



A WISH FOR PEACE  
AND HAPPINESS  
AT **CHRISTMAS** AND  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.



# Hazaribag Halchal

DECEMBER- 2020, Arrupe Niwas, P.B.-06, Hazaribag, Jharkhand, 825301, Vol. 67 No. 10

*Joyful Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for the year 2021*

## APPOINTMENT BY FR. GENERAL

- ❖ **Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakal (DAR)** as the new Socius, Admonitor and Consultor to the POSA. He replaces **Fr. Keith Abranches**.
- ❖ **Fr. Roland Coelho** (Provincial of Goa) as Consultor to the POSA and Chair of the West Zone.

## FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM- 2020

DECEMBER - 2020	JANUARY 2021
03 Foundation Stone Blessing SXC, Mahuadanr	09 Golden Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Francis Kurien, at SSC Sitagarha
05-06 Young Priests' Meeting – Arrupe Niwas	10 Province Consult, 08.30 am. AN.
12 Education Meeting 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.	14 Tilaiya Parish, Ordination <b>Dn. Simon Murmu</b>
13 Local Superiors Meeting at 8.30, AN.	19 House Blessing, Sale-Karamtoli
15 Patna visitation Sch. Asim Tirkey	28 Danto Parish Ordination <b>Dn. Marianus Tigga</b>
22 Finance Commission Meeting 10.30.	29-31 Bhurkunda Visitation
28 Golden Jubilee of Fr. R.M. Packiam at Shahpur	

*Congratulations to FR. JOHN TIRKEY, (13 Nov.) and FRs. BIRENDRA TIRKEY, SHYJU THOMAS, AMOD GRIDHA and CHRISTOPHER KUJUR (21 Nov.) on the occasion of their FINAL PROFESSION.*



## PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS:

**DEACON SIMON MURMU** will be ordained in Sacred order of Priesthood by **Most Rev. Bishop Kurien Valiakandathil, DD** (Bishop of Bhagalpur), on **14 January, 2021** in St. Paul's Church, Tilaiya at 09.00AM. He will celebrate his first Mass on the following day, **15 January in Bagoiya** (Chankiary) village at 09.00 AM. He is the third Jesuit from Chankiary Village. (*late Fr. Angelus & Vincent*)

**Directions to reach Tilaiya Parish** - (135 km from Hazaribag) - can be reached within 3 and half hours Take Hazaribag Bagodar Road, from Bagodar take GT Road to Dumri, then from Dumri take Giridih Road, from Giridih take Deoghar Road and then after reaching Bengabad (15km from Giridih) take Tilaiya Mission Road (12 km from Bengabad Chowk), the Tilaiya parish School and Convent is on the left.

**Note:** All priests should carry their own mass vestments (albs & stoles, etc.) Tilaiya parish is a very small rural parish, so accommodation is limited; therefore people planning to come early or stay for the next day's program should arrange their own accommodation.

**DEACON MARIANUS TIGGA** will be ordained in Sacred order of Priesthood by **Most Rev. Bishop Anand Jojo, DD** (Bishop of Hazaribag), on **28 January, 2021** in Catholic Ashram, Danto at 09.00AM. He will celebrate his first Mass on the following day, **29 January in Dahuri** village at 09.00 AM. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

### BHURKUNDA, CATHOLIC ASHRAM

We celebrated *Nayakhani* and Christ the King feasts and are getting ready for Christmas. **Frs. Christo** and **Basant** attended the JEPASA meeting at Charhi. During the meeting **Basant** fell sick and was taken to Holy Cross Hospital, Tarwa. A further tests are done to find out the cause of his illness. **Fr. Basant** is taken to Leiven's Hospital, Madanr for further test and treatment. **Frs. Kishore** and **Basant** went to Hazaribag for the Young Priests' meeting. **Fr. Saju** was called to Patratu to sort out staff disciplinary issues. To improve our Online Teaching and to share about various other school related matters, a Parents' Meeting was organized for the High School. A large number of parents attended the meeting which was very encouraging and they were supportive to the school's efforts. **Frs. Suman** and **Kishore** visited the Secretariat to find out the state of **Suman's** Papers regarding his appointment. We have initiated the process to expand our Play Ground. The flooring of the hostel building ground floor is over. We began our Second Unit Test on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Listening to the financial hardships of

the parents is the main concern for us these days. **Fr. Francis Lopes** is using a walking stick to walk.

### BOKARO, ST. XAVIER'S

Diwali and Chhat holidays provided us some time for ourselves. **Fr. James** made his eight-day retreat in PTEC Sitagarha. **Fr. Arun** looked after the house and the school. **Bro. Kuriakose** from Calcutta Province was our guest for few days and later he joined **Fr. James** to make his own retreat in SSC Sitagarha.

**Fr. Tintus** received sad news of his brother's death, Mr. Benjamine Dungdung (65), whom he had gone to see few days ago. He was suffering from Typhoid. The funeral was on Nov. 29 at Konbir Nawatoli village cemetery. **Fr. Arun** accompanied **Fr. Tintus** for the funeral.

The School campus looks beautiful with its greenery, though desperately, waiting for the students. The admission process for Prep began on Nov 24. The oral and written tests were conducted for the aspiring candidates in smaller groups at different timings and days, meanwhile,

the parents were being interviewed. Nov 30 was the last day for this process. Sr. Manju, the Vice-principal of the primary section, organized it well, together with the help of her staff and the Principal.

The school organized a few webinars; the webinar on Global Career opportunities in Accountancy and Finance for Class XII and XI (commerce section), and on 'Parenting' for the staff as well as for the parents. Both were excellent and highly appreciated.

The School office rooms are in the process of being renovated and remodelled. A few extra classrooms are being created in the Plus Two and Middle School sections. A new computer lab is emerging in the High School building for Middle and Primary sections. Complete new wiring is being done in the high and middle school buildings to reduce high rated electricity bill. The new ramp in the High School building is still waiting for its inauguration.

#### **CHARHI, MASI MARSAL**

In the month of November the Charhi community started daily Eucharistic celebration in villages and convents. The school remained closed for the whole month due to covid-19. Scholastics **Amardeep** and **Prakash Baskey** were busy with online classes and exams as demanded by the professors. **Sch. Dilip** was always found in vegetable garden. On Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Scholastics went to Hazaribag for recollection. On 4<sup>th</sup> November **Fr. P.O. Chacko** came with contractor Mr. Jamal to inspect the school building for repair work. On November 8<sup>th</sup> Logos bible quiz was held for parishioners soon after mass at Charhi. Big thanks to Sr. Kamala, **Schols. Prakash, Amardeep, and Dilip** for their invigilation. On 9<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Jerry Rosario**, (MDU) addressed to all the JEPASA coordinators through Zoom.

On 10<sup>th</sup> **Sch. Dilip** left for Ranchi as he received a call from RIMS about his relative being admitted in intensive care unit. On 15<sup>th</sup> of November relatives of **Fr. Emile** came from Ghaghra to see him and spent some time with us. Mr Jamal began repair work of middle school. On 21<sup>st</sup> November final vows of **Fr. Birendra** took his final vows along with three of his companions at Arrupe Niwas. Charhi community was there to

witness the event. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November Christ the King feast was celebrated in Ghato, Kuju, Kedla-15 and Charhi. On 28<sup>th</sup> Scholastics had gone for recollection to Hazaribag.

#### **CHIROPATH PARISH**

**Sch. David Kerketta** is a new member in Chiropath. He replaces **Bro. David Xalxo**. **Bro. David** has moved to his new place, Alert Centre Pakripath. On 13<sup>th</sup> November **Fr. Barnabas** went to St. Xavier's college Mahuadanr to witness the final commitment of **Fr. John Tirkey**. On 15<sup>th</sup> we had Dipawali mass in the parish. After the mass **Fr. Barnabas, Sch. David** and Sr. Bimla went around to the catholic families to bless their cattle. On 16<sup>th</sup> all three of us joined the youth and children for Chiro village for vanbhoj (picnic) near the Burha River. On 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated the feast of Christ the King in the parish. Before the mass we had a small procession with the faithful in the school play ground. On 23<sup>rd</sup> we had two visitors, **Fr. P.O. Chacko** and **Fr. Gyan**. They were accompanied by **Bro. David** from Mahuadanr to Chiropath. **Fr. Chacko** came to see the progress of Girls' Hostel building. On 28<sup>th</sup> **Sch. David** attended the recollection in Mahuadanr along with other scholastics. On 29<sup>th</sup> the casting of the Girls' Hostel was done.

#### **HAZARIBAG, ARRUPPE NIWAS**

Under careful guidance and as an apprentice **Fr. Xavier Tigga** began his work of Assistant Province Development Director under **Fr. Bob Slattery**. At the same time Xavier has a keen eye on land issues and on the recognition processes of some of the schools. On 03<sup>rd</sup> of December, he had a miraculous escape from back-fall into a foundational pit dug out for the auditorium of St. Xavier's college, Mahuadanr while taking a photo of the college building. He was recuperating in Holy Cross Hospital, Tarwa and returned back to Arrupe Niwas on 14 Nov.

The Jesuit treasurers meeting supposed to be held at Rome had a new twist due to Covid 19. The meeting was on ZOOM platform and there were 33 participations from the world. The programme lasted for a week with the province finance administrative works of the treasurer and how documentation on canonical as well as civil has to be maintained by the

treasurers. What are the expectations of the treasurer by the province and society at large? The Treasurer is expected to know the ways and means to safeguard the society and make the life of Jesuits more sharing and caring. **Fr. Francis** and the office accounting team had a zoom meeting on the Tally programme and account keeping organised by Tally India.

Nowadays, Zoom meetings have become very common. For two evenings, on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Xavier and Bob took part in the meeting of all the PDDs of our assistancy. The Jesuit representative in Rome, **Fr. Tom McLain, sj** coordinating the PDDs throughout the world took part in the meeting as did **Fr. Stany, sj** POSA. It was coordinated by **Fr. Siji, sj** Assistancy Development Officer in Delhi. Among other points, much stress was put on local fundraising, getting all communities of the province to cooperate in fund raising, alumni being encouraged to contribute finance to help their alma mater and other schools.

Another zoom meeting was held with Helen Forde CEO Jesuit Mission and her team with **Frs. Santosh, Francis Marian, and Bob** to discuss the proposed funding of the auditorium of St. Xavier's College, Mahuadanr and the timeline for funding. **Francis Marian** explained clearly the situation we are facing with the new government rules on foreign funding.

**Fr. Gyan Savari**, the former treasurer of the province was given farewell from Arrupe Niwas community on 10 Nov., 2020. The most significant part of the farewell was the spontaneous and in-depth sharing of each members' experiences of **Fr. Gyan**, during the Mass. There was an outpouring of gratitude and genuine feeling of how Fr. Gyan's life, mission, commitment, simplicity and his way of life touched and inspired them. He served the Province curia as an assistant treasurer for 03 years and as a Province treasurer for 13 years. And, besides this he was the superior of the community for 08 years. He took great interest in taking care of the apostolate and the persons under his care. Kudos to **Fr. Gyan**!

Another zoom meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec with Jesuit Mission and Mr. Atul Kumar on the proposed lift irrigation project, Atul is interested in financing. This was followed up in

Mahuadanr on 1<sup>st</sup> December in a meeting of **Fr. Provincial** and **Bob** with **John Xaxa** and **Dilip Ekka**. It was decided that **John** would follow up meeting persons who may be involved in this project. Four Jesuits, namely; **Frs. Christopher Kujur, Birendra Tirkey, Amod Gridha** and **Shyju Thomas** took their final profession on 21 Dec., 2020 at Arrupe Niwas.

Young Priests' meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December under the guidance of **Fr. Provincial** and **Fr. Patras Tirkey**. There were 24 priests and two decons, who participated and nourished themselves through reflection, sharing and by the sacrament of reconciliation.

### HAZARIBAG, PRERANA COMMUNITY

**Fr. Thomas Joseph** visited the Biru Hospital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec., for further treatment. He came back with encouraging news. The Prerana Community is extremely thankful to **Sch. Jeevan** for being a very good companion in his time of need by being with him in the hospital. He was discharged from the hospital on 07<sup>th</sup> Dec.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> we attended the farewell party of **Fr. Gyan** in Arrupe Niwas. We sold all our bamboos for 7000 rupees. **Fr. Shyju** visited the Church C.O. office for making the land exchanged with the agriculture department to be made online. On the way back he had lunch at Dumar with Birthday baby **Fr. Sebastian**. **Fr. Shyju** was seen busy with people sorting out their difficulties and at times helping people to file FIRs as well.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Final Vows day celebration went smoothly of two of our members in Arrupe Niwas. We had a rare visitor in the form of **Br. Kuriakose, sj** (CCU). Towards the end of the month we had Aadhar correction program in the campus. It was mainly for priests and religious. About 108 people benefited from it.

Though **Fr. Tony Herbert** has taken charge of Prerana Resource Centre as Director, he is still operating from Arrupe Niwas. The Community expects **Frs. Tony** and **Rajendra** to join the Community shortly. At last a Covid financial surgical strike was felt in Prerana Community; a cheque issued by the community bounced back due to lack of sufficient money in our bank account!

## TARWA, ST. JOSEPH'S

In November we began normal Holy Masses in our locality: Holy Cross Hospital, SCJM Convent and Community. All of us went to attend the Diaspora meeting at Prerana. On 18 Nov. we went to SSC Sitagarha to bid farewell to **Br. Lawrence**. All of us participated in the Final Vows ceremony at Arrupe. Our **Schols. Naveen & Sumit** played a major role in the choir.

When 'Chhath' was celebrated here in Tarwa, some of us and SCJM sisters went to the close by river to see various ceremonies performed. We celebrated with the SCJM sisters their foundation day and seniors' day.

In the school front we had online & offline tests. **Fr. Theodore** and **Sch. Raja** played a great role in training the whole staff. We had our own internal workshop on "Covid 19 Experiences & New Education Policy 2020." It was conducted by **Frs. Cyril, Theodore & Sch. Raja**. Our community and hostel vegetable gardens are green.

**Fr. Yugal** went to Jamshedpur to meet his novice companion **Br. Maxi. Theodore** went to Ranchi combining some school work. **Cyril** went to Charhi to participate in **Fr. Birendra's** final vows reception. Here **Naveen** and **Sumit** are busy with their online classes and tests. In the evenings they contribute to keep the campus clean. One day our Tertians of SSC came here and had tea with us.

The Ankur Covid Tuition system is getting strengthened. It is becoming a good means to build rapport with the villagers. **Fr. Tony Herbert's** presence during the monthly meetings of the Social pastoral staff is very helpful. We are planning to start the circle wise meetings from January. On the occasion of Constitution Day, we organized a program at Hutpa. It was very well represented by the SCJM sisters and the HC staff of Tarwa. **Fr. Cyril Toppo, sj**

## HAZARIBAG, ST. ROBERT'S

We conducted compartmental exam for metric students from 5 November to 13 November following the guidelines of Covid-19. During this month teachers were given more training how to use and take classes and test by using Google online format. Students wrote their

first term exam using online Google format. We completed online registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Class students

**Fr. Albinus** went to JAC office for a couple of times to sort out the number ratio of 11<sup>th</sup> std admission. **Fr. P.O Chacko** made a trip to Mahuadanr and Bhurkunda to inspect the building construction work. On 19<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Albinus** went to Ranchi for the house blessing of his relatives and came back on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On 21<sup>st</sup> **Fr. Amod** took his final vows at Arrupe Niwas. On 28<sup>th</sup> **Sch. Augustine** went to St. Xavier's to attend this monthly recollection.

We have received Atal Lab grant for robotic laboratory from the central government scheme. **Fr. Principal** started to find out companies to get the quotation to get the approval from Govt to purchase and install the equipment. The administrative block first floor roofing is completed and toilet block is nearly in finishing end.

**ANKUR:** All the candidates managed to come back to 'Ankur' in spite of the Covid 19 Pandemic. With the coming of our candidates our house is now full. Altogether we have 48 Candidates right now. Candidates of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> classes are busy with their online classes. Last month online exams were conducted for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> class students. In order to keep ourselves healthy and fit we have started playing football. Soon we will be playing basketball and volleyball too. We are also busy in gardening and cleaning the campus.

**Fr. Jacob** is keeping well and he is very regular for his evening walk. We the staff members attended the Final Vows of our Fathers in Arrupe. Last month 'Adhar Card' correction and new enrolment programme was arranged in Prerana by the Prerana Resource Centre. Some of our candidates had gone for the correction and it was done successfully. On 28 Nov., Our Candidates had recollection in Ankur and the preacher was **Fr. Rajendra Tete**. It was well appreciated by the candidates and they were very much taken up by his talk. Thank you **Fr. Rajendra**, for your kind acceptance. We also thank **Fr. Amod** who helped the candidates in hearing the confession. It was spiritual preparation for the candidates to welcome the

saviour who is to come. Last month **Fr. Cyril Toppo** gave us a pleasant surprise by visiting Ankur. Our candidates were so glad to meet him. **Dn. Simon Murmu**, came to give an invitation card for his ordination. We wish him good wishes for his ordination day. We assure him of our prayerful support to him.

#### **HAZARIBAG, ST. XAVIER'S**

In the hope of things improving in the coming months, the three Jesuits and the seven Sisters on the staff, as a break from on-line teaching, carried out thorough interviews of the prospective 2021-22 Prep children along with their parents. It took a week. In appreciation of the work **Fr. Rosner** took the Jesuits, CMC, FCC and DC staff for an outing to Patki. The Prep admissions began on Monday 7 December and will go on for a week.

The community attended the Final Vows Mass of our four priests in the Arrupe Niwas. The scholastics from St Xavier's and Arrupe provided the music for the ceremony. Our collegians get plenty of evening exercise on the basket-ball and on the badminton courts in the hall, and they have dominoes competition after the supper. Under the guidance of Asha they are also painting the numerous flower pots red, and giving the grill around the chapel a coat of green.

**Fr. Manoj** paid a visit to the Tata Cancer Hospital, Calcutta. The return journey was via Bandel Shrine. Thanks to the PTEC, Sitagarha, they enjoyed the comfort of their new Hundai for the trip.

Over the weekend of **28-30** November, St. Xavier's was host to 32 scholastics for their monthly recollection under the direction of **Fr. Rosner**. They were followed in the first weekend of December by a gathering of the Province's 25 "young" priests.

Last Friday morning **Fr. Bill** went down to the garage, opened the Celerio and was surprised to see a mess of small scraps of paper on the floor, which on inspection proved to be scraps of the car's log book kept in the glove box. The glove box itself was full of shredded paper. It would appear that an enterprising rat had got into the car, made a meal of the log book, and worst of all had made off with the envelope

containing insurance papers and Bill's licence. To complete its haul it took a mask kept in the small slot near the steering wheel. Lesson: the rats observe us!

#### **KAJARKILO, MASI MARSAL**

After good rain in mid-November the winter has increased severely. Longer intermittent rain delayed the harvest; consequently we couldn't plant vegetables on time. Once the fields were dry the whole community was involved in vegetable cultivation with the help of the hostel boys. In the first week of November we conducted half yearly offline exam for the high school section. Nov. 14 – 22 **Dn. Marianus** went home for the preparation of his Priestly Ordination. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated in the parish with a small number of parishioners keeping in mind the social distance. On Nov.26 **Fr. Bob Billings** went to Hazaribag to see his dentist. Nov.28 – 29 **Fr. Pius** and **Dn. Marianus** went to Hazaribag for a day of Scholastics' Recollection. On 29 **Fr. Xavier Xalxo** went to Ranchi to make a short visit to his relatives. **Frs. Primus** and **Bob** continue the pastoral visit and spiritual ministries in the parish. For the construction of a new herbal centre in Dudhmo, the old mud house has been demolished. **Frs. Pius** and **Primus** keep supervising the work. *Marianus Tigga, sj*

#### **MAHUADANR, ST. JOSEPH'S**

This month, **Frs. Suresh** and **Kamal** kept themselves busy in administering of the sacraments celebrating the feast of dipawali, Sohrai, Christ the King and blessing of the cemeteries in the different villages.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of November, marriage seminar began for 29 couples. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated at the village level. In the Parish Christ the King feast procession was organised within the campus with dhumdham.

Some of the villages celebrated Christ the King procession with solemnity, dancing, singing, putting up Jhankis etc. Now the preparation for Christmas is going on at the village level. There will be masses and confessions in all the respective villages.

St. Joseph's +2 school has completed the repair works inside the school building. All

the private staff of the school are painting the desks and the benches of the class rooms during the lock down period. The fallen boundary wall is being repaired under the supervision of **Fr. Dilip**, without taking the help of the contractor. Renovation and roofing of St. Joseph's Middle school is in progress under Mr. Ajit Minj the contractor. All the boys and girls of classes X and XII are back in the hostel to attend regular classes started since 1<sup>st</sup> December. **Fr. Sebren** and **Sch. Praful** are busy in their duty to provide all the facilities to the hostellers.

All the teachers of St. Joseph's Middle School are taking classes in different villages. Proper documentation and record keeping works in High School are in progress according to the instructions given by **Fr. Francis Marian**.

The Co-operative Credit Society members are happy that the management has been re-enforced by an experienced person **Fr. Gyan Savari**. **Fr. Peter Jones** is keeping well and having regular exercises.

#### TUNDTOLI PARISH

In all the mass centres we had memorial and thanks giving mass for ancestors and departed souls. People are very grateful to their ancestors. **Frs. Rajesh, John** and pastoral Sr. Sunita accompanied people in the thanksgiving. On *Sohrai* people showed their gratitude to their cattle. The next day was the day of youth and children to enjoy *dasamasa* (picnic). Dasamasa was the day to show their managing skill and care for each other. For Christ the King Feast all the villagers came to prepare the route for the procession. On 22<sup>nd</sup> there was solemn procession of Christ the King. The procession was in the campus itself. There were two days of marriage seminar for 30 couples. Sr. Flora keeps up her work for the recognition of Lievens Middle School. On 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. BEO and his team came for prior inspection of the necessary documents for recognition of the school. DEO and his team would come for inspection on 7- 8 of Dec.

#### SHAHPUR, SAHODAYA

On 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Fr. Provincial** made a quick visit to Sahodaya on his way back from Mahuadanr. On 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. on the occasion of **Tom's** birthday all the members from Vivek

Sadan community gathered at Sahodaya for a special prayer conducted by **Sch. Vivek Ekka** followed by birthday meal. Some of the 10<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls have arrived the hostel for some special classes. Our school staffs are always available to render their service to the students. On 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Fr. Moris** made a quick trip to Gumla to meet his ailing mother and other family members and returned with bag full of groundnuts for the community. The boys' bathroom works are completed and now we are planning to paint the building along with the convent building and dispensary.

Our regents **Vivek, Ravi** and **Kamal** went to Mahuadanr for the monthly recollection which was given by **Fr. John Tirkey**. From the beginning of Dec **Fr. Moris** started the class for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and all the teachers are regularly attending the programme. **Fr. Tom** made a quick visit to Sitagarha to meet the Principal of St. Xavier's school to get more information in the fee structure etc. **Fr. Packiam** has started walking slowly on the Sahodaya veranda.

According to **Fr. Fredrick** the normal works like visiting various villages and meeting people and giving them monthly Eucharist are going on. He was invited by the Ursuline sisters at Bishrampur, for three days retreat followed by confession during the season of Advent. **Fr. Marianus** keeps himself busy collecting relevant documents for the opening permission for the school at Churadohar.

#### SHAHPUR, VIVK SADAN

As government gave permission to have small gathering for social and religious function we started to participate in public function. Pre-novices went for all Souls Day mass to cemetery at Birsa Nagar. On 14<sup>th</sup> Nov., on the occasion of Birsa Day, we had volleyball match with the youth of Birsa Nagar at Birsa Nagar. There were six teams for the match and the match was won by Catholic Sabha. **Fr. Arbind Beck** was awarded the man of the match. On 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov., we celebrated Christ the King Feast. This was the first opportunity for us to participate in the mass at cathedral. There was no procession outside. Instead of procession we had mass and adoration inside the church. The next day **Fr. Ranjeet Minj** from (JAM) came to

Vivek Sadan along with six pre-novices. Now, we have 15 pre-novices in Vivek Sadan- 9 for Hazaribag and 6 for Jamshedpur. One more pre-novice from Jamshedpur would join us later.

On 16<sup>th</sup> Nov **Fr. Victor Lakra** moved from Vivek Sadan to PTEC community, Sitagarha. He has joined the community as farm in-charge. **Fr. Arbind** accompanied **Victor** to PTEC Sitagarh and he came back after attending commission meeting at Arrupe Niwas. **Fr. Sushil Osga** was the main celebrant for the silver jubilee of Sr. Prabha, SCJM at Chiyanki. **Fr. Ajit Soreng** was suffering from cold and cough but now he has recovered from it. For the preparation of advent season **Fr. Lawrence Tirkey** and **Fr. Arbind** went to Garhwa to give recollection and hear confession.

### **SITAGARHA, P.T.E.C**

This year the local villagers helped PTEC with paddy harvesting and threshing works. It was a bumper crop but the rain disrupted a bit. Six faculty members attended a national webinar on NEP and teacher Education conducted by the ERC, NCTE Bhubaneswar. **Fr. Arbind Beck** accompanied and brought **Fr. Victor Lakra** on 16<sup>th</sup> November, who joined the community and assumed the farm work from the very next day. **Fr. Vincent** went to Tilaya Parish to attend a meeting with the parishioners and religious of the place. **Fr. P.J. James** made his annual retreat during the Puja holidays at PTEC. The installation of the solar panels in the new college building (XCE) is in the progress. We hope to get solar power before Christmas. **Fr. Philemon** attended the Young Priests' meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December at Arrupe Niwas. SSC Novices selected PTEC central pond for their monthly picnic on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Now the students are getting ready for the semester end examination starting from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### **St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School Gurwa**

The school marked St. Francis Xavier's feast day in a simple way. By the good wishes of the TTI community, our staff as well as students had a broad smile on their faces on the day. The life story of St. Francis Xavier was well prepared and read by Miss Pricilla and the OCD candidates sang greeting songs for the staff during the assembly. **Fr. Sibrus**, the principal, finally,

expressed his gratitude and thanked all the organizers.

**Teacher's Training Practice Middle School Gurwa:** Sr. Anima, the Headmistress, got permission from the BEO to let the students come for clarification to the school. The terminal exam was conducted offline, the students' participation was very good and the result was also distributed. Sr. Pratima and all other teachers come to the school and help the students with their doubts and difficulties.

**Loyola School Sitagarha:** The Unit-I exam report card was distributed on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November to the parents. Many parents are very understanding and co-operative and paid the tuition fee. The teachers were busy completing the syllabus of the Unit-II examination, which is going to start from 16<sup>th</sup> December to 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The entrance test is conducted and the admission is going on.

### **SITAGARHA, ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE**

We had Eucharist in the cemetery on all souls day. There was a big gathering of the Parishners. The Tertians played a big role in organising the Mass. **Frs. Binod Toppo** and **Prabodh** took the musical instruments from Juniorate and Novitiate to Ranchi for repair. The community had evening prayer service on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. in the cemetery to remember the deceased members of the Society. The Tertians went to Kajarkilo for their picnic by the river side.

The first year Novices joined the community at supper on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. after their long retreat. Fr. Gyan, the former Province treasurer came to SSC to say good bye to us before he left to take up the new assignment at Mahuadanr.

The birthday of **Fr. Tom Venad** was celebrated with community Mass on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. He himself offered the Mass for us. He was felicitated with beautiful birthday songs at supper. The Feast day of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the patron saint of the Novices and the house was celebrated with the community Mass in the evening. There were volleyball and football matches between the Juniors and the Novices.

Festival of light was celebrated with lighting plenty of diyas (lamps) along the corridors. We had a beautiful prayer service in

the evening conducted by the Novices. **Br. Kuriakose SJ**, (CCU) Came to SSC for his own retreat under the guidance of **Fr. K.C. Stephen. Fr. Jose Kalapura** (PAT) came to take class to the Tertians on the Mission history of the South Asia Assistancy.

**Fr. Francis Kurien** was admitted in Holy Cross Hospital, Tarwa on 15th Nov. He was brought to Hazaribag Pathology for ultrasound and urine culture test. We were very sad at the death of **Br. Lawrence Saldanha** who expired on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 05.00 p.m. His burial took place the next day at 02.30 p.m. **Fr. Sushil**, the Socius presided over the burial Mass in the absence of **Fr. Provincial** who was in Delhi for POSA's consult. Two first year Novices left the Novitiate on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. **Fr. Socius** reached both of them home.

All the Tertians and the staff went to Carmel Ashram for the final profession of Sr.

## FROM DIASPORA

### ANDHRA LOYOLA COLLEGE

The month of November brought happiness and new faces in Sanjeevan Niwas, Vijayawada. We the Sanjeevanties started this month with new experiences and with new spirit that we all received at the end of October with a meaningful and fruitful recollection talk given by **Fr. Anand**. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November we had a very moving and meaningful prayer service in the evening of All Souls' Day in the cemetery along with A.L.C community members. We were connected with our entire Province Jesuits who went ahead of us to the heaven, May God give them rest in peace.

In the second week of the month all the scholastics of theology and philosophy bid farewell to Sanjeevan Niwas building and went to stay in St. Xavier's Hostel till they are called by respective authorities to attend classes in Pune, Delhi and Chennai. The house of Sanjeevan welcomed the scholastics from Dumka, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020. On the same day our **Schols. Binison** and **Anthony** reached Sanjeevan Niwas early morning around 5:13 safe and sound and they were welcomed by **Fr. Superior Kiran**.

Carmela on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. **Frs. Vinod Kerketta** and **Camille** attended the final vows of four Jesuits at Arrupe Niwas. This year Christ the King Feast was celebrated in a simple way. The Tertians organised the Mass and the homily. Procession started from the Parish church and ended at Holy Cross Convent. **Fr. Vijay** (AND), Tertian lost his father on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. He immediately left for home and reached for the burial on time. We all remembered his departed father in our prayers.

The feast of St. John Berchman, the patron saint of the Juniors was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm. We had community Eucharist in the morning and volleyball match between the Juniors and the Tertians in the afternoon. The juniors defeated the Tertians. Many Novices, juniors and the tertians went to Prerana for the correction of their Aadhar cards. Sincere thanks to **Fr. Shyju** for his initiatives.

With the great zeal we began our novena to St. Berchmans on 17 November. We the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years began our 1st mid exams of 3<sup>rd</sup> semester from 19 Nov. We were prepared well to write our online exams. Scholastics from Ranchi province came to Sanjeevan on 21 November 2020. We pray for our entire province men especially the elderly and we also request to pray for five of us.

### MANRESA HOUSE RANCHI

Life in the capital city seems to be back to its normal. We all are leading a normal and happy life in the community. In recent days we were engaged in many community activities. We are 34 scholastics from five different provinces, RAN, HAZ, DAR, CCU and MAP.

The annual retreat was organized for us at Spiritual centre Namkum under the insightful direction of **Fr. K. C. Philip, sj**.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, sj**, the Provincial of Ranchi visited Manresa House and spoke to us about our purpose of stay at Manresa House. On 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Sch. Samir Ekka, sj**, a Regent in the Apostolic School Ranchi gave short small talk on the life of St. John Berchmans,

which was rich and interesting. On 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the feast day of St. John Berchmans. **Fr. Medard Xalxo, sj** (PCF Ranchi) presided over the Holy Mass. In the noon we had Volleyball match among ourselves. On 27<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Peter Mahindra Tigga, sj** pronounced his final Vows in the Manresa House chapel in the evening.

### FROM OVERSEAS

#### CAMBODIA

A Cambodian crucifix representing Christ with half a leg missing is a reference to the many land mine victims in this nation. According to the World Health Organization, as of early November 2020, Cambodia had 292 confirmed cases of Covid-19, and zero death. Jesuit Service Cambodia and other well-wishers have come forward to help the poor and needy materially.

The First November was the Water Festival in Cambodia. The significance of Cambodian Water Festival (Bon Om Touk) is one of the most important holidays in Cambodia, This festival is celebrated in every province, but many Cambodians make a special trip from the provinces to the capital city, Phnom Penh.

At present I am rendering to the aids patients with M.C brothers in Phnompenh. It is very inspiring as well as challenging. I was happy to read the biography of **Br. Andrew**, who belonged to Hazaribag Province and later became the founder of M.C brothers. From M.C brothers, I learnt selfless service, simplicity of life.

In the second week of November I joined the medical team, who went to Kampong Cham (provinces), for the health check-up and medicine distribution in the rural villages. The doctors examined over 200 patients with various sicknesses and gave them medicines. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of November I celebrated my birthday with brothers. In fact they did not know about it but in evening prayer I humbly prayed and informed them about it. The celebration was simple but memorable. So far I am good and safe, thank you for your prayerful support and encouragements. Wish you all, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.

*Sch. Deepak Lakra, sj*

The College remains closed whereas the offices are operating as usual. Due to the COVID-19 Classes and exams are being held through various online service devices. We were glad to welcome our Provincial in the community.

#### PARIS, FRANCE

The month of November had kept me busy with my French-learning and the visa processing. I had to even go down with fever during this long process of incertitude. After much wait and preoccupation for my Visa for France, finally I received it in the last week of November. I was happy at the same a bit worried because nothing seemed to be certain due to the pandemic. I was preoccupied because of my health and the lone journey I had to make to the foreign land. But much support and instructions given by some of the companions eased my worries. I am grateful to the provincial and to the Jesuits who made it possible. Finally, the departure day was confirmed and for the first time I boarded the flight from Ranchi to Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> November in the evening.

My journey was very pleasant without any hustle and difficulty. I landed at the Paris airport on 29<sup>th</sup> November itself at 8:30am European time.

I was happily received by **Sch. Amit** and my new Superior **Fr. Xavier Nucci** at the airport. Thanks to our two companions for not letting me get lost at the huge airport. After reaching, I straight entered into four days of home quarantine and I joined the community in person on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec., the feast day of St. Francis Xavier. Thus, I was warmly welcomed by the community. We are 36 members in the community from 9 different Jesuit provinces.

France is still in lockdown and therefore, I have not met **Sch. George** in person. **Schols. Amit** and **George** are in two different communities and therefore, they often call me and ask me about my stay. The most of the communities in Paris are composed of international Jesuits.

For the first time, I am having a strong experience of universal Society of Jesus. The things are fine with me although there are cultural and language difficulties. At the moment, I have not yet enrolled myself to the language courses.

Overall, I am doing well and am trying to get used to the things here. **Schols. Amit and George** are busy with their studies, tri-semester assignments and dissertation works. The Christmas vacations for our College will start from 19<sup>th</sup> December. The travel during the vacation is not restricted but we might spend our Christmas in and around Paris.

The situation of Covid-19 is not bad here. According to the government, the mass vaccination in France will start from January in priority. The rest is fine with us. Kindly keep us into your prayers. We too assure you of ours.

*Sch. Raymond, sj*

#### **MADRID, SPAIN**

In Madrid, the situation has become worse for the second time particularly, the

central part of the city. There are various restrictions and guidelines to be followed. Thank God that so far the community is safe. However, one of our companions was suggested by the doctors to stay in quarantine, though his test result showed negative. Therefore, the house doctor analyzed the situation and suggested us to take appropriate precautions and preventive measures.

From this week of advent, we will be busy writing our examinations and continue till January next year. As a preparation for the advent and Christmas, last weekend of November, all theologians of three communities did the recollection along with superiors and some other Jesuit companions. The pandemic guidelines do not allow gatherings; therefore, the points were given through the online portal by **Fr. Fonfo, sj**. It was concluded by the superiors in each respective community with a Holy Eucharist. "Wish you all a Merry Christmas!"

*Sch. Prawin Vikas, sj*

#### **KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- **Fr. A. Antony Pappuraj, sj** (MDU) Passed away on 13 Nov. 2020 in Madurai. 74/57
- **Fr. Rudolph Fernandez, sj** (BOM) passed away on 16 Nov. 2020 in Nasik. 86/69
- **Fr. Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj, sj** (DUM) passed away on 16 Nov. 2020 in Dumka. 74/53
- **Fr. Cipriano Mendan Echaniz, sj** (GUJ) passed away on 17 Nov. 2020, in Spain. 89/71
- **Br. Lawrence R. Saldanha, sj** (HAZ) Passed away on 17 Nov. 2020 at Sitagarha. 83/58
- Mr. Benjamin Dungdung, brother of **Fr. Tintus Dungdung** died on 28 Nov. 2020 [65]
- **Br. Desmond Dias, sj** (BOM) passed away on 2 December 2020 at Mumbai. 87/65
- **Fr. O.P. Mathew, sj** (KER) passed away on 03 Dec. 2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode. 75/54
- **Bro. Epiphany Dias, sj** (GOA) passed away on 07 December 2020, in Mapusa, Goa. 99/77
- Mr. Amit Kerketta, the elder brother of **Sch. John Kerketta** passed away on 07 Dec., 2020.
- **Br. Basil Tirkey, sj** (RAN) passed away on 07 Dec. 2020 at Ranchi. 73/46.
- **Br. Saul Abril sj**, (GUJ), passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 in Ahmedabad. 89/73

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

##### **DECEMBER - 2020**

- ❖ 01/2016 Tony D'Souza
- ❖ 03/1988 Gerard Drumm
- ❖ 18/2000 Edmund O'Connor

##### **JANUARY -2021**

- ❖ 04/1980 Gorgonio d'Mello
- ❖ 05/2006 Patrick Meagher

##### **JANUARY- 2021**

- ❖ 13/2006 Albert Van den Abele
- ❖ 17/1996 Gerald Lawlor
- ❖ 20/1973 Rev Philip Kongari
- ❖ 26/2013 Thomas O'Donovan
- ❖ 31/1973 Julian Huysman
- ❖ 31/2016 Xavier Diraviam

OBITUARY OF  
Br. LAWRENCE RICHARD SALDANHA SJ  
[7 Jul 1937 - 17 Nov.2020]

**Laurie** (as **Br. Lawrence** liked to be called) was one of the two vocations to Hazaribag Jesuits from Mangalore. The other is Bro. Francis Mathias still happily with us. Both are from the parish of Immaculate Conception, Kinnigoly. They joined the Society together on 01 February 1962. Both worked for some time before joining. Both came to know the Hazaribag Jesuits through **Fr. Ian Travers-Ball**, later to become **Bro. Andrew**, the founder of the Missionaries of Charity, Brothers.



After his primary schooling Laurie moved to Bombay to live with his brother and do High School studies. Later he worked with Firestone Tyre Company; then he spent some time with the Shanghai Bank, and worked in a hotel. It was a foretaste of his life in the Society, where he had many appointments. Brothers are always in great demand, especially as Ministers. He was Minister in Mahuadanr, in Manresa House, Ranchi, at St. Stanislaus College Sitagarha, Loyola Centre (then the Provincial's Residence), and in his old age at St. Louis School, Balidih, Bokaro.

Laurie's novitiate was in the Brothers' Novitiate in Sitagarha, under Fr. Martin Topno. In his life in the Society he had a number of periods of technical training. After the novitiate he did a course at St. Joseph's Technical Institute in Pune, and a computer course at XLRI, Jamshedpur. In Australia, where he had Tertianship, he worked with an experienced motor mechanic for some time and he did a special course in spoken English at the University of New South Wales.

Shortly after his final vows we find him NBCLC, Bangalore for a Church renewal Theology Course. Laurie was probably happiest in his years in Mahuadanr. There he was, as well as Minister of the community, general 'mister-fix-it' of the compound. While in Mahuadanr he worked with a number of Australian volunteers on different projects sponsored by the Indian Aid organization.

In 2012 some health problems and failing eyesight made it necessary to move from an active life to retirement in St. Xavier's, Hazaribag. There he lived quietly. He is remembered as first in the chapel in the morning, putting on lights, setting up the altar for Mass and waiting in prayer for Mass to start. He took books from the library, enjoying especially books in large print for those with sight problems.

The last years of his life were spent in the infirmary wing of St. Stanislaus' College. This year his health deteriorated and his mental faculties faded. After some time in the Holy Cross hospital, Tarwa, he returned to his room in the infirmary where he died quietly on 17 November 2020. We pray that he will use his influence with the many Coadjutor Brothers in the communion of Jesuit Saints in glory to send more vocations to our Province. **Fr. William Dwyer sj.**