

Vol. XXV No.3 NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA REGION (KHNL) May-June 2021

APPOINTED BY KARNATAKA PROVINCIAL

Fr Kharluni Gabriel, Region Consultor

APPOINTED BY REGIONAL SUPERIOR

Fr Carlo Gratian, Team Member, Arrupe Renewal Centre, Mawshohroh

Fr Elanjimannil Sebastian, Finance Officer, Jesuit Community, Palizi

Fr Prabhu Jeevan, Finance Officer, Loyola College, Williamnagar

Fr Varghese Thomas, Director, Jesuit Training Centre, Phesama

DEACONS

Dn Chin Kap Sian Muang, Vice Principal, St Xavier's School, Maibang

Dn Lalruatsaka Stephen, Vice Principal, Loyola School, Bishnupur

Dn Thomas Biji, Principal, St Xavier's School, Bana

SCHOLASTICS

Sch. David Jenith Xavier, Loyola Sec. School, Kuppayanallur, Chennai

Sch. Iawren Donkumar Mario, Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

Sch. Kharthangmaw Iasuklang, Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

Sch. Neli Manio, Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

Sch. Nonglait L Ribankordor, Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

Sch. Thongnirit Francis, Vinayalaya Juniorate, Mumbai

REGIONAL SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME

July

05 POSA Consult (online)

06 -07 Zonal Provincials Meeting (online)

08-09 Visitation, Jesuit House, Guwahati

3-14 Region Consult
17-19 Maweit and Umoid
20-28 Annual Retreat (Mawshohroh)
29-30 Umbir and Jalaphet
31 Feast of St Ignatius, JH, Guwahati

August

05 POSA Consult (online)
06-09 Dima Hasao Zone
10-11 Region Consult
13-18 Arunachal Zone
19-22 Jesuit House, Guwahati
23-27 Nagaland Zone
28-31 Manipur Zone

On behalf of the Region, I would like to thank **Fr Rakesh Richard Bara (MAP)** who is proceeding for his tertianship in Shembaganur. Fr Rakesh worked for two years in Sacred Heart School, Lamdan, and for one year in St Xavier's School, Bana. Through his lively and dynamic presence, he contributed much for the growth of the students in both schools. The staff, students and parents in Lamdan and Bana will miss him much. We wish you well, Fr Rakesh. (Fr Melvil Pereira)

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR THOMAS VARGHESE SJ

Deacon Thomas Varghese SJ was ordained a priest by **Mar Thomas Tharayil**, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry on 24th June 2021. **Fr E P Mathew SJ**, the Provincial of Kerala Jesuit Province was the archdeacon for the liturgy. Along with **Fr E P Mathew**, **Fr Salvin Augustine** (PCF of Kerala Jesuit Province) and **Fr Deepak** (PDD of Kerala Jesuit Province)



were present for the ceremony. No one from Kohima Region could be present for the ordination because of the pandemic.



Fr Thomas writes “The presence of the three Jesuits was a great help for me both in preparation as well as in my first mass. Strict covid 19 protocols were followed and only 20 close family members were allowed for the liturgy. I am grateful to my parish priest and the parish community for extending all the help for making the entire celebration”.

On 26th June, Thomas was able to bless the wedding of his youngest brother, the first major priestly ministry beginning in his home town. Thomas felt that the function was simple but very meaningful for the family.

As we remember, the ordination of Thomas was anticipated so that his ailing father might be able to attend the programme. Together with Thomas, we are very happy to know that his father



was present for all the programmes. Thomas expresses his sentiments, “On behalf of my family, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our Kohima Jesuit brethren for all the prayers offered for the speedy recovery of my father. He is still rather weak and we are giving blood thrice a week to sustain his energy. Please do continue to pray for him and for all of us”. Thomas plans to arrive in the Region sometime in the third week of July.

Kohima Region congratulates Thomas on the success of his priestly ordination and we wish him a safe journey back.

The absence of the students, notably the boarders brings the campus to a great silence. But with that comes another chance to get our ears tuned to the beautiful noise of the nature, the chirping of the birds and the whistling of breeze. It echoes the song of St Francis Assisi that goes “Birds are singing sweet and low; from the trees that gently grow”. In that atmosphere, all the scholastics in Dima Hasao mission gathered here from the 16th to 23rd of May for their annual retreat. **Fr Rejin** accompanied us for the retreat during which he led us to go back to our own well-spring of God experience. Indeed, it was an enriching experience.

Our campus looks clean now. Thanks to the retreatants who helped us to clean it up. The campus is also slightly better in term of Network connectivity. We are getting Jio Network in front of our residence and the school campus.

The online class is on. Although there is poor response from the students, we make sure that the online posting of study materials is done on a regular basis. Despite the lockdown, the construction work in the campus is going on. The girl’s hostel building is nearing its completion. We are grateful to **Fr Thomas** who ensures the progress of the work by visiting the work regularly. We have started the application process for the recognition of our school for class IX and X. We hope that this process will go on smoothly and bear good fruit. All except one of those in the campus have received the first jab of vaccine. We have also recommended that all teachers get vaccinated.



On 20th June, a one-day recollection was organised for the scholastics residing in Maibang and Didambra. Using the image of Zacchaeus, Fr Rejin helped us to reflect on the desire to know God and the will power to set that desire into action.

Fr Rejin is now set for his final B.Ed exams to be held from 28th of this month. Our best wishes for him!

-Sch. Daniel Syiemlieh

DIYUNGBRA

On 25 April, two new members were added to our Catholic faith. **Fr Vilezo** baptised Aric and Mark Parul during the solemn Mass of the community. On 27th of April, we gave a grand farewell to **Sch. Reginald Kurkalang** for the valuable service rendered for the past one year of regency. Students expressed their love and gratitude to Reginald for all his contributions in the school and in the boarding. On 1st of June, we announced a school lockdown as per the government order of the state. Quality online classes are being offered since the school lockdown and there has been a good response from students and parents. On 9th of June, we gave a farewell to Sr Pomila and Sr Sarbina Ekka. We had a community prayer of gratitude and super in their honour. The past two months were fruitful months with many works in the campus and we were able to move out and do external activities of the community when necessary. Everyone is taken cared of and the community is doing well in all areas.

-Sch. Joseph Wungmayon

GUWAHATI, JESUIT HOUSE

The Covid-19 pandemic forced the Kohima Scholastics to go for an online retreat instead of the offline one. The points for the retreat were offered by Fr Louis Leivil SJ, one of the experts on Ignatian Spirituality. The long awaited 'Scholafest-2021', scholastic get together, was organised using modern technology - Zoom. **Fr Melvil** used the occasion to release the book on the life of Ignatius in Khasi written by **Sch. Matheus**. Even though the scholastics could not be present physically in one place, it was a wonderful experience of virtual togetherness. It was especially nice that the scholastics from Paris, Rome and China could take part in the gathering. This was followed by a two-day orientation for the regents organised by **Fr Charles** and **Fr Anand**.



After a few months of intense preparations our three deacons – **Biji, James** and **Stephen**, confidently cracked the comprehensive exams. The Fathers at Jesuit House were happy to have had the opportunity to brush up their own theology while attending the mock presentations of theses by the deacons. Kudos to our dear deacons! And thanks to all the fathers who walked the extra mile to help the deacons. The scholastics who attended the deacons' exams were left flabbergasted seeing them answering the questions.

Jesuit House community members bade farewell to **Fr Valerian** and **Fr Charles** through a meaningful Eucharistic celebration, presided by Fr Anand. He thanked them for their generosity and spirit of availability.

Sch Lambok, who is doing his online studies at Jesuit House, organised a Musical Evening via Zoom on World Music Day. Kohima scholastics from all over took part in the online programme. Many lay people were also "present" to witness his amazing music skills. Thanks to Lambok for his efforts.

Jesuit House is becoming greener by the day, thanks to the efforts of the scholastics, especially **Sch. Matheus**.

Even though none of us could go to Mawshohroh to witness the first vows of our novices, we were fortunate to have them with us for a day on their way to Mumbai. At the mass, presided over by Fr Melvil, he made sure he gave them the message that he would have liked to give them on their vows day.

Eight would-be novices, five from Kohima and three from Ranchi are stuck at Jesuit House as they are unable to travel to their novitiate because of Covid restrictions. Sch. Matheus is teaching them the basics of the Khasi language and getting them to learn and enjoy Khasi hymns and prayers.



-Sch. Roynal Machado

JALAPHET

The month of May was a difficult month for us as 3 of our students (two hostel girls and one day-scholar boy) who were writing matric exams were tested corona positive and hence could not complete the last exam in Mathematics. Following them, almost all of us, including the Sisters were also tested positive. It even looked as if **Sch. Enrico** came to Jalaphet only to get covid. He helped **Sch. Xavier** to complete the construction of the new piggery and then proceeded to his next destination. Thanks for your prayers, all of us recovered from covid within a short time. We are glad to have **Sch. Darimio** in our community after Sch. Xavier left us, without any befitting farewell since we had given him already two times earlier.

The lockdown has taken a toll not only on the livelihood of the people, but much more on the children who lost almost two years of their academic life. Therefore, to make up for all that was lost, on 11 June, after due consultation with the parents and the village authorities, residential classes were started for the class X students, which will later be followed for class IX.



The lockdown is impoverishing many families especially the daily wage earners. To give some respite to these poor families, on 18 June, **Fr Gabriel**, with the help of the Region, brought some food grains (rice, potato, sugar, etc) to be distributed to the deserving families of Jalaphet Parish.



Our community is once again in full strength with the return of **Fr Wilfred** on 22, June, who was away for treatment for about two and half months. We also congratulate Fr Gabriel who was appointed as the new consultor of the region.

On 16 June, Syrleñ School lost one of its promising students, Nangbha Bareh, of class VII due to brain infection. We lost such a cheerful, holy and loving child. May she intercede for us from heaven.



-Fr Gabriel Kharluni

MAIBANG

The month of May and June as usual had a number of visitors. Starting with our **Sch. Jenith** who pitched his tent for a short while to render his service to the Maibang community. We had a sumptuous meal on the occasion of the birthday of **Sch. Akho Charles** joined by the sisters and the other residing staff of our campus. We were also graced to have a prominent Jesuit from Karnataka, **Fr Alwyn D'Souza** who had come for his research studies to Jagriti. He was escorted by Fr Thomas and three scholastics, i.e. Schs. Amos, Sumit and Martin. Fr Alwyn went back singing songs of praise after visiting the other centres of Dima Hasao. From 16 to 24 of May, **Scholastics Akho, Daniel Khyriem, Daniel Syiemlieh, Amos, Sumit, Gaisinrei, and Joseph Wungmayon** had an 8 day of "Gethsemane experience" at Didambra under the guidance of Fr Rejin. On 26th of May, for the first time in the history of our Region the scholastics had a virtual scholastic meet, under the guidance of **Fr Anand** our RCF. Sch Daniel S had a two day online pre-Regency programme at Maibang. The Dima Hasao Scholastics gathered together at Maibang to witness this great event. It was a day filled with fun and frolic.

On 26th of May Fr Rejin, Schs. Akho, Daniel K, Daniel S, two sisters and the warden had their first vaccination at Langting. There is serious after-effect that gave them trouble. On 15th of July schs. Amos, Sumit, the Driver and our kitchen staff had their first dose of covid vaccine. To their surprise one was down with headache while another the other had a day's of pilgrimage to the toilet.

On 17th June we had a friendly match between the construction workers joined by the four scholastics vs Giddingpur villagers. It was a tremendous victory for the construction workers and the scholastics (3-0). Sch. Akho, the Tarzan of the campus while busy trimming the branches of the trees is being vaccinated regularly by the commando Ants and Bees. Akho seems to be stronger and with an increase in strength of the antigens. Likewise, Daniel, Amos and Sumit are putting their hands together to maintain the beauty of the campus. Soon, they will be leaving the campus, for their studies to Andhra and Gujarat.

-Schs. Sumit & D. Khyriem

MANIPUR VALLEY

Lockdown and extended curfews have not dampened our spirits. All the three Jesuit Micro communities of Imphal Valley are bursting with activities. It all begun with House blessings in May. All the Jesuits joined in. **Frs Felix Monteiro, Syriac Panjikaran and Robert Chawngthu** covered eight villages in the southern area, **Fr Salewo George** held to his fort of three villages in the hills. **Fr Clement Kujur** covered the rest with the help of **Frs Boniface and Hector**. Since we could not bless the houses last year due to covid-19, this year the faithful were eagerly waiting, their small altars decked and houses kept clean.

The whole community joined the Kohima Region Scholastics' online retreat where the daily inputs were given by Louis Leveil SJ from Delhi Province. The scholastics were locally guided by **Fr Hector**. The late comers, **Sch. Justin Kashung** and **Sch. Daniel Thanreimung** made their annual retreat under the guidance of **Fr Robert Chawngthu**. Moirang gathered the campus flock every evening in the month of May for Rosary.

The new regents **Sch. Sameer Ekka** from Ranchi province at Moirang and **Sch. Felix Puturhu** at Bishnupur added youthfulness and mirth in the communities. The online classes in all the three Institutions are going on well with regular updating and new data.

The community at Moirang bade farewell to **Sch. Vysakh Titus** on 30th of May who returned to the Kerala province to continue his studies. **Fr Rakesh Bara** from MP was our honoured guest for four days who had worked two years at Moirang and Lamdan. We place on record their loving contribution to Moirang community and the people of God. **Mr Gladson** is the sole candidate from Moirang pre novitiate to join the novitiate. We wish all these the very best in their future mission.



The entire campus of St Xavier's got vaccinated on 19th of June. The simple Silver Jubilee celebration of the MSI convent at Moirang on 20th got affected due to the after effects of vaccination. However, a festive meal at noon and Mass late in the evening made up for the celebration. At the end of the Holy Mass **Fr Syriac** read out the Letter of Appreciation to MSI by **Fr Melvil Pereira** the Regional Superior Kohima Region. At Bishnupur, the curfew kept our men busy in the campus

The International Eco Day was inaugurated by **Fr Boniface Lewis** and **Fr Clement Kujur** to mark their birthdays by planting avocado saplings. They continued with digging around the roots of trees, manure and pruning them. **Fr Clement** lead the team in reshaping the hedge plants, pruning the bougainvillea bushes and planting more hedge plants and trees and transplanting the stunted ones. He was able to revive many a 'Weeping Asoka' trees which were presumed dead. He was ably guided by **Sch. Felix Puturhu** and the **Scholastics Chin Kap Sim, Matheus Kharbudon, Daniel Thanreimung** and **Justin Kashung** who came in to nest for a while. The regular rains were a boon too.



Ms Julian Pochi and Ms Genevieve saw to it that we had fresh vegetables from our garden throughout the lockdown and curfew days. We had beans and greens of all varieties, eggplant, cabbage aplenty and broccoli to add. Nature's bounty gave us mushrooms fresh and luscious. Thanks to our predecessors who took pains to plant and look after, we had banana, guava, papaya and non-veg mangoes through the lockdown season.

Fr Boniface at Bishnupur, **Fr Salewo** at Lamdan and **Fr Syriac** at Moirang have added new rose plants to their garden and tending them with all the love and care. The paddy fields are getting ready for transplanting both at Bishnupur and Moirang.

-Schs. Felix & Sameer

MAWEIT

School: St. Mary Secondary School, Maweit has been undertaking many initiatives each year to uplift and improve the standard of its students. This year it had taken another initiative in the midst of difficulties by upgrading itself with a Computer Lab. This Lab, which has 22 new computers was possible due to the help and support of different benefactors and well wishers. **Fr Caldinus** did his best to get Seven (7) computers, along with two printers that were donated by the Information and Technology Education Department, Government of Meghalaya; and fifteen (15) computers from Mr Giggur Myrthong the honourable MLA of Mawshynrut Constituency, who also inaugurated the Computer Lab on 30th of April, 2018.

The students and staff came up with a short felicitation and cultural programme to express their gratitude to our MLA who was prompt in executing this scheme. It added a lot of joy and happiness to the staff and students. **Sch. Felix**, who was here just for a few days also helped extensively in installing the Computers and arranging books in the Library. We greatly appreciate their gesture and help in making our dream of Computer Lab a reality.



Almost six months without a Regent, we are happy to welcome **Sch. Ngashan Angkang** as our regent brother in Maweit Mission.

A ray of hope knocked at our door, when the new academic year was inaugurated on the 1st week of April. However, this hope was short lived when the school was notified by Government officials to remain shut down until further notice in the following month (May). Unlike other places or Schools, that shifted to online mode of teaching from offline during the lockdown, our students were left to depend on the notes provided by the teachers due to poor network facilities in the areas they hail from. Hence, all the Teachers themselves are now busy in preparing notes. In line with the guidelines of Meghalaya government, all our staff were vaccinated at Primary Health Center (PHC), Maweit.

Our school was identified by the Government of Meghalaya as Community Isolation Centre for Corona Care in Maweit area in case many cases arise. The Block Development Officer (BDO) along with the medical team came to inspect our school on 26 May. They were very happy to meet us and appreciate our work and our readiness to join hands and fight against Coronavirus. Fr. Caldinus is putting all the resources and materials we have in beautifying the school campus and boarding by making a new fence with steel poles as well repairing the open air podium of the School.

Boarding: In the 1st week of April, the Loyola Boys' Home, Maweit reopened its door welcoming and admitting 50 boys. Both the old boys and the new boys were excited to create memories of hope, joy and friendship. Their joy doubled when Sch. Ngashan joined the Loyola Boys' family as the new regent on the 15th April. However, the hostel too is to remain shut once the school had to be closed due to lockdown. At the moment there are five boys in the campus who take the responsibility of maintaining the campus neat and clean. On alternate 10 days old set of boys are being replaced by two new ones. Under the careful guidance of Fr Caldinus and Sch. Ngashan, the boys are actively involved in building new cow shed, cutting grass, planting vegetables & trees, making and repairing fences and looking after the cows and pigs; in addition to their regular stipulated time for study, doing homeworks and acquiring an introductory computer and basic English skills.

Parish: Till the end of April we had the regular parish activities like Easter House Blessing, Baptisms et al. From May onwards we had privately celebrations of Sacrament for the needed individuals on request along with a training for rectification of marriage, anointing the sick during weekdays, as the protocol was strict on weekends including Sundays.

Community: All our audit works have been done in May and June with the help of **Fr Gregory** our superior. Thanks to his availability. Fr Caldinus represented Maweit Jesuits on the 21st of June as our five novices pronounced their first vows. **Fr Anbarasan** kept himself busy writing the requirements for Society renewal works and submission of documents to auditor for 12A renewal.

-Sch. Ngashan

MAWSHOHROH

Fifty Two teachers gathered at the Novitiate from our institutions in Khasi and Jaintia Hills for a day's program on 'Sanitization at Work Place' by **Fr Konrad Noronha SJ** (BOM). The teachers found the programme, not only enriching but also emotionally fulfilling



as they were able to interact with each other, enhance their social contacts, build new friendships, and also breathe fresh air after being suffocated by Covid over a year.

Fr Gerry Rego arrived on May 14th and was given a ceremonial welcome at the portico. The novices were found competing with each other to reach his luggage and belongings to his room. They had been waiting for over a month for his arrival and praying earnestly for his good health, and were happy to see him healthy and happy. While the novices go for games in the evening, Fr Gerry goes for his evening walks. He is already in action with classes and Masses.



The long awaited Hospital Experiment of 20 days at MC Sisters, Shillong, had to be cancelled due to upsurge in Covid cases and lockdowns. To compensate for this loss, the novices had a 6-day work camp on the campus itself from May 17th under the guidance of **Fr Pheiga**.



They were busy preparing the beds for vegetable cultivation, digging pits for planting and actually planting of fruit trees as well as timber saplings. It is just amazing how a small group of 11 novices could do so much work in just 6 days. May they carry with them this zeal and enthusiasm wherever they go.

We could not participate in online activities in preparation for the

Ignatian Year, but we did our bit by spending an hour in adoration in May 20th to mark the beginning of the Ignatian Year. We were also able to supply the raw-material to Fr Pradeep, the Vocation Promoter, for the preparation of 2 videos on novitiate formation. We are grateful to **Fr Pradeep** for making us famous through YouTube.

The 5 Second Years- **Francis, Iasuklang, Ribankordor, Manio** and **Mario**- entered into the Vows Retreat on June 12th after supper under the direction of **Fr Albert** and spent time in praying and reflection till the morning of June 21st, their Vows Day. We had a simple celebration on June 21st with the five Second Years pronouncing their first vows, which were received by **Fr Julian**. There were no outside guests, except for the Jesuits of our Macro Community and CSDM Sisters who are our neighbours. The felicitation Programme was short but of high quality. Fr Pheiga did an excellent job at organizing the event and taking care of the details. The Juniors left for Guwahati on June 22nd morning.



The whole Campus got vaccinated at Mawlyndep on June 23rd including the domestic staff, farm staff, novices, would-be novices at Umbir and young Jesuits in the Community. Everything was well-coordinated by the Headman of Mawlyndep village and our administrator, Fr Pheiga.

-Fr Greg.

Community: The annual retreat of the Scholastics of Nagaland area was held at Jakhama. **Sch. Goldenstar** rejuvenated himself after his annual retreat. We, as a community, celebrated the birthday of **Fr Lancy**. We are grateful to Fr Lancy for his initiative in the mission entrusted to him. **Frs Cyprian Lobo, Victor D'Mello and Ashuli Phimu** joined us in the birthday celebration. It was a good occasion for the community members to remember the good things Fr Lancy has contributed towards the mission at Pfutsero.



We celebrated Mother's Day in the campus though we could not celebrate Mother's Day in the parish level because of the pandemic. We remembered and honoured our domestic workers on Workers' Day. The domestic workers were appreciated for their service in our community. There was a clean drive in Pfutsero town under the guidance of the ADC. Fathers, sisters and teachers who are residing in the campus cleaned the front portion of our school and the campus too.

Nazareth School: The staff members are busy preparing their online notes and videos for students. Internal assessment for all classes was conducted through online mode. The staff members not only prepared notes but also were eager to celebrate their principal's birthday. We celebrated Fr Lancy's birthday among the teachers and had a short felicitation programme to wish him all the very best for his service in the school. Mid-term examinations will be held soon for classes eight, nine and ten students through online mode.



Catholic Church Covid Task Force

Pfutsero: "Walking with the excluded" is one of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. **Fr Dhazii** and his team have taken a lot of initiative to name this task force as "Catholic Church Covid Taskforce Pfutsero. Fr Dhazii, along with the taskforce, has begun a commendable mission by collecting names of the Covid -19 positive cases. The taskforce distributed some ration for the affected Covid positive and they continue to find out the number of persons who have been affected and will distribute some essential things to them. We are one with the suffering humanity in the world through our daily prayer during the Eucharist. There was a chain of

adoration by different parishes of the Kohima Diocese. Fathers, sisters and some Catholic teachers who are residing in our campus had an hour of adoration to pray specially for the suffering humanity.

-Fr Anto Irudayam

THRIZINO

It's been a long time since we saw the campus "full-pledged". The pandemic is still filling the campus with a deafening silence all over. We hope things will come to normalcy sooner. The school construction work is on hold due to the unavailability of the construction workers whereas the carpentry works are in full swing. **Fr Joseph** is busy planning and doing a lot of works to develop the school campus. **Fr Lawrence Nuchiso** is on a war footing to beautify the school campus with his domestic workers. There is a new look for the boys boarding, thanks to Fr Nuchiso.



Admissions have been resumed in the school. We hope to get a good number of students if

things come to normalcy. The parents' meeting was held on 15th June and the discussion was on various issues regarding school fee structure, online and offline mode of classes, etc. The parents' body was supportive.

The SMMI sisters also busy beautifying their surroundings. Presently they are freshening themselves by doing their online retreat.

The campus meeting was held on 21st June to discuss various things for the smooth running of the campus, pastoral ministry, etc. We also planned various online activities for the feast of St Ignatius. We hope things will be better soon. Let us pray for each other and for the growth of the mission in Arunachal Pradesh.

-Sch Richard Pinto

UMBIR

Sch Ao Chubatoshi Martin is earnestly applying himself in learning Khasi. He is picking up well and he is able to converse, especially with children.

The would-be novices- **John Vianney Kharkongor**, **Richard Kharpuri**, **Bakynsai Jyrwa** and **Goldstar Marwein** are staying in Umbir and learning pure Hindi. **Fr Arun Babu** is their Hindi Guru. Fr Arun is teaching them so well that in no time they start talking Hindi to whoever comes to the presbytery.





We are still not allowed to open our churches. Some of our people do join the on-line Masses on Sundays and others have Sunday services at home. It is very difficult to fulfil the spiritual needs of our faithful except attending to emergency calls for sacrament, anointing of the sick, performing funeral rites and daily praying for the sick and the dead during the Eucharistic celebration and community prayer.

-Fr Robert Pohrmen SJ

UMOID

The pandemic arrived late, but it finally got here and is now ravaging the villages. Medical facilities are virtually non-existent in our area, as so one dreads imagining what may unfold in the weeks ahead. Fortunately, some medical teams have been visiting the villages with vaccinations. The initial resistance to the vaccine has gradually disappeared as people have begun to see for themselves the debilitating and deadly power of Corona.

With classes suspended, the Umoid Jesuits have been focusing on various construction projects which are in progress: (1) the construction of **Guest House**, which will serve as an interim Jesuit residence; (2) the completion of the main structure that this year is to house the **school and college**, but the work on which has been limping since the pandemic began; and (3) the remodeling of an existing structure into an interim **women's residence hall**.

Thanks to the wily resourcefulness of **Michael Kerketta** and his local team, the work on the Guest House has been progressing, and this despite the non-availability of construction materials and a constant shortage of workers. The remodeling work for the college women's residence has also been chugging along, slowly yet steadily. Miracles happen.

On the larger college-school building, however, it has been a different story. The hiccups have been unending. On the night of 14th June, one of the members of the contractor's team doing the aluminum windows, stabbed a co-worker in a fit of drunken rage, literally spilling his guts. The victim was taken to the local health centre at Mawkyrwat but had to be later rushed to a Shillong hospital. He is still in the ICU, but his condition fortunately has stabilised. The offender, in the meantime, sits in jail, awaiting his day of reckoning with the law. And with him, the work on our school's windows also sits and waits. The contractor has promised to recommence the work later this week, possibly with a new work-team.

On the academic front, **David Liavi** has been coordinating the online classes for the CI XII students, all of whom were promoted this year because of the government's "no detention" policy. In between, he also coordinated a government project to plant 3,000 saplings on our college property. Without adequate fencing, it is anyone's guess how many of these saplings will survive. Hopefully a few stragglers at least will make it to the next monsoons.



A 3,000-sapling government plantation project

Paul Coelho, in the meantime, has been staying busy, preparing his college classes for this fall, supervising the various ongoing construction projects and the teachers' online classes, keeping track of the accounts, etc...all the time keeping his nose in his own business and everyone else's!

-Fr Paul Coelho SJ

WILLIAMNAGAR

The buildings in our campus swayed mildly due to a mild earth quake in the morning of 28th April. Before we realized that it was a tremor, the quake passed on peacefully without waiting for our acknowledgment.

The average age of the community has slumped with **Fr EC Sebastian's** exit and **Sch. Regi's** entry. After serving as the Finance Officer for three years Fr EC Sebastian bade good bye to Loyola College and proceeded on his next assignment to Palizi. Thank you, Fr EC, for bringing some rhyme and rhythm in the accounts of the institutions. The community expressed its gratitude in a simple farewell function.

Even amidst the Covid chaos, the activities in the College have been going on peacefully. On 29th the newly elected office bearers of the Students' Union took their oath amidst the cheer and applause of the student community. However, the college had to be shut down as the Govt. of Meghalaya announced lockdown on 1st of May for 10 days. But the lockdown period has been extended till date and the teachers have to resort to online classes once again.

Thanks to **Fr Sunny's** initiative, a Blood Donation Camp was organised in the campus. It was the first of its kind in Williamnagar. The students were educated about the wrong notion of blood donation and the benefits of it to the donor and the beneficiaries. The young boys and girls then volunteered with full gusto and beamed a smile of achievement in front of the cameras of the press persons.

The 500th anniversary of the cannonball moment of St Ignatius was inaugurated in the community by the members attending the prayer service organised by the Assistancy. Plans are afoot to make the Ignatian Year memorable by erecting a statue of St Ignatius with a plaque in the campus. The students and the staff are encouraged to write articles for the College magazine on the topic. Ignatian retreats for students and staff are also planned as well as literary competitions to create awareness about the event

The college students and the staff gathered in the campus on 5th June to celebrate the World Environment Day in spite of the lockdown, with meticulous observation of the Covid protocols. A mild down pour joined them too to make their service easy and enjoyable as they cleaned the campus and planted saplings. Some of our alumni visited their Alma Mater and contributed their mite by cleaning the main road and planting flower plants to beautify the approach road. Next time when you visit Loyola College, you will be welcomed with natural flower bouquets on the main road itself.

The staff of different departments besides taking online classes attended and organised several webinars.

The English Department organised a Webinar on “**An Overview of Environment and Literature**” on June 15, 2021. Prof. Sujata Gurudev, HoD, English Department, NEHU, Tura and Dr. Basil Diengdoh, Associate Professor of English, Dibrugarh, University were the main speakers.

The Commerce Department organised a webinar on “**From Idea to Execution**”, in association with PRIME, Meghalaya, an organisation to promote entrepreneurial initiatives in the state on June 17th. Mr Flo Oberhofer, Programme Head-PRIME Start-up Hub, was very resourceful

The History Department organised a webinar on “Christian Missionaries: Transforming the lives of Garos (19th & 20th Century”. Prof. Sangra A. Sangma of the department of History, Don Bosco College, Tura was the resource person.

In absence of morning assemblies in the college, **Fr Scaria** is conducting his own assemblies with the ducks, chickens, dogs and pigs every day. Thanks to his incessant effort, livestock is multiplying both in the main campus and in Dawachipit farm.

Recently, the Jesuits of Garo Hills gathered together to congratulate and celebrate **Fr Jeevan** on his successful completion of 40 years in the Society.

-Fr Jeevan Prabhu

AHMEDABAD, PREMAL JYOTI

Last two months have been a witness of transitions, from switching over various activities to the moving of the community members as “Men on the Mission”. We bade adieu to our third year’s scholastics who had completed their college studies, and to **Fr Charles SJ** our house minister. The community also welcomed the new minister, **Fr Sudhir SJ**, heartily.

The scholastics got time to take their minds off the studies and recharge their batteries as the summer vacation set in. All the scholastics, except a few, did not go for home visit. During this time, they invested their time in learning new things



innovatively in various fields such as music, arts, paintings, writings, only to mention a few. It was worth spending time in ground-breaking. Moreover, there were other input sessions arranged for the scholastics, keeping them on their toes. Resource persons, **Fr Lancy D'Cruz SJ** and **Mr Xavier**, specialized in Ecology presented their talks on Eco-friendly. The impact can be seen with the planting of 100 Conocarpus plants successfully around the house. Besides these activities, we had offline retreats in two groups. **Frs Jimmy SJ** and **Johnson SJ** generously gave their time to lead the retreat and guide the young souls. It was truly the experience of being away with the Lord from the crowd.



On 23rd May 2021, the Gujarat Province commemorated the 500th year of Father Ignatius' conversion as "The Ignatian Year" with a solemn Mass, presided by **Fr Durai Fernand SJ**, the provincial of Gujarat Province. It was followed by the released of the Gujarat Scholastics' Magazines. 20th June was the blessing day of **Fr Abraham Kalaranga SJ** as he

celebrates his Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus.

The scholastics are now glued to their desks, getting back to their studies as the College has commenced the academic year.

-Schs. Bosco and Sylvester

BANGALORE, INIGO SADAN



It's a comeback season for Ignigo Sadan. This year Ignigo Sadan is blessed with five new members- 3 scholastics and 2 fathers. **Schs. Norbert Kharumnuid** and **Samborlang Nongkynrih** are settling down in their maiden landing in Bangalore. Sam is preparing himself for his classes which will commence soon after the Even-Semester exams of the last

academic year. Whereas, Norbert is up his sleeves with the Regency from Monday to Friday in the St Joseph's

Community College and on the weekends, with the Northeast Students and Migrants in Bangalore under the Direction of **Fr Maxim Dias SJ**, the Youth Coordinator of Bangalore Region.

Inigo Sadan celebrated the **21st June** in grandeur three celebrations: **Feast of Aloysius of Gonzaga, Community mass** and **the Farewell to the outgoing scholastics**. **Fr Cyril Raj** was the main celebrant. We also had a rejuvenating Volley ball match between the fathers and the Scholastics and ended the day with a grand dinner.

-Sch Samborlang SJ

CHICAGO, IGNATIUS HOUSE

The calm in the Loyola University campus promises to end soon as the new semester beginning August 2021 is getting ready to hold in-person classes. I, though, will not be sitting physically in the classroom any more as I have completed all my coursework – most of which was online in the past three semesters. Presently, I am spending my time with personal studies and preparing myself for the next stage in the academic programme.



L,R: Fr Samir, Fr Karl Kiser (provincial of UMI)

The summer break offered me a unique opportunity to visit the West USA on a two-week long road trip. The visit included some national parks and a few major cities in the west. Rejuvenated and refreshed, I am back at my desk work. Recently, I spent a quality time with the newly-appointed Provincial of UMI Province, **Fr Karl Kiser**, and shared with him some information about Kohima region. He is showing great interest in Kohima Region and promises to visit the region at the earliest.

-Fr Samir Talati

DIMAPUR, GOOD SHEPHERD SEMINARY

Give the Sacred Heart Devotion a second chance

A human heart expressing divine love – was the theme I developed, introducing the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the seminarians here at GSS. June is devoted to this practice in the Church, and we Jesuits

have been entrusted with propagating this devotion. It was our revered father **Pedro Arrupe** who in some ways refreshed us, calling it as **‘the very basis of the Ignatian spirit.’**

In the Northeast, this devotion cannot rival the one celebrating Mary Help of Christians! When I was planning for this month, I could find only a small statue of the Sacred Heart in the seminary sacristy godown! The daily morning offering we are familiar with is not recited here, and first Fridays are occasionally remembered although every Friday we have a silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament! Entering through that window, I led the brothers to focus their prayer on the different dimensions of the Heart of Jesus, praying at the end the various consecrations that are suggested – of human race, families/communities, and personal, as well as the Litany of the Sacred Heart. These spread out to the four Friday adorations of the month. We have Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart, too, on Fridays the month of June. The small statue has been installed near the notice board with the background of simple inspirational prayers like, “Come to me all ye who are heavy laden, I will ...” the rest of the prayer to be completed by the devotees! All such poster prayers are periodically replaced with such similar ones. The young men are slowly and surely being drawn into the mystery of the incarnate love of God, made concrete and devotional, as the foundation and commitment of priestly life and ministry.

To see all things new in Christ (through this symbol of the Sacred Heart) is the inspiration of this Ignatian Year. Giving this devotion a fresh start here is my intention, and maybe, a second chance in some of our communities!

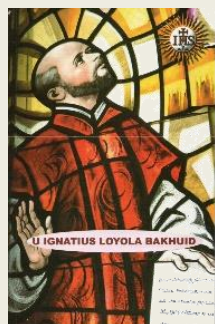
-Fr Paul Raj

OURS IN PUBLICATION

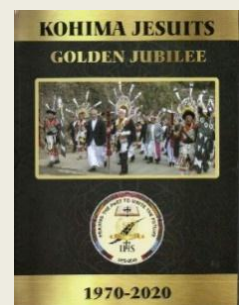
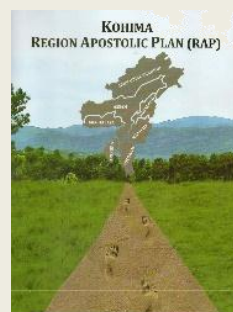
The Holy Rosary
by Fr Nilesh Parmar



U Ignatius Loyola Bakhuid
(St Ignatius Loyola)
by Sch. Matheus Kharbudon



Kohima Region Apostolic Plan (RAP)
by Kohima Region (Private circulation)



**Kohima Jesuits Golden Jubilee
1970-2020**
by Kohima Region (Private circulation)

GONE BEFORE US



Br Francis Basumatary SJ (DAR 68/35) on 29-6-2021 in Gayanga
Fr Peter Kurukula Aratchi SJ (SRI 81/63) on 16-6-2021 in Sri Lanka
Fr Anton Weerasinghe SJ (SRI 61/82) on 9-6-2021 in Sri Lanka
Fr Ignatius Gyan Hembrom SJ (HAZ 51/28] on 1-6-2021 in Ranchi
Fr Lawrence Maria Gabriel SJ (MDU 81/56) on 29-5-2021 in Dindigul
Fr Jeyaraj Maria SJ (MDU 86/67) on 29-5-2021 in Dindigul
Fr Rajarathinam Rathinam SJ (CEN 62/41) on 24-5-2021 in Tiruchirappalli
Fr Anthony Cruze Arul SJ (GUJ 57/35) on 19-5-2021 in Ahmedabad
Br Jeganathan Ambrose S., SJ (MDU 72/53) on 17-5-2021 in Dindigul
Fr Francis Kurien SJ (HAZ 68/ 51) on 13-5-2021 in Sitagarha
Fr Ambrose D'Souza SJ (KAR 66/39) on 12 -5-2021 in Mangaluru
Fr Anil Dayal Kujur SJ (HAZ 60/35) on 10-5-2021 in Ambikapur
Fr Antony Raj Perinbam SJ (MDU 76/57) on 10-5-2021 in Madurai
Fr Jerome Gonsalves SJ (PUN 71/51] on 7-5-2021 in Pune
Fr Isaac Tete SJ (RAN 66/46) on 6-5-2021 in Ranchi
Fr Ramesh Tribhuvan SJ (PUN 49/25] on 6-5-2021 in Ahmednagar.
Fr Cypril Rajesh Tigga SJ (MAP 84/62 on 5-5-2021 in Ambikapur
Mrs Evelyn Monteiro (80), aunt of Fr Felix Monteiro, on 18-6-2021
Mr Stevenson Kharbudon (56) uncle of Sch. Matheus Kharbudon, on 8-06-2021
Mrs Alice D'Souza (80) grandmother of Sch. Richard Pinto on 6-6-2021
Mr Navin Sequeira (56) brother in-law of Fr Melvil on 3-6-2021 in Mangalore
Mr Shemphang Dhar (68) uncle of Sch Simon Dhar on 1-6-2021 in Shillong
Mrs Rosen Wahlang (87), great grandmother of Sch. Marconi Wahlang on 24-5-2021 in Mairang
Mr Werningstar Marbaniang (65), uncle of Sch. Edbert Marbaniang on 17-5-2021
Mr Jerome Lobo (69), father of Fr Rajesh Lobo on 14-5-2021 in Mangalore
Mr Victorian J Lyngdoh (62) brother of Fr Richard Jarain on 10-5-2021
Mrs Ngakhani Yini (90), grandmother of Sch. Augustine Veihrii, on 8-5-2021