

Dumka - Raiganj Province



February 2021

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 516

Fr Provincial's Message



Dear friends, last year has been a year of struggles. It began with the Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown and continued with the migrant problems, shrinking of the economy, some of the Banks and financial institutions going bankrupt and now the farmers' protest and the government's reaction to that protest. We are affected either directly or indirectly by all these happenings. A "new normal" is being established in which selfishness, arrogance, violence, revenge and pragmatism replace generosity, sobriety, peace, forgiveness and compassion as virtues for self aggrandizement and success.

It is extremely difficult not to be affected by these new "virtues." We live and move in that atmosphere and we are formed by our surroundings. But as Christians, we are graced by a supernatural gift to be above such "virtues" and show the world that there is an alternative to such self fulfillment by being generous, peace-loving, forgiving, sober and moderate in our thoughts, words and deeds. It is very important that we keep our life styles simple befitting an ordinary citizen of this country and promote peace, harmony, forgiveness and so on without any distinction so that our surroundings become human and humane and God's grace collaborate with human openness to form a new humanity. Let every community of ours spend some time everyday praying for God's intervention to change the surroundings of today.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

Violence against Women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Appointments by Fr Provincial

Fr Michael Minj: In-charge of the High School Section of Gandhi Jayanti School, Mariampahar

Priestly Ordination of Fr Shailen Minj

Rengarh, from where 6 Bishops and so many priests and religious hail, has witnessed two more priestly ordinations in the persons of Fr Shailen Minj SJ (DUM) and Fr Ashit Dungdung (Lucknow Diocese) held on 24th January, 2021. It was a cool morning with a vast number of the Faithful and 44 Priests and many Religious proceeding towards the altar of God, along with Ordaining Prelate, Most Rev. Vincent Barwa DD, the Bishop of Simdega Diocese. In a special way, his mother and uncle accompanied Shailen Minj to the altar. The entrance Hymn and the dance were quite fitting and meaningful for the liturgical celebration. Fr David Minj SJ (RAN), who was a senior theology companion of Shailen Minj in France, gave a brief introduction which included a life sketch of Shailen Minj. During the ordination, Bishop Barwa highlighted the call and the commitment of the priests and religious and encouraged everyone to be generous working in the vineyard of the Lord. The graced moment was when the Bishop and the fellow priests laid their hands on Shailen Minj and Ashit Dungdung and consecrated them: "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek" (Heb 7,17).

At the end of the ordination Fr Shailen Minj fondly remembered his significant journey to this particular day, recalling his struggles during his school days. He thanked the Bishop and the Province Representative Fr K.C. Stephen SJ and all the priests, the religious and the faithful, for their role in accompanying him to the altar of God. Thanks a million to Fr Benedict SJ, the Parish Priest of Rengarh and Fr David Minj SJ, his Assistant. Both of them meticulously planned and coordinated the whole

ceremony with devotion. After the ordination Mass, a short felicitation programme was organized by the Rengarh parish council and the *Mahila Mandal* (Women Group). Songs and Dances were performed for the newly ordained priests. Students, teachers and Satia community representatives sang a beautiful Malto song wishing Shailen all the best for his priestly ministry. At the end of the programme the new priests blessed all the people.

On the following day, 25th January, 2021, Fr Shailen Minj celebrated his first Thanksgiving Mass in his native village Chirratoli. It is also the village of late Bishop Charles Soreng SJ of Hazaribag Diocese. A good number of priests concelebrated with him in thanking the Lord. Before the Mass Fr Shailen Minj blessed the tomb of his father and then blessed his home and began the Holy Eucharist. Both in his introduction and the Homily he highlighted the love he experienced in his village. His village comprises a good mixture of different tribals and castes. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy" (1 Cor 13,4). At the end of the Eucharist Fr Shailen spoke from his heart expressing with grateful emotions. He thanked Fr Varghese Palli, the Provincial, the former Provincials, the PCFs, his Novice Master and the Province representative Fr K.C. Stephen, his teachers and companions who supported and guided him during his formation. Special thanks to Mrs Sindrala, affectionately called *Dumka Didi*, who was a constant support and help during his Jesuit training. A cultural programme and delicious meal was organized in honour of the new priest in the village itself. We wish Fr Shailen Minj a fruitful and meaningful ministry in the vineyard of the Lord sharing His Life. *(Fr John Felix SJ)*.

Priestly Ordination of Fr Emmanuel Murmu

4th February was a red-letter day in the history of Hathimara parish. On this auspicious day of the feast of Jesuit saints, St John De Britto and Br Rudolph Aquaviva, the Priestly Ordination of the first Priest, Fr Emmanuel Murmu SJ, coming from this Parish, took place.

The place was decorated beautifully for the occasion. It was a festive occasion for the parishioners. They gathered in large numbers to witness history being created at Hathimara Parish. Fr Emmanuel Murmu's father and his relatives reached him till the altar, where the Bishop Rt. Rev. Julius Marandi DD and the Jesuit Provincial, Fr Varghese Pallipalakkatt received him, symbolically signifying the fact that he is being offered for the service

of God. Then the ordination ceremony followed.

The Bishop, a fervid orator in Santali, shared his happiness with the people saying that he is in need of more and more priests to spread the kingdom of God to every nook and corner of the Diocese. He praised Mr Chrysostom Murmu, the father of Fr Emmanuel Murmu, for offering this third son of his to work in the vineyard of our Lord who said that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. Bishop Julius prayed for the mother of Fr Emmanuel who is no more in this world. She missed the chance to witness his ordination by just three months. As Fr Emmanuel's hands were anointed with the holy oil and the Bishop and the other priests gathered there prayed over him, the eyes of his father were wet with joy. The choir members sang beautifully in a sonorous voice to the Holy Spirit to be present among them. The faithful clapped in happiness. As soon as the Mass was over the people lined up in great numbers to kiss the anointed hands of the newly ordained Priest. The crowd was enormous but they strictly followed the Covid-19 guidelines. Fr Manoj Toppo, the community Superior, Fr Rajesh Ba'a, the Parish Priest, ably assisted by the community members, Hathimara Sisters and the parishioners worked very hard to make the day a memorable one.

The following day was a joyful day for the faithful of Simaldahi village, the place from where Fr Emmanuel Murmu comes. The village people had put up a big 'shamiana' (tent) in front of his house. They took him in procession from the end of the village road, till his house. They washed his feet and hands, and then we got ready for the Mass. Practically, all the villagers, Catholics and non-catholic Christians as well as non-Christian Santhals of the village were present in great numbers. During his homily Fr Emmanuel Murmu explained his journey from being a High School student to being ordained as a Priest. He shared with the faithful some of his experiences which he did not share even with his dear mother when she was alive. He thanked everybody for assisting him in his life journey and asked all of us to pray for him to be a good Priest and a good Jesuit. A seed is sown in fertile soil. It gets water from the skies and minerals from the soil and then sprouts into a plant and then grows into a huge tree. We do not know how it happens. God has planned it that way. Fr Emmanuel is one such plant. "Before you were formed in your mother's womb, I had consecrated you" - Jer 1,5. *(Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ)*.

Sacred Orders of Diakonia

Two of our men, Scholastics Pratap Gabriel Samad and Stanislaus Murmu, were ordained Deacons by the Bishop of Dumka, His Lordship Julius Marandi DD. Yes, it was a day of great joy for the Province and the Family Members of our Students of Theology, Pratap Samad and Stanislaus Murmu as our Beloved Bishop Julius Marandi laid his hands on them and ordained them. The congregation, on this Saturday, the 30th of January, comprised the Religious Nuns of the Neighbourhood, the Diocesan Clergymen in and around Dumka and the Province men, Priests and Br Bernard Kisku, Scholastics and candidates. Special mention has to be made of the presence of Fr James Samad SJ of Jamshedpur Province, brother of Deacon Pratap Samad.

The Episcopal Solemn High Mass was very devotional with the meaningful and clear commentary of Fr Charles Tudu who after the *Bolok'Seren* (Entrance Hymn) invited the Bishop and everyone present on behalf of Fr Provincial, explaining briefly the importance and meaning of this Religious celebration. The Bishop in turn, acknowledged the invitation and prepared us for the penitential rites.

After his really brief homily (earlier he had threatened the Congregation with these words: "My short, very short homily is going to be for just ONE MUI NUTE minus one hour!") there were ripples of muffled laughter and smiles all around), the Bishop ordained our young men, after he addressed them, questioned them about their readiness and willingness to be ordained Deacons.

With the appropriate commentary of Fr Charles Tudu and the devotion-filled Chant of the Litany of Saints, the two Deacons were ordained and then given the "AMPLEXUS" (warm embrace) by the Bishop, the Provincial and the Vicar General Fr Sonatan Kisku. At the instruction of the Bishop the congregation applauded the newly ordained Deacons and he asked Deacons Pratap and Stanislaus to flank him then and there on the altar for a photo.

After the Eucharist, the Deacons and their family members were led to the Refectory amidst joyful beating of the drums to enjoy the Agape, lovingly prepared by Br Bernard Kisku and his team. Deacon Stanislaus thanked everyone on behalf of Pratap and himself for

this red-letter day in their lives.

May God be praised for our two Deacons! A lot of thanks to Br Bernard and his kitchen staff, to Fr Ravindra Darshima and the Candidates for the Choir, to Fr Varghese Puthussery, Regent Scholastic Roshan D'Souza and their candidates for the decoration, to the Scholastics for their chipping in to be of help. All for God's own Greater Glory, Amen! (*Fr John Chandran SJ*).

Young Priests' Meet

Young Priests' recollection and spiritual sharing was arranged in St Xavier's School, Raiganj, on 22nd January, 2021. We reflected on the life and richness of St Ignatius; we focused our reflection on these important questions: How the life of St Ignatius is influencing me and nurturing my vocation to the Society of Jesus? Can I really call myself a faithful son of St Ignatius? How do I show myself different from others?

In our sharings, many of us appreciated our novitiate years and all its rich experiences. To state a few, the one-month Long Retreat, the Principle and Foundation, God created human beings to raise, reverence, and serve God, and by doing this, to save their souls, Examen, Catechism to children, Feeling one with the poor and the outcasts. All the points expressed above are helping and moulding our life. All of us expressed that we are trying to live our life in accordance with the spirit of St Ignatius, understanding Ignatian spirituality and the charisms of the Society of Jesus. We, as a group, decided to share e-materials about St Ignatius and his letters to all young priests. Two of our young priests, Frs Deepak Tirkey and Ravindra Darshima, volunteered to be resource persons for talks and seminars on the person of St Ignatius to school students and staff. Some of us also will conduct Ignatian way of the cross, Ignatian journey to Calvary. The meeting ended with the Eucharistic Meal, celebrated by Fr Deepak Tirkey. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of St Xavier's community for their warm hospitality. (*Fr Jacob Chinnappan SJ*).

Health Promotion Programme

Arrupe Tribal Cultural Centre (ATCC) at Bhognadih launched an extension project, *Health Promotion Programme* on 14 January. The epicentre of the program is Chiharpahar Paharia village, just two kilometres away from Bhognadih under Barhait Block. The purpose is to

promote better health mainly through a small weekly clinic and animation programs to highlight preventive methods to address common ailments mainly among the Paharia community. Ms Marcette (Gleaners) and Sr Ranjana (Holy Cross) are voluntarily giving their kind service to run the program on a weekly basis. Encouraged by the welcoming enthusiasm of the villagers, the inaugural session took off with a short introductory program. Fr. John Felix presided over the function and inspired the assemblage with his encouraging words telling them that the improvement of their health will also be beneficial to develop their capacities for an overall progress in life. The students of Jeevan Jyoti School, Satia, animated the people with a dance and a song 'We shall overcome' in Paharia (Malto) language. ATCC is grateful to Fr. Provincial for giving us the needed encouragement and St. Xavier's Sahibganj Community for the initial 'boosting shot' for a good kick-off! *(Fr P. A. Chacko SJ)*.

Republic Day Celebration

The Department of English, St Xavier's College, Maharo, Dumka, celebrated the 72nd Republic Day of the Nation in a colourful manner. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind, the programme was conducted ONLINE using the Google Meet platform. The programme began with a Welcome Address by the Head of the Department and IQAC Coordinator of the College, Rev. Fr. Dr. Davidraj SJ. An erudite talk was given by the Principal of the College, Rev. Fr. Dr. Stephen Raj SJ. He dealt at length on the ideals of Democracy and the meaning of what makes a country a Sovereign Republic. The Guest of Honour for the Celebration was Mr Simon Roche, the Administrator and Teacher at St Paul's School Rampurhat. Mr Roche, a great scholar and multitalented academician, on his own merit, expressed his solidarity with the Nation on this auspicious occasion. He delivered his speech on the relevance of this National Day which marks a new journey of democracy and constitutional life in the history of our Nation. He inspired the student-fraternity to follow the path of our great national heroes and their vision. His speech was followed by a thought-provoking words by Mr Himadri Dutta, a faculty of the same department. Thereafter, several cultural events were presented by the students of the English Department, notably Sr. Rosemary, Sr. Sushila, Sr. Salomi, Veronica, Kajal, Monika, Abhijit and Saijal, both a live and a pre-recorded version.

The cultural items included patriotic songs, dances, recital of self-written poems and speeches that added a bright and colourful dimension to the Day. The event was coordinated with anchoring done by Khushi Kumari, guided by Dr. Fr Davidraj and Ms Preety Sagar. The 72nd Republic Day programme by the English Department was controlled, conducted and technically managed by Mr. Kusum K Mishra, the Head of the Department of Business Administration. The programme was formally brought to an end with a formal vote of thanks and blessings by Rev. Fr. Dr. Davidraj who profoundly recorded the collective gratitude of the Department to Mr Simon Roche and Mr Kusum K. Mishra. *(Mr Himadri Dutta)*.

Youth Day

The NSS unit of St Xavier's college, Maharo, Dumka, organized a Youth Day programme with the theme "Youth and Internet." The programme was held both offline as well as online through Google meet. The programme was initiated with the blessings of the Principal Rev. Fr. Dr. Stephen Raj SJ. It continued with an inspirational life sketch of Swami Vivekananda, with keynote addresses delivered by Dr. Vishwanath Yadav (HOD Mathematics) and Dr. Rajendra Prasad (HOD Zoology). The entire Programme was co-ordinated by Dr. Arun Vincent, Mr Parimal and Mr Gopinath Gorai. Many students participated enthusiastically and added life to the event. Congratulations to all the participants and contestants. *(Mr Gopinath Gorai & Dr Varun Vincent)*.

Gleanings from the Diary of St Xavier's

Offline Classes Resume: After an interval of about 9 months, St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, resumed for Offline Classes but only for Classes X-XII to begin with. This has been done only after a green signal received from the higher authorities. The students of each Section of these three Classes are further divided into two sub-Sections to maintain Social Distance. Other precautionary measures which are strictly followed by the School are: Wearing of Masks by the Staff as well as the students, Hand Sanitation and Thermal Scanning at the entrance of the school gate. No student is allowed to attend classes without a consent letter from parents or if he or she is sick. Each and every day before the School begins each day, each classroom, staffroom and the surroundings are thoroughly sanitized.

LTS Activities Resume: After a successful Leadership Training Camp, held in the month of December, the enthusiastic LTS volunteers began their activities on the School Campus. (1) On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the LTS Unit of the School conducted a Quiz Contest in the School Auditorium. The students of Classes XI and XII along with a few teachers were allowed to be the spectators of the quiz show. (2) On the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day, the LTSers organized a New Year Gathering on the School campus. The programme began with the Lighting of the Lamp and Garlanding of the Photo of late Fr Robert Wirth, the first National Promoter of LTS. This was done by Fr Vimal Kerketta, the Chief Guest, and Fr Hilary D'Souza, the Principal. One of the most interesting parts of this gathering was an interview session which was arranged for a group of passed out LTSers of the School. They were seven in number and all of them are doing well in their own fields. During the interview all of them acknowledged that LTS taught them to excel in life. Being in LTS was not at all a 'Waste of Time' for them. On this occasion Fr Vimal, our Chief Guest, addressed the audience and gave an inspiring message to the young LTSers. He also released the LTS annual magazine, "RAYS." (3) The LTSers also have resumed Sunday Classes for the slum children. On 31st January, Sunday, they brought in around 40 children into the School Campus and spent nearly an hour with them.

Republic Day: This 72nd Republic Day was very special for everyone, as it evolves the feeling of hope and determination: Hope for a brighter future and Determination to fight the Covid-19 Pandemic. Unlike previous years, the celebration of Republic Day on the School campus this year was different but significant. This year there was no Rally and the gathering was small comprising students of Classes X, XI and XII and the Staff. The programme began with a devotional prayer song sung by a group of teachers. Mrs Priti A. Manickam, one of the senior-most teachers of the School, who was the Chief Guest, hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering. Master Piyush Kanodia of Class XII also shared his views on the 72nd Republic Day which was followed by singing of Patriotic songs by the teachers.

To record the contribution and sacrifice of our great

leaders, a few of our students represented some characters who played an important role in drafting the Constitution of India, while another group of students performed a Skit portraying responsible citizens. The Republic Day programme ended with a Vote of Thanks and distribution of sweets. On the occasion of the Republic Day, a few of our senior students had participated in a Republic Day Speech Competition on the theme, "Freedom to Express." This competition, which was organized by "Helping Hands Group," was held in the Deaf and Dumb School, Sahibganj. Mimisha Chakraborty of Class IX grabbed the Third Position in this competition.

Women Safety: On 27th January, after the class, the senior students gathered in the School Auditorium for a short session on the increasing rate of crime and the need for the safety of women. This session was conducted by a Police Officer. On the same topic there was a programme in the Town Hall on 28th January. As our School was invited to be a part of this programme, a few of our students, encouraged by the Principal, prepared and presented a Skit on the same theme. This group of our students won the Second Prize.

Online Dance Competition: Ms Smriti Besra of Class X, who had participated in an Online Dance Competition at the District level, secured the First Position. Congratulations! (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

National Voters' Day

St Xavier's college Maharo, Dumka NSS unit had organized National Voters' Day Celebration and the theme of the day was, "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed." The programme was held online through Google Meet and a short lecture was delivered by Mr Gopinath Gorai on "Voting Rights." Students of all the Streams participated through Google Meet. (*Mr Gopinath Gorai*).

News from Dhyana Ashram Novitiate, Kolkata

After the Christmas celebration, we, the novices, busied ourselves with presentations on topics we had been preparing for months. While the second years made the presentations on the Vows of Chastity and Obedience, the first years presented different chapters of the Autobiography of St Ignatius. It helped us to understand better and appreciate our Jesuit charism.

We entered the New Year with a midnight Eucharistic Celebration, and then a campus picnic with our co-workers, sharing with one another our joy with a delicious fellowship meal. We were happy to welcome Fr George Ponodath as a new member to our community. We are grateful to him for sharing with us his vast experiences of spiritual ministry during his inspiring classes on prayer. On 18th January, we, the novices and juniors, were glad to receive the Minor Orders at the hands of our Bishop Shaymal Bose, who encouraged us with an inspiring homily. After the Eucharist he warmed our hearts with his simplicity in interacting with us. In between the joyful events, we got the sorrowful news about the death of our brother Anthony's father Mr Boni Hembrom. We share in his sorrow and support him with our prayers. (*Nov. Joseph Baghwar*).

Sohorae Porob

Hihiri Pipiri Association of Bengaluru celebrated its 3rd Sohorae Porob on 26 January 2021 at St Joseph's Indian Institute, Bangalore. The Jesuit Scholastics from Jharkhand, Fr Martin, the Director of Indian Social Institute and the Lay Collaborators played a vital role in making this programme fruitful and successful. Around 260 migrant tribals of Bengaluru and Tamil Nadu participated in the programme. The Chief Guest of the day was Fr Rohan, the Principal of the CBSC School. The celebration began with a Santali welcome dance followed by the washing of the feet of the Chief Guest and the committee members. Ms Harshita Roy, the Associate Professor of ISI addressed the audience on the missionary zeal of Fr Stan Swami SJ. Sch Julius Tudu briefed the people about the farmers' protest against the farm laws. Fr Jossey Rodriguez, the Rector of Inigo Sadan, sponsored a delicious meal. After the meal the august assembly participated enthusiastically in the spontaneous Sohorae dance of the Santals. The programme helped all of us to come to know each other. (*Sch Ratan Hansda SJ*).

Videos on Santal Missionaries

Fr P.A. Chacko has uploaded four short videos on the YouTube about our veteran missionaries of former Santal Mission and the present Dumka-Raiganj Province. These are inspirational videos of our forerunners who have blazed the trail as men of vision and commitment. Kindly watch them and pass on the good news

to others. The links are the following:

Part 1: Missionary Veterans in Eastern India

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaB6XT5yrCA>.

Part 2: To Serve in Love – Missionaries in India

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUYxcepSGqE&t=135s>

Part 3: Missionaries in Eastern India

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMC-3JuqODQ&t=4s>

Part Four: Missionary Veterans in Eastern India

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=oGv3ppQtI?YY>

XCC-Johar, Dumka Video Production

On the eve of Sohrae Festival, Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Dumka, along with Kia Jharna Santali Ari-Cali Akhara uploaded on the Youtube, a Santali Video song on Sohrae Festival, 'Sim Hoko Rak' Keda.' Lyrics of this song were written by Mr Manuel Soren and sung by Seth Hembrom and Dibya Kiran Soren. Videography and Editing was done by Fr Vernard Antony SJ, Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Johar Campus, Near L.I.C., Dumka. In two weeks this video song recorded 1,27,854 viewers. During the Christmas 2020, Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Dumka, along with Kia Jharna Santali Ari-Cali Akhara uploaded in the You Tube, a Santali Christmas Video song, 'Babancawic' Bale Jisu.' Xavier Communications Centre (XCC) uploaded Christmas Message in Hindi and in Santali in the You Tube on the eve of Christmas 2020. (*Fr Vernard Antony SJ*).

May These Souls Rest in Peace!

Fr Ronald Victor Menezes SJ (KAR) on 14.01.2021 at Pratiksha, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Fr Ambrose Augustine SJ (PAT, 87/58) on 16.01.2021 in Patna, Bihar

Fr Maxim Crasta SJ (GUJ, 54/32) on 19.01.2021 at Our Lady of Pillar Hospital, Baroda, Gujarat

Fr Arwind Minj SJ (HAZ, 42/20) on 26.01.2021 in Hazaribag, Jharkhand

Fr Anthony A. D'Souza SJ (BOM, 94/77) on 27.01.2021 at Andheri, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Br Stephen Kerketta SJ (RAN 75/57) on 29.01.2021 due to Covid-19 in Samford Hospital, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Mr Yakub Minj (58), Cousin of Fr Marianus Minj SJ, on 31.01.2021



Priestly Ordination of Shailen Minj





**Congratulations
Fr. Emmanuel**



Priestly ordination of Emmanuel Murmu





**Diaconate Ordination
of Schs Pratap Samad and Stanislaus Murmu**



Youth Day, St Xavier's Maharo



Young Priests' Meet



Interaction with LTSers



Speech Competition for Deaf and Dumb at St Xavier's Sahibganj



LTS Annual Magazine 'Rays'



Health Promotion Programme, Bhognadih



Sohare in Bengaluru



Republic Day at St Xavier's Sahibganj

