

RANCHI BULLETIN



80/1 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834 001, Jharkhand January 2021

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

- Fr. Leonard Chiti as Provincial of the new Province of Southern Africa (SAP); he will assume office on 25 Mar 2021.
- Fr. Miguel Garaizábal, as the next Regional Superior of the Jesuits in Thailand.
- Fr. Roberto Del Riccio, SJ, as the next Provincial of the Euro-Mediterranean Province. This Province was erected in 2017 which includes Italy, Albania, Malta & the Mission of Romania.

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. POSA

- Fr Arjen Tete, SJ (CCU) as the New Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF)

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. PROVINCIAL

SL. No.	Name	From	To
01	Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ	Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College Ranchi	Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
02	Fr. Robert P. Kujur, SJ	Principal, St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Assam	Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
03	Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ	Dean, Manresa House Scholastics, Ranchi	Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
04	Fr. Edwin R. Dungdung, SJ	Controller of Examination, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	Dean, Manresa House Scholastics, Ranchi (Addl)
05	Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ	Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College, Simdega	Principal, St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Assam
06	Fr. Rajesh Sandil, SJ	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	Vice Principal, St. Xavier's College, Simdega
07	Fr. Binod Toppo, SJ	Director Minor Seminary, Ranchi	Vice Principal, St. John's HS Ranchi (Addl)
08	Fr. Patrick Kerketta, SJ	Vice Principal, St. John's HS Ranchi	Student Counsellor, St. John's HS and Spiritual Director, Minor Seminarians, Ranchi
09	Fr. Emmanuel Barla, SJ	Principal, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	Agricultural Training Center, Namkum (Awaiting assignment)

SL. No.	Name	From	To
10	Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ	*****	Acting Rector, St. Mary's School, Samtoli
11	Sch. Anand Minj, SJ	*****	Community Experience, Jharain, Simdega

FR. PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Fathers and Brothers,

A grace filled New Year 2021 to each one of you!

2021 is already here and by the grace of God we are blessed to see another year in the great eternity of Time. New Year always means new life and hope. It also ushers in better promises and sense of fulfillment. Besides, we look forward to witness good times in our life.

2020 has gone by and what a year it has been. Not only did it present to us the vagaries of Nature and Life in the form of Covid-19 but it also showed us how to sustain human life on earth. It was certainly a huge challenge for the entire humanity in the race to contain this deadly virus. We lost a good number of precious lives. However, 2021 is an indication that man must conquer evil elements that try to crush all hopes and happiness. The nations of the earth have come together forgetting their discords and distances.

As Jesuits, we are all united in one spirit to announce that God never abandons his flock. In the Book of Job, we have a wonderful testimony of how goodness in man overpowers the darkness of evil. Come what may, we have to see positivity in each dark moment. God awaits us everywhere and it is our duty to faithfully look for Him. We thank God for the vocation in the Society of Jesus. In many ways, we have been graced by the fortitude of this vocation. It is our bounden duty then to pray for the departed souls terminated by Covid-19.

The pandemic situation seems to linger on. We are yet far from final recovery. Normalcy in life seems a distant cry. Most institutions, especially educational institutions, haven't resumed their normal activities. Similarly, Parishes and Social centers have not been fully opened for the faithful and the needy people. We, therefore, need to continue with the alternative ways of teaching and learning as well as professing our faith to God. We need to go on with the following the covid-19 guidelines of the District Administration.

I earnestly request you all to take care of your health and the health of one another in the community. Along with these, we also have more opportunities to make our life more meaningful with purposeful challenges. In the recent times, we have learned to be more humane and communicative with one another. It is important to strengthen our fellowship and friendship despite the call for social distance.

Let us then step into 2021 with renewed vigour in every sphere of our life. Let us reassure ourselves that we will bring peace and comfort to all. Amidst the fear of Covid-19, let us inspire people for a greater sense of resilience, certainty and relief. Our determination will certainly assist us in regaining our lost grounds. The history knows that the human life can't be subdued by any calamity.

Let our plans and schedules be big, and be ready to face any situation in the New Year.

With hopes and dreams we move ahead praying for all and believing in the guidance of God.

Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, SJ
Provincial



PASTORAL MINISTRY AFTER TERTIANSHIP W.E.F. 1 FEB 2021

- Fr. Anand Amar Beck, SJ, Catholic Church, Kathalguri, Assam
- Fr. Ashok Sandil, SJ, Catholic Church, Prothrapur, Port Blair
- Fr. Suman Prabhat Toppo, SJ, Catholic Church, Ramnagar, N. Andaman

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Fr. General's Approval for Final Vows

- Father General has approved the Final Vows of Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ & Fr. Suman Beck, SJ. Fr. Rajat will pronounce his Final Vows on 4th January, 2021 in Battambang (Cambodia), Our Lady of Assumption Church. Fr. Oh Indon Francesco, S.J., the Delegate of the Provincial of South Korea Province will receive his final vows. Fr. Suman will pronounce his final vows on 19th January, 2021 in Agricultural Training Centre (ATC), Namkum. Our prayers and best wishes are with both our Fathers.

Ph. D. Awarded to Fr. Pradeep Kerketta, SJ.

Asst. Director of XISS

- Ranchi Jesuit Society Congratulates Fr. Pradeep Kerketta, who has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) by the Ranchi University in December 2020 for his thesis, "A Study on Dynamics of Change in Tribal Livelihood with special reference to selected areas of Gumla District in Jharkhand."

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS IN THE PROVINCE: 2021

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Dcn. Claber Minj | : 05 Jan 2021 Kereng |
| 2. Dcn. Elphiz Kerketta | : 05 Jan 2021 Kereng |
| 3. Dcn. Rohit Kujur | : 12 Jan 2021 Noadih |
| 4. Dcn. Bimal Minj | : 12 Jan 2021 Noadih |
| 5. Dcn. Subodh Lakra | : 16 Jan 2021 Majhatoli |
| 6. Dcn. Ajit Kerketta | : 31 Jan 2021 Samtoli |
| 7. Dcn. Bimal Nag | : 31 Jan 2021 Maranghada |
| 8. Dcn. Samir X. Bhawnra | : 07 Feb 2021 Dhingurpani |

MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

Unlike other years, only the Scholastics from Manresa House participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. Fr. Fuldeo Soreng, SJ Presided over the Mass. This day also was marked by the blessings of newly constructed and sophisticated multipurpose Auditorium dedicated to Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ. The Ground Floor and the First floor of the Infirmary were dedicated to Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ and to First Ranchi Jesuit Brother Louis Ekka, SJ respectively. The solemn blessing ceremony and the brief history and the purpose of the Auditorium was presented by Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ expressing profound gratitude to St. Xavier's College Ranchi for its generous contribution towards its construction. Fr. Francis Minj, SJ briefly highlighted the life history of Br. Louis Ekka, SJ. Fr. Provincial Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ presided over the Eucharist while Fr. Amrit Lakra, SJ the Rector of Manresa House Ranchi, Fr. Nabor lakra, SJ the Rector of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, Fr. Xavier Soreng, the Superior of XISS, Fr. Erentius Minj, SJ, the Superior of St. John's High School, Ranchi, Fr. Marianus Kujur and Fr. Ajay Soreng concelebrated. Manresa Scholastics led the choir. There was a short felicitation Program for the Architects, Contractors and the builders of the auditorium after Mass. Fr. Ireneus To'ppo, SJ released two of his books, namely "Manzilon Ke Paar", a One Act Play in Hindi and "Tiriba' Tener", a Kharia poetry composition for Degree syllabus in Ranchi University.

Manresa Scholastics participated in the Christmas Gathering organized by Xavier community for the religious students on 13th December. Fr. Fuldeo Soreng addressed them on the theme "Religious life, its challenges and remedy."

The community had an Advent talk by Fr. Ranjit Kujur, SJ, on 18th December. The sacrament of reconciliation followed soon after the talk. Manresa Scholastics had a Christmas Meet on 19th December. Novice Anand Minj, SJ pronounced his first vows at Manresa House chapel on 20th December.

The Province level Jubilee celebration of 7 Jesuits was held in the newly built auditorium at Manresa house on 21st December at 10.30 A.M. The jubilarians were Fr. Mathias Dungdung SJ, 94 years old (60 years of Priesthood), Frs. James William Dungdung SJ, and Clement Ekka SJ (50 years of Priesthood), Frs. Alex Ekka SJ, Nicholas Tete SJ, Britius Ekka SJ and Br. Isidore Ekka SJ (50 years as a Jesuit) Fr. Rector Amrit Lakra, SJ was the main celebrant for the Christmas Vigil Mass. In his homily he challenged the congregation to grow in God's love. Manresa Community had a Carol Eve and Feliz Navidad on 25th December.

Sch. Mauris, Robin and Ravindra, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

The college campus was vibrant due to the preparation for the coming celebrations. In spite of corona many students and teaching, non-teaching staff came to participate in the Eucharistic celebration on 3rd Dec. the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron Saint of the college. Fr. Anand David Xalxo, the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Cathedral was the main celebrant. Deacon Sameer Xavier Bhanwra, sj preached an inspiring homily. It was an occasion to praise and thank the Lord for all the blessings we have received. After the Mass there was refreshment for all.

The online admission for PG is over and online classes started. To share the Christmas joy and message the AICUFers went to Cheshire Home on 20th Dec. and sang carols and also shared sweets with Christmas friends observing covid-19 guidelines. The inmates enjoyed the day with new friends and made it special. It was a unique experience with differently able children.

As Christmas was drawing near we had Christmas get together on 21st Dec. with non-teaching staff. The celebration began with the blessing of the crib by Fr. Emmanuel Barla, sj and carols were sung. Everybody enjoyed the festive meal. On 22nd Dec. evening we had gathering with the teaching staff. Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kamini Kumar, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Munkund Mehta, the Registrar of Ranchi University and other dignitaries were also present. The staff choir sang the carols under the guidance of Fr. Prabhat Kennedy Soreng, SJ.

This year Christmas ministry was arranged in the light of covid-19 so that things go smoothly. The Fathers went to different places allotted by the Parish Priest. We availed ourselves to cater to the spiritual needs of the faithful. XISS community members were invited for Christmas celebration. On 27th Dec. there was a function in the house of Fr. Florence Purty, sj to mark his Final Profession. Some of us joined the celebration in Dorea. As Fr. Emmanuel Barla, sj superannuated on 31st Dec., there was a handing over of the office to Fr. Nabor Lakra, sj the new Principal of the college. Due to some official clarifications this took place at 7.15 p.m. instead of at 4.00 p.m. All consultants were present for this function.

Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S DORANDA

The month of December was full of meaningful celebrations. The celebration began on 3rd Dec. with the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron of our school. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Fuldeo Soreng SJ. All the Non-Teaching and Teaching staff participated in the Eucharist. Then two new massive buildings meant for physics and biology (in the old building) and chemistry labs (in the new building) were

blessed and solemnly inaugurated by the Provincial, Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ. On the same day the school expressed an immense gratitude to Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess for leading the entire Xaverian cruise efficiently and for taking the school to greater heights with his vision, planning and execution. No doubt, the school has very positive impact on others. We sincerely congratulated him for his fruitful services in the school for last 23 years with many achievements and glories. On Dec. 6th, there was an Interactive Session for the Catholic parents and children for admission in KG 2021-22.

On 11th Dec. we thanked the Lord for the gift of Life of Fr. Sanjay Kerketta SJ, the Principal, with a Thanksgiving Mass in the evening with the other Ranchi zone II Communities. During Mass we thanked the Lord for those birthday babies who had birthday celebrations in the month of November and December as per zonal decision.

On 13th December DC and his team came to St. Xavier's ground to play cricket match. On 18th Dec. DPL (DOX Premiere League) played in our school to mobilize and strengthen the bond of DOX (Doranda Old Xaverians). Many young and old but energetic and excited members of DOX took part in this Season 4. Eight teams participated in this much awaited DPL 2020. It was well arranged amidst the protocol of pandemic. On the final day a friendly cricket match was played between Dist Adm. and the School (DOX and Management) whereby Mr. Chhavi Ranjan IAS DC, was adjudged as the best player. The DPL was concluded on 20th Dec with prize distribution ceremony and DC remained as the chief guest.

On 20th December there was a 'Zonal Recollection Day' as well for Ranchi zone II in view of Christmas. Fr. Henry Barla SJ gave an impressive talk with a blend of Christmas and UAPs mandate. The Christmas Gathering was arranged for staff members prior to the holidays. St. Xavier's school became part of #Ranchi Cares by hosting and contributing towards the drive "Mission 1 Million Smiles". Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Hemant Soren, Mr. Chhavi Ranjan, IAS, (DC), Mr. Nitin Madan Kulkarni, I.A.S. (Health Secretary), Mr. Surendra Kumar Jha, IPS, (SSP), and Mr. Ajit Peter Dungdung IPS, (Traffic SP) were invited for the distribution of blankets, cap, sanitizer, mask, stationery and lunch packet. There were 1000 thousand students and parents of St. Xavier's Outreach who became the beneficiaries of this mission. Really it was a meaningful 'Shared Christmas 2020' collaborating with Dist. Administration and DOX for a noble cause mainly in this pandemic year.

As per the protocol and the direction given, Fathers of St. Xavier's had their Christmas and New Year Ministry in Nirmala College and in MC Hinoo for Holy Mass.

Sch. Patras Tapno, SJ

RTC TARUNODAY, ARSANDAY

Normal classes continued for the first and second years. Two visiting Professors- Sister Rekha Kerketta SCN and Rev. Fr. Pingal Ekka – shared their knowledge and experiences. Sr. Rekha offered a course on Feminist Theology while Rev. Fr. Pingal took the course on Canon Law from 30 November to 11 December 2020. The academic activities concluded with semester exams from 14 to 16 December. Third year students had online classes followed by semester exams.

The newly appointed Spiritual Guides - Fr. Ignatius Lakra S.J and Fr. Edwin Dang S.J- began their generous service from 12 December. Both of them were available for a day for the spiritual sharing. Taruns were excited and enthusiastic to meet their guides. Thanks to Frs. Ignatius and Edwin for their help. Fr. Camil Kerketta S.J was generous in guiding the scholastics for their Triduum from 17 to 19 December. Taruns spent meaningful time in personal prayer and reflection and concluded by the renewal of vows during the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael on 19 December. It was an opportune time to be grateful to Lord for the blessings of the 2020 and to prepare for the Christmas and New Year 2021.

On 20 December, to have a meaningful and refreshing Christmas break, scholastics left for their respective provinces for the Christmas and New Year ministries. Scholastics of Ranchi Province got the golden opportunity to be in their own respective parishes and native villages for the Christmas ministry. It was a wonderful time for many of them to meet many family members, friends and relatives after many years.

Sch. Lazarus Basumatary, S.J. presented a paper on the Webinar Digital Jesuits on the theme 'Introduction to the Gospels' on 5 December. It was a commendable effort indeed! On 8 December Br. Patras Minj, S.J. went to Simdega to attend the funeral service of Late Br. Basil Tireky, S.J. Fr. Francis Minj accompanied the fourth year theology students of St. Albert's College Ranchi who were on their mission tour to different parishes to know the Mission history of Chhotanagpur better. For three days (10 – 12 December 2020), they could visit the important historical places of Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega and Gumla under Ranchi Archdiocese. Indeed for many of them it was an eye-opening, insightful and inspiring journey to know the local church history, fruit of the committed hard-work of the missionaries.

After Christmas, it was a break for the staff also to take out some time to visit their own families for different events. Fr. Manu was in and out for marriage blessing and gami mass. Fr. Michael left for home on 26 December to visit his old parents as well as to bless a

marriage. Likewise, Fr. Sudhir also went for marriage blessing. Fr. Francis went home for a day to see his family members. Br. Patras, minister of the house, also attended some wedding ceremonies.

In the New Year 2021, First and Second years are back on 2 January; Third years will be back on 4 January after their diaconate retreat in Jesu Bhavan Jamshedpur to resume normal classes in full vigor.

Taruns wish you all- a very happy and grace-filled New Year 2021!

Sch. Anil Kullu. SJ

JHARNA/ASHIRVAD, NAMKUM

There was a wonderful celebration of the Final Profession of our Novice Master, Fr. Sylverius Chermako, SJ, on 8th of December. The solemn Holy Eucharist began at 9:30 A.M. sharp as scheduled. Fr. Provincial, Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, the main celebrant was accompanied by Fr. Camil Kerketta, SJ, Fr. Ferdinand Kullu, SJ, Fr. Medard Xalxo, SJ and Fr. Sylverius on the Altar. Fr. Medard, in his homily, shed light on the importance of the final profession in Jesuit life underlining that it invites one 'to be a servant of all'.

The novices, through their beautiful music and singing, made the liturgy more solemn and mesmerised all present there. Thanks to the good weather, due to which the entire ceremony took place smoothly outside, on Jharna lawn. Around 170 to 180 priests, nuns, benefactors, friends and family members of Fr. Sylverius graced the occasion by their valuable presence. The short felicitation program, soon after the final blessing, gave novices, pre-novices, family members and all invited, the opportunity to wish the newly professed Fr. Sylverius. The family members felicitated and congratulated, in a special way both Fr. Provincial Ajit and Fr. Sylverius by offering each of them a goat. All enjoyed the fellowship meal and the whole program ended by 3.00 P.M. After these enjoyments and festivities we had one full day of rest. Thereafter we resumed our normal novitiate life. We were assigned the task of reading the life of a Jesuit saint and then summarizing it. Everybody worked hard and tried to give the best possible. We drew inspirations from these saints for our life. This exercise reminded us of the words of Pope Francis, "Sanctity is for everyone, saints are not 'supermen' who are 'born perfect,' but rather are ordinary people who followed God 'with all their hearts.'"

Due to cold weather, from December 21 onwards there was a little change in our routine: rising at 5:45 A.M. and the first period at 9:30 A.M. Soon after these, we were busy in external and internal preparation for Christmas. We took a week to prepare four cribs. We kept our house simple and abstained from much decoration as per the guidelines given by Ranchi Archdiocese, namely to have simple but meaningful Christmas celebration. For our spiritual preparation, we had novena prayer and a day of recollection and

confession on December 17. Due to ongoing pandemic, there this time there was no carol singing. We took part neither in the Vigil Mass nor in the morning Mass in ATC. We had our Christmas vigil Mass in the novitiate chapel at 10 P.M. Fr. Master presided over the Mass. Certainly, the Covid-19 did not allow us the way we used to celebrate Christmas every year, but what it could not stop us from doing, is to have the heartfelt joy of having Emmanuel amidst us.

In the month of December, the number of serious patients surged in the Province. Many Jesuits were/are admitted in different hospitals: Late Br. Basil Tirkey, Fr. Patric Xalxo, late Fr. Linus Dungdung and Fr. Ranjit Horo. Novices were required to help out these sick brothers of ours. Thus, almost all the second year novices, who couldn't go for Hospital Experiment due to the Covid -19, got a good chance to serve these sick members.

The health of our superior Fr. K.C. Philip was also not good (due to Cervical spondylosis & diffuse osteoporosis which cause a strong giddiness) and was admitted in Ara Gate hospital. Because of this he couldn't attend the final profession of Fr. Novice Master on December 8. Now, he is back to the community. He is improving in his health but he still needs an attendant. He is going through physiotherapeutic treatment twice a week.

We celebrated the birthday of three of our brothers, namely Nss. Akash Xaxa, Pawan Kandulna, and Nelson Hassa Purty on on December 21, 23 and 26 respectively.

As for the Jharna Spirituality Centre is concerned, Frs. Edwin, Camil, Sylvester, Jyoti Paul were involved in giving retreats, triduums and recollections: Fr Edwin and Fr Camil, both of them prepared the St Anne's Novices and the Ursuline Novices for their first profession which took place on 08 December. The Christmas Triduums for the Theologians at RTC Kanke, and the St Anne's Generalate Community were taken care of by Fr Camil. Besides these other programs which took place in Jharna itself are as follows: 35 SDB fathers and brothers (online retreat), 8 Jesuit Deacons (RAN & HAZ, 8 - 16 Dec.), 1 Novice (RAN, 10 - 18 Dec.), 3 SRA Sisters (10 - 20 Dec.), 1 Deacon (RAN, 12 - 15 Dec.), 1 Deacon (RAN, 16 - 23 Dec.), 2 Capuchin Deacons (18 - 23 Dec.), and 8 Ranchi Scholastics (20 - 24 Dec. Morning).

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021 to you all!

NS Suman S. Orja

ST. STANISLAUS LOHARDAGA

The Jesuit Community in Lohardaga is involved in educational, social, and spiritual ministry. All the hostelers are sent home due to the pandemic. The campus looks rather shabby and bushy without the children. Sch. John Fabian Ekka together with "Bombay" (his co-worker) and Fr. Ranjit Lakra, S.J.

tried to change the look of the campus by pruning hedges and by clearing the field for the cultivation of vegetables and flowers. Sch. John also, together with the co-workers of the community, cleaned the graveyard for 2nd of November. Fr. Praful Toppo, the parish priest of Lohardaga blessed the tombs. He also blessed the people, assembled at the graveyard to pray and to pay homage to the departed.

Due to the Covid-19, the feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka was celebrated only by the campus people the big group. However, Fr. Alex Toppo, Fr. John Jyoti Kujur, and Sch. Ajay Paulus Minj from the Catholic Press, Ranchi paid a visit to know about and be with the Jesuit Community in Lohardaga. Fr. Anand Erget from Simdega Diocese lived for few days in Jesuit Community as he went through rural physiotherapy. Sch. John Fabian had been to Jharsugra for the burial of his Bari Maa (his mother's sister) late Emerencia Baxla, who expired on 16 November 2020. Condolence to John and the members of the bereaved family.

On 20th November Mr. Rajesh Dungdung, the BDO of Lohardaga block visited the community to share and cherish the friendship. Fr. Philemon Ekka, S.J. and Sch. John represented the Lohardaga Jesuit community in the Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Nicholas Tete, S. J. in Gumla. Mr. Kishor Minj, who lived in the hostel as a student and now as a teacher, celebrated his birthday in the Jesuit community. Thanks for his silent but cheerful service to the hostel, school, and the community. Apart from conducting online classes and registration of the students Fr. Philemon Ekka, S.J. made several trips to Gumla to complete the pending work of his pension.

Fr. Sushil Tirkey, the Director of AROUSE Lohardaga, and the team are still involved in relief work activities. They have distributed dry food, masks, sanitizers, and other relief materials provided by the Province, JESA and some individuals. They, under the Lok Manch programme, are supporting the old, widows and the physically challenged to obtain the social security benefits provided by the Government and assisting the villagers and the migrant labourers find jobs under MNREGA Schemes.

AROUSE Lohardaga also distributed piglets and goats to some the Self-Help Group members and 500 fruit-plants to farmers and the study guides. The study centres in 20 villages had been closed due to lockdown but some of the villages had made an alternative arrangement for the education of their children. Now with the request of the parents and children we have started the evening study following all the precautionary measures and the protocol to avoid corona virus. At the same time, we conducted the Spoken English class for the college students.

On December 13, 2020, Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ had organized a workshop on breast cancer for the local tribal girls and women for about four hours in the school auditorium. The number of the participants was

nearly 45. Dr. Sr. Eiline Kujur, OSU came and spoke on the breast cancer. The talk was very informative and inspiring.

Due to the Covid-19, the School office, AROUSE office and Primary School office were kept closed for one week and after sanitizing the premises, offices were opened on December 17, 2020. Only 10th standard students were allowed to attend the classes but very few of them are coming for the lessons.

Br. Nico is back to the community after a month-long outing for retreat and physical check-up. He is assured of good health. But the sudden change in weather brought cold and cough all the community members so all went through Corona test. Those diagnosed as negative are set free and the suspects are under observation. Fr. Dharmasheel Kujur, SJ is suffering from sciatica and he was taken to Debuka Nursing Home, Ranchi for check-up. Now he is taking precaution and recovering in the community.

In the last week of November 2020, all the community members were sick and suffering from cold and cough. At the advice of Dr. Sr. Eiline Kujur, OSU and Dr. Sr. Pushpa Kujur, OSU all the members and inmates had the corona test at home itself. Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ, Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ and Mrs. Swati Priyanka Toppo the house cook were suspected with corona positive. They were sent to the hospital for further medical verification. All three were confirmed with a positive result. Immediately on December 2, 2020, Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ and Mrs. Swati Priyanka Toppo were admitted in the Constant Lievens Hospital and Research Centre, Mandar, for the better treatment and Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ was home quarantined on the same day. Later Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ was also suspected with corona positive but he was suffering from typhoid and other complications. He too was admitted in the Mandar hospital on December 10, 2020. After good treatment and medical care, all got discharged from the hospital on December 14, 2020.

Now all the community members are enjoying good health. After receiving the letters from Rev. Fr. Provincial regarding Christmas Celebration and Province Jubilee Celebration, the community had its community meeting on December 16, 2020. On December 18, 2020, the community celebrated the birthday of Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ. It was exclusively a community celebration. In the morning the community had a thanksgiving birthday Eucharistic celebration and in the evening during adoration also the community members prayed for Fr. Ignatius.

For the Christmas Vigil Mass celebration, Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ and Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ went to Thakuraindera village and on the following day they had the Christmas morning Mass at Devdhariaya village in the jungle. Fr. Ranjit Lakra, SJ and Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ were invited by the Ursuline High School Sisters of Lohardaga for the Vigil Mass and concelebrate with Fr. Justine Tirkey, SJ who presided over the holy Mass.

The community had only morning Christmas holy Mass. Thanks for your prayers. Now we are keeping fine. We wish you all A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2021!

Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ

VIJAYGIRI COMMUNITY

The month of November was a busy month for each one of us. We remembered all the departed souls on 2nd November. The Holy Eucharist was organized in the parish, thereafter graves were blessed in different villages though due to Corona pandemic very few faithful attended the Holy Eucharist.

Vijaygiri is well known for malaria zone. Every year the community members suffer from it. Fr. Raju and co-workers suffered nearly two weeks from malaria. Now malaria is gone and Fr. Raju is back to his normal life in the field.

The celebration of Christ the King celebrated in a simple way. The Holy Eucharist began with the solemn procession inside the church. A good number of faithful attended the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Raju was the main celebrant on the occasion. On the same day the Highway zone community moved together to Gumla for golden jubilee celebration of Fr. Nicolas Tete, s.j. We thank Xavier community Bundu for availing school van for us. We enjoyed our trip thoroughly.

The feast of St. John Berchmans was another occasion for Highway zone (Bundu, Dorea and Vijaygiri) to strengthen our bond of love. All the three Communities gathered together at Dorea on 26th November. We wished and prayed for the High School Staff and the members of the community there. After a good meal we dispersed for our destinations.

Fr. Christopher R. Toppa, SJ

ST. MARY'S SAMTOLI

The month of December was a month of online examinations for our schools. On the one hand, online exam was a challenging task for teachers because they had no face-to-face interaction with the students but on the other hand, it was rewarding because they learnt new ways of teaching and conducting exams for pupils.

Long awaited final examinations of the Semester VI students were conducted by the Ranchi University, Ranchi, in the month of November 2020 and the result was published quickly. The second batch of St. Xavier's College, Simdega graduated this year. This batch was the first batch in the 'Choice Based Credit System' of the university. In the Semester VI all students passed with good marks but the result is only 82%, not 100%. The reason is that the result of sixty six students are

pending because they had either failed earlier in some semester exams or were absent from exams. Congratulations to the staff and the students for their commendable combined effort.

The feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of India and our St. Xavier's College, Simdega was simple but spiritual. Following the norms of Covid-19, the staff and a few religious students came together, to draw inspiration and strength from the life of St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Erenius Toppo, Fr. Bruno Toppo and Fr. Anup Arvind Ekka arranged a meaningful prayer session. Fr. Linus Dungdung, the Rector and all Jesuit staff highlighted the life and works of St. Francis Xavier in their short messages. In the evening, all Jesuits of Simdega zone came together for an agape meal.

As winter became stronger, Frs. Fredrick Kujur, Florence Guria, Linus Dungdung and Br. Basil Tirkey suffered from poor health. Frs. Fredrick Kujur and Florence Guria were treated in St. Martha Dispensary, Samtoli. Br. Basil Tirkey was admitted in Seva Nilaya Hospital Ara Gate, Ranchi on 5 December, 2020. On 7 December, 2020, he had a Cardiac arrest while he was undergoing medical checkup. On 8 December, 2020 funeral Mass was celebrated in our School Chapel. Fr. Raymond Kerketta, the Socius to the Provincial was the main celebrant. Fr. Ajit Saras preached the homily and Fr. Bruno Toppo administered the funeral ceremony at the grave.

Fr. Linus Dungdung was losing his appetite and becoming weaker gradually. On 11th December, 2020 Fr. Linus Dungdung was taken to St. Anne's Hospital and Research Centre, Ulhatu. Sr. Fulrida Dungdung OSU and Mr. Jayant Topno accompanied him. After he was tested Corona positive, he was shifted to Medica Hospital, Ranchi on 16th December, 2020 for better medical treatment.

On 22 December, 2020, the community had recollection and confession in order to have spiritual preparation for Christmas. Fr. Anup Ekka gave us inspiring recollection talk. Due to untimely demise of Br. Basil Tirkey and critical illness of Fr. Linus Dungdung, our Christmas celebration was simple. On the occasion of school's Christmas gathering Fr. Fredrick Kujur launched the website of St. Mary's High School, Samtoli.

Together with us many people prayed tirelessly for the recovery of Fr. Linus Dungdung but God had a different plan for him. On 29th December, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. he left us for his heavenly abode. He was buried at ATC, Namkum, the same day at 2:30 P.M.

Both Br. Basil Tirkey and Fr. Linus Dungdung will be in our sweet memories forever. Both of them were batch mates and both joined heavenly abode in the same year and the same month. St. Mary's family is

grateful to Fr. Provincial, Fr. Socius and all members of Sadbhavna Community and Br. Telesphore Horo for providing good medical facilities to Fr. Linus Dungdung and Br. Basil Tirkey and looking after them so well.

Fr. Bruno Toppo, SJ

NORTH INDIA MISSION

ST. XAVIER'S MAHWA, RAJASTHAN

School: On December 3, on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, we had small prayer service followed by Festive Lunch with a few teaching staff and all the Supporting Staff. From December 14 to 17 online exams were held. Surprising, the examiners were more than the examinees! On December 23, we had a small Christmas celebration with the supporting and non-teaching staff. Despite the fact of the pandemic, our office staff has been regular at their duties.

Community: On December 19, Scholastics Sasi and Ruben joined the Nevta community for a day of Recollection in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. On December 19, Scholastic Sasi left for Tiruchirappalli to attend to some urgent works in the college. Fr. Jugal wanted to have a short break at Almora and left the house on December 19. But on December 20, morning he received the sad news of the demise of his beloved mother. He could not get any ticket to travel on that day so on the next day, on December 21 he flew to his destination and reached on time for the Requiem Mass and burial.

Thanks to Fr. Jose for decorating the house and the school building to make us feel that we were in the time of the festive season. Like that of last year, this year too we went to our parish (Dausa) for Christmas celebrations. We helped at the services (Vigil and morning on December 25). After the morning Mass and breakfast we left for Jaipur for the Christmas bash.

Fr. Dominic from Jaipur was with us for a few days visiting with some villagers from his hometown and some places. He had been travelling all around on his motor bike. Remarkable, sir! Thank you for being with us!

In spite of the epidemic, we have had a number of Jesuit and non-Jesuit visitors.

Sch. Ruben Kalxa, SJ

SOUTH INDIA MISSION

SANJEEVAN NIWAS, LOYOLA COLLEGE, VIJAYWADA

The month of December began with the first mid-term examination for all the first year UG students including three of our Ranchi Scholastics. It was

from 2nd of December to 5th of December. On 3rd of December Sch. Anil and Sch. Noel along with the Andhra Scholastics went to Loyola Public School to celebrate the feast day of St Francis Xavier in Guntur. On this day the newly extended building for the primary section of Loyola Public School was inaugurated by some distinguished alumni and political leaders

On 10th of December, we had a community meeting and the official welcome of the first-year Scholastics especially from the northern zone provinces in Sanjeevan Niwas. We are forty-seven Scholastics from the different provinces in our community.

We had a recollection on 12th of December to keep up the Christmas spirit and right attitude to study hard and excel in our studies. From 21st -23rd December, 3rd years had their 2nd mid -term examination. Schs. Anil and Noel got admitted into the engineering college after much waiting to get their equivalent certificates from the Andhra Pradesh Board of intermediate Education.

Our Christmas celebration was indeed an unforgettable one because we went to a Marian Shrine in Gunadala (2kms from Sanjeevan). After Christmas from 27th-29th we had a triduum in the community given by Fr. Leo Bhaskaran S.J. His talks were very inspiring leading us into the hope-filled academic year in spite of pandemic covid-19.

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a grace - filled New Year 2021.

Sch. Noel Ekka, SJ

ASSAM MISSION JESUIT BHAVAN & GANA CHETNA SAMAJ, TEZPUR

Visitors: Mr. Stephen Lakra, Director of Pajhra (NGO) came on December 01, 2020 and stayed with us to complete his office work. Family members of Sr. Prabha OSU and Anita Tirkey OSU visited our community. They had come for their Final vows from Rengarih and Salgaponsh, Jharkhand respectively. Fr. Thomas took care of them very well. Bishop emeritus Gabriel Kujur SJ from Bana and Fr. Laurence from Thrizino, Arunachal came on December 10, 2020 and stayed overnight and on the following day left for their destination. Fr. Praveen SJ from Palizi, Arunachal came in December and had his night halt here and left for his place on the following morning.

Blessing of new grotto and installation of Mother Mary's Statue: Fr. Pius, Fr. Cyril Fr. Thomas from Jesuit Bhavan and Fr. Elvius, Parish Priest of Balipara took part in blessing ceremony of a new grotto and installation of Mother Mary's statue at the courtyard of Miss Merina Kerketta's house, our cook at new Adabari Tea Estate. At the outset, Fr. Pius blessed the grotto and statue of Mother Mary and it was placed in grotto.

It was followed by Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Pius attended by a sizeable number of faithful. Soon after this there was a short felicitation followed by meal.

Final Vows cum Jubilee celebration: All three of us from Jesuit Bhavan took part in the Final Vows cum Golden Jubilee celebration held on December 08, 2020 at Ursuline Provincialate, Gotlong, Tezpur. Eight Ursuline Sisters took their final vows and Sr. Lucienne OSU, former Provincial celebrated her Golden Jubilee. Celebration started with Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD, Tezpur with a sizeable number of Priests, Brothers, Sisters and faithful. Due to Corona virus situation and "Bharat Band" number of participants was small. Soon after the Holy Mass, there was a short felicitation programme and cutting of the cakes. Sufficient time was given for the participants to wish the Sisters with final Vows and the Golden Jubilarian. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner to the taste of very body. On December 12, 2020, Fr. Pius and Fr. Thomas went to Ursuline Convent, Gohpur to take part in the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Claudia Xess OSU. Jubilee celebration started with Holy Mass presided over by Fr. John Bosco Dhanwar, Parish Priest of Gohpur followed by a short felicitation. Celebration culmination in sumptuous dinner.

Burial: A burial Mass for Sr. Philomena Dahanga MSMHC (90 yrs), a relative of late Francis Dahanga SJ, Ranchi Province was held on December 09, 2020 at Jyoti Bhavan, Tezpur. Rev. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD, Tezpur presided over the Mass. Soon after the Mass a sufficient time was devoted for condolence messages. She was fondly remembered as a great missionary and exemplary religious. Last rite was officiated by Rev. Bishop and her mortal remains were laid to rest in the campus cemetery. Three Jesuits in the persons of Fr. Xavier, Pius and Fr. Cyril took part in the burial Mass and last rite. All the participants were served meal by the Jyoti Bhavan community.

Monthly recollection: Monthly recollection for the Priests and Brothers working in Tezpur Diocese was held on December 14, 2020 in the evening at Bishop's House, Tezpur. Despite ill health, Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD, Tezpur gave a talk. In his talk he stressed upon the consecrated life of the Priests and Brothers and invited all to prepare themselves to welcome the savior through spiritual means and activities. He, too, mentioned about the "Year of St. Joseph" as announced by Pope Francis for the coming year. He highlighted in nutshell the virtues of this saint and the need of emulating them by every devotee. Talk was followed by personal confession and concluded with the adoration of the Eucharistic Lord. Supper was served by Bishop's house to all the participants. This recollection was an event of blessings for each one of us.

Recollection for the would-be couples: On December 20, 2020, Fr. Pius gave one day recollection to the would-be couples whose number was 47 at

Pastoral centre, Tezpur. The theme of the recollection was "Relationship". In his talk he emphasized the need of building up relationship with God, human beings specially with life partner and with the nature for a balanced human life. It was followed by confession and adoration of the Eucharistic Lord.

Pre-Christmas gathering: Pre-Christmas gathering was held on December 19, 2020 for the staff members of Jesuit Bhavan and Gana Chetana Samaj. Celebration started with holy Mass presided over by Fr. Pius Xalxo who emphasized on the aspect of sharing and caring for the poor and marginalized. It was followed by Christmas carol, cutting of the cake, distribution of the token of Christmas gifts and fellowship meal. Celebration was short and meaningful.

Home visit: Fr. Thomas left for home visit on December 22, 2020 while Fr. Pius on December 26, 2020. Fr. Pius attended a requiem Mass arranged for his relative, namely, Mr. Vijay Xalxo at Gumla, and marriage blessing on December 28, 2020 at Kereng Parish. He will also attend an ordination ceremony scheduled for January 05, 2021 at Kereng which is his home Parish.

Christmas celebration: Due to pandemic situation, Bishop's House, Tezpur assigned the Priests to offer holy Mass in different communities and institutions in and around Tezpur for December 24 & 25, 2020. Fr. Pius offered holy Mass at Jyoti Bhavan on December 24 and at CMC on December 25 while Fr. Cyril at St. Mary's Convent, Teenmile and at Ursuline Provincialate, Gotlong on respective dates. On the Christmas day, we had our dinner at noontime with the workers staying during the Christmas holidays. Prior to dinner a Christmas song was sung and a cake was cut. We all enjoyed the dinner which was collectively prepared by all. Celebration was simple but meaningful.

Looking after the house: With the home visit of Fr. Thomas and Fr. Pius, Fr. Cyril was left alone in the community. He looked after the house very well and with no unwanted incident. Thanks and congratulations to Fr. Cyril for taking care of the house and offering Holy Masses in different convents and attending to the other spiritual needs of the religious.

Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ

JESUIT COMMUNITY, BALIPARA

During this Covid-19 period Frs. Elvius, Suresh, Sch. Kanchan and myself, we all have been quite safe and healthy. People in general were scared of Corona, and they strictly followed the government's guide lines. The faithful who could not get sacraments like confession, Holy Mass and Holy Communion were longing for them. As it's relaxing a bit, with the help of St. Xavier's College community members we are fulfilling the inner desires of the people by offering Masses in their

centres and grave yards in the morning and evening under the leadership of Fr. Elvius our P.P.

Fr. Suresh, Principal St. John's was missing the children very much because the school campus was noiseless for nearly seven months. But the government allowed IX and X classes to reopen from 18th October onwards. In order to be safe and have classes as well, the parents, students and staff came together for a concrete action plan. Students of IX and X come on alternative days and have their classes under the open shade. Recently the students of class VI to VIII are coming on alternative days. Due to Corona there was zero fee collection but slowly the situation is improving. Lest the children forget that they are students, small written tests are given to them. LKG to V write their test papers at home while classes VI and X write in the school.

Covid-19 gave us the opportunity to do some concrete works. Under the initiative of Fr. Elvius the "Parish Pastoral Council" was formed on 4th October. Twenty two pairs of couples were instructed and their marriage was rectified on 11th October. Fr. Suresh began his on-line M.Ed. exam on 14th October. Fr. Benedict went to Solabasti for the recollection, confession and Mass for FMA sisters who came over there from five different Communities. Sr. Veronica Murmu, HC (Vice Principal) went for her annual retreat. Sch. Kanchan Minj also took an opportunity to learn and do the official matters. Mahogany, Teak and Tambul plants were planted around the playground and in the campus to make more eco-friendly. School playground has been ploughed and leveled so that when the government fully allows our children can roll in it.

Fr. Benedict Lakra, SJ

FOREIGN MISSION

OCER CAMPION JESUIT COLLEGE, GULU, UGANDA (AFRICA)

The Eastern Africa Province is now being led by the new provincial Fr. Kizito Kiyimba S.J. The handing over ceremony was on 3rd of December. There is much hope and expectation from the new leadership in the province. The New Provincial chose to visit our community first than any other. His visitation was from 29th of December to 2nd of January. The community in Gulu is experiencing challenges since the last few months because of allegation on one of our Jesuit brother. The provincial is handling the case. We pray to God that this case be solved as soon as possible. Every year during Christmas season, community members are encouraged to move out of the work place and relax for few weeks. Therefore Sch. Johny decided to visit Nairobi, Kenya. He stayed in Loyola house, the province Curia and visited different Jesuit houses and apostolates around Nairobi. He was very

glad to meet Bro. Vincent Soreng SJ and other Indian Jesuit Missionaries in East Africa. Fr. Joe Rodrigues and the rest of the community members remained in the house and celebrated Christmas. They went to a restaurant for Christmas party. However, Fr. Pascal and Bro. Kanali went for home visit after the visitation of Provincial.

In Uganda the schools were opened since October, only for the candidate classes (7th, 10th & 12th class). The School management had to make sure that every student was wearing mask, sanitizing hands and maintaining social distance. We thank God, no one in the school campus was affected by Covid-19. The second term ended on 18th December. Since the school is receiving new headmaster, Fr. Meyo Stephen, the farewell program for the outgoing headmaster, Fr. John Chachu was organised on 18th December evening. There were few performances to mark the occasion. Of all the performances, Jerusalem dance performed by the staff members was fantastic. The construction of Girls Dormitory and Science lab is going on smoothly. These constructions of two buildings seem to be the last major projects of the School.

Sch. Johnny Dzungdung SJ.

PARIS, FRANCE

Nous vous souhaitons un joyeux Noël et une belle fête de la Nativité et à l'avance bonne et prospère nouvelle année 2021.

We began the month of December and the advent season as the days of giving thanks and sharing love with one another by the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration. On the 29th November a special prayer service was organized in each of our community in France. Everyone came up with different new ideas and creativity in order to have a meaningful month and to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus in our hearts. This was made compulsory that on Friday we will have special prayer services for the preparation of Christmas. Sch. Peter Horo began his regular French language classes in EFI (Ecole prive de Francais pour international). On 5th of December, we welcomed Sch. Sanjay Marandi, the Scholastics of Patna province in our community. The Minister, Fr. Romain and myself had gone to welcome and receive him at the Airport. On 6th of December, we the scholastics of Ranchi province studying in France Deacon Subodh Lakra, Sch. Peter Paul Horo and Sch. Sudhir Lakra had gone for our faith Sharing. It was a walking and sharing our experiences. We walked around 7-8 Km distances. It was a very different, enriching and very open sharing. On 12th of December, we bade farewell to Deacon Subodh Lakra. He has successfully completed his long stay in France. We had farewell program in the evening. In the sharing he is known as the Marathon Man of the community.

We had two days (12-13th December) as the Community Recollection and Prayer Service. The theme of this sharing was "The cases of Sexual abuses and physical harassment in the church" and "Mission and Identity of the Society and its Institute." In the beginning we saw some video clips from the past and present which made us aware about the concept and situation. After that we had very open and frank sharing, which made us aware about our conditions and circumstances in the present world. This helped us to know my life better in the Society and in the community. It has also deepened and shaped the rest of our vocation. On 13th December evening, we had the Indian gathering which was organized by the senior brothers. Through this we came to know one another and were inspired to share a common sense of identity and belongingness to the society.

On 14th of December Fr. Romain and myself reached deacon Subodh Lakra to the Airport and bade him farewell. It was quite a surprising news that on 17th of December the president of France Emmanuel Macron was diagnosed COVID Positive. On 18th December we had the Christmas Gathering in Centre Sévres. 19th of December we the Indian Jesuits who are studying in Paris gathered together at Bois de Boulogne park for the welcome of newcomers and planning for the forthcoming program. On 22nd of December we 21 Indian Jesuits from different Provinces of India celebrated Christmas gathering Online on ZOOM Platform. This gave us a beautiful experience and feelings of celebrating Christmas in a different and special way. 24th December evening we celebrated the community Christmas gathering with varieties of programs from different cultures and different way of celebrating it. 25th December was celebrated in a quite unique and different way because of Pandemic. But we were free to participate in common gathering and celebration. We have our Christmas and new year holidays from 18th December to 4th of January. During our holidays we are going to different places to visit of our community member's houses. This time it is decided that we go to our community of fathers and brothers who are from France. Peter is going to Savoie with sch. Jonathan Dolidon S.J house along with four other scholastics. This is part of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region of South-eastern France. They will be back to the community on 2nd of January. Myself and others are going to two houses of the fathers, Auray, Lorient, Morbihan and Bretagne region of North-Western France. We are five in our group, two fathers and three scholastics. We will be back to the community on 3rd of January. Our regular classes will commence in the new year on 4th January 2021.

Joyeux Noël et Très bonne et heureuse nouvelle année 2021 !

Sch. Sudhir Lakra, SJ

ROME, ITALY

Collegio del Gesù : Amidst online classes and travel restrictions, Gesù Community came up with innovative activities to strengthen the community spirit. The final year Scholastics concluded their ongoing Ad Audiendas course with the final exams conducted by two Professors. All 12 Scholastics were carefully examined and promoted for the future administration of the Sacrament of Penance. A remarkable event for those who are preparing themselves for the Diaconate and eventual Priestly Ordinations! On 8 December, Kuldeep invited his Province men to Collegio del Gesù to celebrate his first birthday in Rome. Friday 18 December was the last day of the regular classes before the Christmas vacation. On the same day, the whole Gesù community went to Rocca di Papa, situated on the hilly periphery of Rome, for a three-day Retreat as part of the Christmas preparations. The Retreat was guided by Juan Bytton SJ, a Biblical scholar. Having prepared itself spiritually and interiorly, the community came back to Rome on 20 December and immediately started the exterior preparations for the Christmas.

On 21 December, the entire community collaborated in general house cleaning and Christmas decorations. All the common places and corridors were decorated beautifully and artistically with lights, decorative materials and Christmas trees. An artistic Crib was constructed and placed in the refectory. The whole setup and decorations in different parts of the House entirely transformed the atmosphere of the community into joyous Christmas spirit. On 23 December, Edward Fassett, the outgoing Minister, was accorded a moving farewell. At noon, a solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Edward. He beautifully integrated his rich experiences in the community with the Readings of the day, which was highly enriching and inspiring. After the Holy Mass, the community enjoyed the sumptuous meal prepared by Edward himself. He left the community on 26 December to take up his new mission in California. Everyone was profusely indebted to him for his exemplary services in building and nurturing the community spirit.

The Christmas was celebrated in a unique and sombre manner amidst Lockdown. As the precautionary measures, a complete Lockdown was imposed on the entire country from 24 to 27 December. Therefore, all Christmas celebrations were limited within the House. On Christmas Eve, the Community gathered in the House Chapel for a special evening prayer, which was followed by the Christmas Vigil Mass. The Christmas Day began with a solemn Holy Mass in the morning in Gesù Church. All the Scholastics collaborated in preparing variety of international food items for the Christmas Dinner. The South Asian Scholastics prepared Chapaati and Chicken curry. The dinner was

followed by the cultural extravaganza. The Scholastics and the Staff members mesmerised everyone with their talents and creativities ideas. The South Asian Scholastics presented a fusion dance with a mixture of Sadri, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu songs. The joyous and festive Christmas evening ended in a happy note with the exchange of gifts with their Christmas friends. For the New Year, the country will be again under Lockdown until 3 January, which has also helped the Scholastics to enter into their study mode and to prepare themselves for the upcoming exams.

Collegio San Roberto Bellarmino: With the start of Advent Season, Collegio Bellarmino, the community of Deepak and Kulwant began its internal and external preparation for Christmas. There was a recollection for the Community from 27 to 29 November. The theme of the recollection was: The Importance of Christmas for the Jesuits of today. Enough time was allotted for personal prayer and for the group sharing. The recollection ended with the Holy Mass in which the community members renewed their Vows. The House Chapel, the Aula of the community and the Refectory were decorated already during the second week of Advent. On 24 December, there was a Christmas Vigil Mass at 18:30 presided over by Jean Piere Sonnet. After the supper, there was community Christmas Celebration with some cultural representations from different countries. On behalf of South Asia Assisntancy, Ravi Dusi (AND) sang a classical Christmas carol which was well appreciated by all. The Christmas celebration concluded with the exchange of gifts.

Gregorian University: Due to Covid-19, the off and on Lockdowns have helped Linus to focus on research, which he is enjoying. He is busy preparing a new course on "Proclaiming Christ through Liturgy" as a new evangelization approach. The pandemic has also helped him live in a community with regular prayers and meals, like a monastery. The joint initiatives to watch films and meet for gatherings have kept him alive without boredom. Now he is waiting for classes to resume and give lectures online, until further notice comes for regular routine.

In crucial period of Covid-19, the Faculty of Theology had organized an inter-Departmental course on the theme Theology and Covid-19 Challenges: Dialogue with Science. One Professor from all five Departments presented a Paper on a pertinent question proper to his/her area in the light of the challenges posed by Covid-19 – Questions on God (Department of Biblical Theology); Questions on Time (Department of Patristic Theology); Questions on Human Beings (Department of Fundamental Theology); Question on the Church (Department of Dogmatic Theology); and Questions on Life (Department of Moral Theology). The final paper Questions on Life was presented by Prem,

who integrated the value of all forms of life as God's precious gifts with some of the intriguing questions in terms of changing human relationships amidst social distancing and dominant technocratic paradigm. The newly arrived Theology students from Ranchi – Kuldeep Linda, Sandeep Bage, Shanti Samad OSU and Prabha Topno OSU – are under the guidance of Prem along with the other students for Introduction to Theology. Despite the initial language barrier, all four of them have started their theological journey of three years on a highly positive note. Their seriousness and dedication will definitely yield rich dividends.

Abiding by the Government Norms to put Covid-19 under control, Gregorian University closed its doors for the entire month of December. The Library was kept open for a restricted number of the research students. Now, it is highly probable that the classes after the Christmas vacation will resume from 7 January in modality online. Most probably, even the First Semester exams will be held online. However, all have high hopes to be physically present for the Second Semester classes, which begin from mid-February; and an Italian proverb rightly says, "Hope never dies"!!

Fr. Prem Kalxa, SJ

ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA SAGARMATHA, NEPAL

First and for most, Arrupe Niwas wishes every one of you a grace filled and prosperous New Year 2021.

During the holy season of Advent, the community spent time together preparing adequately for Christmas. On December 20, there was a full day Recollection on the theme 'MARANATHA' in which the Jhapa Jesuits and their religious collaborators participated. The catholic households around us and the youth among them also showed spiritual eagerness and prepared themselves for Christmas. With the guidance of the scholastics and help received from Mr Sajan Gurung, our teacher, the youth went for Christmas carol for three days, sharing the message of Christmas to all the faithful in Deonia. The occasion of carol brought all the youth and krusbir members together. They also came together to make a lovely crib this time, thanks to Mr. Sajan Gurung. On December 12 and 19, there were Holy Adoration and Sacrament of Recollection for the faithful of Bhuttabari and Deonia. Sch. Gorak joined with Frs. Arul Selvam S.J. and Boniface Tigga S.J. at the prayer service in Bhuttabari.

Due to Covid-19, the Christmas Masses were celebrated in various mission stations. Fr Daniel Bara offered the Christmas Vigil Mass in Deonia and Frs. Arul Selvam and Boniface Tigga offered Holy Masses in Bhuttabari on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day the Holy Mass in Deonia was offered by Fr. Jomon along with Fr. Daniel while Frs. Arul and Boniface went to

Telgani, Dhulabari, Satigatta and Tokla for Holy Mass for the faithful. Fr. Jomon stayed with us for a week while working on his data collection for his doctoral thesis.

The community commemorated the feast of St Francis Xavier at the school with a short function with the Sisters, the office staff and other collaborators. Fr Arul beautifully presented St. Francis' life in gist and drew lessons from St. Francis' life for our own daily living. After the program a delicious agape was served for everybody.

On 6 December, Fr Amrit Rai returned from India after finishing his first round of viva as part of his Ph. D. thesis; he stayed with us for a few days. His stay made the community happy and brought more cordial ties with some parents of the school whom the community visited along with Fr. Amrit. From December 14 to 21, Fr Vijay Toppo made his retreat here as a part of the preparation of his Final Vows, under the guidance of Fr Arul Selvam. Fr Boniface also directed an eight day retreat to NJSI Fathers who stayed in Mahespur community.

On December 2, 2020 the First Terminal Examinations for classes I to X started online. At the same time, the students of class XI also began writing their Board Examinations in the school itself. Both the school level online examinations and Higher Secondary level examinations were over on December 10, 2020. The regular online classes continued till December 17, 2020 and on December 18, 2020 the results of First Terminal Examinations of classes I to X were given to parents at the school. After the result, the school declared winter holidays till January 2, 2021.

Under the guidance of Fr Boniface Tigga, a three-day campaign against the use of plastic bags was conducted in our neighbourhood from December 26 to 28. The campaign had its slogan 'Aja Bata Plastic Bahiskar Garaon' (Stop using polybag from today). The chairman of Birtamode 8 was invited for the inaugural function and the distribution of cloth bags along with a few sanitizer items for each family. Kudos to Fr Boniface, the local leaders, the LTS student volunteers and the teachers who made the campaign a great success.

Sch. Wilson Kandulua, SJ

GUYANA

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ made his annual retreat in Britto Hall Jesuit Community Port Mourant, Berbice under the guidance of Fr. Ramesh Vanan, SJ from 27th Nov. to 4th Dec. Thank you Fr. Peter Mclsaac, SJ, the Regional Superior of Guyana-Jamaica for giving me the points for my retreat. Life is the most precious gift from God. Fr. Elias Surin celebrated his birthday on 1st Dec with Fr. Ramesh Vanan, SJ and his students of Guyana Human Development Centre Berbice.

The team of the interior mission- Fr. Ronald Fernandes, Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, Fr. Paulose Vellacada, Fr. Edwin Anthony and Fr. Elias Surin had a virtual sharing on the apostolic discernment on 17th Dec. It was very helpful to find the will of God in our apostolates. From 16-24 Dec. we had our Novena Prayers on the theme, 'Querida Amazonia' (Beloved Amazon), the apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis in the Diocese of Georgetown. The Christmas was celebrated with full of joy and peace all over the country.

Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage went to St. Teresa Catholic Church Karasabai for Christmas and New Year. Our Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk- Sr. Sosan Anima Kujur, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, Sr. Helena Soreng and Sr. Nishi Susana Kujur, meticulously planned out to visit all their six village communities during the Advent and Christmas season.

In St. Joseph's Catholic Church Kurukabaru, North Pakaraimas, the Christmas celebration was grand with the wedding of two couples and baptism of 18 children. The church was packed to its capacity. Fr. Elias Surin, the parish priest presided over the Solemn Christmas Holy Eucharist. In his homily he emphasized that Christmas is a feast of light, feast of love, feast of joy, feast of peace, feast of hope and feast of Emmanuel-God with us.

His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB in his Christmas message said, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation (Mk 16:15). We would become super spreaders, not merely engaging in a way to keep safe but reaching out, even at risk, to ensure that every person would celebrate a fullness of life through Gospel, living in right relationship with God, with one another, with the whole of creation and living lives filled with compassion and forgiveness, trust and encouragement, in service and collaboration'.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

AMMAN (JORDAN)

December 1 was the meeting of all NGOs in Jordan with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It's their 30th year of service to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement, asylum seekers, etc. It's a massive work. Due to Covid-19 precautionary measures it was held via zoom. It was my first official meeting to come to know about the number of refugees and the various challenges.

At our Jesuit Centre, the chapel is dedicated to St. Francis Xavier. It is celebrated with vigor inviting all the denominations, religious, faithful and refugees. This year the Covid-19 situation didn't permit us to have a big gathering. Instead, we invited five religious convents, priests and Brothers who are our neighbors

in Jabal Hussein area for Holy Mass followed by a fellowship meal. It was their first coming together with Jesuits introducing their work and mission. This refreshed each other's life and were very grateful to the Jesuits.

There used to be special Christmas celebrations with the refugees. Again this was not possible in 2020. There are various groups. The Jesuit community decided to make a good Christmas packet with gifts, home - made good cookies, cakes etc. One hundred and forty packets were prepared by four of us Jesuits as a token of LOVE on behalf of us. The group of twenty was invited at one time and a Christmas message was given. Everyone was invited to share about their association with Jesuit Center and the year 2020. It was touching to listen to them.

Every Friday is a complete 24 hrs. Lockdown here. 25th December and the New year happen to fall on Fridays. Christmas was celebrated during the day on 24th and on 26th due to the restrictions of numbers participating in the Holy Mass. On 28th we were out of Amman, more than 300 kms. for a Community outing. We were able to visit a desert called "Wadi Rum". It's a desert valley with refined sand and red granite rocks in southern Jordan. The other visited place is called Petra – the capital of Nabatean Empire in the 1st Century BC. It's a historic and archaeological city in southern Jordan. The city's structures were carved and cut out of red colored mountains. There are massive tombs, a theatre followed by roman annexation and later with the Byzantine influence some churches and monasteries. Petra is considered one of the present Seven Wonders of the World.

Fr. Bimal Kr. Kerketta, SJ

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT XIDAS

The 3rd December 2020 was a memorable day for Xavier Institute of Development Action and Studies (XIDAS), Jabalpur when the Management, Faculty, Staff, Students and the Alumni celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Institute on the Feast day of its Patron Saint Francis Xavier. It was late Fr. Michael Van den Bogaert, SJ of Ranchi Province who was the brain behind starting this unique Institution along with the Jesuits of Madhya Pradesh Province including the Bishop of Jabalpur, the academia, the NGOs as well as the Govt. functionaries. Known as the Management Guru and a pioneer in Development Action for 23 years at XISS and at CENDERET in XIM Bhubaneswar for approximately 10 years, Fr. Bogaert gave his best for Development Action and Management Education as the name XIDAS suggests, founding it on 3rd December 1995 at the Sneh Sadan apartments belonging to the Diocese of Jabalpur. The Institute was shifted to the present site at Tilhari on 3rd Dec.2002 at the inaugural function under the Directorship of Fr. Panka Toppo,

SJ and at the hands of the Chief Guest Col. Ajay Narayan Mushran, Finance Minister of M.P. along with Rt. Rev. Pascal Topno, SJ, Archbishop of Bhopal and His Excellency, the Ambassador of Belgium Mr. Guy Trouveroy and Mrs. Trouveroy including many other dignitaries

Sole Jesuit B-School in MP: In the last 25 years XIDAS has had a wide network of development intervention with the local, national and international NGOs, Govt. departments, industrial units under CSR and church bodies for the rural and the urban poor through watershed management, health and sanitation, entrepreneurship development programme and social activism for the project displaced people. The institute has also conducted dozens of short courses for the Church and the lay leaders as well as for the Panchayati Raj Institutions and development functionaries of the private and the public sector. Currently XIDAS has AICTE approved Post Graduate Diploma Programmes in Rural Management, Human Resource Management, Finance Management and Marketing Management.

The Silver Jubilee Inaugural Function: After the Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration on 3rd Dec. 2020 in the morning presided over by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Gerald Almeida, Bishop of Jabalpur and concelebrated by Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ Provincial, MP Jesuit Society and Fr. Alexius Ekka, SJ, Director XIDAS, along with other Religious and the devout congregation, the Silver Jubilee Function was inaugurated by Lt. Gen. (Dr) AK Misra, AVSM (Retd), Vice Chancellor Mangalayatan University, Jabalpur, the Chief Guest in the Institute's magnificent Loyola Auditorium at 11.00 a.m. In his inaugural speech Dr. Misra commended about the best education system and social development of Jesuits all over the world with discipline and character formation – thanks to St. Ignatius of Loyola a former soldier like himself who had tasted it in the army as Lt. General. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, the Provincial acclaimed the greatness of Fr. Bogaert for starting XIDAS in the centre of India at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh and Fr. Alexius Ekka, its Director expressed his gratitude towards all the former Directors, Members of the GB, Faculty, Staff, Students, the alumni and the national and international collaborators in actualizing the Institute's Vision & Mission "To Work for Fuller Human Life to the Losers of Development" in the 25 long years.

During the inaugural function three notable compendiums were released – The XIDAS Silver Jubilee Souvenir, The Annual Report 2019-2020 and the Institute's Manual of Policies. In the cultural programme the best item was the hymn to St. Francis Xavier sung by the XIDAS Choir comprising the Faculty and the Staff. The festive lunch ended the inaugural function of the Silver Jubilee. In the second half of the day the XIDAS Alumni organized a virtual get together with about 75 participants.

Silver Jubilee Webinar: The XIDAS Silver Jubilee Webinar was held on 4th December 2020 through Zoom and participated by the Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and the Associates of the Institute. Dr. Fr. P. Joseph Christie, SJ, Director XLRI, the Chief Guest of the occasion spoke of the urgent mandate of Pope Francis's Laudato Si, which fitted into the theme of the XIDAS Webinar "Sustainable Management Education and Development Action". Other prominent paper presenters were (1) Ms Manjaree Chowdhary, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Maruti Suzuki, India Ltd, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on "How Ethics and Moral Standards can be inculcated in B-School Students," (2) Fr. Paul Varghese Moojely, Executive Director, Caritas India, New Delhi on "Promoting Sustainable Development through Disaster Management," (3) Dr. Girish Agrawal, Researcher & Theorist in RBV Madhya Pradesh, on "Thrust of Management Education Today: Challenges and Prospects," (4) Dr. Chitra Venkataachalm, Counselor of Wellbing, LIBA, Chennai on "Mind Matters," (5) Mr. Pankaj Dhyani, NTPC on "Rehabilitation & Resettlement and Sustainable Development," (6) Mr. Alok John, XIDAS Alumnus and Asst. Professor Patna Women's College, on "Alumni Experience," (7) Mr. Hitendra Singh, XISS Alumnus and State Programme Coordinator – HRD and Social Development, JSLPS, Ranchi on "Reducing Vulnerability of Returnee Migrant Families," (8) Dr. Kalyan B. Saha, Scientist 'F' and Dr. Pradip V. Barde, Scientist 'E' National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, ICMR, Jabalpur, on "Safeguards of Pandemic in 2020" and (9) Dr. Uma C. Shaha, Dean Academics, XIDAS on "Impact of COVID -19 on Management Education."

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. Alexius Ekka, SJ: Along with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, XIDAS also celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Fr Alexius Ekka, SJ, Director of the Institute on 5th December 2020. In the Eucharistic Celebration in the morning presided over by him and concelebrated by Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ, Provincial of MP and Fr. Alexander Ekka, SJ, another Jubilarian, along with the XIDAS Faculty and Staff and invited guests, Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra, Superior of XIDAS read out the commendation letter of Fr. Ajit Xess, SJ, Provincial of Ranchi to Fr. Alexius Ekka. Similarly, Fr. Ranjit Tigga, read out his own letter of commendation to Fr. Alexius Ekka. During the day there was a felicitation programme for Fr. Alexius Ekka by the Faculty and Staff including a festive lunch for all.

Thus the jubilee celebrations at XIDAS in December 2020 brought happiness and togetherness in the Institute that was affected by the scourge of the pandemic covid - 19 bringing hope, confidence and new life in the coming year 2021.

Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ

GONE TO ETERNAL ABODE

1. Br. Basil Tirkey, SJ, (73/46) on 7 Dec 2020 in Ranchi
2. Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ, (69/47) on 29 Dec 2020 in Medica Hospital, Ranchi.
3. Fr Cyprian Andrade SJ (Guj 74/56) on 17 Dec 2020.

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- 03 Jojo Joachim
Xalxo Sagar
- 06 Minj Patras (Naud)
- 07 Ekka Philemon
Kujur Anselm
- 08 Kullu Elias
- 09 Lakra Amrit
- 10 Guria Benjamin
- 11 Kullu Clement
Toppo Rohit
- 12 Dungdung Mathias
- 13 Kindo Robert
- 15 Tirkey Sumit Samir
Toppo Alok
- 17 Bage Sandeep Birendra
Kiro Laurentus
- 19 Bilung Pingal
Kullu Rajesh K
- 20 Tete Ignatius (K)
- 21 Minj Ritesh Rohit
Nag Anil`
- 22 Kujur John Jyoti
Minj Nelson
- 24 Lakra Chonhas
- 25 Baxla Jyoti Paul
- 26 Kerketta Raymond
Tigga Tej Kumar
- 28 Lakra Nabor



- 29 Horo Telesphore
- 30 Dungdung Johny Savio
Ekka Manoj



FEBRUARY

- 02 Kerketta Rakesh
- 03 Tigga Blacius
- 04 Kacchap Johnson
- 05 Beck John Anuranjan
Kerketta Cherobin
Dhanwar S. Samir
Nazari Benojit
- 06 Ekka Anup Arvind
- 09 Kujur Ranjit
- 10 Kujur Robert Pradeep
- 11 Kujur Rohit Roshan
Minj Anuj
- 12 Kujur Ignatius
- 13 Dungdung Paulus
- 14 Kujur Johny
Kujur Ravi Hemant
- 15 Ekka Sameer
- 16 Toppo Deepak
Lakra Amit Juel
- 19 Xalxo Ruben
- 21 Tirkey Suresh John
- 22 Kerketta Bimal
Tigga Ashwin
- 23 Tete Isaac
Ekka Alok
- 24 Horo Emmanuel
Kerketta Edward
Kullu Pradeep
Kujur Amit
- 25 Lakra Subodh
- 27 Minj Kanchan
Soreng Sumit
- 29 Dungdung James W



A.M.D.G.