

# Calcutta Jesuit Newsletter

কলকাতা যীশুসংঘের বার্তা



Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 689

JANUARY 2021

2021/01

## FR. GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

**Fr. Leonard Chiti (52)** Provincial of a new Province, South Africa (SAP)

**Fr. Del Riccio (60)** Provincial for Southern Europe (EUM)

**Fr. Miguel Garaizabel (78)**, Regional Superior of Thailand

## THE PRESIDENT OF JCSA APPOINTS

**Fr. Arjen Tete (CCU)** as the New Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF), w.e.f. 01.01.2021

## PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS

**Fr. Charles Pollet** as the Librarian at the Holy Spirit Seminary, Dhaka with effect from 02.01.2021

**Fr. Francis Dores** as the Minister of Jesuit Residence, Dhaka with effect from 02.01.2021 (additional)

**Fr. Gerge Ponodath** as Assistant Director of Retreat House, Dhyan Ashram, Konchowki with effect from January 2021

## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

**GRATITUDE for 2020 and HOPE for 2021:** The year 2020 had been a challenging one for all of us in many ways. Corona virus has been and continues to be detrimental to humanity. On the one hand, it has brought out the best of humanness in some and on the other hand the worst in some others. However, the people like the Covid warriors risked their lives to share, console, and lift up the broken lives and gave a sense of hope and confidence in humanity. We realized in a powerful way that in the midst of death, there is life, in the midst of suffering, there is joy, in the midst of darkness, there is light, and in the midst of despair, there is hope. As our God is Emmanuel, God with us, we have the courage to go on building communities of fraternity, love and hope.

The year 2020 has made us aware of our strengths and weaknesses. It has helped us to encounter new challenges effectively. We have realized that God is in control of everything. We ask God to be present with us always and guide us in all we do and thank God for the experiences of 2020.

The migrant workers' plight, the farmers' protest for their rights and the courageous witness of the human rights activists like Fr. Stan Samy have shown us the hard reality of our situation in our country and invite us to contribute our mite to do justice and ensure human rights are upheld.

We eagerly look forward to the start of the Ignatian Year in 2021. May it be truly a year of personal, communitarian and interior conversion rather than a year of mere celebrations.

We begin the New Year with the Solemnity of Mary as the Mother of God and ours. She is our model of faith and discipleship. May she guide us through the year 2021. I

wish you a very Happy New Year. May the blessings of God accompany you all throughout the New Year.

*Fr Raphael Hyde*



**CJNL WISHS  
A VERY HAPPY  
NEW YEAR 2021**



*Happy New Year*

**May this year bring  
you more and more  
happiness, prosperity  
and peace**

## Holy Father's intention for January 2021

Human Fraternity -

May the Lord give us the grace,

To live in full fellowship with

Our brothers & sisters of other religions,

Praying for one another and open to all.



## CALCUTTA JESUITS : NEWS AND VIEWS

### Ignatian Year Jubilee Planning (Ignatius 500)



On December 4, 2020 **Father General, Arturo Sosa**, held a webinar and addressed all the Coordinators of Ignatian year committees across the Conferences. Fr General shared his wishes and expectations regarding how the Ignatian Year could be welcomed and celebrated as a privileged moment across the Universal Society to allow the Lord to work a deeper conversion in all of us. Father General also wanted and invited all the Ignatian Family (IGFA) members to be part of this renewal cum celebration in every Province and Region. At the Conference level, on Dec 12 and 31, Fr Francis Pudhicherry, (JIGSA Coordinator), held a zoom meeting with the South Asian Conference IY Coordinators to hear from as well as share some suggestions towards IY planning. In our Province, the Ignatian Year committee has already held two fruitful meetings at Dhyan Ashram to plan some meaningful programs and activities. This will be presented to **Father Provincial** shortly. The IY Committee envisages that this Ignatian Year could be celebrated meaningfully at three levels: community, cluster and Province. Personal spiritual conversion and Poverty inspired community lifestyle will be the twin objective of the Ignatian Year (May 20, 2021 to July 31, 2022). In the meantime, Fr Provincial has written to the IFGA Provincials to assign a Contact Person to be part of the Ignatian Year planning and celebrations. 'To see all things new in Christ' is the overarching theme of the Ignatian Year.

*-Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy*

### Dhyan Ashram Novitiate

Dhyan Ashram novitiate was silent for the most part of December as the second-year novices were out for hospital and street children experiments and the first-year novices had shifted to the Retreat House for their Long Retreat while the novitiate building was under repair and painting. On our return on December 21, we found our beloved 'Lalbad' shining bright. We had a recollection to prepare to receive Christ the King and we also looked back at our experiences of the past month in gratitude.

The days prior to Christmas were spent on cleaning and arranging the rooms in the novitiate which were in disarray after the repairs. On December 22, we shared our joy and happiness of Christmas with our co-workers with Christmas gifts and carols. Overcoming the fear of Covid, we went

for carols to the houses of our co-workers and also to the religious communities around to share the joy and gladness of Christmas with them.

On December 23, we witnessed a spellbound performance of our Junior brothers' enactment of 'A Christmas Carol', which brought a deep meaning to our celebration of Christmas.

*-Novice Alok Hembrom*

#### Juniorate:

Month of December was packed with numerous festive activities. We had a triple celebration on December 12. We had the birthday celebration of **Fr. Pierre Jacob**, First vows of Sch. Rockey Mallick and Postcard Campaign. During these celebrations, we had among us Fr. Jerry Continha, the Provincial of Jamshedpur Province, and Fr. Ajit Soreng, the Socius to the Novice Master of Jamshedpur Province. They made the celebration colorful and meaningful. **Fr. Jothi** organized a Postcard Campaign. All the community members wrote letters to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister demanding the release of Fr. Stan Swamy.

On December 22, we had a Pre-Christmas Celebration with our Bengali and Hindi teachers and our co-workers. It was a joyous occasion. Scholastics, Juniors and Novices danced, sang Christmas Carols, played fun games and finally the distributed gifts.

Juniors staged the play "A Christmas Carol" on December 23. It was much appreciated by the fathers, sisters from Mukulika and brothers. It was indeed a spectacular performance by the Juniors.

On December 24, we had the Christmas vigil mass celebrated by Fr. Pierre Jacob. On Christmas day, we had games, a movie and a sumptuous meal. **Fr. Vivian Andrew** preached the triduum for the Juniors on December 26-29.

*-Sch. Stephen Murmu*

### Prabhu Jisur Girja

#### Parish

On December 6, a one day Charismatic Prayer Service in English was organized by our CAB Unit in Prabhu Jisur Girja conducted by Fr. Ramesh Cherian of Auxilium Parish, about 150 people attended it.

A newly purchased synthesizer was blessed on December 13 by the Parish Priest **Fr. Mahananda Singh** in the presence of **Fr. Cyriac Sebastian**. On December 19, a Carol Singing cum Dinner Program was held in Prabhu Jisur Girja. The event was organized by our parishioner Mr. Allan Jude and his family with the help of some volunteers and some generous donors.



The band "Pickle Peppers" and Mr. Christopher Lobo were invited to sing Christmas Carols at this event. The program started after the Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Justin Jude, President of the CAB Unit of PJG officially welcomed everyone to the event and also proposed the vote of thanks.

*Mr. Andrio Arup Gomes, Parish Office Assistant*

### PJG Community

**Fr. Kurian**, the Acting Superior is doing his best to keep the community alive and active.

The Community is happy to see **Fr. Dipak** back to life with good health. He gradually and gently began his spiritual ministry. **Fr. Pat Eaton** is always blessed with good health as he takes care of his health well and also extends his care for other community members through prayers and simple gestures.

**Bro. Carlo** never feels tired of executing his job without any complaint as he moves around at his own pace. He spends time writing down his memories as a sort of autobiography. **Fr. John** feels happy and confident about his health now as he takes care of his health well. He went to Jhargram for Christmas & New Year ministry.

The Christmas celebration at PJG Community with the spirit of "Think of others and share" made the 2020 Christmas celebration a memorable one.

### Chitrabani

The Staff of Chitrabani is happy to resume its work after a long period of waiting. Film editing and Recording songs play an important role in the functioning of Chitrabani.

Ms. Chandana Rozario, a retired teacher of Holy Child School, CIT Road is very happy to bring out her Winter Special, An album for every Christmas. "Nobo Anonde Jago 2020," is the Album which was released this year on December 18 at the Archbishop's House.



The Staff of Chitrabani and RVA organized a beautiful Christmas program for all the employees of PJG campus. Everyone gathered at Annex B-Building of PJG on December 23 to celebrate the 2020 Christmas and shared the peace and joy of Christ with one another. **Fr. Kurian** gave an inspiring Christmas message. He then cut a cake along with other fathers, brothers and some guests.

**Fr. P. J. Joseph** went to Kerala on December 14 for treatment. Fr. Soumitra Makhhal came back to PJG to look after the works of RVA after a long period of online program from his home.

Chitrabani and RVA would like to wish you all, "Joy and Hope Filled Christmas and New Year 2021."

*-Fr. Arun Lucas*



## Vidyajyoti, Delhi

**Fr. Poulouse Mangai**, devoted the months of November and December to studying Fratelli Tutti (FT). He contributed articles on FT to Vidyajyoti Journal, Charis India and the Delhi Archdiocesan magazines Voice of Delhi and Dilli Vaani. He gave a half-day seminar on FT to a group of 15 MC Sisters at the Regional house on December 5, addressed the Delhi CRI on FT on December 6, gave a pre-Christmas recollection on FT to the city Capuchins on December 21. He also gave a six-day retreat to a small group of presentation sisters on December 8-14.

*-Fr. Poulouse Mangai*

## Bangladesh

Novjyoti Niketan: **Fr. Francis** conducted a vocation camp for a group of seven young boys who spent one and a half days at Navjyoti Niketan. **Frs. Ripon** and **Srijon** had some creative sessions and informal interaction with them. They appreciated and expressed that they had experienced something new for the first time in their life as they could spend some prayerful time meaningfully in silence. They were moved by their sharing on the Society of Jesus and the Jesuits.

The community celebrated the 'Victory Day' along with more than 300 migrant workers on December 16. It was another opportunity for them to come together before Christmas. **Fr. Srijon** and his team with the support of **Frs. Pradeep**, **Ripon** and **Francis** conducted a prayer service for them followed by confession and Eucharistic celebration. They concluded the day with Christmas carols and their respective traditional dances.

**JRS**: The JRS team warmly welcomed **Sch. Rotan** as he began his ministry among the Rohingyas while they appreciated and thanked Fr. Francis Does for his selfless service for the last three years. **Fr. Jerry** and **Sch. Rotan** pay regular visits to the camps.

*-Sch. Sunny Anthony Costa*

## St. Xavier's College, Kolkata

On December 3, the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier began with the Blessing Ceremony of the College Reception and offering floral tribute to the Statue of the Patron Saint led by **Fr. Jeyaraj**, the Rector, **Fr. Dominic** and **Fr. Thamacin**, the Principals of the College and the School respectively.

On December 4, the Xavier's Management Society along with the College presented an insightful session on leadership, the first edition of 'X-Orate: Igniting the Leader in You'. Mr. Suresh Narayanan, the person behind the world's leading coffee brand, Nescafé, also the Chairman of Nestlé India, was the main speaker. The keynote address was given by Fr. Dominic, the Principal. **Fr. Peter Arock**, the Vice Principal (Evening) proposed the vote of thanks.

GIFT BOX - the Annual Philanthropy Engagement Program of Xaverian Youth Forum of St. Xavier's Alumni Association launched on December 20, with dual distribution initiatives - one at Paikhala Prathamik Vidyalaya, where around 100 school children were given new clothes, chocolates, pencils, notebooks, cakes and around 100 residents were



given blankets, mosquito nets and hand sanitizers. Around 150 students received the same gifts in Raghobpur Campus of St. Xavier's College as well. Fr. Dominic Savio, the Principal, **Fr. Joseph Kulandai**, Vice Principal (Morning) and **Fr. Anil Gomes**, Assistant Controller of Examinations blessed the GIFT BOX initiative with their kind presence and distribution.



Our **Honorable Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee** came to the College to celebrate Christmas on December 21. The Community members and the Alumni had gathered near the quadrangle to welcome the CM. Fr. Jeyaraj, the Rector invoked God's blessing upon all of us and the CM. Later, he blessed the crib which was attractively designed by **Bro. Chinta**. The Chief Minister, after inaugurating the crib, thanked the Fathers and the Xaverian family for all the services rendered. She praised St. Xavier's and said that it was one of the best institutions in the world and wished to see it as the number one College. Fr. Dominic, the Principal, spoke of how the joy of Christmas has encompassed everybody and thanked the CM by handing over a portrait of Mother Mary and Jesus. **Fr. Felix Raj**, the vice-chancellor of St. Xavier's University, appreciated and acknowledged the CM for all that she has done for the State of West Bengal especially for the poor and the marginalized.

*-Fr. David Paulraj*

## Jhantipahari

December 6 was a memorable day for Mangaldeep Ashram. Our Apostolic Administrator Bishop Salvator Lobo in his kindness came for his pastoral visit and confirmed 15 boys and girls of our mission who were diligently prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. As it was a rare occasion to welcome a Bishop for the faithful, they welcomed the Bishop with much devotion. Bishop Lobo in his homily explained in simple language the real meaning of Confirmation.

Fr. Harsha Bardhan, **Fr. K. K. Devasy**, **Fr. Eric Tigga**, **Fr. Nallail Sebastian**, and **Fr. Pulickal Joseph** were a few FJ sisters who participated in the Eucharistic celebration.

After the Eucharistic celebration, we had a short felicitation program. **Fr. E S Joseph** thanked Bishop Lobo for his loving presence in the mission of Jhantipahari. He also thanked all the fathers, sisters and the faithful for coming in big numbers to make the day meaningful. After the program, we all had a fellowship meal together.

*-Fr. Alphonse Ashirvadam*

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

*-Pope Francis*

## Health Bulletin

**Bishop Linus'** health is gradually weakening physically. But his memory is good and clear, and his mind is active and alert. Winter is making him sleep longer hours. When awake, he speaks nicely to visitors, answers their questions.

**Fr. Korko** is continuing with his Tibetan medicine and his daily regular exercises and therapy. He is feeling better and healthier than he was two months back. He is also busy having Zoom meetings and online sessions with some of his clients and counselees from abroad.

**Fr. Carvalho** had a bad cold for a couple of days last week. But now he has overcome it. He is regular at Mass and evening prayer. As usual, he spends hours each day, reading good books.

**Fr. P.C. Mathew** is stable and steady in his health. He is regular at Mass and Evening Prayer. He too spends time reading books and watching some movies on his laptop.

**Fr. Joe Kallaranggatt** is using an electric apparatus for exercising his feet, in addition to his regular walks using the walker. Fr. Joe spends much time reading books and watching some good movies. He is always cheerful and in a happy mood.

**Fr. P.J. Joseph** has gone to Kerala for some ayurvedic treatment for his health problems.

**Fr. Ignatius Gomes** is recovering from Corona virus after home quarantine and is tested negative.

**Fr. George Pattery**, sometime in December, was hospitalized in Nirmala Hospital, Calicut, as his sugar had gone up and returned to Christ hall on 19th December. He is following strict diet and medication to stabilize sugar.

## Rest in Peace

**Br. Desmond Dias (BOM, 87/65)** passed away on 02.12.2020 at Mumbai

**Fr. O. P. Mathew (KER, 75/54)** passed away on 03.12.2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode, Kerala

**Br. Epiphany Dias (GOA, 99/77)** passed away on 07.12.2020 in Mapusa, Goa

**Br. Basil Tirkey (RAN, 73/46)** passed away on 07.12.2020 at Ranchi

**Br. Saul Abril (GUJ, 89/73)** passed away on 13.12.2020 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Fr. Cyprian Andrade (GUJ, 74/56)** passed away on 17.12.2020 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Ms. Blanche Carvalho (91)**, sister of Fr. Aloysius Carvalho, passed away on 03.12.2020 in Bangalore.

**Mr. Thomas Pillai (90)**, brother in law of Fr. Timir Singha, passed away on 03.12.2020 in Basanti, West Bengal.



Please send your news before the 25th of every month.

Editor's Email ID: [caljesuits@gmail.com](mailto:caljesuits@gmail.com)

**FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY**