



RANCHI BULLETIN

A.M.D.G

Andaman Islands

Assam Mission

Jharkhand



Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, Servant of God



Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, Servant of God

80/7 Ranchi Jesuits, P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand July 2021

ANNOUNCEMENT

- His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj, Administrator of Port Blair Diocese as the new Bishop of Port Blair Diocese. This provision was made public in Rome on Tuesday 29 June 2021.
- Rev. Fr. Linus Pingal Kujur, Prof. of St. Albert's College, Ranchi, has been appointed as the Diocesan Administrator of Gumla after the demise of Bishop Paul Alois Lakra, DD.

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK – SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

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

Contact details of the Secretary to Fr. Provincial

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APPOINTMENT BY FR. PROVINCIAL

- Fr. Aurel Brys : Assistant Parish Priest, Catholic Church Kanke; w.e.f. July 10, 2021

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

A. Meetings with the Finance Commission to finalize the Budgets of the Institutions/Communities

- July 12 : Simdega Zone
- July 13 : Gumla Zone
- July 14 : Khunti Zone
- July 16 : Ranchi Zone 1
- July 17 : Ranchi Zone 2

- July 18 : Assam and Andamans
- July 19 : Governing Body meeting: St. Xavier's College, Simdega

B. Meetings with the Secretaries & Vice- Presidents of Registered Societies and Directors of the Works

- July 23 : 10.00 a.m. - ATC & Post Graduate Training Centre
: 04.30 p.m. - Catholic Press & Xavier Publications
- July 25 : 10.00 a.m. - St. John's School, Ranchi & St. Xaviers Doranda
: 04.30 p.m.- Xaviers Ranchi & Society for Cultural and Social Development
- July 28 : 03.30 p.m. - XISS & Ranchi Jesuits
- August 06 : 04.30 p.m. - St. Ignatius Gumla/Arouse/
St. Mary's Samtoli
- August 08 : 10.00 a.m. - Soso & Rengarih
04.30 p.m. - Tongo & Noadih
- August 13 : 04.30 p.m. - Khunti & Sarwada
- August 14 : 04.30 p.m. - Manresa House & Satya Bharati

C. Fr. Provincial's Visitations

- July 20 & 21 : St. John's School Ranchi
- July 22 & 24 : St. Xavier's College Ranchi
- July 27 : St. Xavier's School Doranda
- July 29 : Prabhat Tara School Dhurwa
- August 2 : Inigo High School Saporom
- August 3 : Catholic Church Patrachauli
- August 4 : Catholic Church Kanke
- August 5 : Khrist Jyoti Niwas Bingaon
- August 7 : Province Consult

- **PCF will visit the Scholastics staying in Manresa House from 08 July to 24 July 2021.**

FIRST YEAR NOVICES

S. N.	NAME	PARISH	NOVITIATE
1.	Alok Abhay Bara	Dorea	Ashirvad, Namkum
2.	Amit Lakra	Tongo	Ashirvad, Namkum
3.	Basant Dungkung	Dalmadi	Ashirvad, Namkum
4.	Binay Kujur	Kurdeg	Ashirvad, Namkum
5.	Eremias Kerketta	Piriyaponch	Ashirvad, Namkum
6.	Jayant Xalxo	Patrachauli	Ashirvad, Namkum
7.	Ujjwal Tirkey	Gumla	Ashirvad, Namkum
8.	Vijay Barla	Karra	Ashirvad, Namkum
9.	Vikas Minj	Katkahi	Ashirvad, Namkum
10.	Viksal Minj	Salgaposh	Ashirvad, Namkum
11.	Abhinandan Tirkey	Dugla	Shillong
12.	Nitish Dungkung	Bindhaintoli	Shillong
13.	Surbhi Kullu	Khanjaloya	Shillong

STATUS OF JUNIORS 2021-2022

S.N.	NAME	JUNIORATE
1.	Jenar Ba'a	Trivandrum
2.	Pawan Baghwar	Trivandrum
3.	Amar Bara	Trivandrum
4.	Shanti Ekka	Trivandrum
5.	Suman S. Orey	Trivandrum
6.	Anand Minj	Trivandrum
7.	Nelson Hassa Purty	Bombay
8.	Shailesh Khalkho	Bombay
9.	Ajit Minj	Bombay
10.	Cyprian Bilung	Sitagarha
11.	Tej Kumar Bilung	Sitagarha
12.	Pawan Kandulna	Sitagarha
13.	Sanchilit Dungkung	Sitagarha
14.	Hemant Soreng	Sitagarha
15.	Simon Tudu	Sitagarha
16.	Sushant Xalxo	Sitagarha

MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

The month of June was the blessing for all of us in many ways. All the scholastics, who are studying in Pune, Chennai, Trichy and other places, joined Manresa House community. They were in quarantine for a week before they joined us fully in our everyday activities. We were also blessed in this month because many communities were very kind and generous to bring seasonal fruits like lychee, mangoes and jackfruits to us. We are profusely grateful to Jharna, ATC Namkum, Kishore Nagar, Dorea, St. Michael's Khunti, Kochang, St. Mary's Samtoli, Rengarih, FCC Sisters of Mahuadanr and many others for being generous and showing their love to us. May God bless them all.

In the evening, on 5th June, all the Scholastics began their annual retreat in two groups. Fr. Edwin Dang guided the first group which included all the philosophers and regents whereas Fr. Bipin Lugun directed the other that included all the collegians. Retreat was concluded on 13th evening with Holy Mass and the renewal of Vows.

Some of our community members left for their new places of ministry. Fr Peter Martin went to Bagaicha and joined the community on 4th June and Fr Binod Toppo joined St John's community on 13th June. Sch. Ajay Paulus Minz along with his friends, namely, Sch. Ruben Xalxo and Sch Simon Horo, went to Tarunoday, Borea on 15th of June for his Theological Studies.

On 19th of June we had community mass. On this beautiful day, we remembered and prayed for all the birthday babies of this month and welcomed our new community members, namely Fr. Ajay Soreng SJ, Fr. Ajit Saras SJ and Sch Amrit Toppo SJ.

On 20th June we the first and second year brothers bade farewell to third year brothers. On this auspicious day all the third year brothers shared their experiences.

On 21st June 11 novices took first Vows at Ashirvad-Jharna, Namkum. Due to Covid-19 guests were invited in limited numbers. Fr. Ajay Soreng, Fr Alex Tirkey, Fr Bipin Lugun and a few scholastics from our community went to thank and praise God for 11 sons of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Some of our Jesuit friends, who were here for treatment and recuperation, went back to their respective places after proving themselves fine and fit. Fr. Anupchand Kiran Minj left for Khunti on the 1st June whereas Fr Isaac Xalxo on 14th June. Fr. Philemon Tirkey (Haz) went back to his Province on 7th June and Fr. Marianus Minj (DUM) left for Purnea on 9th June. Br Minister,

Asst. Minister and Br Telesphore reached Fr Fredrick Kujur to his community on 22nd June after more than four months of convalescence.

Sch. Alfred Baxla, SJ

ASHIRVAD NOVITIATE & JHARNA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, NAMKUM

Being the last month of the Novitiate academic year 2020 - 2021 and the transfer month for the province, the month of June kept us busy in preparation and celebration of the First Vows, welcoming of the new comers, bidding farewell to the out goers and handing over ceremony, etc.

In view of promoting novices to the First Vows in the Society of Jesus, the Provincial, Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, SJ, availed himself for manifestation on June 7, 8 and 9 in personal colloquy with the then 12 second year novices as well as with the Novice Master and the Socius. After the prayerful discernment, the Provincial approved 11 of them as one decided to discontinue. The very next day, on June 10, the 11 second year novices shifted to the Jharna wing, and had their vows retreat from June 11 to 19 noon under the guidance of Fr. Master. Meanwhile, the then 6 first year novices kept themselves busy in cleaning the campus, arrangement, decoration, singing practice, etc. to make the vows day a meaningful celebration.

On June 14, we had the community Eucharistic Celebration to thank and praise the Lord for Fr. K. C. Philip, SJ, for his eight years of valuable service to the community as Superior and Fr. Edwin Dang, SJ, for his one year of commendable service as the Director of the Spirituality Centre, Jharna. After the homily, Fr. Camil Kerketta, SJ took over these two responsibilities quite happily and responsibly.

On June 15, 10 young would-be first year novices joined the community and were in quarantine until June 20. They started their first probation after the vows day.

On June 21, the feast day of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the protector and patron of Catholic youth and the First Vows Day, the Holy Eucharist began at 10.00 AM. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, the Provincial presided over the Mass and received the First Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in the Society of Jesus of eleven of our brothers: NSS. Ajit Minj, Amar Bara, Hemant Soreng, Jenar Ba'a, Nelson Hassa Purty, Pawan Kandulna, Shailesh Khalkho, Shanti Ekka, Simon Tudu, Suman Shishir Orey and Tej Kumar Bilung, in the manner of

our Founder and his Six First Companions. There was a short felicitation programme after the Mass followed by fellowship lunch. We are also grateful to God for NSS. Sanchilit Dungdung and Sushant Xalxo, who pronounced their First Vows in Kalimpong, Darjeeling and NS. Pawan Baghwar, who pronounced his First Vows in Sitagarha for Ranchi Province.

The newly vowed Jesuits started to make their journey to their respective places of Juniorate soon. On June 24, Schs. Hemant, Pawan Kandulna, Sanchilit, Simon, Sushant and Tej left for Sitagarha and on the following day, Schs. Ajit, Shailesh and Nelson left for Bombay juniorate. For Trivandrum, Schs. Amar, Anand, Jenar, Pawan Baghwar, Shanti and Suman will travel on July 4.

NS. Ajay Ekka, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

After their home visit the nine fresh Juniors joined our community on 5th June. We were happy to receive them amidst us. Fr. Medard Xalxo, SJ, the PCF had directed them to learn computer and to have online classes. They follow their time table for Holy Mass, Examen, study, computer class, games etc. We come together for community activities. It is good that they are here under the care of Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ. They will stay with us till they go to their respective colleges.

On 21st June the feast day of St. Aloysius Gonzaga was very special. Six Juniors went to attend the First Vows Ceremony at Ashirvad. Three Juniors stayed back to sing a hymn before the Public Viva Voce Examination of Fr. Ajay A. Minj, SJ. On this day Fr. Ajay presented and defended his research findings in mathematics through online. Fr. Ajay worked under his supervisor Dr. T. Pathinathan, Loyola College, Chennai. For the viva voce examination, the external examiner was Dr. M. Thirucheran, L.G.N. College, Ponneri. The candidate was asked to present his research findings and then there was time for audience to ask questions. The question-answer time went on. The external examiner asked some specific questions which were marked by the thesis evaluators. Fr. Ajay did well and finally the examiner declared that candidate was suitable for Ph.D. degree. Well done Fr. Ajay! Congratulations! On the same day Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ, the new Rector arrived at 6.15 pm from Jabalpur. There was an informal welcome by the Juniors.

On 24th June the handing over took place during Holy Mass in the presence of Fr. Ajit Kr Xess, SJ, Provincial Superior and Fr. Raymond Kerketta, SJ, Socius and the

special invitees Fr. Xavier Soreng, SJ, Superior, XISS and Fr. Amrit Lakra, SJ, Rector, Manresa House, Ranchi. After the homily Fr. Provincial read the appointment letter from Fr. Superior General. Afterwards Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ, handed over the keys and a file to Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ. As a symbol of change of role there was an exchange of chasubles and Fr. Alex took over the Mass. The new Rector said a few words before the final prayer.

Fr. Vinod Kr. Bilung, SJ, is still in St. Martha dispensary, Samtoli for treatment. Let us continue praying for his fast healing.

Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, SAMTOLI

Office work in Ranchi University: Fr. Ephrem Ba'a and Fr. Rajesh Sandil made many trips to Ranchi University for office work. On June 01, 2021, they went to Ranchi University for affiliation work and on 04th June, 2021 to submit the marks of the students. Other pending works also kept them busy but with seer determination managed to get through. Congratulations to both you for your relentless effort!

Work order: Concerning Work order for outhouse cum godown at SXC, Simdega, there was a short meeting between Mr. Charles Gomes, the Architect and Contractor and a team of Jesuits comprised of Fr. Pius, Fr. Ephrem and Fr. Bruno with regard to terms and conditions and its implementation. Work order paper was signed between Fr. Pius as Vice President, SXC, Simdega and Mr. Charles Gomes, the Architect and Contractor. It was agreed upon to lay down the foundation of the outhouse cum godown on June 15, 2021 if everything is favourable.

Annual Retreat: Scholastic Joseph Kennedy Soreng went to Ranchi on June 05, 2021 for his Annual Retreat with other Scholastics. His Retreat got over on June 13, 2021 and came back to the community on the following day with other community members who had gone to Ranchi to reach Fr. Ajit Saras, the new Director of St. Aloysius Minor Seminary, Ranchi.

Birthday celebration: June 6th was a great day for Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta who celebrated his birthday. Celebration started with Holy Mass in the morning presided over by Fr. Sylvanus where he spoke about his family background and gave a meaningful message based on the readings of the day. It was followed by cutting of the birthday cake by him during the breakfast

and birthday wishing song by the community members. In the evening there was a birthday dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Visitors: From Kanke Parish we had a good numbers of visitors on June 05, 2021 who had come to reach Fr. Clement Kullu SJ to Jharain and Br. Patras Minj SJ to Rengaraih. This team of visitors was headed by Fr. Ignatius Minj SJ, the new Parish Priest comprising of Gabriel Brothers, St. Anne's Sisters and faithful of the Parish. On their arrival they were welcomed and served refreshment and mango juice prepared at home. St. Mary's community offered them a few cartoons of mangoes and after a short period of stay they left for their destination. On June 24, 2021 Fr. Florence SJ, Fr. Erentius SJ and Fr. Brice came to St. Mary's and had their lunch with us. Soon after lunch Fr. Florence and Fr. Bruno went to SXC campus to take stock of the situation of outhouse which is under construction. Fr. Erentius SJ gave some valuable advice and suggestions pertaining to St. Mary's H/S, Samtoli.

Welcome: On June 10, 2021, Fr. Pradeep Turkey SJ, the new Director of Apostolic School, Simdega along with the community members of St. Ignatius School, Gumla was welcomed in the courtyard by the St. Mary's H/S community members with washing of hands and "BoroAronai" by Fr. Pius. Soon after that they were led to the refectory for refreshment and sufficient time was given to meet their acquaintances. Before the dinner there was a word of formal welcome by Fr. Pius and prayer over the meal. Dinner was served at 12.45 pm which was enjoyed by everybody. After a brief stay they left for their destination.

On June 22, 2021 Fr. Fredrick Kujur SJ and Sch. Nitin Bilung SJ, a fresh Regent reached St. Mary's H/S, Samtoli around 12.45 pm. They were accompanied by Fr. Ajit Saras SJ, Br. Blacius Tigga SJ, Br. Telesphore and a few Scholastics from Manresa House, Ranchi. They were all welcomed by the community members and lunch was served to them. We were all happy to see Fr. Fredrick Kujur with improved health. Dear Fr. Fredrick welcome back to the community and wish a very good health and dear Sch. Nitin wish you a very happy stay with us and fruitful Regency in St. Mary's H/S, Samtoli. Fr. Ajit Saras and Br. Blacius went back to Ranchi on the same day while Br. Telesphore Horo and few Scholastics stayed overnight.

Farewell: On June 12, 2021 farewell was given to outgoing members – Fr. Ajit Saras and Fr. Anup. Farewell programme started with Holy Mass at 6.30 pm with Fr. Ajit Saras as the main celebrant and Fr. Anup

as concelebrant. Soon after the Mass all of us gathered in the refectory for a short felicitation. Under the leadership of Fr. Bruno a meaningful song was sung for them and after that Fr. Rector invited Fr. Bruno to say a few words of gratitude and appreciation for Fr. Ajit Saras and Fr. Florence for Fr. Anup. Both of them highlighted the virtues and valuable service offered by the outgoing members and wished them every success in their new engagements. It was followed by parting message and expression of sentiments by the outgoing members. Fr. Rector thanked all the community members for making it a great success. In a special way he thanked Fr. Elias Kullu, Fr. Rajesh and Sch. Gabriel for leading choir and Fr. Bruno and Fr. Florence for words of gratitude and appreciation towards the outgoing members. He, too, thanked all the Jesuits of neighbouring communities of Catholic Church Rengaraih and Catholic Church, Jharain who generously responded to the invitation for the farewell ceremony. It was followed by dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Blessing: The site selected for the construction of outhouse cum godown at SXC, Simdega was blessed by Fr. Anup in the presence of Fr. Florence and Fr. George from Ranchi, Fr. Pius, Fr. Ephrem, Fr. Rajesh, Fr. Bruno, Fr. Sylvanus, Mr. Charles Gomes, the Contractor and Architect and his team. Fr. Pius incensed the spot-marked for raising of the pillar with incense sticks and broke a coconut and then Fr. Rajesh dug the spot with a spade. Sweets were shared by all which were arranged by Mr. Charles for this "Bhoomi Pujan" ceremony.

Handing over ceremony: Fr. Pius and Fr. Bruno went to Catholic church, Jharain to witness the handing over ceremony which took place on June 08, 2021 between Fr. Pingal Ekka SJ, the outgoing Parish Priest and Fr. Clement Kullu, the incoming Parish Priest. Handing over ceremony was very cordial and clear. We congratulated Fr. Pingal for all the valuable service and best wishes to Fr. Clement Kullu, the new Parish Priest. After having lunch both of them came back to St. Mary's H/S, Samtoli. There was another handing over ceremony on June 13, 2021 between Fr. Ajit Sara, outgoing Director of Apostolic school, Samtoli and Fr. Pradeep Turkey, incoming Director which took place in the presence of Fr. Pius Xalxo SJ and Sch. Gabriel. Since the preparation for handing was thorough it was satisfactory to the new Director. Congratulations to Fr. Ajit and best wishes to Fr. Pradeep, the new Director. Fr. Pius was approached by Fr. Christopher Dungdung SJ to witness handing over ceremony at Catholic Church, Sogra which was to take place on June 23, 2021. Fr. Pius along with Fr. Fredrick Kujur SJ went for this purpose and the handing over between Fr. Christopher Dungdung SJ, the outgoing

Parish Priest and Fr. Xavier Kerketta SJ, the incoming Parish Priest took place quite smoothly. Congrats to Fr. Christopher SJ and best wishes to Fr. Xavier Kerketta, SJ the new Parish Priest!

Meeting: There was an evaluation meeting on June 24, 2021 at AROUSE, Simdega pertaining to “LokManch Project” which was attended by Fr. Sylvanus and his team, Fr. Sushil and his team from Gumla and Fr. Anuranjan and his team from Lohardaga. Meeting was quite successful and fruit bearing. All of them were served lunch at St. Mary’s H/S, Samtoli.

Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ

RTC, TARUNODAY

The RTC community thank the Lord for keeping all of us safe and sound during this pandemic. All of us are busy with our personal works. There were a few wonderful moments that helped the community to be alive and active. On 3rd of June, we the community members thanked Br. Patras Minj, SJ, for his valuable and generous service he rendered to the Tarunoday community in last two years. We had a solemn Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration in honor of Br. Patras Minj, followed by fellowship meal. Frs. Clement Kullu and Ignatius Minj also joined the community for the fellowship meal, making it aptly meaningful. Along with Br. Patras, we too extended our gratefulness to Fr. Clement Kullu SJ, for his wonderful service to Kanke Parish. On 5th June Br. Patras Minj said good bye to the RTC community and marched towards his new community, Rengarih.

It was another graceful occasion on 16th June, for all the scholastics as we had come together once again to share our life journeys with Fr. Provincial and Fr. PCF. It was an open session for all. It was a unique experience to listen to one another’s life journey, struggles and concern for the scholastics body and the society. Fr. Provincial and Fr. PCF too encouraged and challenged us to strive and work hard for better performance in our formation and future.

On 15th June, four first-year brothers arrived and also the six deacons for their preparation for their comprehensive exam. On 17th June, 12 scholastics went to XISS and received our first dose of vaccination. All of us had our experiences of mild fever and body pain on the next day, but we recovered soon within a day. On 18th June, Sch. Sanjay Tigga came back safe and sound, with rich experiences from Delhi after his generous and valuable service to Fr. Milianus Beck SJ, at St Joseph’s Hospital, Ghaziabad. Fr. Milianus has improved a lot

but we will miss him for classes this year. On the same evening Sch. Wilson Kandulna too arrived from Nepal and joined the community. Schs. Alok and Celestine visited their homes, Alok to attend to a medical emergency in the family and Celestine also for an urgent work in the family. Due to the pandemic situation, we shall have a simple inauguration of the academic year on 3 July and regular classes from July 5, 2021.

Sch. Amit Juel Lakra,

ST. MICHAEL’S JESUIT RESIDENCE, KHUNTI

Fr. Anupchand Minj, Fr. Bimal Minj and Sch. Albert Beng joined us in June. On 19th we had thanksgiving mass for new community members. We are happy to receive all young and energetic men, who will be engaged in respective offices as appointed by the provincial. Fr. Isaac Xalxo is improving from his waist pain.

Inter College staff members welcomed Fr. Bimal on 23rd June. We are conducting online classes for all the three units. In spite of some technical problems High School is continuing classes. English medium is doing better in this regard.

Sch. Albert Beng, SJ

PRABHAT TARA SCHOOL, DHURWA

We witnessed many casualties due to the second wave of Covid-19 in the second half of April and the whole month of May. During this time we had complete lockdown and we all remained inside the campus. We had a very good occasion to pray for the different needs and especially for those who in any way are affected by the pandemic in the month of May through the intercession of Mary. All the schools had summer vacation from 14th May to 13th June. At present our usual online classes are going on in full swing. English Medium School will have its first unit test from 28th June. Fr. Swarn Tigga preached an eight day retreat to the sisters residing in the campus from 1st June to 8th of June. On 12th June, Fr. Provincial and Fr. Sanjay Kerketta had a short visit to help, guide and motivate us in our ministries. We had a short and meaningful programme on 15th June to welcome Frs. James Toppo and Vijay Kr. Minj in the community and wish farewell to Fr. Rohit Kujur for the new assignment.

Fr. Swarn Tigga, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DORANDA

Academic: The entire month had a hectic schedule with many online and offline activities. Finally the process of class XI admission is completed with an encouraging strength with all three streams. There was a virtual Induction Ceremony for class XI 2021-23 on 5th May 2021. It was an exciting moment for many students and parents to have a virtual tour to St. Xavier's Doranda. Fr. Sanjay Kerketta Principal addressed the students emphasizing to imbibe the Xaverian spirit of excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. Fr. Principal completed the interaction with the parents of classes 1 to 12 on different days. He briefed the students and parents about the recent guidelines received from the Council. Apart from the scholastic matters it was also an occasion to connect and to respond to the queries of the parents which was much appreciated by many people. Now the students and teachers are gearing towards Unit Test which will be commencing from 30th June through Google Form. There had been many rounds of virtual meetings already with the teachers in order to conduct the Tests with minimum errors successfully on this new and creative mode.

Community: On 12th May there was a Requiem Mass in the school for Late Mrs. Jyoti Tigga (Teacher), Late Mr. Xavier Minj (Bus Helper) and other 17 relatives of our teaching and non-teaching staff members who succumbed to corona second wave. On 14th June the Community had a meeting to discuss on some important matters of school, house, Vision 2020 etc. The house was updated about the important works done so far and there are many more in the pipeline. From the Registered Society's point of view XAVIER'S DORANDA received 12A FORM and it's a happy note. Thanks to Fr. Ravi for his hard work. Amidst the heavy schedule in school Fr. Fuldeo Soreng managed to squeeze his precious time to guide online retreat to the Marianist Sisters Samlong and an offline retreat to St. Anne's Sister's Chaibasa. From 20th June evening, Fr. Henry Barla entered into self-guided retreat in the community itself. Now St. Xavier's building is well decked up with new colour and is attracting many onlookers. Also there is lush green in football ground and it is very tempting to the sports lovers. It is the result of regular hard work of our collaborators.

Other Activities: The school also undertook commendable social responsibility in collaboration with District Administration and other goodwill people. The vaccination programme brought much relief to teaching and non-teaching staff and their relatives. The

multiple vaccination camps catered the needs of the staff of Prabhat Tara Dhurwa and Inigo Saporom Schools as well. Many Religious Nuns of the neighbouring houses have been also the beneficiaries of this drive. There was a separate vaccination camp for Doranda Old Xaverians and their relatives. Thanks to Fuldeo for coordinating the noble and required drives. On 19th June DOX organized tree plantation day with a slogan 'Plant for the Planet' at Bariatu hill reaching the target of more than 500 saplings. Mr. Chhavi Ranjan IAS, DC and Mr. Vishal Sagar IAS, DDC were present in this green drive and appreciated the Alumni members for their strong convictions to plant trees on all the surrounding hills of Ranchi city. The saplings were planted in the memory of those who lost their lives during the second corona wave and also to take forward the fourth UAP 'To care for our common home.'

Sch. Patras Topno, SJ

ST. STANISLAUS JESUIT COMMUNITY, LOHARDAGA

Almost after a year, Ranchi Province Meet 2021 was arranged virtually on 28th and 29th May in which collectively all the community members took part actively. It was a wonderful virtual meet. Fr. Patrick Xalxo, SJ the Parish Priest of Noadih was here in the community for almost two months, April to May, remained in self-quarantine for a month as he was diagnosed with corona positive. On the following month, he was under urban medication as he was suffering from chest ache after he had met with an accident. After having regained his physical strengths, he returned to the Noadih community, accompanied by Fr. Sushil, SJ on 31st May. Fr. Sushil stayed overnight in Noadih Jesuit community on 31st May. On the following day, he took part in the meeting which was held in Arouse Gumla and returned to the community on the same evening. Sch. Nitish Ekka, SJ spent his summer vacation in the community for two months. He generously rendered his services to the community and for the people over here. The community members expressed their gratefulness and thankfulness towards his services and gave him a best wishes for his further philosophical studies. After having spent his summer vacation, he returned to the Manresa House Ranchi, on 3rd June. Br. Nicholas Topno, SJ the minister of the house was admitted in St. Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga on 4th June. He was there for two weeks under medical treatment. He was discharged on 18th June. Now he is fine and rendering his service to

the community.

On 5th June, Fr. Sushil arranged a meeting for his team members. All of them shared their work experiences of the last year. On 6th June, before departure to Gumla Arouse as a new director, Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ accompanied by Sch. John F. Ekka, SJ and Miss Anima Panna had a flying visit to Fr. Sushil's home in Baltharwa and relatives in Mandar. On 8th June, Fr. Sushil made a trip to Gumla Arouse for a meeting and returned to the community on 14th June. On 9th June, the new parish priest of Lohardaga, Fr. Chonhas Tigga arrived in St. Bernadetta Church. Fr. Ranjit Lakra, SJ the superior of the house was present in the parish for the welcome of the new parish priest. On 14th June, people from different villages came to Arouse Lohardaga in order to bid farewell to Fr. Sushil Tirkey. On 15th June, seven fathers and a regent from Gumla community, under the leadership of Fr. Nicholas Tete, SJ the rector reached Fr. Anuranjan H. Purty, SJ the new arouse director to Lohardaga Jesuit Community. The handing over ceremony took place in the Arouse Office, Lohardaga Unit. It was a great joy to receive Fr. Anuranjan and the Jesuit fathers in the community. They spent their precious time with the community members and while returning accompanied by Fr. Sushil Tirkey, they too had a flying visit to nearby religious communities in Lohardaga.

On 16th June, Fr. Sushil and Fr. Anuranjan had gone to Thakurain Dera for thanksgiving mass. Fr. Sushil presided over the Holy Eucharist. In Thakurain Dera, the faithful welcomed Fr. Anuranjan and bade farewell to Fr. Sushil and gave all the best wishes for his next mission. On 17th June, Arouse team members, under the leadership of Miss Anima Panna bade farewell to Fr. Sushil. On this day, Fr. Anuranjan, the new director called his team members for a meeting to know about the work descriptions that each individual is carrying. On 18th June, the community members bade farewell to Fr. Sushil in the community. Nearby religious communities were also invite for this occasion. Fr. Sushil celebrated his birthday on 19th June. The celebration was not only in Lohardaga community but also in Gumla because the four community members reached Fr. Sushil to the Gumla community on the same day. On 23rd June Fr. Ranjit had gone to Thakurain Dera for the Gami Mass. On 23rd June, Fr. Anurajan, Miss Anima and Mr. Matla made a trip to Gumla Arouse. They participated in the meeting on Lok Manch on 24th June in Arouse Samtoli Simdega. They returned to the community on 25th June.

Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COMMUNITY, BUNDU

Life seems evolving from silent to vibration mode after an extensive span of confinement. On 5th June, SBI Bundu Branch had sponsored some Ashoka saplings for plantation in the school campus to mark World Environment Day. The bank manager along with the staff were elated to visit our clean green campus and as a result none of them missed to capture them on their mobile phones. On 6th June Frs. Benjamin and Ravi had gone to St. John's Doreya to assist Fr. Peter Claver Lakra in maintaining a record of all the belongings of late Fr. Isaac Tete. Fr. Alex Toppo and Br. Telesphore Horo, delegates to Fr. Socius were also present on that day. On 10th June, Fr. Ravi was injected with the second dose of Cowaxin in RIIMS. During the second week all the school units were engrossed in filling up UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education) which was a mandatory. On 11th June, Fr. Walter returned to the community after sixty-nine days of exile. On 4th April he had gone to Andamans to bless a marriage of his relative, and when he returned was tested Corona Positive. We are indebted to St. Mary's Community Samtoli, a safe haven which quarantined him with great care. On 12th June Frs. Benjamin and Ravi had gone to Vijaygiri for the handing over and farewell of Fr. Vijay Minj. On 14th June both of them convoyed Vijaygiri Community to reach Fr. Vijay Minj to Prabhat Tara Dhurwa, his newly appointed place. On 25th June, Frs. Robert Pradeep Kujur, Ajay Anil Tirkey and Mark Mukul Lakra dropped in for lunch here after supervising the land of St. Xavier's College Ranchi, located near Vijaygiri. The personal interest of Fr. John has excelled him in gardening with aesthetical result perceptible at the house entrance and school. Even the watch dogs, pigs, ducks and chickens follow his commands. He has recently put two kgs of fry in the house pond Thanks to Fr. Walter, the House Minister for bringing a new kitchen girl named Elizabeth Minj from Kuruskela, Simdega.

Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ

DIGLIPUR, ANDAMAN

As we entered in the month of June which is dedicated to Sacred Heart of Jesus and this was the first day of the month. A very good tradition still exists at Diglipur

parish and in order to keep up that tradition in the general body meeting it was decided to have novena to Sacred Heart of Jesus in small groups or at home keeping in mind the effect of Corona virus and later priests and sisters would be available for the celebration of Holy Eucharist and blessing the houses but COVID -19 changed our whole programme and restricted ourselves within the boundary walls.

On 2nd June fathers Alex and David and Sch. Shashi Samir set out for D.S.A. Convent Magarnala for the celebration of Holy Eucharist as the Foundress of the Congregation of Daughters of St. Anne Ranchi Rev. Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Kusum Ekka celebrated their birthday. Fr. David presided over Holy Eucharist. After breakfast Fr. David rushed to R.K. Gram as cleaning of the jungle was supposed to be started by Hitachi. Fr. Alex and Scho. Samir were back to the parish by auto.

Keeping in view of surge of COVID – 19 positive cases across Diglipur sub-division and in order to check the unnecessary gathering in the Subhashgram Bazar area during the permitted hours of 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 A.M., an order was issued and divided the area to go to Diglipur to purchase necessary things which restricted the people to move around freely. Lockdown continued after 5th June too but the Administration prepared a programme in order to scatter the crowd in the market place. According to this schedule various village and areas are divided into three groups in quite arranged way. The one group is allowed to have marketing on Monday and Thursday, second group is permitted to go to Diglipur for necessary things to be purchased on Tuesday and Friday and the third is for Wednesday and Saturday.

Fr. Suman Prabhat Toppo reached Diglipur this morning on 14th June from Ramnagar as he is transferred to Ranchi. Fr. Suman, scholastics Sagar and Samir tried to get the travel permission on ATR for Port Blair but due to lack of valid reason and document the Govt. authority denied. Now they are looking for other options and possibilities. Due to lockdown we do have practically the same routine in our community. From 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 A.M. for sometimes and later till 1.00 P.M we had movement, otherwise the rest of the time found ourselves in the parish busy in our own works.

Being the 12th ordinary Sunday of the year on 20th June, Fr. David the parish priest availed himself to go to M.C. Convent, Diglipur for the celebration of Holy Eucharist at 7.00 A.M. On the other hand Frs. Alex, Suman and Sch. Samir had Holy Mass in the parish Church and later they found themselves engaged in their personal works.

Today for lunch all the community members went to Sitanagar Madan Tikri to the house of Sch. Sagar Xalxo. Thanks to all the family members for their generosity. May God bless them all. Suman, Sagar and Samir went to Diglipur for CORONA test. This early morning at 4.00 on 21st June Suman, Sagar and Samir left for Port Blair by hired vehicle as their flight ticket was booked for 23rd June 2021 for Ranchi via Kolkatta. Have a pleasant and safe journey.

Frs. Lalit, Roshan, Ashok, Suman Prabhat and Sch. Sagar, Samir and Oswoald made the point to meet Rev. Fr. V. Selvaraj, the Diocesan Administrator on 22nd June before they leave Port Blair for Ranchi. Frs. Ashok and Suman are on their transfer whereas Frs. Lalit and Roshan for little rest and holidays and the Scholastics for their further studies. Very next day on 23rd June all together made their trip to Ranchi. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Ashok and Suman for their active Pastoral Ministry after Tertianship at Prothrapur and Ramnagar respectively. Though Fr. James Pascal was left alone for few hours at Prothrapur, another energetic young man, Fr. Justin Kandulna, S.J. full of zeal and enthusiasm landed at the Air Port of Port Blair on 24th June as APP of Prothrapur parish. Hearty welcome and best wishes dear Fr. Justin.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY, SONABHEEL

Jesuits of St. Xavier's College community made their annual retreat in the campus itself from 31st May evening till 8th June evening under the guidance of Fr. Xavier Lakra. He celebrated Holy Eucharist, shared his reflections based on the themes and delivered one talk daily on a theme of the Day. He also made his annual retreat with the community.

In collaboration with Sonitpur District Administration, Tezpur, Assam St. Xavier's College has extended its collaboration by converting St. Xavier's Junior College building as a Covid-19 Care Centre with the capacity of 200 beds from 20th May. The Medical Teams of Assam Government bring the symptomatic and Covid Positive tested patients of Tea gardens and surrounding areas for the medical care. The Sonitpur District has been affected widely. There are about 140 Covid inmates in this care centre. During the time of Covid-19 Pandemic St. Xavier's College would mark 500th Jubilee year of St. Ignatius Conversion by providing shelter and care for

the sick and needy.

St. Xavier's College Compound walls were fallen on three sides and the walls are re-erected under the supervision of Md. Firoz. His finishing is good and satisfying. We are grateful to St. Xavier's College Ranchi for their financial support.

Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ the delegate of the Provincial convened a meeting at St. Xavier's College Community on 18 June and the Jesuits from Tezpur, Balipara and Sonabheel Jesuit Communities attended. The widening of the approach road from NH-15 highway to St. Xavier's College campus was discussed. A working team of Fr. Theodore Baa, SJ, Fr. Ranjit Kujur, SJ and Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ has been formed to work on it. A need to start lower sections from LkG which eventually would grow up to Senior Secondary School was discussed.

Jesuits of Tezpur, Sonabheel and Balipara communities visited Nirmala School Bhaitabhanga for spot verification to build a few class rooms to upgrade the school up to class 8th and also visited St. John's School Balipara for the facilities appraisal to upgrade the school up to the Senior Secondary School. The primary planning of the structure of the additional building and number of classrooms with standard sizes were discussed.

Fr. John Berchmans Dungdung, SJ is transferred to St. John Britto Community Balipara as a house superior. Before leaving St. Xavier's College community he was determined to complete his project of 3,500 betel nuts (Tambul) saplings plantation in the campus. He did accomplish his project successfully and now the saplings are growing and they give a look ever green. St. Xavier's Community is grateful for his valuable contributions.

Fr. Ajay Minj, the Hostel warden, is busy beautifying the hostel area with planting few flowers and trimming the grasses to give a better and attractive view of the boys' hostel. He has already white washed the kitchen area and made new kitchens for the economic consumption of firewood.

We are very grateful to Sch. James Ekka, who stayed with the College community, and recorded many videos recalling the history of Jesuits working in Assam for these 24 years. He documented the history by taking interviews of the Jesuits, taking photos of the old and present infra-structures. From here he went to Jesuit Bhavan, Gana Chetna Samaj Tezpur and St. John's Balipara community. Due to lockdown he could not move to other Jesuits Centres like Pengaree, Kathalguri, Manas Bansbari and Mushalpur. We are grateful to Fr.

Medard Xalxo, SJ, the PCF, allowing Sch. James to stay with us in Assam for one month for this purpose.

Due to regular lockdown the completion of St. Xavier's Degree College works are still pending. Hopefully construction would be completed next month by 16 July.

Higher Secondary Class XII and Secondary Class X final examinations have been cancelled by the Assam Education Council due to rapid spread of Covid-19 in the state. The Council would direct the evaluation SOP. St. Xavier's Degree College is conducting university Open Text Book Examination for the 5th Semester students from 21st June and also conducting online classes for second and fourth semester.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ

KATHALGURI LOYOLA COMMUNITY, ASSAM

Month of June brought good rains and we were relieved from the scorching heat. We can see the greenery and ample of vegetation around our campus. At a time when corona virus reigns supreme, we the Loyola Kathalguri staff and students feel relieved that we completed our exams and new admission for new classes ahead of the second lockdown. Fr. Pradeep Kullu, the principal initiated and called the staff meeting to look for alternatives for the students. With the help of core staff team he made a very keen analysis of the situation and proposed valuable remedies to parents and teachers. The online classes were first introduced to staff with online demo classes by Fr. Rakesh Kerketta for a week. Now the online classes are running in full swing. Students are taking keen interest to attain the online classes regularly. Hopefully, we are going to have our first unit test in July. If there is abatement of the global crisis, things get better and freedom of movement is restored then we may have the offline classes soon. Due to lockdown the community members have been confined to the house, but all were kept busy with desk bound work. At the same time we kept ourselves busy making the place more green and colorful. An effort has been made to have good use of our piece of land. We have managed to grow Raja Chilli and papaya and hopefully waiting for good fruits of our labour. On June 5th we put the new sound system to our newly built church. It was donated by local MLA Mr. Sajal the congress leader. We are indebted for his generosity and care. Still there are many things to come up for the church. On 23rd of June we started our annual retreat in the community itself. It was wonderful experiences

and worth spending with the Lord. This retreat made us more refreshed and energized to work vigorously. Now there is the new road construction from main line via Loyola school to Dingdinga. It is going to be easier for the students to come along with the good road. We too are having evening and morning walk in the open and fresh air.

Fr. Rakesh Kerketta, SJ

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI (SOUTH SIKKIM)

With the implementation of the Pandemic Lockdown in the State, all movements were strictly prohibited; till today the inter- state and the inter district movements are prohibited and the government is rather strict. Though Covid cases are low, people continue to live in anxiety. With little relaxation from the lockdown, normal life is gradually getting resumed.

The Loyola College of Education, Namchi also had to remain closed and all the hostellers were asked to vacate in the month of April. (Before the severity of the pandemic). Presently only the priest students total eight in number and four scholastics are continuing their studies in the campus.

The Sikkim University issued various guidelines for online classes and the Loyola B. Ed College Namchi strictly observed those guidelines and the classes are in full swing through online mode currently. The first semester results are declared and the results are very good. The second Semester students are busy with Field Based Activity (FBA) assignments but most of the requirements could not be fulfilled due to lockdown, however through online questionnaire / interviews the assignments are done.

The final Semester students are busy with the online teaching practices and will be completing their B.Ed studies by August 14th 2021. The new admission process has started and the new academic session will be starting on 30th August 2021. We thank God almighty for keeping every one safe, and we continue to pray for all those affected by Covid and other ailments.

Fr. Rozario Mosahari, SJ

JAKHAMA, NAGALAND

The month of June knocked at the door with the blessings of monsoon and plenty of leisure hours

for the whole Jakhama community. The farmers and villagers were anxious about the transplantation, on the other hand the Scholastics were busy holidaying. After having wrapped up our second semester exam whole community was in relaxing mood.

In order to spend our holidays meaningfully, Fr. Pradeep, the vocation promoter of the region gave us a project; to make a short video entitled "Jesuits in three minutes" for vocation promotion. We were asked to use our mother tongue for the communication in the video. The project was quite thrilling, enriching and at the same time quite challenging. Schs. Pawan Lakra (MAP), Anand and myself teamed together and made a short video in Sadri dialect.

June 5, Saturday, was a big day for the community. We slaughtered one of our pigs. The pig was really behemoth. It weighted more than 155 kgs. Preparing such a humongous pig was a mammoth task for the scholastics. Though it was energy draining yet it was filled with fun and excitement. When the villagers heard about the pig being slaughtered they rushed to the spot.

June 7th was one of the most hectic, tiring and laborious days. Fr. Victor D'mello, the principal of Loyola Higher Secondary School Jakhama requested scholastics to help out in construction work. The work began at 9:30 AM and went till 5 o'clock in the evening. Of course there was an interval. At the end of the day we were all white eyed. The day that followed was unforgettable, the legs, hands and body began to pain. The wounds and scratches began to appear like mushrooms in the rainy season. We were given rest for complete one day. All the scholastics were on the bed whole day to recharge their worn out batteries. However, the day gave us wonderful experience. It taught us a valuable lesson for life. It made us realize the pain and tiredness of those labourers and workers who do likewise everyday to make their ends meet.

We had a farewell dinner on June 9. The community bade farewell to schs. Ravikant Xalxo (MAP), Darmiki Sten (KHM) would be Philosophers and sch. John Malangmai, a regent. A piquant meal with appetizing Naga flavor was arranged in the community refectory to mark the day. The community also welcomed new regent Mark DLawbor. The presence of AC sisters at the occasion graced the moment.

On 11th June, Fr. Joe Coelho, the Rector took a class on accounting for the scholastics. It was worth attending. At least we got familiar with the balance sheet and Tally. On Friday, the second week of the month we had faith

sharing as usual. Fr. Victor D'mello and sch. Amarjeet Xalxo(MAP) shared their faith journey with the community, a worth listening.

As the scholastics were vaccinated on June 15, the following two days were spared for rest. We subsequently began our Annual retreat in Phesama, on June 17. Fr. Francis, our spiritual guide, guided the annual retreat. The weather is quite pleasant over here. The rainy season has set about. The villagers are busy in the transplantation and cultivation. Nonetheless, the villagers have a reason to be fret, because this time monsoon is late a bit . The Covid situation is under control, hopefully within the next two months or three life will be quite normal.

Schs. Pingal and Anand

CAMBODIA

The growing cases of covid-19 in Cambodia makes Frs. Manoj and Rajat worried. Recently our guard's grandson was tested and found covid-19 positive. This made worried and frightened all the priests, staff members and all those who come to the Church campus every day. Fr. Manoj asked his staff members to have home quarantine for one week. Frs. Manoj and Rajat took a sigh of relief having finished sowing rice in their respective parishes. Fr. Manoj used newly bought sowing machine to sow rice. Both of them are encouraging their parishioners to start home farming in the pandemic time of uncertainty. Fr. Rajat started raising fish in newly dug two ponds. Initially he put 1000 red fish. It takes 4 months to grow big enough. He also put 60 hens in the farm. These are small enterprises to strengthen the sustainability of his parish as the economic situation and funding from outside are becoming difficult. His tireless work of teaching key board and guitar to the children and youth started bearing fruits already. Some students already played few songs during the Mass in previous two Sundays. Fr. Rajat organized zoom meeting and seminar on prayer and different methods of prayer for the youth of the diocese on 4th June 2021. Fr. Rajat had Zoom meeting of the evaluation team formed by the Delegate of Korean Provincial to Cambodia to evaluate the present situation of the five year plan for Cambodia mission. Fr. Manoj took the pandemic time for improving the roads, flower gardens and planting vegetables and trees in the empty places in the Church campus. Frs. Manoj and Rajat attended annual priests' retreat for the priests working in the diocese from 21st-25th June, 2021.

Fr. Rajat Hassa purti, SJ

AMMAN (JORDAN)

The 2nd June was a sad day. The Jesuit Centre lost the only lady-collaborator who had a sugar problem and got unconscious at noon while working. She was regular and devoted to her work. She passed away within three days in spite of all possible care. Within a few hours of her death, her mother in law also passed away in another hospital whom she had been taking care of in her house for years. The burial ceremony of both the ladies took place together according to their Greek Orthodox rite. Her husband and sister in law have been handicapped due to a car accident for years. Her unmarried son has irregular temporary jobs.

Covid-19 situation has been affected badly here also. To revive the spirit among refugee youth a football tournament was organized by the Jesuit Center. The play- ground was booked for all the matches. The teams from Jordan, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Ghana, Sudan, Nigeria, Burkina Faso participated. Nigeria was the winner defeating Somalia.

In spite of Covid-19 restrictions, we had some Jesuit guests. From 5 to 20 Sch. Ryan Birjoo was here on maiden visit for the JRS meeting followed by his personal annual retreat. He belongs to UMI Province and is doing his first year of regency at JRS Beirut (Lebanon). Fr. David Holdcroft, an Australian Jesuit, is in Rome at General Curia with Fr. Anselm Ekka. He was very positive about Fr. Anselm and conveyed his message. He is in the higher education department of JRS for the last six years. He stayed with us from 7 to 22 meeting and interacting with the groups concerned. A year- long program has been planned for the people of Jordan to celebrate the Ignatian Year meaningfully. Fr. Zaki Sader from Lebanon was here from 24-28 to be a part of it.

Fr. Bimal Kr. Kerketta, SJ

ROME

RADIO VATICAN, PIETRO CANISIO

On 31 May the Pope Francis concluded the Rosary Marthan in the Vatican Garden which he had initiated in the Basilica of St. Peter on first of May. Along with Papa and limited faithful invitees our sick and old community members recited the rosary and solicited healing from covid-19.

The radio authority decided to terminate the service of Fr. William Nellikkaland hence on 1st June Fr. Luka Jogy

Vadakata joined the Indian Malayalam section of Vatican radio. On 5th June to mark the 500th birth anniversary of St. Peter Canisius the community came together to reflect and listen to the great works of our community patron saint present by Fr. Paul Oberholzer Professor from Gregorian University. Whereas on the 700th death anniversary of Dante the great Italian poet and philosopher we had a small presentation on his life and works by community members Frs. Carlo Casalone and Giovanni Arledler on 10th June. After their exposition, two of our outgoing regents Scholastics Camil Mukoso from Congo and Tran Huynh from Vietnam witnessed their testimony working in the Radio Vatican and their community life experiences. It was enriching listening to them.

On 22nd June Papa through a video message announced the first-ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly which will be celebrated on 25th July. The thrust of Papa's message was that there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming gospel. We need you as our dreams, memories and prayers are founded on you.

Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka, SJ

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GESÙ

In June, Kuldeep, Sandeep and Nirmal dedicated their full time and energy in preparing themselves for the final exams, which began on 3 June. Prevailing Covid-19 situation forced both the Professors and the students to adapt new modalities of exams. Some Professors insisted on the physical presence of the students for the exams, and the others were a bit lenient in conducting the exams both online and distant modes of exams. Both Kuldeep and Sandeep had their last exam on 25 June with Prem, and now are extremely happy to complete successfully their First Year of Theological studies. Nirmal too is immensely glad and satisfied to complete his three years of Theological studies in Pontifical Gregorian University. As part of the final requirement to obtain the B.Th. in Theology, he wrote a final scientific paper on the theme "Love of God and Love of Neighbour in the Tribal Church of Jharkhand", which helped him to grow in academic as well as theological writing skill.

There were a few remarkable events in the community during the period of exams. On 12 June, International College of Gesù bid farewell to P. Orlando Torres, who served the community as a Rector for seven years. He now moves to Collegio Roberto Bellarmino, the Community of Deepak and Kulwant, as the Spiritual Director. The Community expressed millions of heartfelt gratitude to P. Orlando for his exemplary selfless service

for seven long years. On 18 June, P. Keith Abranches (GUJ) was installed as the new Rector of the community in the presence of P. Johan Verschueren, Delegate of R.P. General to Roman Houses. Keith became the first Rector of Gesù Community from the South Asian Assstancy. On 24 June, South Asian Scholastics gave a rousing farewell to Nirmal, the only outgoing Deacon from South Asia. The farewell program began with a solemn Holy Mass, presided over by Cecil Azzopardi at 19.00 in the Room of St. Ignatius, which was followed by a fellowship farewell dinner. The gracious presence of Vernon D' Cunha, ASM Assistant, Orlando Torres, Keith, and Gonzalo Silva, Minister of the Community enhanced the joy of everyone. Orlando Torres was felicitated on behalf of South Asian Assstancy! Prayers and Best Wishes Orlando Torres and Nirmal Minj for their future fruitful ministries!

After having successfully completed their exams on 25 June, Gesù Scholastics were relaxed and excited to go for their Summer Vacations. Both the Staff and the Students began to leave for different destinations in Europe for various activities. Nirmal, Sandeep and Kuldeep also organized a short Province Pilgrimage to Padua and Venice from 26 June until 30 June. Sandeep and Kuldeep are overwhelmed with joy, excitement and enthusiasm to spend their first Summer Vacation in Italy by exploring different parts of Europe. Nirmal will leave for Ranchi on 9 July to take up the new responsibility as the Deacon in Rengarh Parish. All the best, Nirmal!

COLLEGIO SAN ROBERTO BELLARMINO

June was a busy month. Both Deepak and Kulwant were busy with exams and assignments. Deepak had his final exam on 21 June, whereas Kulwant continues to work with great spirit finalize his Doctoral Argument, which has to be submitted by mid-September. Month of June also brought lots of changes in the community. There were new arrivals in the Community and a few left after accomplishing their mission in Rome as the students. On 11 June, P. Joao Renato (BRA) was installed as the new Rector of the community, and P. Torres Orlando (UCS) joined the Community as the new Spiritual Director replacing Fr. Thomas Carroll (UWE), who rendered his service for many years assisting the students in their spiritual growth.

On 11 June, the Community celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a special manner. The outgoing Rector P. Mario Lopez-Barrio (MEX) was given a heartwarming farewell, and P. Joao Renato was accorded a cordial welcome to the Community as the new Rector.

P. Johan Verschueren (ELC), Delegate of R.P. General to the Roman Houses presided over the Eucharistic celebration. He thanked Mario Lopez-Barrio in a special manner on behalf of R.P. General and that of the entire community for his six years of dedicated service. On 19 June, Ranchi Jesuits in Rome came together in Collegio Bellarmino to celebrate the birthday of Kulwant. Late H.Exc. Paul Alois Lakra and Late Br. Felix Tete were remembered in a special manner during the Eucharistic celebration.

After the exams, many inmates of Collegio Bellarmino starting leaving for different destination for the Summer Vacation. Both Deepak and Kulwant have already received the vaccine. Deepak is planning for a pilgrimage to Ignatian palces in Spain. Kulwant is planning to stay back at home to proceed further with his Doctoral research and studies. From June, the Community of San Roberto Bellarmino has got its own House Doctor in the person of Dr. Massimiliano Brugnolo to take care of the health of the community members. After a steady and continuous vaccination drive, life in Rome is fast coming back to normalcy. All hope to physically go to the University after the Summer holidays.

GENERAL CURIA

With each day passing, Anselm has started relishing the financial mission assigned to him in the General Curia, which always opens up for new possibilities and creativities. As the financial year 2020-21 ends in June, the Financial Department of Curia organized a day of prayer, reflection, evaluation and sharing of Life and Mission in Roman Curia in the mode of spiritual conversation. There was a prevailing sense of fulfilment of the mission both on the individual as well as on group level. Undoubtedly, it is a blessing for Anselm to see his Colleagues working together as a team unified, helping each other, communicating information, rectifying errors and improving on the specific assignments. Still further, such activities help strengthen the mutual sharing, collaboration, networking and efficiency in Curia office and Provinces at large. The second focus of the Meeting was centered on the proposal to underline and to present certain priorities or action plans from Finance Department to R.P. General for the advancement of the Society's mission in Curia effectively. The priority areas emerged in course of sharing were the following: the first was the commitment to the ongoing formation. All felt the need of the ongoing formation in the area of spirituality, professional approach in works and human values. In this Ignatian Year, all envisaged to grow in the spiritual formation through Ignatian spirituality,

Spiritual Exercises, regular Eucharistic celebrations, and group prayers together with Laity and Jesuits. The need to put emphasis on professional approach in works and human formation was strongly felt to carry out the assigned mission efficiently with sound human values and qualities. The Second priority proposed was enhancing the apostolic companionship among Laity and Jesuits in Curia through the continuation of spiritual conversation, promotion of collaboration, sharing of information cum knowledge and having continuous evaluation of all the planning and mission. The third priority proposed was living out concretely the vision of UAP in the working environment of Curia.

Before the start of summer vacation from the month of July, the Curia organized the Eucharistic celebration in Aula on 25 June to pray for all the victims of Covid-19 including the Family members, Friends, Colleagues, and Jesuits of different Provinces. R.P. General presided over the Eucharistic celebration and made it prayerful and reflective through his prayers and an inspiring homily. All the Curia members participated in this Eucharist and expressed their spiritual bond of one heart and one mind by their presence and prayer. Soon after the Mass, refreshments were served in the form of tea, snacks and other drinks for all. The purpose was to have interaction with the personnel of other departments for enhancing the apostolic companionship among the Lay and the Jesuit Staff.

PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

In June, the campus of Gregorian University was extraordinarily calm and quiet because of the ongoing exams. According to the need of the hour and the convenience of both the Professors and the Students, different modalities of exams were adapted freely. While, most of the Professors requested the students to be physically present for the exams, the other Professors opted for the written assignments and the online exams. The main exams got over by 25 June, however, the written assignments were still to be submitted in quite many cases. Despite the tension and fatigue during the exam period, one could easily note that life in Rome was fast coming back to normalcy. Covid-19 had forced the University Authorities to install the automatic temperature measuring machines at the entrance. Now, the same machines will be used to measure the temperature as well as to restrict the entry into the campus of all those not having the University Electronic Identity Card. On 23 June, Gregorian Community of Professors offered a solemn Holy Mass to thank the Lord for keeping all safe and healthy during the pandemic, and also for all

the blessings received during the Academic Year 2020-2021. Most of the Community Members have already received the Green Pass to travel without any restriction within European Union, and hence, from the last week of June, a good number of community members will start leaving for Summer Vacation. From Monday 28 June, the obligation to wear masks in open places will be obliterated; however, one has to carry mask so as to use it in closed areas.

Holiday plans are being made for the months of July, August and September 2021. Linus is perplexed that for the last four years he was unable to go to the Province for health reason and even this year due to covid-19. Meanwhile many companions are called by the Lord; new “Companions” have entered into the same Province, but Linus knows them only by name. Can this be called the “Will of God”, he demands the Lord Himself.

At the same time, Linus is happy that he will have enough time to research about the virtues of the Servant of God, Father Constant Lievens. The historical relevance of Lievens in both Belgium and Ranchi (Chotanagpur) has to be verified with official evidences. This certainly is the ‘Will of God’, for which he can thank the Lord and the Covid-19 as well. If the Lord writes straight with crooked lines, He can only be praised, but at the cost of absence from the Province for so many years. Linus hopes still that someone would recognize him after so many years!

GUYANA

One People, One Nation, One Destiny is the national motto of the Republic of Guyana which celebrated its 55th Independence Day on May 26. The celebration was simple but very meaningful. The Marian month was concluded with the crowning of Mother Mary.

On June 6, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Sacred Heart Church, Main Street, Georgetown. On the Solemnity of the Corpus Christi, three Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters from St. Bernadette Convent Lamaha Street, renewed their Religious Vows.

His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB confirmed 12 young people in St. Pius X Church in south Georgetown on June 13. Fr. Paul Martin, SJ the Parish Priest expressed his gratitude to God, His Lordship Bishop and the catechists to make the day remarkable.

Thanks to Fr. John Packiaraj, SJ, Br. Pascal Jordan, OSB and their teams for guiding the virtual Lay Formation Retreat which was very fruitful and well appreciated.

The Father’s Day blessing, “I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give counsel with my eye upon you”. (Psalm 32:8). The father’s day was celebrated on June 20 to express their gratitude for their love and service rendered to their respective families.

The virtual Clergy meeting was held on June 22 to update the present pandemic situation in the Diocese of Georgetown. The people were struggling with the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent flood in various parts of Guyana. The Government and the Church were helping them out by supplying the food hampers. All the clergy of the diocese were keeping well.

Fr. Peter McIsaac, SJ, the Regional Superior Guyana-Jamaica Region made his maiden visit to Georgetown, Berbice, Aishalton, Lethem, Karasabai and Kurukabaru to get the real picture of the mission in Guyana. Along with Fr. Ronald Fernandes, SJ, the platform Superior, Fr. Peter McIsaac, SJ visited St. Teresa Karasabai on June 22 where our Ursuline Sisters – Sosan A. Kujur, Nishi S. Kujur, Helena Soreng and Crecencia Toppo had the ample opportunity to share their profound mission experiences among the Amerindians in the interior of Guyana.

The Birthday of St. John the Baptist was celebrated on June 24 with great joy and enthusiasm. On this auspicious occasion the faithful walked bare feet on the coals of fire.

In St. Ignatius Mission Lethem, Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ was facilitating the Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) students who were pursuing the Bachelor Degree in Sustainable Development. The number of covid positive cases, were escalating in the interior of Guyana. The Sunday Masses were streamed in the Local Radio and facebook. The Parish News Letters and Whatsapp groups were very helpful to communicate the parishioners during this pandemic.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

FRANCE, PARIS

The month of June meets many activities in the community as well as at Centre Sevres where we study. As the semester ends in this month, we were busy preparing for the final exams. All of us finished our exams on 17th June. On 26th May Sch. Sudhir Lakra and his community members tested positive. The following day the remaining companions got tested but the results were negative. Some days later another member was found positive. This led to the decision to test again every member of the community and almost all of

them were found positive. It was really a difficult and disturbing time for them. Fortunately, they continued to go for mass together and had weekly meetings. They did not participate in the regular language class because they were not allowed to go out. All of them were confined in their own community. Sch. Sudhir Lakra had the final exam at Centre Sevres after completing his dossier (Paper). It was on 16th and 17th June. He had a very good experience that he learned many things about the system and process of writing and participating in exams in French language

It was a great advantage in the community, Sch. Peter Paul received Mr. and Mrs de Miollis on Sunday June 13 at noon. It was an opportunity to thank them for the help given, in particular to Charles, Manoj, John and Peter Paul. we had a common Mass celebrated for the intentions of their families and those of our benefactors. I admire their hard work and commitment to all of us particularly to the community of Raynouard. I am also very happy to see their personality and their availability.

On 19th June Sch. Peter Paul and few other community members participated in the sub-diaconate ordination of sch. Mathias WERFELI SJ (HEL) of the oriental rite on Saturday, at the Saint Volodymyr-le-Grand Cathedral, a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Paris. It consisted of Vespers with the ordination, followed by the Divine Liturgy on the eve of Pentecost. We were happy to take part in that liturgy which was very new for us.

On 20th June, we had thanksgiving mass in the community for all those outgoing members and other four members who live with us and work for the JRS. We had also a good time to give some gifts for the member of our sharing group who is leaving.

Sch. Sudhir Lakra finished his quarantine on 21st of June. Now they are allowed to move and go around.

On 27th June, he is going to Lourdes for his Summer Ministry. He will also participate in the MEJ (Mouvement Eucharistique des Jeunes). On 27th June Sch. Peter Paul is joining the community of Blomet in Paris for the summer language course. I am invited to stay in rue Blomet for the duration of the course, from June 27 to July 24. During this month, I will be part of the community of rue Blomet.

As some of our scholastics have finished their theology and philosophy are flying back to their respective provinces to begin their new mission. We wished them all the best wishes.

Sch. Peter Paul Horo, SJ

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

With a sense of great relief and satisfaction, people in the streets, parks, supermarkets, including the sidewalks of Marquette University, can be seen smiling without masks as the city health department of Milwaukee has revoked the rule of compulsory wearing masks from June 1.

Journeys, retreats, meetings, and functions are being held in person in Milwaukee. Marquette University also organized an in-person Diploma day for the students at American Family Field, the baseball stadium at Milwaukee.

Indian families residing in Milwaukee city too showed their enthusiasm and confidence by organizing a potluck lunch at Frame park of Wauwatosa to celebrate Fathers' Day. It was a moment to share the joys of meeting again and recall with sorrow the beloved ones who entered the heavenly abode courageously coping with the agony of the pandemic.

On June 12, Ordinations of eight Jesuits were held in the Church of Gesu at Milwaukee. Jerome Listeki, the Archbishop of Milwaukee, was the ordaining prelate. On the other hand, on June 14, Karl Kiser, SJ., was installed as the new Provincial of Midwest Province. Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ., served as the Provincial for seven years due to the Midwest Province structural changes. The province has 461 Jesuits with 360 priests, 23 Brothers, 62 Scholastics, and 16 Novices. The average age of the province is 63, and 224 of them are above 70.

To my pleasant surprise, Roy Pereira, a Bombay (BOM) Jesuit, came to meet me at Marquette. We recollected the fond memories of Mumbai days when I was in XIC Mumbai doing my diploma in Journalism, and Roy was in his peak of lecturing mission at St. Xavier's Mumbai. Roy has been teaching at Creighton University for some months.

Fr. Nicki, the Rector of Creighton University, came to Marquette with Fr. Solon, a Goa Jesuit for the Province days of Midwest Province. Apart from taking Solon to pilgrimage places and parks, he squeezed his time cooking Indian meals. We had a wonderful time-sharing spicy meals and wonderful companionship with two others; David (GUJ) and Jose Miguel (ECU).

The final preparation for my dissertation defense is in full swing. A formal public announcement of my defense

has been made on the webpage of the MU graduate school. I will defend my dissertation virtually on July 6 at 10 am USA time. Your prayers are kindly solicited.

Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ

OBITUARY

FR. ISAAC TETE, S.J.

(1955 - 2021)

Fr. Isaac Tete was born on 23 February 1955 in Bhelwadih village of Khanjaloya parish in a devout Christian family of late Mr. Mathias Tete and late Mrs. Salomi Dungdung. He grew up in the family of his elder sister, Mrs Felicitia Dungdung in Dwarsini. He received his early education in the parish school. After passing seventh standard he joined Apostolic school Gumla and did his matriculation from St. Ignatius High School, Gumla. He joined St. Aloysius Minor Seminary Ranchi and completed Intermediate Science from St. Xavier's College Ranchi. He joined the Novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagraha on 20 November 1974 and after two years, he took his First Vows in the Society of Jesus (21 November 1976). It was a great event for him and the family members as well as the villagers. It is evident from the fact that in remembrance of his receiving cassock for first time in the Novitiate, the villagers had Curus Gari programme on 3rd December 1974. Still the villagers celebrate the Curus Gari Feast in the village each year. Fr. Isaac's becoming a priest was a great blessing for the family as well as the village. He was the only priest in the village. His father was a happiest man when Fr. Isaac was ordained a priest on 29 April 1987. He told us that his father's long awaited dream was fulfilled and he wanted nothing in life.

Fr. Isaac did his regency in St. Albert's College Ranchi and Socius to the Novice Master in the Novitiate in ATC, Namkum. So he had deep understanding of religious life and of the youth. Occasionally he shared about great Jesuits history of Society of Jesus. It was interesting to



know about the past history of the Church from him. He reminded us of great feast of the church and the Society of Jesus. He respected individual's ideas and encouraged initiatives. He had great hope from young Jesuits. He said that these young scholastics will be the future Superiors and Rectors. He respected every human person - young and old. He did not want to become any obstacle on the way of Jesuits, staff and guardians.

Fr. Isaac was a good planner and organizer. He had sense of good administration and discipline. At times he did not get support but he was firm in his decision. The staff and students liked his way of dealing. In his tenure as Principal of St. John's High School, Dorea, the School produced 100% result in the Matriculation Examination in 2019 - 2020. For this great achievement, the whole of Tamar Block appreciated the Principal and Staff of the School.

He had good Knowledge of Computer. All the office works were done by him working for hours in his office. At times he forgot his meals. He knew the urgency of the tasks and often there was no assistant to finish the official works. He spent hours in preparing the recognition papers for St. John's High School Dorea.

Fr. Isaac Tete was calm and serene man. He looked young even at the age of 65. The students said he looked very young, the age of about 40 - 50. But he would smile and say I am now 65 years old. He was respected and listened to by the Staff and the students. It was painful that due to lockdown most of them were away in their houses and unaware of his death on 6 May 2021 in St. Anne's Hospital, Ulhatu. They will miss him much when the school reopens at any time. May God reward His faithful servant eternal peace in heaven.

Fr. Peter Claver Lakra, SJ

FR. SEVERIUS EKKA, SJ

(1938 - 2021)

Fr. Severius Ekka, SJ was born on 7th September 1938 in Chichwani village, in Katkahi parish. He was the second son among three brothers. He did his middle school in St. Joseph Middle school Katkahi. After his high school in St. Johns' Ranchi and Inter College in St. Xavier's college Ranchi. He was interested in Maths and Physics as a science student.

With much prayer and fervent desire to become a Jesuit he entered Society of Jesus on 15th July 1961 in St.



Stanislaus College Sitagaha. In two years he made himself man of prayer and to fight gallantly for faith and justice he committed with his first vows in the Society of Jesus. After Novitiate he was sent to St. Joseph's Bangalore for his juniarate on 16th July 1963. After one year of hard work in literature

and spirituality he came back to Ranchi for his B.Sc. in St. Xavier's College from 1964 to 1966. He was clever and hard working in his studies. He did well in his studies. Thereafter he was sent to Sacred Heart College Shembaganur for his Philosophical studies from 1966 to 1968. After completing his philosophy he was sent to St. Mayr's Samtoli for his regency. Here he proved himself with his talents and qualities as Science teacher in a year.

He was sent to St. Mary's Kurseong for his theological studies from 1968 to 1970. This was the transition period when Theological institute was shifted from Kurseong to Vidya Jyoti Delhi so his final year of theological studies was done from 1970 to 1971 in Vidya Jyoti Delhi. After his Diaconate ministry he was ordained on 25th April 1973 in his home parish, Katkahi. Soon after his ordination he had few months of pastoral ministry.

Those days very few studied science among the tribals and it was dire need of a science teacher in St. Mary's High School Samtoli, Simdega. Therefore, Fr. Severius Ekka was appointed as science teacher in Samtoli. Usually Religious are transferred from one place to another according to the need and place but Fr. Severius worked hard as science teacher from 1974 to 2001 as full duration of his service period for 27 years in St. Mary's Samtoli. Fr. Severius was well known for his teaching among the parents, students and teachers. In the course of his stay in Samtoli he made his final commitment in the society of Jesus with his final Vows on 15th August 1977 at St. May's High School, Samtoli. Fr. Severius was a man of discipline for which students liked him much and his teaching. Beside his teaching ministry he was a man of mission. He used to go to Simdega jail for his prison ministry. As long as he was in Samtoli he did his prison ministry very faithfully. The inmates of the jail liked his service to them. As he was faithful in his educational

ministry so also he was faithful for the prison ministry.

He visited Christians as well as non-Christians equally whenever it was holiday or he found his own way of recreation. He rarely went for home visit. But whenever he went for home visit, he used to visit many families and spend enough time in talking about the genealogy of the family relationships and others. Villagers liked him for visiting the families. Fr. Severius retired in 2001 after his tiresome 27 years of service in St. Mary's High School Samtoli, Simdega.

After completing his educational ministry he had a great desire to become a pastor hence he was sent to Catholic Ashram Soso for few years to work as assistant parish priest and even there he continued his educational ministry. At this age he had great dream and desire of becoming a missionary in Assam so he was sent to Chidimit, Garo hill in Assam as assistant parish priest. He wished to become a great missionary so after few years he moved to Balipara in Assam as assistant parish priest and to teach in the school. He loved teaching but at this age how much students followed him it was a big question. Because of his age and physical weakness his physic did not cooperate with him so finally he had to come back to Ranchi, Manresa house somewhere in 2016-2017 to pray for the church and for the Society of Jesus.

During his stay in Manesa house he kept up his holiness and spiritual ministry. He made sure to join all the spiritual and other activities of the community. When his ill-health did not co-operate with him he has to visit doctors in Ranchi as well as in Mandar. In spite of ill health he was always cheerful, man of prayer and visiting his neighbors next to his room in infirmary to talk and spend some time with other inmates. Last days of his time was mainly spent in Constant Lievance Hospital and Research Centre. Often he expressed that his mortal remaining to be taken to Samtoli after his death as he spent longest period of his life there. He breathed his last on 22nd April 2021 at Lievance Hospital and Research Centre Mandar. His long intended desire to be buried in Samtoli was fulfilled as Curia decided to bury his mortal remaining in Samtoli.

Such a dedicated and good religious person completed his earthly life journey and departed his heavenly kingdom cheerfully. May his soul rest in peace!

Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ

FR. GYAN PRAKSH MINJ, SJ**(1974 - 2021)**

When we see the life of Fr. Gyan Prakash Minj, his life was filled with struggles and trials. He hardly enjoyed the filial love as his father was in military service. Fostering the siblings was solely shouldered by her mother. Although she did it very well and looked after them very tenderly, Fr. Gyan always experienced the absence

of his father, which he expressed quite many time. A wish of his parents was to keep the family united, but the brothers of Gyan as they matured got married and all had their own way, this pained him a lot. His parents had spent all their money and energy in giving them good education but his brothers hardly came up to their expectation. Eventually his mother too, left the ancestral house and stayed with her youngest daughter-in-law. Because of that he avoided going home. Fr. Gyan was a quiet and soft spoken person; spoke with the people only when it was necessary. As he was an introvert, his interaction with others also was limited. But he was somewhat sensitive and good at heart. He was ready to help only when he was approached, but if so he was ready to do it even to the extent to his time and space. There were some students who approached him for some help and he never denied. He availed himself for them. I think he loved the students but he did not express it at times. That's why he was not understood by his colleagues. Fr. Gyan was a responsible person. Whatever work was assigned to him we was doing it with his utmost ability. Whether in the school, parish or it may be in the field of gardening, which he liked, I think, he made it sure that things should proceed ahead smoothly. He was seen going out in the scorching sun or pouring rain only to complete the pending work. In the school too he would avail himself so that students should not suffer because of him. He was quite optimistic for the future of the students who were under his care. For the hostellers he had already stocked rice and firewood for the near future. He had a plan of leveling another play-ground for the kids and tots as they could not be accommodated when senior ones were playing. As a good teacher he tried his best to groom the students with his capacity. With this

intention, I believe, he had enrolled himself for T.T.C., so that he could be a better teacher and administrator for the school, in fact that was his dream.

Fr. George Burh, SJ

BR. STEPHEN KERKETTA, SJ**(1945-2021)**

In the early morning of 30th January 2020, in Samford Hospital, Ranchi, the Lord called to Himself Br. Stephen Kerketta, SJ. Little did he realize when he was taken to Constant Lievens Hospital, Mandar for some health issues about a fortnight ago that he was never to return to SXC, Ranchi, his own

Community. Noticing some symptoms of corona virus, a test was conducted in the Hospital immediately. The test result turned out to be positive with pneumonia. This caused him acute breathing difficulty. He was rushed to Samford Hospital, Ranchi and got admitted in the Covid wing where he was under treatment in the Intensive Care Unit. Despite all efforts of the Medical Team in the Hospital, he succumbed to the disease.

Born on 1st June 1945 at Barwadih Pahantoli village to late Mr. Ignace Kerketta and late Mrs. Julia Tete as his father and mother, Br. Stephen was brought up in a strong Catholic family atmosphere. He had his schooling up to class X in the parish school Barwadih. Later he did his Intermediate privately. Deep down in his heart he had a desire to be a Jesuit Brother. So he went to St. Ignatius' School Gumla for pre-postulancy programme. He was happy to be one of the five selected candidates for postulancy. His postulancy in Sitagarha exposed him to quite a few tasks that he would undertake later in the Society. His Novitiate formation blended appropriately prayer and works which Stephen engaged happily. On 2nd February 1966 he took his First Vows together with five of his companions as Jesuit Brothers in the Society and stayed there for another year for Juniorate. Then his years of ministries started in different communities of the Province which he accomplished them with much dedication and availability.

The significant contributions he has made speak of volumes of the quality of his Vision accompanied by

earnest Commitment as a true son of St. Ignatius. He is one of the Jesuits who lived and served in majors Communities as well as in some parishes of Ranchi Province: St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla (1968-1969), St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (1969-1975), Catholic Church, Soso (1975-1976), Catholic Church, Tumdegi (1976-1977), St. Xavier's School, Ambikapur (1977-1978), St. Xavier's School, Doranda (1979-1986), St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha (1989-1993), St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (1993-2008), Catholic Church, Noadih (2008-2009), St. John's Middle School, Ranchi (2009-2019) and St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (20019-2021).

His first appointment was in St. Ignatius High School, Gumla (1968-1969) - quite a big community. As an incharge of fields and garden, Br. Stephen convinced his Rector to ensure the safety with strong brick walls around the campus. For irrigation purpose water was pumped from the Pugu river. As the electricity supply was constant at night, he would pump in the water into the Community tanks till mid night and during the day he would irrigate the fields and the garden. He confessed that his one year time passed happily and very soon. Then he was assigned to work in the main office of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (1969-1975) - from fields and garden to busy office tasks, a difficult transition. But gradually he learnt the tricks of the trade and gave his valuable service to one of the prime educational institutions in the Ranchi city for five long years.

Then his service was needed in Catholic Church Soso (1975-1976), one of the old Jesuit parishes. Br. Stephen had to look after the farm and garden - full of vegetables and fruit trees. Campus was wide open and security was a big concern. Here also Br. Stephen became an instrumental to raise stone boundary walls around the campus. His service was needed in Tumdegi parish, then a Jesuit-manned mission centre, late Fr David Kerketta, SJ being the parish priest. As Garden and Farm In-charge, his spirit of service and commitment reflected there as well though he went through some initial difficult moments in the community.

After his tertianship in Sacred Heart, Shembaganur (1978), he was assigned as Minister and Treasurer in St. Xavier's School, Doranda under the guidance of Fr George Karakunnel, SJ and Br. Tarcitius Toppo, SJ. It was a challenging task for him, especially to maintain the account of the School. But slowly he learnt things and successfully accomplished his duty for seven years (1979-1986). His joy was doubled when took his Final Vows here in 1980.

Gradually his health issues became a concern for him.

He found difficult to give himself fully to active ministry. He represented his case to the Provincial who considered it and gave him SXC Community, Ranchi, where he engaged himself as a Sacristan and assistant Minister until his last days.

A few human and Jesuit characteristics of Br. Stephen could be worth noted: he was a happy, simple, soft spoken and friendly and very accommodative. His presence radiated pleasant feeling amidst his Jesuit brothers and the people he came across. He was accessible to all those who were in need.

As a Jesuit Brother, he loved his vocation. At times he expressed his genuine concern towards the dwindling vocation of Brothers in the Society of Jesus in general. He was convinced that a Jesuit Brother has a significant role to play in the Society. He had special love for the sick and the elderly members. Often he was seen visiting some of the inmates in the Manresa House Infirmary.

In these Institutions and mission centres (in some twice even) he had put in a yeoman's work with marvelous achievements and that too in a record time. He has accomplished his share of the Mission. Well done! He has gone for his reward from the Lord who had called him a 'companion in His Mission'.

Raymond Kerketta, SJ



REST IN PEACE

- Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi, SJ (81/63) passed away on 15 June 2021 in Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Br. Francis Basumatari, SJ (68/35) passed away on 29 June 2021 in Darjeeling.