

2020/12
72ND YEAR



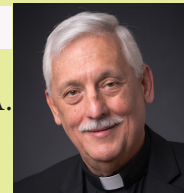
December
2020



OFFICIAL

FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR) - The new Socius, Consultor and Admonitor to the POSA. He replaces Fr. Keith Abranches.
Fr Roland Coelho (GOA) - Consultor to the POSA and Chair of the West Zone.



Gyanoday, Khaspur: By his Decree dated 29 July 2020 (PAT 2020/09), Very Rev. Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, has converted the apostolic end of the house - Gyanoday, Khaspur, from a Formation House to an Apostolic House.

On being presented by the Provincial, the Archbishop of Patna has appointed:
Susai Raj - Parish Priest, Khagaul



FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Provincial has established	-	St. Xavier's, Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh,
		as the dependent House of St. Xavier's School, Patna.
Ashish Paul	-	Sanjivan Niwas, (MSW)
Marcus Michael	-	Gaunaha
Oswald Saldanha	-	Treasurer, Gyanoday, Khaspur
Rajesh Kant Prasad	-	K.R., Bettiah (Temp.)
Sanjay Marandi	-	Theology, Paris

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 2020

Provincial will be in Province office in December

CONGRATULATIONS

To Fr. Sebastian Alphonse for successfully defending his Ph. D Thesis titled “LOAD BALANCING SCHEMES FOR IPv6 ROUTING PROTOCOL FOR LOW POWER AND LOSSY NETWORKS IN INTERNET OF THINGS” on 11 November 2020 at Seminar Hall of the Department of Biology, Gandigram Rural Institute (Deemed To be University), Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.



LOCAL REPORTS

Ara: Regular classes for the students of Classes IX to XII are in full swing in Catholic High School. Every day one third of the students come to school for the classes. The rest of the students are engaged in their online classes. On 06 & 07 November, St. Xavier's School conducted an exhibition of the projects creatively prepared by the students from LKG to Class III. The parents and children came to see the exhibition in big numbers strictly following the COVID-19 rules and regulations. **Fr. Jacob Olickathotty** and **Fr. Francis Palliparambil** attended the Patna Province Apostolic Planning in Atmadarshan. On 11 November, **Frs. Joy Karayampuram, Joseph Thadavanal, Alphonse Crasta** and **JoseThengumpally** made a brief visit to our community for a day. It was a fun-filled moment for us. On 16 November, we had community picnic to Kari-sath along with Ursuline Sisters and three teachers from St. Xavier's School. We had a good time together cooking and exploring the place. Three Notre Dame Sisters along with their Juniors who were on their way to Piro for a picnic, stopped by our community to have their breakfast on 21 November. They were at home with us and had a short darshan of our campus. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated with utmost joy and devotion with a good number of faithful people partaking in the mass. The youth of our parish were actively involved in the decoration and arrangement of the church for the holy mass along with us. **Fr. Jacob** has gone to Mokama for naturopathy treatment. Fr. Amalan participated in a retreat organized for Buxar diocesan priests at Jyoti Bhawan. All are keeping well.

- Amul

Barbiga: We began a grace-filled November with the solemn mass of All Saints. On 02 November, **Frs. Peter Ignatius** and **Prakash Anthony** went to Patna to participate in the 'Province Apostolic Planning'. They returned on 06 November. We had the All Souls Day mass in the church at 3.30 pm followed by the blessing of the cemetery on 02 November. **Fr. Provincial** reached Barbiga on 21 November for the visitation. We celebrated the feast of Christ the King the following day. **Fr. Provincial** was the main celebrant and he preached after the Eucharistic procession. After the Eucharistic procession, we came to know of the death of **Fr. Lourdusamy** and **Fr. Provincial** rushed to Patna around 11.45 am. On 27 November, we had the oath taking ceremony of School Student Council president and the captains of four houses. Dr. Naval Prasad, the Principal of S.K.R. College, Barbiga, was the chief guest. We had the baptism of five children on 28 November.



- A. Prakash

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: The month of November brought two major and very significant experiments both for the first and the second year novices. On 26 October, the first years began their long retreat and on the same day the second years were exposed to a variety of experiments, such as social, intellectual and physical pursuits at assigned places in different groups. The second years were accommodated at the neighboring U.M.I. convent chapel for our daily masses till the end of the long retreat. We celebrated the feast of



St. Stanislaus Kostka with solemn mass. The renovation works of the chapel were completed this month. On 16 November, the chapel was blessed and inaugurated by **Fr. William D'Souza**. We gratefully thank and appreciate **Fr. Vimal Kishore** for executing the renovation of chapel. This year our hard work in the paddy field bore much fruit as the harvest was comparatively satisfactory. **Frs. George Nedumattam** and **Sudeep Chacko** from Kaiserganj paid a visit to us. On 25 November, while the first years completed the long retreat the second years also concluded the experiments.

- Bablu Kumar

Prabhat, Sakri: We were busy with different activities in November. We started the new CRC in the village of Minhei on 13 November 2020. The teachers and students of our CRC centers celebrated the International day of the Girl Child (Balika Diwas) to recognize the Girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face in our villages. This was followed by Children's Day celebrations in our CRCs and SECs of 34 Musahar villages by organizing cultural programmes and games. The students took part actively and enthusiastically. There was a TOT training in Prabhat organized by the Province Development Office from 23 to 27 November 2020. The participants were the supervisors from Manthan, Gaunaha, and Prabhat. Capacity Building Training Programmes were organized for Mata Samiti members and the core committees in all the villages. This was primarily to promote quality education among the children. The celebration of the Golden Jubilee and the 70th birthday of our Director, **Fr. Jose Vadassery** was a joyful occasion for all of us.

- Dilip Kumar

READ, Bettiah: On 02 November, **Fr. Joyson Fernandes** attended apostolic planning meeting in Atmadarshan, Patna. 34 Students of class X wrote their Sent-Up exams from 11 to 13 November. **Sch. Arockiasamy** participated in regent's get together in Gaya. On the eve of Children's Day a few competitions were conducted for children. Rangoli making was the highlight of the competitions. Livelihood Program promoted by READ is progressing well. The beneficiaries have started to pay back the first installment. We are closely monitoring the progress.

- Arockiasamy

Sanjivan Niwas, Patna: We began the month with normal time table. On 05 November, we attended the Jubilee celebration of our elder brothers in the Society of Jesus in XTTI chapel. We took care of the choir for the celebration. Thanks to **Fr. Premlal** and team for preparing us for the choir. It was a new experience for all of us and we were inspired by fathers around us. On 09 November, we bid farewell to **Bro. Marcus Michael**. **Bro. Gnana Muthu** went to Bodhgaya for Regents' gathering from 11 to 16. We had a meaningful Diwali celebration on 14 November. We had another opportunity to attend the Jubilee celebration of **Fr. Mathew Kattathara** and **Fr. Mathew Chemplan** at FMSK. On 26 November, we participated in the Constitution Day rally that took place around Gandhi Maidan. It was heart touching and learning experience for all of us. We had our monthly recollection on 27 November guided by **Fr. Lawrence Paschal** and **Fr. Virender** prepared us for confessions. On the same day fathers and brothers had community meeting. On 28 Novem-



ber, we had our monthly picnic to Sanjay Gandhi Park and enjoyed the whole day. On 29 November, we had dialogue and English conversation competition conducted by **Fr. Sushil Bilung**. We are all keeping good health.

- Candidates Darsan & Gyaneshwer

Sasaram: From 02-05 November, **Fr. Benny Moolan** participated in the Province Apostolic Planning meeting held in Atmadarshan, Patna. He also had the privilege of attending the Province level jubilee celebration in XTTI as the meeting culminated in a joyous jubilee celebration of our Jubilarians in the evening of 05 November. From 12-15 November, **Sch. Cyprian Minj** attended a course on 'Ignatian Spirituality' given by **Fr. Vimal Kishore** to all the regents in Bodhgaya. This programme concluded with a day of recollection and sharing of life under the guidance of the PCF, **Fr. Edward Dungdung** on 15th November. These four days were a time of an 'Inner Journey' with the Lord that enabled us to get in touch with ourselves and examine our response to the call of the Eternal King. Truly, it was a meaningful and fruitful gathering for all the regents. The students of class X wrote their Sent-Up examination conducted by the Bihar School Examination Board from 11-13 November. On the occasion of Diwali, we celebrated the festival of light by lighting diyas and candles in and around our house. On 16 November, our Jesuit brethren from Aurangabad and Chenari joined us for the birthday celebration of **Fr. Isidore Kerketta**. A good number of the faithful came to the Church for the feast of Christ the King which was celebrated with a beautiful procession in our campus followed by adoration. His Lordship Most **Rev. Bishop Sebastian Kallupura** paid us a courtesy visit on 26 November and stayed with us overnight. His presence with us brought us great joy. Unlike winter in the previous years, it seems that this winter feels colder in Sasaram. All of us in the community are enjoying good health.

- Cyprian Minj

Seva Sadan, Ratanpurwa: St. Thomas Higher Secondary School, Ratanpurwa, organized its First Alumni Meet on 22 November with the theme "BACK TO SCHOOL (Return to Remember and Reunite). The Re-Union of old students was a memorable day and well responded by a good number students who passed out from our school. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp. **Fr. Francis Chinnappan**, the Principal, welcomed the gathering and introduced the purpose of the Alumni Meet. He also welcomed the speakers of the day, **Fr. Rajan Lakra**, **Fr. Joyson** and Sr. Prema and thanked them. Sr. Prema who is a former Principal of St. Thomas Higher Secondary School, recalled most of the Alumni members and **Fr. Rajan Lakra** who was a regent here spoke on Jesuit Alumni Association. **Fr. Joyson Fernandes** spoke of the importance of the bond between the school and the old students. Sr. Prema spoke on imparting the values to others in society. The teachers and the old students were overwhelmed to meet one another. It was a moment of great joy to relive with renewed spirit, to recall the memories and to return home with greater joy than ever. We at the school were energized and overjoyed looking at our students doing well in small and big ways. It was a memorable day for all of us. At the end the Principal thanked everyone for helping and supporting the school directly and indirectly. **Fr. Stephenraj** went home to participate in the requiem mass of his elder brother and spent time with his ailing mother. **Br. Vijay Cherubim** has been busy with harvesting of paddy and transplanting of sugarcane.



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- Stephenraj

Shanti Sadan, Allahabad: In the month of November, we felt the onset of winter. Our campus became verdant with flowers and vegetables. We had a change in our portfolios on 01 November. The new office bearers enthusiastically began their duties faithfully. We had a special mass for the Parishioners on all-souls

day. On 10 November, one of our companions, Sumit Kullu thanked God for his gift of life as he celebrated his birthday. On the same day we watched the IPL final match in the evening. On 14 November, we had a special prayer service in the evening on the occasion of Diwali. Shanti Sadan was illuminated with candle lights. On 15 November, 18 diocesan priests came to Shanti Sadan for a five day retreat directed by **Fr Pius Theckemury**. **Fr. Robert Athickal** is meticulously planning to develop the nursery with more fruit tree saplings. He is tirelessly working to make the campus green. Due to the pandemic rules, on the feast day of Christ the king, we could not have the procession. Instead, we had the Eucharistic adoration for 45 minutes for the parishioners soon after the Sunday Eucharist. The Pre-novices helped out in planting the onion saplings in our farm on 28 November. It was a new experience for some of us.

- Amit

St. Michael's, Patna: The community members continue to live life joyfully. We have had the 50 years of Priesthood Celebration of **Fr. Mathew Chemplany** in our Community. This celebration was indeed an inspiring moment for all of us who have committed our lives in the service of the Lord. We also bid farewell to **Fr. Tom Perumalil** who has served especially at SXCE, Patna, for 25 long years. His contribution to the institution is commendable. It was truly a very good initiative from the teachers of our school to come up with a creative video presentation to wish our children on Children's Day. This initiative not only showed the teachers' love for our students but also empowered our students immensely. There was a Parents Teachers meet (PTM) in our School where the First Term examination report card was given to them. Presently, we are having classes for the students of Class X and XII besides the usual online classes for the rest of the classes. The attendance for the regular classes seems rather good. Having finished the second round of macro teaching in our B.Ed. College, the trainees are engaged in simulation as well as sharpening of their skills for the teaching practice. Most of the time, the college has been conducting regular classes besides a few online classes. The second year B.Ed. students have been divided into two groups for the pedagogy classes. On the other hand, the Second year M.Ed. students have the full day of regular classes. The controller of Examinations, **Fr. Victor Osta** is busy preparing for the third mid-term semester examinations. We are still waiting for the admissions of the first year B.Ed. and M.Ed. students. **Fr. Ignatius Topno** went to Ranchi for a meeting of six Minority B.Ed. Colleges for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in areas like exchange of teachers in teaching, student exchange programs, setting of question papers and evaluation, research, etc. This initiative was taken, keeping in mind the NAAC accreditation scoring system. This MoU is for three years. The college gate has got a new look. Meanwhile, the interior decoration of the new adjacent college building is in progress. Since the college has less number of teachers, we have advertised for the recruitment of the new faculty members.

- Jeevan Isaac



St. Xavier's School, Patna: An awesome felicitation programme for the primary students was organized on 31 October. The parents were quite impressed and happy with the way all the activities were conducted. The Sent-Up Exams and Practicals for Bihar Board students were conducted in the school. On 07 December, a Rangoli Making Competition was organized for the students of Std VIII, IX and X. Many students participated in it with great enthusiasm.

A virtual celebration of the Children's Day and Diwali with a delightful video with lovely messages took place on 14 November which was well appreciated. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian** went to Sakri to give a training to the trainers for five days in November. **Fr. Devashish** suffered from Typhoid in the second week of November. On the occasion of the Feast of **St. Francis Xavier**, Patron Saint of the school, we had a meaningful Eucharistic celebration in the school hall with students and teachers. Hindi Elocution and Debate competi-

tions were organized for High School students on 04 December. A Drawing Competition was organized for the students of Primary Section on the same day.

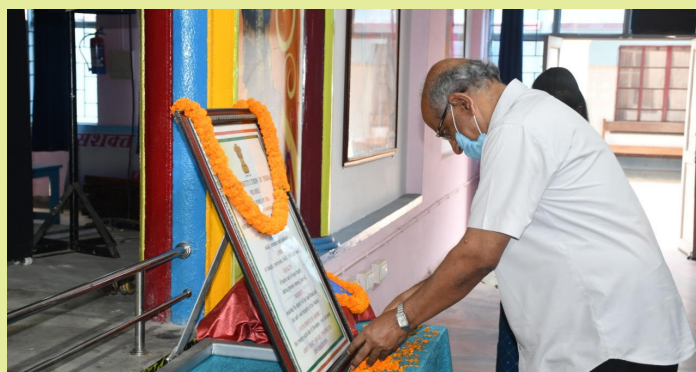
- Devashish

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: Fr. Prakash Louis along with Frs. Anand Mathew and Neeti IMS in collaboration with CRI Varanasi Unit and civil society organized a public commemoration of the Constitution of India on the Constitution Day near Shastri Ghat, Varanasi on 26 November, 2020. He facilitated the Partner's Meet of NEG FIRE in Patna, Bhopal and Visakhapatnam. He conducted a two day Reflection on Ignatian Spirituality in the Present Context for the Junior Sisters of SRA Congregation in Varanasi. Fr. Joseph Dungdung meanwhile is holding the fort and attending to the spiritual needs in the locality.

- Prakash Louis

XTTI Campus, Patna- St. Xavier's Colleges: On 05 November, Fr. Joy Karayampuram was installed as the

Rector of XTTI by Fr. Provincial during the Holy Eucharist. On 08 November, the college thanked Fr. Joseph Thadavanal for his enormous service to the college and welcomed new Rector Fr. Joy Karayampuram with joy. College Staff, Jesuits and collaborators from neighborhood graced the occasion. On 11 November, Fr. Alphonse Sebastian defended his Ph.D. Thesis at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul. In house Faculty Development Programme was organized on 16 November. Ms. Aarohi Anand, assistant professor of Economics, presented the book "Winners Take All" authored by Anand Gridhardas. On 18 November, the Jesuit community gave farewell to Fr. Joseph Thadavanal. Social Awareness Committee conducted online speech competition on the topic "The relevance of Constitution in Indian democracy". On 24 November, Constitution Day was celebrated in the college. On 27 November, Fr. Susai Raj, conducted a session on "Discernment in Groups" for teaching and administrative staff of the college.



XISR: XISR has launched a new research study on Bhuiyas (Dalits) of Bihar, the 12th under the Bihar Sub-altern Study Series. At the request of POSA, Fr. Jose Kalapura wrote an introduction to a book Christian Mission and Service in Western India: Contributions of Bombay-Poona Jesuits, 1914-1962, by late Cornelius Ekka (d 2017), professor of Vidyajyoti College. The revision of Ekka's doctoral thesis and facilitating the publication of the book by Jesuit Conference of India, was done by Kalapura. He also gave lectures on Jesuit History of South Asia to the Jesuit tertians at Sitagarh, Hazaribagh, from 15 to 20 November.

- Alphonse Sebastian & Jose Kalapura

DIASPORA

Clive's House, Trichy: After completing the strict quarantine I was officially welcomed in the community on 04 November. I am keeping good health. I had the online classes throughout this month. I actively participated in a couple of webinars organized by our college. We celebrated the feast of St. John Berchmans on 26th in a grand manner. 27th November was the last working day of this semester. On the following day, we had a day of recollection. Now-a-days I am preparing for the end semester exams starting on 01 December.

- Robert Razeem

St. Aloysius, Mangalore: I reached St Aloysius College, Mangalore on 07 November, 2020. The community members warmly welcomed me. It is a large and a lovely community with a good mixture of young and senior Jesuits. I will be pursuing my B.Ed. studies at St Aloysius Institute of Education. Though the classes

have not yet commenced, I am preparing myself for the course by going through various study materials. I also keep myself busy in the community archives. Five of us scholastics along with the young priests did our triduum at AIMIT, Mangalore. We had the annual Jesuit Basket Ball match in our campus recently. The pre-novices won the friendly tournament.

- Peter Pramod

St. Stanislaus, Hazaribag: The month of November was very important for us in various ways. We had Mass with the parishioners for the first time on All Souls day at the cemetery. Fr. Ranjit Marandi (HAZ) introduced us to a higher level of quiz competition. We celebrated the feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka in a grand way with a splendid volleyball and football match with novices. The novices managed to defeat us in volleyball, but we juniors beat them in football. Br. Lawrence Richard Saldanha passed away on 17 November at 5 p.m. On the feast of Christ the King, we had our first Mass in the parish. The feast of St. John Berchmans was very special and memorable one for all of us. We played a volleyball match with the Tertians and gloriously defeated them. Some of us went to PrernaBhawan, Hazaribag, for correction in aadhar card on 28 of November. We are grateful to the Tertians who helped us to enter the Advent season through recollection on 29 November.

- Prabhat Minz

Xavier Nilaya, Bangalore: Life at Xavier Nilaya is smooth and going on swiftly even during covid-19 pandemic. We, the four scholastics, are safe and sound. We have kept ourselves physically and spiritually fit and busy with online learning. We had many periodic tests and semester exams in the month of November. The Xavier Nilaya Community is really grateful to its extended family members (benefactors) for adding joy and devotion on the feast days, more particularly on the feast day of St. John Berchmans and for providing us sweets and snacks. The Digital Jesuits from JCSA communication gave an opportunity for all the scholastics to take part in Cheers with Berchs programme which was very much inspiring and enriching.

Fr. Mani Poovakot who was struggling with tooth ache was treated by a dentist of a nearby clinic. Now he is keeping well. **Fr. Daniel Raj** is accompanying **Fr. Joseph Maripuram** who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer at CMC, Vellore. **Fr. Daniel** made a brief visit to Xavier Nilaya on 20 November. After ensuring the necessary things for the community, once again he returned to Vellore to look after **Fr. Joseph Maripuram**. We were blessed and happy to receive some guests among us especially **Fr. Arun SJ**, from Delhi Province. We generally assume that there is pleasant temperature in Bangalore throughout the year, but in November, there was heavy rain accompanied by gusty wind.

- Vicky Lal

Paris, France: The good news is that **Sch. Sanjay Marandi** has reached safely on 05 December 2020 to 14 rue d'Assas, Paris. He was received by Fr. Romain Subtil and Sch. Sudhir Lakra, Ranchi Province, at the airport. Fr. Bertrand, the superior of the house, suggested Sanjay to go for Covid-19 test. Fortunately, he was found negative for covid. The negative result was good news for the community because here in Paris people are afraid and very careful, so they follow the guidelines given by the government strictly. Being weekend, there was mass and welcome lunch for **Sch. Sanjay Marandi**. He is not kept in quarantine but participating in the community activities. There are six priests and six scholastics at present in 14 rue d'Assas, Paris community. Deacon Subodh Lakra, (RAN) will be returning to his province on 14 December. **Sch. Sanjay** will start language classes Monday onwards.

- Sanjay Maradi

VARIA

FINAL JOURNEY OF FR. S.P. LOURDUSAMY, SJ

Fr. S. Paul Lourdusamy, SJ (65/43) went to his eternal reward at 10:20 hours, on Sunday, 22 November 2020 (Feast of Christ the King), in the Belvue Hospital, Kolkata. The funeral service was held at Dhyana Ashram, Kolkata at 15:00 hours on 23 November 2020, followed by burial at the Dhyana Ashram Jesuit Cemetery.

Fr. S. Paul Lourdusamy, SJ, had taken ill about ten to fifteen days earlier and was admitted to a Hospital in

Barrackpore for viral fever. On being found COVID positive, he was shifted to the COVID section of Belvue Hospital, through the good offices of Fr. Felix Raj, VC of Xavier University.



Fr. Rajesh Kant, of Patna Province, had been in Kolkata after **Fr. Lourdusamy** had been shifted to Belvue hospital, for supportive help. Due to strict quarantine procedures, contact with **Fr. Lourdusamy** was prohibited. On 21 November, **Fr. Lourdusamy** was reported COVID negative, and was to be shifted into the general section after his condition had stabilized. However, on the morning of 22 November his condition took turn for the worse and he passed away at 10:20 hours. The body was released at 14:00 hours and shifted to a morgue, where the relatives of **Fr. Lourdusamy** and **Fr. Rajesh** were able to view the body from a distance on 23 November. At 13:00 hours, the body was shifted to a coffin in the morgue and sealed. It remained so all through the funeral service.

The main celebrants at the funeral service were the **Provincial of Patna**, the Rector of Morning Star College, Barrackpore, **Fr. George**, and the Rector of Dhyana, Ashram, Kolkata, **Fr. Sunny, SJ**. The Archbishop of Kolkata, Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza and the Bishop of Baraipur, Most Rev. Shyamalan Bose, attended the funeral service and burial. The Arch-

bishop did the final commendation at the altar before the congregation moved in procession with the body to the grave, where the Provincial of Patna blessed the grave and said the burial prayers. Others in attendance included the nephew and niece of **Fr. Lourdusamy**, the Jesuit Community of Dhyana Ashram, representatives of the faculty and seminarians from Morning Star College, representatives from the Sisters Communities to whom **Fr. Lourdusamy** had ministered as a faculty member of Morning Star College, the delegate of the Provincial of Kolkata, Fr. Jeyaraj, SJ (Rector of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata), and the Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, Fr. Felix Raj, SJ - about 50-60 persons in all.

Patna Province is deeply indebted to the Rector, faculty and seminarians of Morning Star College, for the care extended to **Fr. Lourdusamy** during the early stages of his illness. The help and regular communications, from the Jesuits of Kolkata Province, very specially the Provincial, the VC of Xavier University, the Rector, Minister, Principal, and Infirmarian of St. Xavier's College, has been invaluable during the hospitalization of Fr. Lourdusamy in Belvue, and his final journey from the hospital to Dhyana Ashram cemetery. Their wonderful hospitality, extended to **Fr. Rajesh** and me, made us truly feel like friends and companions in the Lord. We are also grateful to the prelates, His Grace Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Archbishop of Kolkata and His Grace Most Rev. Shyamalan Bose, Bishop of Baraipur for allowing and blessing the funeral service with their presence. We are deeply grateful to Fr. Sunny, SJ, Rector of Dhyana Ashram, and the Minister for making the funeral arrangements. We are grateful to Fr. Jyoti for his support at the funeral service and the Juniors for their soulful music.



Finally, we extend our gratitude and prayers to the Administration, Doctors, Nurses and support staff of the hospitals where Fr. Lourdusamy was treated, especially Belvue hospital. May God bless them all for their services and kindness.

May God grant Eternal Rest to Fr. Lourdusamy, and may Eternal Rest shine upon him. Amen.

Donald Miranda, SJ
Provincial

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

Fr. Joseph Maripuram has completed the third cycle of radiation at CMC, Vellore for lung cancer and three more to go. **Joe** as usual remains positive and confident. **Fr. Daniel Raj** accompanies him to the hospital.

Fr. George Karamayil is undergoing chemotherapy at KHFH, Patna.

For the Departed:

Fr. Gonzalez Valles Carlos, SJ, (SPAIN/GUJ/95/79) died on 09 November 2020 in Madrid, Spain.

Fr. A. Antony Pappuraj SJ, (MDU 74/57) expired on 13 November 2020 at Apollo Hospital, Madurai.

Dr. M. J. Cherian (85), **younger brother of Fr. Scaria Mammootil, SJ**, died on 16 November 2020.

Fr Rudolph Fernandez, SJ, (BOM 86/69), passed away 16 November 2020 at Nashik.

Fr Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj, SJ, (DUM 74/53) expired on 16 November 2020 in Dumka, Jharkhand.

Fr. Cipriano Mendiá Echániz SJ, (SPAIN/GUJ 89/71) expired 17 November, 2020 in Loyola, Spain.

Br. Lawrence Richard Saldanha SJ, (HAZ 83/58), died on 17 November 2020 in Sitagarha.

Mr. George (69), **younger brother of Fr. Pius Thekemury, SJ**, died on 18 November 2020.

Fr. S. Paul Lourdusamy, SJ (PAT 65 /43) expired on 22 November 2020 in Kolkata.

Fr. Augustine Lopes (BOM 75/49), passed away on 01 December 2020 in Mumbai.

Fr O.P. Mathew, SJ (KER, 75/54) passed away on 03 December 2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.

Bro Epiphania Dias SJ (GOA 99/77) died 07 December 2020, in Mapusa, Goa.

Mr. Joseph (95), **father of Fr. Philip Kavunkal, SJ**, expired on 07 December 2020 in Kerala.

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS/REPORTS FOR GANGA LAHAR

BY THE 2nd OF EVERY MONTH

TO SOCIUS: socius@patnajesuits.org

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

FR. S. PAUL LOURDUSAMY, S.J. (65/43)

Died at Belvue Hospital, Kolkata, India, on 22nd November 2020

Buried in Dhyana Ashram Jesuit Cemetery, Kolkata on 23 Nov. 2020

Born : 03-04-1955 Ordained : 24.04.1988
Entered the SJ : 01-01-1977 Final Vows : 22.04.1997



Formation & Studies:

Secondary Education: St. Mary's High School, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, 1973
Pre-University Course (PUC): St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, 1975 (Xavier Hall)
Novitiate: XTTI, Digha Ghat, P.O., Patna, 1977-79 Juniorate: XTTI, Digha Ghat, P.O., Patna, 1979-80
Graduation: B.A. (Pol Sc.), B.N. College, Patna – 1981 Regency Yr 1: Xavier Hall, Bangalore, 1981-82 (6 m)
Philosophy: JDV (Pontifical Athenaeum), Pune, 1982-84 Regency Yr 2: K.R. School, Bettiah, 1984-85
Theology: RTC, Danapur & Vidyajyoti, Delhi, 1985-89 Diaconate: New Delhi, 30.01.1988
Ordination: Madurai, Tamil Nadu, 24.04.1988 Post-Graduation: M. Th., Vidyajyoti, 1990-93
Tertianship: St. Stanislaus, Sitagarah; 1995 Final Vows: XTTI, Patna, 22.04.1997
Doctorate: Ph.D. in Moral Theology from Leopold-Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria, 1998-2003

Apostolic Assignments as a Priest:

Pastoral Year, Catholic Church, Bettiah, 1988-89 Faculty, Regional Theology Centre (RTC), Patna, 1992-94
Parish Priest & Vice Superior, Catholic Church, Itarihi 1995-97
Province Coordinator for Pastoral Apostolate (PCPA), 1995-97 & 2007-08
Faculty, RTC, Patna, 2003-07 Parish Priest, Catholic Church, Barbigha, 2007-08
Parish Priest, Catholic Church, Itarhi, 2008-10 Faculty, Morning Star Regional Seminary, Kolkata, 2010-13
Faculty, Vidyajyoti, Delhi, 2013-16 Rest and assistance in ministries of K.R. Campus, K.R. Bettiah, 2016-17
Spiritual Father, Morning Star Regional Seminary, Kolkata, 2017-2020

Fr. S. Paul Lourdasamy, affectionately called 'Lourdes', was an unassuming person, who constantly reflected overlife situations. He committed himself for the people of Bihar and adapted their culture, especially of the poor and downtrodden. He can be called the man of the poor because he truly identified himself with the poor and stood for justice.

As a Pastor, he visited families and came to know them at close quarters, identified his life with them. People could approach him very easily. He instilled faith formation in the Christian Community and made sure that they were well grounded in faith. As a Director of studies and Teacher of Theology, he was very loving and caring to the students, walked with them and was a friend to them. He actively participated in various discussions and always responded assertively from his heart and with his own personal reflections on any subject.

Whenever he came to Patna, I had the opportunity of meeting him and he always spoke about his studies and his reflections on the subject matter. Whenever I inquired about his health and his ministry, he would reply very positively, that he is doing well. Lourdes would always talk about responding to God's call in and through his ministry. He would love to meet his novitiate companions and enquire about how each one is faring in their ministry.

We joyfully and meaningfully celebrated the Silver Jubilee of our ordination; this jubilee program was held at St. Stephen's Church, Danapur - we shared the experiences of our priestly ministry for the last 25 years. Fr. Lourdes spoke about his studies in Moral Theology and his teaching ministry to the theologians. He had well integrated his teaching ministry with his priestly vocation and thanked God for the 25 years of his priestly life in the Society of Jesus.

Lourdes, you left us so quickly. We shall definitely miss you as a member of Patna Province. God grant you eternal peace. I am sure now, you are interceding for all of us here on earth especially your Jesuit companions. - Fr. Gregory Gomes SJ

In 1973, we joined as Jesuit candidates in Xavier Hall, Bangalore. We did our PUC together at St. Joseph's College Bangalore. Lourdasamy was a good sportsman – good in football and basketball. He was also a good leader, a very loving person and very cordial in his relationships with others. We were formed by Fr. Joseph Mariannan S.J., in the candidacy.

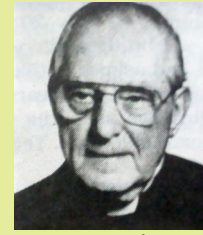
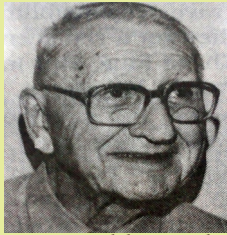
We arrived in Patna together and stayed in Xavier Hall, St. Xavier's. Lourdes was a hard working person. He learned the Hindi language from the scratch. He was very responsible, a silent worker and a person of interiority. He reflected deeply on various matters. He was a good companion, who supported, encouraged and appreciated others. He was a very loving and understanding person. He was convinced of his values and firmly stood for them. Very rarely have I seen him getting angry. He was very dedicated to theology studies and teaching. He enjoyed guiding and helping students, especially in theology. We used to share freely about our personal lives and our family matters too. He was a very good listener and used to challenge when it was necessary. He had great pastoral interest and a soft corner for the poor and downtrodden which was expressed in his ministries. I have lost a good friend and companion. - Fr. Ranjan Lazarus SJ

[All the members of Patna Province are to offer one Mass intention for Fr. S. P. Lourdasamy.]

FROM MISSION TO PROVINCE, GREAT GROWTH PHASE-III: MISSION STATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONNEL

Jose Kalapura, SJ

At the beginning of his episcopate in 1948, Bishop Augustine Wildermuth, assisted by his Vicar General Fr. Charles Saldanha, made a study of Patna Mission and convened a missionary meeting (1949) to review the work and to plan for the future. There was a steady increase of 1000 Catholics per year. The main need was of more missionaries, churches and funds to maintain more catechists. The conclusion was that much had already been accomplished, but with God's help still more could be done. Suggested by the Superior Fr. Richard Welfle, it was decided to divide the money coming from abroad for the Jesuit Mission, between the diocese and the Jesuit missions, with a reasonable percentage. The diocesan priests were happy to have this decision.



Bp Augustine Wildermuth (1948-80) Fr. Edward Mann Fr. Gordon Murphy Fr. Bernard Haas Fr. Robert Ludwig

New Mission Stations

The period between 1940s till mid 1960s was one of great growth of mission centres. **Maner**(1946), begun by Fr. Lyons and Fr. Westropp and followed up by Fr. Jacob Kunnunkal, a diocesan priest (later a Patna Jesuit) in early 1940s, saw the church building erected in 1947, and a school by Fr. Augustine Perumalil (1949 -1955). The station and substations (Paliganj, Jaathipur and Tharni), were later served by Fr. DevasiaKachiramattam, Fr. WargisKappammoottil, Fr. Anthony Grollig, et al. In 1950 a church and a boys' school were built in **Gulni**, by diocesan priest Fr. Matthew Mezhlukanal. In the same year, a station was founded at **Shahpur** by Fr. Nicholas Pollard who began in a rented house in Gunj village (1942 to 1947). Similarly **Tinconua** was founded in 1950, by Fr. Joseph Mann. This was closed down due to conflict with Protestants in 1955. Sheikhpura(1952)developed from Nawada and Bar Bigha thanks to Fr. Batson and by diocesan priest Fr. Michael Adam, who built its church and school (1955), besides a chapel and school at substation Chandi. **Itarhi** (1953),visited by Westropp, since 1937 from Buxar, was started when the diocesan priest Fr. Bernard D'Cruz went to reside there. Fr. Bertram Ernst from Piro started **Koath** (1953)which was later developed byFr. Vincent Gallagher.

Buxar, begun by Westropp in mid 1930s, had a new church in 1965 thanks to Fr. Edmund Burke. Bakhtiarpur, visited by Fr. Batson from Mokama since 1939, had a church and residence by 1955, besides substations at **Kherwara**, **Fatwa** and **Hilsa**. In 1959, Fr. William Goudreau built a school and a priest's house. At **Dumraon** (1957) the construction of a new church was completed. At **Dhibra** (1957) Fr. Robert Donahue built a church, school, dispensary, poultry farm and milk dairy mainly for the poor people. Visited by Fr. Ernst from Piro since 1953, **Sasaram** (1958) was made a resident centre by Fr. Joseph Mann, who bought more land and built a convent for the Notre Dame Sisters in 1962, assisted by Fr. Joseph Knecht.

Development of Older Missions

In the north of Bihar, Fr. Kevin Angelo, the endearing parish priest of Bettiah (1939-1963), loved by everyone, Catholics and non-Catholics, with help from the Maharaja in Kathmandu, rebuilt the church by Christmas 1951, the 200th anniversary of the founding of the first church at Bettiah. The St. Stanislaus Mission Middle School building was enlarged by Fr. Vincent McGlinchy, headmaster till 1961.

Besides Bettiah church, several churches were built thanks to the generosity of Mr. Leslie Martin, a great benefactor of Patna Mission.

There were further developments in some older mission stations. A new church was built (1959) at **Chuhari** besides a hostel, a convent of the Sacred Heart Sisters, a clinic, an orphanage and an asylum for very old and decrepit women. **Chakhni** was further developed by Fr. Gibbons, Fr. Aloysius Pettit, Fr. Frank Moore, Fr. Felix Farell and others who served the sub-stations at Bagaha, **Ramnagar** and **Narkatiaganj**. **Rampur** was served eminently for 29 years by Fr Robert Ludwig who facilitated the coming of the Sacred Heart Sisters there, to serve in the orphanage, primary school and dispensary. In Darbhanga, Fr. Sedlack built a priests' house in 1959. The old Capuchin mission at Samastipur was served by Fr. John Meyer for 25 years extending service to **Muzaffarpur**, **Darbhanga** and **Muriaro**, assisted by Fr. Joseph O'Brien. Khoriah also saw development thanks to its pastor at **Latona**, Fr. Lucas Patrick. **Marpa** was further developed by Augustine Perumalil (since 1955) and others.

In the south of Ganga, at **Ara** (1937) Fr. Frank Welzmillier made the school residential high school (1951) for Catholic boys. Fr. Ignatius Vellaringatt led the high school towards maturity, through many successful experiments during his fifteen years until his retirement (1971).

In **Gaya** Fr. Hubert Schmidt built (1948) the Creane Memorial School. In **Jehanabad** (1944) Fr. Alphonse Goveas, built the school, residence and a convent (1960). Further developments took place at **Barh** thanks to the diocesan priest Fr. Gregory Thekel (since 1943), who built the convent (1945), a dispensary (1946) and a church in **Jesuit** Indian style (1956). **Bar Bigha** founded by Fr. Batson (1942) fully developed under diocesan priest Fr. Joseph Patna Padamattam (since 1944) who built a convent (1955), and renovated the church (1962). **Bihar Sharif**, visited from 1938 to 1946, by Fr. Batson became residential thanks to Fr. Robert Wilkinson who built the present site. **Nawada**, opened by the far-sighted Batson from Mokama, had an imposing new church built by Fr. Jacob Kunnunkal (1961). **Dhibra** mission was opened (1957) by Fr. Robert Donahue to serve the poor people in villages and leprosy patients. At **Jamalpur** Fr. Robert Snyder kept the flag flying for 28 years, extended pastoral help to **Mungher, Basauni, Bariarpur** and **Kharagpur**. At Chakai Fr. Morrison carried out the Santal mission, besides giving visiting service at **Sokho, Jhajha** and **Mariam Pahari**, assisted by Fr. Dan Rice.

New Institutions

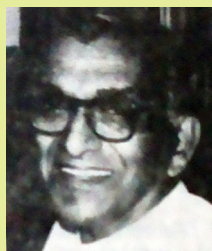
The Catholic Information Centre, a centre of dialogue and intellectual ministry, was started in the rented LalKoti beside GolGhar by Fr. John Brennan who had a large supply of books collected by Fr. Westropp of the Catholic Book Crusade fame. It was later directed by Fr. Bernard Haas, who lectured in Patna University on the Bible and at Ram Krishna Mission, organized students under the University Cultural Association for discussions and entertainment, besides organizing annual one-act play festival, in which even Protestants, Hindus and Muslims took part. In 1968, the closed down **Loyola Technical School** and High School, built by Loesch and Stegman, were handed over to the (Montfortians) along with the property owned by Patna Jesuit Society. **St. Michael's School**, Kurji (1858) managed by the Irish Christian Brothers from 1894, was handed over the Jesuits in 1968 who developed it into a first class school in Patna thanks to Fr. Gordon Murphy, Fr. James Cox, Fr. P. T. Augustine, and others later. Fr. Raphael Sah, an excellent writer in Hindi, translated the New Testament into Hindi, started the Hindi Catholic monthly, **Sandesh** (1959) and the Hindi publication series, Prabhat Sahitya Mala under **Prabhat Prakashan**. He encouraged Mr Cherubim Barno Sahu, the most famous lay Catholic writer. **Xavier Teachers' Training Institute**, the formation house for Jesuits was set up in 1960 by the tireless Fr. James Gibbons. Four schools were founded by Patna Jesuits during this period: St. Xavier's School, Jaipur (1942), St. Xavier's School, Godavari (1951), St. Xavier's School, Kathmandu (1954), and St. Xavier's School, Delhi (1960).



Fr. Joseph Mann



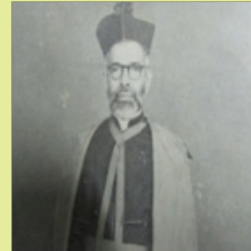
Fr. Kevin Angelo



Fr. Ignatius Vellingatt



Fr. Remy Paul Sah



Msgr Jacob Vellingatt
(Mission Home: 1937-84)

Recruiting Indian Personnel

The year 1962 marks the end of a 40-year era of pioneers, stalwart missionaries, of growing and expanding pastoral centres, and mighty increase in personnel and institutions. In 1956 Patna Mission was made a Vice-province and in 1962, a Province, a new milestone in the history of Patna Mission.

From 1921 till 1967, some 149 foreign missionaries (Americans and Europeans) volunteered for Patna Mission, of whom 60 returned for various reasons. A new generation of Indians was coming up to carry forward the spirit and zeal of the old missionaries, but with new and modern approach according to the changing times to reach new horizons. As India was emerging as an independent republic with an Indian identity, foreign missionaries were allowed to stay and work, but new ones were not permitted except in rare cases. Replacement of foreign missionaries by Indian missionaries in all fields of action became imperative, and an advisable policy in the Church including in church hierarchy and administration.

Patna Mission had been recruiting Indians right from the beginning. The first Indian to join was Kevin Angelo (1922), followed by Fr. David Pinto (1924) and Fr. Charles Saldanha (1925). Fr. Sontag (Superior: 1929-1936), admitted 15 Indians since late 1920s and Fr. Franck Loesch (Superior: 1936-1944) recruited more. This was facilitated by Fr. Ignatius Vellingatt (joined in 1932) through his older priestly brother, Msgr. Jacob Vellingatt, of Palai Diocese, who founded St. Joseph's Mission Home (1937) and channelized many vocations to Patna Mission and Patna Diocese. During its 57 years of existence (closed down in 1994), Mission Home recruited some 1600 vocations for 49 dioceses and 26 congregations including 11 Provinces of the Jesuit Society which received 318 recruits. Patna Province (inclusive of Delhi and Nepal) got 221 recruits. Sontag, a world famed missionary by reason of his correspondence courses wrote, "It is certainly wonderful what **Msgr. Jacob Vellingatt** has been doing for Patna and so many other dioceses, in helping to supply candidate for carrying on their apostolic work."