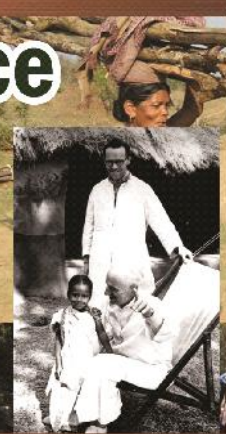


# Dumka - Raiganj Province



## Jesuit Bulletin

July 2020

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 509

### Fr Provincial's Message



Dear Friends, July is a special month for us Jesuits because of the coming feast of St Ignatius. Though we have decided to celebrate the feast of St Ignatius in a grand manner to let St Ignatius be widely known and be venerated, it is not possible this year due to the pandemic. Yet, we have to find means to keep this month as the month St Ignatius and promote devotion to him in ways that each community must discern and decide. I would like each community to have a day of recollection in the beginning of the month to discern ways to celebrate this month honouring our Founder.

After the community recollection, please share your reflections with the Province so that the whole Province knows what is being done in each community. Neighbouring community members could come together for some of the events in order to make it a Province affair. Let the Socius know about each community's plans so that he could inform the Province about it.

Let us celebrate our Founder's month with the faithful and people of good will in order to get more blessings through his intercession. Let us also pray through the intercession of St Ignatius for the world affected by this pandemic so that the world may get rid of it and people may be blessed with good health. **HAPPY FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS!**

### Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

Holy Father's Intention for July 2020: For Families: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

### Diaconate Ordination

We are delighted to share the joy of diaconate ordination of our companion Sch Shailen Minj SJ held on 20 June 2020 in St Ignatius Church, Paris, France. The 11 Deacons ordained here belonged to 11 different Provinces from different parts of the world. 4 of the 11 Deacons were from four Indian Provinces: one each from Dumka, Ranchi, Kohima, and Chennai. Others belonged to France, Egypt, United States, Congo, Autriche, Madagascar and Central Africa. The sanitary conditions which applied in the context of Covid-19 in the world this year marked this ordination as well. Following the strict health protection measures, the proceedings of the ordination and the Eucharistic celebration were meaningfully carried out. His Excellency, Rev. Philippe Marsset, the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris presided over the celebration. Under the sanitary instructions, each Deacon could invite a maximum of eight persons for the Eucharistic celebration and ten persons for the fellowship meal in their respective communities.



After the Eucharistic celebration the Deacons with their invitees continued their felicitation and fellowship meals in their respective communities. Deacon Shailen Minj, along with his three ordained

companions of his community, was joyfully felicitated by the community members, friends and invitees in the community of Saint Jean de Brébeuf. The members of the community composed a beautiful song with the words suited for the occasion. A Santali song by Schs Manoj Soren, Vinay Besra, Pradeep Albuquerque and Joseph Soren added more colour to the joyful atmosphere. (*Sch Joseph Soren SJ & Companions*).

### **First Vows**

Four of our Novices pronounced their First Vows on 21 June 2020. Novice David Kujur who completed his novitiate in Kolkata, and Novices Paulus Tala Marandi and Stephen Murmu who did their novitiate at Jamshedpur made their profession in Kolkata. Both along with other novice-companions from Jamshedpur novitiate got stuck in Kolkata where they had gone for their hospital experiment due to lockdown. Hence, they joined the Kolkata Novices for their retreat and final vows. Novice Vinod Tudu made his profession in Lucknow novitiate. Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes to the four of you as you prepare yourselves for your further Formation in the Society of Jesus!

### **Superiors' Meeting**

Superiors' Meeting was held on 11-12 June 2020 at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. Prior to the meeting, the local communities had conducted a general sharing based on Fr General's letter on "Care in the Governance of life-mission of the Society" but with a focus on "Openness at All Levels." A report of this meeting had been submitted to Fr Provincial. In the Superiors' meeting certain issues from this report were taken up for further discussion and sharing. The meeting began with a prayer after which each Superior presented a report on what is being done by his community in response to Covid-19 pandemic. After that Fr Provincial gave to the Superiors a collated report of the issues suggested by the local communities. The Superiors' group then spent 45 minutes in adoration, following which each one spent some time by himself praying, reading the collated report, sensing the challenges that emerged as a result and then prioritizing them one by one.

The next day, they came together for a group sharing on what went on within them as they were going through the list of challenges that the Province is

facing. The method that followed was spiritual conversation. After that the Superiors were divided into two groups to discuss and to suggest practical ways of meeting the challenges head on. The two groups, then, came together to present their reports for further clarification of the issues. The meeting concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided over by the Provincial, Fr Varghese Palli SJ.

### **Young Priests' Meet**

The threat of coronavirus has the whole world on pause. It is an uncertain and worrisome time for many, but it is also a good time to take to pray, pause, and reflect. Hence as many as fifteen of us, young priests, gathered together in Jisu Jaher on 30 June to spend a day in recollection, and prayer, indulging in spiritual conversations. Fr Provincial in his introductory talk, proposed for our prayer and reflection the following soul-searching questions – 1) What has religious priesthood meant to me during these years after my ordination? 2) How have I lived my priesthood in my life as a Jesuit? 3) What are the struggles I go through in being faithful to the call as a Jesuit priest? 4) How do I move ahead in spite of all the struggles and anxieties? 5) What do I have to share with my companions about my life and mission? All of us shared our joys and sorrows, ups and downs of our priestly life and mission. During the sharing at times we felt like laughing and smiling and at times we felt like crying for our companions. All of us expressed that it was a very personal, touching and inspiring spiritual conversation despite the clock ticking away. We, the fifteen young Jesuit *NAEKEKO*, also shared how we fruitfully spent our time during these lockdown days. Most of us shared how we were busy with the relief work and service to the migrant workers and the local poor people. The recollection ended with some concluding constructive remarks and encouraging words of blessings by Fr Provincial. The concelebration of the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr Vimal Shishir Kerketta SJ. (*Fr Ravindra Darshima SJ*).

### **Online Classes and Activities**

Amidst the crisis created by the Covid-19 Pandemic in each and every sector of life, one of the most badly affected areas has been the Academic life and learning. In the early stage of this unwelcome 'guest' the

academic factor had been almost completely forgotten or undervalued amidst the fervent attempts to save lives and choosing one's essentials for existence. As humans and humanity is trying to settle back to normalcy having accepted the impossibility of the pandemic's complete removal in the near future, the undeniable necessity for education as one of the most important components of daily life has struck as a matter to be addressed without fail. News and updates about online teaching are coming from all around the globe with maximum institutions being unable to implement it with complete success due to technical glitches. Amidst such attempts going on everywhere, St Xavier's College, Maharo, has accommodated the online teaching method with success from the very early phase of the lockdown since the end of March. At present, it is the only college of its affiliated university (SKMU, Dumka) to have online classes and activities whereas the rest of the colleges would be commencing their sessions from August. All the departments of St Xavier's are conducting classes on a regular basis using various online tools available on the internet and social media and offering note-scripts, audio-visual lectures and e-contents as well as simultaneously conducting assessments of students at regular intervals. Besides, the college has been encouraging national and international level webinars having organized several such events already. The departments of BCA, BBA and English have organized webinars with international delegates as speakers and participants whereas other departments have scheduled similar online events of academic enrichment for the days to come. The NSS (National Service Scheme) unit has been equally active during the lockdown and has organized all its scheduled programs online, International Yoga Day being the latest one. The college has also been very active in the University level events such as Hul Diwas where in the students participated enthusiastically in all the online competitions in large numbers. The faculty members have been very active and sincere in managing the online classes as well as in conducting co-curricular activities throughout this entire period where students have been displaying their very best cooperation, diligence and passion for learning. The Principal, Rev. Fr Stephen Raj SJ,

has been extremely dedicated and active in promoting, monitoring and guiding the entire process with his vision and experience and has stood firm as a mentor and parent for all in these times of academic uncertainty. Amidst various speculations and updates coming from the UGC and the University, the college is continuously planning for new and innovative ways to maintain and enrich the academic atmosphere for the days to come. (*Mr Himadhri*).

### **Covid-19 Awareness March**

The historical event 'Santal Hul' (Santal Rebellion 1855), paved the way for the Santal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876. Sidu Murmu, Kanhu Murmu along with 30000 people shed their blood during the Santal Hul. To celebrate this memorable event in a more meaningful way Gota Bharath Sidu-Kanhu Hul Baisi and Johar Human Resources Development Centre organized Covid-19 Awareness March from Dumka to Bhognadih, the birth place of Sidu-Kanhu.

The three-day Covid-19 Awareness March from Dumka to Bhognadih was flagged off by Smt Rajeshwari B., the Deputy Commissioner of Dumka, and Shri Amber Lakra, the Superintendent of Police of Dumka, on 28 June 2020 near Sidu-Kanhu Statue at Pokra Chowk, Dumka. The DC of Dumka, in her speech hailed the martyrdom of the great leaders Sidu-Kanhu and others during the Santal Rebellion 1855. She invited the people to protect their land and Nature, and be aware of the environmental conditions. Shri Amber Lakra, the SP of Dumka, praised the brave act of Sidu-Kanhu and others in bringing the S. P.T. Act, 1876.

For the Covid-19 Awareness March from Dumka to Bhognadih, 21 participants were given permission by the DC of Dumka. All of them including Fr Marianus Minj SJ and Fr Vernard Antony SJ actively participated in it all the 3 days. Masks were distributed, Sanitizers were used and social distancing was kept throughout the programme and the Awareness March.

The participants used various means to communicate the message of awareness. Posters carrying safety measures to be followed by the people during the Corona Days on Covid-19 and Jharkhand Government's three Schemes for the migrants were tied to the vehicles. Recorded audio messages along

with songs were played throughout the Awareness March. Leaflets on Jharkhand Governments' Schemes for the Migrants were distributed. The group paid homage to Sidu-Kanhu and Tilka Manjhi in different places during the Awareness March. The group also interacted with the people in different places. On reaching Barheit on 30<sup>th</sup> June, Fr Vernard Anthony and four other persons from the group were chosen to go to Bhognadih village, with the permission from the village and police authorities, to meet and to console the family of Mr Rameswar Murmu of happy memory who had died a few days earlier. (*Fr Vernard Antony SJ*).

### Reaching Out to the Needy

In the month of June, St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, continued to cater to the home returning migrant workers. Almost every day morning at 4:30 am



Fr J.L. Xavier SJ drove out of the School Campus with his team of teacher volunteers in search of the migrants on the roads. The food provisions that were distributed were the same, namely, sattu, beaten rice, onions, chilli, jaggery, biscuits, masks and water bottles. Often these migrants would try to avoid Fr Xavier & Co out of fear. The following are some of the important events during the distribution:

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June early in the morning our team discovered on the road a big group of migrants coming from Behrampur (Murshidabad, West Bengal) and heading towards Bhagalpur (Bihar) on foot. Fully exhausted, these poor shabby migrants were stopped by our team and were provided with food and water. Fr Xavier, with the help of the SDO of Sahibganj, made an arrangement to reach them up to Mirzachowki by bus.



2. The stranded people of Disneyland Mela were provided with rice, dal, potatoes and onions for the second time. Recently they left leave Sahibganj for their native places.

3. Gypsies living on railway platforms were also reached out by our Fr Xavier and Volunteers with food provisions. Recently their temporary shelters have been demolished by the railway authorities.

4. On 7<sup>th</sup> June our team, with Fr Xavier at the helm distributed food provisions to 45 glass factory workers who landed from Pondicherry.

It is to be noted that most of the distribution was done directly to the beneficiaries. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

### Felicitation at Johar

Johar Human Resources Development Centre and Gota Bharath Sidu-Kanhu Hul Baisi jointly welcomed and felicitated the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Sidu-Kanhu University, Dr Sonajharia Minz in Johar on 21 June 2020. She in her speech highlighted the need to make space personally in our work place.



This program was very successful as there were 27 participants from different walks of life such as doctors, professors, priests, teachers, social activists and

students who made their contribution through their active interaction with the new VC, Dr Minz. Fr Marianus Minj SJ, the Director of Johar HRD Centre, during his vote of thanks, briefed her about the various activities the Johar conducts.

The Delighted Dr Sonajharia Minz told Fr Vernard Anthony SJ after the programme: "Thank you Father. Much prayer is needed to cultivate a work culture based on God's Kingdom Values. Truth, Justice and Righteousness can only be established with humility and love. Kindly uphold me in your prayers." (*Fr Vernard Antony SJ*).

### **Left the Society**

**Sch Raphael Tigga** on 22.06.2020

### **Santali Video Song on Santal Hul**

On the occasion of the celebration of 165<sup>th</sup> year of Santal Hul (Santal Rebellion), Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Johar, Dumka, along with Kia Jharna Ari Chali Aakhra, Kukurtoppa, uploaded a Hul Santali Video Song 'Mayam Te Tol SantalPargana' (Santal Parganas made out of Blood) in the YouTube. Lyrics and Direction of this video song is done by Mr Manuel Soren, Videography and Video Editing Fr Vernard Antony SJ of Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Johar Campus, Near L.I.C., Dumka.

### **XCC Johar Video Production: ONLINE SUNDAY MASS IN SANTALI**

At this time of Covid-19 Lockdown, Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), Johar, Dumka, is serving the Spiritual needs of the faithful of Dumka Diocese by uploading in the YouTube online Sunday Masses in Santali. Since Easter-2020, XCC has uploaded 11 such Masses. Since the viewers for these Online Masses are increasing, X.C.C. will continue uploading these in the YouTube. I thank Fr Christopher Hembrom for coordinating these Online Masses and all the Priests who celebrated Sunday Masses with devotion helping the people of God to enter into communion with God through these Online Masses. (*Fr Vernard Antony SJ*).

### **Health Bulletin**

**Frs Michael Panimegam SJ and Benjamine Tigga SJ** were brought to AHCC, Kalidanga, Rampurhat, on 27 June and they will continue their physiotherapy

there. **Fr Sebastian Tudu SJ** feels much better as he continues his physiotherapy at AHCC, Kalidanga. **Fr E.V. Mathew SJ** is suffering from sciatica pain and is having physiotherapy at AHCC, Kalidanga. **Frs Thomas Kavala SJ, Samuel Marandi SJ, Dominic Marandi SJ** and **Peter Savari SJ** were admitted in St Luke's Hospital, Dakaita.

### **Rest in Peace!**

**Fr S.M. Xavier Irudayaraj SJ (MDU, 79/61)** on 16.06.2020 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul, Tamilnadu.

**Fr Marcus Murmu SJ (DUM, 63/38)** on 20.06.2020 in St Ursula Hospital, Dumka, Jharkhand.

**Mrs Jagrani Minj**, aged 59, Sister-in-Law of Fr Philomen Minj SJ, on 22.06.2020 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

**Fr Joseph L. Pragasam SJ (MDU, 83/64)** on 03.07.2020 at Saravana Hospital, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

**Fr Paul Jackson SJ (HAZ/PAT, 83/64)** on 05.07.2020 at Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna, Bihar.

**Mrs Jagrani Minj**, aged 59, Sister-in-Law of Fr Philomen Minj SJ, on 22.06.2020 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

### **Fr Marcus Murmu SJ (25.04.1957-20.06.202)**



Fr Marcus Murmu SJ, Parish Priest of Chilimpur Parish in Dumka Diocese since 2014 and Superior of the Chilimpur Jesuit Dispersed Community, was ailing and growing thinner for the last one year. At the end of December 2019, Fr Marcus proceeded to Kolkata for check-up. He was diagnosed with cancer and underwent chemo therapy which left him quite weak. While in Kolkata, Fr Marcus was in the loving care

of infirmarian Br Chintamani SJ in the infirmary of St Xavier's College of Kolkata. On 14<sup>th</sup> June, Fr Marcus was brought to Dumka and placed in St Ursula's Clinic for convalescence, where he was well taken care of. Two days later, his strength began to wane perceptibly. Fr Marcus breathed his last quietly at 12:45 pm on 20 June 2020.

Fr Marcus was born on 25 April 1957 in Lotberwa village of the then Dudhani Parish (now Jiajor Parish) in Dumka District of Santal Parganas. He was the last of six children, four boys and two girls. After completing his secondary schooling, Marcus joined the Santal Region of the Society of Jesus at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani on 4 July 1982. He graduated BA from Loyola College, Chennai, did his philosophical studies in DNC, Pune and his theological studies at Tarunoday, and Vidya Jyoti, Delhi. Fr Marcus was ordained priest in St Paul's Cathedral, Dudhani on 15 April 1997.

Fr Marcus loved very much his Santal brothers and sisters and he never tired of working for their integral uplift. Honest in character, committed, responsible and prayerful, he was open, available, and caring for those entrusted to his care. He was a good listener, kind hearted, detached and calm. He was a man of depth in his undertakings and a man for others in his outlook. No wonder he gained the esteem of those who came in contact with him. Right after his ordination, Superiors embarked him on his life-long pastoral ministry. He served as assistant pastor at Mariampahar. From 2000 onwards, he was Parish Priest or Father-In-charge of the Parishes of Tinpahar, Jibonpur, Mariampahar and finally Chilimpur. He was, at the same time, Superior at Mariampahar and Chilimpur. For a number of years, Fr Marcus served as Provincial Consultor and Province Coordinator of the pastoral Apostolate. Fr Marcus will continue to carry forward the interests of his dear people and others with his prayer of intercession. May the Lord admit him into His beatific Vision! *(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).*

#### **“EK NOMBOR” Farewell to Our Dear Fr Marcus Murmu SJ**

After a valiant battle with cancer, Fr Marcus Murmu SJ died peacefully at 12:45 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at St. Ursula Hospital, Dudhani, Dumka. At the time of his passing away, he was surrounded by his family members, some Jesuits, Dr Grace, OSU, the Ursuline hospital staff and friends.

Earlier, Fr Marcus was brought to Dumka from Kolkata on 14<sup>th</sup> June as his health condition deteriorated despite best efforts by the Kolkata doctors. Family members and the Jesuits were informed. Priests, religious and friends began to visit him and pray for him. Many parishioners from Cilimpur too visited him, besides his own community members. The Jesuits took turns to be with him.

On Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, Fr Marcus experienced a lot of pain and was very restless. Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ, on seeing his condition, administered to him the Sacrament of the Sick, anointing him with holy oil. On 19<sup>th</sup> morning Fr J.L. Xavier gave him Holy Communion. Fr Marcus showed some signs of improvement. He looked cheerful. He ate and talked well, recognized the visitors and inquired about their wellbeing with a smile. When one of the visiting nuns told him that he was much better than the previous day, he answered, “Yes, I've surrendered myself to God; let His will be done.” A little after midnight, at about 1:30 am, Saturday, Fr Marcus woke up and in a soft voice called out Fr Chandran who was there keeping vigil at his bedside, saying “*Noa dhartire tirejuge babon taken dareak'a; adomko do sulukre menakoa; adomko do besulukre menakoa. Menkhan sanam hor calak' hoyok'tabona.*” (We cannot stay on this earth forever. Some live in peace, others in conflict but one day all have to go). Then in English he said “I might have hurt some people, I am so sorry,” and began crying. It looked that Fr Marcus was now ready to meet his Lord and Saviour Jesus. That same Saturday morning at 7:00 am on 20 June 2020, Fr Chandran brought Holy Communion in both species and Fr Marcus received the Lord reverently. He prayed over Fr Marcus and sang two Santali hymns and left. Later, when Fr Thomas Kavala SJ visited him at 10:00 am, Fr Marcus even asked him whether he got a room to stay. Such was his thoughtfulness! But after 11:00 am he began to sink and finally at 12:45 pm, he surrendered his soul to the Lord!

His mortal remains were brought to Jisu Jaher. Fr Murmu's body lay in state in the Community Chapel for his family and friends to come and pray, paying their last respects to their beloved NAEKE BABA, Fr Marcus Murmu SJ. A Liturgical team headed by Fr Peri Moses SJ arranged several Requiem Masses on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for the convenience of the faithful, keeping in mind the Covid-19 situation. We had five Masses on 20<sup>th</sup> and five more Masses on 21<sup>st</sup>.

At 9:00 am on the 21<sup>st</sup> Rt. Rev. Julius Marandi DD, Bishop of Dumka, was the main celebrant of the Solemn Funeral Mass with 15 concelebrants. At the start of the Mass Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ recalled the various milestones in the brief life of Fr Marcus Murmu SJ and highlighted his commitment for pastoral apostolate. The Bishop Baba effectively told the congregation the importance of the Day's Mass: 1. A celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ the Victor over death. 2. Remembering with gratitude Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross. By His wounds we are healed. 3. Remembering Fr Marcus, a priest of God who ministered to the people of God very faithfully all through his life. 4. Praying for the repose of his soul through this Mass and sharing the grief of his family members, the Jesuits of Dumka-Raiganj Province and the Dumka Diocese. Fr Ignatius Manjhi SJ after proclaiming the gospel, in his homily recalled his long association with his friend and companion from the candidate days onwards. He said that Fr Marcus was a man of commitment to Christ. He was a pastor throughout his priestly ministry. He served the Province as a Province Consultor and as a Co-ordinator of the Jesuit Pastoral Apostolate. The congregation led by Fr Chandran SJ sang all the hymns in Santali, participating in the Mass with devotion and gratitude to God with tears in their eyes. The entire liturgy was very solemn. Soon after the Mass after the blessing of the mortal remains of Fr Marcus we went in silent procession to the Jesuit Cemetery. Fr Sonatan Kisku, the Vicar General -1, conducted the obsequies at the grave, blessed the grave and Fr Marcus Murmu's body was interred.

We express our gratitude to so many people who looked after Fr Marcus during his final days, beginning with Br Chintamani SJ and his community at St Xavier's College, Kolkata, his family members and very close friends who visited him and cared for him. Thanks to the Ursuline Sisters and the Doctor Sister Grace, OSU and her dedicated staff, the Bambina Sisters who decorated the coffin, the Scholastics who kept vigil, our Bishop and the priests who celebrated Masses and prayed for Fr Marcus and all others who helped us at this poignant moment in our lives.

Fr Marcus accepted his sickness with grace, dignity and hope. He didn't complain and endured all the pain. He often said: "*Candoe badaea, Unigeye boge yin'a.*" (God knows everything, does everything for good. He will surely heal me). He hoped to be back soon in Chilimpur so that he could be with his parishioners. He said: "The people in the village are waiting for me. I must be back soon. Parish priest *ka matlab hi wahi hai ki wo logon ke sath rahe*" (Parish Priest means the priest with his people). And to some other persons he said, "*Bes godok'an' nahak', alope chintak'a, alope bhabnak'a. Eksom bhabnak'ge ban jarura. Sab thik hai...Ek Nombor*" - His favorite word! (Don't worry, don't cry, I will be alright. Don't be sad at all. Everything is alright. Everything **NUMBER ONE!**).

In the demise of Fr Marcus Murmu, Dumka-Raiganj Province has lost a great Pastor who took pride in being with the parishioners and laboured with them and for them. Fr Cecil Azzopardi SJ writes: "The news of the passing away of Marcus Murmu made me sad for I feel that I miss him. I knew him quite well and since his novitiate days always felt a certain respect towards him. He always came across to me as a very committed person, serious and fully dedicated to his responsibilities. As Novice-master, I had the opportunity to live with the Novices for a month in his house in his village. I am grateful for his gift to the Province and also for his being a Santal. This morning I offered the Mass for his peaceful repose." Fr Marcus will be solely missed by his friends and all the people he reached out to. May the Lord Grant Him Eternal Rest! ADI MANOT JOHAR, PHADAR MARKUS! ADI AEMA SARHAO! JISU MARAN, NAEKE BABATALE! (*Fr Peri Moses SJ*).