



December 2020

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 514

Fr Provincial's Message



Dear Friends, This year when the child Jesus appears what will he see? First of all, the millions of people affected by Corona fever and its aftermath; Worse than that the millions of migrants who had to leave their daily bread earning work and go back home and remain without any means of livelihood, the millions who lost their secure jobs due to financial mismanagement, thousands of small scale vendors who went out of business due to slowing of economy and entry of Corporate Houses into retail business, the farmers who brave severe winter of Delhi and are put up in the streets of Delhi forced to fight for their rights, millions of children who could not go to school for almost a year for fear of corona, the increased number of women from poor families who suffer domestic violence, children who are forced to go for work to make a living and so on and a hand full of multi-billionaires who became richer during this season of corona. That is a part of the reality today.

We had umpteen numbers of webinars on any topic that can be thought of under the sun. Yet, has the reality changed in any way? An unjust world has taken strong roots among us and like a parasite, sucks the blood of the host. Institutions that are put in place to protect and safeguard are themselves becoming parasites. Are we to watch as mute spectators and see Evil taking over goodness; injustice by propaganda is becoming justice of the day? As we prepare to welcome the child Jesus, the Prince of Peace, let us also discern what sort of peace we want.

May You be Filled with the Peace and Joy of Christmas!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Appointments by Fr General

Fr Shajumon Chakkalakkal SJ (DAR): Socius, Admonitor and Consultor to the POSA

Fr Roland Coelho SJ (GOA): JCSA/POSA Consultor and Chair of the West Zone

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWP)

Holy Father's Intention for December 2020: For a Life of Prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Final Vows

On 13 November 2020, on the feast day of St Stanislaus Kostka, Fr Mathias Kisku pronounced his final vows in Mundli, Tinpahar. The theme chosen by Fr Mathias, "I thank my Lord who considered me worthy." During his homily, Fr Mathias shared with us that he chose the theme to express his gratitude to God who considered him a worthy servant in His vineyard. Fr Varghese Pallipalakkatt, our Provincial, was the main celebrant for the Eucharist and some Jesuits from nearby communities concelebrated. Some Sisters, the apostolic boys and some family members of Fr Mathias made the day precious for Fr. Kisku by their valuable presence and participation. The Scholastics at Mundli, the Sisters and the apostolic students in Gonzaga Sadan through their melodious singing made the Eucharistic celebration a solemn one. Soon after the holy Mass, a short felicitation for Fr Mathias was conducted by Fr Peri Moses. After the felicitation program, a delicious meal was served in the Loyola Hostel dining hall. Praise the Lord! (*Sch Borson Hembrom SJ*).

Province Retreats

Dumka-Raiganj Province organized two annual retreats for the Province-men at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. The

first retreat was preached by Fr Varghese Puthussery and the second one by Fr Varkey Chenakalayil. **Fr Hilary D'Souza** who attended the first retreat writes, "The theme of the Annual Province Retreat was 'the call to Holiness' based on the Encyclical of Pope Francis. The retreat began on 22 October at 8.30 p.m. in the Curia Chapel. There were 17 retreatants who were ready to journey with the Lord towards holiness. The Beatitudes which were preached by Jesus in the Gospel of Mathew, Chapter 5:1-11 were the focus of our retreat preacher. He also emphasized that the "Fratelli Tutti" of Pope Francis which is the recent social encyclical on Fraternity and Social Friendship to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. The retreatants were inspired by the talks which helped them to rebuild their relationship with the Lord once again. They also appreciated the counseling sessions with the preacher which helped them to experience the inner healing and reconciliation with God, fellow human beings and oneself. The retreat came to an end on October 30th with the Holy Eucharist where each one shared with the rest his experience of the Lord. Fr Manoj Toppo proposed a vote of thanks to our much-appreciated preacher, to Jisu Jaher Community and Frs Nishthmani and Vimal Kerketta for their contribution during the retreat."

Fr John Chandran who attended the second retreat writes: "I thank Fr Provincial and our Province for having arranged this fruitful retreat by Fr Varkey Chena. It was from November 22nd to 30th. Our group comprised 10 priests and a scholastic regent. Fr Varkey, on more than one occasion had told us, 'Read the Bible and let the Bible read you!' Yes, ours was a biblical retreat with two talks a day - 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. We had the Eucharist at 11:00 am and the Adoration at 6:15 pm. All of us felt inspired, comforted, consoled, challenged and helped by Fr Varkey, who through his prayerful presence accompanied us during this 8-day spiritual journey with the Lord Jesus. In every single conference, our retreat preacher used to ask us probing questions to be pondered over by us - all based on the Words and Deeds of Jesus - helping us to ask for the grace to be like Jesus by BEING WITH HIM AT EVERY MOMENT OF OUR RETREAT. Thank you, Fr Varkey and Fr V. Puthussery who gave us the last talk and celebrated the concluding Eucharist on Nov. 30th during which two scholastic priests and the scholastic regent renewed their vows. On behalf of the retreatants I expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Stany Pinto, the

Superior of JJ community, Bro Bernard Kisku, the Minister, Sch Roshan D'Souza and his candidates as well as all the Fathers, Scholastics and the supporting staff of JJ for their selfless service and hospitality, prayer-support, silent atmosphere and the loving ambience of our Mother House - Jisu Jaher. May God be Praised! Jisui Marangok'ma! Mariai Manotok'ma!

Christ the King and Harvest Feasts at Hathimara

'Christ the King' feast was celebrated with all its gaiety on 22 November at Hathimara parish. A large group of the faithful gathered on that day. We started the prayer service with a beautiful procession that started from the Marian grotto. The three scholastics who are here for their philosophy online classes helped us in decorating the altar beautifully. Fr Rajesh Ba'a, the Parish Priest was the main celebrant. The campus resounded with the joyful shout of 'Krist Raja ki jai.'

The next Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. On this day we celebrated our 'Nawae porob' (Harvest Feast). The Church was full. All had come wearing masks. People had come with baskets that were full of paddy. They were very happy to offer the first fruits to God. Fr Arockiasamy was the main celebrant. He gave a very inspiring homily. As the first fruits were blessed, all of us prayed in a special way to God to protect us from the deadly COVID 19. After the Eucharistic celebration all the assembled had a small gathering where 'Chai and Khajari' (tea and puffed rice) were served. Practically all of them had brought 'Dombok' and Sunum pitha' (sweets made of rice) with them. Fr Manoj Toppo blessed them and then all of us enjoyed our shared-snacks. It was an occasion for the parishioners to come to know one another in a better way. *(Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ).*

Christ the King Feast and Nawae Porob at Nichitpur

On 22 November with all solemnity St Mary's Church, Nichitpur, celebrated the Feast of Christ the King as well as the Nawae Porob (Harvest Feast). The faithful carrying on their heads the first fruits of their hard labour along with the priests solemnly entered the church with the entrance dance by the youth of the parish. It was very encouraging to see the youth as well as children of the parish giving themselves fully in singing and dancing. At the end of the celebration the faithful were served with delicious 'kheer' (rice pudding) prepared from the new crop. *(Fr A. Arul Doss SJ).*

Online Classes

St Ignatius High School, Nichitpur, is continuing to have its regular online classes. The students have done fairly well in the 2nd Summative online as well as offline evaluation conducted in the month of October. The students seem to have adapted themselves quite well to the modern means of learning. A few students who were unable to have mobile phones for the online classes were helped to have one with the help of St Xavier's School, Sahibganj. The poor students who were helped are highly appreciative of our gesture. The staff are busy preparing the question papers for the final annual examination to be conducted in the 1st week of December. *(Fr A. Arul Doss SJ).*

Seminar at Nichitpur

A seminar for the faithful of Nichitpur parish was organized on 1 November at St Mary's Church, Nichitpur, on the occasion of the initiation of Fatima Dol. There were about two hundred men, women and youth who took part in the seminar strictly adhering to the Covid-19 imposed precautionary norms like wearing masks, social distancing and the use of sanitizers. The seminar began with the Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 am. The main celebrant and resource person was Rev. Fr Sahayaraj from Satmi parish, Purnia Diocese. The main purpose of this seminar was to encourage the faithful of the parish in their devotion to Mother Mary, highlighting the importance of family prayer especially praying the Rosary as a family in order to become true witnesses of the risen Christ and faithful children of Mother Mary.

Fr Sagayaraj also invited the faithful to reflect on how to manage the family in the given socio-economic and political situation as well as to know about their rights and privileges in the civil society. As part of the seminar they were also given a detailed explanation on mushroom cultivation. The youth of the parish was fully involved in taking care of the food and other necessary things needed for the seminar. The participants were served with delicious food prepared by the parish youth. We hope to have many more seminars of this kind to make our people deeply rooted in their faith and living a life of witness. *(Fr A. Arul Doss SJ).*

Visitation and Blessing of Hostel and the Renovated Church at Nichitpur

It was a joyous occasion for both the Jesuits as well as the faithful of St Mary's Church, Nichitpur to have Fr Varghese Pallipakkatt, Provincial and Fr Stany, his Socius, on the Annual Visitation to Nichitpur. Fr Provincial celebrated

the Sunday Eucharist for the faithful along with Fr Socius, Fr Silas Toppo, the Parish Priest, and Fr Arul Doss, the Headmaster of St. Ignatius High School.

During the Eucharist Fr Provincial expressed his satisfaction on the completion of St Mary's Hostel building for the underprivileged children of the locality and also invited the faithful to gratefully remember in the Mass in gratitude all those who were instrumental in making this dream come true especially the benefactors, Late Fr Andrews Koluvar and others.

At the end of the Eucharist Fr Provincial blessed the New Hostel building and the newly renovated St. Mary's Church. On this occasion the energy and the smiles on the faces of our children was so edifying and encouraging. *(Fr A. Arul Doss SJ).*

Youth Camp at Mariampahar

Mariampahar organized a 'one-day youth camp' on 31 October 2020 in which 92 youngsters from different village Girja centers participated. The purpose of the gathering was to share their pandemic experiences and also to discuss about forming a faith-based parish youth group. Fr Chrysostom shared with them the Pope's 'World Wide Prayer Network' and how to be a part of the "praying with the Pope for the needs of the world." *(Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ).*

Ordination of the Second Priest from Jibonpur

Deacon Babulal Hembrom from Jambona village of Jibonpur parish, along with three other deacons, was ordained a priest on 12 November 2020 in Krishnanagar Cathedral for the Diocese of Krishnanagar. To avoid a big crowd the diocese had decided on a limited number of participants for the ceremony. There were around 90 parishners, 40 priests and 10 religious sisters. The parishners of Jibonpur, despite their deprived chance of attending the ordination ceremony in Krishnanagar, felt great joy to know that Fr Babulal Hembrom became the 2nd Priest from Jibonpur parish. So wanting to share the joy and to receive a blessing from the new priest, the parishners welcomed Fr Babulal Hembrom on 22 November, on the feast of Christ the King. He was traditionally welcomed at the entrance of the parish gate and then the new priest holding the Blessed Sacrament led the faithful to the Church. After the Mass, a short felicitation programme was held. Refreshments were provided to all. *(Fr Dayal Lakra SJ).*

Social Action and Ecology Commission Meeting

It was on November 6th all the eight members of the Social Action and Ecology commission came together at Satia to discuss the present day context particularly in India. The meeting began with a reading from GC 35 where it is stated, "Serving Christ's mission today means paying special attention to its global context. This context requires us to act as a universal body with a universal mission, realizing at the same time the radical diversity of our situations." The GC 35 document gave a push to their discussion. They shared on the socio-economic and political situation of our India. They went on sharing about the effects of Covid-19. The issues and challenges faced by the migrants were also highlighted. During the 2nd part of the deliberation some practical and realistic points were put forward to be carried out for the coming days. A suggestion was made to make use of the Electronic media to highlight the socio-economic and political situation of our land. Secondly it is to create awareness on the tribal identity and their rights among the youth and their constitutional rights as Indians among the youths. Finally we need to undertake a research study on the Environmental crisis in our Province to find out how the corporate companies are exploiting the mining areas. All the members took an active part in the meeting and shared their views and news. It was a very fruitful day for the Social Action and Ecology commission for a new beginning with the new coordinator. *(Fr John Felix SJ)*.

Murubis Meeting

Mariampahar parish organized a Murubis meeting on 2 October 2020 in which 61 people took part. The purpose of the meeting was to share on how to build good Christian families. The people who had gathered shared on questions: why only a few men go to the Church? How to raise children in a religious atmosphere? Many suggested that unless both parents go to the Church, their children will not get any inspiration to grow up in a religious atmosphere and cannot make good Christian families. It was decided that the Parish Council members would go to visit each Mass center and discuss with the people the problem of less men attending the Holy Mass and helping their children grow in a religious atmosphere. Following up the decision of the murubis meeting, the Parish Council members have already visited some of the village girja centers and discussed the problems. *(Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ)*.

Gleanings from the Diary of St Xavier's Sahibganj

Although the gates of the school continue to remain closed for Offline Classes, our students right from the Primary to the Senior Sections are nowadays seen on the school Campus in groups either to submit their assignments or to take part in various co-curricular activities. They visit the school mainly on holidays (Thursdays & Sundays) following all the precautionary norms of Covid-19.

Results: After the First Semester Exams, students accompanied their parents to the school to receive their results. They came to the school in turns (Class & Section-wise) on different dates fixed by the Principal. Class Teachers, assisted by other teachers, distributed the Report Cards. However, the students were not allowed to carry their Report Cards home. After getting the signatures of their parents, the Cards were taken back.

Singing Competition: A group of around 30 students from Classes III to XII took part in a Singing and Music Competition held in the school auditorium on November 4th. The competition was well conducted by a small Committee of teachers formed by the Principal.

Dance Competition: Under the expert guidance of Ms Sushma, our dance teacher, a dance competition was held in the school. Students from Primary, Junior and Senior Sections took part in it. Our school is also taking part in online cultural program organized by local administration. At present two of our senior students, Smriti Besra (X) and Shambhavi (IX), are being trained in dance to take part in the Online Cultural Programme.

Cleanliness Drive: About 40 Scouts and Guides of our school took part in the Cleanliness Drive just before the Chatt Puja. The local Ganga Ghat, which is used by thousands of people especially during the Chatt Puja, was thoroughly cleaned by our Scouts and Guides. They also spent some time in cleaning the school campus.

Elocution Contest: Some teachers preferred to conduct it Online whereas others conducted it Offline in the school auditorium. The elocution was successfully conducted both On and Offline. But the enthusiasm among the students was less this time compared to that of the previous years.

Webinar: Besides co-curricular activities, our students as well as teachers take part in Webinar on various useful topics. On the 26th of November our teachers attended a Webinar at 3:00 pm on integrating technology in online teaching. Again on November 28th both the students as

well as the teachers attended another Webinar on the topic “*Seek to Engage: Right Here and Right Now*” dealing with the following points: 1. Learners’ problems today, 2. How to make a daily schedule, full of potential productivity, 3. Importance of online education, 4. Meditation, 5. Power of positive thinking, 6. Control the internal world rather than external, and 7. Effective Communication skills and understanding blocks of active learning.

Youth for Jesus: Preparation for the forthcoming Youth Camp to be held in Majlispur is in full swing. The first round of Preparation was over with a Core Committee Meeting held at Mariampahar on November 7th. Fathers, Sisters and the Coordinators of the Youth for Jesus made themselves available for that meeting to plan out the whole programme of the forthcoming camp. The Members of Sahibganj Zone are daily gathering here on the school campus for rehearsal. They are busy rehearsing the Skits on the Biblical themes allotted to them. They also meet together in preparation for the Bible Quiz that is to be held during the Camp. *(Mr Shyamal Palmer).*

Safety and Vigilance Week

As the entire nation marked the first week of the month as Safety and Vigilance Week through various platforms and modes, St Xavier’s College, Maharo, observed this occasion on November 2nd by organizing a speech competition in its premises with the aim of creating awareness and alertness among the masses and academic fraternity. The programme was conducted in the Audio-Visual Hall of the college faithfully following all the measures and precautions against Covid-19. Several topics related to Safety and Vigilance were chosen for this occasion and students delivered their speeches on them. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the IQAC Coordinator of the institution, Rev. Fr. David Raj, who formally inaugurated the programme with his speech and shed light on the importance of safety in everyday social life. Students from various departments Yashaswi, Mary, Koncheta, Piyush and Emmanuel participated and spoke on very relevant issues like Cyber Crime, Human Trafficking, and Human Rights. Thereafter, professors of the college Dr Mallick, Mr Kusum, Mr Alok and Ms Preety shared their thoughts on these concerns. In order to avoid a big gathering, the entire programme was recorded and shared online later with rest of the faculty members and students. Our college promotes such events as part of its cocurricular activities. Our aim is the

betterment of academics and society by taking such initiatives at regular intervals. *(Mr Himadri).*

Orientation Programme for Freshers

St Xavier’s College, Maharo, organised an Orientation Programme on November 6th for the freshers of the Academic Session 2020. It was held online using Google Meet platform keeping the risks of the pandemic in mind. On this occasion, the new students were formally welcomed and initiated into the fold of the Xaverian family of Dumka where a bright journey of a lifetime awaits them. With a sincere prayer to God the proceedings commenced. A welcome speech was delivered by the IQAC Coordinator Rev. Fr. David Raj. He then spoke at length about our college, its mission and vision thereby imbibing the ethics and spirit of the college among the students. Thereafter, the meeting was branched into separate departmental rooms via the same online platform where the Heads and professors of each department addressed their students individually. Basic information related to the curriculum and academic calendar were imparted to the students which followed by various queries from them. The new academic session started from 9 November and this orientation programme was a crucial preface to it. The technical part of organising this event was looked after by faculty members Mr Kusum Kanan Mishra and Mr Himadri Shekhar. *(Mr Himadri).*

St Xavier’s Vocational Training Centre at Mariampahar

Mariampahar is glad to announce that from November 2020 the VTI has been resumed with many job oriented courses. The Institute is named after our popular Jesuit Saint Francis Xavier. Now it has been given a new life by the hard work of Fr Jesu Raj, the Director of VTI. Now the institute has been given a facelift with a bright look and a prospective scope. Driving course has begun from November 9th 2020. The programme began with a prayer service. The Holy Cross Sisters invoked blessings with a bhajan and then Fr Chrysostom Hembrom, the Parish Priest, said the prayer of blessings. Fr Jesu Raj, the Director of VTI, concluded the programme by giving instructions, rules and regulations.

Fr Jesuraj announces that the different programmes are available for our people such as driving, computer, tailoring, electricity and house wiring. Also VTI is planning to introduce useful courses such as welding, carpentry and hotel management as early as possible. The contact no: 7001213442 *(Fr Sudhir Ekka SJ).*

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Berchmans Illam (1960-2020)

Berchmans Illam, Chennai, celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year. Berchmans Hall was established in the premises of Loyola College in the year 1960, in a humble cottage With Fr L. Yedanapalli SJ as its Rector and Fr George Thottungal, under whose direct guidance as minister, Fr Joseph Alappatt SJ as the Spiritual Father, and Br X. Jacob SJ as their kitchen in-charge, for the purpose of lodging the young Scholastics of the Madurai Jesuit Province during their university studies. Today it has grown into an international study house. On the 26 November 2020, on the occasion of the Feast of St John Berchmans, the Patron Saint of the Jesuit Scholastics and Altar Servers, the year long awaited celebration culminated. It was celebrated with adequate spiritual preparation with nine days of meaningful Novena and the feast day Eucharist in the college Chapel which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Raja SJ, the Provincial of Chennai Jesuit Province, and concelebrated by the priests who are residing in Loyola College premises. The Eucharist was meticulously planned and executed by the Berchmans Illam Community. In the absence of the actual members (Scholastics) of the community, the interim community that consists of a few scholastics who are Theologians, Philosophers, and university students who could not be present in their respective common houses due to the pandemic situation and are lodged here at Berchmans Illam took active part in the preparation of this celebration. The Eucharist was followed by a sumptuous meal.

On the following day, 27 November, we had a virtual celebration of the Jubilee on Zoom platform for the Alumni and the present Berchmanites who are hailing from all over South Asia, East Timor and East African Provinces. There were variety of programmes conducted on Zoom Platform for about an hour and half. A number of participants shared their fond memories of Berchmans Illam and the role it played in their Jesuit formation. As an *anamnesis* of the jubilee celebration many events were organized throughout the year. Along with other mementos, a Jubilee Souvenir titled, "Loyalty and Legacy" was released. Many dignitaries have sent congratulatory messages. Some present and Past Berchmanites have contributed for the souvenir through their articles, poems and drawings expressing their joy and sentiments of gratitude towards this house of formation. I was happy to go through the souvenir in which our own Provincial Varghese Palli was among those who had written

congratulatory messages. His name and Fr Varghese Puthuserry's names were mentioned during an interview of the community Superior as "notable alumni" of Berchmans Illam. Sch Samuel Murmu had contributed a beautiful poem named "*Hold on!*" in the same. Even though, the pandemic has affected our normal life schedule and academic lifestyle for most part of the year, it has not dented the spirit of the Berchmanites. Congratulations to Fr Alangaram, the Present Superior and his committed staff and community members who made this event a grand success and meaningful despite many odds. I am privileged to be here at this historical event in the annals of Berchmans Illam. I was filled with a sense of overwhelming gratitude to God for our mother, the Society of Jesus, while admiring the rich legacy of Berchmans Illam which has chiseled and moulded many eminent Jesuits, the valuable guidance, tremendous contribution and selfless service rendered by the former superiors and their committed staff, and for the ever loyal sons of the Society of Jesus (Some are my own batch-mates) who were formed here and are serving God and humanity in different Parts of the world. May God bless them all! (*Fr John S. Ravi SJ*).

Health Bulletin

Fr Benjamin Tigga is admitted in Medicare Health Centre, Burdwan, as he was suffering from urinary retention problem.

May These Souls Rest in Peace!

Fr Gonzalez Valles Carlos SJ (GUJ, 95/79) on 09.11.2020 in Madrid, Spain

Fr A. Anthony Pappuraj SJ (MDU, 74/57) on 13.11.2020 at Apollo Hospital, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Fr S. Paul Lourdasamy SJ (PAT) on 22.11.2020 in Kolkata, West Bengal

Mrs Shanti Tudu, Mother of Deacon Emmanuel Murmu, on 09.11.2020 in Simaldohi, Jharkhand

Mr Arockia Samy (47), Brother-in-law of Fr Jacob Chinnappan, on 13.11.2020, in Tamil Nadu

Mr Nana Kajley, Brother-in-law of Fr Ravindra Darshima, on 16.11.2020 in Madhya Pradesh

Mrs Mariamma (72), Cousin of Fr Ignacy Lazar, on 30.11.2020 at Batlagundu, Tamil Nadu

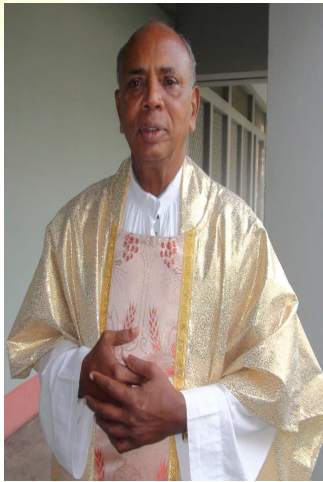
Mrs Brijit Xaxa (61), Elder sister of Fr Nirmal Xaxa, on 04.12.2020, at Rajawal, Jharkhand

Mr Daud Kisku (62), Uncle of Sch Sebastian Baskey, on 06.12.2020 at Ambari, Majlishpur, West Bengal

R.I.P.

**Fr Susai Lourdu Irudayaraj SJ
(1946-2020)**

Fr Lourdu Irudayaraj Susai SJ was born in 1946 at Saatharasampatty in Tamil Nadu. In 1967, he joined the Santhal Region of the Society of Jesus at Ghat, Patna, in 1967. He was ordained a priest in 1980 at Dudhani, Dumka. His first assignment was as Assistant Pastor and Hostel In-charge at Mundli, Tinpahar. Throughout his pastoral work was his main assignment and his predilection. In later years, if engaged, for a while in some other work, Fr Lourdu would say, 'I am a pastor'. In fact, he served zealously in various parishes of Bengal and Bihar-Jkarkand both as Assistant Pastor and as Parish Priest: Majlisipur, Alampur, Rahutara and Rajibpur in Bengal and Chilimpur, Mariampahar and since 2013 Jirulia in Jharkhand. He is the pioneer of the last-mentioned place, Jirulia, and he liked to share in private conversation with the Jisu Jaher community, to which he belonged, about his frequent visits to the villages to build up the catholic community or Church of Jirulia. He also saw through and won a number of cases related to the Jirulia property. In between the pastoral assignments to the various parishes mentioned above, Fr Lourdu was assigned, from time to time, other works. In 1994, he did one year of post-graduate studies at EAPI in the Philippines, related to pastoral and catechetical work. In 1996, Fr Lourdu became the Director of Catechists Training Centre (CTC) at Torai for two years. Then, in 1999, he was mandated by Fr Provincial to pioneer the Paharia apostolate, writing to him, "First of all I thank you for the dedicated service you have done at the catechetical centre in Torai...Now you are being assigned to start the pioneering work among the Paharias...." Fr Lourdu also served, for a number of years, as one of the consultors of the Provincial. The Late Bishop Alphonse D'Souza SJ of Raiganj Diocese, Fr Lourdu's Ecclesiastical Superior for a number of years, on Fr Lourdu's transfer to Dumka



Diocese, wrote to him: "I thank you wholeheartedly for your wonderful apostolate and dedicated hard work and commitment to the diocese..... I appreciate your availability for any kind of ministry in the Church....you carry out your responsibility with zeal, dedication and commitment." Fr Lourdu promoted a number of vocations from Tamil Nadu. Fr Lourdu had also his share of ailments which he bore with fortitude. He loved people specially the poor and he would share with them whatever he had. His was a happy personality. May the Lord grant him eternal happiness with his angels, with the Blessed and Saints of the Society of Jesus and with All the Saints. Dumka-Raiganj Province is grateful to Rt.Rev. Bishop Julius Marandi, of Dumka Diocese, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Charity and all others who joined us, helped us, supported us and prayed for and with us as we bid farewell to our dear Fr Susai Lourdu. *(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).*

**"Fr Susai Lourdu Irudayaraj SJ...the
Shepherd...my Brother"
By Fr Thomas Susai SJ**

Annan is alive in everyone's heart. Everyone who had known him has only great appreciation for him, and many are grateful to him for what he was to them. Fr Lourdu, my beloved brother, was the fourth among six children of my parents. God led him in a unique way to the Altar without diminishing his unique character of being ever generous, adjustable and accommodating nature. He was very much concerned about everyone wherever he was, whether at home, before joining the Jesuits or during the formation or later on in his mission.

His sudden death is a shocking and painful one, for me more than anyone else. Owing to my poor health condition he used to visit me all the way from Jirulia, despite his own health issues and other works, whenever it was possible for him to do so. He counseled me to accept the sickness and life; he often reminded me of the positive side of everything, and to be grateful to God; and appreciating me for the way I had surrendered to the Lord's guidance. And this is the sort of life he himself was leading; ever grateful to God. He never complained to me or to my relatives of his pains, sorrows, agonies, or illnesses. He would not encourage me to share with him anything negative; we had very little sharing of our difficulties. It used to pain me and made me wonder, "Why, my Annan doesn't spend time with me or share with me or listen to my pains. And that was what I

whispered in the cemetery kneeling near his coffin as my parting word.

In our spiritual conversations we used to prepare each other for a happy death and he had expressed to me his wish about his death and burial. Some of the things he wished and told me were these: No money should be spent on his medication. 'We should not be a burden to anyone or for the Province. Be prepared with a good confession for dying, and be ready to meet the Lord any time. No one should come from home for my funeral, if I die before you and if your health permits, you can go home and offer Masses for me and return.' When I look back, I realize that everything happened as he had wished.

All those who condole and console me share with me about his positive and light generating life. I had witnessed this: He lived the Gospel fully and he surely and steadily walked on the footsteps of his Master. When I was with him at Alampur for my pastoral experience after my ordination, I experienced how he laid-down his life for the sheep and he smelt the sheep and he saved many souls for his Lord. He was obedient to the Lord and his Authorities; he even used to see silver lines shining behind dark clouds.

I was moved by the farewell Mass: the way it was arranged, organized and celebrated. The Eucharist and homily by Rt. Rev. Julius Marandi, Bishop of Dumka, was very touching. I experienced the consoling, comforting and appreciating participation of all. Fr Lourdu's people and friends far and wide could witness the funeral Mass and final farewell live through online. In spite of their absence at Dumka, they were satisfied, consoled and appreciated, thanks to everyone who contributed to this. All these are different dimensions of resurrection experience for me.

After my Annan's death I feel the pain and loss, sadness and grief all the more and I go through a certain heaviness and loneliness; tides of memory waves come up and make him very much alive in me. When someone shares with me their experiences of Annan it makes me joyous and grateful to God. People are of positive opinion of him and full of appreciation and praises for the way he lived, dealt with everyone which uplifted them. People have experienced the Lord in and through him, because he had touched the hearts of everyone around him.

He was a great shepherd of the flock of the Lord. He

was a committed vocation promoter, brought many great vocations not only to the Santal Jesuit Mission, but also to various other congregations. *Annan* lives in the hearts of a multitude. Lourdu *Annan*, May Your Noble Soul Rest in Peace!

A Sense of Gratitude

Sr Vinnarasi Manoharan FMM, the niece of Fr Lourdu writes, "Dear Fathers, I deeply appreciate your expressions of sympathy. Words alone can never truly express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the sympathizers and well-wishers who showed solidarity with me following the demise of my uncle Lourdu Susai SJ. Unfortunately death suddenly snatched him away from us on 16 November 2020. Everything still feels like a nightmare to me and I vividly remember when my brother called me to say that our uncle Lourdu is no more. It's so heart breaking that I never got the opportunity to tell him goodbye. Yet uncle Lourdu will forever remain as a blessing and my spiritual father. In a way he is my vocation promoter, the life he lived in his mission areas and the mission he does to different people inspired me. No matter what the situations are, our uncle always had a positive attitude. He was a very dedicated and faithful missionary religious. Whenever he comes home for holidays we had lots of fun, cute fights and laughter. Like a teacher he used to help me to study. He was my role model and I was happy to listen whenever he had some advice for me. He might be gone but legacy lives on in many lives he had affected, especially mine. Good bye, Uncle! May you continue to pray that I also continue the mission, of our Lord Jesus has entrusted to me to bring glory to Him. Thank you very much Rev. Bishop, Fr Provincial, Fathers, Brothers for your friendship, support, brotherhood and the prayers that you shared with my uncle! Our family can't express how much your generosity has meant to us during this difficult time. Thank you for your availability and the cooperation that you showed on the day of my uncle's death! In spite of the poor network connection you made it possible to watch the funeral Mass. I must admit that though it was at the last moment, you made it possible for us that live telecast which was a consolation to some extent even though we could not be present physically. Thank you very much for the doctor Sister, sister nurses who cared for my uncle! A very big thanks to Society of Jesus and to the Province of Dumka-Raiganj!"



Funeral Mass and Service of
Fr Susai Lourdu Irudayaraj SJ
on 17.11.2020



Final Vows of Fr Mathias Kisku SJ
on 13.11.2020



Fr Provincial Blesses the Newly Built Hostel Building and the Renovated Church Building at Nichitpur



Nawae Porob at Nichitpur



Seminar at Nichitpur



Second Priest from Jibonpur Parish



Youth for Jesus at Hasapathar



Youth Camp at Mariampahar



Fr Michael Panimegam's Relatives
at Kalidanga



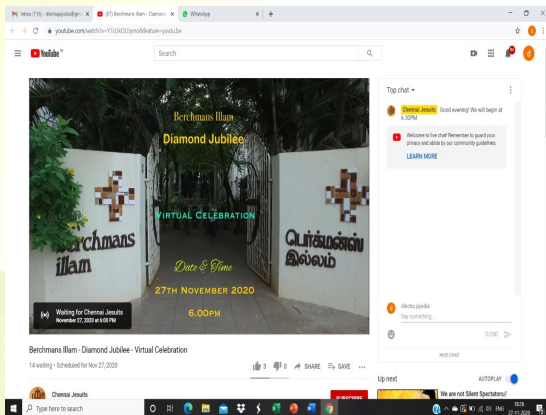
Christ the King Feast at Hathimara



Cleanliness Drive by
St Xavier's, Sahibganj



St Xavier's Vocational Training Centre at Mariampahar Starts Driving School



Diamond
Jubilee
Celebration
of
Berchmans
Illam

