

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

### No. 3 Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits- March~2021

#### *From the Provincial's Desk*

"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" This expression of appreciation reflects the joy the Apostles are experiencing on the mountain at the transfiguration of Jesus. They do not want to go down the mountain to face trials and fragment of their lives. They do not want to move beyond their frame of mind and the criteria of this world. The same thing can happen to all of us when "spiritual laziness" takes hold of us. Spiritual laziness can push us to rest in the satisfaction of our own well-being, while ignoring the struggles faced by others. Going up the mountain does not mean forgetting reality. Praying does not mean avoiding the difficulties of life. Pope Francis says, "We cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of our encounter with the Lord by ourselves but allow Jesus to bring us back to the valley amidst our brothers and sisters into daily life". Therefore the call of the Church is to experience Lent as a journey of conversion through prayer and sharing, thereby rejoicing in seeing others grow. In the words of Pope Francis, "love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion" because love views those in need as members of my own family, as friends, brothers and sisters. This means our prayer must help us to discover effective paths of development for everyone.



#### **APPOINTMENT BY FR GENERAL**

Fr Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ) – Rector of DNC, Pune  
Fr Nirmal Raj (DUM) - Rector of Vidya Jyothi, Delhi

13-  
17-  
30-

G.B. Meeting of NBSXC  
Visit to Sitong and Mungpoo  
Province Consult

#### **APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL**

Bro. Broney Bede Chettri - St. Xavier's Godavari (Nepal)  
Sch. Samson Basumatari - MA Sociology, Chennai  
Sch. Binod Toppo – BA Geography, Darjeeling  
Sch. Ealio Lepcha - Philosophy, Chennai  
Sch. Ramhorchan Mashangva - Philosophy, Pune  
Sch. Amar Xalxo - Philosophy, Pune  
Sch. Christ Rajan Minj – Regency, Premanjali  
Sch. John Lepcha – Regency, Hatighisa  
Sch. Gorak Rudum - Regency, Hatighisa  
Sch. Evan Basnet – Regency, North Point School  
Sch. Reuell Paul - MA Political Science, Kolkata  
Sch. Pankaj Kerketta - Theology, Delhi  
Sch. David Ekka - Theology, Delhi  
Sch. Vinod Kerketta - Theology, Delhi

#### **PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM**

##### **March 2021**

01- Return from Delhi  
04- Visit to Kalimpong  
10-11 Visit to Manresa Jesuit Novitiate

#### **HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA**

After 6 years of Lok Manch programs in Darjeeling province, a two-day state level workshop of Lok Manch was held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February, at Prabhu Jisu Multipurpose building, Matigara. Mr Jayanta Patra, National Coordinator, and Sr Ruby, Program Coordinator, were the resource persons. On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February there was a field visit to four project units. The overall performance of all the units is very satisfactory, although there's more to be achieved in the coming months.

The first batch of 25 students has completed their 6 month **Computer Hardware & Networking System** (CHNS) in February. A **Job Training & Placement** unit is functioning here from January 2021, primarily to cater to youth from tea gardens. Right now, **Computer Hardware & Networking System** and **Retails & Marketing Management** trainings are going on through **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**. All these courses are highly in demand in the job market. Campus placement will begin from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for 30 students of Retails and Marketing Management.

*Fr Pascal Xalxo*

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

Thanks to the tireless work of the core team led by **Dr Bipransh Kr Tiwary**, our NAAC Coordinator, we submitted the Self Study Report for the first Cycle of assessment by National Assessment and Accreditation Centre (NAAC) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021. Earlier, we conducted Academic & Administrative Audit, Green Audit and Gender Audit by inviting some college Principals such as **Dr Shanti Chettri**, **Fr Donatus Kujur** as well as some university and college professors. We now await Data Validation and Verification as well as Student Satisfaction Survey to be conducted. In the meantime, Vice-Principal (Academics) **Mrs Aparna Chatterjee** oversaw the first round of Online Internal Assessment. Students, bored of the virtual learning, frequently enquire when the physical classes will begin. The construction of our residence is picking up gradually.

*Fr Lalit Terkey*

### LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

The new academic session began on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, strictly following the health protocol. The first semester students are divided into 2 groups of 50 each for social distancing. The third semester students were given Orientation on Micro Teaching by Ms. Julie Chhetri on the first day of the academic session. The Micro and Macro lessons on teaching skills, in small groups, were supervised by the experienced faculty. The course work for Ph.D is done by 3 scholars regularly. The evaluation on Field Based Activities and enhancing Professional capabilities is in progress.

*Fr Francis George*

### CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY (CLC)

At the threshold of the Ignatian year, two CLC Youth and Adult retreats were held at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara. **Fr Frank Subba** directed the CLC - Youth retreat from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. 21 youths from St. Paul's, Kurseong, 12 from Sacred Heart, Singamari, 9 from St. Mary's, Kankebon, 5 from St. Xavier's, Sakyong, and 4 from Shanti Ki Rani, Singla – in all 51 attended. **Mr Michael Tamang**, the CLC – President, assisted **Fr Frank** during the retreat.



The second retreat was directed by **Fr John Kennedy** from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. 33 attended: 19 from St. Paul's, 10 from Sacred Heart, 2 from St. Xavier's and 2 from St. Teresa's. **Fr Frank** assisted **Fr Kennedy** during the retreat. **Fr Tommy** also helped out at the time of Confession. In spite of fear and uncertainties of Covid-19, a good number of youth made their retreat, proving 'social distancing isn't Spiritual distancing'. They profited and rejuvenated themselves spiritually.

*Fr Frank Subba*

### MANRESA NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February, **Fr Shaji** gave retreat to two Cluny novices before their first vows. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of February we had a marvellous presentation on Jesuit Saints and the Blessed, by the novices. It will continue through the Jubilee Year. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, we participated in the first profession Mass of Cluny novices at St Teresa's church. All the novices and **Fr Shaji** had a wonderful community outing at Gayaganga for three days from 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. We also visited the surrounding places. We had a basketball match with Gayaganga Jesuits. **Fr Cherian Maliekal** gave a presentation on the history of the school and the church in Gayaganga. **Fr Peter Pappu** talked on his religious experiences and pastoral ministry. We thank the community for the hospitality and generosity in accommodating us. Special thanks to **Br Robert** for the excellent food. In our absence our house was well taken care of by **Dn Oshish**, **Br Gabriel** and our co-workers. We have planned various spiritual activities to celebrate the **Ignatian Year** meaningfully.

*Novice Markush Narzary*

### ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

The Ash Wednesday was celebrated with four Masses in the parish church and three at sub-stations. Masses are held in the villages during Lent as a preparation for Easter. **Fr Peter Pappu** introduced the Hindi translation of the new Roman Missal. The parishioners are getting used to it. 135 youth attended a two-hour seminar on Child Protection by a group from Seva Kendra, Siliguri. *Vachandat* (pre-nuptial enquiry) is going on for the marriages that'll be blessed after Easter.

St Peter's High School reopened on February 12 for Classes IX to XII, after a year of shut-down, with proper corona protocol as per the guidelines. The average daily attendance of students (90%) is much better when compared to some close by government schools where it's about 20%. The hostel, however, remains closed until further notice. Some of the staff, including **Fr Nabor Dungdung**, **Br Robert Lakra** and **Fr Simon Kerketta**, have been undergoing election training for Presiding Officers in view of the forthcoming elections.

The community was delighted to host the Novices from Manresa Novitiate, Kalimpong, during their four-day break. Most of the community members attended a two-day seminar on National Education Policy at Loyola Pastoral Center, Matigara. We fondly remember

*Fr. Augustus Ekka*

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

While the school office opened on 4 February, the School began from 22 February, after the winter break. Currently the physical classes are only for the day scholars for classes IX, X and XII, with their parents' consent letters, following Covid-19 protocols. For the boarders, the live telecast is on from the same class rooms. Classes VI, VII and VIII continue their virtual classes from home. For classes III, IV and V, the live telecast of classes will start from 1 March.

The sub-prefects are all back to the school and waiting for the boarding to open. The school had a staff meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, in which the school theme for this academic year "**The Call to Conversion**" was introduced. **Fr John Kennedy** gave a short presentation on the conversion of Ignatius before the theme was finalised. The school had an inaugural Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at the

auditorium, celebrated by **Fr Rector** along with **Frs Principal and Prefect**, for the day-scholar students and teachers, invoking God's grace at the beginning of the session. A live-streaming of the Mass was done for the other parents and students at home. The principal, **Fr Leo's** birthday was celebrated with the staff after the inaugural mass.



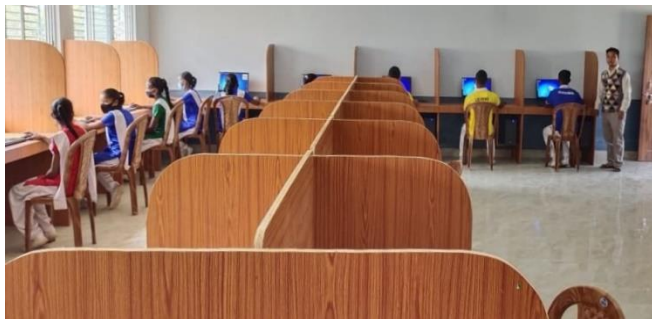
The deanery recollection for priests of Darjeeling-Kurseong was arranged at NP and the talk was given by **Bishop Stephen Lepcha** himself. A CRI meeting was held at NP, in which the Bishop addressed about 120 priests and religious on the occasion of 'World Consecrated Life Day'. During the winter break, the mission stations Masses of Rimbik, Sittong and Lepcha Busty were taken care of by the community members.

*Fr Anuranjan Ekka*

#### ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

The seminar on **Christian Education and New Education Policy** convened By **Fr. Lawrence** for the **Bagdogra Catholic Diocese Education Forum and Secondary Education Commission – Darjeeling Jesuit Province**, on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February, drew over a hundred distinguished headmasters, principals, educationists and pedagogues from all three neighbouring dioceses. **Fr S.M. John Kennedy SJ (MDU)** was the resource person for the sessions held at Loyola Pastoral Centre. **Bishop Vincent Aind** and Provincial **Fr. John Wilfred Lobo SJ** delivered the Inaugural addresses and concelebrated the Eucharist.

**Fr PCF** was here for the scholastic's visitation on 7<sup>th</sup> February. **Fr Alvin** offered points for the "Diocesan clergy recollection" at LPC. He also organised legal awareness programs for Merry View and Tirhana gardens in collaboration with the District Legal Aid service authority. Ash Wednesday services were conducted at different tea gardens/lines.



For the Higher Secondary School which reopened on 15<sup>th</sup> February, the service was presided over by the Headmaster.

**Fr Lawrence** has begun a School Website and info-graphics page which is set to be operational by the beginning of March. The completion of our Computer Lab in the High School has been another step towards bridging the digital divide. We are grateful to

**Magis Rome** for their aid and encouragement. The Primary Section has been receiving its fair share of up-gradation. With the Wi-Fi in place; teachers have succeeded in 'flipping the classroom'. Additionally, the entire primary is being electrified with new lights and fans.

**Fr Alex**, ever the youngsters' favourite, organized a special gathering for the parish children on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Over three hundred and fifty kids participated in the Eucharist which was subsequently followed by a vigorous sports fiesta, a boisterous victory ceremony and lunch.

*Sch. Ruell Paul*

#### HAYDEN HALL, DARJEELING

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, a team from Hayden Hall met with the Youth Club executive members of Rangaroon who wanted to associate with us. We decided to collaborate with them in forming similar youth clubs in other villages and help them in the Community Development work. Hayden Hall participated in the Self Help Group (SHG) *mela* for 5 days at Siliguri from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> February. This *mela* helped our women to learn business strategies and to prepare new products according to the need of the customers. After the long Pandemic gap, Hayden Hall organised an awareness programme on 'Importance of De-worming the children' on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs. Anjana Zimba, one of our Community Development Workers, was the main resource person. After the programme, the children and their mothers were given medicines and Vitamin A oil. 277 children and mothers participated in the de-worming drive.

*Dipika Adhikari*

#### COMMUNAUTE SAINT LOUIS DE GONZAGUE, PARIS

COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Paris, hitting even several Jesuit communities badly. Fortunately our community has been spared so far. Masks are compulsory during community meetings, Mass and scullery. We have two Masses per day with 10 persons maximum at a time. Our mid-year session was on the first week of February (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) followed by a winter vacation of a week. I went out for six days with one of the Jesuit companions (**Aimé Yoh S.J**) from the community. It was a vacation cum pilgrimage. We visited the sanctuaries of St John Mary Vianney in Ars, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alps region of eastern France and St Francis Regis in Lalouvesc, southern east region of France. On our return, all of us had to take a Covid test and isolate ourselves until the results came. Luckily all tested negative. Our second semester started on 15<sup>th</sup> February. We have online classes through zoom, except for the seminar and language class which are in person.

*Sch John Lepcha*

#### Premal Jyoti, Ahmedabad

February was a bad month. Three scholastics and a priest of our community tested COVID-19 positive. They are now isolated in another building in the same campus. Gujarat University has allowed in-person sessions but our college being autonomous has decided to continue with online sessions and exams. All the students are busy with their exams. The scholastics who returned to their respective provinces due to COVID-19 are back now. Due to the pandemic, the churches in Ahmedabad are closed; so we had the Ash Wednesday Mass in the community itself.

*Sch. Valerian*

#### INIGO SADAN, BANGALORE

January and February were filled with a variety of activities apart from the normal study routine. **Sch. Ramhorchan** had gone for his home visit from 13 Dec to 13 Jan. **Sch. Romiyo** successfully wrote his first semester offline examinations and practical at St. Joseph's

college. On 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, we had a webinar on the UAPs of the Society of Jesus at St. Joseph Commerce College with **Fr John Cardis S.J.**, Rome, as the main speaker. On 31 Jan, Inigo Sadan community members had a day's outing to the outskirts of Bengaluru to relax and enjoy the spirit of togetherness as a community. On 4<sup>th</sup> of February, **Sch. Arbind** and Sch. Austin (KAR) made a presentation the farm laws to the community. On 14<sup>th</sup> of February, we had a religious collaborators' get together. Sisters from four congregations participated and shared in the Jesuit's vision and mission.

*Sch. Romiya*

### GANDHI AHSRAM SCHOOL, KALIMPONG

The new academic year began on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. We are conducting offline classes for the senior students in the school and online classes and village instruction for the juniors. On 19<sup>th</sup> February, we had a short staff meeting. **Fr Paul D'Souza**, Director, expressed his gratitude to the staff for their commitment towards the school and their hard work during the pandemic. He also pointed out the areas in which the staff need to put conscious effort to improve. At the end the Director handed over the Performance Feedback for 2020 to every staff member.

**Fr Binod Kerketta** attended a Seminar on Christian Education NEP on 20-21<sup>st</sup> February at LPC, Matigara. **Br Gilbert Lepcha** keeps himself busy taking care of the house and the campus. As a part of our staff professional development we had two days of staff seminar on 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> February 2021. **Fr John Kennedy** was the resource person for the first day. The topic was "God as School Master." He also talked about the celebration of Ignatian Year. **Mrs Krishna Kumari**, a professional counsellor, was the resource person for the second day. She dealt on the theme "Knowing me Knowing You."

*Fr Binod Kerketta*

### SATYANILAYAM, CHENAI

As we approach the end of the final semester, there are hectic academic activities and classes, without much rest. The weekly Sunday ministry has been discontinued this semester due to the pandemic. The faithful from the neighbourhood joined us for the Eucharistic celebration on Ash Wednesday. They have been allowed to come to Satya Nilayam for the weekday's Masses since

Ash Wednesday and for the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening with sufficient precautions. The month of February has been a grace-filled one to know oneself and love God in a deeper manner. We had our first internal tests from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February after which we are busy with the last segment of our dissertation works and awaiting the final presentation on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Every Saturday, a friendly match is organised among the living groups. At present we are allowed to go out of the campus in the afternoon till 6 pm with mandatory precautions of social distancing, masks and sanitizing at the gate upon returning.

*Sch. Rajan Minj*

### DARJEELING JESUIT YOUTH MINISTRY (DJYM)

In January, Fr John Kennedy was busy with preparations for Ignatian Year (IY). He organized the first meeting with IY team members along with CLC and youth collaborators. The IY preparation meetings were held apostolate-wise in Matigara. IY final list of programs were collated and sent to the Assistency level coordinator on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

One of the strategies of DJYM is to meet the youth right where they are. Another is 'youth works are by the youth and for the youth'. Keeping these in mind, we formed DJYM-Reading Club and Catholic Riders Club. The pandemic period has greatly impacted the youth, created various mobile-bound habits/ addictions and led many into mild depression. It is a challenge to get the youth to engage in purpose-oriented and meaningful activities so as to become responsible members of the Church and the Nation. 'It does not matter what they are right now but it all matters what they can be in Him', is the core principle of our youth ministry.

### Rest in Peace

Fr Vasco de Rego (GOA)	96/75	17 Feb
Fr. Anthony Doongdung (RAN)	87/63	20 Feb
Fr John Vattanky (KER)	89/70	22 Feb
BP Linus Nirmal Gomes (CCU)	99/78	27 Feb
Fr Oscar Rozario (BOM)	78/63	28 Feb



**Seminar on Christian Education and New Education Policy at LPC, Matigara**