्तियों का प्रवेश निषेध” (Entry of outsiders is prohibited) at the entrance of neighbouring village Padkidipa. Yet, life was normal within the village boundary. Every day, young boys and men of Mauhapali sat in groups for playing cards. They spent evening hours playing cricket in our playground. The number of the players varied from twenty five to thirty – quite a big number for villages like Mauhapali and against the guidelines for safety from Corona.

The Prime Minister asked for 21 days of the nation for a complete lockdown to fight against Coronavirus from March 24, 2020. The nation yielded to the clarion call, lest the country would reverse back to 21 years old conditions. We also participated and performed some national rituals – “जनता कर्फ्यू” (People’s Curfew) on March 22, 2020 for staying at home during the pandemic; “ताली और थाली बजाना” (Clapping and beating plates) to encourage and support the health workers on March 22, 2020; “दीया जलाओ” (lighting the lamp) on April 5, 2020 on the special “मुहूर्त” (auspicious occasion) to fight the darkness of Corona virus and send it out of the country.

The lockdown came down heavily on many of us. Our plans got shattered. But bit by bit, days, weeks and months passed through various phases of lockdown. The ugliest face of the lockdown was the retreat of migrant workers. They, looking at the uncertainty of their life and work in various cities, started their ‘घरवापसी’ (homecoming). They thought it was better to die amidst their own people than to die in alien lands – just becoming statistics of Corona death. The exodus of Lakhs of migrant workers from all over began. Country had not witnessed such a massive retreat of people in the recent history –troops after troops walling by the roads and railway tracks knowing only the destination and not the distance. It took weeks and months to reach their destination for the fortunate ones. Many succumbed to the fatigue, hunger and thirst before they reached their sweet homes. The fortunate ones reached their villages only to find a place in schools as outcasts. The dear ones with whom they wanted to be forever were forced to maintain distance. The bread winners became suspects of corona virus carriers. The fourteen days of quarantine were like the fourteen years of वनवास (vanvash/ forest dwelling). A few of them succumbed to death even in quarantine centres, becoming part of the district statistics, but the near and dear ones lost the breadwinners.

People had some awareness but had more panic. Migrant workers of neighbouring villages returned in batches. They were sheltered in village schools. The school campuses were locked, wherever possible, and the appointed guards ensured that they did not run away from quarantine centres. The joy they had of homecoming turned into sour quarantines. When I inquired from the Mauhapali *Chaukidar* about the migrant workers of the village, he said, “हमर गाँव के लोग मन कमाय-खाय नी जाय।” (People from our village do not migrate for work). Life was normal in the village while migrant workers in neighbouring villages were under quarantines.

News of a sudden outbreak of corona on July 10, 2020 in Mauhapali brought all people to a standstill – declared a containment zone. A team of health workers from Baramkela rushed to take samples for Corona tests of the suspected patient's household members and close neighbours. The house of the patient was sanitised completely. A tape was put encircling the affected house and the houses adjacent to it. No one could go out from it nor could anyone come in the circle. All were in deep panic waiting for their turn to be declared Corona patients and subsequently getting succumbed to the disease. They saw their end very near. The rumours becoming viral made life worse.

Police from Dongripali Police Station came to seal the village boundaries on the following day. The Sarpanch of Karpi Panchayat and Chaukidars from neighbouring villages were called in to execute the task. We invited the Police for a cup of tea. They were reluctant but finally came in. They were also in panic. They said that they came to us just because the institute is a little away from the “बस्ती” (main settlement of the village).

By evening, a lot of stories of fear surfaced among the Jesuits and Ursuline Sisters. They were trying to identify their social contacts from the affected family and people. A few Sisters had visited some houses of Mauhapali on the previous day. Chaukidar had come to the Convent for some work. Fr. Eligius Kandulna had some electrification work done by a local electrician who before coming for work had visited the *Jholachhap* doctor who was treating the Corona suspect patient. Many such incidents and stories poured down gallons of panic and fear. In panic, they had several hand washings and baths to kill the virus. The Sisters and the Father spent the night sleepless. Worries of contracting deadly disease were clearly visible on their foreheads.

The corona suspect patient was a Chauhan (Ganda) and the younger son of the village *Chaukidar*. The Chauhans were socially isolated. Other caste people, especially those who consider themselves on the higher pedestal in the caste hierarchy started abusing the Chauhans, both openly and in closed doors. On hearing the caste-coloured abuses, Chauhans were deeply pained. The existing caste divide grew wider. It was demoralizing to hear some upper caste people say dehumanising words to the Chauhans, “उनको नाला का पानी पीने बोलो” (let them drink water from the rivulet). They thought of blocking the Chauhans from village water resources – pond, tube wells. Fortunately, they did not get to this extent. We disallowed neighbours for taking drinking water rather supplied them water through pipes outside the campus.

Two days later, it was known that samples taken for Corona tests were all negative. A great sigh of relief ran through the village and neighbourhood. Fathers and Sisters profoundly realised that God listened to their prayers. The mandatory lockdown continued for 14 days. Once again villagers even from the core zone moved around freely in and around the village. The *Chaukidar* was very angry with the upper caste people that he would teach them a lesson. He and all Chauhans were deeply hurt from the derogative and caste-coloured remarks in the pretext of Corona Virus. The people who subjugate Chauhans had wrongly informed the concerned authorities.

The final Corona test of the suspected patient was also negative. He suffered from pneumonia. He was working in

Raigarh and had come to the village to attend a marriage. He had some symptoms of cold and cough. He went to the *Jholachhap* doctor in Hattapali for medication. When the medication did not work, a few days later he went to Baramkela for further treatment. The treating doctor suspected the patient of corona positive and informed the concerned authorities. The district administration along with local administration executed a complete lockdown in the village. The *Jholachhap* doctor who was treating the patient came under the scanner of the health and police department. Some journalists published the foul play of the *Jholachhap* doctor. A deadly panic spread in the area. Many people who had recent treatments from the *Jholachhap* doctor waited for his corona test result. The *Jholachhap* doctor found negative for Corona – a great relief in the locality.

Corona virus spreads in people irrespective of their caste and creed. However, the caste ridden society made it a point to demean lower caste people in the village. The ugly face of the caste system and its oppressive structure came to the surface. Whether like it or not, people are under strong spell of the caste system in the villages even today – people from lower castes are always at the receiving end.

We are aware of the deadly Corona Virus. We have heard about the havoc it has done in the world. It has killed many people across the globe. People have lost their livelihood. Social and religious life is ruptured. The world economy has come to a standstill. Yet many of us take our life casually even in this Corona crisis. We are not steady in following the guidelines for safer life. We tend to forget even the deadly things in the passage of time. Apart from helping the needy with food and shelter, we really help others by maintaining physical distance from them. Let us remember that human life is at stake, and we contribute our bit in saving life by keeping distance from them.

-Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J

Campion School Community, Bhopal

Heavy rains, towards the end of the month of June, flooded our ponds and filled the campus with greenery and verdure, inviting different species of birds and fish to add the beauty of our campus. On 21st of June Fr. Casmir Ekka (T), Fr. Kalyan Panna and Fr. Deobhushan Toppo joined the community. Fr. Bernard Ajay Ekka took the responsibility to reach them all to Bhopal. On the same day we had a special Eucharistic Celebration to welcome all the new members and thank God for the services of the outgoing members of the community. On 23rd of June Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey left the community for his new appointment in Bilaspur and Fr. Akash Deep, (a priest from Banaras diocese staying with us for his studies), went back to his diocese during the pandemic. A Pre-novice, Amar Minz, hailing from Odisha, was the last one to leave the Pre-novitiate because of the unavailability of the train to his locality. He left the place on 25th of June together with Fr. Christdhari Kujur and Fr. Athanas Lakra, who went to Bilaspur to attend a meeting. On 1st of July Fr. Kapil Xaxa went to Bilaspur for a few days to give spiritual and moral support to his sister, who was critically ill. During his absence Sch. Naveen Kerketta supervised the roofing works of the Vidya Sadan chapel with profile sheets which were urgently needed. On 5th of July Fr. Kalyan Panna left for Mangalore to attend a course.

On 8th of July there was a community meeting for the discernment of the short and long-term planning. As we started our novena prayer to St. Ignatius of Loyola, we also directed our continuous petition for more and abundant rain in our land in its due season. On 24th of July, we had a recollection as to be spiritually prepared for the feast of our Founder. Fr. Pancratius Toppo guided us on this graceful occasion with the theme "You are my crucified people". The points directed us to reflect over our religious commitment in the light of the Beatitudes and of the Martyrs of El Salvador. We are grateful to Fr Shaji Stanislaus and Fr Saunder Rajan, who offered their services for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Alok Kujur, has been appointed to head the ST, SC commission of the Archdiocese Bhopal by Rt. Rev. Leo Cornelio, SVD, the Archbishop of Bhopal. On 24th of July there was a community meeting to discuss the salary percentage for the teaching and the non-teaching staff of Campion School in this difficult time of pandemic. Many major repair works supervised by Fr Blacius Kullu and Fr. Amritlal Toppo (R) has completed for now. Other less urgent ones are on hold as the entire world faces a financial crisis during this pandemic period which seems to move from bad to worse. The entire community has restricted itself from the visitors, a necessary precaution for the prevention of COVID-19.

-Fr. Christy, S.J.

AICUF Ashram, Bhopal

The months of May and June were the most challenging months of the year in Bhopal. The level of water went down to the extent that the inmates of the campus found it difficult to maintain the fauna and flora of the campus. Thus, a



multipurpose pond was dug, an undrainable, and fed by rainfall and groundwater. It helped retain ground water level, keeping moisture level in soil. The excavated soil is used to level the soggy and a foul-smelling ground alongside the road leading to Loyola Niwas.

July, the month of monsoon not only gave consolation from the sweltering heat of summer but also reminded the irksome and repeated task of water seepage, plaster peeling, wet walls and cracks of the AICUF building. This recurrent issue was solved finally and decisively by installing a profile sheet on the top of the terrace. No sooner had we completed the installation of the profile sheet than the monsoon rain



stopped.

AICUFers were inspired by the point made by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* - "Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations." On 11th July 2020 a few handful AICUFers together with campus people had 'SAVE



ENVIRONMENT' program. AICUFers took initiatives to carry out simple measures to protect and replenish the environment. Plants and trees would enrich the air quality thus we must encourage the planting of trees. Indeed, it is high time that the young generation to be responsible for the environment and work hard to save it for a better and greener future. On this occasion 'SAVE ENVIRONMENT' Fr. Christdhari Kujur, Sr. Lily D'Souza and Dr. Fr. Panka Toppo addressed and encouraged the AICUFers with their rich know-hows. In spite of the alarming phase of Covid-19 AICUFers did a great job and they deserve a pat on the back.

-Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J.

Campion School, Bhouri

Fr. Casimir Ekka (T) the new member joined the Campion School Bhouri on July 11, 2020. He was received warmly by Fr. Zacharias Kerketta who was alone managing and shepherding the campus. Fr. Casimir has begun his responsibility enthusiastically after little instruction by Fr. Zacharias. He is the Treasurer and Vice Principal in the School.

Due to Covid-19 Campion School Bhouri was closed but online classes were in its full swing. There is much satisfaction with the work and commitment of the teachers and cooperation by the parents and students.

On 15th July 2020 the non-teaching staff of Campion School, Bhouri had tree plantations. Before the plantation Fr. Zack gave them little orientation with regard to the care and responsibility towards our common home. They were very happy to plant the saplings of their choice. They planted around 50 saplings around the campus.

Meanwhile the results of 10th and 12th class CBSE Board exams were declared. Both the staff and the students were happy to see the results of their hard work. The result of 10th std was 95% and 12th std 81%. It was the first batch of 12th std. in Campion School, Bhouri. Avni Mandloi secured the first position in the school by 95 % of Marks. Adifaa Husaini topped in the class by securing 93.2% of marks in 10th std. They were the pride of our Institute. The credit of the success belonged to the Principal, Vice-Principal, staff and students of the school.

The whole city of lakes (Bhopal) was under complete lockdown due to Covid-19. It was the first time we celebrated the feast of Ignatius in our units. Campion School Bhouri observed novena prayer based on different Ignatian themes in order to revive and regain the spirit of the founder father Ignatius. On 31st of July we had a solemn Holy Mass with kitchen staff and a few school representatives in the Principal's office maintaining social distance. Two of our neighboring sisters from Clara Niketan joined us for the Holy Mass and festive



lunch. The feast day celebration was brief but it was quite homely with much pomp and show. It brought the feeling of solidarity with the entire suffering humanity as well as companionship with the entire Society of Jesus.

Fr. Zack and Fr. Casimir Ekka (T) tried to find out ways and means to give maximum benefits to the students by having constant observation on online teachings and consultative online meetings with the teachers in the lockdown and pandemic situation. Mr. Nirdosh Lakra skilled in office documentations and expert in Computers keenly helped the school management to conduct the online classes.

-Casimir Ekka (T) S.J.

Campion School, Mariado

During this period of Covid-19, Pandemic all the staff members were in the Campus. All the teaching staff members had an orientation for fifteen days and classes on spoken English.

Our Staff members conducted classes on spoken English for students and parents in some of the villages as outreach programme. It was much appreciated by the parents and children. They participated in all the activities actively. The students were from various schools including Campion School Mariado. These were some of the villages chosen as centres: Bhilai, Mongrakhera and Mariado. Mongrakhera and Mariado were divided into two groups. Thus, there were a total of five centres. Two of the staff members were appointed in each centre.

Fr. Michael Ekka continued for two months - May and June in Bhilai. Fr. Michael and Fr. Deobhushan Toppo went to another village called Mongrakhera in the last week of June. They began similar classes in Mariado in the first week of July onwards.

All the staff members carried out their commitments sincerely. The outreach programme was functioning marvellously. But in mid July some people were found infected with coronavirus in Nasrullaganj, 16 Km away from Mariado. Therefore, our outreach programme was abruptly suspended until a suitable time. So the staff members engaged beautifying the campus by planting the flower plants and removing the grass. The cultivation of Godapady, Urad,

ground nuts and Maduwa were in progress. Maduwa cultivation was introduced for the first time in the campus.

-Fr. Deobhushan Toppo, S.J.

Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial carried out his works unbleached even during the period of lockdown. He made a trip to Ambikapur, Surajpur, Pathalgaon, Jabalpur, Manpur and Umaria in the first weeks of July. He observed necessary precaution outside.

The community had its community meeting on 11 July. The community welcomed the new members Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey and Fr. Pradeep Ekka, officially, in the community. They had the work division of the community. The members shared about their ministries. They had a planning to celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius. Fr. Provincial emphasized on having monthly community meeting and keeping the minutes.

Loyola School remained closed in July. Meanwhile Fr. Fabianus Minj, Principal and Fr. Sushil Tirkey, Vice Principal were busy coordinating with the teachers for online classes for the students. The result of the CBSE board was declared in mid July. The results of Loyola School were much encouraging for 10th and 12th. The School secured 93% in 10th and 92 % in 12th std. Regarding salary, the school is following the proposal of the Province, dispensing 50% of the salary to the teaching and non teaching staff during the period of lockdown.

His Lordship, Rev. Patras Minj, SJ, DD, Ambikapur visited Loyola Niketan on July 14. He stayed here for a couple of days. He celebrated the Holy Eucharist on 31st July for the community on the feast day of St. Ignatius. He emphasized his short stay as *Ghar Wapsi*. He observed the time table of the community with other members. He prayed for one another. He mingled with everybody. He inspired the community with his simplicity, prayer life and companionship.

Two fields were transplanted with paddy as per the guidance of Fr. Sushil Tirkey on 20th July. Scholastics and the supporting staff rendered their helping hand for transplantation. Fr. Sushil



made a trip, July 18-20, to visit his ailing parents. His mother suffered from Malaria and was admitted in the Holy Cross Hospital, Kunkuri, while his father has been bed ridden for several years.

Fr. Emil accomplished a herculean task, finishing the province audit by the end of July, during the lockdown. He facilitated to bring the bills and vouchers from many communities. He arranged for to and fro conveyance for all the four auditors from Ranchi. He sent them back on due time. Fr. Pradeep Ekka helped Fr. Emil and others in checking, verifying and completing the work.

Fr. Henry Lakra and Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey were busy updating the archives and documentation. Scholastics Ashwin, Edwin,

Pingal and Nelson helped all around. They helped Fr. Sushil in the vegetable garden. They helped Fr. Emil in the preparation of files and folders. They helped Fr. Henry and Arvind Vinay in filing the documents. They helped Fr. Rajkumar Badne for excellent liturgy and novena prayers to celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius.

The community had a day of recollection on 29 July. Fr. Pancratius Minj gave the points. He drew the attention of the members on the uniqueness of St. Ignatius who touched the lives of thousands. He enumerated the qualities of Jesuit saints. He invited the members and all Jesuits to live the Jesuit charism- AMDG, MAGIS, Union with Jesus, Discernment and Detachment and become saints. All had the sacrament of confession.

31 July was a climax of celebration on the feast of founder Father St. Ignatius. Prior to this the community had a well-prepared novena (21-29) led by Fr. Rajkumar Badne and the Scholastics. Each theme was highlighted in morning by the main celebrant of the day. The Feast was simple which was celebrated in community level only. The Festive morning Holy Eucharist was presided over by His Lordship, Rev. Patras Minj, SJ, DD. Fr. Provincial and Fr. Pancratius concelebrated the High Mass. Fr. Henry Lakra pitched a beautiful sketch as prelude.



Swami gave a message how St. Ignatius is an icon of transformation from a worldly dream to spiritual dream all for the Greater Glory of God. Scholastics arranged some fun games for the fathers after the breakfast which was enjoyed by everyone. In the evening there was a cultural programme presented by sisters, kitchen staff and scholastics.

Fr. Herman Joseph Minj paid short visits to Loyola Niketan to render his help Frs. Henry and Arvind. He was present in all the community activities, esp. in meetings, prayers and celebrations. He has entrusted his work of cultivation to the villagers for Adhya. The school premises was served as one of the quarantine centres and now it is also locked down. The common celebration of the Holy Eucharist remained suspended in the month of July in the parish.

-Fr. Herman Joseph Minj

Spirituality Centre : Risda, Bilaspur:

I was the only priest at the Spirituality Centre (Sadhna Kendra), Risda for a couple of months during Covid-19, pandemic. The Seminarians have not yet joined the centre due to the Pandemic lockdown. It was a big surprise and blessing when His Lordship, Rev. Patras Minj, SJ, DD, Bishop of Ambikapur Diocese visited me at Risda. He was accompanied by Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey. The Bishop was quite interested to know about the centre and programme of 2020-21 because four seminarians of his Diocese would be joining the centre along with 16 others from different dioceses for this session. The Spiritual year would begin on 21st August, 2020, rather

late due to Covid - 19. Fr. Thomas Lourdu Rajthe, Parish Priest, Risda has been appointed as Spiritual Director by His Grace Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, the Archbishop of Raipur.

I am assigned as the In-charge of Apostleship of Prayer and hence I request all the Fathers and Brothers to pray for the monthly intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. For the month of August, 2020 Pope's intention is that we pray for : All those who work and live from the sea among them sailors, fishermen and their families .

-Fr. Pancratius Minj, SJ

Catholic Ashram, Boirdader

Casting of the School Building: The casting of the ground floor of St. Xaviers' School building was over on 16-17th July for which Shri Amar Mahto, the Contractor stationed at the Community. Some expert on casting from Pathalgaon and the local workers gave its completion. It relieved the tension of the Community for it was fixed on 29th March. In fact the tempo of whole construction had been shattered because the mechanism of construction work is under the directives of the Pandemic, Covid-19. One has to maintain the social distancing, putting mask and minimizing the number of the workers. The rest of the building works was resolved to speed up.

Meeting of Non Govt. Schools Association: The meeting of the Management of Private Schools Association (Registered 6190) of Raigarh (East) District was held at Bhavani Bal Vidya Mandir Hr. Sec School, Chandmari on 17th July for the discussion on RTE, Department recognition, fee collection, entrance and membership fund, rewarding the toppers, election of the executives for city Raigarh and the recent rules and regulations of C.G. Govt. on Non-Govt. Schools. The discussion and sharing the difficulties faced focused of the verdicts of some of the High

Courts of the country. Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. and the Principal of Shalini English Medium from Boirdadar attended the meeting. The bond of the Association was strengthened.

Hereafter any problem of the Schools will be dealt with by this Association. It will hold its meeting in every three months. Congrats to Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. as chosen the Asstt, Secretary of the Association.

The Annual Auditing of the account: Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. along with clerks (Mr. Anand Jeewan Kujur and Mrs. Charisma Panna) of the St. Xavier went to Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur for annual audit and the recognition of the new class X of St. Xavier's Baramkela. Fr. Prabhu Narayan Xalxo, S.J. at Jesuit Community Boirdader during his physio-therapy at JMJ hospital. Meanwhile he perused for the School bus fitness certificate from Raigarh and Bilaspur.

The continuation of lockdown: The one week lockdown in CG is confined to few districts. Raigarh has relaxed in many areas. With the consultation of other city Parishes, the Church activities carried out according to the norms of the district authorities. The faithful find quite at ease with the participation in online Eucharist. The feasts of St. Anne and Joachim and St. Ignatius of Loyola were celebrated on 26th July.

-Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo

The Parish has minimized its activities due to Covid- 19 lockdown however the work in the farm is in full swing. Br. John Sona almost completed the paddy transplantation in the field in spite of lockdown hoping to have bumper crops this year.

The inspection of St. Xavier's School, Rajpur for CBSE affiliation by the CBSE team was supposed to take place in the middle of June but due to lockdown it was postponed till further notice. According to the norms, for inspection by CBSE the presence of teachers and students is mandatory. Thus, it may take place later.

St. Xavier's school got 100% results in 10th CG Board and brought lots of smiles and cheers to the students, guardians, teachers and management. One of the students secured 9th position in the state toppers list and topped in the District of Balrampur. There were 6 more students who were in the list of District Toppers. Lots of best wishes and congratulations were pouring in. Special Award ceremony was organized on 15/7/2020 at District headquarters by district administration where these students along with Fr. Sebastian Tigga, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's School, Rajpur were honored with awards of Mementos, Certificates and Cheques. Congratulations and all the best! The community members prepared themselves spiritually for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola by Novena to St. Ignatius, however we had decided to follow the directives of our Provincial regarding the celebration of the feast.

-Fr. Isaac Kujur, SJ

St. Xavier's School , Rajpur

On 5th of June 2020, Fr. Policarp Xalxo, SJ, the new Superior of Jhingo-Rajpur Jesuit community joined the community. He received our welcome and was sanitized. He was the first person to follow the first dead line of the transfer of the year in spite of lockdown during a pandemic. But no sooner did he arrive at Rajpur than he complained about his left ear. He expressed, "I cannot hear others properly with my left ear but mobile. He consulted ENT Doctor at Ambikapur which was made possible on his second visit. Some ear wax was found in his left ear which was treated with Hydrogen Peroxides. There was no complaints afterwards.

On 15th of June the community bid farewell to our dear Frs. Deobhushan Toppo, SJ and Elphiz Minj, SJ with heavy hearts and wished them all the best wishes for their new assignments.

The community meeting held on 28/6/2020, at Nirmala Ashram Jhingo helped to plan the destination and designations, Budgets for the session 2020-2021. All shared their experiences at the end about the last year and became familiar with new responsibilities. In a way there was a discernment process, action, experience, evaluation, correction etc. We reminded ourselves, "the community is a mission". Let the community be light and hope for others.

-Fr. Isaac Kujur, SJ

St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar

Due to the pandemic, exams in RVTC were delayed this year, and were conducted from 8th to 18th of July. The exams were conducted online which went on smoothly. There were some underprivileged students who did not have the necessary facilities at home, and were accommodated in the hostel only during the exam. The good God was gracious during this time of exam to the students and the teachers. Thus, everything went on well and all were satisfied. A big thanks to Fr. Rajesh Xalxo and all the staff of RVTC for the successful completion.

The showers of rain brought abundance of grace to St. Joseph's campus Kerakachhar and elegant green carpet can be witnessed by the visitors. The plentiful rain blessed the paddy fields as well which made the sowing the seeds in the fields possible on time. The whole community rejoiced to see the tender plants growing and dancing to the gentle breeze. A big thanks to the Lord almighty and congratulations to Br. Ignace the minister for this satiating job. Fr. Gyan had been silently toiling in the garden during this rainy season who had planted plenty of *Sarai* and *Mahogany* plants in the campus which were shooting up to the sky with the rain and shine. Congratulations to Fr. Gyan for his contribution towards protecting the mother earth and environment.

The distribution of the ration of the mid-day meal was a kind of humble service to the people who needed it the most during the lockdown period. A day was fixed and the students were called to the Loyola School campus, Gorrapara, to take the ration, keeping in mind all the precautions underlined by the government. The kind work brought smiles to the faces of the students and their parents as well. Congratulations to the Br. Ignace, the headmaster and all the staff.

-Dn. Alok Toppo, S.J.

Loyola House , Kunkuri :

An orientation cum recollection was organized at Loyola House, Kunkuri on 27th June for its members as well as for the members of Shanti Bhavan, Jashpur. Fr. Marianus Kerketta, SJ was the resource person of the event. Through his thought provoking talk he urged the members to seek depth in all aspects of their life. The event ended with adoration followed by fellowship meal.

Sch. Pranay Wilson Kujur completed his regency and left for Tarunoday, Boreya for his theological studies on 2nd July. The same day Sch. Tobias Tigga came back from Tarunoday, Boreya to Kunkuri after completing two years of theological studies.

Sch. Firoz Fulgence Bara and Sch. Tobias went to St. Xavier's Ambikapur on 6th July to attend UAP- PAP orientation training programme and came back on 10th July.

The novena in preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola began on 21st July. It became a grace-laden opportunity to deepen our love for the Society and to grow in the spirit and charism of our Founder.

-Sch. Vinay Toppo, S.J.

Loyola College Kunkuri :

The third week of June was the time to get ready for the new academic session. Fr. Oscar S. Tirkey and Fr. Ignace Kindo went out for the 1st phase of advertisement with pamphlets. They visited many schools, such as: on 25th of June BL higher secondary school Bandarchuwa, Jumikela and Jokbahala; on 26th of June Tapkara Hindi and English medium schools, Tamamunda, Kansabel Hindi and English medium schools, Basen, Musgutri and Bhadia; on 29th of June Ghaghra, Harradippa, Holy Cross Gholeng Hindi and English medium schools and Pratap Higher Secondary School Gholeng. And on 30th of June St Mary's Higher Secondary School Duldula and Nirmala Higher Secondary School Nawatoli, Kunkuri. Soon the message was spread all around, meanwhile the directives of University received that no student should be called in the college campus for admission. In spite of all these hurdles, we went around for the 2nd phase of advertisement with new ideas and a new mode of advertisement that is admission in the student's campus. The 2nd phase began on 11th of July and the schools covered were: BL higher secondary school Bandarchuwa, Jumaikela, Jokbahala and Ginabahr; on 15th of July Loyola Hindi and English medium schools; on 16th of July Tapkara Hindi and English medium schools, Tamamunda, Kansabel Hindi and English medium schools, BL Higher Secondary School Sarhapani, Basen, Musgutri and Bharia; on 18th of July Jashpuranchal English medium school and Ghaghra, due to breakdown of our vehicle we could not reach Harradippa. We were thankful to Fr. Fulgence Lakra, SJ for his timely help, we were also grateful to Shanti Bhavan Jashpur community for giving us shelter for a night. On 19th of July we visited Holy Cross Gholeng Hindi and English medium schools, Pratap Higher secondary school Gholeng and Nirmala higher secondary school Nawatoli Kunkuri and on 22nd of July we visited St. Mary's Higher Secondary School Duldula. All the schools which were visited, and the college admission form were given to the principals. The students need to fill up the form in the school itself. The online will be done in the college when the University portal is on. To facilitate the students, we have some computer centres for online filling up of the form. Kunkuri has three computer centres: Gupta computers, Tirkey Computers and Vidya computers; One each centre is in Dokra Sandeep Kumar Chauhan computers; Pharsabahr: Subodh Xalxo computers; Kansabel: Dilip computers; Bagicha and Sarabhkombo Amit Jain computers. Interested students can fill up the form in one of these nearby computer centres.

On 10th of July Loyola College Kunkuri conducted the interviews for the post of assistant professors for various departments: Two for Chemistry, one each for English and Botany Department. The Four-member panel consisted of Mrs Anastacia, Principal of Government College Duldula, Fr. Marianus Kerketta the Vice President, Loyola Jesuit Society, Fr. Oscar S. Tirkey, Loyola college Principal and Fr. Anand Tirkey. One of the interviewees was Fr. Ignace Kindo. He was selected for the post of assistant professor of Botany. Fr. Telesphore Lakra, was busy making the campus green and making the things ready for the new academic session while Fr. Cornelius Ekka, was busy with the students' assignment. We had full Staff in the first half of July. As the situation became more threatening due to Covid-19, the staff coming from the red zone area were exempted.

-Fr. Ignace Kindo, SJ

St. Ignatius Church, Namna

Praying with St. Ignatius during the Novena in Namna Parish is a wonderful and grace filled moment for each one of us during this lockdown. The creative and conducive atmosphere was created by the one leading the prayer. It helped us to prepare to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius worthily. We hoped the same from all the Jesuits of the Province.

Fr. Virendra Xalxo, and Dn Preetam Prakash Panna were new members to the community. There was a warm welcome by the community on our arrival. We tried to do our best during the pandemic to carry forward the Parish ministry. With due permission from the Government there was some possibility for the administration of some of the sacraments, like: Baptism, Marriage and funeral service. We have in our community a regular Holy Eucharistic celebration. There were times when we were trying to help the souls in different ways possible. It was rather difficult to work during this lockdown. The church building construction was very gradual.

The two theology students : Schs. Rakesh and Amit were busy attending their online classes. The Deacon got ample opportunities to learn how to administer the sacraments along with the preparation for the exam. Fr. Pratap Toppo kept himself busy taking care of the garden, kitchen and farm besides pastoral work. The Parish Priest made effort for the pastoral works. In this way all of us were busy in one way or the other.

Dn. Preetam Prakash, SJ.

Jeevan Vikas Maitri (JVM) Pathalgaon,

The JVM staff was busy in preparing the quarterly report of Lok Manch project in the first week and sent the reports in time, including the audit report. On 9th July Fr. Yacub and animators attended a training programme at Janpad office Pathalgaon organized by district administration on FRA (Forest Right Act, 2006). Mr. Manohar Chauhan was the official trainer. All the officials concerned and members of the Forest Right Committee were the participants. The following day Yacub accompanied the master trainer to give training on the same at Pharsabahr. On 12th July a meeting on FRA was held at Dharamjaigarh organized by NGOs. About thirty representatives, including SDM attended the meeting and planned to help in accelerating the claim process of Community Forest Right by Gram Sabha. On 14th July *Khilbri* plants and Kujur creepers were planted in the campus. On 17th July some of the staff members attended a webinar on health campaign focusing on COVID-19. On 28th July a meeting on FRA was held at Mahuadarha village. Many



villagers attended the meeting. After due explanation on FRA the villagers agreed to claim for CFR. Responsibilities were assigned among the committee members. Within a month they expected to complete the preparation of documents needed. On 29th we had a review meeting of Lok Manch activities with the staff. We planned to speed up accessing government benefits to the people. The staff members also attended a zoom meeting organized by the national Lok Manch team and shared their experiences and activities.

Some JVM staff members helped Asha Deep community members in paddy transplantation which was completed on 23 July. On 20th July Asha Deep had a community meeting with the new superior Fr. Robert Tigga, SJ who arrived on 18th July, to plan for the forthcoming feast and house activities. JVM's activities and plans were shared in the meeting.

Fr. Yacub composed some poems and wrote articles on current issues and published them on social media and periodicals. Fr. Chandu had gone to Bhopal with regard to his Ph. D. work.

-Fr. Yacub Kujur, S.J.

Prakash School , Pathalgaon

Fr. Justin Kujur, S.J. and Sch. Anup Minj, S.J. joined Prakash Community this year on June 10, 2020. They were warmly welcomed by tradition by washing of the feet and handing over the bouquets. On 19th of June we had a community recollection to prepare ourselves spiritually for the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the Patron Saint of Prakash School. Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur, S.J. offered a short reflection on the life of the Saint.

On 21st of June we celebrated the feast. The Holy Mass was very solemn presided over by Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur, S.J. He reiterated five lessons from the life of St. Aloysius Gonzaga in the homily. In the evening we had a grand dinner for which St. Xavier's and Asha Deep Jesuits were invited.

Our first Community meeting of this academic year was held on 1st of July, 2020. Though the commencement of classes/school is uncertain due to Covid-19, we chalked out some action plans for the new academic year. The School Managing Committee meeting was organized on 3rd of July, 2020. In this meeting some concerns of school were discussed and action plans were made. Sch. Anup Minj, S.J. attended UAP-Province Apostolic Planning Orientation Programme at St. Xavier's Ambikapur from 6th to 9th July. This programme was organized by the UAP-PAP Committee for the MAP Scholastics.

We completed our paddy plantation on 17th July, 2020. All the members of the Community took active part in it. It reminded us of our childhood days, when we used to transplant paddy. Keeping the fourth universal apostolic preference, namely "To collaborate in the care of our common Home" in mind we planted thirty Mahogany and five hundred Saal saplings in our campus.

We had the Novena Prayers from 21st to 29th July in the community as the spiritual preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Fr. Alphonse Kispotta, S.J. gave recollection points on the last day of Novena for the Jesuits of St. Xavier's Residence, Prakash School, Asha Deep and St. Joseph's Niwas,

Kerakachhar at Asha Deep. All of us experienced inner peace and joy by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation

In view of Covid-19, we Jesuits of four communities celebrated the Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola in a simple way. In the morning all of us gathered together at Asha Deep and had a solemn Eucharist, which was presided over by Fr. Fabianus Xalxo, S.J., the new Superior and Parish Priest of Pathalgaon. Soon after this, we had breakfast together. In the afternoon, we thoroughly enjoyed a friendly badminton match at Prakash school badminton court organized by Sch. Manoj Lakra, S.J., Sch. Arvind Kujur, S.J. and Dn. Dino Toppo, S.J. At the end of the day, we had a grand festive dinner in our respective communities.

-Sch. Anup Minj, S.J.

St. Xavier Niwas, Nimha

The Manager, Collaborator Sisters Teresa Paul and Rose Ekka were transferred. The staff and the students said a big thank you. Sisters Regina Xess and Erma Minj, the new members, were welcomed heartily and wished them a happy and fruitful stay.

St. Xavier's Nimha enjoyed juicy mangoes shared by St. Xavier's Community Umaria.

The Month of July was a blessing for us when Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial and Frs. Elphiz Minj SJ, Mahant Ekka SJ, Sanjay Kujur SJ, blessed us with their presence in different times.

Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J. lost two of his family members, on 12th May, Samir Tigga, his nephew and on 15th July, his elder brother Pascal Minj.

There was no sufficient rain here but transplantation was begun in the fields.

-Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J.

Loyola Sadan, Novitiate, Lucknow

The first day of the month brought us more joy as Fr. Nicholas took charge of the Socius to the Novice Master. On 7th July we had a thanksgiving mass and cultural evening for Fr. George as he completed his term as Socius. He left for his new mission on 11th July. Having completed 15 days of Probation, 13 first year novices entered the regular life of the novitiate. We celebrated the birthday of Brs. Wilson, Barnabas and Anish and thanked God for their gift of life and vocation to the Society of Jesus. In honour of them, we had a friendly basketball match between first and second years. We watched a movie in the evening, based on "Life of St. Anthony of Padua". It was very inspiring and touching for us. We had a presentation on the Autobiography of St. Ignatius by the first years. We celebrated the feast of our founder St. Ignatius of Loyola among ourselves for the present situation was very crucial and life threatening. We had some paddy plantation in our field. It was a good opportunity for us to learn paddy transplantation. We were blessed with some good rains and the campus was very green.

- Br. Sikandar

Article 30

Financial considerations and the fear as we heard Fr. Van der Linden say that Government would strictly adhere to their principle of non-interference, caused the Mission to abstain from a higher appeal. Fr. Bressers in the same letter to Fr. Waelkens, Superior Regular, quoted above concludes, "After reading these documents, it seems to me that I cannot continue or rather begin a new suit at Nagpur, without writing to you. It is not an appeal, but a new lawsuit, that will be very costly. In my opinion there is little hope of success. If the Chief Commissioner is not well disposed it will not be difficult to show that proofs are incomplete, insufficient, even on some points contradictory. I think it safer to await the return of His Grace and his intervention with the Viceroy." We saw, from the interview with Sir Benjamin Robertson, that the Archbishop obtaining no redress, spoke to the latter about a possible appeal to the Viceroy.

This is the first allusion in the contemporary documents, to some planned recourse to the Viceroy. From the last chapter we know the effect produced by interviewing the Higher Officials: Mr. Napier and Mr. Robertson. The direct result was apparently insignificant; indirectly, however, that recourse to the higher spheres put the Political Agent and the Raja more on their guard, so that Fr. Bressers could end his letter by stating: "For the moment, thanks to God, everything is very calm in Jashpur." According to Leddhe Patras' opinion, expressed in 1938, they obtained nothing. The Archbishop was back by the beginning of October. On 24th October 1911, Fr. Bressers sent him a letter of welcome mentioning at the same time the recent most striking events on his side:

1. The first was that of **Chonya & Co. of Khonga**. "At the beginning of the rainy season the pagans of Khonga had a *panchayat* to ask the Christians (4 houses) whether they intended remaining Christians. On their answer being in the affirmative, the pagans began to plough and sow their *tands* i.e. of these Christians. With Chonya, their chief, the latter made a lawsuit at Jashpurnagar. There the *mukhtar*, the master *babu* (preceptor of the son of the Raja now doing work of a judge and Deokinandan (*sirsedar*) told them: "Become pagan and your complaint will be inquired into." This master *babu* was called Bagehi, and his name will often appear subsequently.

Chonya & Co. refused. In spite of this, they recalled them for another day. They appeared that day without witnesses, "because no one wanted to give evidence in their favour." As they had no witnesses the judge advised them: "Sign a *rajinama* to show that you drop the matter." Stupidly or from fear that they might be retained at Nagar, they signed the paper. However when

the *gundli* was ripe on their fields, which had been sown by those pagans, Chonya and his companions went to harvest it. They were immediately arrested, and taken to the *thana* of Harakpur: 4 men and 4 women. Not to be beaten, and to get the women released, they gave Rs. 28/- to the *thanedar* and *munshi*. They were led to Nagar, but this time they had several witnesses who all affirmed that the *tands* belonged to the Christians. But the judge, taking account only of their written promise condemned each to Rs. 5/- made them execute another promise that they would pay Rs. 25/- if they cultivated that land again."

2. **Paulus, Pracharak of Saraitoli**. "Last July when most of the Uraons had refused to return to paganism, the police gave orders in several villages to go and cultivate at *Mandua pahad* and the *patth* of Gajma. This was a new kind of *begari*. Those lands had formerly been cultivated by the inhabitants of Gajma; but the Raja made their village disappear under pretext that his game at *Mandua pahad* diminished through it. They send there now the people of villages 6 miles distant. "To my *Pracharaks*, my direction was to exact an order written by the Raja for this *begari*, as they had not to give it before, this Paulus of Saraitoli did. "On 25 September he was called to Nagar with the *rayats* of Saraitoli. The *rayats* got each one 2 or 3 strokes from a stick. They say so although I do not insist on this. "As to the *Pracharak*, he was questioned, and answered that he had not prevented the *begari*, but had advised the Christians to ask for an order signed by the Raja. For some time they kept him in a hut, then the *zemindar* Bissesser Ram, ordered a *sepoy* to take him to the *thana*, and to flog him (in Hindi: to correct him). "He got 12-13 strokes on the back from a leather strap. Since another *Pracharak* heard the order of the *zemindar* and the Christians of Saraitoli were witnesses of the beating, I have told Paulus to institute a case."

3. **Asta affair**: Fr. Bressers states that the inhabitants of this village had that year shifted their village to a distance of 200 yds. Thereupon they were ordered to vacate their fields, which they refused to do and were ordered to the court of the Raja. Here they protested that these fields were theirs since long years. Thereupon, Jagru Lal (*peskar* of the collectory court) and the new *Diwan*, from Ranchi, said that in Jashpur there were no 'occupancy rights', that the Raja can seize any kind of land." Four times they were recalled to Nagar to have the order repeated to vacate those fields. "The 4th time, on 4 October 1911, they were told to sign a *darkhast*. What this *darkhast* was for, I do not know, nor did they understand. But frightened and stupid, they signed the *darkanst* which was taken to the *Diwan*. This one read before them: By this *mochilka* you promise to vacate these fields. Woe to you, if you do not execute your promise."

"On 16 October 1911, the Christians having realised their blunder, returned to Nagar and submitted a petition on stamped paper. The *Diwan* and Jagru Lal listened to their complaint. The Christians asked that the *mochilka* be returned to them, as they had been deceived. The *Diwan* did not open his mouth. Jagru Lal pretended to search for the *mochilka* but said that he could not find it! "You see Mgr. that at Jashpur Nagar there is no more an organized court of justice. Since 4 months there is no Judge entitled to a criminal court. Last year there was a Bengali judge, "a very just man, who decided several cases in favour of the Christians. This must have been Naresh Chandra Sinha, who gave the remarkable verdict in favour of Bola, *Pracharak* of Patratoli, against Lallu, a nephew of the Feudatory Chief. This man disappeared at the beginning of the Rains. Next the former preceptor of the Raja's son was acting judge, he too is gone. Now the Raja's son, judges himself criminal cases. All the men employed at the *katchery* of Jashpur Nagar are tenants of the Raja. The fear of losing their village makes of them docile instruments in the hands of the Raja. One may ask how such people can judge their own victims. For these judges are *zemindars* and *thikkedars* of villages, who have exercised the strongest pressure on the Christians. The Raja has always kept himself and still keeps himself, behind them. No one can approach him.

"Allow me to add before concluding Mgr., that the only hope of our poor Christians lies in your intervention. They have suffered in patience awaiting your return from Europe, but they would be terribly disappointed and irretrievably discouraged if no effort were made to deliver them from the oppression they are undergoing since 4 months. "I have tried to give you an exact idea of the situation. I have lost 5 villages in this severe storm. But of the 5 villages, 4 will return as soon as they observe some intervention of the English government. But if this intervention does not occur, and if our Christians have no help against these brutalities of the police, the Raja, the *zemindars* and *thikkedars*, I am afraid we may have to deplore a very great number of defections."

Before the Archbishop could interview Mr. Napier, the Commissioner of Raipur, or Mr. Robertson, the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, some more letters arrived to prove that "everything was not so very calm in Jashpur" as Fr. Bressers had made believe Fr. Waelkens on 7 September 1911 last. On 12 November, Fr. Bressers wrote again to the Archbishop, in reply to some enquiry of the latter: "In answer to Your Grace's letter, received on the 9th, I hasten to give the villages, and the number of isolated people, that have given up Christianity under pressure of the police or local authorities.. (a) Villages that have given up: Kotadih, Harradipah, Arakona, Alori, Gulu, Jhadgaon. Of these villages, however, Harri, Alori, Gulu and Jhadgaon have since begun again to go to *Girja*. (b) Villages where individual persons have abandoned: Andhla: 3 houses; Bildih : 2 houses; Bhimsela: 2 houses; Lukhi: 6 houses; Saraitoli: 5 houses.

As to difference of treatment meted out to Christians, and apostates after defection, I know only these 2 cases: (1). All the *rayats* of Bildih have been taken for *begari* to Gajmapat

(*Mandua pahad*) to cultivate there land that had never been cultivated through *begari*. The only ones exempted from this toil were the apostates: Khakhri and Chilgu. (2). At Lukhi and Saraitoli, the Christians were obliged to give up cultivating lands on the mountain since many years they worked those fields. The only ones allowed to continue were the apostates. "Allow me to add Mgr. that those who have continued to remain faithful to their religion are at the end of their patience. We would bear all this ill-treatment in good cheer, if only the missionaries could establish themselves among us. It is now 5 years that we are Christian, and we have still to do *girja* under trees. When will this come to an end?"

"On my return from Ranchi in November 1911, I went to visit the villages of Jashpur, in particular those that have apostatized. Besides Patea that has left on account to vexations of the *thikkedar* and Ganjhad on account of refusal of a marriage, have left: Harri, Kotadih, Harradipa, Arakona, Alori, Jhadgaon and Gulu. Harri has come back to *girja* in August 1911, except 3 houses that remain pagan. With much trouble did I succeed in convincing Alori, Jhadgaon and Gulu to return to the fold. They consented on condition that they get as *Pracharak* Gabriel (Bhimsela). I entered Harradipah and Kotadih and told them that if within 2 months they have not returned to *girja*, I shall send them a *piyada* who will claim back all the rupees lent, with 24% interest, and all costs incurred by the Mission for their *Pracharak* and their lawsuits. Since then Kotadih has returned and Harradipah desires to follow, but there are 2 or 3 bad fellows who with the *ganjhu* prevent them from carrying out their desire."

On 25 November 1911, Fr. Bressers informed the Archbishop that Patea (Pessa) *Pracharak* of Asta, who had built himself a hut of branches, according to the Rule laid down by the Raja, had been called 6 times to Nagar about this. He is now reduced to build another on a plot to be indicated. Fr. Bressers rightly asks when they will come and indicate it. There is no end of inflicting great hardships in calling people from such distances to Nagar, but they themselves (Government people) will do little to help the aggrieved persons. Meanwhile they allow the *Pracharak* to live in the house of a Christian.

He also mentions Suliman, *Pracharak* of Khaidkona, accused of having beaten a woman. Although all evidence appears to be against the saying of the woman, the *thanedar* threatens Suliman with 6 months' prison. The last of the very large number of letters and documents of the year 1911 (69 in all), a year full of disturbances, is from the pen of Fr. Bressers. It is dated 19 December 1911. In it he states that Suliman of Khaidkona was fined Rs.10/-, though all the witnesses were in his favour. On the other hand the local *thanedar*, mentioned above, "a rogue," has been dismissed from his office for having extorted money from Christians. Was this one of the good effects of the meeting, held lately between Mr. A. Napier and the Archbishop? Anyhow Fr. Bressers is curious to know the result of the meeting, and promises the prayers and best wishes of the Jashpurians on the occasion of the coming Christmas. He ends his letter by repeating what he told Fr. Waelkens 5 months earlier, "For the moment there is peace in Jashpur, a little everywhere." That peace was evidently "relative", and the "everywhere" was meant chiefly for his district.

Compiled by— Fr. Agapit Tirkey

The Result of CBSE Delhi Board in 10th and 12th Session 2019-2020

| S.N. | Name of the School | % of Result in 10th | % of Result in 12th |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 01. | Campion School Bhopal | 99.68 % | 98 % |
| 02. | Loyola School, Bilaspur | 93 % | 92 % |
| 03. | Campion School, Bhouri | 95 % | 81 % |
| 04. | Loyola School Kunkuri | 65 % | — |
| 05. | Campion School, Raipur | 94 % | — |

"Education means inspiring someone's mind, not just filling their head."
Katie Lusk

Rest in Peace

| | |
|------------|---|
| 03.07.2020 | Fr. Joseph L. Pragasam, S.J. (MDU 83/64) |
| 05.07.2020 | Fr. Paul Jackson, S.J. (HAZ/PAT 83/64) |
| 29.07.2020 | Fr. George Girsper-Sauch, S.J. (BOM, 90/73) |
| 07.08.2020 | Mrs. Dorothea Tirkey (87) the eldest sister of Fr. Polycarp Xalxo |
| 12.05.2020 | Mr. Sameer Tigga, the nephew of Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J. |
| 15.07.2020 | Mr. Pascal Minj, the elder brother of Benedict Minj, S.J. |

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN AUGUST FOR ETERNAL REST

| S.N. | NAME | DEATH | BIRTH |
|------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 01 | Fr. Louis De Raedt | 05 Aug 1996 | 22 May 1914 |
| 02 | Fr. Theodore Toppo (T) | 08 Aug 2019 | 14 Sep 1939 |
| 03 | Br. Junas Lakra | 09 Aug 1990 | 09 Oct 1929 |
| 04 | Br. Alois Toppo | 09 Aug 2009 | 15 Jun 1933 |
| 05 | Fr. Telesphore Kerketta | 11 Aug 2013 | 21 Nov 1927 |
| 06 | Fr. Jules Van Oostayen | 19 Aug 2003 | 31 Aug 1908 |
| 07 | Br. Stephen Soreng | 19 Aug 2014 | 08 Feb 1944 |
| 08 | Fr. John Baptist Wynant | 24 Aug 1990 | 07 Aug 1909 |
| 09 | Fr. Lawrence Van Roey | 28 Aug 1997 | 13 Jan 1905 |
| 10 | Fr. Luc Verstraete | 31 Aug 1993 | 31 Mar 1923 |
| 11 | Fr. Michael Van den Bogaert | 31 Aug 2009 | 16 Oct 1928 |

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

01 Panna Anil
03 Panna Kalyan Kr
05 Tigga Sushil (K)
05 Xaxa Milyan
07 Lakra Ravindra
08 Kujur Kuldeep
09 Minj Herman Joseph
11 Tirkey Suresh
12 Tirkey Agapit
13 Tigga William
15 Beck Sylvanus
16 Toppo Theodore (A)
16 Xalxo T. Amritlal
17 Minj Petrus
19 Kispotta Alphonse
19 Kujur Christdhari
19 Xalxo Ignatius
20 Toppo Pancratius
21 Baxla Nazarius
21 Lakra Telesphore
24 Kerketta Blacius
28 Tigga Cyril R.
28 Toppo William

SEPTEMBER

01 Ekka Amardeep
01 Minj Alphonse
05 Ekka Anit
13 Kerketta Petrus
13 Bara Firoj Fulgence
13 Tirkey Sandeep
15 Panna Boniface
15 Tirkey Vipin Kishore
16 Toppo Manoj
17 Lakra Fulgence
18 Ekka Avishkar
19 Minj Xavier

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