

himaldhvani

Prabhu Jisu Residence, Post Box 3, Matigara – 734 010, Dt Darjeeling, West Bengal

No.8

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits - August~2021

From the Provincial's Desk

One of my observations is that the person who is not happy with himself always complains about or finds fault with others in his community or mission. Such a person wants to influence the actions and attitudes of that person in his own way either by inventing or dwelling upon painful dramas that have little or no basis in fact or judging the person in a harsh way or blaming the person or always complaining about that person or comparing the other person with oneself or seeing oneself as a victim, etc. Such a person wants the other person to fit into his pattern of life without realizing how effectively he could influence the actions and attitudes of the other person.

In this context, I am of the opinion that the best way of influencing others is by being an **EXAMPLE**. I need to treat other people how I want to be treated. I need to adopt the attitude I want other people to show me. I need to believe that I need to change and I cannot change others. What I can do is to be the best example and the best person that I can be. Instead of complaining about or finding fault with my community member or my colleague, let me be the best colleague or religious. When I shift from 'others have to change' to 'what if I change, maybe then the others also change' everything will change. I will be a happy religious. Hence, let us be the example of what I want to see in my community or mission or in the world.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM –JULY 2021

02-	Province Consult at PJR	19-22	Visitation: Gayaganga
03-	ERT Meeting at 9.30 am	25-26	Visitation: Premanjali-JA Community
04-	Leave for Chhattisgarh	27-28	Visitation: Prabhat Tara-LPC
10-	Return to PJR		
11-	Community Meeting – Kalimpong		
16-18	Visitation: Hatighisa		

LEFT THE SOCIETY

Sch. Barnabas Hembrom on 11 July 2021

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

After three months of online classes we had a two-week break in July. Our community was graced by **Fr Provincial's** annual visit on 19 & 20 July. We had our Cluster Level recollection on 21 July at Kelabari. **Fr Bosco Michael** gave an inspiring talk on Ignatian Year. **Fr Siby Joseph** is busy from dawn to dusk supervising the construction of the Jesuit residence which is coming up in full swing. Our school hasn't felt the absence of students this year. After the success in potato cultivation, **Fr Siby** and his team have ventured into rice cultivation. **Fr Fredrick Baraik** goes to different parishes to rejuvenate himself after being confined to his room for three months. He is also the coordinator for the Covid Relief

work in Alipurduar area. **Fr Philemon Tirkey** is busy with his online classes.

Like last year, this year too our children have performed well in the ICSE examinations. Out of 38 students appeared 11 got 90% and above; 16 between 89 & 80 % and 11 between 79&70%. The highest score is 97%. We started the **first batch of ISC** this year. We have 19 students for Science stream and 10 for Arts.

Fr Santy Mathew

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

June – July were very busy months for **Br Robert Lakra** as he gave himself fully for the completion of the boundary wall of Gayaganga property and for the plantation of paddy and

millet in the field. The field is now well protected from cattle and other animals. We're grateful to **German Jesuit Province** for this timely help. On 30th June, we had the burial of **Br Francis Basumatary** at the parish cemetery with a limited number of people attending the funeral due to Covid protocol. In the High/Higher secondary school, mid-day meal was distributed (Phase XVI) for the lower classes and 225 bicycles were distributed for class ten students under *Shabooj Sathi* scheme by the government. Marksheets and certificates are handed over to the successful Madhyamik and Higher Secondary students; admission is going on for class- XI. A large number of tree saplings were donated to the School by the Border Security Forces, Ranidanga. **Fr Peter Pappu** has returned after his treatment in Chennai



for about four few weeks and he feels better now. In his absence **Fr Oshish Tirkey** took care of the Parish. The latter left for Sitong mission to take up his new assignment there. After much persuasion and correspondence by the school, the West Bengal Minority Welfare Department has agreed to construct a two-storey hostel building for boys. It's coming up in the old "dera-line" area, close to the existing hostel. **Fr Simon Kerketta** preached a triduum to the sisters of St Anne of Faudijote. **Br Dennis Rodrigues** managed to return to the community after a prolonged home visit; he was stuck there due to lockdown for almost three months.

Sch. Sujit Minj

ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

July saw the arrival of **Sch. John Lepcha** to the community for his regency. We feel blessed to have him in our midst. We got 100 % pass results in Madhyamik and H.S., with many students securing good grades. The online classes are in full swing. Admission to class XII is completed and admission for class XI has begun. The Parents – Teachers meeting was held on 18th in order to know about their Children's progress in studies and also to encourage them to pay the fees. Finally, the Primary school toilet construction work began. We continue to thank **Mrs. Patrizia Bianconi** for her assistance. We are blessed with three candidates for Darjeeling Province – Nikhil, Peter and Gyan who arrived on 24th July.

A Seminar was conducted on 20th July for the school staff. The resource person was **Fr John Kennedy**, Province Vocation Promoter and Youth Director. He inspired our staff with the life-story of St Ignatius of Loyola. This was organized as a part of Ignatian year programs. We have decided to spend a day every month to delve on Ignatian themes. The community also attended the Zonal meet on Ignatian spirituality. Our Community had the novena to St Ignatius in preparation to celebrate the feast.



A **Free vaccination camp** was conducted for 550 people in collaboration with Medica North Bengal Clinic. We're indebted to **CJI and Xavier Network partners** for making this possible. We also thank **Shri. S. Ponnombalam**, the DM of Darjeeling and **DY CMOH, BDO**, Officer in charge, Naxalbari police station, the staff of St Vincent's and village catechists and the leaders for ensuring it's success.

Fr Kennedy had a meeting with our parish youth to plan further activities. The CCTV installation is complete with 76 cameras. Now the school and the campus have a better surveillance. The lab set-up is well on the way. **Fr Alvin Minj** continues to beautify the campus with the help of parish youth and catechist. The Christeen group also loves to help out in the garden.

Sch. Gorak Rudum

HAYDEN HALL, DARJEELING

Hayden Hall has 14 sub-centres spread across the two districts. Each centre has an in-charge, generally a nurse, under whom several community development workers (CDW) operate. These on field CDWs organize all our programs at the village level. When the second wave of COVID -19 struck, our centres came into play. The CDWs were instrumental in forming volunteer groups from the cross sections of village communities, civic bodies, SHGs, ASHA and others willing to be of service. From April 2021 Team Hayden Hall has trained over 250 such volunteers on disseminating right information on the coronavirus, precautions and protocols to be maintained, COVID appropriate behaviour, isolation and COVID care, acquiring a healthy and happy lifestyle and physical and emotional wellbeing.

As a lot of our villagers in the hills live in remote places, easy access to basic medical care remains a persistent problem. Facing this challenge, we equipped all our sub-centres and whoever requested us with basic medicine for COVID symptoms and other emergencies, COVID kits to all our CDWs and Centre-In-Charges. In all, we were able to reach out to around 110 villages through our centres for the benefit of the needy and the distressed. Our centres and CDWs are always available on-call.



During the past three months there have been 2489 plus primary level counselling calls to our community development workers. Earlier on we started an online wellbeing campaign 'We Build Each Other', partnering with our centres, Darjeeling Prerna, Radio Salesian, Gandhi Ashram School, St Joseph's College, Art Mile, Vacay Workers and Himalayan Institute of Goodwill and Living Ethics. In this campaign we have been trying to pay attention to the mental and emotional well-being, re-looking at education, physical well-being and various other social issues. Through this campaign, we were able to reach more than 40,000 people virtually. Spreading awareness among the villages was of utmost importance as with the media availability and accessibility, a lot of fake news has been spreading. Free counselling sessions were also provided by professionals to people who reached out via the online campaign.

Ms Prasanna Almah

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

Fr Francis George gave a talk on the theme 'From battle Field to the Vineyard of the Lord' to the community members on 26th June to set the right context for a recollection during this Ignatian year. Fr Cherian J. Padiyara celebrated his 50th anniversary of his entry into the Society of Jesus on 30th June with a thanksgiving Mass. He recalled his arrival in Darjeeling to labour 'in a small mission in the lap of the Himalayas'. He expressed his contentment in the Society and prayed for God's blessings for his future ministry. The three Ph.D scholars have successfully completed their course-work examination on 30th June and await their results. Fr Padiyara gave a recollection talk to the Salesian Fathers and Sisters at Don Bosco School, Malbassey on 21st July, emphasizing the need of reading the Bible emotionally rather than at



intellectual level. The second Semester B.Ed. and MA Education students have completed their semester courses by 24th July and their end semester examinations have been cancelled. The 4th Semester B.Ed. students have completed their school Internship online Practice teaching and await online Final teaching for evaluation.

Fr Francis George

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

An online seminar on 'Brain targeted teaching methods', was conducted for the teachers on the 10th, 17th, and 24th of July by Mr. J. Antony William. The community was immensely mourned the demise of Mr. Ajay Ekka, father of Fr Anuranjan Ekka who passed away on 18th July in Nagrakatta. The community offered Mass and prayed for his repose of the soul.

The community attended the cluster recollection on 19th July which was held on Woodcot, Kurseong. Fr Stanley went for a brief home visit on 21st July and returned on 27th July. The Sursum Corda Covid Center after its successful endeavour of serving humanity in the turbulent time of covid19 for two months ended with a closing ceremony on 30th July. During this time of great uncertainty, we have been comforted, encouraged, and humbled by the outpouring of generosity and support from our benefactors. Thanks for helping us meet the challenges of the moment. We could provide the highest order of care with inclusion, integrity, compassion, accountability, respect, and excellence because of the generous contributions.



The Jesuits of North Point donated a ventilator worth Rs 3,800,000 to the Darjeeling district hospital in the presence of **Mr Ponnambalam**, District Magistrate of Darjeeling, and GTA Health Director **Mr Damden Dukpa**; It was earlier given to North Point by Mt Senai Hosital, New York, through the Foreign Secretary of India **Mr Hars Vardhan Tshering La**.

Sch. Evan Basnet

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

The first year novices had their first probation under the direction of **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the Socius. They had a Triduum from 30th June. It culminated on 3rd July, 2021, on the feast of St Thomas, as a 'Cassock Day' celebration for the first year novices. **Fr Shaji Joseph**, Director of Novices, celebrated the Mass. In the evening after a sumptuous meal, we had a short but wonderful community recreation.



All the novices enjoyed cutting grass for the cows in the absence of our co-worker, Mangal. Due to ongoing pandemic situation, our novices are not going for any weekend experiments or major experiment so far. As a result, among others, they are missing a chance to speak Nepali language. **Br Gabriel Gurung**, the minister, takes the Nepali classes twice a week for the novices.

On 12th July, **Sch John Lepcha** shared his significant personal experiences of his religious life with the novices. This was a part of our commitment to have various programs in this Ignatian Year, including sharing of the vocation stories from the Jesuits of the province. Being the Ignatian Year and to make the feast day of St Ignatius a memorable one, the novices were busy practicing the choir and a short skit for the program. The novena to St Ignatius of Loyola was very creative this year unlike other years, because of the Ignatian Year. **Fr John Wilfred Lobo**, Provincial, had his annual visitation of Manresa from 15th to 17th July. After meeting the Jesuits, he also met the novices as a group. He enlightened them on the topics, "Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs)" as well as on "Spiritual Discernment". The novices enjoyed and appreciated the talk.

Novice Markush Narzary

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

July was very hectic as the college administration and staff were kept busy with conducting exams and evaluating the answer-scripts since once again the college teachers were made examiners and scrutinizers. This was in addition to intense preparation that is underway for NAAC Peer team

visit scheduled a month later. We have also opened the Online Admission Portal, and **Fr Bijay Kindo**, the Coordinator of Admission Committee has been kept on his toes answering phone calls round the clock. In the meanwhile, the cultural committee coordinator **Ms Soumya Mitra** and Dean of Students **Ms Nitya Rai** managed to organise farewell for the Graduating Students again on the virtual platform. The front section of the College main



building has a new look now: For the first time the name of the college is prominently displayed on the front part while the statue of St Francis Xavier, patron saint of the College looks down upon the sprawling lawn.

25 July was a significant day when 270 poor people particularly the elderly and other vulnerable persons from Kheripara, Balaigach, Pabnikhari, Jamurivita villages and Shikarpur Tea Garden, besides our non-teaching staff and some diocesan priests/nuns, received the 1st dose of Covishield. Thanks to the Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal our parent body and all our benefactors for supporting this **free vaccination** drive. Prior to this the whole community was involved in generating Cowin Ref ID by visiting different places in the evening.

Fr Lalit Tirkey

HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA

In July we focused on Children's Education & Nutrition program in 18 study centres for 650 children in Terai and Dooars tea gardens. The special supplementary Food program (Milk packets, Eggs, Bread/Bun Roti, Grams, jaggery and peas) for the poor and malnourished children was carried out by HLDRC. We have completed one month program and planning for the second month with different food items. These children are living in extreme, remote and backward geographical locations like Tulsipara, Lankapara and Ramjhora tea gardens which are closer to Bhutan -India Border. Bamandanga tea garden and Tandoo tea garden are located between Jaldhaka river and Gorumara forest range as an island and are not easily accessible. Any food program for children or even for villagers is like "**Manna from heaven experience**". Thanks to **SOS-INDIA** and **JESUIT MISSIONS UK** for their generous support for this important program.

We are also happy to share that nine **Nursing students** who were supported through HLDRC and were trained in

Navajeevan Hospital, Gayaganga, got placement in Bangalore city and they are earning around Rs.10,000/- per month. Most of them are from Doors closed tea gardens. **Mrs. Nirmala Karjee** does the counseling and mentoring work giving them good support to build their fine career. We send our Special Thanks to **JESUIT MISSIONS UK** for supporting this program. HLDRC has also opened up **Employment Training & Job Placement unit** in Matigara temporarily. There is a huge demand for skills training among the youth of tea gardens and villages. **Fr Pascal** invites youth to join social work network of HLDRC and gradually those who like to find jobs are trained freely under



the care of HLDRC social development projects for the youth.

Fr Pascal Xalro

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

Fr Provincial visited the community on 23 June and offered Mass for both College and School community when **Fr K. L. George** took over as the new Superior of Arrupe House. Sincere thanks to **Fr Donatus Kujur** who served the community as the Superior in the past years.

After having served the Covid affected people of Darjeeling Hills, Sursum Corda Covid Care Home, which was operational in Campion Hall of St Joseph's College for 62 days, was officially closed on 20 July 2021. The even-semester assignment based exams have begun and the entire process of the exam is online - exam-form filling, question paper download, online submission by students and online evaluation by teachers. Over 2800 students are appearing in this mode of exam and the entire exam is for two weeks and the results will be declared on 18 August. The admission for the new academic year will begin on August 02 and classes will begin as per UGC and State government guidelines.

Fr Pragasan C.

LOYOLA NIWAS, KELABARI

It was heartbreaking news for **Fr Bosco**, as he heard of the sudden demise of his dad on 30th June. He immediately rushed down to the South for his dad's funeral. He is very

grateful to his community, Province members and the Curia team for their prayerful support. After giving fitting farewell to his dad's soul, **Fr Bosco** returned safely to Kelabari mission on 8th July. Since then, he is quite busy with construction of Higher Secondary block and repair work at the residence. Our Superior **Fr Basil Toppo** went to St Francis Xavier Parish, Sakyong to temporarily replace **Fr Benny Paul**, the Parish Priest who traveled down to the South for his treatment and home visit. Fr Basil is in touch with us regularly and he continues to guide and support us as Superior. We had a half-day Ignatian Year recollection on 21st July. Alipurduar and Kelabari Jesuits came together. **Fr Bosco** guided them through prayer and reflection. **Fr Justin Bage** guided St Anne's sisters of Malbazar through a three-day prayer and reflection this month as part of their spiritual preparation for their Feast on 26th July. This year online teaching seemed to be more effective and successful as students excelled with outstanding results. The regular online classes are on for all the other students. They have just completed their Half Yearly Exams.

Fr Bosco

PERMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

On 1st July we had Mass for the repose of the souls of all the Jesuits who died of coronavirus. On 15th July we had a memorial Mass for Fr Stan Swamy. As the new academic year began, the orientation program was held from 14th to 17th July in the community for the scholastics. On 17th evening, the welcoming ceremony was organized for the first year scholastics. Now our community has 46 scholastics from different provinces. From the 24th evening to 25th afternoon we had the monthly recollection given by the Archbishop of Gandhinagar, Rt.Rev. Thomas Ignatius Macwan.

Sch. Valerian Kujur

Rest in Peace

Fr Stan Swamy (JAM)	84/64	5 th July
Fr Devasia Vellapani (GOA)	82/59	6 th July
Fr Abraham Enthenukuzy (JAM)	70/52	14 th July
Fr Stanislaus Miranda (KAR)	91/68	19 th July
Fr Paul Valappila (GUJ)	78/60	31 st Jul
Mr Sylvanus Kujur , (95) father of Fr Julius Kujur,		7 th July
Mr Xavier , (88) father of Fr Joseph Boniface,		7 th July
Mr Ajay Ekka , (80) father of Fr Anuranjan Ekka,		18 th July



(Peace Rally on National Justice Day at Matigara Parish)