



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

December 2020

Year 41, No. 12



From Provincial's Desk

What would be the Christmas 2020 Like?



Christmas time is here!! But what would the Christmas 2020 look like while the Covid-19 pandemic is hovering worldwide?

I am sure that following the traditions we're all excited as the most wonderful time – the Birth of the Saviour - is here with us. We may be gearing up for sending Christmas cards, carol singing, buying new clothes for self and gifts for the family members, relatives and friends. But unlike other years, the celebration of Christmas this year may be on a very low key. It will not be as glamorous, colourful and festive as before because many have lost their loved ones and many have been diagnosed coronavirus positive.

Who knows? Christmas 2020 may be the real Christmas reminding us of the original spirit of Christmas which is all about God humbling Himself to "become flesh and dwell among us" (John 1:14). He came to the world in utter poverty and humility. He was even deprived of being born in a decent house. But over the centuries, we turned the occasion into a big and expensive celebration spending thousands and lakhs of rupees.

Christmas 2020 will be contrary to such expensive celebration. Because of Covid-19 we may not have traditional carol singing going house to house; we will not be permitted to have common gathering in big groups; there will be no outdoor celebration; there will be no exchange of expensive gifts. In many places, there will be no Christmas Mass; faithful will have to attend Christmas Mass online. Even the Holy Father is prevented from celebrating public Mass. Catholic News Agency (CNA) reported on October 26, 2020 that "Pope Francis will have to forego meeting Catholics at the annual Advent and celebrate Christmas Mass at Saint Peter's without public participation as countries continue to react to the coronavirus pandemic".

Let us be mindful of the present situation of Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the humanity, meditate on the first Christmas when the Saviour was born in utter poverty and humility experiencing human miseries and celebrate the Christmas 2020 in the spirit of the first and the original Christmas. May the Prince of Peace bring peace and consolation to the millions of people affected by Covid-19.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.

**Dear Friends, Benefactors and Collaborators,
The Provincial and Curia Members Wish
A SAFE AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND HOPE-FILLED NEW YEAR !**



OFFICIAL

POPE FRANCIS Appoints:

Fr. Bryan Lobo (BOM) Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

FR GENERAL Appoints:

Fr Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR): Socius to the POSA

Fr Roland Coelho SJ (Provincial of Goa): Consultor to JCSA/ POSA

FR. PROVINCIAL Appoints :

Fr. Rajkumar Badne: Teacher in St. Xavier's English Medium School, Ambikapur

Fr. Alphonse Tirkey : Coordinator for the Ignatian Year

PRISON MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS :

Fr. Alexander Ekka is Appointed as a State Coordinator for PMI (Prison Ministry India) Chhattisgarh, Raipur.

IGNATIAN YEAR (20.05.2021 - 31.07.2022):

Fr General has announced the Ignatian year commemorating the 500th anniversary of conversion of St. Ignatius and the 400th anniversary of his canonization.

Provincial's Programme

December

02-04	Silver Jubilee of XIDAS, Jabalpur National Seminar & Golden Jubilee of Fr. Alexius Ekka
07	Blessing of Hostel, St. Xavier's, Ambikapur
09	AICUF Unit St. Xavier's, Ambikapur
10	Meeting of Rectors, Superiors and Treasurers, Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
11	Meeting of Rectors, Superiors , Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
12	Province Consult, Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
13-20	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
21-22	St. Xavier's Boirdadar
23-31	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

ORDINATIONS DURING THE YEAR				
S.N.	Date	Ordination of	Place	
01	04 JAN 2021	Dn. Dino Toppo	Manendragarh Parish	
02	13 APR 2021	Dn. Alok Toppo	Jashpur Parish	
03	02 MAY 2021	Dn. Akhilsai Bara	Baneya Parish	
04	04 MAY 2021	Dn. Dilip Minj	Musgutri Parish	
05	06 MAY 2021	Dn. Preetam P. Panna	Darupisa Parish	
06	10 MAY 2021	Dn. Virendra Tirkey	Tamamunda Parish	



Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus



Fr. Alex-



Fr. Pancratius Toppo, S.J.



Fr. Marcel Ekka, S.J.



Fr. Alex-

Congratulations and Best Wishes !



Your dedicated Service over the past 50 Years has been a source of comfort, inspiration and strength for the people of God.



BAIKUNTHPUR

COVID-19 has adversely affected the entire school activities. During the pandemic period, the only good thing happened was the dream which was announced by Fr. John Crus Lakra, Principal, on 2nd December 2019 on school annual function day. The



dream was to open the subject **Agriculture** in the school from the academic year 2020-21. After much effort and struggle, the permission sought from the C.G. Board to open the subject Agriculture in the school from present academic year 2020-21.

The dream came into reality only after fulfilling all the requirements and producing all the papers and documents to DEO office in Baikunthpur and then it was followed by inspection by Mr. Paikra, one of the Principals of a Govt. School. He was much impressed by the facilities and capable staff of the school followed by warm hospitality. There are altogether 14 students for the newly opened faculty of Agriculture in the academic year 2020-21. The Principal has exceedingly great hope that in near future the new subject Agriculture will reap a multiple number of students for the school. In order to attract many more students, a kitchen garden has been developed in the school campus. One can see the cultivation that is being done in the field of horticulture and kitchen vegetable garden. At same time, the entire school staff is engaged in online and offline classes for the students.

In pastoral apostolate, we always tried to fulfil the spiritual needs of the people within the parameters of COVID-19 guidelines. One good thing was seen that many weeks and months of locked churches and suspended masses intensified the spiritual hunger in the faithful for sacraments and made them feel the importance of Eucharist and other sacraments in Christian life. The faithful asked for Holy Masses. They themselves arranged individually and in common at home and Tola Paras. On the other hand the parish priest continued family visit instructing the people to take care of one's health, encouraging and supporting them through prayers at the time of fear and uncertainty of life. The faithful helped the fathers generously with cash and kind. They never let us feel a need of anything.

-Fr. John Crus Lakra, S.J.

ST. XAVIER'S BOIRDADAR

Sacraments conferred

The month of November was to remember the departed near and dear ones. We prayed RIP (Return If Possible) rather than RIP: Rest In Peace. The Eucharist was celebrated in both the common graveyards of the Parish and blessing to some family graveyards. The graveyard was the bond of contention of the Parish-Boirdadar.

The Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the sick were conferred to the faithful. Dn Dilip Minj, S.J.



catechized and baptized 14 (5 adult), prepared 38 children for Confession and Holy Communion and conducted the choir on 22nd November: the solemn feast of CHRIST the KING. along with Fr. Zacharias Lakra, Fr. Sylvanus Xalxo, VG of Raigarh Diocese officiated the Eucharist on the occasion of the First Holy Communion along with the resident and guest priests. The parents and godparents felt proud that they led their children at the altar (like ordination). In the name of Christ the King celebration Benediction was observed. Among the three conferred the Sacrament of the sick was the mom of Dn Alok Toppo who went to her eternal abode on the way back to Jashpur. May God grant her peace and solace to the bereaved family. Similarly, the regular distribution of Holy Communion to the needy and sick was shared by the community members. The fear of the pandemic has no room to stop rather helped the faithful in their trials and tribulation.

Called to serve

Fr. Anil Tikey, Principal, St. Xavier's, Ambikapur admitted his father in JMJ hospital to win over the Corona-positive. He was cured while Fr. Anil Tirkey, had home isolation in St. Xavier's, Ambikapur

Dn Alok Toppo, brought his mom Mrs. Victoria Toppo in Metro Hospital and in ICU she was given the Sacrament of the sick. He had already rendered his service to Sch Anjay Xess in Ranchi and Ambikapur. In Ambikapur (Khris Milan) as a regent and now as a deacon, Dilip Minj was called to serve Sch. Anjay Xess for a month while the significant events of Advent and Christmas are awaiting.

Fee Regulation meeting

The appointed Nodal authorities took the meetings of both St. Xavier's and Mukti Prakash Schools about the

fee regulation. Both of them are known and are helpful to our Schools but they did not fail to request for a seat in the Schools while the payment and facilities are far better than our Schools. St. Xavier School had PTM at different groups.

A renewed moment of grace

At the invitation of the Somascan fathers at Jakela-Kodasia, Raigarh, the community joined the combined recollection in which Fr. Zacharias Lakra led prayers and spoke on the topic: The Spirituality of Pandemic.

Similarly, Fr. Zacharias Lakra went to Dt Prison, Raigarh to share the DIWALI gifts with the prisoners. Sr. Jwala, CTC, Principal of Shalini English Medium had conducted Rangoli on GO CORONA: MAHAMARI ME SAWDHANI. to the women cell of the prison.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra attended the First Vows of 4 and final profession of 3 Holy Cross nuns in Holy Cross Institute, Ambikapur.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

KHRIST MILAN & PARISH, NAMNA

It was the rarest of the rare moments of joy and happiness for the Jesuits at Namna. It was a time for an outing at Namna parish, on 12th of this month for our inspiring Jesuits of Khrist Milan Ashram. The parish residents welcomed them with a warm greeting. The little picnic began with tea and snacks. Then the most of the fathers took a keen effort to have a close glance at the parish church being erected gradually. Once the *darshan* of the church construction was over all took *maja* of the housie game conducted by Fr. Gabriel and the Deacon. The two Scholastics – Rakesh and Amit took care of the arrangements. All expressed that it was really a very entertaining and refreshing. His Grace - Paschal Topno, SJ, Archbishop, Emeritus was our Chief Guest for



the occasion. The prize for the winners of the game was distributed at the end. Fr. Valentine was the champion of the game.

In the parish Fr. Pratap is busy conducting a retreat for the Ursuline Postulants and Novices. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated ordinarily with a considerate number in the parish. The parish priest is giving a few marriage preparation classes. The rest of the activities are not so active due to the pandemic.

-Dn. Preetam Prakash, S.J.

LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

The month of November witnessed with some liberty and leisure by the community members in view of their mobility and work.

Fr. Provincial kept on moving according to his schedule. The Loyola School personnel were busy again in online teaching and monitoring after online half yearly exam.

The community observed Sohrai Parv on 15 Nov, applying oil on cattle and giving them Kuhdi (boiled grain).

Paddy was harvested and now kitchen garden is filled with vegetation and fish are ready in the community pond for table purpose all in the guidance of Fr. Sushil Tirkey.

Frs. Emil, Henry, Pradeep and Arvind set out on 17 Nov to pay a visit to the places of construction, viz, Nimha, Manpur and Umaria.

Prior to this the community celebrated the Birthday of Fr. Arivind Vinay Tirkey on 6 November. The birthday celebration of Fr. Pancratius Minj (Risda) differed from 6 to 10. For he was on a trip to Jashapur and Ambikapur for some work. The community held its community meeting on 10 Nov followed by birthday celebration of Fr. Pancratius Minj. The community joined Sch. Francis to celebrate his birthday on 24 Nov.

A special prayer is being conducted by the community members for Fr. Stan and others on every Friday with the theme – Stand with Fr. Stan.

Frs. Arvind and Herman Joe joined Campion Community Raipur on 29 Nov with Fr. Provincial to celebrate Golden Jubilee of Fr. Alaxander Ekka. Still photos and video frames were captured of the Jubilee Holy Eucharist and interviews of the Jubilarian.

Fr. Herman Joe, S.J.

ST. JOHN BERCHMAN'S, DHANWARKALA

All Souls Day was celebrated in the parish of Dhanwarkala on 2nd of November. The Parishioners prayed for all the departed, very specially for the departed soul of late Fr. Sidon Maes, S.J. the founder of Dhanwar Kodaku Mission and his family members. There was a special prayer service in front of his tomb. After



that all the faithful moved to common grave yard of Dhanwarkala parish for the short prayer service. Then

fathers went to different villages for the Holy Mass and prayer services.

Sohrai / Deepawali feast of light was celebrated on 14th of November. To celebrate the feast, the whole community of fathers, sisters and our co-workers gathered together and had a prayer service for the cattle. There were traditional rituals done to give respect and honour for the cattle.

The feast of Christ the king was celebrated solemnly in Dhanwarkala parish on 22nd of November. Observing the guidelines of Covid-19 the faithful came to the church in procession, singing and praying rosary. Fr. Manibhushan Toppo was the main celebrant. He gave a short, inspiring message to the congregation about Christ the King.

Bro. Simon Xess S.J. the co- founder of Dhanwarkala Kodaku Mission turned 88 years young on 24th of November. The entire campus rejoiced and celebrated the birthday. To mark the occasion Fathers and sisters from Wadrafnagar, Rajpur and Jingo parish came for the celebration. All school teachers and co-workers also joined the birthday celebration followed by lunch. In this occasion Bro. Simon Xess said that all have to work hard to uplift the Kodakus and the poor people. Especially we have to care for the children.

One day workshop was arranged to commemorate the Samvidhan Diwas (Constitution Day) at Catholic Ashram, Dhanwarkala on 26 November 2020 to educate and inspire people the sacredness of the constitution. More than 94 village leaders, health workers, students, and farmers participated in the programme. Mr. Dharmu Ekka, Mr. Blacius Tigga and Mr. Lal Vijay Prabhakar were invited as guests of honour to highlight the ground



reality of the adivasi life and their struggle in search of equality, fraternity, liberty, justice, respect, and entitlement. They also emphasized on formation and training of village leaders who could guide and guard their villages against outside forces. Three village leaders from each village were identified who would be a link between the centre and the village. Mr. Benedict Kumharia conducted the workshop. Fr. Bipin coordinated the whole programme and made all necessary arrangements. Due to a shortage of time participants were given very little time to interact.

- Fr. Sameer Minj, S.J.

ST. XAVIER'S RAJPUR

Early in the morning, on 6 November Fr. Isaac Kujur complained for stomach floating, gas building in it, vomiting and loss of appetite. As a result he was restless. So he was rushed to Holy Cross Hospital Ambikapur by Frs. Sebastian Tigga and Polycarp Xalxo. For two three days when the condition of his stomach did not improve then he was administered enema to evacuate stool and gas. Loss of appetite and vomiting sensation continued for six to seven days. Eventually after staying 11 days in Hospital when he regained little bit the taste of Khichadi recipe and also when all the tests were negative he was discharged from the hospital with lot of tablets. After 20 days again he has to go to hospital for the follow up check up.

On 9th Nov Fr. Sebastian Tigga S.J. principle convened meeting of St. Xavier's School Rajpur's fee fixing committee to fix the fee of students for the year 2020-21 as per the government guidelines.

26th of November became special for St. Xavier School Rajpur, as long awaited inauguration cum blessing of new wing of primary section arrived. Fr. Sebastian Tigga welcomed the chief guest and the entire gathering. After



a meaningful prayer service, Fr. Ranjit Tigga Provincial and Fr. Amritlal Toppo the pioneer of St. Xavier School, cut the ribbon as the symbol of inauguration and blessed the new wings. In spite of Covid-19 Pandemic big number of Religious sisters from the neighbouring communities, Jesuit Fathers, parents, students, teaching and non teaching staff of St. Xavier School Rajpur were present to be the part of the historical moment.. At the end Fr. Polycarp Xalxo the superior of the Jhingo-Rajpur community proposed the vote of thanks. And the event concluded with the delicious meal. "Wonderful are all your works, Oh Lord" the words of gratitude and praise overwhelmed everybody present for the programs. And on 30th of November Fr. Polycarp Xalxo gave recollection to the Sisters of Ursuline Jhingo.

Fr. Isaac Kujur S.J.

LOYOLA COLLEGE, KUNKURI

Loyola College campus is having bumper crops of sugarcane. It is economically important and has religious values. On the eve of the Chhat Pooja thieves had tried to have their share of sugarcane but they could not escape from the eyes of Fr. Ignace Kindo and the Watch man. They started firing from top of the building. Thieves ran for their life. Meanwhile the police came but thieves were already out of the campus leaving a pair of slipper and a torch light.

Loyola college had "save constitution and Release Fr.



Stan Swamy SJ" protest Rally on 26th of Nov. The procession started from Cathedral Gate via Community Health Center, Kunkuri, Bus stand, Tapkara Road, Kunkuri ground and finally to Jai Sthamb Chawak. Fr. Oscar S. Turkey, the principal of Loyola College Kunkuri was the chief speaker of the day to address the gathering. The whole Procession took one hour. It was concluded with National Anthem.

On 28th of Nov. Loyola College Kunkuri AICUF unit had a webinar on "PESA ACT and it's awareness towards the youth and society." The resource persons Fr. Satya P. Tigga elaborately spoke on the history of PESA ACT; Mr. Vinay P. Ekka spoke on PESA ACT and It's Provision whereas Miss Mamta Kujur spoke on PESA ACT and it's POWER. It was very enriching and thought provoking.

Fr. Ignace Kindo S.J.

CAMPION COMMUNITY, RAIPUR

Campion school, Raipur was full of life and activities as a series of meetings were conducted from November 12 to 16. The meeting of XISA Governing Body began on November 12 followed by MPJ Governing Body meeting, Land and Building Commission meeting, Finance Commission meeting, Province Consult and UAP (Universal Apostolic Preferences) Core team meeting. There were 18 participants from out of Raipur representing different commissions of the Province. After the meeting school campus looks deserted as only

online school activities are going on.

50 Golden years of jubilee of Fr. Ekks, S.J. in the Society of Jesus was celebrated with about 40 guests on November 29 at Campion school, Raipur. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J. Provincial was the main celebrant with Fr. Stanislaus Turkey, S.J. and Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J. as concelebrants with 11 priests at the Holy Eucharist. In the beginning of the Eucharist Fr. Provincial read out the Jubilee Letter of



Fr. General Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, S.J. In his homily Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J. affirmed that God protects His chosen ones and his family from all dangers and leads them to prosperity. He also illumined that he utilized all his God given talents fully for the service of the people. Prior to the Eucharist the press reporters Fr. Arvind Vinay, S.J. and Herman Joe, S.J. interviewed Alexander Ekka, S.J. for more than an hour. After the Holy Eucharist and a brief felicitation, all enjoyed the jubilee dinner. Fr. Lalit Ekka, S.J. is not improving in his health. He is admitted in the Narayan hospital, Raipur for treatment. It is more than 4 months in Raipur without much improvement. He feels very weak. He has no taste of food. His hemoglobin is just 8 only. With his sugar and blood pressure his kidney and eyes are affected. He is physically not fit for the operation on his eyes. All the Fathers and 4 Scholastics are monitoring him round the clock. Kindly pray for his fast recovery.

- Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J.

AICUF ASHRAM, BHOPAL

The Bhopal AICUF Unit Election was held on 29th Nov, the auspicious day of 1st Advent Sunday. AICUFers were psyched up for the long-awaited unit election. Thanks to Fr. Christy, Superior, Dr. Fr. Athanas



Lakra and Sr. Lourdes, Superior, AC Convent Bhopal, for their valuable guidance and moving words. There was a gospel reading followed by a short reflection by Dr. Fr.

Athnas Lakra. He stressed upon the principle of Ownership, Responsibility, Team work and Accountability (ORTA). The objective of Unit Election was highlighted by Fr. Alok Kujur. Fr. Superior highlighted the roles of the President and Vice-president. He focused on leaders' consistency and constancy. He encouraged the office holders by quoting the example of Pope Francis to be humble to make a difference in the unjust society. Drawing the attention of youngsters towards the Biblical book of Proverbs Fr. Superior indicated- Pride goeth before a fall.

Advent is the time of Hope and Expectation. Hope the new office bearers with new zeal will put their best foot forward.

- Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J.

CAMPION SCHOOL, BHOURI

Campion School, Bhouri was extremely happy to welcome our babbling aspirants from Vidya Sadan in the campus on 14th November. The one day outing was - come and see - to be familiar with Jesuit Mission in Bhopal. Our joy was doubled by the presence of Fathers from Campion School, Arera Colony and Campion School, Mariado. Fr. Zacharias Kerketta, Principal, Campion School, Bhouri, welcomed all candidates and fathers and shared with them a brief history of Campion School, Bhouri. The candidates were happy to be inspired and encouraged to hear the call of the Master



and Lord. They found cream nurturance for the vocation. To highlight the occasion there were two matches - basketball and volleyball. One side the valiant & energetic candidates and on the other, old and experienced Jesuits. Both the matches were tough and came across a cut throat competition at the same time amusing. It certainly strengthened companionship. The challengers from both the sides played daringly well and tried with the best of themselves. The victory on basketball court was awarded to the enthusiastic and energetic candidates. It was true that experience matters. The second match on volleyball and on tailpiece was won by the elderly and experienced Jesuits.

The online classes went on well in the month of November. Fr. Zacharias and Fr. Casimir Ekka, Vice

Principal supervised the online classes successfully. They managed to some extent to inspire the parents to pay the tuition fee of the session against the virtual teaching and learning activities of the students with a few offline interactions with students and parents, under the guidelines of the Govt. during the situation of pandemic and financial constrain. Students finished their half yearly exams held from 29th October to 11th November. After the exam Fr. Principal conducted online Parents - Teachers Meeting (PTM) in view to get some feedbacks on the effects of online classes on the progress of students and parental care at home. This was also to encourage parents to pay the tuition fee. This time, the class teachers were busy in class wise offline Parents-Teachers Meeting - showing the half yearly results with some feedbacks on the progress of the students. Meanwhile others continued online classes satisfactorily.

The 1st December, the feast day of St. Edmond Campion, the Patron of the school, was celebrated in a simple manner. A few teachers had come to the school. There was no formal celebration due to the pandemic turmoil. A simple refreshment - tea and snacks was served for the teaching and non - teaching staff members, present on that day. Definitely everyone was deeply conscious of what was going on in the country and stood with a substantial solidarity with the sufferers.

Campion School, Bhouri kitchen garden has become greener with wheat, *chana* and variety of tender vegetables. Guava and gooseberry trees are laden with fruits. The two in dwellers namely Fr. Zack and Fr. Casimir go to till the earth every evening after the school hours. It is a commendable initiative of Fr. Casimir to guide Rajaram, the part time gardener, to grow all types of vegetables. Now the four member Bhouri community are enjoying the fresh fruits and vegetables from the little orchard. Thanks to all the predecessors who planted and made them grow mature. Thanks to Rajaram and all the supporting staff members for the hard work to keep the Campion School campus green, neat and clean.

Fr. Casimir Ekka, S.J.

CAMPION SCHOOL, MARIADO

Campion School Mariado, submitted an application to the Commissioner Backward Class & Minority Department Satpura Bhawan, Bhopal to issue Minority Certificate. Thanks to Fr. Athnas Lakra, for helping Frs. Michael and Simon Aind.

On 14th Nov, 2020, Campion School, Bhouri invited us to celebrate Children day with Pre - Novices. We started with basketball, volleyball and ended with festive lunch. Thanks to Frs. Zacharias Kerketta and Casimir Ekka (T) for making a memorable day.

With the speed of breath holding wheat and gram are

shown in field so Fr. Michael Ekka can breathe in and out now.

During the time of Deepawali many Hindu families invited us for supper but we went only to KAKU'S house who is our loving and immediate neighbour.

Fr. Christy Kujur, Our Superior along with Fr. Kalyan Panna came to Mariado to see the mission and to make a plan to continue the boundary wall of the campus.

On 1st Dec. 2020, Campion day was celebrated in a very simple way, Fr. Michael Ekka presided over the mass and share the missionary spirit of st. Edmund Campion. And in the evening we all Fathers and Sisters took part in the 50th Years of Jubilee of Fr. Panka Toppo at Campion School Bhopal.

Fr. Deobhushan Toppo

Jeevan Vikas Maitri, Pathalgaon

Ration distribution

JVM started distribution of dry ration from 20th October on behalf of Lok Manch, supported by Delhi Samajik Vikas Kendra (ISI Delhi) for families affected most by Covid-19. Each selected household (419) of four centers- JVM, RVTC, CA Karangabahla and Assisi Chethna Society Madanpur-Korba, was give ration- rice, dal, oil, flour, Masala, Soyabari of worth Rs. 650.00. The distribution was done under the leadership of Fr. Fulchandra Kujur, SJ with the support of animators. Thanks to the supporting agencies and distribution team.



A workshop of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan a two days' workshop of CBA (Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan) was held at XISA, Raipur from 29th to 30th October. From JVM Mr. Jerome Lakra, Fr. Yacub Kujur, Mr. Clement Lakra and Mr. Junas Tirkey, participated the workshop as representatives of Jashpur Jila Bachao Samiti. About fifty representatives from different districts attended the workshop. Mr. Alok Shukla, the convener of CBA welcomed the participants and explained the dynamics and purpose of the workshop. The sessions were conducted issue wise and action plans were made after due discussions.

Amendments of policies and Acts for the corporate looting of natural resources and its impact: after the discussion on the topic for further study a team was formed of Rinchi, Umesh Singh, Jansai Poya, Keshav Sori, Sagarica and Alok.

In December and January a workshop will be held on the

false decision of Gram Sabha on mining and its impact on environment. Grass root movements will be affiliated with CBA, for which constant effort will be made.

Amendment of Forest Acts to be corporate friendly and situation of their implementation in CG: a study group is formed to study the current situation of implementation of FRA in CG, consisting of the following members-Vijay Bhai, Rajim Tande, Yacub Kujur, Keshav Bai, D.S. Malya, Alok Shukla and Vijendra Ajnabi. This team will help and coordinate the grassroots organizations working on FRA. In December a public hearing will be held in Raipur to know the ground reality and government claim. This team will meet CM to discuss on the issue of FRA, Mining and displacement.

Maoism in Baster and state sponsored violence, false encounter, release of tribals: after long discussion on the issues the following decisions were made-a meeting will be held in Baster. Responsibility will be of Bela Bhatia assisted by Shalini, Keshav Bhai and Vijay Bhai. A team will visit Bothghat to know the read displacement situation of the villagers.

Bhima Koregaon case, release of Sudha Bhardwaj, Stan Swami and others: for the release of Sudhaji a team will visit CM to requesting him to intervene. On 10 December at every district a "Dharna" will be held to demand for release of human rights defenders.

Agricultural crisis, amendment in agri-Acts, emerging challenges and role of stat government- to strengthen farmers' movement against the new Acts a taskforce is formed, members with Anand Mishra, Sudesh Tikam, Nand ku. Kashyap, Ramakant Bhai, Deepak Sahu, Sanjay Parate, Vijay Bhai, Alok Shukla and Jansai. To evaluate the State Bill on 9th Novermer a meeting will be held at XISA. At different place workshops will be held to discuss the issue.

Amendment in Labor Laws and situation of labors: to deal with the issue a taskforce is formed, consisting of Kaladas Daheria, Shalini, Lakhan Suvod, Vijendra Tiwari, Ajay TG and Vujenra Ajnavi. This taskforce will meet the CM and demand to implement the amended Act in the State. "CG Pravasi Shramik Niti, 2020" will be evaluated.

A study will be made by Priyanka Shukla, Geet Daheria, Ramakant and Joshy on the demolition of slums in the urban areas. A meeting of CBA and Surv Adivasi Samaj will be held under the guidance of Vijay Bhai. CBA will continue its advocacy with government on constitutionals matters and strengthen peoples' movements. Issue based lectures, such as descent, democracy, etc. will be held.

It was informed that those who would like to volunteer to work on the above issues can join the team. CBA will continue to work on the issue not mentioned above.

On 5th November protest rallies at Fuleta, Paraghati, Charkhapara and Pakargaon were held to demand to take back the New Agri Laws. The other issues

highlighted were support price for all agri produce, release of human rights defenders-Sudha Bhardwaj, Stan Swami and other 14, implementation of PESA and FRA, etc. A Memorandum was submitted by the above villages.

A workshop on Strengthening the Adivasi Society - 'Tribal Economic Empowerment and Leadership' was held at JVM, Ashadeep, Pathalgaon on 12th November on the call of CBCI, tribal affairs department. All the arrangements were made by JVM. More than 120 representatives from Jashpur, Raigarh and Ambikapur dioceses participated. For the first time the new hall accommodated the program.

The workshop began with a prayer from the preamble of the Constitution led by Ashikala Ekka. Lighting of the lamp was done by the representatives and then Bishop of Raigarh-Paup Toppo, DD, VGs-Fr. Sikander Kispotta, Fr. Antony Bara, Fr. Sylvanus and dignitaries- Fr. Nicholas Barla, Dr. Vincent Ekka, SJ were welcomed with bouquets. A formal welcome note was given by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ.

Fr. Nicholas Barla, SVD, Secretary to Tribal Affairs, CBCI explained the purpose of the workshop and he invited Fr. Satya P. Tigga, SJ to read out the minutes of previous CBCI meeting. Dr. Vincent Ekka, SJ, Editor Hasiye Ki Awaj, spoke on need of economic empowerment and model of development. Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ, Director JVM explained in simple words the need of leadership in political and economic spheres. Mr. Neelam Toppo, Additional Collector Ambikapur, told about the threat to reservation to tribal Christians. After lunch again he continued the topic. Then from each trade of self-employment one person was invited to share his/her experience of business and expectation from the Church. Due to lack of time action plan to grow in business could not be made but networking is initiated. Bishop Paul appraised the initiative and gave his blessing to grow in business. Fr. Sikander Kispotta, VG, Jashpur proposed vote of thanks. People enjoyed tribal exhibition with Mahuwa cake and Laddus. The program was conducted by Yacub, Mr. Hemant Lakra recorded the proceeding and Br. Fulgence Ekka, SJ made the logistic arrangements. Thanks to each member of the house in making the workshop a success.

146th Birsa Munda Diwas was celebrated at Kunkuri village, Pakargaon Panchyat Bhavan and Mausandipara. Due to harvesting time and Sohrai less people gathered to honor the tribal hero. His message of social unity, economic and political empowerment to save tribal land and culture was given to the people to establish "Abuwa Deshum, Abuwa Raj". They were encouraged to claim for Community Forest Rights and oppose the implementation of new Agricultural Laws and release of Human/Tribal Rights defenders-Sudha Bhardwaj, Stan Swami and other fourteen were demanded. Thanks to Lok Manch Staff in making arrangements for the program. Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ attended meetings on 13th

and 18th November at Jashpur with regard to accusation of Ganesh Ram Bhagat of murdering a Korwa girl by Christian Missionaries. In every police station an application is given to lodge FIR on him and the team met SP for the same.

Mushroom cultivation of JVM is coming up nicely. Pray, it becomes a model of replication.

- Fr. Yacub Kujur, S.J.

MAP REGENTS' TRIDUUM

MAP Regents had a Triduum at Asha Deep Pathalgaon from 27th October to 30th October. On 27th October nine regents arrived to Ashadeep, namely: Sch. Almon Lakra, Sch. Adesh Lakra, Sch. Anup Minj, Sch. Avin Minj, Sch. Firoj Bara, Sch. Pawan Lakra, Sch. Roshan Lakra, Sch. Sandeep Lakra, Sch. Vinay Toppo. Asha Deep community warmly welcomed all the scholastics. In the same evening Fr. Agapit Tirkey SJ, the guide explained the mode of the triduum. On the first day of the triduum we reflected on creation of the world and



humanity. On the second day we prayed over the theme 'Vocation'. The third day was dedicated to reflect over our personal vision and mission for the society.

We had holy Eucharistic celebrations on three different languages for the different days. On the first day it was English and Hindi, Kurukh respectively. Everyday whole afternoon was dedicated for the group sharing. The sharing helped us to know more about the person, place and mission.

The presence of Fr. Dileep Soreng SJ (PCF) was a blessing to each of us. He was there for all three days, his presence boosted our energy and we felt supported. We thank Fr. Dileep for accompanying us. On 30th evening we concluded our triduum. All of us experienced the freshness and newness within ourselves. In the same evening we had the fellowship meal with the Asha Deep community members. On 1st November all of us headed back to our respective places. We thank the Asha Deep Community for accommodating us and Fr. Agapit Tirkey for guiding us.

Sch. Sandeep Lakra (B)

"Nothing was left undone to prevent the case from coming in court. I (Fr. Van den Driessche) am convinced that the case would never have appeared in court if I had not been there." The Father reminds the reader, how frightened the people of Saraitoli were when he arrived there on Monday 3rd July, after the beating administered to 5 of the men. Little by little they came. During the time he was there, a child died some 5 minutes distant from his tent. He could easily have saved it, if he had been told in time. From fear, no one had dared to approach him for remedies. "I advised them to go to Nagar to lodge a complaint in court. I had to promise to accompany them, otherwise they would never have dared to go."

On Tuesday evening, 4th, he arrived at Nagar with 4 of the complainants. Bandhna, the 5th, who had fallen unconscious under the beating was too much frightened to go with them. "Out of fear of being accused of having come to see me again, he had gone to stay in the *bhandar*. Please note this. It will be of use later on, to show that this was not a trumped-up-affair."

On Wednesday they went together to the *mukhtar*. It was arranged that he would write their petitions that evening. Meanwhile the police came in the way. "Towards the evening a *sipahi*, Suphal Ram, whom I had seen in Saraitoli-Kastura on Monday morning 3rd July, came to tell me that the *Diwan* had sent him to get some of the Christians who had come with me to go as coolies to Kastura on account of a feast, which had to take place there on the next day, Thursday."

He asked the man to wait for a letter, in which he expressed to the *Diwan* the great inconvenience this would cause him, but the *sipoy* disappeared. He did not come back, and the Father suspected a trick of the police to get hold of some of his Christians. An hour later, arrived the following letter from the *Diwan*: "Sir I have just now come to know that some *raiya*ts of Kastura and its vicinity have been brought here. Tomorrow will be our another holy festival, namely, *Uti Rath-Jatra*. *Raiya*ts have been kept here by you and they are not allowed to go there. Suphal Ram, a peon of Math, went to you to get permission for the *raiya*ts. But you denied. I am very sorry to hear this kind of obstinacy.. If the *raiya*ts have to file petitions, they may do and they will get their justice. But they should in no way be barred and instructed to disobey the orders of the State. I think this may result badly. I therefore think it proper that you should permit them at once to go there and work properly as ordered. The court will remain closed tomorrow. I have etc."

"I went at once to the *Diwan* to explain matters and showed him the letter for which I had told Suphal to wait and which, happily, I had only half torn up. I think the *Diwan* understood the rascally trick of the *sipahi*, for as far as I can judge from the above letter, Suphal had

not been sent by the *Diwan* and he did not go to him to report the thing, but from what the *Diwan* told me, he (the *Diwan*) had heard of it by chance."

"However, he insisted that the coolies should be sent, and to avoid even the appearance of trying to give trouble, I told the *Diwan* that I was ready to let them go to Kastura provided they could come back at once, when the work was finished. The *Diwan* agreed to this and directed me to send them to the *Singh Darwaza*. I sent them, although they told me that coolies for carrying loads had never been required for this second fest."

"The next day, Thursday 6th, I found out that what the Christians had told me was perfectly true: none of them was sent to Kastura but after having waited for their loads, which never came, they were kept by the police! At about 8 a.m. the police came to take to the *thana* some 10 more; these were called by name and among them were precisely those that had to make the lawsuit! And somewhat later, the 5 that remained were also led away by the police, so that by 10 a. m. not a single Christian was free. After having been taken to the *thana*, all were kept on the *bazaar dand* under the guard of the police!"

"I went to the *Diwan* in the morning to ask him the meaning of all this, but he had no time to receive me. I saw him at 2 p.m. and told him what had happened. He answered that he knew nothing of all this and that if the Christians had been arrested, there must be some reason for it! Finally he referred me to the Inspector of Police. The Inspector of Police was absent, and the *munshi* of the *thana* maintained that the Christians were kept on account of an enquiry which was to take what enquiry he refused to tell."

"On Friday, 7th July, as the Christians were still kept in the Bazaar Dand, I wrote to the *Diwan*: Sir. As I have informed you, some *raiya*ts of Kastura have come here to lodge a complaint in court, as you advised them to do by your letter of 1st July. These people, I hear, are still kept at the Bazaar Dand under the guard of the police, and therefore unable to do anything with regard to the complaint they have to lodge in court. Even if they have to appear at an enquiry, as I have been told yesterday by the *munshi* of the *thana* (I went to him as I was told the Inspector of Police was absent), could you, please, have some arrangement made to prevent further delay and allow the *raiya*ts in question to have their complaint prepared and filed? I have etc."

"Here is the answer I received from the *Diwan*: Jashpur 7 July 1911: Sir, I do not find my way to correspond with you. You write: "Some as you advised them to do by your letter of 1 July" utterly false. I did not advise the *raiya*ts, but simply asked you to advise them to lodge a complaint. There ends my duty, and yours ends with advising them who came to you, if they did so to go to court. Now neither you nor I have any business with compelling or instigating the *raiya*ts. I do not think this is any part of the gospel truth to be preached. The

police, I hear, is engaged in inquiry and so the *raiya*ts have been asked to wait, and are not, I think, under any guard. They may go to any *mukhtar* they like to have their petitions written, or they may go to court to have their petitions filed. But of course they should not be led by a *Pracharak*. The police is only on the look out, see if the *Pracharaks* may not find any opportunity to tutor the *raiya*ts to depose in their own way. Religion must be a free choice of a human being as you told. There should be in no way anything enticing or alluring. I hope you will excuse me. I have etc."

Instead of answering again by letter, the Father preferred to do it *viva voce* after taking some notes. "Here is my answer in a few words:

1. "I do not find.. lodge a complaint."

Ans. I did not quote the words of your letter as you can see. I did not put those words "as you advised me" between brackets (The Father means: quotation marks), Besides this is only a question of words, and I grant that I should have turned my sentence otherwise, if I had wished to make a quotation, and to be perfectly exact.

2. "And your duty ends... etc.

Ans. I do not admit that my duty ends there. My duty in this case will end only when I shall be satisfied that justice has been done to these people.

3. "If they do so.. (underlined by the *Diwan* in his letter).

Ans. Do you want to insinuate that I used violence to make them come to me? No, I did not. But as I told you before, they were so frightened that at first they did not dare to come near me out of fear of being beaten again.

4. "Neither you nor I ...

Ans. Very well I agree with you and I would ask the Jashpur authorities to make this as public as possible, and especially to make this perfectly clear to some *sipoy*s, and some *Barahils*, and some *Bhandaris*, and some *Ganjhus* (*thikedars*). If all these people observed that advice better, there would be no trouble at all, nor any reason for complaint. We Catholic priests, have not beaten the people, as has been done in Kastura; we have not used any violence to make them become Christians. We have not tried to get bribes out of these poor people as has been done here in Nagar not later than yesterday. My *Pracharak* was asked for money by a *sipoy*, Kapil and he denounced the *sipoy* to a constable, but nothing has been done so far as I know. We teach the people what is taught in the gospel: "... give to Caesar." "Things would go very much better if we were granted more freedom to teach this to our Christians." "Here I spoke of the difference of situation in Biru and Chotanagpur, where we are left free there is no trouble, whilst in Jahspur it is the contrary. I spoke also of our being in Jahspur without chapel or residences. The *Diwan* remained silent!

5. They have been asked to .. any guard."

Ans. Not only that, but they have all been taken to the *thana* by the police and from there led to the Bazaar *Dand*, where they have been kept under the guard of a *chaukidar*, day and night! (N.B. as I shall say later on,

they were left free, only on Saturday 11.30 a. m.).. After that it is an irony to tell that they could go freely to the *Mokhtar* and

6. But of course they should.. their own way."

Ans. "I protest strongly against this, it is quite a new regulation, and would have as consequence to abandon our simple Christians to the mercy of the first man who gets hold of them! I asked the *Diwan*: suppose I had a lawsuit, am I not perfectly free to go and consult anybody, and ask the help of whom I wish?" He answered: "Certainly!" "And why not these poor people? My *Pracharak* is an honest man, and there is no question of tutoring in the meaning of teaching them to tell lies. We require only the truth." ("I wonder what the *Diwan* would have said had I retorted his words and said: these people are kept under the care of the police, that the police may find an opportunity to tutor the *raiya*ts to depose in their own way! I had written this, but it escaped me").

7. "Religion must be free..."

Ans. "Yes, everybody should be left to follow his conscience, but I repeated that the violence and compulsion did not come from outside. We were asking only for justice and fair play." The *Diwan* did not withdraw fully his prohibition for the *Pracharaks* to assist the Christians, but only reluctantly and half and half on the assurance that there would be no tutoring or attempt to conceal the truth or distort it. "As he was always answering that there was no order to maltreat the Christians, I told him this was not enough but the people at the service of Jahspur Government, like *sepoy*, *barahils*, *bhandaris* etc. should be forbidden to maltreat. He answered that he could do nothing as a case was going on in the criminal court (which case he did not say; not our case, as no petition had been given yet but he promised to do so when this criminal case would be over. This is all I could obtain." The enquiry took place at the *Thana*, on Saturday morning. The Father knew neither its object nor its results. He was called but arrived when it was already going on. "In my opinion, an enquiry conducted in this way as I saw it, is a farce and if it is expected to make the truth manifest, this can only happen by chance."

"You remember that Bandhna of Saraitoli, one of the 5 that had been beaten on Saturday 24th June did not come to Nagar with us. He had gone to hide himself in the *bhandar* and arrived in Nagar with the rascals on Friday 7 July. He said afterwards that he had been tutored by them all along the road, but that he had said in his heart, as he put it: "No, I am not going to tell lies to save these rascals who have beaten me!" He said at the enquiry that on a Saturday, a fortnight ago, he had been taken to the *bhandar* with 4 other Christians, that he had been asked whose *chapras*i he was (he is our old *ex-chapras*i) and had been asked and had answered: "The *Padri*'s; that Ram Laghan and Ratnu had been beating him very severely; that he had only arrived at Nagar the

day before.”

“I could only thank our Lord for giving this man courage to speak out and show that we were not bringing in court a trumped up affair! This deposition of our enemies consisted only in denying there had been any beating. Even Liro *chaukidar* said the same! But they spoke on Wednesday, the day of the feast, and not of the Saturday before! Besides as far as I could make out they accused me of (1) having had the Christians brought to me, and threatened to take back the money of the loans they had got from us, (2) having prevented them from giving *begari* on Thursday 4 July, (3) having come with them to Nagar.”

“I flatly denied (1), explained (2), I had made arrangements for them to go to Nagar, with them; besides what happened in Nagar, as I have related above, shows that I had good reasons to suspect their tricks. I admitted (3), I wonder what is wrong in this. I exposed also the facts as I knew them, insisting especially on those connected with the Saraitoli and Pakertoli people, although I spoke also of Khutitoli. I interpolated Liro who had confessed before me on Thursday 29th, but he denied having seen me!

“When I began to speak of the calumny (disturbance of the pagan feast by Christians) I was told there was no question of that I addressed the rascals and asked who had accused my Christians of this?” No answer. “Finally the enquiry came suddenly to an end! I must not forget to mention here that whilst the Christians were under the guard of the police, they were not left in peace. On Thursday they were several times urged to become pagans. Some *sipoy* took them aside in small groups of 4 or 5, and tried to induce them to abandon Christianity.”

Thank God! These attempts had no result, but to confirm them in their resolution to remain faithful. When told that if they remained Christians, they would be against the Raja, they answered: “We pay our rent of the Raja, we give him *begari*, but we remain Christians.” “When they told me this, they seemed quite happy to have had the courage to resist these attempts, and one of them, Dandu, said: “Father I have been weak once, but it was because they had beaten me so hard I was afraid, but now that I have suffered, they may do what they like I do not mind it.”

Compiled by— Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.

Rest in Peace

01	03.11.2020	Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar, (MDU, 78/57) passed away at Dindigul
02	09.11.2020	Fr. Gonzalez Valles Carlos, (GUJ, 95/79) passed away in Madrid, Spain.
03	13.11.2020	Fr. A. Antony Pappuraj, (MDU, 74/57) passed away at Madurai
04	16.11.2020	Fr Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj (DUM,74/53) passed away at Dumka, Jharkhand
05	16.11.2020	Fr Rudolph Fernandez (BOM) 86/69) passed away at Nashik, Maharashtra
06	17.11.2020	Br. Lawrence Richard Saldanha (HAZ, 83/58) passed away at Sitagarha
07	17.11.2020	Fr. Cipriano Mendía Echániz (GUJ, 89 / 71) passed away in Loyola, Spain.
08	22.11.2020	Fr. S.P. Lourdusamy (PAT, 65/43) passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN NOVEMEBR FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	Name	Death	Birth
01	Fr. Joseph Lombart, SJ	04 Dec. 2011	31 Dec 1928
02	Fr. Alexander Beck, SJ	13 Dec 1999	10 May 1935
03	Fr. Sidon Maes, SJ	13 Dec 2001	07 Sep 1919
04	Fr. Tej Kumar Ekka, SJ	15 Dec 2018	31 Jul 1956
05	Br. Samuel Dodrae, SJ	19 Dec 2002	03 Jan 1930
06	Fr. Joseph Lakra (B)	19 Dec 2003	31 Oct 1935
07	Fr. Tarcisius Bara, SJ	24 Dec 2004	22 May 1945
08	Br. Herman Bara, SJ	26 Dec 2005	08 Apr 1945



BIRTHDAYS

Date	DECEMBER
01	Xess Mukti Prakash
02	Bara Kuldeep
02	Kujur Akshay
02	Tirkey Vinod Kr.
04	Lakra Prakash
06	Ekka Pradeep
06	Minj Nirmal S.
09	Lakra Xavier
09	Tirkey Sushil
12	Tirkey Anil
13	Toppo Dino
13	Xaxa Kapil
14	Ekka Emilius
20	Ekka Ranjit
20	Minj Vijay Kumar
23	MINJ PATRAS
24	Ekka Casmir (T)
24	Kindo Sanjit
26	Lakra Kamal
27	Bara Ravindra
28	Kujur Patras
30	Kujur Bipin Kishore

Date	JANUARY
02	Minj Anuj Roshan
03	Dhurwey Vimal Kr
03	Tirkey Leo Florent
04	Ekka Lalit Kr.
04	Kujur Yacub
04	Lakra Manoj
08	Xalxo Sunil Kr.
14	Tigga Anup Kr.
14	Tigga Naveen
16	Ekka Casmir (G)
18	Tirkey Polycarp
20	Lakra Athnase
21	Bara Ajay
21	Xalxo Polycarp
24	Baxla Clestus
24	Lakra Adesh
24	Lakra Henry
26	Kerketta Naveen
27	Tirkey Anand Kr.
29	Kerketta Ajay (J)

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