

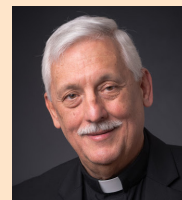
### OFFICIAL.....

#### **FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED:**



Soosai Mani, SJ – Provincial, Delhi Province

He is currently the Superior of Sahayog Jesuit community in Delhi. He is also Province Consultant and the PCF. He will assume office as Provincial on 15 August 2020. The Patna Jesuits congratulate him and assure him of our prayers.



#### **WITH THE APPROVAL OF FR. GENERAL, FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED:**

Thomas Anthonysamy – Province Treasurer, w.e.f. September, 2020



#### **FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED:**

Cebin Sebastian	-	Manthan, Khagaul, till Jan 2020
Gnana Muthu (DEL)	-	Reg. Yr. II, Sanjivan Niwas
Jesuraj Kolandaisamy	-	Gyanoday, Khaspur
Juno Sebastian	-	Tertianship, Sitagarha, Hazaribag
Paul Mariadoss	-	Acting Dir.& CL, Ashadeep, Muz.
Periyanayagam Selvanayagam	-	K. R., Bettiah
Raneesh Jose	-	Dir. Candidates, Sanjivan Niwas
Ranjan Gyana Lazarus	-	Co-pastor, Barbigaha
Sr. Gracy, BS	-	Acting Dir, Manthan, Khagaul

## NEW PROVINCE COORDINATORS:

Anand Prakash Kerketta	-	Social Action (PCSA)
Anthony Pandanath	-	Ecology (PCEc)
Joy Pulikunnel	-	Renewal (PCR)
Mathew Manoj V	-	Brothers, PCB
Thomas Antonysamy	-	Finance (PCFi)
Tomy Joseph Nishaant	-	Higher Education (PCHE)

*Province is grateful to the outgoing Coordinators, namely Fr Alwyn Vaz (Finance), Fr. Anto Joseph (Social Action), Fr. Mathew Chemplany (Renewal), Fr Robert Athickal (Ecology), Br Siluvainathan (Brothers) and Fr. Thomas Perumalil (Higher Education)*

Thanks also to the outgoing members of the Province Commissions. Please see page no. 09 for the full details of Province Commissions.

## **Provincial's Programme**

August 2020 - The Provincial will be in office in Patna.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Dn. Rajesh Somepalli, SJ**, will be ordained a priest **on 12 September 2020 by Most Rev. William D' Souza, SJ**, the Archbishop of Patna, at St. Xavier's, Patna,. Considering the pandemic, the invitees will be limited.

Considering that Xavier Nilaya is unable to accommodate our candidates this year due increasing number of covid cases in Bangalore and the restrictions imposed, Fr. Provincial, in consultation with the Provincial of Delhi, our Formation and Vocation team, has decided to set up **the Candidate House in Sanjivan Niwas, Patna** for 2020-2021. **Fr Sushil Bilung, PCVP and Fr Edward Dungdung, PCF**, are coordinating the task of bringing candidates from different locations in Bihar and Jharkhand.

**Frs Antonysamy Joseph, Dominic Francis Xavier and Juno Sebastian** went on 29 July 2020 to St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha, Hazaribag for their tertianship

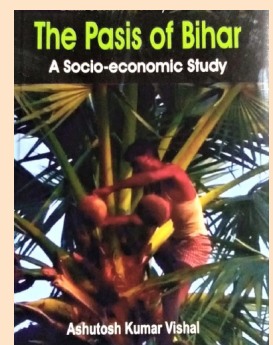
## **Emails & Mob Numbers**

Raymond Cherubim: [raysj@rediffmail.com](mailto:raysj@rediffmail.com)  
Periyanayagam -: 8797306160  
George Nedumattam- 8757480602, 7004626009  
George Ayyankal - 9430458029

Rajeev Ranjan - 8986906474  
Saji Varghese - 9006652021, 9334515765  
Siji Poovathinkal - 8340754298

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

A much delayed publication due to Covid-19 crisis, XISR's 43rd publication is out of the press, but not released yet. The book entitled, **The Pasis of Bihar: A Socio - economic Study**, authored by Dr. Ashutosh Kumar Vishal, a research scholar of XISR, is based on a research project of XISR under the guidance of Fr.(Dr) Jose Kalapura. The book is jointly published by XISR and Janaki Prakashan, Patna/Delhi, and is the 10th in the series of XISR's Bihar Subaltern Study. Congratulations to **Fr. Jose Kalapura, Director of XISR**





## LOCAL REPORTS

**Aurangabad:** The Aurangabad community is all hearty and hale during this lockdown period. God has been so gracious to us all. The liturgical celebration for the parishioners is suspended during this period. The online classes are in full swing and we are going to begin the First Online Term Exam from 05 August. The lockdown did not bring down the enthusiasm of our students. We celebrated the Ignatian week for 7 days prior to the feast with different themes and appropriate videos. On the Feast Day, we conducted the online Ignatian Quiz on the life and legacy of St. Ignatius. A short video on discernment and message was presented for all the parents and students, wishing them on the feast day. We had novena in honour of St. Ignatius and instead of homily during mass we listened to the talks given by Chennai Jesuits. We also started the Jubilee Prayer during mass. **Frs Tom Perumalil, Armstrong** and Kalyanus Minj paid us a short visit on 03 July. **Fr Norbert Menezes** conducted two days of English workshop for our teachers on 06 and 07 July. He conducted a webinar for the teachers of two schools of Kerala Province on the theme; "Teach to impact the lives of students". On 11 July, at the request of the Bishop of Buxar, **Fr Norbert** who is also the Director of Diocesan Schools conducted an online meeting for all the Secretaries and Principals of the schools regarding fee payment and online classes. He conducted the First ever online Education Commission Meet on 21 July. We continue to guide and monitor the classes for our dalit students.



- Manish Osta

**Ashadeep, Muzaffarpur:** The months of June- July were hectic months for Ashadeep. We could reach all our trainees to their homes after the long lockdown. We began the second phase of distribution of food packets to the poor affected by covid-19. **Fr Deepak Lakra** and Mr. Sikandar Kumar visited many Musahar Villages and slum dwellers to collect data and distribute dry rations. We distributed ration, masks and sanitizers to 750 families in 12 villages; around 7000 Musahars benefited from this. We are grateful to MISEREOR for their contribution. The heavy rain in the district of Muzaffarpur affected our house too as the campus is waterlogged. **Fr Paul Mariadass** took over as acting director of Ashadeep and **Fr George Ayyankanal** joined us as a community member in the third week of July, 2020. Fr Vincent Francis offered the Holy Eucharist to commence the novena prayer to St. Ignatius and to welcome the new community members on 22 July. On 27 July, **Fr Dominic Xavier** left for tertianship in Hazaribag. **Fr Joseph Srampickal** was admitted to KHFH, Patna. After being discharged from the hospital, he recuperated in Xavier Bhawan for a few days before returning to Ashadeep. The feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated within our campus communities.



- Dominic FX

**Barbigha:** The month of July brought new members to our Barbigha mission. **Fr Ranjan Lazarus** joined our community on 21 July. Sr. Roshni and Sr. Poonam of Sacred Heart Sisters have joined our mission to render their service in the school. On 03 July, **Fr Raneesh** went to Tarumitra to make his retreat. On 20 July, Fr Peter Ignatius went to St. Xavier's, Patna, to give recollection. **Sch Ravi Bhushan** came to Barbigha for his home visit. He spent time with the community on Sundays. We began the Novena to St. Ignatius on 22 July. On 31 July, we had the feast day mass along with SH sisters.



- Prakash Antony

**Gaunaha:** Fr Rajan Lakra took extra care to sanitize the school building after the quarantine center was vacated. He himself disinfected the campus with sodium hypochlorite solution thoroughly and got the classrooms ready. Fr Babu went to Ratanpurwa for two days of recollection on 12 and 13 July under the guidance of Fr Maxentius Lakra. Srs. Lissy and Amali (OLP) foresaw the needs of the community and procured ration as the villages of Gaunaha Block were getting flooded. Since the neighborhood was waterlogged due to torrential rain, snakes and tortoise found our campus dry and safe for their shelter. We had to be on alert to protect ourselves from cobra and vipers. Bro Francis Thattaparambil underwent cataract operation on 02 July. He was well-taken care of by Xavier Bhavan and KR communities during and after the operation. To add to the misery of the COVID-19 impact, many villages of Gaunaha were severely affected by flash floods. Fr Babu maintained contacts with the children, SHG women and animators through phone calls, video conference and visits. He also visited the flood affected villages and distributed tarpaulin to a few families. Along with our coworkers and residential staff, we had a meaningful Novena to St. Ignatius culminating in the feast day celebration.



- Babu Jagadeepan

**Kaiserganj, UP:** Frs Sudeep Chacko and George Nedumattam reached Lucknow on June 13, 2020 to initiate our apostolic involvement at Kaiserganj. We stayed at Loyola Sadan, Lucknow for the past one and a half months supervising the preliminary works on campus. We stayed at our rented accommodation as and when required. Meanwhile, we got two temporary rooms ready and moved in along with a cook. We are grateful to the Jesuit Community at Loyola Sadan for their hospitality and help extended to us during the past one and a half months. We are encouraged by the warm welcome that we received from the Bishop of Lucknow and all the help given to us by the Vicar General and other clergy

- George Nedumattam

**K. R. Campus, Bettiah:** The month of July started beautifully with the feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle. There was heavy rain and lockdown restricted our movements outside. However, the first year candidates completed their period of quarantine on 22 July and joined KRCH. The same day, we started Novena to St. Ignatius of Loyola. Sadly, on 30 July, Fr. Sushil Sah, had a stroke at around 11:00 am. Immediately, he was admitted in Astha Hospital in Bettiah. His Condition was critical. He had a stroke on the right side of his body and he was not able to move his right leg and hand. His speech also was not very clear. Our community members were busy taking care of him in turns. Now he has been shifted to CNS Hospital Patna. Therefore, the celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius was very simple.

- Anuj Toppo

**Loyola Sadan, Lucknow:** The first day of July brought us more joy as Fr. Nicholas took charge as Socius to the Novice Master. On 07 July, we had thanksgiving mass and cultural evening for Fr. George Ayyankanal, the outgoing Socius. He left for his new mission on 11 July. Having completed 15 days of Probation 13 first year novices entered the regular life of the novitiate. We had a friendly basketball match between the first and second years and watched movie on "The life of St. Anthony of Padua". It was very inspiring and moving for us. There was a presentation on the Autobiography of St. Ignatius for the first years. We celebrated the feast of our founder St. Ignatius of Loyola. We had paddy plantation in our field. It was a good opportunity for us to learn planting. We are blessed with some good rains and the campus is very green.



- Sikandar



**Manthan, Khagaul:** The month of July witnessed some major events. **Fr. Cebin Sebastian** joined the community. **Fr. Juno Sebastian** left for tertianship in Hazaribag. **Fr. Donald Miranda**, the Provincial, appointed Sr. Gracy BS, a Bethany Sister, who was already engaged in Manthan for a number of months, as the Acting Director of Manthan in the absence of **Fr. Juno**. The 16th of July was the 100th Foundation Day of the Bethany Congregation. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian**, the Superior of the Manthan Jesuit Community, offered a special Mass and thanked the Sisters for their generous service here. He also welcomed **Fr. Cebin Sebastian** to our community during the Mass. In honour of **Fr. Juno**, BDVS offered a sumptuous lunch for the Manthan community. On 29 July, **Fr. Juno** along with his companions left for Hazaribagh for their tertianship. Due to increasing cases of Covid-19 our feast day celebration was simple and a low-key affair. **Fr. Jose Kariakatt** from BDVS joined us for the feast day Eucharist and evening dinner. Due to Corona Virus, our outreach programmes are affected and limited. However, we have timely staff meetings and evaluations of the present situation. Through the intervention of the Assumption sisters, we were able to distribute rations to 515 deserving families.



- Joseph Velamkunnel

**Prabhat, Sakri:** On 02 July, **Fr. Provincial** graced our community with his presence after the official visitation of Ashadeep, Muzaffarpur. He visited Samiya village to comfort the people where Mr. Lochan Saday was killed by a local liquor baron. We successfully completed transplantation from 05 to 08 July. There was a good and intermittent rain in July. There was a fruitful teacher training workshop on government schemes led by **Fr. Anand Kerketta**. We celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola meaningfully at Prabhat, Sakri on 31 July. Mr. Chandrakant and his family were part of our celebration. Although the present pandemic is worrisome, we did not let ourselves down. We kept up our zeal for the service of the poor. Core committee meeting is organized every Saturday. Although the government asked citizens to follow the restrictions of lockdown strictly, we kept in touch with our people. The lockdown has adversely affected our poor people. These days, we are trying to identify people who are in need of minimum financial help to restart their various types of small businesses for their livelihood.



- Dilip Kumar

**Sanjivan Niwas:** The month of July kept the Scholastics in Sanjivan Niwas on their toes. There have been a lot of arrangements and rearrangements done to keep the Sanjivan building ready for the arrival of the new candidates in the second week of August. Firstly, the Juniorate library has been shifted from Khaspur to Sanjivan. **Frs Edward Dungdung, Jesuraj and Antonysamy** along with their staff moved the books from RTC to Sanjivan by vehicle. The Scholastics helped in unloading the books. We systematically and orderly arranged the books and set the library in Sanjivan. Secondly, we made ready the whole building by arranging and setting all the needful things for the pleasant stay of the candidates. We had creative and prayerful nine-day novena to St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Scholastics conducted the novena on different themes based on the current pandemic scenario. It was an experience of re-living the Novitiate and Juniorate days in terms of conducting prayerful and innovative novena. **Fr George Karamayil** was admitted in KHFH for few days and the Scholastics took turns to accompany him. **Fr Joseph Velamkunnel** came to



dialogue with **Br. Sadhu** to write his biography. **Frs. Provincial, Rajesh Jacob and Selvin** visited us thrice to see if the Sanjivan building is ready for the candidates. On 29 July, **Fr Sushil Bilung** prepared the community members spiritually to celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius by leading us into a day of insightful recollection and confession. On 30 July, our co-workers had a half-day of recollection directed by **Fr Virendra** which was followed by high tea for them. We had simple decoration of the house, a solemn mass with melodious singing and a delicious dinner on the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. **Sch Ravi Bhushan** travelled to Bangalore for his higher studies on 31 July. We bid farewell to Br. Vijendra of Patna Diocese from our community.

- Amul Jacob

**Sasaram:** The highlight of the month of July was the visitation of **Fr Donald Miranda**, the Provincial, to Sasaram community on 08 July. On the same day, **Sch Cyprian Minj**, the new regent, also reached here with Fr. Provincial after two weeks of quarantine in Sanjivan Niwas, Patna. During this quarantine period, he made his annual retreat under the guidance of **Fr Junas Kujur**. Fr. Provincial's visitation was a moment of grace for all of us as we made our manifestation of conscience to him. On 19 July, **Sch Cyprian** was officially welcomed to the community with SND Sisters joining us for dinner. In preparation for the feast of our founder, we began a novena on 22 July. This novena spiritually helped us to celebrate the feast in a joyful and meaningful way. On 31 July, we had a solemn mass in the school presided over by **Fr Benny Moolan** for our Catholic teaching staff, Rosarian Brothers and a few other supporting staff. After the mass, there was a small felicitation programme put up by our school teachers. Thereafter, a festive sumptuous lunch was served to all those who were present. Indeed, it was a great day for all of us. In the evening, **Fr Rajendran Francis and Br Siluvainathan** from Chenari and our neighbouring SND sisters joined the community for a fellowship meal. At present, Sasaram seems to be a little cool and pleasant as it continues to receive sporadic rain. Greenery is seen all around Sasaram.



- Cyprian Minj

**St. Michael's, Patna:** The Rector, Principal and Vice-Principal of the school participated in the webinar organized by the Education Commission of the Province regarding how to cope-up with the present scenario. Online classes of all the classes are in full swing. Class XI admission process was conducted online. The list of students selected for admission was published on the website on 27 July.



**Dr (Fr) Thomas Varghese (Perumalil)**, after having served the College of Education for 22 years in the capacity of a lecturer and the Principal, was given a touching farewell on 04 July. During the short cultural programme, Mr. Eric de Rosario represented the alumni who along with a number of the present staff spoke of their experience with Fr. Tom and his contribution to the institution as well as to them personally. **Fr Ignatius Topno** was installed as the new Principal of St. Xavier's College of Education on 06 July 06. We thank Fr Tom for all that he has done to build up the institution. We wish **Fr Ignatius** all the best. **Fr. Tom** proceeded to the Wellness Center of Nazareth Hospital, Mokama for 10 days and returned to the community with new vigour and figure. As part of the preparation for the Ignatian Feast day, we uploaded a video with Ignatian Insight each day and the same was shown to the students before the classes began that day. **Dn Rajesh Somepalli**, was helpful with camera and editing of the



video. Each day's theme was presented by a different member for the community. Some of the staff members and their families were affected by COVID. Most of them have recovered while some are recovering. As part of the spiritual preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius, we had a Novena along with the Jesuits of Kurji parish using the videos of Chennai Jesuit Province. We found the Novena prepared by **Fr Prakash Louis**, very useful. **Fr Gregory Gomes** helped the community by conducting a day of recollection. We had a very low-key celebration of the Feast day. In the school, the office staff and class IV employees joined the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by **Fr Tom Perumalil** at 7 am followed by breakfast. Similarly, there was a Eucharistic Celebration in the College at 8.30 am presided over by **Fr Victor Osta** for the office staff and the Class IV employees. They too had breakfast after the Mass. One qualitative article written by **Fr Ignatius Topno**, titled "Corona - An Unwelcome Visitor But An Invisible Teacher", was published in the International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts ( IJCRT) Volume 8 Issue 7, July 2020. **Fr Johnson Kelakath** fell ill with fever and was down for three days. Once he recovered, one by one a number of our community members are down with seasonal fever.

- Francis Chinnappan

**Vidya Niwas, Varanasi:** With our initiative in collaboration with the Parish Priest and Youth of the parish, we have been organizing online Praise and Worship, Reconciliation, Prayer of the Faithful, Bible Classes for the children, youth and families on Sundays. **Fr Raymond Cherubim** left for Jaipur. We are waiting for **Fr Joseph Dungdung** to arrive. 19 inmates in the MC Sisters' Centre where we used to go for mass are affected by Covid-19. On 24 July, the Patna Jesuit Migrant Service Team organized a webinar between the Province Administration and the Team.

- Prakash Louis

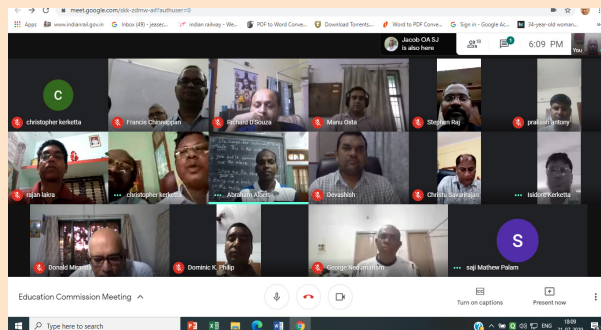
**Xavier Bhawan: Bro. Francis Thattaparambil**, who had come down to Patna a couple of days before, had cataract surgery on 02 July in Dr. Agrawal's clinic. He went back to Bettiah on the 22 July. As directed by **Fr. Provincial**, we started saying the Patna centenary prayer at the conclusion of the Eucharist on 22 July, the first day of the Novena in honour of St. Ignatius of Loyola. **Fr Joseph Dungdung** from Danapur church arrived here on 30 July for a few of days of rest after his recent illness. On the 31 July, we had a combined celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius and the birthday of **Fr Abraham Puthumana**. We celebrated the feast with lunch with our co-workers.

- Joseph Vellaringatt

**XTTI Campus, St. Xavier's College:** On 22 July, Xavier Theatre Club organized a webinar under the theme "Covid Times – Challenges and Opportunities". The guest speaker was Fr. Prannoy Stephen, IMS, who highlighted the opportunities in digital world to spread awareness about health and safety. Thanks to Mr. Ajay Kumar who took the initiative. On 26 July, Xavier Eligibility Test (XET-2) was conducted online followed by interview. The results are declared for admission. Students can apply online for XET -3. The members of the academic and social awareness committee conducted online quiz, PPT & singing competitions for students to mark the occasion of the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. These competitions were conducted under the theme "Ignatian Tips for Coping with COVID-19". On 27 July, the College started the academic year 2020-2021 for 2nd and 3rd Year students. The staff and students had orientations separately. Fr. Principal highlighted the achievements of staff and student for the academic year 2019-2020 and highlighted the challenges for the coming year. We began online classes for this semester on 30th July. On 30 July, online quiz was conducted for the teaching and administrative staff., The cultural committee under the leadership of Mr. Samar Reyaz, arranged for online celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The winners of the competitions were awarded. The members of the XTTI community suffered from flu and are enjoying good health now.

- Sebastian Alphonse

**A Report of an Online Province Education Commission Meeting:** The meeting of the Province Education Commission was conducted online on 21 July, 2020. The Principals and Vice-Principals of all our schools, some Secretaries, and our Provincial, **Fr Donald Miranda**, participated in the first ever online commission meeting. **Fr Norbert Menezes**, PCE, made sure that all the members participated in the meeting actively in spite of the poor internet connectivity in rural areas. The main objective was to interact and share views on the following points: 1) The impact of four months' lockdown on our schools; 2) Online classes; 3) Reaching out to students who are unable to attend online classes; 4) Collection of fees and teachers' salaries; 5) Skill training for teachers on effective online classes; 6) Post Pandemic Strategies; 7) Exploring platforms or avenues to reduce technological divide; and 8) Online presentation of Ignatian themes prior to St. Ignatius' Feast. A consensus emerged on the following points: 1) All teachers of our schools will participate in a training programme on effective online classes. This will be organized by principals. 2) All our school men will undergo training on the effective use of technology in the education ministry. **Fr Francis Chinnappan**, and **Fr Christie Savariraj**, will co-ordinate this programme. 3) **Fr Manish Osta**, **Fr Devashish Prasad**, and **Fr Anthony Prakash**, will assist schools in communicating Ignatian themes in English and Hindi for students and parents. 4) A collective endeavour to share teaching resources and to explore platforms to connect with the poor and rural students with poor or no internet connectivity. Finally, **Fr Norbert Menezes**, exhorted the members to share their technical expertise, to generate post pandemic strategies especially in the collection of things to clean and disinfect school buildings /campus, and to ensure concrete measures both online and offline so that no student falls behind academically.



- K. P. Dominic.

## REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

### For the Sick:

**Fr Sushil Sah** suffered a stroke on 30 July 2020 and was rushed to Astha Hospital, Bettiah. He is not able to move his right leg and hand. He was brought by ambulance to Patna and is admitted to CNS Hospital, Patna, on 01 August 2020. He has been moved to a room from the ICU now. He is out of danger but will require time to recover.

**Fr George Karamayil** who was admitted to KHFH, Patna, has returned to Sanjivan Niwas, Patna.

**Fr Joseph Srampickal** who was admitted to KHFH, Patna, has also returned to his community.

**Fr Joseph Dungdung** who was down with fever at Danapur is recuperating in Xavier Bhawan.

**Fr Armstrong** is admitted to KHFH with fever.

### For the Departed:

Mr. Basant Minj, brother- in- law of **Sch. Dinesh Toppo, SJ**, died on 19 July 2020 in Chandigarh.

Mr. Rekha Devi, (52), sister in law of **Fr Victor Virendra, SJ**, expired on 23 July 2020 in Patna.

Mrs. Mary Menamthundathil, (85) **elder sister of Fr Joseph Kunnumpuram, SJ**, died on 28 July, 2020

**Fr George Gispert-Sauch** (BOM 90/73) died on 29 July 2020 in the Province Infirmary in Mumbai.

Mr. Cyril Hembrom, 62, **cousin of Fr Augustine Kisku, SJ**, died on 01 August 2020.

**The Patna Jesuits** express their heartfelt condolences to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at the sudden demise of **Very Rev. Sr. Elsita, SSH, (70) the Superior General of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart**, on 30 July 2020 in Patna. She had been the Superior General since December 2018. Sr. Elsita had mostly served in formation and administration. She was also the Provincial of Ranchi Province. She was an inspiring leader, committed religious and fine human person. May her soul rest in peace!





## PROVINCE COMMISSIONS

**BROTHERS:** **Manoj Mathew V. (Chair)**, Joseph Anthonydoss, Joseph Vetticatt, Mathew Pampackal, Siluvainathan and Vijay Vincent Cherubim.

**DIALOGUE:** Jose Kalapurackal (Chair), Jose Kariakatt, E. Lawrence Soosai, Peter Ignatius Richard D' Souza and **Saji Mathew**

**ECOLOGY:** **Anthony Pendanath (Chair)**, Robert Athickal, Christopher Kerketta, Mathew Muthuplackal, Paul Mariadass, **Raneesh Jose A.**, and Tomy J. Nishaant

**EDUCATION:** Norbert Menezes (Chair), Armstrong Edison, Christopher Kerketta, Christu Savariraj, **Dominic Kurichathuputhenpura**, **Francis Chinnappan**, George Nedumattam, Isidore Kerketta, Jacob Ollickathotty, Peter Arockiasamy, **Rajan Lakra**, Richard D' Souza and Saji Mathew Palamkunnel.

**FINANCE:** **Thomas Antonysamy (Chair)**, Alwyn Vaz, Alphonse Crasta, Alwyn D' Souza, **Bernard Rajarethinam**, Johnson Kelakath, Joseph Anthonydoss, Joseph Sebastian, Paul Varickamthotty, and **Sijo Cherian Poovathinkal**

**FORMATION:** Edward Dungdung (Chair), Anto Joseph Thundaparambil, **Anuj Toppo**, **Antonysamy Joseph**, Daniel Raj, **Periyanayagam Selvanayagam**, Sushil Bilung, **S. Kulandai Nicholas**

**HIGHER EDUCATION:** **Tomy Nishant (Chair)**, Christu Savariraj, Ignatius Topno, **Joy Karyampuram**, Martin Poras, **Prakash Louis D' Montfort**, Raj Kumar, Tomy J. Nishaant, Victor Osta and Sr. Rashmi, AC.

**IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY:** Vimal Kishore (Chair), Joseph Vellaringatt, **Periyanayagam Selvanayagam**, Thomas Antonysamy, Victor Virendra Jagdish, **Sr. Manju Mathew, C.J.**, and Mr. Sameer Remy.

**LAND and BUILDINGS:** Rajesh Jacob Bhaju (Chair), Alwyn Vaz, **Thomas Antonysamy**, **Joseph Sebastian**, **Juno Sebastian**, Mathew Manoj V., Paul Varickamthotty and

**LEGAL AID:** Joseph Kizhakekara (Chair), Cebin Thumbamattathil, **Joy Karyampuram**, Jose Kariakatt, Peter Ladis, **Prashant Pius Michael**, and Stephenraj Antonysamy.

**PASTORAL:** Prashant Pius Michael, (Chair), **Benny Moolan**, Gnana Lazarus Ranjan, **Francis Palliparambil**, Rajendran Francis, Junas Kujur, **Peter Ignatius**, Pradeep Kumar, **Rajesh Kant Prasad**, and Sushil Sah.

**RENEWAL:** **Joy Pulikunnel (Chair)**, Alwyn Vaz, Peter Ignatius, Satyaprakash Arisseril, **Vimal Kishore**, **Victor Virendra Jagadish**, and Sr. Shaila, H.C.

**SOCIAL ACTION:** **Anand Kerketta (Chair)**, Anto Joseph T., Babu Jagadeepan, Dominic Francis Xavier, **Jesuraj Kolandaisamy**, John Ravi William, Jose Vadassery, Jose Kariakatt, Joseph Sebastian P., Juno Sebastian, Joyson Fernandes, **Prakash Louis D' Montfort** and Stephenraj Antonysamy.

**SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Premlal Lucas, (Chair), Arun Ignatius, Benny Moolan, Paul Mariadass, **Rajesh Somepalli**, Raymond Cherubim, Seraphim John and Sushil Bilung.

**VOCATION PROMOTION:** Sushil Bilung (Chair), Daniel Raj, **Devashish Prasad**, Edward Dungdung, Jesuraj Kolandaisamy, **Jeevan Isahak**, Joseph Dungdung, Joyson Fernandes, Junas Kujur, Manish Osta, **Oswald Saldanha**, Prakash Antony, **Raj Kumar**, **Rajeev Ranjan**, Rajesh Somepalli, Robert Razeem, and Selvin Xavier

**YOUTH APOSTOLATE:** Prakash Antony (Chair), Albert Abraham, **Alphonse Sebastian**, Augustine Kisku, Jesuraj Kolandaisamy, **Jeevan Isahak**, Manish Osta, Oswald Saldanha, Rajan Lakra, **Rajesh Somepalli**, and **Rajeev Ranjan**

**PROMOTING OF A CONSISTANT CULTURE OF PROTECTION (PCCP):** Joy Karyampuram (Chair), Edward Dungdung, J. Armstrong Edison, Sushil Sah, Sr. Dorothy Fernandes, PBVM, and Mrs. Margaret Martin

**PROVINCE MIGRANT SERVICE TEAM (PMST):** Prakash Louis Montfort (Convener), Anto Joseph Thundaparambil, and Martin Poras

*(Note: The new members are marked in Bold letters)*

No.	Place	School		Total	Divi.I	Divi.II	Divi.III	Compart.	Failures+
								(CBSE)	Absent
1	Arrah	Catholic High School	Boys	81	80	1			0
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	78	76	1			1
			Total	159	156	2			1
2	Aurangabad	St. Ignatius High School	Boys	81	71	9	2		
		[CBSE - X]	Girls	70	56	11	2		
			Total	151	127	20	4		
3	Barbigha	Raj Rajeshwar High School	Boys	127	122	5	0		
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	81	74	6	1		
			Total	208	196	11	1		
4	Bettiah	Khrist Raja High School	Boys	149	147	2			
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	65	65	0			
			Total	214	212	2			
5	Bettiah	St. Xavier's HS School	Boys	140	123	17			
		[CBSE - X]	Girls	53	46	7			
			Total	193	169	24			
6	Gaunaha	St. Xavier's School	Boys	46	43	3			
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	66	43	23			
			Total	112	86	26			
7	Patna	St. Michael's School	Boys	221	211	9		1	0
		[CBSE - X]	Girls	46	46	0		0	0
			Total	267	257	9		1	0
8	Patna	St. Xavier's School	Boys	32	32	0			
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	16	16	0			
			Total	48	48	0			
9	Patna	St. Xavier's School	Boys	115	115	0			
		[ICSE - X]	Girls	56	53	3			
			Total	171	168	3			
10	Ratanpurwa	St. Thomas School	Boys	63	44	17	1		
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	41	25	16	0		
			Total	104	69	33	1		
11	Sasaram	St. Anne's School	Boys	150	138	9			3
		[BSEB - X]	Girls	64	56	7			1
			Total	214	194	16			4
		Total - X	Boys	1205	1126	72	3	1	3
			Girls	785	556	74	3	0	2
			Total	1841	1682	146	6	1	5
1	Ara	Catholic High School	Boys	40	40				
		[BSEB - XII]	Girls	13	13				
			Total	53	53				
2	Bettiah	Khrist Raja High School	Boys	35	35	0			
		[BSEB - XII]	Girls	14	13	1			
			Total	49	48	1			
3	Bettiah	St. Xavier's HS School	Boys	56	56	0			
		[CBSE - XII]	Girls	64	64	0			
			Total	120	120	0			
4	Gaunaha	St. Xavier's School	Boys	7	7	0	0		
		[BSEB - XII]	Girls	5	4	0	1		
			Total	12	11	0	1		
5	Patna	St. Michael's School	Boys	251	246	0	0	4	0
		[CBSE - XII]	Girls	144	142	0	0	1	2
			Total	395	388	0	0	5	2
6	Patna	St. Xavier's School	Boys	86	84	0	0		2
		[BSEB - XII]	Girls	26	26	0	0		0
			Total	112	110	0	0		2
7	Ratanpurwa	St. Thomas School	Boys	27	16	11			
		[BSEB - XII]	Girls	13	7	6			
			Total	40	23	17			
		Total - XII	Boys	502	484	11	0	4	2
			Girls	279	269	7	1	1	2
			Total	781	753	18	1	5	4

## FR. PAUL FREDERICK JOSEPH JACKSON, S.J. (83/64)

**Died in Kurji Holy Family Hospital Patna, India, on 05 July 2020**

Born : 11-06-1937  
Entered the SJ : 01-02-1956

Ordained : 07.03.1968  
Final Vows : 15.08.1976



### **Studies & Formation:**

Secondary Education: Marist College, Ashgrove, Australia 1952-1955

Post-Graduation: M. A. History, Jamia Islamia Millia University, New Delhi, 1972-1974

& Diploma: in Urdu: \ Delhi University.

Study of Persian: Shiraz, Iran; 1974-1975.

Doctoral Study : Ph.D. in Patna University, 1976-1980

Novitiate: Loyola College, Watsonia, Melbourne, 1956-1958

Regency 1: St. Xavier's, Hazaribag, 1961-1964

Philosophy: Loyola College, Watsonia, Melbourne, 1958-1960

Learning Hindi: St. Xavier's, Ranchi, 1964-1965

Came to India: Hazaribag Province, 18.01.1961

Theology: St. Mary's College, Kurseong, 1965-1969

Ordination: St. Stanislaus, Sitagarah, 07.03.1968; Bishop Peter Kerketta

Tertianship: St. Stanislaus, Sitagarah; 1976; Director: Fr. M. Dullard, SJ

Final Vows: Hazaribag, 15.08.1976

Apostolic Assignments as a Priest:

Asst. Parish Priest Catholic Asharam, Hazaribag, 1969

Head Master, Middle School, Maheshmunda, 1969-1970

Teacher, Hostel In charge, Mahuadnr, 1970-1972

1976-2010: resided at St. Xavier's, Patna

Doctoral & post-doctoral studies in the writings

of Sufi Saint of Bihar – Sharfuddin Maneri;

teaching & writing on Islam & Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Fr. Paul Jackson was a scholar in Islam par excellence. He was single-hearted and single-minded in his mission of Christian-Muslim dialogue: his intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social life was focused on this single point, without any distraction or dissipation. He was very disciplined in his life and work - for thirty-three years, five days a week, he sat in the reading room of Khuda Bakhsh Library in Patna, labouring over the manuscripts of the writings of Sufi saint Sharafudddin Maneri and many other related ones. But personal discipline and intellectual pursuit did not diminish the warmth his heart for all the people he met and shared life with, as was amply evidenced in his trademark hearty laughter. Above all, or rather, the richness of his life and mission flowed from, his love for Jesus Christ and loyalty to His mystical body, the Church. He was meticulously regular with daily Eucharist and all other spiritual exercises including personal prayer and the breviary.

Fr. Paul Jackson was born in Brisbane, Australia. Having joined the Society of Jesus there, he came to Hazaribag, Bihar, India in 1961 as a scholastic/seminarian. Wanting to reach out to the Muslims as a way of implementing Vatican II, he did his doctorate on the writings Sharfuddin Maneri, a 14th century Sufi saint of Bihar. Along with other Christian and Muslim scholars, he was one of the founding members of the Islamic Studies Association (ISA) in 1979 in Delhi, and for a term served as its president. ISA publishes 'Salaam', a monthly journal for promoting Christian-Muslim relations; Fr. Jackson wrote many articles in this journal and served as its editor for a term. He wrote six books and over 80 articles: 'Sharafuddin Maneri, The Hundred Letters' (Paulist Press, New York; 1980) and 'The Muslims of India: Beliefs and Practices' that he edited (TPI, Bangalore; 1988) are outstanding among them; the latter has been a valuable and precious hand book for generations of students in many seminaries in Asia and elsewhere. His entire life was dedicated to teaching and writing on Islam, and building spiritual communion and scholarly dialogue between Christians and Muslims. Fr. Jackson's life and ministry are indeed a proud link in the tradition of the historic Jesuit mission (1580-82) to the court of the great Mughal Emperor, began by Bl. Rudolf Acquaviva and companions, at the invitation of Emperor Akbar.

In 1983 Fr. Jackson was requested to teach a course on Islam at the Regional Theology Centre (RTC), Patna. For the course he designed a new methodology: sharing life with Muslims in families, madarsas, seminaries or institutions, shrines and Mosques for which the scholastics were sent two-by-two; when they returned, experiences and observations were shared and then academic input was given to supplement and provide comprehensive understanding of Islam. This methodology revealed the richness of the person of Fr. Jackson, in the form of his ability to integrate intellect and emotions (head and the heart); and it showed his understanding of Christian-Muslim dialogue: building relationships by sharing spiritual and intellectual resources. Fr. Jackson taught this course for twenty-five years, though at times his health made it very difficult for him to travel to over fifteen towns of Bihar with sizeable Muslim population, to make arrangements for the scholastics. All the lectures which he delivered at RTC and other seminaries, national and international conferences as well as all his writings bore the mark of or were enriched by this methodology.

Kuda Hafis (farewell/goodbye) Fr. Paul Jackson. Your life and legacy will be a constant source of inspiration for promotion of Christian-Muslim relations and guidance for inter-religious dialogue in Asia and beyond.

*[All the members of Patna Province are to offer one Mass intention for Fr. Paul Jackson.]*

**By- Fr. Susai Raj, SJ**



## Laying the Foundation of Patna Mission

Jose Kalapura, SJ

In this issue, we focus on the early years of Patna Mission during the tenure (1921-28) of the first Bishop of Patna Diocese, Louis Van Hoeck, SJ, when the foundation of Patna Mission was laid.

When the Diocese was created in 1919, it had 21 mission centres (14 in north Bihar and 7 in central Bihar, south of the Ganga). The first ministry of the new team of five pioneer Jesuits and the seven diocesan priests was to give pastoral care to the existing Catholics (Indian and European) in these centres.

Most of the pioneering works of evangelization in Patna Mission was begun during this period: conversion of the Doms and Oraons (Dhangars) in Champaran, of Santals in Bhagalpur area and of Dalits in central Bihar, in that sequence. There was institutional growth as well.

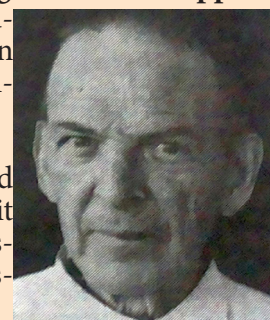
The following missionaries arrived in Patna (year of arrival in brackets): Frs Henry Westropp and Augustine Forster (1922), John Kilian and Peter Sontag (1923), Aloysius Pettit and Bernard Sullivan (1924). James Creane, Paul Frank and James Gibbons (1925), Paul Dent, Edward O'Learly, Conway, Francis Stoy, Frank Loesh and Carl Miller ((1926), Michael Lyons, Michael Mullen, John Brennan and Augustine Wildermuth (1927), Leone Forster, Marion Batson, Joseph Mann and Felix Farrell (1928).

Together with the 7 Indian diocesan priests, Patna Diocese had 17 priests 20 catechists, 46 European Sisters, 13 Indian Sisters, 31 Religious teachers and 60 lay teachers according to the last Church census (1927) during Bishop Van Hoeck's time.



Among all the missionaries who came from abroad, **Fr. Henry Ignatius Westropp** was the most creative, active, zealous, pioneering missionary. According to his biographer **Paul Dent**, he is credited to have made seven foundations: ministry to Doms in north Bihar, Santals in Bhagalpur, Dalits in central Bihar, industrial mission at Ghyree, etc.

Born of Dutch parents in Eppingen, Germany, his family migrated to Toledo, Ohio in America, when he was eight. After his Jesuit training for priesthood, he volunteered to work in Bombay Mission in 1916. When Missouri Province was assigned Patna Mission, he joined Patna Mission in 1922.



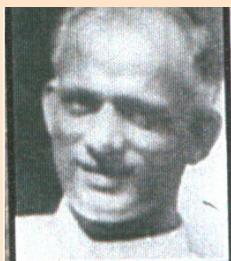
This "Flying Dutchman" was literally on the move. He was first assigned to Chuhari (11 kilometers north of Bettiah) where he pastorally catered to the old Christians, surveyed the neighbouring villages and found many poor Doms (Dalits) whom he began to evangelize by helping them earn their own livelihood by founding an industrial establishment for spinning and weaving. Moving further north to Chanpatia, then an abandoned mission station, he won over many more Doms and shifted his industrial mission there.

Moving to Ghyree, 18 kilometers south of Bettiah, he acquired a 30-acre plot with an indigo factory house near an adjacent lake, for Rs. 9000/ in those days and set up a full-fledged industrial mission where at one time some 200 workmen were employed in spinning, weaving, silk worm cultivation, etc. To marshal funds for mission he started a stamp industry of collecting used stamps from some 16 countries, processing them and selling them to clients. Many of his beneficiaries in Ghyree were converted. But the sad part of this mission was that it did not survive for long, as there was opposition to proselytism and the converts themselves could not meet the demands of Catholic morals and practices, as expected by the missionaries.

From Ghyree he made a beginning at Motihari and Siwan. Later he moved to Jamalpur from where he scurried around to find so many Santals at Barki Hatiya, Sugathan, Gajhi and Chakai. It was he who made an opening of mission work among the Santals in Patna Mission area. Thereafter he came to work in central Bihar founding mission centres at Ara, Piro and Buxar, to work among the Dalits. Starting from his little mud hut, he founded a combination of church-school-hostel-dispensary in all these places.

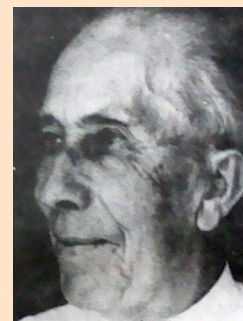
## Patna Jesuit Mission History: GL Supplement-5

**Fr Aloysius Pettit**, like his patron saint, was a man of high principle and tried hard to give Bettiah parishioners the boarding high school they had asked for. The new high school, Khrist Raja High School (KR) became a reality first at Bettiah parish campus, and later at Parbatiya Tola (present site), in a newly purchased plot of 30 acres, thanks to the efforts of Pettit and Sontag. At Bettiah he fostered many local vocations: Frs Ramy Andrew, Bernard D'Cruz, Clarence Sharma, and Raphael Paul Sah.



While speaking of Bettiah's institutions, we cannot forget the contributions of two early Jesuit Brothers of Patna Mission: **Bro John Pais** who built many churches and buildings including the Bankipur pro-Cathedral and **Bro Stanislaus** who built or rebuilt many buildings in Bettiah including the Middle School and KR. According to Dent, Fr. Sontag, the Superior at Bettiah, had certain disagreements with Bro Stan on the style of supervision of construction work. Eventually Bro Stan decided to leave the Society and became a photographer in his state Tamil Nadu. But Patna Mission owes much to him for the earth-quake proof KR buildings.

**Fr Peter Sontag** of Cologne, Germany, settled on a farm land in rural Minnesota, was admitted to the Missouri Province as an 'old man', though he never grew old in all his eight-four years. He was fearless and tireless and was all eager to "go and tell them", tell everyone of the love of Jesus Christ, whether at Bankipur, Bettiah, Kurji, Danapur, Barh and finally at De Nobili College, Poona where he gave more than 300 Hindi and English missions and retreats or catechized or composed Hindi hymns and started publication of the well-known IHS study leaflets. He was Superior of Patna Jesuits for six years (1929-1936).



Belgian Jesuit **Fr Francis Xavier Ory** was another pioneer who came in 1924 from Ranchi Mission, at the invitation of his friend, Bishop Van Hoeck, to work among the Oraon tribals (Dhangars) settled in West Champaran. A very successful missionary for 27 years among the Oraons of Ranchi Mission, he was sent to Chakhni and Rampur where he baptized many Dhangars. He facilitated the settlement of Catholic Oraons from Ranchi in Rampur to edify non-Christian Oraons there.



**Bishop Van Hoeck's** principal endeavour was to increase the number of missionaries, priestly, religious and lay. He made detailed tours of the mission stations. In Bettiah he introduced a Hindi catechism book *Khristani Shiksha ke Prasnottar ka Bayan*, from Ranchi in place of the Hindustani/Urdu text and composed and published many liturgical and catechetical works. He got renovated or rebuilt many church buildings, schools, orphanages or residences at many places. The success of his strong educational policy was evident in the founding of KR, even though it was not completed when he left Patna. Indeed it was he who laid the foundational policy to establish schools in all mission centres in Patna Diocese.

His Apostolic School survived and grew through five decades and has given many priests to Patna. He spiritually cared for the 12 Sisters of the Third Order of St. Clare (Clara Bahins), founded for Indian women by Capuchin Prefect of Bettiah Fr. Hilarion Abtei in 1890s. But Bishop Van Hoeck left Patna Diocese a better legacy than the schools: he founded on December 11, 1926 a new congregation for women, *Pavitra Dil ki Bahinon ki Dharm Sangati* (Sisters of the Sacred Heart) with nine first Postulants who were entrusted to the care of the Holy Cross Sisters. The special aim of this Congregation was "to promote the glory of God and to co-operate in the extension of the reign of the Sacred Heart by working at the education and the instruction of Indian girls and women in schools, orphanages, etc."

Sontag comments that Bishop Van Hoeck was a super pastor of his flock. His Patna years ended on June 25, 1928 to become the first bishop of the newly created Ranchi Diocese. Patna's loss was Ranchi's gain.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS BEFORE THE 02<sup>ND</sup> OF EVERY MONTH**

Editor's Email ID : [socius@patnajesuits.org](mailto:socius@patnajesuits.org)

**FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY**