

# himaldhvani



Prabhu Jisu Residence, Post Box 3, Matigara – 734 010, Dt Darjeeling, West Bengal

No.6

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits - June~2021

## From the Provincial's Desk

Leo Tolstoy once said, "There is only one way to put an end to evil, and that is to do good for evil". We see that in Jesus. Some hated him, and his death was the consequence of their hatred. But that hatred lost its power over him because he refused to respond in the same way. Rather, he returned love for hatred, understanding for misunderstanding, blessing for curse, graciousness for resentment, fidelity for rejection, and forgiveness for murder. But that takes a rare but incredible strength. To love someone is to ensure that this person can never be lost. By that love, the other is connected always to a family of love and ultimately to **THE CIRCLE OF LOVE INSIDE OF GOD.**



The choice is ours. Either we choose good or evil, life or death, love or hatred. This choice will depend on the innovative vision we have of humankind through a process of inner maturation. The process St Ignatius went through as he was convalescing from his cannonball injury in the battle of Pamplona brought about a deep spiritual conversion in him and helped him to recognize the meaning of his existence. Hence, celebrating 500 years of the conversion of St Ignatius is an opportunity given to us for renewal and rediscovery of the Ignatian roots. It is an opportunity to take stock of our lives by putting Christ in the centre again for our continual and daily conversion through discernment while orienting our choices between good and evil, right and wrong, life and death. The goal of the whole process is our Encounter with the Lord, **THE CIRCLE OF LOVE.**

### APPROVAL BY FR GENERAL

Fr K. L. George – Superior of Arrupe House, Darjeeling

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM - JUNE 2021

- 01- Interaction with Scholastics
- 12- Province Consult

### LEFT THE SOCIETY

Sch. Francis Xavier on 11 May  
Sch. Ealio Lepcha on 17 May

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL & COLLEGE, DARJEELING

Responding to the Covid-19 affected people in the hills, the Jesuits of St. Joseph's School and College came together to open an isolation centre in Campion Hall of St. Joseph's College. This is a part of the Emergency Response of Darjeeling Province, supported by several donors.

The 50-bed **Sursum Corda Covid Care Centre** was inaugurated on 20<sup>th</sup> May by **Dr Santosh Nimbalkar**, Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling, in a simple ceremony attended by dignitaries, press and volunteers, observing the Covid protocols. The Chief Guest lauded the noble efforts and stressed on the aspect of service one needs to render to one's own society and offered all the support from the Darjeeling Police. His Lordship Very **Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha** blessed the Centre and congratulated the Jesuits

and collaborators for taking up the much needed cause and offered his solidarity and prayers. **Fr Donatus Kujur**, Principal of St. Joseph's college and **Fr Stanley Varghese**, Rector of St. Joseph's School, thanked everyone who contributed so much already to the running of the Centre and hoped that with everyone's continual support much more can be achieved.



This safe house has all the basic facilities for asymptomatic and non-serious Covid positive male patients. Ten nurses are staying in the campus to give the patients round the clock support. Doctors visit the patients regularly and ambulances are kept ready for any emergency. Hot, hygienic and healthy food cooked in the Xavier Hostel mess is made available to them three times a day. Oxygen concentrators are also available in case of need.

All these services are offered FREE OF COST with generous help from political parties, alumni of both School and College, NGOs, students, parents, teachers and well-wishers. Especially we thank **SOS India** and **Xavier Network partners** coordinated by **Canadian Jesuits International** for mobilizing the needed resources. The Co-workers of both the institutions and energetic volunteers have offered their service towards this cause. The Centre will be functional for at least two months with the hope of continual help and support.

*Fr Pragasan C*

### ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

Although the school is closed, dry rations of midday meals were distributed to Classes V-VIII for 4 days from 10-13 May. Meanwhile online classes are on for the high school and homework is given to children every 15 days in the primary section.

The parish has suspended all its pastoral programs scheduled for this month. Our new priest, **Fr Oshish Tirkey** joined the community on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He is under the guidance of the parish priest, **Fr Peter Pappu** for his pastoral ministry. The community has put up stricter guidelines for the visitors and guests who visit the community now. We had our community triduum from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May preached and guided by **Fr Xavier Alangaram**. **Br Denis Rodrigues** is yet to arrive from his home visit. He is actually stuck in the lockdown! Regent **Sujit Minj** is attending the scholastics' annual program at Premanjali, Matigara. We had the inaugural Mass of the Ignatian Jubilee year at 11.00 A.M. on 20<sup>th</sup> May, with representatives of our collaborators, followed by an agape meal. **Fr Peter Pappu** was admitted to Navjeevan Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> May when he had some health issues. He had an extensive check-up for 8 days. He returned to the community on 17<sup>th</sup> May. However, he was feeling weak and loss of appetite. On 21<sup>st</sup> May evening he went through a rapid test for Covid-19 and tested positive. Immediately he was readmitted to Navjeevan Hospital. Consequently, all the other community members and co-workers went for covid-19 test but all of us tested negative! After a week in the hospital, **Fr Peter Pappu's** health improved very much and he was discharged on 29<sup>th</sup> May. **Fr Cherian Maliekal** gave retreat to the scholastics in Premanjali, Matigara, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May.

*Fr Simon Kerketta*

### NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

On 13<sup>th</sup> May, in a simple ceremony, **Fr Gabriel Tirkey**, the Jesuit superior, inaugurated the newly constructed *connecting bridge* (linking old and new buildings) by cutting the ribbon and blessing it, followed by blessing the just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors of the new building named Loyola Block. Due to the surge in Covid cases, only about 20 staff were present including seven Heads of Departments, apart from the five Jesuits. After the final prayer, there was tea and snacks for everyone present which was followed by a quick meeting to discuss our action plans to reach out to people afflicted by the new wave of Covid-19.



It was felt that while exploring the possibility to set up a safe house in Jalpaiguri, we also do something for the neighbouring villages and tea gardens. To that end, **Fr Lalit Tirkey** and **Fr Bijay**

**Kindo** purchased essential materials required for Covid-prevention that will be distributed in selected tea gardens and villages while some residential areas will be sanitised using fogging machines. Posters, handbills and flexes are getting printed for awareness creation in the most affected areas under Rajganj Block. Moreover, in order to address the mental health of our own students and even extending the help to students from the other colleges, teams of faculty members have been formed to provide online counselling in different local languages. On 20<sup>th</sup> May, five Jesuits of the community celebrated the Eucharist and held a special evening prayer to commemorate St Ignatius' Cannonball Moment by keeping the portrait of St Ignatius in the chapel. **Sch. Anup Minj**, the lone scholastic left in the house after having lived under the shadow of other senior scholastics, took upon himself to lead the choir and evening prayers.

*Fr Lalit P. Tirkey*

### HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA

We decided to move to tea gardens through **Lok Manch** network for Covid awareness campaign using print and digital media and work with the local administration to improve the health facilities. We undertook a health survey in 55 tea gardens across Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts. The results of the survey shocked us: in these 55 tea gardens, there is not a single doctor in any of the tea garden hospitals; only 6 tea gardens had Covid quarantine centres; not a single tea garden has a Covid positive isolation centre; only 12 tea gardens have Covid vaccination units. The total number of Covid positive cases reported was 61; no death was reported so far in these 55 tea gardens.

HLDRC has so far reached out to about 80 tea gardens in Terai and Dooars with health awareness drive. We have established digital link with about 800 android mobiles phone users already. There are three layers of communication: with Covid response Core Group, tea garden key leaders Group and labour line volunteers' group (with micro group of 5 members at labour line). More than 15 organizations have come together to address this pandemic. Our staff **Mr. Cornelius Hasda**, **Mr. Basil Ekka** and **Mr. Pawan Baxla** are leading the campaign.

Quite many youth have shifted from using the mobile for entertainment to social cause which can save many lives. Special Thanks to **Canadian Jesuits International (CJI)**, **Jesuit Mission UK**, **Lok Manch**, **Mrs Patrizia**, **SOS-India** and **Mr Hanspeter**, who have been our strong supporters during this most difficult time. We dream to end this pandemic and restore peace, love and life in the world.

*Fr Pascal Xalro*

### MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

The '**joy**' of inactive life, in the isolation, away from the Novitiate for almost a month, is yet another level of magnificent and memorable life-experience for all of us. It is, of course, once-in-a-lifetime-experience for the novices and administrators. Although we wish to enjoy the active life of the Novitiate, we are forced to relish it in our dreams while in isolation due to Covid-19.

After several members of the novitiate community showed serious symptoms of Covid-19, keeping in mind the safety measures, availability of the hospitals and medications, on 9<sup>th</sup> May, the entire novitiate was closed down and all the members (12 novices, **Fr Shaji Joseph**, the Director of Novices, **Br Gabriel Gurung**, the Minister and **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the Socius) were brought down to Matigara for isolation. **Jay Ghale**, the first year novice, was



hospitalized in Dr Chhang's Superspeciality hospital, Matigara, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. **Fr Shaji** was hospitalized in Navjeevan Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> May. All through our *exile* in the Senior Home, Matigara, we have been experiencing the true hospitality and selfless service of so many fathers and brothers. We are deeply indebted to all of them for offering their helping hand to us in our needs.

Some of the novices sum up their experience of the Covid-19 quarantine period: **Pilat Narzari** says, "I experienced that I was like a caged bird gripped by frustration desperately wanting to fly in to the sky." **Anurag Toppo** narrates, "I felt separation and isolation for a month, with abhorrence, but it was God's intervention that aided me with the 'Life of Saints' and helped me to be positive in all I was going through." **Sanchilit Dungdungopines**, "The quarantine period of three weeks gave me a beautiful chance to be with the Saints and journey with them who have experienced loneliness in their lives, like St Therese of Lisieux, St Teresa of Kolkata and many others. I drew encouragement and guidance from them." **Markush Narzary** expresses, "The word 'positive' (attached to corona) brought me a great fear, but through God's love and care, it disappeared from my heart; for God is the best medicine and in him I am safe." **Sushant Xalxo** says, "I grew in self knowledge and came to realize God as the ultimate source of hope amidst all helplessness and altruism." **Ashish Basumatary** sums up, "Covid-19 filled me with admiration towards nature, to contemplate upon the rustling leaves, chirping of the birds, hovering moon and the twinkling stars..." **Praful Lakra** summarises his ordeal, "I experienced great care and love from the community members and others in Matigara, even when I was experiencing hopelessness and fear of death."

Undoubtedly, May 2021 has been quite challenging for all of us. It was a month of self-introspection and self-surrender into the saving hands of God. We have come to realize deeply our vulnerability and sense of belonging to a larger human relationship in the Society of Jesus and in the suffering humanity in the world.

*Fr Roshan Kiro*

#### LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

**Fr Justin Thiraviyam** tested positive for Covid-19 and was quarantined in Matigara. After recovery, he is stuck there due to lockdown. Similarly, **Sch. Jeyaraj Solomon** was in home quarantine in early May. He has recovered now. Online peer-group Practice Teaching is going on for the student teachers of 4<sup>th</sup> Semester, since 17<sup>th</sup> May. Students practice teaching skills in a simulated situation under the supervision of a teacher of Pedagogy. Since the students undergo a lot of stress and strain due to network related and online interaction between students and professors, each student has been assigned a mentor for guidance and counselling. We are very grateful to **Mr Chris Lowney** for helping 8 of our B.Ed students with scholarship during the academic year 2020-21.

*Fr Francis George*

#### WERY NIWAS, KURSEONG

The whole of Kurseong hill was in a shock when they heard the demise of **Fr Mangal Kerketta**. He was the Minister of Wery Niwas Jesuit Community and a teacher in St. Alphonsus School. After his funeral, all the community members and co-workers remained in home quarantine for fourteen days. **Fr Giles Golukmu** had a cardiac problem and was admitted to Navjeevan Hospital, Gayaganga. He joined the community on 10<sup>th</sup> May. **Fr David Ekka** who was out to Kodaikanal for a course "Roots and Wings," has come back refreshed after finishing the course. St. Paul's Parish has formed a task force of ten people under the coordinatorship of **Mr Edwin Chettri**. The mission of the task force is to render

necessary help to parishioners who test positive for Coronavirus and also support their families, and in case of any death give dignified burial to the deceased. Joining with the whole Society, Wery Niwas community also held inaugural Mass for the Ignatian Year (2021-2022) on 20<sup>th</sup>. Apart from the community members, four parishioners were invited for the same. St. Alphonsus School has been given to the government to be used as a vaccination centre for Covid.

*Fr Peter Jong Lepcha*

#### ASHAKIRAN, MANGALORE

The month of May was bad for Ashakiran community as 23 scholastics and two fathers tested corona positive. At the beginning some of us were a little panicky after being tested positive. Soon after that, 13 Scholastics were shifted to Fatima Retreat House nearby Community. It was a time of relaxation as the hectic community activities had always kept us busy. We were well taken care of during this time by the Mangalore Jesuits. By 24<sup>th</sup> of May, all of us were back in the community. Many people have helped us during this time, especially the two Jesuit communities - St. Aloysius college community and Fatima Retreat House community. We are very grateful to all of them! Soon we are going to have our second internals exams towards the last week of May.

*Sch. Joseph Kerketta*

#### MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, the community celebrated the feast of St Joseph the worker. Due to the surge in the number of Covid-19 cases and unfavourable circumstances, our Co-workers had a picnic inside our campus. Some of our community Fathers tested Covid-19 Positive. They are under medical care. Slowly, they are recuperating. On 15<sup>th</sup> May Kohima and Delhi Scholastics were here after finishing their POP program in Hazaribagh. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, feast day of Ascension of our Lord, we slaughtered three goats and distributed to our neighbouring Jesuit communities. On 20<sup>th</sup> May Ranchi Jesuits began the Ignatian Year. Our Online classes are in full swing. The whole day, we are packed with lots assignments and online classes. This year, we don't have summer vacation. Slowly, Covid-19 cases are declining and the Government may allow us to resume the normal life.

*Sch. Ashish Soy*

#### PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

The second and third year scholastics have finished the end semester exams. On 29<sup>th</sup> April we bid farewell to the third year scholastics. As the month of May is dedicated to Mother Mary, we have begun the rosary every evening. On 5<sup>th</sup> May, we had a community Mass organized in the evening on the theme "The effect of COVID19 and our Response" at Premal Jyoti Community. From 13<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May we had our annual retreat along with the Gujarat scholastics. On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Gujarat scholastics had a scholastics gathering. On 23<sup>rd</sup> evening at 4 o'clock a friendly basketball match was organized between Gujarat scholastics and Premal Jyoti Parivar scholastics. Premal Jyoti were the winners. On the same day evening at 6.30, the Inaugural mass of Ignatian Year was organized.

*Sch. Valerian Kujur*

#### JESUIT NIVAS COMMUNITY, BANGALORE

These days Jesuit Nivas community is actively involved in the Covid relief work. All the community members help out with packing of food and ration kits. **Fr Donatus Kujur**, **Fr David Ekka** and **Fr Sundeep Beck** dropped in for an overnight stay on their way to Siliguri on 8<sup>th</sup> May. On 10<sup>th</sup> May, the community bid farewell to the outgoing members. **Sch. Wilson Saldana** from

Karnataka province, having completed his B. Ed left for theology in Annekal. On 20<sup>th</sup> a new member **Sch. Austin** (Karnataka) joined the community. He is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of LLB. **Sch. Roshan Gyan Topno** is preparing for the second semester exams most likely due in the third week of June.

*Sch. Roshan Gyan Topno*

### ST XAVIER'S, DEONIA

We continue to conduct online classes for our students to keep their minds and hearts busy during this lockdown. Students share their frustrations as they are not able to meet their friends. We hope for an early end to the pandemic. **Fr Mike Parent**, after having spent three years in Tipling, has joined our community as the new Superior. He still looks fit, young and handsome. We feel privileged and blessed to have a person like him. He loves to share his life in Tibet and Tipling as well. **Fr Daniel Bara** celebrated his birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> May. His life experiences shared during his homily touched us the most. We thank God for his dedicated service in the School and the community. **Fr Mike Parent** inaugurated the Ignatian Year by unveiling a portrait of St Ignatius' vision at **La Storta** in the chapel. Later in the morning, as a community we attended a virtual opening ceremony conducted by the Region.

*Sch. Gorak Rudum*

### PARIS, FRANCE

On the 1<sup>st</sup> May, seven Jesuits were ordained deacons at Saint Ignatius church of which one was from our community. So, we had a simple celebration among the community members after the ordination. We had our community extended weekend from 13<sup>th</sup> of May to 17<sup>th</sup> May at Penbouc'h, one of the Jesuit spiritual centres located in the region of Brittany. During this time, six scholastics who are leaving the community this year shared their experiences in the course of their studies in Paris. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May we had the students Mass animated by the Indian Jesuit students of Centres Sèvres at Saint Ignatius church. Everyone appreciated the beautiful liturgy that helped them to Pray well. The hymns were sung in Nepali, Hindi, Sadri, Santhali and Khasi. On the 20<sup>th</sup> May we had the inaugural Mass of the Ignatian year in our Church. The provincial of the Europe Occidental Francophone (EOF) was the main celebrant. There were many laity, religious and students who participated in the Mass. Now, as we approach the end of our academic year, we are all busy preparing our year-end report.

*Sch. John Lepcha*

### SCHOLASTICS' SUMMER PROGRAM AT PREMANJALI

We experienced showers of blessings this May. During this pandemic the scholastics have been engaged in various activities for our growth. On 10<sup>th</sup> May we started our Ignatian Week which was conducted by **Fr Zacheus Dungdung**. We were very enthusiastic to deepen our knowledge of the Ignatian spirituality. The Ignatian Week nurtured us from within, like a flowing river which nurtures the trees planted on the banks. We are very grateful to **Fr Edward Arokiaraj** for accommodating us in Premanjali and allowing us to have the program. **Fr Xavier Alangaram (PCF)** organised this valuable course for our enhancement. **Fr Zacheus** dealt with the Autobiography, Constitutions, Spiritual Exercises and Spiritual Diary along with some other materials. We feel that we have imbibed the spirit of St. Ignatius. We were enriched from the vast knowledge of **Fr Zacheus**. On 15<sup>th</sup> May, at the end of the Ignatian week we had a short get-together. On 17<sup>th</sup> May, **Fr Zacheus** took a session on **Heroic Leadership** where he pointed to some life changing wisdom, saying that we should understand our strength, weakness, values, and have a wider worldview. He continued the following

day with another topic **Time Management**. We were shown the value of time and discussed on the fruitful use our time.

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of May we had a very productive Social Analysis course conducted by **Fr Joe Victor**, **Fr Lalit Tirkey**, and **Fr Pascal Xalxo**. We discussed the current issues of the tea gardens and possible remedies, besides focussing on some national scenario.



On 20<sup>th</sup> of May, we started the Ignatian Year with the inaugural Mass on the theme "To see all things new in Christ". The main celebrant was **Fr Provincial**. **Fr Xavier** and **Fr Edward Arokiaraj** concelebrated. The Mass was very inspiring and well organized. We started our Annual Retreat on 21<sup>st</sup> of May with magnanimity and gratitude and it ended on 29<sup>th</sup> of May, ably guided by **Fr Cherian Maliekal**. We are thankful to him for leading us to the depth of the retreat. We also express our gratitude to **Fr Kalyan Tirkey** for his availability and nourishing us with delicious meals. After the retreat we celebrated the Birthday of **Sch. Sujit**, with the curia community members.

*Sch. Arif Beck*



(Ignatian Year Inaugural Mass at Prabhu Jisu Residence)

### Rest in Peace

Fr Saju Bastian (HAZ)	59/37	3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Fr Cyril Rajesh Tigga, (MAP)	84/62	5 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Ramesh Tribhuvan (PUN)	49/25	6 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Isaac Tete (RAN)	66/46	6 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Jerome Gonsalves (PUN)	71/51	7 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Anil Dayal Kujur (HAZ)	60/35	10 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Antony Raj Perinbam (MDU)	76/57	10 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Francis Kurien (HAZ)	68/ 51	13 <sup>th</sup> May
Br Jeganathan Ambrose S.(MDU)	72/53	17 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Anthony Cruze Arul (Guj)	57/35	19 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Rajarathinam(CEN)	62/41	24 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Lawrence Gabriel (MDU)	81/56	29 <sup>th</sup> May
Fr Maria Jeyaraj (MDU)	86/67	29 <sup>th</sup> May