

**Vol. XXV No.1 NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA REGION (KHNL) Jan-Feb 2021**

## **FR GENERAL AT JCSA MEETING**

The Covid-19 pandemic forced the JCSA for the second time in six months to hold its meeting virtually from 23-26 February 2021. The meeting began with a day of sharing followed by Fr General's talk delivered virtually. On the second day, the major superiors reflected on the Shrinking Space for Democracy and Dissent in South Asia. The rest of the days were spent on routine business and planning. I would like to share with you the insights and inspirations from Fr General's talk.

Fr General began his talk with some specific calls to the Jesuits in South Asia to reinvent themselves to serve the mission of Reconciliation and Justice. He drew our attention to the challenge of Covid-19 pandemic, the danger of majoritarian dictatorships in South Asia, the farmer's protest in Delhi, the threat of corporate takeover of livelihood of the poor, the incarceration of Fr Stan Swamy and Fr Alphonse Aind and the challenge of the New Education Policy.

He appreciated the preparations that are on in the conference for the celebration of the Ignatian Year (20 May 2021 to 31 July 2022). He said, '*To see all things new in Christ* is what we seek in this Ignatian Year 2021-2022. To take on the way of seeing of the Lord Jesus and to live in his poor and humble style is the fruit that we desire in this year.'

Laying stress on the Vow of Poverty, he informed us about the renewal of the Statutes on Poverty (SoP) and the Instruction on the Administration of Goods (IAG). For this process to really have an impact, he invites the whole Society to get involved, in a similar (though not the same) way to the process undertaken for the UAPs. The renewal process will begin with a letter of Fr General that will be sent out on 27 September 2021.

Being alert to the increasingly dwindling number of Jesuits, he invited us to promote a culture of vocation promotion by preparing in each Province or Region a vocation promotion plan, to appoint full-time vocational promoters for a sufficiently long period of time, and to establish vocation promotion teams that include scholastics, brothers, religious and lay partners. He envisaged a process or a movement for solidarity in vocation promotion for the Conference and not be concerned only about our own Provinces and Regions.

During 2020-21, one of the important initiatives of Fr General has been, to work towards greater solidarity in formation. He called for fostering self-managed, self-sustainable formation programmes in those Provinces-

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Regions with the greatest formation funding needs. The ultimate objective is to put in place creative and efficient multi-year plans to ensure effectiveness and success in formation.

Drawing attention to the intellectual formation of Jesuits, he observed that the UAPs stress intellectual depth as an integral part of our way of proceeding and called for new models of intellectual formation. The new models should be designed for virtual learning environments, they should connect theoretical reflection to the realities of our time through an engaged pedagogy, they should prepare men for the mission articulated in our Congregations and the UAPs and they should train collaborative leaders for a synodal Church.

## APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Fr Francis Pudhicherry, Rector, De Nobili College, Pune  
Fr K.C. Stephen, Provincial, Dumka- Raiganj  
Fr Nirmal Raj, Rector, Vidyajyoti, Delhi

## REGIONAL SUPERIOR' S PROGRAMME

### March

01-02 POSA Consult  
04 Meeting of CRI (Regional)  
05-10 Oriens, Shillong (Classes)  
12 Region Consult  
15-24 Visitation, Ka Rympei Arrupe Community  
25-30 Jesuit House, Guwahati

## BISHNUPUR-MOIRANG-LAMDAN

Post ordination saw **Fr Pheiga** celebrating as many Masses in most of the Rongmei villages besides at the three centres of Bishnupur, Moirang and Lamdan. **Fr Melvil Pereira** was the gracious guest to close the year 2020 and usher in 2021 as he wrapped up the visitation.

Admissions for KG Classes, both in Moirang and Bishnupur were hassle free exercises; thanks to the tradition built by our predecessors. Even some of those who did not get seats were appreciative of our fair and honest processes.

Sr Rose Dichunglu Phaomei SABS had her first profession on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Nobody could attend the ceremony due to covid-19 conditions. The Parish invited her on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for a celebration at the Parish. She and an SABS councillor thanked the Jesuits for creating an atmosphere of faith and service in the Parish. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> Nun from our Parish and the 5<sup>th</sup> from Adoration Congregation.

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Regular Church Marriages are becoming popular and the usual marriage rectifications for couples are going on side by side. There is a desire for faith formation in the villages and Fr Joseph Thohrü animated the Chote Catholic community with Catholic practices vis a vis the "suppression practices" that are creeping in the lives of the people. Fr Albert Lievon, the new Youth Coordinator of the Diocese animated the Catechists on Lenten practices. The Women Organization is gearing up for a day's animation programme in the second week of March. They had a day of fast and prayer in all the villages. **Fr Clement** animated some of them and celebrated the Mass too.

**Fr Thomas Mathew** visited the Moirang campus in order to check on the progress of the school construction. Under the supervision of **Fr Robert C.**, the construction is in going on well. **Fr Edward Philip** (KAR) had a visit to Moirang to conduct a psychological test for the Second year pre-novices.

**Fr James Morais, Schs. Dijin and Frangle** (all of KER) from Tripura mission visited both our communities on their way to and from Phesama where they admitted two of their future teachers for training. The shortest route from Tripura to Nagaland is via Manipur through Jiribam and Bishnupur. The roads are good.

**Fr Walter Fernandes** and **Fr Joseph Zoliana** were with us for a Research study. Zoliana is also visiting some of the villages with his co-researcher to collect the data. **Deacon James Chin Kap (Vaiphei)** is a new addition to our Community and is stationed at the Bishnupur Parish. He will be consulting with his parents and with the Archbishop to plan for his ordination.

Regular classes for the students of Classes 9-12 began on 27 January. Boarders have come back from home bringing more life back to the campus. **Sch. Amos** is managing single handedly at Bishnupur while **Fr Robert** and **Sch. Vysakh** at Moirang. **Fr Syriac** immersed himself in English classes for kitchen staff, boarders and pre-novices.

Being part of the study committee, **Fr Felix** visited the Mission stations of Arunachal Pradesh and he is back refreshed by the lush green Arunachal Pradesh hills and valleys. He also presented a paper on "The Way Forward in Pre-School Education" in a state level workshop on National Policy of Education held at INA Moirang. He is a well sought after animator by the schools in Churachandpur.

Sch. Vysakh, Fr Syriac and Fr Salewo represented the Region at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sch. Nobert's parents in Ukhrul.

Two special gardeners, **Fr Boniface Lewis** at Bishnupur and **Fr Syriac** at Moirang are beautifying their flower gardens, exchanging plants, seeds and at times stealing a root, and a stem or two. Both are kept busy and look healthy in their seventies.

-**Schs. Amos and Vysakh**

## BHALUKPONG

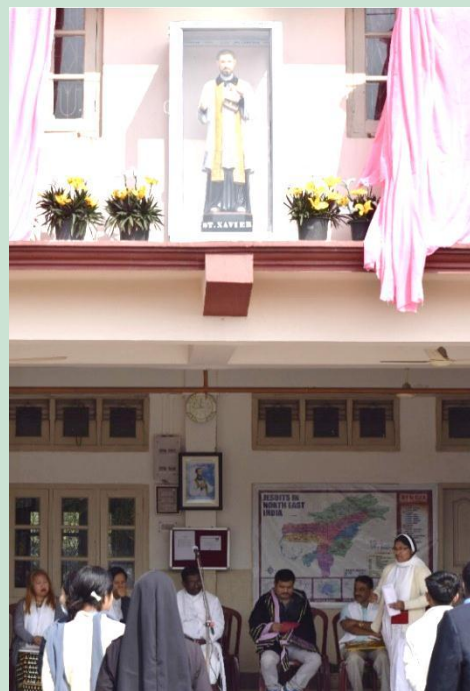
The months of January and February were filled with graceful moments and brought enormous joy to St Xavier's School, Bhalukpong. After long months of holidays, we began school with enthusiasm and excitement. The school has been taking all the precautions prescribed by the education board. We showed our patriotism and respect by hoisting the flag in the campus on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

We gave a rapturous welcome to many guests as well as bid farewell to **Schs. Thomas** and **Sumit**. We thanked them for their presence. Our joy has doubled with the presence of **Schs Royal** and **Mark**. Both keep themselves occupied in different activities besides their online classes. Mark's vegetable garden enhances its own flavour to



the campus. We are hoping to export and import the best crop. The badminton matches are fun and challenging as Roy and Mark enter the court. Royal always helps Mark to win the match as he wins the heart of Mark. Mark calls him a ferocious player.

**Fr Melvil Pereira SJ**, the Regional Superior, paid his official visit and enriched us with his sharing. We were delighted by his visit and felt encouraged and supported. His visit also culminated with the inauguration of the new grotto of Our Lady in our campus. Many thanks to those generous people who contributed to the purchase of the new statue of St Francis Xavier that now graces the façade of the school. The School children are amazed and delighted to see the children park which is almost ready to be inaugurated. The campus is also getting ready with the cricket pitch, herbal garden, and decent football ground. The formation of the St Xavier's Cricket Club (SXCC) is the talk in Bhalukpong. The SXCC has been getting number of invitations after winning the first match in the town. The grotto of Our Lady which was much awaited by the parishioners of Tippi Church will see the light of the day soon, as the construction work is in full swing under the supervision of Fr Jerry. **Fr Jerry** has been busy visiting different educational offices to get permission for the up-gradation of the school. The retaining wall work goes much faster as he keeps a bird's eye on it.



The students were exalted and excited to celebrate the birthday of Fr Jerry, their beloved Principal. The children showed their gratitude and love through a short but sweet programme. It was also a joyful occasion for us, where the St Xavier's family came together to prepare for the birthday celebration.

PPS (Purvanchal Pragati Samaj) celebrated its annual day under the leadership of **Fr Valerian SJ**, the director of PPS. The two days programme culminated with sports and cultural show; the show was a spectrum of colours of nature and culture. The campus had a splendid look with the different tribal costumes. The captivating dances and singing stole the



whole show of the night.

The Elephants are not only visiting the garden; they have made our campus their dancing ground. Often Mark is discovering the footprints of the elephants and gives the idea of how to hold the tail of the elephant and survive in a precarious situation.

The Bhalukpong climate, having outlived the biting cold days of early January, now is slowly ushering us into the best of seasons with the gentle breeze and pleasant sunlight.

## DAWAGRE

The inauguration of Higher Secondary Block and basketball court was a mega event in the history of Loyola School Dawagre. Honourable Shri. Conrad K. Sangma, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya and Madam Agatha, MP Lok Sabha, inaugurated the school building and basketball respectively.



We were blessed by the presence of **Rt Rev. Bishop Andrew R. Marak**, the Bishop of Tura Dioceses, **Rev. Fr Anand Pereira**, the delegate of the Regional Superior of Kohima Region, Sir Swapnil Tembe the DC of the East Garo Hills, government officials and Benefactors. Our students staged the musical “Oliver Twist”. The audience including the Chief Minister and other dignitaries enjoyed the show and were impressed by the talents, skills and the confidence of our students.

Annual Marian Sodality programme in Mater Dei Parish level was beautifully organised on 29-31 of Jan 2021 by the Parish Priest and Sr Junna. It was a time of spiritual renewal. Youth Convention was also held on Jan 9-10 of January. The much awaited foundation stone of Mater



Dei Parish church was laid on 22-01-20221, by **Rev. Fr Charles**. PA Vocation Camp was organised in Mater Dei Parish on 7-9 of Jan 2021. All the Jesuits contributed to the success of the camp. We immensely thank **Fr**

**W K Pradeep**, our vocation promoter for taking the initiative to conduct the vocation camp in Dawagre. Many students are quite positive about their vocations.

We are extremely grateful to **Sch. Lambok** and **Sch. Goldy** for their commendable services rendered to the schools and community. The impact made on the children is highly appreciable. We wish them best of luck as they move to Guwahati.

## DIYUNGBRA

Life in Diyungbra, with pandemic at ease is beautiful. It is more beautiful and colourful when we witness a variety of events during the “Busudima festival” (a harvest festival of the Dimasa people). Another of such varieties is the visit of **Fr Melvil**, our Regional Superior to our Campus. We say that it is a time of Grace but it is also a moment of deep conversation and reflection for us. The short stay of our **Deacon James** has boosted the spirit of the games, especially among the boys. He has also added joy to the campus. It is seen in different dinners called by staffs and the sisters in the campus. **Sch. Regi** went to attend the first death anniversary of his father. The final exam for the students is at hand and teachers are busy with preparatory activities. Lastly, the Lenten mood is in the air, filling us with a spirit of deeper reflection and prayer.



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-Sch. Regi

## GUWAHATI, JAGRITI

The Language and Culture Institute (LCI) published its first book jointly with the Purvanchal Pragati Samaj on 12th February. It is a pocket-sized book in Hrusso Aka, titled *Nudzo Tuno Upu Na Shotuko Kunnu* (SHG rules and regulations). Releasing the book at NESRC, Guwahati, Walter Fernandes congratulated Vijay and the translators Anu and Yachi Jebisow, and wished that this small beginning may lead to many more ventures in the Service of the NE languages and cultures. A series of training programmes were organized in the month of December and January by LCHR. A total of 60 youth received special training as Child rights Activists in 5 districts of Assam. New groups of Para Legal persons were inducted into the programme in the month of January. As many as 97 participants attended the training programme organized at Guwahati. A new programme was introduced under the title ‘Legal Empowerment and Accessing Justice by Marginalized Communities in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) covering three districts of BTR. A total of 49 participants were trained as community leaders. Street play method is introduced into our public awareness programmes. The participants found it to be very effective method communicating with the people. **Anupchand K Minj** has returned to the province to attend to his medical needs. We wish him speedy recovery.

**Vijay** had to undergo an operation to remove his gallbladder stones. He stayed in St. John Hospital for three



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days, ably assisted by **Schs. Simon Dhar** and **Thanreimung Hoarei**. He has recovered well and back in his office.

**Walter** and **Zoliana** have begun their training programme tours in the Northeast. The almost zero rate of covid 19 threat, the Jagriti Jesuits are regaining their lost rhythm of conducting training programmes all over.

NESRC organised a webinar on "Fundamentalism, Secularism and Conflicts in India" on 19-20 February. It was a response to RAP 3, though very few Region men participated in it. Zoliana was its coordinator.

Zoliana has been launched into the field with studies being initiated in Karbi Anglong, BTAD, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur. Accompanied by Walter, Zoliana went to Diphu in January and to Dimapur, Agartala and Imphal in February to train peace activists. He will continue his journey to Bongaigaon and other places in the month March.

- Fr Charles

## JAKHAMA

“Happiness is found when we are at home with our own selves.” This is the message from the Jesuit scholastics at Jakhama as we enter into the New Year. We began the year with an enriching triduum experience at Phesama under the guidance of **Fr Pradeep**.



**Fr Victor D’Mello** visited Bangalore and Mangalore in late December to officiate at the wedding of his nephew. The community celebrated the birthday of **Fr Cyprian Lobo** on 29<sup>th</sup> January. We are happy to have **Fr Ashuli** who has shifted his residence from Liyai to Jakhama in order to focus and to attend to all the necessary requirements of the online Spirituality Course he is currently doing. On 6<sup>th</sup> February the scholastics had a wonderful outing to The Naga Heritage Village at Kisama wherein they enjoyed the companionship of each other.

With the re-opening of the school on 9<sup>th</sup> February, the process to revive the academic life of our students got underway. Both the management and the staff are working round the clock to ensure the smooth functioning of our institutions. Ever since the boarders returned to the campus **Sch. John** has been toiling day in and day out to ensure all the activities are conducted well and to see that the boarders measure up to his expectations.

The Jesuit Training College at Jakhama is throbbing with life as the prenovices strive to grow in all the aspects of their formation. The second year prenovices juggle between the academic studies and discernment regarding their vocation. As part of this discernment they underwent a Psychological Evaluation Test conducted by **Fr Edward Philip SJ** (KAR). **Frs Arul, Paulraj and Jerome** too had come at different times for the Four-Sheet Evaluation of the prenovices.



The community hosted the members of the Region Finance Commission during their Budget Meeting, 19-20 February. **Fr Xavier Ignatius SJ** (DEL) the Revisor of the Region attended the meeting and stayed on to complete the “revisor work”. The Region Treasurer Fr Joe is extremely grateful to Fr Xavier for his guidance.

– Schs. **Martin Chubatoshi & John Malangmei**

## JALAPHET

The whole area of Jalaphet and the other neighbouring villages have been eagerly waiting for the rain, as there was no sign of it for the last 4 months and so many times we have bought water, but God has his own plan. It is a great need of the hour, for the people to learn how to preserve and protect our mother Earth.



On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Class X resumed their classes and on 11<sup>th</sup> January, the lower classes also followed up soon after their short winter break. And on 24<sup>th</sup> January, we had a very a historic and successful centenary celebration of St Joseph’s Church, Khahnar village. His grace, **Most Rev. Bishop Victor Lyngdoh** solemnized this special occasion. A good number of Priests, Nuns, and around 2500 faithful were present for this occasion. The first Catholics of this village were baptized by Fr Grinard SJ and surprisingly, this year is their centenary under a Jesuit Parish again.

### *Khahnar Village Centenary Celebration 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

Jalaphet community has been blessed with so many Jesuits visiting the place especially during the past two months. Our novices came for picnic while Fr **E.C Sebastian** visited and helped Frs. Wilfred and Gabriel to finish their account work before the submission of the annual budget. On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, our superior **Fr Gregory** and newly ordained priest **Fr Pheiga** paid a short visit. Their visit indeed boosted the community



and also the students.

**Fr Wilfred** is busy these days, 24x7 praying for so many people of very unique sicknesses. **Fr Gabriel** is also busy as the academic year is coming to an end. He has to run from pillar to post to bring up the standard of the school and also to get teachers and other provisions.

God has been so gracious to us and has been protecting us from all dangers especially from Covid-19 and thus the academic year came to an end very

successfully. As a sign of gratitude to God, we had a thanksgiving school mass and also bade farewell for our headmistress Sr. Martha Myrthong MSMHC, who served with us for the last three years.



**Head Mistress Farewell Song sang by Class VI students taught by Br Xavier**

**-Fr Gabriel & Sch. Xavier David**

## MAIBANG

**Community:** **Fr Melvil** our Regional Superior came for visitation to St Xavier's community on 29<sup>th</sup> January. He showered blessings upon Maibang community. **Fr Thomas** is a man on the move and of action. He has been supervising construction works in most of our centres in the Region. **Fr Joseph Victor**, a newly ordained priest, spent almost a month to learn about construction works under the guidance of Fr Thomas. Indeed our community was blessed by his presence and the campus is experiencing his absence. We bade adieu to Fr Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> of Feb. He was transferred to Bomdila. **Dn. Biji** returned to Maibang after the diaconate. He is fully ready and willing to serve the Church. The Jesuits from Tripura mission stayed with us along with **Fr P.T Matthew**, the Socius of Kerala Province. Recently **Schs. Akho Charles** and **Daniel Khyriem** joined the community after their first semester exams and now they are exploring every nook and corner of the campus. **Sch. Joji** is busy with his online theology classes. The whole campus observed Ash Wednesday very devotedly. On 21<sup>st</sup> February, **Bishop Paul Mattekatt** made his pastoral visitation to St Xavier's Community. He offered a holy mass for us. We are grateful to the Bishop for his visit in this season of Lent to bring us special blessings.

**School:** After a long gap, the School resumed the offline classes on 4<sup>th</sup> January. From then on School campus once again came back to life by the presence of students. They are happy to come back to school after the lockdown. We showed our solidarity towards our Nation by observing the Republic day meaningfully. These days, the students are busy preparing for their final exams which will commence in April.

It is heartening to see after the interview, a good number of children have taken admission for Nursery this year. We are also happy to note that the new school construction work is steadily progressing under the supervision of Fr Thomas.

**-Sch. Joji**

Novitiate community ended the year 2020 with a Picnic to Jalaphet on 26<sup>th</sup> December. After a prolonged lockdown, (10 months) our novices were thrilled and excited to be out of the house and enjoy the scenic beauty of our mission station. Frs Gabriel and Wilfred treated the novices so well that they were reluctant to return to the novitiate in the evening. Many are already volunteering to have Mission Experience at Jalaphet.



Novices were not only praying for Dn. Pheiga but were also hoping against hope that through God's providential help and Fr Master's kind permission they could go and

attend his priestly ordination on 30<sup>th</sup> of December. Man proposes, God disposes! Indeed, God did it for a better reason and as demanded by the prevailing Covid-19 situation. God willed Pheiga's Ordination be simple, physically attended only by a few Jesuits and at the same time live streamed so that many could participate in his ordination virtually from home, as did the novices. Saved money and saved lives too!



The very thought of the first Sacerdotal Ordination in the Bishnupur Parish centre, had evoked wild imaginations like a huge gathering and a grand celebration with different fervour and flavour. Owing to Covid 19, after many a twists and turns, Pheiga's Ordination was indeed simple, very solemn, spiritually awakening and meaningful celebration with a crowd of around 250 people. **Archbishop Dominic Lumon**, the ordaining prelate, blessed Fr. Pheiga to be a simple, happy and holy priest.

Liturgy was spiritually moving and inspiring. The entrance procession with Rongmei yodel, the choir and with their melodious traditional tune, amplified the solemnity and overwhelmed the gathering. The presence of **Fr Melvil Pereira**, our Regional Superior, and **Fr. Thomas Matthew**, besides the Manipur Jesuits, was the symbol of strong assurance and support of all the Kohima Jesuits.

**Fr Pheiga** expresses his utmost heartfelt gratitude to our Moirang and Bishnupur Jesuits, MSI and SRA Sisters and all the parishioners for all the arrangements and making his ordination a grace-filled and memorable one.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January **Frs. Julian, Boniface** and 9 Novices were present at the funeral of Mr. John Ranee, Father of **Sch. Ronald** at Mawpat. **Fr Pradeep**, Vocation Promoter, paid a swift visit on 25<sup>th</sup> of Jan and celebrated First Mass for the Novitiate Community and addressed the novices for an hour. His jovial and affirming presence brought joy to our Novices and inspired them to aim for greater things in life.

On Jan 31, **Frs Greg** and **Pheiga** were in Maweit for the requiem Mass of Sr. Helen Albizuri MCJ, who laboured tirelessly for 27 years there, working day and night, for the poor and the needy. Her presence and ministry was responsible for laying a strong foundation of faith in the area.





Our novices had an opportunity to attend an input session on holistic forestry on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, conducted by Mr Felix with his NGO team. Our Novices had a fruitful interaction with them on how to protect and sustain the natural forest in the campus and surrounding areas in small ways.

As the Archbishop of Shillong, it was his first rendezvous with us. His Grace, **Most Reverend Victor Lyngdoh** was conspicuous with his simplicity and gentleness as he came over to the novitiate to administer the sacrament of Confirmation on two of our novices – **Mario** and **Samuel** and also conferring the Diaconate on **Scholastics Stephen, Biji** and **James**. We are grateful to the Archbishop for the pleasant visit to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Diaconate on our brothers. We also deeply appreciated his sincere regards for what the Jesuits had earlier done for him in all the two dioceses he had been so far and he expressed that he could now, as Archbishop of Shillong, continue to rely on our services.

**Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong was with us on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
*Administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to:*



**Novice Mario Donkumar**



**Novice Samuel Basumatary**

*Administering the order of the Diaconate to:*



**Sch. Lairuatsaka Stephen**



**Sch. Biji Thomas**



**Sch. C.K. James**

*At the felicitation programme:*



Fr. Melvil Pereira, S.J. our Regional Superior has a word with His Grace, the Archbishop at the felicitation cultural programme.



Words of encouragement from His Grace, the Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong.



**Course on Small Christian Communities**

From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of February, the Novices had classes on the pastoral implications of the Small Christian Communities. It was given by Sr. Martina L. Thabah. It was well appreciated by the novices.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February, the novices with Fr Pheiga, led by Fr Wilfred, had a day out at the University Land, Mawpdang, walking through and getting familiar with the land, clearing the path to the water source and the river (land touches the river and is a source of constant water supply), and collecting plenty of goose berries. Fr Greg joined them in the afternoon to personally check on the water sources and the land by the river side. The novices came back tired but happy with the day's outing.

- Frs Pheiga & Scot

## PFÜTSERO

The last two months have been months with ample of activities both in school and in the Parish. The covid-19 did not hinder our efforts to bring the children together for catechism camp except that the camps had to be conducted in the respective substations.

In Pfutsero community, a two day catechism camp was organised by the youth on 16 and 17 January with around 35 children attending it. The number is less than expected but those who came did justice to the saying we often say 'number is not what we want but the quality'. It was indeed a joy to see these children listening and responding during the sessions. The youth took great effort to train them in singing for the competitions which were well appreciated by many.





The Chakhesang women Catholic Association convened their meeting in our Parish on 13 January during which they chose **Fr Lancy** as their spiritual animator. This year we are blessed with a number of Holy Matrimony celebrations in our Parish. Around 30 youth from our Parish went to Zadima retreat Centre for a five-day retreat from 1-5 February. On their return, a few of them shared their enriching experiences, especially the God experience.

Last month, **Fr Anto** went for a two-month course to Pune and now is back in the community. **Fr Dhazü** went for home visit to spend some time with the family and came back relaxed and delighted. In their absence, Fr Lancy made sure that the campus met all its needs. We recently had an unexpected transfer of **Sch. Ebanazar Bareth** who was with us for almost 2 years. His presence was indeed a blessing for all of us in the campus. On 13 February, we bade him farewell and wished him God's blessings for his future endeavour in his theological studies. **Sch. Daniel** at last is getting into the regent's schedule and slowly getting the feel of Regency with the commencement of the academic year and the presence of the boarders.

In school, a month long coaching class was conducted for the outgoing class X students. With the partial opening of the school for the new academic year, a bustling busy life is back in the campus. Students from class VI-X come to school on alternate days. The classes are in full-swing. On 6 February, a meeting of the alumni was convened in the school for handing over the responsibilities to the newly elected executive members.



On 22 February, Ms. Avelu, a member of Peace Channel association from Dimapur came to address the students about the association and its objective. She then proposed to the students to join the same. A good number of students responded and volunteered to join this club. We now officially have a Peace Club in our school. Our school now has a software which facilitates the administrative work and allows easy contact with parents concerning the students. Thanks to the Fr Lancy who took the initiative and ensured that it is installed this year.

**-Sch. Daniel Syiemlieh SJ**

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## PHESAMA

The New Year 2020 has fetched loads of hope in all of us. It has been an elongated expected time to have this New Year. The Pandemic still hovers over us all beneath the anxiety of the Corona virus. Notwithstanding all these unforgotten events we still live in great hope for a bright future ahead of us. And the commencing of the Holy Season of Lent prepares us all to endure the strength to have Hope.

The St.Paul Jesuit community is experiencing a lot of timely changes in the community members. **Schs. Edbert** and **Richard** are in the Angami families for three months to learn Tenydie after finishing a week of orientation in the Language Institute under the direction of **Fr Vijay D'Souza SJ**. The Scholastics in Nagaland had their Triduum from 3rd January to 6th January guided by **Fr Pradeep SJ**. **Fr Francis Xavier** is on his mission of directing month-long Retreats in Guwahati and Shillong respectively.

St Paul School conducted coaching for Class 10 students effectively for a month with systematic arrangements and accommodation in JTC Phesama. The New Academic year 2021-22 has unwrapped on 8th February for Classes 6th to 10th with offline mode. The School meticulously observes all the directives (SOPs) of the state and central government. The opening of the school has brought lots of vividness in students and staff as well. On 16th February St Paul Institute of teacher training has reopened its offline mode of teaching. The teacher trainees benefit immensely from their regular schedule and training in the Institute. The New Academic Year has commenced with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. It is been a great blessing for all the students to embark on the new academic year with enthusiasm.

The Campus is getting a new shape with a new garden above the basketball court initiated by the campus administrator, **Fr Barister**. We hope to see great things this year. May the Lord bless all of us!

-Sch. Richard Pinto

## UMBIR, ST XAVIER PARISH

The pandemic has led to the influx of many Jesuits, especially scholastics in the community and brought in a sense of youthfulness and rejuvenation. The pandemic has curtailed our active parish ministry considerably. The New Year brought good tidings to our state by allowing us to have regular Church services without compromising the pandemic protocols regulated by the concerned State and Central governments. Presently, normal Sunday Church services in different centres are conducted on a regular basis which brings great excitement and fulfilment.

The long awaited St Stanislaus Kostka Church, Umniuh, was officially inaugurated and blessed on 14 February. **Fr Melvil Pereira**, our Regional Superior, solemnly blessed the new Church and **Fr Gregory**, the Superior of Novitiate Community ceremonially inaugurated the new Church. Many faithful had turned up to witness this historical event. The Church is a generous gift from the Catholic people of Poland. We appreciate their unflinching support and our sincere gratitude goes to them. A study programme for those who are going to appear for board exams has resumed under the watchful care of the Parish Priest and the Parish youth.





The community is fortunate to host three of our newly ordained deacons- **Stephen, Biji** and **James**, who pitched their tents here till the end of February. Also, they indeed did clear their *Ad Auds* exams with great ease. The Deacons expressed profound gratitude to **Fr Robert**, the PP, for his suitable inputs and for creating conducive atmosphere for our studies. He also made sure that opportunities are not missed while forming our young men, so he conveniently assigned them to offer daily reflections during morning Eucharist to each of them. The new deacons benefitted immensely both spiritually and personally.

-Dn Stephen L

## BOMBAY, VINAYALAYA

Bombay Juniorate runs in full swing despite the surge of Covid cases. Life over here is quite hectic yet interesting and enjoyable. In the last couple of months we had various engrossing and thought provoking courses like The Critical Thinking on Media, Drama Analysis, Communication skills, etc. Nevertheless, we also had some outings to refresh ourselves at Versova beach and other places of Mumbai.



Fortunately, we also had a privilege to visit a cloistered convent of the Carmelite Sisters .We had a meaningful Eucharist celebrated by our dean **Fr Aubrey** and it was accompanied by a melodious singing of more than six voices without any interruption. Their lifestyle is very edifying. Chatting with them was a spiritually enriching experience for all of us, helping us know that they contribute a lot to the growth of the Church through their prayers.

**RCF’s Visit:** As a stanza runs, ‘Though a mother forsakes her child I will not abandon you’ so is **Fr Paul Coelho** to us. His visit was like the visit of Fr General .We had a wonderful and fabulous time with him. He inspired us with his sharing about the Region and challenged us with the needs of the time. Finally he bid us farewell with a bowlful of appetizing ice-cream that sweetened our taste buds and our hearts and miraculously its sweetness continued to remain till the next breakfast. We really appreciate you, Father.

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Particularly, we are as busy as a bee gearing up for the upcoming play ‘The Christmas Carol’ which is chosen in the midst of Lent. This play made us feel that we are in December waiting for the coming of our baby Jesus. Oh strange! Hopefully we would have memorable experiences as it is going to be a very unique one. Our final exams remind us that our next stage of formation is at hand. We are driven into giving our best in these last few days of our Juniorate for the effectiveness of our future apostolate.

-Schs. Sam & Sum

## DIMAPUR, GOOD SHEPHERD SEMINARY

The ministry of accompanying the seminarians here at **Good Shepherd Seminary, Dimapur, Nagaland**, has been quite challenging and I have been gradually initiated these past few months into understanding these young men who have come from 12 dioceses. Except for the dioceses of Kolkata and Nagpur, the others are of the Northeast. In all, there are 53 of them, doing their graduate studies in the nearby **Salesian College of Higher Education** besides their philosophy there. It’s, therefore, a Major Seminary. Since I am the only Spiritual Director for them I am able to meet them only twice in a semester. It’s a multicultural community, too, and we are a staff of four formators. There have been so far only online classes and exams as anywhere, and on 24<sup>th</sup> February the regular classes are supposed to resume, hopefully.



This accompaniment requires of me to be creative in many ways as these had their minor seminary of Classes 11 + 12, and a year of spiritual initiation, in various places and under different directors. Given my many years of such a service in our own Jesuit set ups, I have been challenged to adapt, shift focus, and explore personal approaches to meet the needs of these young trainees.

Since I have been enjoying good health, I am at home with them, becoming young with regard to their perspectives and struggles, desiring to make of them young adults in their discerned choices toward priesthood. I was happy to meet our Regional Superior, Fr Mevil, on 21<sup>st</sup> of February, thereby refreshing my Jesuit roots, and to share with him my ministry here.

-Fr Paul Raj



## FRANCE, COMMUNAUTÉ SAINT FAVRE

In January, one can appreciate the snowflakes falling from the sky and leisurely covering the Paris streets and parks till they become fully white. Owing to snow, temperature also drops to around minus five. On the other hand, the number of coronavirus cases rise continuously in the city. Many of the Jesuits of Europe Occidentale Francophone (EOF) province also turned out to be victims of it. The virus invaded our Blomet community too and two scholastics tested positive in the last week of January. Consequently, our house was sealed, and we had to confine ourselves solitary to our rooms for one week till we verified ourselves. Fortunately, after a week we all confirmed



negative. Finally, like a dawn that breaks the night, the two victims also convalesced quickly within a fortnight. We had manifold moments of graces. The long anticipated moment of meeting the Provincial of EOF materialised when he made a canonical visit to our community in mid-January. His humour and gentleness enthused us all. Our superior keeps telling the new arrivals to have patience in learning the language. In January, during our holiday, he arranged a French professor for the new comers.

On 6<sup>th</sup> of February, along with some French scholastics, we walked to the Montmartre. We whispered some prayers for the Jesuits and for our Region. On 13<sup>th</sup> of February we visited Lisieux the place of St. Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus. Besides these, we have sharing of the gospel with our fraternity group, a pilgrimage to other holy place called Chartes, watching religious movies every Sunday evening and listening to each other's sharing and so forth. Finally, with renewed hopes, we resumed our new semester from second week of February. At present, we are busy swimming in the sea of knowledge under our professors' guidance. While **Robin** and **Joshua** are doing intensive research for their dissertation, **Polseng** and **Titus** are making exponential progress in French.

-Sch. Polseng B Marak

## GUJARAT, PREMAL JYOTI

This year the Premal Jyoti community began the New Year 2021 with acts as good Samaritans. With some financial contributions from the community members, they had reached out to the poor and the needy in distributing some gifts to them. With many guests visiting our here and the scholastics (collegians) returning from their respective provinces, the members have increased in the community.

17<sup>th</sup> February was the day when Fr Paul Coelho (the RCF of Kohima Region) stepped into Premal Jyoti for the visitation of the Ahmedabad Kohima Scholastics. It was truly a blessing to have him in the community.



After lots of resistance, the covid-19 has finally got into our Premal Jyoti community. Sch. Bosco and few other members have been tested positive and they are in quarantine following the guidelines of the doctors. Do pray for us all.

**-Sch. Bosco**

## KARIMNAGAR, LOYOLA B.Ed. COLLEGE

After much waiting due to multiple postponements, I finally got the opportunity to fly to Hyderabad on 24<sup>th</sup> January. I had a warm welcome by the Andhra Jesuits in the Provincialate which later continued in Loyola, Karimnagar where my actual community is.

Karimnagar is in Telangana which is 3 hours' drive from Secunderabad. It is a beautiful city, surrounded by Dams and Lakes. In that way it makes us feel like we are surrounded by a Sea. Our lively community comprises of 8 Jesuits, of which 3 are scholastics and 5 are priests.

The college which was supposed to open in the month of November finally started its actual offline classes on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Although, it began with half strength, the students enrolled in the first phase of counselling, were happy to attend the classes after months of waiting. From 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, the college began with normal classes and with full strength.

The medium of instruction in the college is both in English and Telugu. Sometimes it is quite entertaining to hear the professors doing these Language gymnastics. After months and years of gap, it's really hectic to sit continuously seven hours like school children. All the married and Bachelor- students are seen adjusting themselves to behave like good and model students. Blessed are we among women for 90% of the students are ladies in the college, so we are trying our best to behave like gentlemen and good Jesuits.



**-Sch. Sumit kujur**



## ITALY, PONTIFICIO INSTITUTO BIBLICO



The Eternal city is striving to recover from the pandemic and until now all of us in the Biblicum community are safe, thanks be to God and to our mostly indoor life. However, we continue to live under three layers of precautions – guidelines of the Government, of the Society (for the Roman houses) and of the community. The imposition of lockdown by the Italian government during the Christmas holidays was an opportunity for us to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year exclusively as a community. The New Year brought us a surprise but joyous blessing with the appointment of two of our community members – Fr Henry SJ from India and Fr Paul Béré SJ from Burkina Faso, as members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Undauntedly grappling with Greek, Hebrew, Biblical Aramaic, and various Exegetical courses, we successfully completed our third semester of licentiate and now after a year of online classes, we hope to be back to class in presence from February 2021.

-Frs Gideon & Kulvi

## MANGALORE, ASHAKIRAN

“The world is our Home” says Jerome Nadal but we still miss the Region. A lot of things has happened during the past one year. Ashakiran has become one renowned name “online” and many students think that it is a branch of St Aloysius College because of the many webinars organized by the house.

Life, we thought would come to normal after a tough year of 2020, hopefully waiting for the uncertainty to end soon. The New Year began for us with a hope and trust in our God of surprises and indeed we were greatly surprised. We had the surprise visit from **Fr Joe Coelho**, **Fr William Pinto** and our beloved Regional Superior, **Fr Melvil**. The Fathers never forgot to bring something for their younger brothers here, be it delicious chocolate or the sweet aroma of Darjeeling tea and other delicacies.

The New Year also brought with it the surprised confirmation of the end semester exam dates. The first to put to

the test were our Third years and truly they were an inspiration for the juniors. They put up a confident face and swept away their Semester exam with ease. The Second years and First years joined the exam battle one after the other. Overall the First years were found to be one of the most studious batches at Ashakiran.

The Third year brothers soon after their exam were sent to orphanages and old age homes around Mangalore for some exposure. They returned with a nourished experience. The Second years were sent out for work experience to the mission stations in North Karnataka. The First years have just completed their first semester and will soon be going to Aloysius ITI to pick up some mechanical skills. The Third years have begun their sixth semester online. They seem to be eager to finish this and jump into the next stage of formation. We are eagerly waiting for the second coming of our Regional Superior to Ashakiran for his annual official visitation. All the scholastics are doing well in their studies and spiritual lives.

**-Sch. Banri Wahlang**

## US MIDWEST (UMI), HOLY ROSARY MISSION

*Mitakuya pi! Cante was'te nape ciyuza pelo!* ( I greet you all with a Good Heart and handshake!)

Greetings from Pine Ridge, South Dakota! It is that most beautiful and difficulty time of the year here, as thick snow and freezing cold sweep our land (sometimes as low as -26 degree Celsius). However, we are all hale and hearty by God's grace. Although the pandemic restricts our activities like many places and the Tribal Administration continues to restrict our church gatherings (10 people at a time), our spirits are high and hearts warm. All of us in the Community and more and more across the



Reservation having got our 2 dozes of vaccination, are experiencing a spirit of optimism and impatience to get back to normalcy. It is heartening to see our most regular elders back to church after almost a year of absence, slowly limping back to normalcy with great caution. Heads off to our Tribal Leadership here by outshining the State leadership in handling the pandemic (some folks here in SD do believe that Covid-19 is a Hoax!).

As we gradually begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, we can't but thank God, the community members and everyone for the blessings and prayers that brought us this far safe and sound. What truly kept our community alive was our Cura Personalis, monthly Faith sharing, occasional movies together, Spiritual readings and of course, the Eucharist! (oh our sumptuous dinners – in the absence of our cook, we have all proved beyond doubt that Jesuits cook well too!).

One of the big takeaways that has strengthened all of us this pandemic is our Indomitable Spirit of generosity – rain or shine, snowy or freezy, in nursing homes or hospitals, we continue to anoint the sick and bury the dead....!





The onset of Lent was welcomed with much joy and enthusiasm as many braved freezing cold and snow to receive the Ashes. Holy Lent has given the perfect opportunity for our parishioners to recharge their spiritual batteries that they have missed for so long. May the Lord continue to bless us and increase of Faith and Love each day!

*Mitakuye O'yasin!*

**-Fr Edmund**

**GONE BEFORE US**

- Fr Savarimuthu Xavier SJ** (CEN 83/59) on 3-3-2021 in Dindigul
- Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomes SJ** (CCU 99/78) on 27.02.2021 in Kolkata
- Fr John Vattanky SJ** (KER 89/70) on 22-2-2021 in Kerala
- Fr Anthony Doongdung SJ** (RAN 87/63) on 20-2-2021 in Ranchi
- Fr Vasco de Rego SJ** (GOA 96/75 ) on 17-2-2021 in Pune
- Br Stephen Kerketta, SJ** ( RAN 75/57) on 30-1-2021 in Ranchi
- Fr Anthony A. D'Souza SJ** (94/77) on 27-1-2021 in Mumbai
- Fr Arwind Minj SJ** [HAZ 42/x) on 26-1-2021 in Hazaribagh
- Fr Maxim Crasta SJ** (GUJ 54/32) on 19-1-2021, in Baroda
- Fr Ambrose Augustine SJ** (PAT 87/58) on 16-1-2021 in Patna
- Fr Ronald Victor Menezes SJ** (KAR, 48/26) on 14-1-2021 in Bangalore
- Mr John Ranee** (59) father of Sch. Ronald Kharsotun on 23-1-2021 in Shillong
- Mr Edward Ranee** (56) uncle of Sch. Ronald Kharsotun on 21-1-2021 in Shillong
- Mrs Rakhel Maria Goretti** (80) aunt of Sch Mark Iawbor on 12-1-2021 in Pynursla
- Mrs Carolina Soren**, (64), mother of Sch. Julius Tudu on 4-1-2021 in Udalguri

