



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

July, 2021

Year 42, No. 07



**Fr. Provincial and
Province Curia
wish you all
a Blessed Feast of
St. Ignatius of Loyola
on 31 July**

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

| JULY, 2021 | | AUGUST, 2021 | |
|------------|--|--------------|--|
| 1 | Central Zone Provincials' meeting (Zoom) | 2 | Final Vows, Fr. Binod Toppo & Fr. Casimir Ekka (T), Bhopal |
| 2 | Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna | 3-5 | Visitation, Campion Bhopal, Bhouri and Mariado |
| 4-5 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur | 6 | XIDAS, Jabalpur |
| 7 | Visitation, Boirdadar, Raigarh | 7-13 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur |
| 8 | Visitation, Baramkela & Mauhapali | 14-15 | Final Vows, Fr. Casmir Ekka (G), Umaria |
| 10-16 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur | 17-20 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur |
| 17-18 | Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur | 21-22 | Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur |
| 19-29 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur | 23-31 | Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur |
| 30-31 | Final Vows, Fr. Tej Kumar Minj, XISA, Raipur | | |



FR. STAN SWAMY, S.J.



**“I am not a silent spectator
and ready to pay the price
whatever be it.”**



THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

MADHYA PRADESH PROVINCE

A TRIBUTE TO FR. STAN SWAMY, S.J.

On behalf of the Madhya Pradesh Province and its members, I pay homage and offer tribute to Fr. Stan Swamy, a prophet, a hero, a champion and a martyr of the marginalized.

Truly, Fr. Stan Swamy was a hero and a champion of the rights and dignity of the tribals of Jharkhand and the neighbouring states. He dedicated his entire life for the emancipation of the underprivileged and the marginalized. He was a silent but fearless campaigner for tribal rights and tribal upliftment.

Fr. Stan Swamy will be remembered for many things but particularly for the following four contributions through which he defended the rights and dignity of the tribals.

1. He voiced for the full and proper implementation of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, which stipulated setting up of a Tribal Advisory Council whose members will be solely from the adivasi community for their protection, well-being and development.
2. He challenged the ‘indiscriminate’ arrest of thousands of young advisees falsely labelled as “Naxals”. He filed a public interest petition in the High Court of Jharkhand for their release.
3. He opposed the setting up of ‘land banks’ which would deprive the tribals from their community land and forest in favour of industries and mining.
4. He opposed the rampant displacement of tribals in the name of one-sided development.

Fr. Stan was a peaceful man and always looked for peaceful settlement of the problems following the path of justice, peace and reconciliation.

His final days and months were very painful. They will remind us of many things that are horribly wrong with our governance and justice system. On the grounds of his age and deteriorating health he moved the court repeatedly with bail petitions but the court remained deaf to his plea. He was denied of even the minimum facility like simple sipper and straw to drink water. I do hope that the law makers and the people in judiciary will review the draconian law and make it people-oriented.

Today, Fr. Stan Swamy is not with us physically, but his legacies will keep him alive for decades and centuries. With his death he is sown into the ground but he will rise in the form of his followers who will carry forward his unfinished works.

May God reward him with an eternal life and may his soul rest in peace.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.
Provincial

Fr. General has approved for the Final Vows

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Fr. Binod Kumar Toppo, S.J. | 4 | Fr. Herman Tirkey, S.J. |
| 2 | Fr. Casimir Ekka, (T), S.J. | 5 | Fr. Tej Kumar Minj, S.J. |
| 3 | Fr. Casmir Ekka, (G) S.J. | | |

Joined the society of Jesus of Madhya Pradesh Province

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES



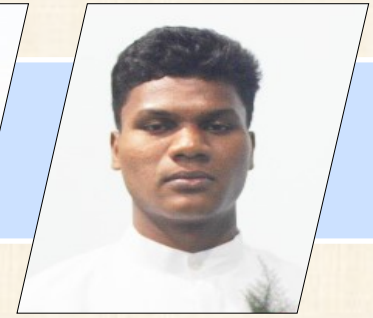
Sch. Sikander Tirkey, S.J.



Sch. Avishkar Ekka, S.J.



Sch. Fedrick Vivek Ekka, S.J.



Sch. Anit Ekka, S.J.

You Are A Priest Forever

Covid-19 has changed all the modes of ceremonies and celebrations. The celebration of priestly ordination could not remain an exception either. Four of our Deacons and one belonging to Jashpur diocese were ordained to priesthood on 12 June at Loyola House, Kunkuri. There were about 200 participants including 30 priests, a few Sisters and family members.

His Lordship, Rt Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta, D.D. Rev. Fr. Mukti Prakash Minj, VG, Rev. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ, Provincial, Ordinandies, Deacons Priests were led to the Loyola Hall, a well decorated altar with a beautiful melody sung by Sch. Vinay and group in the morning hours before noon. The faithful were seated observing the guidelines of Covid-19.

Rev. Bishop officiated the Holy Eucharist and the ceremony of ordination. Laying hands on the Ordinandis by the priests for the invocation of the Holy Spirit and kissing of peace were carried out from a distance by stretching forward their hands. The Holy Eucharist and singing were with much devotion and meaning. The Mass was accomplished with the ceremony of ordination peacefully. Dns. Preetam Prakash Panna, SJ, Alok

Toppo, SJ, Akhilsai Albert Bara, SJ, Dilip Minj, SJ and Nirmal Toppo (Jashpur Diocese) were ordained priests for ever. The faithful were filled with joy. The felicitation of the newly ordained priests was simple and brief without singing and dancing. It was confined to offering a few bouquets, garlands to them and have group Photography with them.

The ceremony of ordination was live streamed by Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey and group.

The theme of ordination, "Called to see all things new in the Lord," was meaningful. Even the corona could not stop God's Blessing of ordination.

The generosity of Loyola Jesuits had brimmed with joy for they had killed a fatted "Banda" and prepared a festive meal for all participants

Their meticulous planning, pleasant coordination and healthy unity reflected in the colourful decoration, harmonious singing, peaceful ceremony, heartfelt hospitality and tasty festive meal.

Fr. Herman Joe, S.J.



Campion School, Bhopal

The summer of 2021 was unique in the sense that all the programmes that of the Province get together and home visits were cancelled due to the Corona pandemic. All the Fathers and Scholastic were obligated to stay in the community and spend the holidays and engage in different activities. But it was a blessing in disguise to spend the holidays together in different and meaningful ways; it was like what they called in the olden days of the Society- a quinzaine, but a longer one. This certainly cemented the community bonding.

We had a fishing spree in our ponds. Thrice in May, the entire community was near and around the pond of AICUF. Together with the workers of the campus, some Fathers dragged the net full of fish, others cleaned them, and Sisters and the cooks fried them. The community had great days of picnics. It was a reminiscing experience of the Gospel after the resurrection of Jesus.

As per the instruction of the Provincial that during the Corona pandemic each community should be self-reliant by making use of the farm and land by growing vegetables and animal husbandry, Fr. Blacius whose hobby is hunting and fishing provided the community with varieties of non-vegetable items. Frs. Amritlal, Christi, Kapil, and the A.C. Sisters of the campus have planted some 60 kilos of ginger in the garden of their units. We hope to have a bumper crop in its season. Fr. Alok has beautified his Ashram with the rarest of trees and plants. Fr. Athnas applied every means to collect the school fees as during corona many were defaulters; he motivated the teachers by orientation seminars. Fr. Panka, following the example of Fr. Alok, levelled the ground in front of Loyola Niwas and planted some trees alongside the roads. Fr. Kalyan pursued his M.A, studies in Psychology to take profit of his stay here and Sch. Naveen knocked on every nook and corner of Bhopal to obtain his passport and visa to fly to Italy for his theological studies. All the Fathers and Scholastic took precautions against the Corona pandemic by doing physical exercises through games and brisk walks and increased the immunity power.

This year, we had a bumper crop of mangoes and *Jamun* in our campus. Our preoccupation was how to save the mangoes from the destructive bats that are thousands here in Bhopal. But the innovative ideas of Frs. Amritlal and Blacius to put bat nets and flood the entire mango grove with electric lights warded them off and we enjoyed plenty of mangoes. Fr. Amritlal prepared some *Jamun* wine and claimed that the wine could be as good as that of the wedding at Cana in the Gospel.

Fr. Christi. S.J.

AICUF Ashram, Bhopal

On 30th June AICUFers visited Shishu bhawan (the missionary of Charity Sisters) and handed over to sister in charge, few couple of cartons crammed full of unused clothes. Those



clothes were collected by Aicufers from generous and big hearted people across the Bhopal city. AICUFers had short interaction with sister Sharin and tried to get the first hand information related to children. Meanwhile AICUFers also realised the demanding work towards the children. Love care and the amount of commitments with which sisters are taking care of those differently abled children are beyond words.

on 2nd July 2021 Aicuf National secretariat scheduled zoom meeting for all state advisors meet. Few topics were addressed namely Aicuf movement, tentative plans amidst pandemic and expectations from National advisor and secretariat. During business session, Aicuf National council meet, Rally magazine and its subscription and finally convention cum centenary of Aicuf and its mode of celebrations were discussed.

Fr. Alok Kujur S.J.

Campion School, Mariado

We, the members of Campion Mariado, came together to celebrate the ordination Anniversary of 12 Jesuits at the main Campion school community, Bhopal on May 22. Fr. Athanas Lakra was the main celebrant at the Holy Mass. He was accompanied by Fr. Panka Toppo, a Golden Jubilarian, and Fr. Michael Ekka, a silver Jubilarian. Fr. Panka Toppo invited us during the homily to reflect on the relevance of priesthood in today's context of the covid-19 pandemic by proposing three questions. Why am I a priest today? Am I doing Jesus' mission today? Is my priesthood relevant today? Thanks to Fr. Christi Kujur, our superior for arranging a beautiful celebration with sharing of memories. At the gathering we overheard some of them whispering to one another congratulations for winning the battle against corona.

This year we had a very good Moong dal crop. We invited close neighbours to help us harvest the crop and on June 2, finished harvesting. Thanks to Fr. Michael Ekka, for his hard work and expertise in cultivating seasonal crops. He gave an example of a good Samaritan by sharing water with the neighbours in need. Meantime, we also cleaned the dug well to get fresh water from the source. The members of Campion, Mariado had two birthdays of Fr. Deobhushan Toppo, and Mr. Sanjeev Lakra (co-worker) jointly celebrated on May 30, as it fell on Sunday. We celebrated World Environment day, on June 5, planting Avocado plants in our campus. Thanks to Fr. Amrit Xalxo for giving us such rare plants from Raipur. To straighten the boundary wall of our campus, the community decided to purchase some decimals of land and in the process of negotiating with Mr. Bhola Ram the landowner, Fr. Christi along with two Sisters came to Mariado on June 7. Thanks to Fr. Christi for bringing jackfruits and mangoes. Campion School, Mariado, to mark the Ignatian year 2021-22, putting forward the theme 'To see all things new in Christ' has constructed a small nursery to prepare plants and distribute the plants to the villagers. With this creative idea, we have started distributing Papaya plants to the villagers. We have put seeds of jackfruit, mango, Jamun, Neem, Emlu, Munga, Karanj, Sal, Mahuwa, and show plants, etc. Hopefully, we will distribute the plants on August 9, 2021, on World Indigenous Day. We are grateful to Fr. Prabhudas Tirkey (Bhopal Diocese) who brought SAAL seeds from Sonmuth village of Bahora Parish. Sr. Magret Tirkey, C.S.J., H.M. of

Campion School is transferred to Purnia, Bihar, and Sr. Reeta, C.S.J., Superior is transferred to Asha Niketan Bhopal. Mariado mission will be ever grateful to their selfless service. So all the three newcomer Sisters are on the way. We are waiting for them to welcome in Mariado.

Last but not the least, Fr. Simon Aind will go to Hazaribag for his tertianship but till now he is giving his best to collect the school fee. For six months he will not be heard but his hard work will always remind us.

Fr. Deobhushan Toppo, S.J.

Jayanti Niketen, Kota

We celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June. To mark the occasion we distributed the grafted fruit plants of litchi. Three village representatives and our coworkers were invited to take the plants. Fr. Nazarius Baxla, Parish Priest and Fr. Sunil Toppo handed over the plants to the invitees and gave messages to take care of them. The next day the news spread and many asked for the plants. As the grafted plants were over they were given mango plants of good variety. As the demand went high for litchi plants we assured them to give many more grafted litchi plants next year.

On 11th June Sch. Ranjit Ekka, SJ gave a visit to the Jesuit community after completing his Juniorate. He stayed with us for two days. He is the first Jesuit from Kota Parish and also the first student to become Jesuit from Campion School, Kota. His visit added joy to the community. We had a fellowship meal in his honour. The next day, Sunday, we had a thanksgiving Mass for him with a small number of parishioners.

On 23-24th June Fr. Michael Tirkey the new PCE gave his first visit as PCE to Campion School, Kota. He was appointed first time as Principal of the School, therefore, he gave first preference to the School. Some of his past dreams for the school still kept him awake. He motivated many students in his tenure. The result was seen and experienced that on 24th June twenty-five former students came to visit the school and Fr. Michael. Many more wanted but we had good rain to stop them. Initially, they are connected somehow with Whatsapp group COSA (Campion Old Student Association) but this time



they were very happy to see themselves face to face. Among the former students, one of them is Sr. Reeta Lakra, UMI. She took her first vows on 30th May 2021. She is also the first religious Sister of the Parish and Campion School, Kota. Her presence added much joy to the group. The group gave her a warm welcome and wished Fr. Michael a success in his assigned ministry in the area of Education. Fr. Michael in a short address inspired them to achieve a higher goal to continue their studies till the aim is achieved. He also gave hints and directions to make the students Association strong

and goal-oriented. Shortly we hoped to have a well-organized former students Association. We concluded the visitation of Fr. Michael and former students with a fellowship meal and sweet mangoes provided by Fr. Sunil Toppo, Minister of the house.

Fr. Anil Panna, S.J.

XIDAS, Jabalpur

The Strategic Plan workshop was held at XIDAS, Jabalpur. Fr. Alexius Ekka, Director, briefed the house about the contributions of Fr. Michael Van den Bogaert at XISS, XIMB, and how he initiated XIDAS. Dr. Namrata Vasudeo Jasrotia, in her presentation, highlighted the vision and mission of XIDAS for the last 25 years under different leaderships. Fr. Director made the session very interactive, critical, and reflective. He highlighted the major thrust areas in the vision-mission statements during the different (eight) leaderships times. The entire Management, Faculty, and Staff participated in the sessions wholeheartedly and gave in their inputs to make the workshop meaningful and comprehensive.

Fr. Alexius Ekka spoke about the characteristics of Jesuit Education and their special focus on the Holistic Development of the stakeholders, especially students i.e. head, heart, and hands. He also briefed about the Charter and the main features of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) 2018. He communicated in detail the main six task forces of IAJU namely Political leadership formation, Education of the Marginalised, Environmental and Economic Justice, Interreligious Dialogue, Leadership in the Ignatian Way, and Peace and Reconciliation. The action plan of the Jesuit society for the implementation of this task force too. The entire session was very informative and enriching.

Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra gave his presentation of Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) and Province Apostolic Preferences (PAP) and the vision-mission statements of the Province.

He also briefed the house about the translation of Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) and Province Apostolic Preferences (PAP) through different initiatives and activities to be implemented in the Madhya Pradesh province.

Fr. Sanjay Kujur spoke to the house about Jesuit Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh Province. He briefed the house about the preamble and Vision-Mission of Jesuit Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh. In his presentation, he also highlighted how the PAP will be translated and implemented into the Institute of Higher Learning in Madhya Pradesh Province. The activities mentioned were very relevant and appropriate.

Fr. Binod Toppo gave the last presentation of the day. He spoke about the XIDAS Action Plan in detail and how the Institute will implement the PAP by initiating various meaningful activities throughout the year for the next 10 years. The activities were mainly focused on 8 thrust areas, for example, sensitizing the stakeholders about the Vision and Mission of Jesuit Characteristics of Education, Human Rights, CSR Interventions, Personality Development Sessions, Ecological Conservation, Clean and Green Villages, Peace and Reconciliation, Celebration of Festivals, Panel Discussions and Visitation of the Poor Families of other religions.

Dr. Uma C. Saha Dean, chaired the session and made it very lively and a lot of discussions and clarifications were made.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, chaired the session. Dr. Namrata Vasudeo gave a brief report of the Vision-Mission Statement of XIDAS for the last 25 years and proceeding of both days. Dr. Uma C. Saha presented the Perspectives & Requisites of Vision -Mission Statement very elaborately and comprehensively.

Fr. Alexius Ekka in his presentation briefly gave examples of Vision-Mission of many prestigious Institutes and organisations in India to the audience. This gave the house an idea of how the Vision and Mission are formulated.

Thereafter Director presented to the house XIDAS Vision-Mission which he had already drafted to save time. The house discussed and dwelt on the same and gave their suggestions for further enrichment. After the discussion, it was decided that the committee will incorporate the suggestions and refine



the Vision-Mission Statements.

16th June 2021 yet marked another milestone for XIDAS as we bid farewell to Fr. Alexius Ekka who completed his tenure as a Director at XIDAS from 1st October 2019 to 15th June 2021. The official handing over of charge to the new Director Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra took place in a programme organized in the Bulcke Hall. The programme began with a prayer led by Fr. Binod Toppo followed by the felicitation of Fr. Ranjit Tigga along with Fr. Mahant Ekka, Superior from Umaria, and Fr. Benedict Minj, Head Master from Nimha.

In the welcome address Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra expressed his gratitude to Fr. Alexius Ekka. The day proceeded with a Message on the occasion by Fr. Ranjit Tigga followed by a few words from Fr. Alexius Ekka. A note of gratitude and felicitation of Fr. Alexius Ekka was initiated by representatives



In the second half of the show, the official handing over of charge took place followed by an opening address by the new Director. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Cecil Anthony.

Fr. Provincial was on a visitation to XIDAS on 17th and 18th June. He met with all the staff, management and held sessions wherein he was able to understand the grievances faced by the employees. Thanks to Fr. Provincial to grace the many events of XIDAS in one visit.

Fr. Binod Kumar Toppo, S.J.

St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar

During Covid-19 Pandemic, the faithful of St. Joseph's Church Kerakachhar was away from the Church for a long time and now they have realized their spiritual need. Therefore to meet their spiritual need St. Joseph's Church took the initiative to broadcast Online Mass on Sundays. People felt enriched. They experienced the presence of God in their life. Seeing the need for the faithful the sacrament of Marriage was administered by Fr. Dilip Minj, Fr. Alok Toppo, and Fr. Gyan Prakash Kujur, Parish Priest, observing all the protocols of Covid-19 and guidelines given by the government.

St. Joseph's Community had a day of tree plantation. On various occasions, many trees especially Mahogani saplings and Papaya saplings were planted this month.

16th June was an auspicious day for St. Joseph Community, Kerakachhar. On that day Rev. Fr. Dilip Kumar Minj, a newly ordained priest, was warmly welcomed as a new member of the community. St. Joseph community, Kerakachhar extended its heartfelt gratitude to St. Xavier's Community Boirdadar for his Diaconate ministry over there. On 16th June, Morning they wished him best wishes and success in his new ministry. Fr. Zacharias Lakra, Superior, accompanied him to Kerakachhar.

The Celebration of the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga was historic because Jesuits residing in all the four communities in Pathalgaon commemorated their first Vows day. The welcoming of the newly ordained priests and the new juniors marked the celebration of the feast. The climax of the celebration was thanksgiving mass offered by the newly ordained priests followed by agape.

23rd June was another auspicious day for St. Joseph's Community Kerkachhar. On that day, newly ordained priest Rev. Fr. Alok Kumar Toppo arrived. After the ordination at Loyola Kunkuri, he offered thanksgiving mass in St. Ignatius Church Shanti Bhavan, Jashpur only for the family members and the relatives. Thanks to the Shanti Bhavan community who also accommodated and took care of him for two months while preparing for his ordination. Thereafter his family members reached him to Kerakachhar.

RVTC students were busy this month filling the forms for the upcoming examination. All the staff and students of RVTC were waiting for the reopening of the training center. Loyola School, Gorrappara also continued to grow in number as students were gradually coming to the school for admission. The outgoing students of Loyola School took transfer certificates to find a new destination for a bright future. All the staff members were busy at desks and teachers were eagerly waiting for the reopening of the School.

Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J.

Khrist Milan Ashram Namna

In April, on 24/04/2021, Khrist Milan Ashram Namna lost, Br. Clestus Baxla, SJ one of its community members due to Corona Virus. Fr. Aemelianus Lakra, too got infected by Corona Virus in May and was admitted to the Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur for nearly fifteen days. After getting discharged from the hospital he was in-home quarantine in one of the separate rooms away from others for more than twelve days. In course of home quarantine one day he fell on the floor and lying there for more than three hours. Thereafter he is

completely dependent on a wheelchair. Earlier he could walk by himself with the help of a wheelchair. Hope and pray that



he may soon regain his previous strength.

Fr. Marcel Ekka goes to Holy Cross Hospital twice a week for dialysis. His health seems rather steady. The health conditions of other fathers and brothers too are steady. There was an ordination programme at Khirst Milan Ashram, Namna. Arch Bishop Emeritus, His Grace Pascal Topno ordained deacon Johnny Wilson Toppo of Archdiocese Bhopal to the priesthood on Saturday 5th of June. On 15th of June Arch Bishop Emeritus, His Grace Pascal Topno celebrated his 90th Birth Day. On 16th of June Fr. Isaac Kujur celebrated his birthday. This year there was only one transfer from the community. Fr. Godfried Ekka the outgoing Chaplain of Holy Cross Hospital and house treasurer was replaced by Fr. Isaac Kujur. There was a community meeting on 26/06/21 convened by house superior, Fr. Shanti Prakash Ekka, to share the pros and cons of two of St. Ann's nurse Sisters coming to help the old and sick at Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna. All of us found ourselves open and welcoming to the initiative taken by Fr. Provincial. However, some of the community members expressed apprehension and uneasiness about Sisters coming and staying here. However, their coming and staying here will be an altogether different experience for every one of us.

Fr. Isaac Kujur S.J.

St. Xavier's Niwas, Nimha

The building work in Nimha started, stopped, and continued during the Covid-19 frightening and challenging us. Now at present Xavier's Niwas building work has reached the door level centering. Our collaborators SJT Sisters attended the annual spiritual journey online for 8 days, arranged by the Province. According to our planning, anything to be added or to be left out, in Xavier Niwas Koelari Umaria. The Community came together for the final drafting of the UAP and PAP. Father Benedict Minj attended the online meeting on the themes- MAP education, the inauguration of the Ignatian Year 20th May, arranged and presented by, Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial. Fr. Benedict Minj fully attended it. The new PCE Fr. Michael Tirkey presented, focused on what the school level programme for the Ignatian year could be. Father Benedict Minj prayed for peace in the world, appealed by Pope Francis. Father Benedict Minj planted a few fruit trees and show plants the in the campus. The fields are being prepared for paddy transplantation this time. Now and then Fathers and Brother

Petrus Minj came to visit Nimha. The Provincial came here for his annual visit on 19th June morning, had breakfast with father Benedict, met personally and in common with SJT Sisters too, and proceeded to Xavier Niwas, Koelari, Umaria at noon for lunch. His visit and presence made the campus of Xavier Niwas, Nimha happy. Thanks to Fr. Ranjit Tigga. On this day the Contractor Mr. Mukesh Kumar was here, asking him about the time-bound completion of the new building. The contractor said that he would take 3 to 4 months if everything went well.

Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J.

Jeevan Vikas Maitri, Pathalgaon

The World Environment Day, was observed by JVM on 5th June in five places-Ashadeep community, Paraghati, Kilkila, Karngabahla, and Madanpur-Korba; with the slogan "Dharti



Kare Pukar, Vriksh Laga Kar Karo Shringar". Pamphlets, banners, placards were prepared to give a message on conservation of environment and ecology with special reference to "Ecosystem Restoration" the theme of the year 2021. Socio-cultural, religious, economic, and political pollutions were highlighted too. Due to corona, the day was marked symbolically with a few people gathered there by following the covid 19 protocol. In some places, discussion on environmental pollution and mitigation was discussed. Villagers pledged to plant two trees per family every year. A write-up on the efforts of JVM for eco-conservation, by Yacub, was published in the newspaper.

A new member of JVM Fr. Amrit Xalxo was welcomed in the community by Fr. Robert Tigga, Superior. We wished him all the best in his new ministry.

Dry ration (Rice, Dal, Flour, Soyabadi, edible oil, sanitizer, pea, spice) was distributed to 100 households funded by CCBI Commission for Migrants Rs. 1,00,000/- (one lakh only) to the neediest ones and with special preference to migrants. Thanks to the commission secretary Fr. Jaison Vadassery and the President Rev. Bishop Henry V. Thakur, DD.

A write-up was published in the newspaper on Birsa Munda on the occasion of his 121 death anniversary, 9th June 1900. Lok Manch staff and the Ashadeep community paid homage to the tribal hero. Fr. Robert Tigga was the Chief Guest who in his message highlighted the contribution he made to tribal liberation. Mr. Hemant Lakra read out his life sketch and Fr. Yacub Kujur explained the tribal situation caused due to so-called "development". Mr. Joachim Toppo proposed a vote of thanks.

After long-awaited and hard work JVM, received the FCRA bank account number from SBI Delhi and its approval from MHA. Thanks to staff members for their hard work.

On 23rd June, some community members got a second dose of Covishield. On the same day Fr. Yacub along with Lok

Manch staff and nurse Celecian Minj, the in-charge of Covid treatment of Pathalgaon block, visited six villages-Diwanpur, Tihlisarai, Thelupara, Sureshpur, Bahnatangar, and Kunkuri to encourage and motivate people for vaccination. In this way, JVM collaborated with Government Department on various issues.

25th and 26th June were grace-filled days for the community when Rev. Fr. Provincial made his visitation.

Fr. Yacub Kujur, S.J.

St. Xavier's Pathalgaon

St. Xavier's English Medium, Bandiakhar, Pathalgaon Building is coming up with its new look with 2nd floor Eastern and Northern wing from the basement up to 2nd floor. During lockdown, the work was still on despite the little hurdle in



purchasing the required building materials. During this pandemic time no schools but several good works in the campus were done for instance *Jhula* and play kits for children were installed and a new carpet grass mini garden has come up in St. Xavier's English Medium, School. At the back of the main school building, the jungle was cleaned up and converted into a new playground keeping in mind the CBSC requirements in the future. St. Xavier's Hindi medium, Bandiakhar though no school, no children but the smiling flower with pots and varieties of greenery items kept the school campus alive and pleasant. Fr. Anup Tigga, Headmaster kept himself busy caring for the greenery vegetation.

Schools, Youth, and all public activities were banned to maintain pandemic orders of the government. The letter of the Bishop and Fr. Provincial helped us to abide by safety measures from covid 19. The community members were hale and hearty with little fear and confusion due to frequent visits of the parishioners in the name of Vachan Daat, baptism, and also marriage during the high lockdown periods. It was though extremely unlawful for a citizen. Thank God no complaints reached to the government officials and media lest the situation should have been worse. The members of the



community were so far keeping fine untouched by covid-19.

Fr. Dino Toppo, S.J. expressed his gratitude towards the St. Xavier's community on his farewell Holy Mass on May 7 and the next evening moved to his new mission assigned to him. The community was highly indebted to him for his

contribution to the community and wished him for his better forthcoming undertakings.

Fr. Vipin Kishore Tirkey participated twice in a Zoom international meeting (CLC Asia-Pacific Meet 2021) in preparation for the Ignatian Year. It was very enriching experience for him by interacting with worldwide spread CLC members. Most of the participants were lay people who very closely followed the Ignatian Spirituality. They deeply acknowledged the contribution of St. Ignatius Loyola particularly the Ignatian Spirituality (the lifeline) for their spiritual life. The CLC Asia-Pacific group was very generous to remember us (Indian CLC) in their prayers.

The land problem of a new piece of land (the eastern portion of the community garden, the back of Hindi Medium school) St. Xavier's Residence, Bandiakhar had again put us in trouble. Our neighbors residing outside the boundary wall on the eastern side of our garden claimed that around 40-45 dismal portion of land belonged to them. The portion of that land is right now inside the parish boundary for the last 50 -60 years around. But the map of that particular portion was not rectified which still showed in the map that the portion of that land belonged to them. Consequently, the land brokers in the name of the landowner, i.e. Ganeshmati had applied for demarcation in the year 2019 itself. But due to lockdown and our interference, the demarcation dates were postponed twice. June 12, the third demarcation date was conveyed to us. This time also demarcation was postponed due to the absence of our superior. For the next legal proceedings, some of our Jesuit representatives met Deputy Collector Mr. Neelam Toppo, Ambikapur regarding the same case. The further legal proceedings are on.

Two days orientation programme for St. Xavier's English Medium, Bandiakhar teaching staff was organized on 20 & 22



June under the able guidance of Fr. Alphonse Tirkey, as the resource person. It was a very enriching experience for the teachers to understand the life of St. Ignatius Loyola and his contribution along with the Ignatian way of proceedings in the field of education. The participants were highly enthused to carry on their services as a teacher to mould the students for better humanitarian society.

Fr. Vipin Kishore Tirkey, S.J.

St. Xavier's School, Rajpur

The drops of rain in our School Campus brought joy and happiness among the members of the school family. The greenery around soothed the eyes of everyone. Workers engaged busy chopping grass and tending plants. The school family got ready to enter into the new academic year. Initial preparations and activities started this new academic year. Fr. Sebastian Tigga, Principal, St. Xaviers School, Rajpur, welcomed all teachers online on 1st June. He urged them to come with an updated mind, to learn new technologies and

skills to impart effective education in the Covid 19 world. The online classes began in St. Xavier's School, Rajpur. All Teachers were asked by him to be familiar with Cisco Webex and other Mobile Apps to conduct classes online.

Teachers were provided with Webinars, inputs to better equip themselves. On 10th -11th June, a two days teacher's training program was arranged by the School Management. Fr. Jerome Minj, Principal St. Xavier's B.Ed. College, Ambikapur, Fr. Kalyanus Minj, and Fr. Sushil Tigga were invited as resource persons for the occasion. Each of them briefed teachers with respective topics, new education policy, its implementation; Challenges in Post Covid -19 Schooling, Value Education, Digital learning and so on. The sessions were inspiring interactive and thought-provoking. They were actively participated by our teachers. Our teachers felt happy and enlightened after listening to the valuable inputs and suggestions of the resource persons. Similarly, teachers attended another Webinar organized by Champion School, Bhopal on 18th June. They listened to Rev Fr. Sunny Jacob, SJ with much interest and noted down the valuable points on NEP 2020, and Teachers Empowerment.

The classes started online in the school and got in the full swing soon. Dn. Virendra Tirkey assumed his new responsibility in St. Xavier's School Community, Rajpur with new enthusiasm. Sch. Ashwin rendered a helping hand by taking online classes for the students. Both of them were new to the Cisco Webex System and put their whole effort to learn and teach with the new system.

Dn. Virendra Tirkey, SJ

Loyola Niketan Bilaspur

All the members in the community are fine. All of us have completed our second dose of COVID vaccination. Frs. Sushil and Emil visited their family members at home in first week of June.

Fr. Provincial and Socius went for the ordination of 4 Jesuits which was held on 12 June at Loyola Kunkuri. Fr. Arvind Vinay and Herman also attended it. They recorded and streamed the live videos of the event.

The Community attended Ignatian year monthly prayer meeting organised and shared by JCSA and all were spiritually strengthened.

The community is grateful for the generosity of other communities in the province who provided plenty of mangoes



throughout the season. The community fully enjoyed having varieties of mangoes.

The scholastics had a good time in the heat of this summer in catching fish in our pond in the campus.

Fr. Arvind Vinay, S.J.

Catholic Ashram Boirdadar

The warriors quarantined and missioned: After 12 days of quarantine Fr. William Beck, S.J. was reached to Mauhapali on 1st June and was happy to share his joys with the JMJ hospital staff: doctors, nurses, health workers. Fr. Milyan Xaxa, S.J., and Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. who took the utmost care of Fr. William along with their ministries, were given send-off (not farewell) in the Community Evening Eucharist and thereafter the sumptuous supper. The St. Francis Xavier Church counts on record for these warriors of the Lord.

A day of Spiritual Preparation for Vows: Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. helped the Sisters of the Holy Spirit along with two Sisters of the Cross in JMJ Nursing College to renew their vows on 4th June.

Br. Ajay Ekka, CMI a Parish Pride who hails from Vinobhanagar of Boirdadar Parish was on his home leave and attended the Eucharist every day. He attended the online retreat and made the confession. He is seen as a model and genuine soul of the Parish.

Meeting with Bishop and Priests of the Diocese: After releasing the joint statement on the Covid vaccination by the Bishops of Ambikapur, Jashpur, and Raigarh, on 6th June a meeting was called by Bishop Paul to share the outcome of the deliberation and plan for the diocese, beginning from the city Parishes of Raigarh because Raigarh hit the Covid patients more. Frs. Zacharias Lakra, S.J., and Dilip Minj, S.J. attended the meeting and contributed views and plans from the Covid- taskforce of the Province. Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. invitingly requested to pray for him on his ordination on 12th June.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. reached Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. to Pahartoli his home village, collected the things of ordination, and came to Loyola Kunkuri to tune himself with their other ordinands. On 12th June Saturday, Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. was ordained a priest which was conferred by His Lordship Emmanuel Kerketta, DD Bishop of Jashpur along with four priests. The SJ with his family members and relatives thanked and blessed the Lord for this newly ordained priest. He is a priest and a gift of God in the pandemic. The anointed Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. was brought back to Boirdadar Community with his dear Mom Smt. Regina Minj, elder sister Ms. Mary Michael Minj, and beloved maternal uncle Fr. Gabriel Lakra from the Diocese of Ambikapur. The few Parishioners welcomed him in a traditional and tribal way of reception. Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. welcomed them all and introduced the guests. Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. gave his first blessing to the Parishioners. He offered his first and thanksgiving Eucharist in the evening on 13th June, Sunday in the Jesuit Community for the Jesuits and religious (sisters) and family members. He was assisted by Frs. Gabriel Lakra and Zacharias Lakra, S.J. The moment became emotional in thanking the Lord for various persons, events, and situations. A small felicitation was given. The festive supper concluded the day. On Monday 14th June, the family members and relatives came to Boirdadar and participated in the thanksgiving Holy Mass offered for the Parishioners. In fright, the Parishioners felicitated Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. and family members. The Parishioners were satisfied with the programme and assured that they will participate in the postponed programme of the village. The guests went back home after the delicious lunch. Finally, Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. was reached to Kerakachhar, his new ministry place on 16th June. He attended the first Holy Mass of Fr. Akhilsai Albert Bara, S.J. in Chhipaniya, Banea.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

Ashakiran, Mangalore

Ashakiran Jesuits welcomed Fr. Ronald Pais, SJ, the new Superior, and Fr Vishwas SJ, the new Sub- Minister to the Ashakiran Jesuit community the previous month. However, the official welcome and farewell ceremony of our former officials Fr Alphonse and Fr Kevin was held on 27 June.

In the first week of June third years were busy with online internal tests. On 2nd June onwards we had the manifestation of conscience with Superior and Fr Ronald Pais met us individually for the manifestation of conscience. On 06 th of June, we celebrated the birthday of scholastic Pankaj Murmu (DUM) and prayed for him and his family.

From 7th June onwards we restarted our PPT presentations on Ignatian assignment regularly in the evening. On 12th June, Scholastic Vikas Lakra (MAP) celebrated his gift of life, and the community prayed for him. Our monthly recollection was held on 13th of June and Fr Sujay, SJ from St Aloysius Community

helped us to reflect on the theme “ So fragile yet so unbreakable”.

On 14th of June community meeting was held in Ashakiran. We as a community thoughtfully reflected our past events and activities and meticulously planned for upcoming events. On 21st of June, we celebrated the feast of St Aloysius Gonzaga grand, and a volleyball match was held in his honor. 22nd of June was a memorable day as we celebrated grandly the birthdays of Fr Kevin along with Scholastic Rudolf and Macwin and made their days. On 28th of June, St Aloysius College, Mangalore organized a free vaccination drive for its staff and students. Along with Frs. Ronald and Vishwas, a few Scholastics also registered their names and got vaccinated.

At present, third years are busy preparing for their end-semester exams which are being postponed due to the present situation.

Sch Vikas Lakra, SJ

JESUIT MISSION IN MP Article 39

When writing to the Archbishop on 2nd November 1911, Fr. Van den Driessche enters into more details as he was on tour. His letter is dated from Gorea: “From Mahuatoli, from where I wrote to Your grace on 15th October, I visited successively Bachhram, Kalea, Sarabkombo, Betra, Ubka, Bhandea, Jurodand, Budhadand, Musgutri, Ghughri, Marol, Saraipani, Basen Koldeah. Your Grace will be glad to hear that I found everywhere our Christians as well disposed, as confident in us and as steady as during my last visit in March. There were only 2 places: Butunga near Kalea and Dakdau’a near Budhadand, where the people through fright did no more dare to go to make *girja*. In Butunga, I was received as usual, all the people came to me and I had a good chat with them, men, women and children. Today I hear from the *Pracharak* of Kalea, that Butunga makes again *girja*. *Deo Gratias!* In Dakdau’a they seemed to be more afraid, although they assured me that they had not become pagans, and finally promised to go to *girja* as before.”

“In all other places where I passed, there is not an appearance of even an inclination to be shaky. This is manifestly the work of our Lord. He alone can keep them steady in the present circumstances, for the rascals have not yet given up the idea of perverting our Christians. Just when I was going to enter Bhandea, I was informed that the *ganjhu*, who is at the same time a kind of *Daroga*, had ordered the Christians to plant the *karam*, threatening to expel them from the village, if they refused. I was told that he even threatened to shoot them! The youngsters told me that he would profit of this pagan feast to make the Christians “eat the rice” i.e. to make them pagans. I called the *ganjhu* and after the sermon I gave him, he went away like a dog holding the tail between the legs and did not plant the *karam!*” He also says that in several places threats are used to force

the Christians to plant the *karam*.

The Archbishop had asked the 3 Fathers working in Jashpur, to send in a report regarding the losses sustained through this vehement persecution. Fr. Van den Driessche’s answer is dated 9th November 1911. Since a short time before, he had been able to announce the good news that Sarbahla and Khutitoli on Kastura side, had agreed to come back and accept a catechist, the losses now amounted to one village only Jemna (Jamuna) near Tapkara. This happened at the end of July, and the Raja’s people had done it more cleverly than in Kastura. They induced the Christians to write a petition to the Raja, to ask him to accept them again as pagans! But a little later Jemna (Jamuna) was completely Catholic. Thank God, no other villages have even temporarily abandoned. He had first explained to the Archbishop how Saraitoli, Khutitoli and Sarbahla, temporarily shaky had already come back. He had also heard that the Khadia quarter of Kastura, called Khadiatoli, wanted to come back; but as they had stupidly taken loan in Nagar, they were made to suffer for it. They eventually returned to the Faith.

The Father spent the greater part of the Rainy seasons of 1912 and the 2 consecutive years, under a tent at Ginabahr. Anxiety to be nearer his persecuted Christians, induced him to sacrifice the greater comforts of Kurdeg bungalow, for the hardships of that tent-life, in full Rainy season. When he reached the month of August 1912, he could look back on 8-10 months of comparative quiet and peace for the Christians under him. Evidently the frequent correspondence, and subsequent interviews, between the Archbishop on the one hand and the higher authorities of the Central Provinces on the other, must have found some echoes in Jashpur, and will have kept on the alert the local administration. But, as happened before the effect of these warnings did not endure long.

Writing from his tent in Ginabahar, on 10 August 1912, the Father informs the Archbishop that as regards himself "things are going on splendidly." As regards the country "The situation is pretty quiet since several months, but I think there is very little change in the disposition of the Jashpur authorities. Last month I wrote to the Raja to inform him that a Christian had been kept bound to a stake for 2 hours by 2 *thikedars*, because he was going to make *girja*. The answer came to this: you are not a party, we cannot act. It is the answer they gave before, when they did answer!" The 2 *thikedars* were Ghadda of Kharijharia and Charku of Barangjor. The Christian was Lohra of Barangjor. After having kept him bound for 2 hours in the full sun, they made him sign a *muchilka* promising not to go to *girja* any more, under penalty of Rs. 50/- and 50 *jutas* (beatings with a shoe, considered very dishonorable). The Father added another complaint: "These 2 *thikedars* force the Christians to work *begari* on Sundays, prevent them from assisting at the Sunday Service, and from sending their children to school."

The Raja's answer directing the aggrieved part to have recourse to the courts, is dated 22nd July 1912. In addition there is: "If any of the Christians have any general complaint either religious or temporal against their respective *thikedars*, they may make representation to the proper state authority so that proper action could be taken thereupon. Or if you yourself have any general complaint against any of them, you may inform the Raja Bahadur or his *Diwan* of the same, in doing which, you are requested to kindly act upon sufficient and direct information, and not on exaggerated and distorted second hand reports." This was stated by A. Bagehi, Private Secretary, to the Raja Bahadur, Jashpur State. The last sentence is significant of what they thought of Fr. Van den Driessche's complaints!!

Incidentally he makes a very just remark, from his experience of living with the people during the rains: "My stay here during the rains, has shown me once more how necessary it is to have village chapels. I think that on most Sundays during the rains, no chapel means no Sunday gathering. Will they gather in the rain, or at least in a wet plot of ground without even a shed to shelter them? I am quite ready to go on living in a tent, but if we could at least have chapels for our people!" One may not forget that in the *Heth* Ghat, most of the villages are thickly populated, and that no private house could accommodate even a 10th part of the necessary Sunday attendance. Yet the people wished more for a permanent residence of the Father, among them, than for chapels. The reason was the protection they felt from his presence among them. "Your Grace knows that the chief reason why I wished to remain in Jashpur even during the rains, is to convince our Christians, that we want to do for them all what is humanly possible."

Relative peace continued for some time, after the Rainy season, during the 5 weeks of his touring. The ordinary vexation, *begari*, *adhbatti* etc. went on as usual. He wrote again on 2nd November 1912, and stated that just then they were trying to force on the Christians the celebration of *Karam*, a purely pagan festival. It is the feast of fecundity celebrated by young men and girls unmarried. Last year they had already put on coercion for the occasion. "I have been told that someone goes about exhibiting a paper which he pretends to be an order of the Raja, under penalty of fine, to celebrate that feast. Today the preacher of Kurkunga tells me that at the last bazaar of Narainpur, the order was proclaimed publicly. I told him to try and see that paper, but I doubt whether it will be shown." In the next letter, 27th November, he says that the so called order has been proclaimed only in some slack villages, where probably they would have celebrated the *Karam* all the same, even without the order. Hence better keep quiet about it.

Violence at Ginabahar: Three weeks later, the Father showed that the *relative peace* had again been turned into "open persecution." On 27th November he informs the Archbishop that Tippu Sikar, *gomoshta*, has confiscated a *dand* of Ledha, Ginabahar; because he was keeping the tent of the Father in his house, after the latter had left. On 26th, the Father heard that Ledha was threatened with the loss of another field, this time *doin* (low field) which since 20 years is in his possession. Ledha belongs to the chief family of Bartoli, a *tola* of Ginabhar, where the Father had pitched his tent. During the whole rainy season, no one tried to molest Ledha. The reason advanced why they are at him now, is that he has called the Father to Ginabahar. "To me the conclusion seems evident: they attack Ledha, but they aim at me; they want to make my staying at Ginabahar impossible. If they succeed at Ginabahar, there is no reason why the same means of confiscation would not render impossible my staying anywhere else. The Raja cannot directly prevent me as long as I live under the tent, but the indirect means he employs now, might prove very efficacious. The brave people of Ginabahar – although they understand very well that I am the occasion of these vexations (they have told them so explicitly) - in no way seem disposed to ask me to go elsewhere; on the contrary they insist on my returning to Ginabahar as soon as possible." The Father then states that he held the October and November *tatikhs* (monthly *Pracharak* meeting) there and will hold there the one of December too, and celebrate also Christmas. "That will help, I think to make the Raja understand that if we cannot acquire concessions, at any rate we are decided not to give up any of our rights."

Compile by Fr. Agapit Turkey, S.J.

Intention of Pope Francis in July 2021

Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.



| June 2021 | LET US PRAY FOR THE DEAR DEPARTED |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | Fr Ignatius Gyan Hembrom, SJ (HAZ 51/28) |
| 9 | Anton Weerasinghe, SJ (SRI 61/82) |
| 12 | Felix Prakash Tete, SJ (RAN 85/65) |
| 16 | Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi (SRI) (81/63) |
| 29 | Br Francis Basumatary (DAR) (68/35) |



Death Anniversary : July

| S.N. | NAME | DEATH | BIRTH |
|------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Fr. John Bulckens | 01-Jul-95 | 12-Apr-15 |
| 2 | Fr. Sylvanus Tirkey | 03-Jul-18 | 01-Jul-41 |
| 3 | Fr. Ghisleen Van Doorselaer | 08-Jul-12 | 04-May-10 |
| 4 | Br. John Barla | 16-Jul-04 | 15-Jul-34 |
| 5 | Br. Pascal Tigga | 26-Jul-13 | 15-Oct-28 |
| 6 | Fr. Stephen Toppo | 26-Jul-15 | 30-Apr-60 |
| 7 | Br. Pascal Kujur | 31-Jul-12 | 18-Mar-30 |

JULY

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 7 | Toppo Niranjan |
| 8 | Lakra Alexius |
| 9 | Tigga Anuranjan |
| 10 | Xalxo Xaviers |
| 13 | Kujur Arohit |
| 13 | Kujur Ashok (L) |
| 14 | Xaxa Milyan |
| 15 | Bara Akhilsai Albert |
| 15 | Minj Dilip Kumar |
| 19 | Ekka Alexius |
| 20 | Ekka Ajay Bernard |
| 20 | Palhe Akhilesh |
| 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

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Panna Anil |
| 3 | Panna Kalyan Kr |
| 5 | Tigga Sushil (K) |
| 7 | Lakra Ravindra |
| 7 | Sandeep Lakra (B) |
| 8 | Kujur Kuldeep |
| 9 | Minj Herman Joseph |
| 11 | Tirkey Augustus |
| 11 | Tirkey Suresh |
| 12 | Tirkey Agapit |
| 13 | Tigga William |
| 15 | Beck Sylvanus |
| 16 | Ekka Stephen |
| 16 | Toppo Theodore |
| 16 | Xalxo 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 |

Published by Fr Provincial of Madhya Pradesh Province. For Private Circulation only.

Kindly send your News and Photos by 25th of every month to:

<mapsj.information@gmail.com> and a copy to <mapsocius@yahoo.co.in>

Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this Newsletter.