

2020/07
72ND YEAR



July 2020



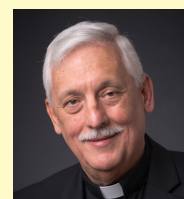
Patna Jesuits
News letter



OFFICIAL

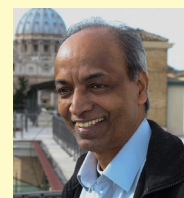
FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Christie Maria Joseph (MDU), - Secretary of Higher Education of the Society of Jesus
Fr. Jerome Cutinha - Provincial, Jamshedpur
Fr. Peter McIssac - Provincial Guyana & Jamaica



POSA HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Keith Abranches, SJ, (GUJ), as Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF) w.e.f 1st June 2020.
This is in addition to his present assignment as Socius



BEING PRESENTED BY FR. PROVINCIAL, THE ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM D' SOUZA, SJ, HAS APPOINTED

Pradeep Kumar - Parish Priest, Danapur



Ganga Lahar, July 2020

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FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Edward Dungdung | - Acting Superior, Gyanoday |
| George Ayyankanal | - Asha Deep, Muzaffarpur |
| Joseph Dungdung | - Vidya Niwas, Varanasi |
| Nicholas Kulandai | - Socius to Novice Master, Loyola Sadan, Lucknow |
| Philip Kavunkal | - Juniorate, Sitagarha, Hazaribagh |
| Rajesh Somepalli | - Diaconate Ministry, Kurji Parish |
| Raymond Cherubim | - St. Xavier's, Jaipur |
| Team for Migrant Apostolate | - Prakash Louis (L), Anto Joseph and Martin Poras |

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

JULY 2020

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 02 | - | Muzaffarpur Consult |
| 03 | - | Sakri |
| 08 – 11 | - | Visitation, Sasaram/Chenari |
| 14 | - | Meeting with migrant apostolate team |
| 18 | - | Gyanoday Meeting |
| 22 | - | Province Consult |
| 31 | - | Feast of St. Ignatius |

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to the Patna Jesuits who pronounced their final vows in May & June 2020:

- **Fr. Anand Prakash Kerketta, S.J.**, at Prabhat, Sakri, on 13 May 2020.
- **Fr. Christu Savariraj, S.J.**, at St. Xavier's, Patna, on 24 May 2020
- **Fr. Dominic Kurichathuputhenpura, S.J.**, at Catholic Church, Barbigha, on 31 May 2020.
- **Fr. Rajan Lakra, S.J.** at K.R. School Chapel, Bettiah, on 21 June 2020

To Three of our Second Year Novices, namely, **Felix Richard, N.C. Siddaiah and Prabhat Minz**, who pronounced their First Vows along with the novices of Delhi, MP and Dumka Provinces at Loyola Sadan, Lucknow, on 21 June 2020.

To the Four first year Novices, **Amardeep Ekka, Elias Ekka, Ralph Rajesh and Raymond Xalxo**, who entered the Novitiate at Loyola Sadan, Lucknow, on 28 June 2020.

To **Frs George Nedumattam and Sudeep Chacko**, who have moved to Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh on 13 June 2020 to establish a new mission! **Frs. Joseph Sebastian and Rajesh Jacob Bhaju** accompanied them to Lucknow.

LOCAL REPORTS

Aurangabad: The lockdown did not deter the enthusiasm and determination of teaching-learning among the teachers and students. We completed the three months of online teaching. Meanwhile, we collected the notebooks from all the students and our teachers corrected them and returned the notebooks. We conducted the First Online Unit Test successfully. Our teachers are becoming techno-savvy and are able to present their classes very well. Now, we have planned to conduct the Second Unit Tests and First Term Exams online in the coming months. **Frs. Saji and Manish** are on their toes to check and monitor the progress of classes and academic advancement. The students of our target group are not able to attend the online classes. Thus, our animators are guiding them academically. They wrote their Unit Test offline. **Fr. Albert Tirkey** is always helping and supporting his staff. **Br. Abraham** is busy making the campus clean and green.



The pandemic lockdown forced **Fr. Norbert Menezes** to stay put in Aurangabad. During this period of shutdown, he shared his expertise in helping St. Ignatius School to explore uncharted areas of educational administration. Equipped with technological tips given by **Sch. Pramod Kumar**, he has reinvented himself in conducting webinars. During the last four weeks, **Fr. Norbert** conducted six webinars for various groups. He conducted twice a two-day webinar on English Teaching for the primary teachers of Buxar Diocese schools. He directed a Two day webinar for the teachers of St. Xavier's Bokaro, on 'The Milestones of Jesuit Education (1971-2019)'. He also conducted a webinar on 'Educational Society- Memorandum of Association-Rules and Regulations' for the Loreto Sisters of West Bengal and Bangladesh. He also steered a webinar with two sessions for Jesuit principals and selected teachers of schools of Madurai and Chennai Provinces, organized by JCERT (Jesuit Council for Education, Research and Training) in collaboration with St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkotai, on 'Ten Global Identifiers of Jesuit Schools'. Finally, he conducted a webinar for young teachers of Kerala Jesuit Province schools on 'Initiation to Jesuit Education Legacy'. We have not started any liturgical celebration for our faithful as the number of positive cases is on surge here. We spiritually unite ourselves praying for the healing of the whole world.

-Manish Osta

Barbigha: Our School building was made a Covid-19 quarantine center. There were two batches of 347 persons staying in our school building for 14 days each. The 31st of May was a grace-filled day for us as **Fr. K. P. Dominic** professed his Final Vows. **Fr. Provincial and Socius** were present for the Final Vows Celebration and on the same day **Fr. Prakash Antony** returned to our community after his medical treatment. As part of Unlockdown-1 we have opened our Church and the Eucharistic celebration for the faithful. We were inspired to see our faithful coming to the Church and praying. We also gave farewell to two of our Sacred Heart sisters, Srs. Rita and Anu, on 14 June, who rendered their service to the Barbigha Mission.



- Prakash Antony

Gaunaha: **Fr. Rajan Lakra** pronounced his final vows, the final incorporation into the Society of Jesus, on 21 June in KR chapel. The KR community meticulously made all the arrangements to make the final vows a memorable one for **Fr. Rajan**. Third batch in the quarantine center in our campus returned to their homes on 09 June after spending 14 days. The visit of **Fr. Alwyn Vaz**, and the **Scholastics Rajeev Ranjan and Jeevan** on 26 June was cherished by the Gaunaha community. The early monsoon brought relief to the farmers as well as the daily wage labourers of Gaunaha Block. We were blessed with showers throughout the month of June. The people who were jobless due to Covid -19 crisis were engaged in transplantation of paddy and canal repair under MNREGA. This is a hopeful sign for the migrant returnees to find employment and livelihood.

The students of St Xavier's School, Gaunaha, came out with flying colours in the matric and intermediate exams of Bihar Board. Out of 112 students 86 secured first division and 26 second division in matric exam. Besides, 11 students appeared in intermediate exam out of which 10 got first division and one got third division. This is the first batch to appear for matric and intermediate exams after the school got recognition from Bihar government. One of our students named, Golden Kumar, secured 454 marks (90%) in matric exams. He stands first in the Gaunaha Block.

- Babu Jagadeepan

Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya: In May-June, Jeevan Sangham, the Jesuit Community in Bodhgaya, was bubbling with many activities. **Fr. Cyriac Poovakot**, our octogenarian, was very actively practicing one of our UAPs, which is Caring for our Common Home-Mother Earth! Every plant and tree inside our Campus was given special care by him. Tilling the ground, trimming and watering plants and trees, watching and praising the birds and bees and feeding the fish have been his regular activities. Long live **Fr. Cyriac**. Another stalwart who is equally active is **Fr. Pradeep N**. He is very active from morning till the evening with managing the fields, hostel-construction, mud-filling and grass-cutting too. After his coming, books have developed legs; they walk with him to the fields, cowshed, construction site, etc. The intellectual quotient of our community has jumped up with his reflections and knowledge! Care for Raja-the dog and Julie-the Cow keeps his heart warm and life very happy. Both of them are inspiring and challenging us, the younger Jesuits here, with their active and spiritual life. **Fr. Eucharist Lawrence** is publishing two articles soon through his intensive and extensive writing along with his Covid-19 food distribution services. **Fr. Anto**, apart from coordinating the various activities here, has been extensively and tirelessly touring the villages to identify the poorest families who deserve food distribution. And **Fr. John Ravi** has been meticulously buying, packing and reaching the food materials to the remotest chosen villages, not forgetting to keep the accounts on proper records. **Sch. Sachin Surin** has now joined our community. He helps us out in our life and mission besides attending to his online classes. The beauty and variety of plants, trees, birds, insects and snakes in our campus is very captivating and welcoming. All the lovers of nature and birds, and snake charmers are welcome here. We thank the Lord that as a united community we could be of solace and service to the hungry and devastated poor during the last very difficult two months.

- Eucharist Lawrence

K. R. Campus, Bettiah: By the grace of God many good events took place here, even amidst the lockdown. KR Campus happily welcomed **Sch. Anuj Toppo** as the new regent of KRCH. There was a good and intermittent shower in June. During such pleasant time, **Fr. Oswald Saldanha**, visited and interacted with the candidates which enthused and encouraged them. Our joy was doubled when **Fr. Ranjan Lakra** pronounced his Final Vows in the Society on 21 June, 2020. Many Jesuits from other communities working in West Champaran and a few OLP sisters graced the occasion. On 23 June, Frs. Sushil Bilung and Junus Kujur interacted with the candidates. Later in June, **Fr. Joseph Velamkunnel** visited us and interacted with

the candidates. Two of our candidates Dharm Raj and Alwin Babu, found their vocations elsewhere and decided to discontinue in the society. At present the first year candidates are attending online classes and the second years are attending English class of **Fr. T.M. Joseph**. Online classes are going on well in both KR and St. Xavier's schools.

- Anuj Toppo



Kurji Parish: Being touched by the faith and need of the faithful, the Kurji Parish Community, after prayerful discernment engaged in pastoral activities. In a leap of faith and ensuring necessary precautions according to the guidelines of the government, we administered the Sacrament of the Holy Communion to the faithful of the Parish in their homes combined with the Easter House blessing during the month of May. It was indeed an enriching spiritual experience. So also under the leadership of Mahila Sangh, we kept seeking help from Mother Mary by regular Rosary at the Grotto. In the midst of all these, the Kurji Parish gave a simple sendoff to **Fr. Nicholas Kulandai** and welcomed **Dn. Rajesh Somepalli** in his place. We are extremely thankful to **Fr. Nicholas** for his active and dedicated efforts in reaching out to the faithful with



dedication and commitment. After 08 June, **Fr. Pius Michael**, the Parish Priest, having discussed and consulted the parish council members, along with the Govt. norms and the directives from the Archbishop of Patna, has opened the Church gates for the Laity, having made necessary arrangements. These preparations include - dividing the whole parish into a number of zones with allotted Mass timing, increasing the number of Masses to six on Sundays from 3 Masses earlier, purchasing and installing the thermal screening, sensor sanitizers and Church sanitizing machines, arranging limited chairs with good social distancing, fixing up the flexes and distribution of pamphlets to all the families with strict norms and guidelines to be followed.

We are sincerely thankful and indebted in a big way for the continuous Jesuit Collaboration, especially to all Fathers from St. Michael's and Sanjivan in all our endeavors, like House blessing/ purchasing & installing machines and celebrating Masses. We would like to specially thank our parish council and the youth for constantly supporting us in all our Church works. Indeed, it is a wonderful experience of lay collaboration. **Fr. Junas Kujur** was happy to have two days of break from the hectic life here as he went to Bettiah to participate in the Final Vows ceremony of **Fr. Rajan Lakra**. By the grace of God and with the cooperation of everyone, the Parish Community is witnessing miracles in our day today lives. The ups and down of the recent past have helped us to grow in our faith.

- Rajesh Somepalli

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: The month of June brought us countless blessings and graces. Both the first and second year novices participated in their annual retreat. With renewed spirit, we did all the preparation for the First Vows day. On 21 June, nine novices took their First Vows during the solemn Eucharist presided over by **Fr. Donald Miranda**. The nine vow men were from four different provinces and among them three were for the Patna Province namely **Felix Richard, Prabhat Minz and N. C. Siddaiah**. We, together with our neighborhood religious communities, shared the joy of our brothers. On 23 June, they were accompa-

nied by **Fr. George Ayyankanal** to Hazaribag for their studies in the Juniorate. **Fr. Kulandai Nicholas** joined the novitiate community as the new Socius to the Novice Master. From 24 - 26 June, **Fr. Vimal Kishore** took special sessions for the novices on AMR (Awareness Meditation and Relaxation). On 27 June, Loyola Sadan received 13 first year novices belonging to Patna, Delhi and Jamshedpur Provinces. Their presence has brought more life in the community. **Frs. Rajesh Bhaju, Gyan Prakash, Sebastian A., George Nedumattam and Sudeep Chacko** visited the community. For a short period, **Frs. George and Sudeep** were part of the community as they are busy with the new mission in Kaiserganj, UP. We are blessed with good rains.



- **Bablu Kumar**

Manthan, Khagaul: During the lockdown and unlockdown, God has been working through us immensely. The continuous showers brought us relief from the scorching heat. The world has not seen a greater crisis than the **COVID-19** pandemic in this decade. It has brutally impacted human lives across the world leaving human race in an unsolicited void. Lockdown 1.0 to 4.0 has surely helped to save several thousand lives, but the naked truth behind this saving is that, it has also put India's poorer sections face-to-face with an existential crisis. The immobility and home confinement for months have badly shaken a number of people, daily wage workers, migrants, domestic workers, poor, etc.

The relief work for the poor and the needy was done, extensively in three blocks of Patna District, namely, Danapur, Bihta and Phulwari Sharif in the last two months. **Fr. Juno** was busy in contacting various agencies for resource mobilization. Sr Gracy BS, with the help of the staff, made the list of more than 2800 people, who had no ration card and submitted it to the Block Development Officer. More than 50 volunteers, youth and Manthan staff were fully involved in this act of reaching out to the needy. It was not an easy task, but



commitment and dedication of the staff and the volunteers made it possible. With the generous help from people and various agencies, we were able to distribute dry ration kits to 3106 families and it was benefitted by 13740 people. The hard work of **Fr. Joe Pulickal** in the garden brought us lots of fresh vegetables and fruits during the lock down. As soon as the lockdown was eased, **Fr. Rajesh Kant** was into action and started the painting works of the Parish. Now the parish has an elegant look. At present the long Term Residential staff is engaged in online classes for class 10 students. A few project activities, such as awareness on Covid-19, admission of children into the school, PDS distribution, etc., are conducted following the rules and norms prescribed by the Government.

- **Juno Sebastian**

Prabhat, Sakri: Although the present pandemic is worrisome, we did not let ourselves down. We kept up our zeal for the service of the poor. We distributed ration packets to about 500 families who were more deserving, like widows, orphans and handicapped people. The ration packet consists of rice, pulses, potatoes, salt, oil, wheat flour, biscuits, spices, washing soaps and so on. Under the supervision of **Fr. Jose Vadassery** distribution was done meticulously. These days, we are trying to identify people from our target group, who are not getting government benefits to which they are entitled. Our staff is making sure that these people get the government benefits.

Fr. Anand Kerketta pronounced his Final Vows on 13 May 2020. **Fr. Provincial** presided over the mass

and received the final vows of **Fr. Anand**. **Fr. Jose** was the celebrant who welcomed the guests. **Fr. Armstrong**, who managed to get the pass for the vehicle during the lockdown, was present with us on that day. Fr. Johnson who drove the vehicle came with them to make our short celebration meaningful. **Sch. Ravibhushan**, along with Suman and Asha led the choir which created an aura of devotion for the occasion during the Eucharistic celebration. On another day, **Fr. Armstrong** visited our community on his way to Saharsa to pick up **Dilip, Sachin and Anuj**, who were to arrive at the railway station from Chennai.



Prabhat family bid farewell to **Sch. Ravibhushan** and welcomed to Sch. Dilip Kumar on 16 June 2020. Human rights team headed by **Fr. Jose Kariakatt**, visited Samiya village on 17 June and on 27 June PUCL Team came to Prabhat to establish the local PUCL Team in Madhubani District led by **Fr. Jose Kariakatt**. The Core committee meeting is going on every Saturday. Although government asked the public to follow the social distance strictly, we kept on in touch with our people.

- Dilip Kumar

READ, Bettiah: We had many visitors during this month. **Fr. Oswald Saldanha** was with us for a couple of days. He was meeting the Catholic boys in Bettiah Diocese in order to get some vocations from some of the parishes in West Champaran. **Sch. Robert Razeem** along with **Sch. Ashish** made the Annual Retreat in Ratanpurwa under the guidance of **Fr. Stephen**. Meanwhile, **Fr. Joyson Fernandes** preached a week long retreat to the Sacred Heart Novices and prepared them for their first profession. **Fr. Alwyn Vaz** along with **Schs. Jeevan and Rajeem** paid a short visit to us. The new regent **Sch. Arockiasamy** joined our community on 25 June. The monsoon helped us to do the rice transplantation successfully. **Fr. Anil** has utilized the lockdown period to setup a good vegetable garden.

- Robert Razeem

Sanjivan Niwas: Due to the corona pandemic situation, Sanjivan building has become the quarantine centre for the Scholastics who came from different states after their studies. They were kept in quarantine for 14 days and then were included as the members of the community. A few Scholastics dispersed to their respective appointed places while the others are still in Sanjivan after the quarantine. The community is more alive and noisy with the presence of the young Scholastics around. **Fr. Provincial** met the Scholastics for their manifestation of conscience. The workers of Prabhat Prakashan were honoured with high breakfast on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They joined us for the mass and we prayed for them and their families. There was a meeting of the Vocation Commission at Sanjivan on 20 June. Scholastics **Punit, Amul and Savari** took turns, to accompany **Fr. Gabriel Michael** who was admitted in KHFH. Under the guidance of **Fr. George Karamayil**, the Sanjivan chapel has been slightly modified with a fixed tabernacle on the wall, two stone pieces of slabs to keep statues and an air conditioner.

- Amul Jacob

St. Michael's, Patna: We had a short prayer service to mark the International Labour day. On 02 May, we arranged Holy Eucharist for the office-staff and the supporting teaching staff separately on first Friday of the month. On 09 May, **Fr. Gabriel Michael** joined the community for his medical treatment. **Frs. Armstrong and Johnson** accompanied the Provincial to attend the Final Vows of **Fr. Anand Kerketta** at Sakri on 13 May 2020. **Fr. Mathew Chemplan**y visited the hospital for the treatment of his gout. On 20 May, **Fr. Armstrong** went to Saharsa to bring our scholastics who returned to the province, for a home quarantine. **Fr. Francis Chinnappan** directed an eight day retreat in May for the scholastics doing B.Ed. On 02 June, both the Principals of the school and college and the Rector attended a meeting at Navjyoti called by the Archbishop to discuss the management of schools during the pandemic. **Fr. Gabriel Michael** was admitted in KHFH for

his hernia surgery on 03 June. We began the online classes (live) for the students of class III to XII and the response is very positive. On 15 June, **Fr. Scaria Mammootil**, moved to Xavier Bhavan. **Frs. Armstrong and Francis Chinnappan** left for Bettiah to attend the Final Vows of **Fr. Rajan Lakra** on 21 June and returned the next day. We had a few visitors in the month of June. Two Ursuline sisters from Lohardaga, Ranchi, came to find out about their Ph. D, defence in Aryabhata Knowledge University. Fr. Florence Purty from Ranchi province came on 26 June for his Ph.D., defence in AKU.

Fr. Ignatius Topno was identified by UK based foreign Journal named “Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies” to review one of their articles. The double blind review fetched him to be the member of Publons, a part of Clarivate Analytics, previously known as ISI Thomson Reuters which can make one access many important renowned research articles for reference. At the same time, **Fr. Ignatius** published one qualitative article named “Servant Leadership in Educational Organizations: A Ray of Humane Stewardship” in International Journal of Multidisciplinary Educational Journal (IJMER) Volume: 9, Issue: 5, May 2020. Another qualitative article entitled “Digital Awareness of Secondary School Tharu Students of West Champaran” was published in International Journal of Advanced Research (IJAR) Vol.8.issue.06 June 2020. Both IJMER and IJAR are peer-reviewed and UGC approved International Journals. This article will be recorded in ICSSR as part of mandatory publications. His self-quarantine has yielded three more articles which are to be published sooner or later.

- **Francis Chinnappan**

St. Xavier's, Patna: We distributed dry ration to 600 needy families of slum areas - Mandiri and China-Kothi, Patna, under the coordination of **Fr. Susai Raj**. Thanks to Fr. Rector for his generosity and constant support to reach out to many deserving families during this pandemic. The blessing of the School Building was done on 15 June in the presence of all the Teachers and staff after a short prayer service conducted by **Fr. Devashish**. On their way to Kaisarganj, UP Mission, **Frs. George Nedumattam and Sudeep Chacko** spent a few days in our community. Fr. Rector went to Kaiserganj with them. **Fr. Dionysius** was admitted to Paras Hospital almost for nine days for treatment. Our community members generously volunteered to be with **Fr. Dionysius** during his treatment in the hospital. Our online classes are going on well. Our teachers are teaching the students using the available technology – Zoom App and Google Meet. **Fr. Christu** has been accompanying and guiding the teachers and staff for the smooth running of the Online Classes during the pandemic. The Primary Students are attending First Terminal Exams online nowadays. The First Term Online Exams for High School students will begin on 20 July. **Fr. Peter Arockiasamy** went to Mokama on 27 June to make his Triduum. We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of **Fr. Joseph Kunnumpuram** in the Society of Jesus on 02 July in our community.



- **Devashish**

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: The community helped out in all the spiritual ministries as and when needed without any hesitation. **Fr. Raymond** was involved in translations. **Fr. Prakash Louis** was involved in the planning of the rehabilitation of Covid-19 response of the Diocese of Varanasi. He visited some of the parishes and social work centres to assess the ground reality and come out with a plan. He facilitated a three day “Expanding and Re-articulation of the Mandate of the Strategic Plan” of NEG FIRE, New Delhi in the changed scenario in Subhyatra, Patna from 17 to 19, June 2020. He also directed the retreat of the Sisters of the Providence of Gap in Varanasi. **Fr. Prakash Louis** along with Fr. Paul D’ Souza of ISI Delhi, completed the Impact Assessment of the Mission and Ministries of the Diocese of Varanasi and submitted the report to the Diocese. The Provincial was with us on 25 and 26 June, 2020.

- **Prakash Louis**

Xavier Bhawan: The latest addition to Xavier Bhawan is **Fr. Scaria Mammootil**, who joined us on 15 June. **Fr. Dionysius Rasquinha**, who was undergoing treatment in Paras Hospital, joined us on 15 June for recuperation. He is now undergoing chemotherapy in the same hospital. On 18 June the entire Atmadarshan Community formally welcomed the three new arrivals, **Bro. Joe Ullattil**, **Fr. Tom Karthanam** and **Fr. Scaria Mammootil**. We had an evening Mass followed by dinner. On 01 July we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of **Fr. Joe Njarakulam** and **Fr. Joe Kunnumpuram** in the Society. On that occasion some of former pre-novices were also present. On the same day, we inaugurated the sound system newly installed in the Chapel by the Administrator **Fr. Rajesh Jacob** and his team. This is a great help to those of us whose hearing is getting weaker. Thanks to the generosity of XTTI and Atmadarshan, we have been having plenty of delicious mangoes these days. Some of the mango lovers have discovered that their blood sugar count has shot up alarmingly.



- **Joseph Vellaringatt**

XTTI Campus, St. Xavier Colleges: On 23 May, our staff completed online classes for our students. From 8 to 26 June, the examination department conducted online MCQ Test, online Open Book and VIVA VOCE exam. 98% of our students appeared for the Internal Assessment. It was a new experience for the staff and students. On 09 June, **Fr. Paul Mariadoss** reached XTTI safe and was in quarantine for 14 days. On 14 June, 250 students appeared for online Xavier Eligibility Test (XET 1) followed by online interview. The selected candidates are taking admissions. Our college was the examination Centre for MD/MS/M.Ch/MDS examination conducted by Aryabhatta Knowledge University. Social distancing and sanitization of examinees and examination hall was maintained. On 28 June, the Social Awareness Committee organized online poster making competition to commemorate the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. On 29 June, Mr. Ajay Kumar, programme coordinator of NSS, organized online protest against the custodial death of Mr. Jeyaraj and his son in Tamilnadu. Mr. Ashish Ranjan, National Convenor of National Alliance of People's Movement (NAPM) and Sr. Cynthia, CJ, Lawyer and UN representative of NGO, addressed the students and staff of the college. Sr. Jaya RNDM, student counselor of our college has initiated online counseling for our students towards greater Mental Health and Well-being. We congratulate **Fr. Joseph Thadavanal**, Dr. Shahanaz Mirza, Sr. Jaya Joseph RNDM, **Fr. Joe Kootinal**, SJ and Mr. Stan Lobo for availing their expertise to improve the well-being of our students. Members of Youth for Free India (YFI) continue their humanitarian aid to deserving poor. Aryabhatta Knowledge University has cancelled semester exams for 1st and 2nd years and the students will be awarded 50% marks of the previous semester and 50% marks of the Internal Assessment. The exam schedule for the 3rd years is awaited. Teaching staff is engaged in attending online webinar, preparing reports for NAAC and getting ready with e-content for the coming semester. Admission procedure for the academic year 2020-2021 is available at www.xaviercollegepatna.org. Students can register online for XET-2. The college community is savoring the taste of Malda, Mallika and Amrapali mangoes and jackfruits of XTTI campus. Patna Jesuits are welcome to join us.

Xavier Institute of Social Research: With the Corona Lockdown since 24 March, normal life got disrupted everywhere as also at XISR. Though the institute was closed, quite a lot of computer data entry work and research were carried out. Documents for data entry were made available to the office staff at their homes. Research, writing and publication works were carried out by the research staff from their homes. Though the publications were readied, printing work could not be completed as printing presses did not operate during the lockdown period. Free of office work, **Fr. Jose Kalapura** could complete a lot of editing, writing and research work, including work on Patna Mission History. Joining the XTTI community and the College, he also helped out or organized relief work for the poor, hungry people in the slums in many neighbourhoods.

- **Sebastian Alphonse**

Ganga Lahar, July 2020

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Chicago, USA: I would like to let everyone in the Province know about the death of Mr. Michael Supler of Cleveland, a close friend of mine and a benefactor of Patna Mission. He died on 4 July, on USA Independence Day. Michael got connected to Patna when I was in Gesu parish, Cleveland, and we became good friends. He took keen interest in our work for the Manjhi community. Please pray for his wife Mary and family. It is summertime in Chicago. The pandemic spoiled all plans for a good vacation. However, I did spend a week in the beautiful Jesuit villa in Omena, Michigan. **Fr. Paul Faulstich**, a former Patna Jesuit and a member of our community, is here. He sends his greetings to everyone in Patna.



- **Thomas Chillikulam**

Gesu, Rome: Besides the Covid-19 situation, last few months marked some special and memorable events in the Community of Gesù. The diaconate retreat was conducted for the 18 final year scholastics from 31 March to 08 April in the house. Considering the emergency situation, the Diaconate Ordination was shifted to 27 June instead of 14 April, hoping that on that date the church will be open to the public. Finally, and historically, the most awaited day and moment arrived on 27 June, 2020. Along with the 18 scholastics who were ordained deacons, the 2 deacons of the Biblicum, were ordained as priests by Cardinal Michael Czerny SJ in the church of Gesù. Among the ordained deacons seven are from the South Asian Assistancy. All of us were obliged to put on mask and attend the ceremony. The ordination ceremony was done live screening through YouTube. **Fr. General Arturo Sosa** and Fr. Johan Verschuere, SJ (the Delegate for the Interprovincial Houses) were present at the ceremony. The celebration was private in the afternoon with limited number of concelebrants. After the mass a small gathering was arranged for all. In the 1st and 2nd year of theology, those who had not yet received the ministry of reader and the acolyte orders received the ministries on Sunday 03 May in the Church of the Gesù. Fr. Johan Verschuere, SJ, conferred on them the ministries. On 03 May, there was a small gathering to explain some important orientations and guidelines for the community as Italy enters in the 2nd phase of covid-19 from 04 May onwards. Now community members were allowed to go out of the house for a short walk, use public transport carefully and do marketing by maintaining the respect for safety and social distancing. Academically, the community was active. Most of the courses were conducted through online over these days. The final semester exam was held from 03 June to 26 June. From 27 June onwards, the summer vacation began in the University which will last to the end of September.



- **Dinesh Toppo**

Xavier Nilaya, Bangalore: In the month of May, the new regent, Sch. Gnana Muthu reached Xavier Nilaya. After his arrival, he was in self-quarantined. Sch. Ashwin made his Annual retreat under **Fr. Mani Poovakot** in the first week of June in XN. Amidst all the panic of the pandemic, we kept aside two days for community days. It was just to bring awareness of community life through various activities. We had a recollection on the following day. On 21 June, both the regents went to Mount St. Joseph, Bengaluru for the first vows of six novices. Sch. Ashwin left for Punjab on 29 June. As the Karnataka government may impose a lockdown from 7 July, we have started sending back the candidates group by group. On 01 July we got the sad news of **Fr. Mani's elder brother** Mr. Cyril Jose's death. On 02 June, we had special Mass for the repose of the soul of Mr. Cyril Jose in the morning and in the afternoon, we watched the live streaming of the funeral service that took place in Kerala. On 01 July, two candidates left Patna for their homes. On 03 July, 4 candidates from Jharkhand left for their homes. On 4 and 6 July the rest of the selected 8 candidates left for Patna & Allahabad for their next stage of formation.

- **Gnana**

KUDA HAFIZ - FAREWELL! FR. PAUL JACKSON, SJ

Fr. Paul Jackson, SJ, a Jesuit missionary and an Islamic scholar, who spearheaded the Muslim-Christian Dialogue in South Asian Assistanacy, died on 05 July 2020 at 6.45 pm at KHFH, Patna. Fr. Paul was a Jesuit priest belonging to Hazaribag Province and applied to Patna Province. Ever since, he began his doctoral studies in 1976 in the writings of a sufi Saint of Bihar, Shrafudin Maneri, Fr. Paul had been based at St. Xavier's, Patna. He retired to XTTI in 2010 and moved to Xavier Bhawan in 2017. Fr. Paul was a renowned Islamic scholar, writer, teacher, and above all, a committed Jesuit and a noble soul. He translated the letter of Maneri from Persian to English. He wrote books and articles on Muslim – Christian Dialogue.

Earlier, Fr. Paul had a fall in his room on 07 June. He was taken to KHFH, Patna, in an ambulance. Besides several bruises in his body, X-ray showed that he has a hairline fracture in his hip bone. Some of us celebrated his birthday on 11 June in his room in the hospital. Due to his poor health surgery to repair the fracture had been ruled out. He was in the ICU since a few days and his condition became critical and eventually he died on 05 July 2020.



The Funeral Mass was presided over by **Most Rev. William D' Souza, SJ**, of the Patna Archdiocese. Fr. Santosh Minj, Provincial of Hazaribag and **Fr. Donald Miranda**, Provincial of Patna, concelebrated along with fellow Jesuits. Frs. Bob Slattery and Tony Herbert from Hazaribag Province also participated in the mass. Because of the pandemic situation, the Funeral Mass was restricted only to the Jesuits. However, two ICM sisters from Mariam Manzil, Patna City, who have long association with Fr. Paul, were present for the mass. **Fr. Donald Miranda**, in his introduction, presented the life journey of Fr. Paul and also read a note from Mrs. Margret, the younger sister of Fr. Paul. In his address, he highlighted the discipline and dedication of Fr. Paul, who religiously spent hours in the Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna, day after day, year after year, for his scholarly work. The Archbishop praised Fr. Paul for his contribution towards Muslim- Christian Dialogue. Fr. Tony Herbert, (HAZ), in his homily highlighted from the account of Fr. Paul himself, the turn of events that led Fr. Paul to be an Islamic scholar. The Patna scholastics led by **Dn. Rajesh** conducted the choir. Fr. Santosh Minj, Provincial of Hazaribag, administered the final rites at the grave. Fr. Selvin Xavier, Socius, thanked those present on behalf of the Province. The Patna Jesuits are grateful to the administration, doctors and nurses of Kurji Holy Family Hospital (KHFH) for their dedicated service. Thanks to **Fr. Joe Vellaringatt**, Superior of Atmadarshan, **Fr. Rajesh Bhaju and Gyan Prakash**, Administrator and Assitant Administrator of Xavier Bhawan, for their dedicated care of senior fathers. Thanks to the Rector, Minister, Principal, Vice-Principal and community of XTTI for the arrangements. **Fr. Premlal** and team took care of the photos and videography. For the first time, the funeral from XTTI was live streamed via You Tube, thanks to **Fr. Sebastian Alphonse** and team

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

FOR THE SICK

Fr. Dionysius Rasquinha is recuperating in Xavier Bhawan. During this period, he also underwent chemo treatment at Paras Hospital.

Bro. Francis Thattaparambil underwent a cataract surgery in Agarwal clinic in Patna and is recuperating at Xavier Bhawan.

FOR THE DEPARTED

Fr. Thomas Anthraper, SJ (KER 90/70) died on 06 May 2020, at Christ Hall, Kozhikode, Kerala.

Fr. Adolf Nicholas, SJ, (JPN 84/67), **Former Superior General**, died on 20 May 2020, in Tokyo.

Fr. Pulparambil K. George, S.J. (MDU 91/71) died on 22 May 2020, at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

Fr.S A Alphonse (AND,69/51) died on 10 June 2020.

Fr. S.M. Xavier Irudayaraj, S.J. (MDU 79/61) died on 16 June 2020, at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

Fr. Marcus Murmu, SJ (DUM 63/38) expired on 20 June 2020, in Ursula Hospital, Dumka.

Mr. Philip Puthumana (91), brother of **Fr. Abraham Puthumana, SJ**, died on 24 June 2020.

Mr. Cyril Jose Poovakot,(77) **the elder brother of Fr. Mani Poovakot and nephew of Fr. Cyriac Poovakot** died on 01 July 2020, in Kerala.

Fr. Joseph L. Pragasam, S.J. (MDU 83/64) died on 03 July 2020, at Saravana Hospital, Madurai.

Mr. Cyril Mathias (60), **elder brother of Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ**, died on 03 July 2020 in IGIMS, Patna.

Fr. Paul Jackson, SJ (HAZ 83/64 appl PAT) died on 05 July 2020 at Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna.

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS BEFORE THE 01ST OF EVERY MONTH

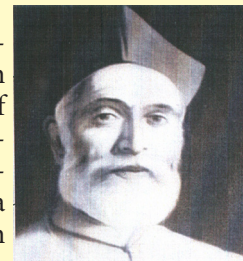
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THE FIRST PIONEERS AND THE BACKGROUND SUPPORTERS**- Jose Kalapura, SJ**

Pope Benedict XV through his decree *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* of September 10, 1919 erected Patna Diocese and entrusted its management to the American Jesuits of Missouri Province. Thereafter, after much preparation, the first pioneer Jesuits arrived at Patna on March 16, 1921 to shoulder the responsibility of Patna Diocese under its newly appointed Bishop Louis Van Hoeck, Belgian Jesuit of Ranchi Mission.

The pioneers were the first actors on the stage and figure prominently in historical narratives. However, there were so many others who worked behind the stage but remain hidden in these narratives. These were certain Jesuits of the mother Province of Missouri, lay supporters of the mission, Jesuits of other Provinces, civil authorities, and so on. My attempt here is to highlight the role of both the pioneers and other supporters behind the stage. This story is reconstructed from various sources such as the Province News Letter (PNL-Missouri Province), Patna Mission Letter (Patna Jesuits), The Supplement (Patna Diocese), the Jesuit Missions (American Provinces), and other mission documents and publications.



The launching of Patna Mission, announced in the Jan 1920 issue of PNL listed the appointment of the first six pioneers (their age given in brackets) to Patna Mission: Fathers Eline (52), Troy (51), Anderson (48), Milet (46), T. Kelly (37), and Charles Meehan (?) who stayed back, eventually left the Society and became a diocesan priest in Rockford Diocese. The Patna five were not young men, as can be noted, when they set out for the mission.

Backstage Supporters

There was a gap of several months between the papal announcement and actual takeover of the management of Patna Mission. Immediately, the Missouri Jesuits began promotional and supportive activities such as publicity of the mission, garnering spiritual, financial and personnel support of collaborators, including Jesuits and lay persons. A series of illustrated lectures on Patna Mission in Missouri was arranged by an enthusiastic Aloysius Pettit (later a Patna Jesuit), a first year theologian at St. Louis University, supported by others (Provincial Fr Francis Xavier McMenamy, Fr Socius (historian of American Jesuits), Fr James Macelwane, Fr Gilbert Garraghan and Fr. Henry Westropp, the most enthusiastic among the lecturers who promoted the cause of Patna Mission like a salesman. Since he had the mission experience of working among the Sioux Indians of South Dakota before working in Bombay Mission (1914-22), he could enthuse his hearers (scholastics, students, parishioners, retreatants and the reading public) with zeal.

Several such lectures were organized for the Jesuits of the Province to instill zeal for foreign missions. The lectures dealt with Jesuit missions in Brazil, Patna, Japan, Alaska, Honduras and the Philippines. A series of mission novenas were conducted in order to raise funds (@ \$100 per novena) for the mission. Several mission magazines were subscribed for the scholastics to acquaint them with global mission work. In addition, each of the theologians and philosophers was to choose a day each month, to make Mass intentions. Support of benefactors was also gathered through Mission Circles whose members were lay persons whose interest in Patna Mission was sustained by regular contacts by the Jesuits for several years. Donations began to be collected from donors through Sodality Mission and other organizations for prospective work in Patna Mission, including for the maintenance of native Sisters, catechists or for education of native seminarians or for other manifold mission needs especially education of children.

The arrival of the pioneers was facilitated by several Jesuits and others. There was much delay in obtaining visas and arranging transportation for the pioneers so that a year passed before they could leave America and two more months before they arrived in Patna. One of the great benefactors of Patna Mission was Belgian Jesuit of Bengal Mission, Fr Van der Schuren, who was in America at that time as special agent for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. He was instrumental in securing the long-awaited visas which was not easy to get from the British Government in India. It was Schuren who mediated among several intermediaries: Cardinal Bourne in London, getting the declarations and statement of Father General to recognize the Society in Patna as a registered society, the English Provincial who guaranteed the credentials of the applicants, and who facilitated the meeting with Sir William Duke, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and the British official at the India Office in London who cabled the sanction to the British Central Passport Office in New York. There was a feeling among the American Jesuits that the British Government in India would not permit Catholic missionaries. It was not without reason, for some other American Jesuits were not allowed visas by the British Government in India in early 1920s to work in the Bombay Mission which had been in a crisis as the German-Austrian missionaries there were interned or deported as enemy subjects during World War I period (1914-18), by the British Government. So Fr General commanded to swap the missions: Spanish missionaries of Aragon Province who had been working in the Philippines Mission were asked to come to Bombay Mission and the Americans were asked to take over the Philippines Mission. However the Missouri missionaries did not find any hurdle in getting to Patna thanks to the good relations of the Bengal Jesuits with the British administration in Calcutta.

The Belgian Jesuits of Bengal Mission were always supportive of the Jesuit Mission in Patna especially in the earlier stages: from welcoming them to India, and getting the mission started in Patna.

From the departure to arrival at Patna (March 16, 1921) through New York, Liverpool, (sorties to Oxford, Lourdes and Paray-le-Monial in France), Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo and Calcutta, there were a few supporters: fathers, scholastics and brothers in Mary land-New York Province, Jesuits in Liverpool, London, the Bengal Jesuits at Calcutta, et al.

On arrival at Calcutta, they received a letter of welcome from Bishop Van Hoeck asking them to come to Patna at the earliest as the Capuchin Fathers in Patna were just holding on until they arrived.

Pioneers and Others

Out of the 1022 Missouri Province Jesuits in 1920, many of whom had the opportunity to have the Patna publicity programs, a total of 59 men came to Patna between 1921 and 1937. Here it may be recalled that on the 15th of August in 1928, Chicago Province was formed out of Missouri Province territory. After the formation of the Chicago Province, the responsibility for sending more missionaries fell on it. Thus the rest of total 150 American Jesuits who came to Patna during the period from 1921-1965, were from Chicago/Detroit Provinces.

But the account of the Missouri Province contribution of missionaries to Patna would be incomplete without mention of the Indian vocations fostered for Patna Mission before the creation of Chicago Province. Five scholastic novices and five brother novices were accepted as members of Missouri Province for Patna Mission by the Patna Superior (Father Eline). All of them were transferred to Chicago Province. Among the first ones were Frs Kevin Angelo, David Pinto, Brother John Pais (Patna's first Jesuit Brother and builder of several buildings in Patna Mission), Charles Saldanha, Peter Angelo and Patrick Smith.

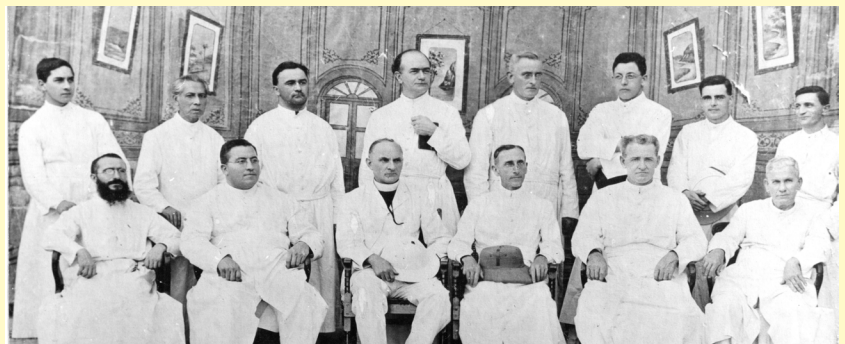
The new Jesuit leadership in Patna Diocese began with 5 Jesuit priests, 7 diocesan priests and three Capuchin priests (who went back to their provinces soon).

The new arrivals were posted at various churches: Fr Eline at Danapur, Fr Kelly at Kurji with charge of Khagaul also, Fr Troy at Bankipur as Vicar General, Fr Milet at Jamalpur and Fr Anderson at Bhagalpur. Thus the pioneers began their work in right earnest, but all of them did not continue in Patna due to various reasons: there were three departures. For instance, Fr Anderson had to go back to America in the same year due to poor health: he had fallen down from an open elevator shaft in New York and soon began to go blind after arriving in Bhagalpur. The blindness did not deter him from priestly ministry, for he memorized the Mass and said it regularly for the rest of his life, and heard confessions, back in his home town, Cincinnati.

Fr Troy was a genial person who learned Hindi well to do pastoral work at Bettiah, and made quick friendship with all, including the Indian political leader Bipin Babu of Bettiah. But his good standing with the British official was undermined because of his Irish humour at the expense of the British Government in Ireland, and so the British officials asked the Bishop to have him eased out of India, though he did not want to leave India. He served as a Jesuit priest for more than 30 years back in America. So also, in 1923 Fr Kelly, decided to leave the Society but was told by the Superior Eline that he would have to go back to Missouri Province to leave the Society: he became a diocesan priest in Florida.

These losses aside, the succeeding missionaries from America and elsewhere not only shouldered the pastoral care of the Catholics (European and Indian), but also established churches, institutions, and did wonderful work of evangelizing the marginalized sections of society, the Dalits and Tribals in Patna Mission area. Some of the well-known missionaries of the early phase were Henry Westropp (Dutch, born in Germany), Peter Sontag (German), Francis Xavier Ory (Belgian from Bengal Mission), Aloysius Pettit, John Kilian, Carl Miller, Marion Batson, James Creane, et al. We shall meet these and other stalwarts in the coming chapters.

In the task of building up Patna Diocese the role of Bishop Van Hoeck during his 71¼ years (from March 10, 1921 to June 25, 1928) as a good shepherd in working with the church personnel and launching new ventures besides reinforcing the earlier foundations was exemplary and seminal.



The First Patna Jesuits

Welcomed by Christian Brothers of St. Michael's School, Patna on arrival in Patna on 16 March, 1921

Standing: (Two Christian Brothers), Fr. Thomas Kelly, Fr. Edward Anderson, (Four Christian Brothers)

Seated: (Two Christian Brothers), Fr. William Eline (Superior), Fr. Henry Milen, Fr. Patrick Troy, (One Christian Brother)