



2021/02

FEBRUARY 2021

73RD Year

OFFICIAL.....✍️



Fr General

By his letter (2021/01) to all the Major Superiors dated 15 January 2021, Father General has convoked the 71st Congregation of Procurators, to be held in Loyola, Spain, beginning from 16th of May 2022, with the theme 'To See All Things New in Christ'. Before the Congregation, from the 7th of May until the evening of 15th May, the *Spiritual Exercises* will be held in the same place. All the participants (Procurators and Relators) are asked to take part in these *Exercises*.

Father General has also given the directive that "To begin preparing for the Congregation of Procurators, each Provincial should summon the Congregation of his Province, which must be concluded by 15 January 2022."

The UAPs and Ignatius Year are among the *Sits im Leben* of the Congregation of Procurators. The impact of Corona pandemic and its continuing presence has also been factored in, in the planning and possible deliberations of the Congregation of Procurators and Province Congregations.

Father General has appointed:

Fr. Sean O. Carroll, SJ, as the next Provincial Superior of the united States West Province.

Fr. Susai Raj, SJ as Socius of the Provincial of Patna Province (Fr. Susai assumed his duties on 11 January 2021).

Fr Provincial has appointed:

Anil Minz – Ratanpurwa
Edward Mendonca – Ratanpurwa
Joseph Pulickal – XISR
Junas Kujur - Manthan, Khagaul
Siluvainathan – Ara



With Effect from March, 2021

Rajesh Kant – Kaiserganj
Stephen Raj – JRS, ISI-D

With Effect from April, 2021

Joseph Anthonyamy – Shanti Sadan, Allahabad
Alwyn D'Souza – Buxar Diocese

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February 2021

- 01 – 06 – KR and READ Vis.
- 07 – 08 – Sakri Vis.
- 16 – 18 – Varanasi Vis.
- 22 – 26 – JCSA Online
- 27 – Prov. Consult

March 2021

- 03 - Closing ceremony of the Centenary at XTTI
- 06 - 10 Budget Meetings in Patna, Aurangabad and Bettiah
- Rest of the month - In Province Office

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

Congratulations to Schs. Rajeev Ranjan, SJ and Jeevan Prakash Isahak, SJ who were ordained as deacons by His Grace Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna at 5.00 pm on 28 January, 2021.

Thanks to St. Michael's community for hosting the ceremony and providing delicious dinner.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

03 March 2021 – Closing ceremony of (our) Patna Jesuit Centenary will begin at 8.30 am with a prayer service at XTTI cemetery to pay homage to and implore the intercession of those who have gone before us; this will be followed by thanksgiving Eucharist, a felicitation programme and fellowship meal.

Invitations have been sent out keeping in view the pandemic situation and so the need to limit the number of members in the gathering. You are requested to wear masks that cover your nose and mouth. .

Father Provincial intends convoking the **Province Congregation** on 19 March 2021, to be held at Atmadarshan during the Puja holidays in October 2021.

PLAN FOR BUDGET MEETING 2021-2022

- 06/03/2021 09.00 AM Budgets of: Ara, Fatima Matha, Kurji Parish, Prabhat Prakashan, Prabhat Sakri, Sanjivan Niwas & **St. Michael's**
Afternoon: Atma Darshan, Taru Mitra, Xavier Bhawan & **X.T.T.I.**
- 07/03/2021 Leave for Aurangabad early morning;
09.30 AM Budgets of: Bodhgaya, Chenari, REAP Sasaram, **SVS Aurangabad**, Vidya Niwas & Allahabad (Back to Patna by evening)
- 08/03/2021 09.00 AM Budgets of Asha Deep, Barbigha, Gyanodaya, Jesuit Fathers (St. Xavier's, Patna), Legal Aid, Manthan, St. Stephen's Danapur & **Xavier's Patna**
Afternoon: Commission Budgets: Dialogue, Land& Building, PDD, Prison Ministry, Vocation Commission & Youth Commission.
- 09/03/2021 Leave for **KR Bettiah** in the afternoon
- 10/03/2021 09.00 AM Budgets of KR Zone: Gaunaha, K.R.Candidates' House, KREA, Ratanpurwa, & READ (Back to Patna by evening)

Places where meetings will be held are in **bold letters** / colour.

LOCAL REPORTS

Fatima Mata Susamachar Kendra (FMSK): FMSK is limping back to normal life. During the pandemic we gave financial assistance to some of our social centres as well as some of the centres run by other religious congregations. 13 May we had our house feast and from that day we started online preaching of the word of God. Every day we record the Mass readings followed by a short homily. That is edited and telecast through YouTube channel and Facebook page. **Fr. Paul Mariadass** allowed us to dismantle some channels from Ravi Bharti and we converted a small room as audio-visual center. About 2500 people have subscribed to our channel and about a lakh of people have listened to our online preaching. We had started the Sunday prayer service from October 2020. From 31st January 2021 we began 5 days residential prayer service taking all precautionary measures and trusting in the providence of God. We had some Income tax problem and **Fr. Henry** along with **Fr. Johnson** toiled hard to clear all those problems. At present everyone in our community is hale and hearty to plunge into the mission of preaching the word of God and conducting the healing services.

- *Fr. Virendra*

Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya: Bodh Gaya is midway through the pilgrimage season. Pilgrims and tourists from abroad are not seen this year; but we do have them from Bihar and other states in large numbers. Fr. Cyril and Fr. Prashant of Karnataka

province visited Bodh Gaya at the end of their tertianship in Sitagarha. Our province men, **Fr. Anthonysamy**, **Fr. Dominic**, and **Fr. Juno** also stayed with us for a day on their way back from Sitagarha. **Fr. Jose Kariakatt** too had joined them. **Fr. Lawrence** had been on his home visit and just returned relaxed, renewed and trimmed.

We have re-launched our complementary education program, which was discontinued due to economic hardship. The program would cover 1500 students. It would also have focus on harnessing sports potential, care and protection of the forest cover and culture.

Two experiences of the reporter, though personal, have been raised to the level of news item:

In a clean-up drive of our campus, some plants, shrubs and dried or fallen trees were cut down. On one fine evening, some children complained, "Father, berry plants are cut". Their agitated faces communicated a lot! The fruits from the *jungly* (wild) berry plant are for children and birds! We, elders, cannot cut them off just because it is *jungly*! The reporter was consoled by the fact that the clean-up drive was under the guidance of none other than **Fr. Pradeep** who speaks to the cows, birds, and trees as much as to us! The campus looks cleaner and cared.

Someone planted some *sem* (a type of beans) seeds at the fag-end of its season. The seeds shot up, must have been good seeds; picked up some growth! This reporter had passed through these plants at least five times, felt as if the plants were asking to dig around them a bit and spread some cow dung; but he did not. This month, he again passed through the plants. Though the plants were feeble with shunted growth, they did have a few flowers and fruits. Again, the plant stopped the reporter; he felt that the plants were sad and pained. Immediately, their surrounding was dug and manure was spread. At least, before they are uprooted, they got some food! Trees and plants do speak. They do have right to be loved and cared for. Plants, even if off season, try to achieve their fullness by producing flowers and fruits. That's the law of nature! No one has authority over anything – neither on plants or trees, birds or animals, rivers or fellow humans. We are together in this common home! - *Anto Joseph*

KR Bettiah: This month was a busy one since most of the members of our community were on the move. **Fr. Christopher** and **Br. Tom** went to Patna for some works. **Fr. Periya** left for home visit on 7th and returned at the end of the month. **Fr. Rajesh** too went to Patna for some works and returned on 26th. At the end of the month Fr. Richard too went to Patna. We also had some guests in the persons of **Fr. Lawrence Paschal** and **Fr. Seraphim Lal** on different days of the month. All the schools of our campus were busy with various works like the preparations for exams and new admissions. Regarding admissions, there were many meetings of

the staff. Cold was severe in this month; therefore, regular classes were affected and decision regarding reopening of the schools for junior sections was withheld.
- *Sch. Anuj Toppo*

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: New Year 2021 began with new hope and vision of many possibilities. We were happy to see our community growing in number with young persons as **Fr. Felix Marshal**, as he joined the community on 2nd of January.



This year we initiated a new way of celebrating the birthdays of community members. On 09th, a short cultural evening was organized to felicitate those who had birthdays in the months of December and January. The same program was dedicated to **Fr. Felix**, welcoming him to the community. During the Christmas and New Year holidays we had an adventurous experience in cooking when our cook had gone home. This cooking experience helped us to feel and understand the hard-work of our co-workers. Fr. Ranjeet Minz (JAM) visited us; we had the privilege of interacting with him. During the interaction, he shared about his vocation, mission and the Society of Jesus. On 10th Fr. Christopher went to Holy Cross Convent in Hazaratganj to preach a seven-days retreat. Nearly after 20 days of holidays with a package of different activities, the regular routine of novitiate life was started. In the absence of Fr. Christopher, we had classes on Sacraments and Eucharist by **Fr. Felix**. The festival of Pongal was celebrated on 14th. There was a special Mass and prayers were offered for the farmers and cattle. To mark the specialty of the day, some of our brothers took initiative to prepare Pongal and sweets. It was well appreciated by everyone. We celebrated the Republic Day with solemn Eucharist. The day witnessed a true spirit of patriotism as we had a disciplined parade and flag-hoisting. A fiery speech was delivered by novice Amardeep. On that day, we watched the national parade on TV and we had a friendly basketball match in the evening. After a long break, we started our weekly ministry in MC Brothers' and Sisters' places and in Salesians center for run-away boys. **Fr. Gorge Nedumattam** and Ms. Priya, niece of **Fr. Vimal** were the visitors in this month. - *Anish Sah*

Prabhat, Sakri: In spite of the severe cold with foggy days, January 2021 was another busy month for Prabhat, Sakri. One-day capacity building training was conducted for CRC and SEC teachers

to enhance their knowledge of the teaching methodology of maths. Teachers and students of our CRCs and SECs celebrated the 72nd Republic day of our country in their respective centres with their own collection and children put up colourful cultural programs and distributed sweets among themselves. In order to improve the learning level of children, a short-term residential program was organized for senior boys of our CRCs. Centrally supervised monthly tests were conducted in all our CRCs and SECs. The National Girl Child Day, 22nd January, was celebrated through a webinar organized by Caritas India. 7 selected girl-leaders along with their animators from our centres, participated in the webinar. The core committee of Prabhat continues to meet every week for reflection, evaluation and planning for the coming week and to analyze the events unfolding in our country. - *Dilip Kumar*

READ, Bettiah: The New year 2021 brought a new member to our community. On 15th of Jan. **Fr. Seraphim** officially stepped into READ. The following day we welcomed him with a short program. On 5th the ninth class students arrived in READ. We are also planning to begin the short-term residential program for children from February 5th. Once again we are back to our normalcy. At present we have 104 students from 9th class to intermediate. On 26th we celebrated the Republic Day of our nation with a short program.



Fr. Seraphim hoisted the national flag. Students delivered speeches and sang patriotic songs. Now the 10th class students are seriously preparing for their board exams. After almost 10 months of break due to covid-19 we have started our village animation activities like APYD meetings, *Kishoori Dal* Trainings and *Matha Samiti* Meetings. The loan beneficiaries among migrant labourers have reached up to 62 individuals and with a 99 percent recovery.

- *Arokiasamy*

Sanjivan Niwas, Patna: We began the New Year with lots of hopes. After the Christmas and New year holidays, we began our classes with some changes in the time-table. Sch. Gnana Muthu is taking basic Hindi classes for the three non-Hindi speaking candidates. Schs. Deva (DEL) and Dennis (DEL) visited us after their diaconate-retreat and motivated the candidates. **Brs. Siluvai** and **Manoj** spoke to the candidates and inspired them. On the 16th our candidates took part in the funeral service of **Fr.**

Augustine Ambrose and led the choir, under the leadership of **Fr. Rajesh**. We had short Republic day celebration. **Fr. Sushil Bilung** hoisted the flag and gave an inspirational talk. Two of our candidates delivered republic day speeches in English. One of the candidates fractured his right wrist while playing football. Prabhath Prakashan had the annual general body meeting. After having a week of singing practice, on 28th our boys participated in the Diaconate ordination of **Jeevan** and **Rajeev**.



Thanks to **Fr. Rajesh** and **Fr. Armstrong** for preparing them for the diaconate-choir. It was a great experience for all the candidates. On 29th we had the monthly recollection. Thanks to **Fr. Sijo** for guiding them in the recollection. As part of their recollection, the candidates had their faith sharing in the living groups. On the 30th we had a picnic to Gyanoday, Khaspur. We thank **Fr. Edward** and the community for their hospitality and love. On the same day, we had a basketball match among the living groups. On the same day the Jesuits had the budget meeting. On the 31st our boys had competition on delivering creative speech dialogues in different groups conducted by **Fr. Sushil**. Though the weather is very cold these days we are all keeping good health.

- *Candidates Abhishek and Nirdosh*

Sasaram: The month of January brought a lot of blessings for us. We welcomed the New Year with a



Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist followed by a picnic in the campus itself. On 2 January, **Fr. Benny** and **Sch. Cyprian** participated in the Thanksgiving mass cum farewell programme of His Grace Sebastian Kallupura in Buxar. On 20 January, we celebrated

the Birthday of **Fr. Benny Moolan**. Our neighbouring sisters joined us for a small birthday celebration. On the Republic day, we had Flag hoisting ceremony in the school. On 28 January, **Fr. Benny Moolan** attended the Annual General Body Meeting of PJS in St. Xavier's and the diaconate ordination of **Schs. Jeevan** and **Rajeev** in St. Michael's, Patna. **Fr. Isidore Kerketta** also participated in the diaconate ordination. On 31 January, we celebrated the Birthday of **Fr. Maxentius Lakra**. Our Jesuit friends from Chenari and Aurangabad joined us for the birthday fellowship meal.

- *Cyprian Minj*

Shanti Sadan, Prayagraj (Allahabad): We welcomed the New Year 2021 with a meaningful holy Mass; the church was filled with people compared to the minimum numbers who participate on Sundays. On that day during the evening payer, we expressed our New Year resolution and lit some candles. On 2nd January Fathers went to the Bishop's House to take part in the in the farewell programme of our outgoing Bishop. On the 3rd we had a funeral Mass of one of our parishioners, who had been living adjacent to our campus. On 7th of Jan one of our companions returned after his short home visit. **Fr. Robert** went to Delhi for a meeting and he came back 9th of Jan. On 14th we celebrated *Makar Sankranti* by eating *dahi-chuda* and jaggery; all the Fathers and co-workers joined our celebration. **Fr. Jose** went to Bengaluru for a few days to teach Philosophy. On 20th of Jan five postulants of the SCN sisters came for a retreat under the guidance of **Fr. Pius**; they returned to Satna (MP) on 28th. On 21st **Fr. George Nedumattam** came from Kaiserganj and stayed with us for a day. On 22nd **Fr. Joy** went to St. Mary's Convent to direct a retreat for the golden jubilarians. This month one of our companions Rajesh celebrated his birthday and we wished him for his good future. **Fr. Rajendran** from Chenari came to our community on 23rd for the evaluation of the Pre-Novitiate and he took time to meet all of us in common; he returned on 25th. On 26th of January we celebrated the Republic day with the flag hoisting ceremony. The chief guest was **Fr. Robert**. The Pre-Novices showcased a spectacular parade on this occasion and distributed sweets at the end of the ceremony. We had a delicious *kabab* party in the evening and the music helped us to enjoy the moment. To enhance our academic standard, we were introduced to a teaching experience during which we got a chance to teach about spectacular works of some renowned Jesuit priests as portrayed in their biographies. On 30th **Fr. Robert** left for Bhopal to attend a seminar.

- *Sumit Kullu*

St. Michael's Patna: The month of January was a very significant month for us, the most significant being the continued unlocking of public activity in the context of receding COVID-19 pandemic and the decision of many States including Bihar to re-open

schools. Therefore, presently, our school is able to conduct regular offline classes for the students of the higher classes besides the usual online classes for the rest. Various measures have been put in place, from social distancing to staggered school timing. Similarly, the College of Education has also begun regular classes for the students. After a long waiting, the college could finally welcome the B.Ed 1st year students. The classes are going on for everyone in full swing. The College has taken all the precautions and is strictly following the SOP to ensure safety. We were able to conduct successfully verification for the admission of LKG students. It went on for almost 15 days as we kept only 350 students per day for verification, keeping in mind the pandemic situation.



The community was very happy to organize Diaconate Ordination for **Schs. Rajeev** and **Jeevan** on 28th of Jan. It was a joyful occasion for all of us to organize this event and welcome these brothers of ours into the clerical order. - *Jeevan Isahak*

St. Xavier's School, Patna: We conducted offline Pre-Board Examinations for Std. X and Second Terminal for Std. XI in January. The school has started offline Classes for Std. IX also. His Grace Archbishop Sebastian Kallapura informally visited our community on 11th January. **Fr. Christu Savarirajan** went to Guhawati to meet his Ph.D. guide and **Fr. Alwyn Vaz** returned from his month long home visit. The admission process of LKG kick-started on 15th January with Interaction and Form



Verification. Around eighty students of the Primary Wing were felicitated on 22nd January for their success in the virtual competitions held by Departments of Music, Drawing, Art and Craft and Physical Education. The winners of the competitions

were conferred medals and certificates in recognition of their achievements by the Chief Guest Bro. Sudhakar Reddy, Principal, Loyola High School, Patna. **Fr. Joseph Kunnumpuram** hoisted the Flag on the Republic Day and delivered a short message to the gathering. - *Devashish*

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: **Joseph Dungdung** guided a tridium for a CJ Junior Sister preparing her for the renewal of vows. **Prakash Louis** was a resource person for the NEG FIRE program on Inclusive Education in Bodh Gaya. - *Prakash Louis*

XISR: In the process of searching and documenting sources for writing Patna Mission History, I have gone through three mission journals. 1) *Patna Mission Letter* published by Patna Jesuits from Patna (1922-1960; 39 volumes, 381 issues) and selected relevant articles and reports (459 items) and digitalised them for our archives in two bound volumes (585 pages). 2) Patna Diocesan monthly published by the Jesuits from Bishop's House, Patna, *The Supplement* (1926-31, 6 vols, 36 numbers) and documented 46 pages. 3) *Jesuit Missions*, a monthly published by American Provinces which contain articles on Patna Jesuit Mission (collected from Vidyajyoti College, Delhi), Vol 1929-49, 23 volumes, 210 numbers) and digitalised 185 pages. These documents have been deposited in the Patna Jesuit archives, St. Xavier's, Patna. Besides, nearly 900 pages of documents of the archives were digitalised and both print and digital versions were submitted earlier.

- *Jose Kalapura*

DIASPORA

Paris-06, 14 rue d'Assas: This time in Paris, Christmas was celebrated in the midst of heavy security. Outside the church everywhere police



personnel were seen alert. The very next day all the community members were out except Fr. Dominique, the treasurer of the house, for the Christmas holidays. For the Christmas holidays the community was divided into two groups. One group went to Fr. Superior's (Bertrand Heriard- Dubreuil) house and the other group went to Brittany. After the Christmas

holidays all of us were back by 3rd January 2021. The very next day there was “community Piano reunion”. During the piano reunion we had sharing about our life, inner movement and goal for the month. We were sad to receive news about Corona virus from different communities. In Paris three communities were affected very badly. A total of 35 Jesuits were found covid-19 positive, including 3 Indians. 14 rue d’Assas community is very careful and all the members are enjoying good health.

- *Sanjay Marandi*

Hazaribagh Juniorate: Life in the Juniorate has become very interesting with many activities: We had a community picnic on 1st January, which we enjoyed with all the Tertian Fathers, Novices and all the members of the staff. **Fr. Donald Miranda** our Provincial visited us in the first week of Jan. He brought us abundant blessings. We had a special Eucharist offered by the Provincial with the Patna Jesuits at the College. For the last one month we were fully engaged in preparations for our annual English drama. We put up the drama, *Julius Caesar*, on 17th Jan. It was a wonderful experience for all the Juniors. Fr. Jerome S. D’Souza, the provincial of South Asia, was the chief guest on this occasion. We gave a grand farewell to our Tertian Fathers on 21st Jan. followed by a fellowship meal. Tertian Fathers left this place on 22nd January. We had a grand celebration on the Republic Day. We were in the mood of celebration but our hearts were saddened by the sudden death of Fr. Arwind Minz (HAZ) on the same day. - *N. Siddhu Chinna*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Secretariat of Faith of our Conference in collaboration with Madurai and Chennai Provinces, is organising the **ROOTS & WINGS** 2021 from April 6th evening to May 8th afternoon at Shembaganur for the Jesuits and those Religious who follow the Jesuit Spirituality. For more details and to apply for the course please contact:

Fr Devadhas Muthiah SJ: 9600411531/8056662524
/ devadhasm@gmail.com

Fr Patrick Ravichandran SJ: 9445676172
/ sup.shc@mdusj.org

Last date to apply is: March 15th 2021

PRERANA, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Bengaluru has begun the residential courses from 1st of February 2021. Two important courses coming up: Religious Leadership (April 7 - 17, 2021); Course on Retreat Direction (April 19 - May 20, 2021) Reception: 09483022896; 7795180815 Email:preranaisc@gmail.com Website:www.preranaisc.org

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

After his successful heart surgery in CMC Vellore, **Fr. KM Joseph** is recuperating at Xavier Nilaya, Bangaluru. He is likely to return to Patna towards the end of this month.

Fr. Vimal Kishore and Br. Abraham

Chempothanadiyil were admitted in KHFH Patna with breathing difficulties. After being discharged from the hospital and recuperating for a few days in Xavier Bhawan, both of them have returned to Aurangabad.

Fr. Jose Kalapura was also admitted in KHFH Patna and after being discharged from the hospital he is slowly recovering in XTTI; he has begun to attend to urgent works in XISR.

Fr. John Ravi suffered acute backache due to disc compression. He is being attended by Dr. Saurabh of Holy Family Hospital. He is under rest and medication at BDVS.

Fr. William D'souza has been admitted in St. Joseph Hospital, Lucknow. Tests showed that his blood pressure and sugar are high.

For the Departed:

Fr Ronald Victor Menezes SJ (KAR 48/26) passed away on 14 Jan.'21, at Pratiksha, Bengaluru.

Fr. Ambrose Augustine, SJ (PAT 87/58) was called for Eternal Rest on 16 Jan.'21 at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.

Fr. Philip Susai (64) of the Archdiocese of Patna died of heart attack on 18 Jan.'21 at his home in Puthusseri, during a home visit.

Fr. Maxim Crasta, SJ (GUJ 54/32) went to his eternal abode on 19 Jan.'21 at Our Lady of Pillar Hospital, Baroda, Gujarat.

Fr. Arwind Minj, SJ (HAZ 41/19) died on 26 Jan.'21.

Fr. Anthony A. D'Souza (BOM 94/77) passed away in Mumbai on 28 Jan.'21.

Fr. Lancelot Pereira SJ (BOM 90/71) passed away on 28 Jan.'21.

Br. Stephen Kerketta, SJ (RAN 75/57), passed away on 31 Jan.'21.

Mr. Rajesh Kunnunkal, 80, **younger brother of Fr. Josey Kunnunkal, SJ** died on 03 Feb.'21.

From Mumbai's Taloja Central Jail: Jailed human rights activist Father Stan Swamy wrote to his friends on 16 Jan.'21, expressing gratitude for the solidarity shown by people, to mark 100 days of him being in custody.

At times news of such solidarity has given me immense strength and courage, especially when the only thing certain in prison is uncertainty. Life here is on a day-to-day basis."

"We 16 co-accused have not been able to meet each other, despite being in the same jail. But we will still sing in chorus. **A caged bird can still sing.**"