



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

July 2020

Year 41, No. 07

From Provincial's Desk

“Success doesn't come to you; you've got to go to it.” Marva Collins

About a week ago, thirteen schools of our Province got the 10th State Board Exam results and eight schools got the 12th State Board Exam results. The 10th Board Exam result of our schools is 87.34% and the 12th Board Exam result is 83.89%. While some schools have scored excellent results, others have still to prove that they can be better.

Out of 13 schools which had the 10th Board Exam, eight schools scored more than 90% results of which two schools scored 100% results. These schools are St. Xavier's School Rajpur (100%), St. John Barchmans School Dhanwar (100%), Loyola H.S. School Bhaiswar (98.41%), St. Xavier's H.S. School Umaria (97%), St. Xavier's Eng. Med. School Pathalgaon (92.30%) Campion School Kota (92.30%) Loyola H.S. School Kunkuri (91%) and St. Xavier's H.S. School Baikunthpur (91%).

Out of eight schools which had 12th Board Exam, five schools have scored more than 90% results. These schools are St. John Barchmans H.S. School Dhanwar (97.05%), Loyola H.S. School Kunkuri (96%), Prakash H.S. School Pathalgaon (93.57%), Jeewandhara H.S. School, Mauhapali (92.87%) and St. Xavier's H.S. School Baikunthpur (90%) results.

These schools deserve special appreciation for their hard work round the year. On behalf of the Province, I thank and congratulate all the Principals, Vice Principals and Jesuit and Non-Jesuit staff members of these schools for an excellent result in the 10th and 12th State Board Exams. They have proved that they can achieve an outstanding result. They have realized that the success did not come to them but they went for it. They left no stone unturned in order to achieve this excellent result. Let us not be satisfied negatively with this excellent achievement and strive for still better *magis*. Unlike other years, this year the result has been very good but let us be reminded that we are still far from the Jesuit excellence.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.



Appointment by Father General:

Provincial of Jamshedpur Province:

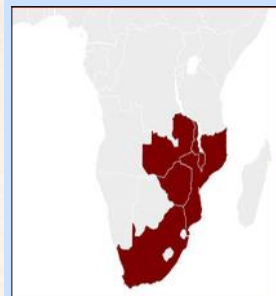
Father Jerome Cotinha, S.J. is appointed as new Provincial of Jamshedpur Province.

New Secretary for Higher Education

Father General has appointed Fr. Joseph Maria Christie (63) Secretary for Higher Education to replace Fr. Michael Garanzini. A Jesuit of the Madurai Province, Fr Christie is currently the Director of XLRI (Xavier Labour Relations Institute), a prestigious School of Management in Jamshedpur, India. He is also the President of XAMI, the Association of Jesuit Business Schools in his country. He has held various positions of responsibility in the Madurai Province, particularly as Coordinator of apostolates and as Director of the Province Development Office. Fr Christie will assume his duties as Secretary for Higher Education on 04 August 2020.

The New Province of Southern Africa to be Established Soon

In a decree signed on 8 June 2020, Fr. General announced the creation of the new Province of Southern Africa. The decree will come into force on 25 March 2021. The Province will bring together the Region of South Africa and the Provinces of Zambia-Malawi and Zimbabwe-Mozambique. Fr. Sosa thanks the Jesuits for the experience of discernment that led to this realignment.



Campion School, Raipur

All the members of Campion community, Raipur went to Hasda for a monthly recollection under the guidance of Fr. Kuldeep Bara, S.J. on 2 June. He gave instruction on "the role of Priestly ministry after the Covid-19" for reflection and meditation before Benediction. After delicious lunch prepared by Fr. Vijay Minj, S.J. all were back to Raipur by the evening. It is to note that Campion, Raipur, Hasda and Gariaband make one Jesuit community. Shailendra Lakra, Nilesh Tigga, Antony Palhe and Naveen Tigga, from Ahmedabad, joined Campion community, Raipur on 04 June under home quarantine till 14 June. Fr. Amrit Xalxo, S.J. came back to Campion, Raipur from Delhi on 26 May after a course of 2 months on family counseling. Fr. Amrit was alone with 14 female participants. Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J. celebrated his Annual priestly ordination day on 28 May and happy birth day on 04 June in the Campion community, Raipur. Fr. Kamal Lakra, S.J. and Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J. took charge as Vice Principal, Campion School, Raipur and as Assistant Director, XISA (Xavier Institute of Social Action), Raipur respectively on 9 June. Fr. Stany Tirkey, S.J., Director, XISA, Raipur went to Mauhapali and Baramkela units of XISA, Raipur on an official visit on 15 June and was back on 16 June. Two more Scholastics Ashwin Tigga and Dino Pinto Toppo, Pune, joined Campion community on June 16 and were kept under home quarantine for 14 days. On June 21, the community went to Gariaband 91 Km from Raipur for a "Mission - exposure". The members reached Gariaband at 11.00 a.m. and after lunch left for Raipur at 4.00 p.m. Campion community, Raipur. On the way they visited Hasda parish. Fr. Kuldeep Bara, S.J., Fr. Arohit, S.J., Fr. Amrit Xalxo, S.J. left Raipur for Jhingo on 24 June to collect the luggage of Fr. Arohit. They travelled via Dharamjaigarh, Musgutri and Ambikapur. Fr. Stany Tirkey left Raipur on 24 June for Bilaspur via Mauhapali for UAP meeting. We were 13 Jesuits at Campion Jesuit community, Raipur the moment.

-Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J.

St. Xavier's Ambikapur

Covid-19 pandemic continues to hamper the academic calendar. The universities are uncertain about conducting final examination. The schools seem unsure about reopening the academic year. On 23rd June CG board declared the 10th & 12th examination result. St. Xavier's School result is not satisfying, we are hopeful to improve our overall school result in the future. At the same time we are glad that both our hostels have got satisfactory result.

All community members are engaged in different works in the campus. Two new members Fr. Fulgence Lakra and Sch. Almon Lakra have joined the community. Fr. Amritlal Toppo continues to reach out to the needy. On

June 25 he distributed dry ration to all the co-workers of the institution. As a community we continue to pray to



the Almighty to save us from the pandemic and we observe all the precautions to be safe.

Sch. Sandeep Lakra (B) SJ

St. Xavier's School Rajpur

Academic session 2019-20 ended abruptly due to COVID 19. School was closed for indefinite time. Institutions were in great suspension. Lock down had broken the tempo of the school and other activities. Like others, St. Xavier's School too underwent crisis. It was well said by someone that every dark cloud has a silver lining.

Chhattisgarh Madhyamik Shiksha Mandal Raipur, High School Certificate Examination 2019-2020 result was declared. Since last 8 years, St. Xavier's School has maintained the record of 100% result. This academic year too children performed extraordinarily well in State Board Examination. All students passed in flying colors breaking all records of the school and the district. Out of 52 students, 51 passed in first divisions and only 1 passed in second division. Among those 14 of them scored above 90%, 12 of them above in 80%, 14 of them above in 70%, 11 of them above in 60% and one of them is in above 50% of marks. Prashant Tiwari secured 97.67% of marks and stood at 9th rank in CG top 10. He is the first student in the history of the district of Balrampur making a place among the top ten. He brought much joy and laurel to the school, block and district. The Collector, MLA and DEO were extremely happy and were proud to get at least one topper in the district and they communicated to the school Principal their joy gratitude. Ku. Nidhi Kujur missed just for 4 marks to get a position in the top ten. She secured 97% of marks. Ku. Sakshi Soni secured 96% and Ku. Samiksha Gupta secured 95.50% of marks and became the toppers of the district. St. Xavier's School has its own identity of excellence in every way which makes lots of difference in the locality and district. In coming years, it is working hard to upgrade it into CBSE affiliation. We are hopeful to get it done by this academic year.

-Fr. Sebastian Tigga, SJ

St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachar

The members of the community are staying safe and doing well in the lockdown. As the lockdown was relaxed in the month of May, Dn. Alok Toppo was warmly welcomed in the community on 20th May for diaconate ministry. The new member was welcomed with the washing of the feet and a bouquet of flowers. All the members were delighted by the arrival of the new member. It was a moment of joy for the community.

The month of June was a time of farewell and transfer for the members of the community. Our community was blessed to have Frs. Theodore and Sanjeev who were given farewell on 7th June. Their hard work and selfless contribution to the community and RVTC was greatly appreciated by Fr. Superior and other members of the community. They brought lot of life and newness to the community last year as they strove for the greater glory of God in all their endeavours. The community was highly appreciative of their contribution and thankful for presence. A million thanks to Frs. Theodore and Sanjeev. RVTC is closed like any other educational institution. However, the handing over of the responsibility of the Director took place on 25th June. Fr. Theodore the outgoing Director after directing efficiently the RVTC handed over the responsibility to Fr. Rajesh, the new Director, a much-experienced person in many trades. The entire handing over took place in the presence of Frs. Amrit Kujur, Jacob Kujur, Gyan and Bro. Ignace. Thank you, Fathers and Brothers for your valuable presence and support. The entire ceremony was smooth and followed by a delicious lunch.

The lockdown was also a period of blessing for some as there were fewer activities in the communities. Now personal concerns can be given more attention. Fr. Ashok is making the best use of this lockdown period to prepare for the entrance test for his higher studies. In the month of June, he had already appeared for one online exam and a few are yet to come in the month of July. Dn. Alok Toppo is also trying to make the best use of this lockdown period as he is preparing for the comprehensive exam which will be held in the month of August, in Vidyajyoti Delhi.

-Dn. Alok Toppo, S.J.

Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

Fr. Fabianus Minj celebrated his ordination anniversary first in the life on 22 May. The entire community joined him in the celebration in the guidance of Fr. Emilius Ekka, the Superior. It turned into a community celebration of ordination anniversary of all the Fathers on one day. All the fathers were escorted with an entrance dance, danced by the supporting staff and the Sisters. A meaningful introduction was given by the Superior. The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Fabianus. He shared some of his personal convictions, reflections and

adventures during the homily. Fr. Pancratius Minj and Fr. William Toppo con-celebrated him. Sisters joined the community for Holy Mass, breakfast and the dinner. There was "Rangarang Karyakram" (cultural programme) in the evening.

Scholastics from Chennai landed at Loyola Niketan and were quarantined from 20 May to 4 June. They were Scholastics Anup, Vimal, Almon, Edwin, Pingal, Ashwin and Nelson. They had separate meals, prayers and works. At the end they were found safe and did not show any sign of infection. They joined the community after a few more days.

May 31 was observed as the Marian day, the entire community celebrated Holy Mass in gratitude for all the blessings and in honour and love of Mother Mary in the morning. All recited rosary in a procession in the evening. Fr. Emilius Ekka handed over his responsibility of a Superiorship to Fr. Henry Lakra. Thanks to Fr. Emilius Ekka who took care of the community so well.

Scholastics worked in the vegetable garden and gave a shape to the community pond during quarantine period. Loyola Niketan pond was repaired beautifully in the care of Fr. Emilius Ekka. About 150 "Saal" plants were planted along the road side between the residence and school. Around 50 fruit bearing plants were planted between Loyola Niketan main entrance and Loyola playground before 25 June. It was the initiative of Fr. Emilius Ekka and Fr. Fabianus Minj. Scholastics helped in the endeavor.

Now there is a good level of soil in the Kitchen Garden. Now the entire garden is covered with vegetation in guidance of Fr. Sushil Tirkey, Minister. The number of fowls, pigeons, rabbits are increasing in his care.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, attended a meeting in the Bishop's House Kunkuri on 8th June and visited Shanti Bhawan on the same evening. He left Jashpur on the following morning and visited Asha Deep Pathalgaon and proceeded to Boirdadar, Baramkela and Mahuapali communities. He stayed overnight at Boirdadar. He returned to Bilaspur on 10th June. Fr. Herman journeyed with him to and fro. Fr. Provincial visited the Asha Deep again on 21th June returned by late night.

Fr. Pradeep Ekka joined the community on 9th June. He came from Prakash Community, Pathalgaon. He was welcomed at Loyola Niketan. He is new assistant Province Treasurer. He was accompanied by Fr. Justin Kujur and Fr. Theodore Kujur.

Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey was accompanied by Fr. Ajay Bernard Ekka and Fr. Casmir Ekka from Bhopal to Loyola Niketan on 23 June. He was welcomed in the evening during supper and on the following day after Holy Mass. He will render his service as secretary in Province Curia. There was meeting of the core team of UAP at Loyola Niketan on 26-27 June. All the members- Fr. Athanase Lakra, Fr. Christi, Fr. Amritlal Toppo, Fr. Satya Prakash Tigga, Fr. Alfred Toppo and Fr. Virendra Xalxo, Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey, Fr. Anil Tirkey, Fr. Emilius, Fr. Henry



and Fr. Provincial were present in the meeting. There was a consult meeting on 28th June. All these participants had come by their own conveyance. They returned according to their convenience.

-Fr. Herman Joseph Minj, SJ

Jeevan Vikas Maitri, Pathalgaon

There was a heavy hailstone fall in Pathalgaon Block on 24th May, 2020. Frs. Oscar Tirkey and Yacub Kujur visited some affected villages such as Diwanwpur, Tihlisarai, Tukupakhna, Makkapur to survey the damage caused to the roofs and standing crops. For the immediate relief tarpaulins were distributed to protect from rain to one village as suggested by the Provincial and Bishop. It was a great difficulty in selection of the most needy in distributing tarpaulin to the affected families. So we decided to help only one village-Tihlisarai. The Government officials made survey of the damage to the roofs and the standing crops but till date many villagers have not received compensation. We have also made survey of some villages and given report to the authorities concerned for the further work needed.

Service to the migrant laborers: Water pouches and biscuits were served to the migrant laborers passing through BTI Chowk. It was a very little gesture of service to the migrant laborers. Thanks to Schs. Ashish, Cyril and Ajay for helping in distribution.

Fr. Fulchandra Kukur, SJ a new member of JVM arrived on 27th May. He was warmly welcomed in the community and wished all the best in taking JVM to its heights. Presently, he is assigned in making projects.

Fr. Bipin visited his sick nephew at Holy Cross Hospital Kunkuri. He donated blood for him and stayed with him for a few days. He was much busy with PDD work.

The number of COVID-19 affected people was increasing in the district of Jashpur with the arrival of migrant workers. They were kept in quarantine but they were not taken care well. In some quarantine centres, no persons were seen to guard. The migrant workers were left to themselves and even in some places the family members were failing to keep safe distance. Such negligence might create alarming situations. Fr. Yacub visited many villages where there were quarantine centres; he talked to the Sarpanches, Panches and other villagers and observed the situation. He gave Dettol soaps, biscuits,

fruits to the quarantined people through Surpanches and Panches. Thanks to the individual donors, who financially helped him to give a little service to the needy. He helped stranded migrant laborers with his team members and Jesuits (Bagaicha, Ranchi), CSOs and lay persons through sharing information. He was also busy in creating awareness and doing e-advocacy through his writing and publication on the issues.

Fr. Fulchandra Kujur, SJ (Project Coordinator) was busy in preparing project proposals and helping the house Minister in farm and garden.

Due to lockdown there were not much activities arranged outside except the World Environment Day observed in different way. A write up was published in social media for awareness building to protect the environment from all type of pollutions. Sustainable use of natural resources is the call of the time. Every family is requested to plant at least two plants every year. A memorandum is submitted to SDM addressed to the Prime Minister and copy to the Chief Minister drawing attention towards lacuna in taking care of quarantine centres, implementation of FRA and PESA in word and spirit as promised in election manifesto, migrant workers' problems, compensation for damage caused by hailstone and other tribal and farmers' issues.

Lok Manch activities were conducted for staff and community leaders.

-Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ

Pipersatti

Sunday Holy Masses and common prayers remained suspended at Nirmala Catholic Church, Pipersatti since the lock down started. There was some newness on the prayer hall in the month of May. Profile sheets were placed on the roof of the prayer hall. The work was accomplished on 23 May. Thanks to the Curia community for the financial assistance.

The Sarpanch and his Secretary approached the manager of Nirmala Primary School, Pipersatti with a request to avail the school for one of the quarantine centres for the migrant villagers. It was availed willingly for the welfare of the people. All necessary arrangements were made well ahead of time. The first batch of quarantine started from 23 May. There were 56 inmates. Church campus was given for cooking meals for the quarantined. The quarantine period was supposed to be over by 4 June. But because of some doubt on a person, all had to provide their blood samples for the test. All were retained for another 6 days and were relieved on 11 June. Many inmates expressed their faith with joy, "Yesu Bhawan ki sanstha mein hume kuch nahi hoga." (Nothing will happen to them in the institution belong of Jesus).

The second batch of migrant workers, 80 of them, began their quarantine period on 15 June in the school. It was

the biggest number among other 3 government schools in the village. The cooking was done in the campus of government middle school, adjacent to our school. All the workers were safe. Their reports were negative. They were relieved on 29 June.

-Fr. Herman Joseph Minj, SJ

St. Francis Xavier Church, Boirdadar

Opening of Church in and after Lockdown: -

In a meeting of the representatives of the Parish called by Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. on 7th June, Sunday all the members decided to wait for the directives of the Collector for a month regarding the unlocking. All expressed that online prayer service was one of the best alternatives. Finally, Lockdown was extended till 30th June as CG and specially Raigarh (Krishna Valley) came as red zone. However, individual families invited for the Holy Masses and blessings of the new houses maintaining social distancing. The two parishes (Rambhata and Urdana) of Raigarh opened the Churches on 21st June with great difficulty. Catholic Ashram, Boirdadar will open the Church on 28th June.

Besides, Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. helped the JMJ Sisters on their 8 days online retreat in two groups and concluded on 31st May and 8th June while Fr. Martin M. Turkey, S.J. nourished Sr. Joby CTC with spiritual preparation for her 25th year of Religious life that was celebrated on 03rd June at Shalini Convent.

Duty during and despite of Lockdown:-

Work and duty is the extension of oneself. The construction of the School building was restarted with a few workers. Fr. Martin M. Turkey, S.J. was busy conducting online classes, meeting with the staff. He was getting ready for audit. He helped St. Xaviers' school Baramkela and St. Annes' school Tamnar to get recognition at the DEO office. Fr. Stephen Xaxa, S.J. was fully engrossed in white washing of School building, beautifying and planting few flower trees.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. accompanied Dn. Dilip Minj, S.J. to Loyola Kunkuri to go to RTC, Ranchi for his exam. He visited the family members at home and rushed back to Boirdadar. He had a meeting of the Parishioners on the following day.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. and Fr. Theodore Kujur, Parish Priest, Urdana of Raigarh Diocese helped eight seminarians from Nagpur to reach their villages, Lailunga, Kunkuri, Jashpur, Sanna and Bagaicha at the request of Fr. Matthew V.C., Vicar General of Archdiocese of Bhopal through Fr. Christdhari Kujur, S.J.

A short visit of Fr. Provincial:-

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J., Provincial combined made a short visit to Boirdadar, Baramkela and Mouhapali. He was on his way back from a meeting at Bishop's House Kunkuri and a short visit to Shantibhavan, Jashpur and Asha Deep Pathalgaon. Fr. Jaiprakash Toppo, SJ had gifted six "Moja

Perwan" (pigeon with feathers on the legs) to Fr. Provincial for the Curia community. Unfortunately they all of them were discovered from the terrace and killed by the Boirdadar community dogs. Fr. Provincial had a short general check up at JMJ Hospital. The report was normal.

Process to CBSE affiliation of St. Xavier:-

As the soil is found fertile Fr. Martin M. Turkey, S.J. has initiated the process of getting affiliation and upgrading the school from CG Board to CBSE. The initial inspection from DEO, Raigarh took place on 25th June and have given away the NOC and a recommendation letter to upgrade the school to CBSE affiliation. The Minority Certificate is pending due to lockdown. Hopefully it will be received soon.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. is presently attending webinar on Safe-guarding ToT from 23rd June onward. "Towards Promoting a Consistent Culture of Care & Protection" is the spirituality of the Society of Jesus.

-Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

AICUF BHOPAL:

'PAHAL EK BEHTAR KAL KI OR'

The Covid-19 pandemic is a crucial juncture in Indian history. This pandemic has left a deep scar around the globe. Today it enforced everything to come to a standstill. The considerable progress of Indian economy and farmer's hard work went to waste due to sudden halt of the country. Politicians busy pulverizing and trouncing its opponents. Their quirky sense of humours have disturbed in a mission of reconciliation and justice. In such time period, AICUFers decided to go the extra mile with the poor, the outcasts of the world, to bring hope and smile on the face hit hard by the lockdown.



AICUFers raised funds for about 1 lakh 17 thousand and distributed grocery packages that included (5kg. rice, 5kg. wheat flour, 2kg. black chick peas, 1kg. toor dal (pigeon peas), one packet detergent powder, 1kg. oil, a bar of soap and other essential commodities for 205 low-income families. Special thanks to few leading role models for their *Acta non verba* spirit, who backed up the initiatives of AICUFers during second phase of grocery distribution, namely Dr. Fr. Athnas (Rs. 15000), Sr. Lily, superior, Apostolic Carmel (Rs.10000), Campion School Bhouri (Rs.7000), and AICUFers who collected (Rs.85001). Groceries were distributed among twelve to

thirteen parishes of Bhopal archdiocese. Finally on 27 June AICUFers concluded grocery distribution in Berasia at Pilar Niwas. AICUFers felt reinvigorated after a sumptuous meal and desi but juicy mangoes arranged by Fr. Pritam and Fr. Felroy Rodrigues. Thank you dear Fathers you really kept a good table to recuperate the sagging spirit of youngsters. I thank all the AICUFers for

their yeoman service specially towards fund raising, hope the same in the future. Thanks Fr. Arvind Vinay for your well-timed support. I also extend my appreciation towards Dr. Akriti and Mr. Jyoti Prakash who contributed an in-kind donations/gifts towards AICUF mission "Pahal Ek Behtar Kal ki Or".

Fr. Alok Kujur, SJ.

Congratulations ! On Your FIRST VOWS !

Seven young men joined the Jesuits of Madhya Pradesh Province on June 2020 at three different Novitiates. It is matter of joy and blessing to Society of Jesus.

Three Novices **Ekka Stephen, Kujur Akshay and Ekka Robins** took their vows at St. Stanislaus College Novitiate at Sitagarha, Hazaribag.

Three Novices **Beck Gulshan, Ekka Ranjit Ekka and Panna Amarjit** pronounced their First Vows at Loyola Sadan Novitiate Lucknow. All these six brothers will be in Sitagarha for their formation of Juniorate.

Novice **Ekka Rohit** was in Jesu Bhawan Novitiate Jameshedpur. He went for his experiment to Kolkata and he stayed back there due to lockdown during COVID-19 pandemic. He pronounced his first vows at Dhyana Ashram Novitiate, Kolkata. He will remain there a year for his formation of Juniorate.



The Result of 10th and 12th State Board for the Session 2019-2020

S.N.	Name of the School	% of Result in 10th	% of Result in 12th
01.	St. John Berchmans Higher Secondary School, Dhanwar	100 %	97.05 %
02.	St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Ambikapur	54.80 %	57.70 %
03.	Prakash Higher Secondary School, Pathalgaon	77.14 %	93.57 %
04.	St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Shantibhawan	81.25 %	57.50 %
05.	Loyola Higher Secondary School, Kunkuri	91.00 %	96.00 %
06.	Jeewandhara Higher Secondary School, Mauhapali	79.20 %	92.87 %
07.	St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Baikunthpur	91.00 %	90.00 %
08.	Loyola Higher Secondary School, Bhainswar	98.41 %	86.45 %
09.	St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Koelari, Umaria	97.00 %	—
10.	Campion School, Kota	92.30 %	—
11.	St. Xavier's Eng Med Sch, Pathalgaon	92.30 %	—
12.	St. Xavier's School, Rajpur	100 %	—
13.	St. Xavier's English Medium School, Shantibhawan	81.08 %	—

JESUIT MISSION IN MP

Article 29

The judge of the collector court at Jashpur Nagar tried to get the *Pracharak* out of the village of Alori. He pretended that the latter had no permission to have there a house, even made of branches. Now that all the Christians had returned to paganism, there was no place any more for him in that village. Luckily the *Pracharak* could answer, appealing to the former permission of the Raja, and he continued to stay at his house. Another vexation was the silly *begari* at *Mandua pahad* to try and attract deer, as we already know. Fr. Bressers adds that the Alori *Pracharak* was falsely accused of having beaten a *sepyo*. But no one dared to give evidence in his favour and he was condemned to Rs. 1/- fine.

Here comes the final issue of the long protracted Raipur case of Leddhe Patras and his four colleagues under date Noadih, 15.8.11. Their names were: (a) the father of Paulus Gurguri from Khaidkona, he was a principal figure in the first conversions of Jashpur, those of Khaidkona; (b) one Sukra of Khaidkona, then dead; (c) Konda of Ganjhad, (d) Jagan of Mando. Fr. Bressers informs Fr. Waelkens, Superior Regular, that he has just received a telegram from Leddhe Patras who was at Raipur stating that their application had been rejected, after receipt of the Raja's report. After consultation with Fr. Van der Linden, the latter's advice was: "Appeal to Nagpur." But later he said "It seems to me that we shall gain nothing from an appeal to Nagpur as they appear to stick unalterably to their principle of non-interference. However I give permission to make that appeal."

Fr. Bressers continues: "I think that the appeal is necessary, not to discourage our Christians. Not to appeal is to play the game of the officials and the Raja who desire nothing more but that missionaries keep quiet. Moreover there is still a chance that the Chief Commissioner will act more loyally than the Political Agent and will have a more serious enquiry made. I have already written to Fr. Crochet of Nagpur, to ask him to help Leddhe Patras and indicate to him a good pleader. I think that this appeal will cost more than Rs. 200/-, but I rely on your help to pay the expenses."

The reply from Nagpur was soon at hand. Fr. Foulex to whom Fr. Crochet had passed on Fr. Bressers' letter, answered on 30 August 1911 that Patras and his companions had arrived. They were staying at the Mission and the Rs. 200/- had been received by him. He had consulted two barristers, Mr. Dillon and Mr. Mitra. The latter had asked Rs. 15/- merely to examine the documents. In his verdict, the Political Agent mentions a report he had exacted from the Raja and his people. Patras had asked for a copy at Raipur. It seems that acting on this report, the Political Agent had found their complaint "absurd and saw no reason to proceed

further." As the report and the answer of the people of the Raja have only an official character, they said that Patras could not ask for a copy, but a lawyer had a right to see it. "The two Barristers whom I have consulted and who have seen Patras and his companions, say that the Chief Commissioner cannot interfere in the judgment of the Political Agent, and that if a petition for revision is presented to him, it must clearly determine their grievances: how many days of *begari* in the year? Who did the work? How many? Give their names. Who called them to work? At what time? And other details you might consider of importance to prove that there is really an excess of *begari*. With these details the Chief Commissioner can be approached, in view of a revision of the judgment of the Political Agent. Mr. Mitra asks Rs. 150/-, only to present the petition to the Chief Commissioner. This being the case, I am sending back Patras & Co. that the petition be more *ad rem* than the one presented to the Political Agent at Raipur. No need of many returning to Nagpur, but the petition to the Chief Commissioner ought to bear the signatures of many people, thumb-impressions, if necessary. For that purpose I am keeping the Rs. 200/- Don't be afraid to send back Patras or another, we shall do what we can to help you."

With a letter dated Noadih 7-9-1911, Fr. Bressers sent to Fr. Waelkens, Superior Regular, copies of Patras' petition at Raipur, and of the judgment of the Political Agent; also the note drawn up by Mr. Debit, a Catholic in the employ of the Chief Commissioner. To draw up this note a pleader of Raipur asked Rs. 15/- Mr. Debit very graciously wrote it free of charge, after having read the report of the Raja and having heard Patras. The purpose of this note was to enlighten the Nagpur barristers. He also added the letter of Father Foulex. In his letter Fr. Bressers states: "Against my advice, but that of the Raipur pleader, Patras did not merely submit a complaint about the ill-treatment received at Jashpur Nagar, but also renewed his complaint about *begari*. That was useless and even harmful. It is clear that the Political Agent, after having rejected their petition at Nagar, was not going to give them a favourable answer at Raipur."

The judgment of the Political Agent contains only a few lines: "The claim of the petitioners to hold land rent-free is absurd. I understand, however, that it is the custom of the Jashpur State to allow the *tand* lands to be cultivated free of revenues in consideration of *begar* rendered; if, as petitioners allege, a share of produce is realized from their such lands, there is presumably some special reason for it." Forwarded to the Feudatory Chief Jashpur for favour of a brief report. How could the Political Agent treat their petition as absurd? Rent was paid through the share of the produce realized by the Raja. It was his duty to find out the special reason he presumes to exist and not merely

to presume that there was some special reason. In their petition the tenants complain of excessive *begari* to be given the whole year through because of their holding that land. This compensation was a sufficient reason for now asking that no rent be charged over and above the *begari*. Originally the *begari* was stipulated "For a period of 9 days in the year." In the course of time this *begar* became so numerous that all the year the tenants had to go on *begar* work, and that the Raja's officers and even the *thikkedars* also began to exact labour and *begar* free of cost.

The manner the judge brushed aside this petition and answered nothing about the cruel way the 135 ("about 123 persons in all" says the petition) were locked up and beaten at the Jashpur Nagar *thana* renders his verdict "much more absurd" than the petition of these poor aborigines. Mr. Debit's note is a document that is very damaging to the repute of both the Political Agent and the Raja: "The two petitions of Patras and others were forwarded by the Political Agent to the Feudatory Chief of Jashpur for report. The latter replied to the Political Agent that he (Feudatory Chief) made enquiries into the complaints contained in the petitions and found them false. Thereupon the Political Agent wrote back to the Feudatory Chief that he (Political Agent) was satisfied that the petitioners had no real grievances. But the Political Agent did not pass any formal order on receipt of the Feudatory Chief's reports. The Feudatory Chief's reports and the Political Agent's final reply, being in the official correspondence (letters), copies thereof cannot be given.

Of course the whole record is open to inspection by the petitioner's counsel. What made the matter worse is that when the first petition dated 31-3-11 was presented to the Political Agent, when that officer was at the headquarters of the Jashpur State, if he had been good enough to investigate personally into the petitioners' complaints, he could have found out the truth; but instead of doing so verbally, severely censured the petitioners in the presence of the Feudatory Chief's officials, to the effect that as the Jashpur State was managed by its own Chief, he (Political Agent) could not do anything for the petitioners: "If they were not willing to abide by the Feudatory Chief's wishes, they should leave the state and go elsewhere." This unfortunate message was carried to the Feudatory Chief by his men. The Feudatory Chief hearing the utterance of the Political Agent was convinced that the officer was indifferent about the petitioners and so he (the Chief) was further strengthened in his high handedness. Therefore when the above petition was forwarded to him by the Political Agent for report, naturally the Feudatory Chief took opportunity to turn the table on the petitioners and reported to the Political Agent that the complaints were quite false and baseless. The Political Agent readily believed the Feudatory Chief's report and rejected the petition.

- Compiled by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN JULY FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	NAME	DEATH	BIRTH
01	Fr. John Bulckens	01 Jul 1995	12 Apr 1915
02	Fr. Sylvanus Tirkey	03 Jul 2018	01 Jul 1941
03	Fr. Ghisleen Van Doorselaer	08 July 2012	04 May 2010
04	Br. John Barla	16 Jul 2004	15 Jul 1934
05	Br. Pascal Tigga	26 Jul 2013	15 Oct 1928
06	Fr. Stephen Toppo	26 Jul 2015	30 Apr 1960
07	Br. Pascal Kujur	31 July 2012	18 Mar 1930

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 07 Toppo Nirranjan
- 08 Lakra Alexius
- 09 Tigga Anuranjan
- 10 Xalxo Xavier
- 12 Toppo Emilian
- 13 Kujur Arohit
- 13 Kujur Ashok (L)
- 15 Bara Akhilsai Albert
- 15 Minj Dilip
- 20 Ekka Bernard Ajay
- 21 Kujur Shreyash
- 23 Ekka Vinay Kumar
- 23 Xalxo Rajesh (M)
- 24 Toppo Amritlal (A)
- 25 Ekka Fulgence (B)
- 27 Ekka Stephen M.
- 29 Tirkey Alphonse
- 31 Bara Ignatius
- 31 Palhe Anthony

AUGUST

- 01 Panna Anil
- 02 Minj Vikky
- 03 Panna Kalyan Kr
- 05 Tigga Sushil (K)
- 05 Xaxa Milyan
- 07 Lakra Ravindra
- 08 Kujur Kuldeep
- 09 Minj Herman Joseph
- 11 Tirkey Suresh
- 12 Tirkey Agapit
- 13 Tigga William
- 15 Beck Sylvanus
- 16 Toppo Theodore (A)
- 16 Xalxo T. Amritlal
- 17 Minj Petrus
- 19 Kispotta Alphonse
- 19 Kujur Christdhari
- 19 Xalxo Ignatius
- 20 Toppo Pancratius
- 21 Baxla Nazarius
- 21 Lakra Telesphore
- 24 Kerketta Blacius
- 28 Tigga Cyril R.
- 28 Toppo William

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