



March 2021

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 517

Fr Provincial's Message



Dear Friends, the month of March is dedicated to St Joseph and this year being the year of St Joseph, is very special for all of us. St Joseph was above all a discerning man who always sought the will of God and lived by it. He might have even been ridiculed by his contemporaries for the way he discerned the will of God and for living accordingly. But he was faithful and so God rewarded him to be the foster father of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He took upon himself a lot of hardships in order to be faithful to God. But ultimately he was a happy man, blessed man, contented man.

He is an example to be followed especially in this age when we long for happiness and contentment. Rootedness in God and living by a discerned way of life bring meaningfulness and joy to our lives. Problems and hardships will be part of that way of life but they will not block our way but if we persevere, we will enjoy grace upon grace to live a meaningful life. May St Joseph bless us with his intercession so that like him we may also be discerning people to find the will of God for us and live by that every moment of our lives.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Appointments by Fr General

Fr Koitharayil C. Stephen: Provincial, Dumka-Raiganj Province

Fr Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ): Rector, De Nobili College, Pune

Fr A. Nirmal Raj (DUM): Rector, Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Rev. Fr. K. C. Stephen



On 5 March 2021, the longed for good news reached the members of Dumka-Raiganj Province. The Lord, through the agency of Rev. Fr General bestowed on the Province, the gift of a new Provincial in the person of Rev. Fr Stephen C. Koitharayil SJ at present serving as Tertian Instructor at Sitagarha, Hazaribagh. We thank the Lord for this gift of His Love and welcome Fr K.C. Stephen as our new Provincial Superior. Fr. K.C. Stephen was born on 15 August 1964 at Uzzavoor in Kottayam, Kerala. He joined the Society on 7 July 1980 at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani. After completing his College and ecclesiastical studies, Stephen was ordained priest on 27 December 1995 at Kottayam. His first assignment was at Nichamari Parish in Raiganj Diocese. In 1997 he was assigned as Socius to the Fr Master of Novices at Jisu Jaher. From 1998-2001, he was the Director of St Leo's Minor Seminary in Raiganj Diocese. In 2002 he obtained M.A. in Counseling from St Louis University, U.S.A. After completing Tertianship in Goa, Fr Stephen was appointed, in 2005, Rector and Novice Director at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani and Coordinator of Ignatian Spirituality in the Province. In 2013, he became the Director of Jeevan Dhara, Spirituality Centre in Raiganj. Since 2016, Fr Stephen has been Tertian Instructor at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha. 'Congratulations and prayerful wishes Rev. Fr K.C. Stephen as you take up this new ministry.'

Professor Ordinarius

Fr Jose Mathew Vadapuram SJ (DUM) has been promoted as Professor Ordinarius in the Faculty of Theology, the Athenaeum, Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune. Congratulations and prayerful wishes Rev. Fr. Professor V.M. Jose.

Gogo Maria Helmel Porob

More than 15,000 pilgrims from all directions flocked to Mariampahar hillock to celebrate the annual Helmel-porob held on 10 February 2021. The hillock was packed with pilgrims from Raiganj, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Dumka dioceses. There was a good number of Religious Sisters and Fathers accompanying the pilgrims from the different places.

The programme began with an opening prayer at 9:30 am led by the Parish Priest of Mariampahar, Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ. This was followed by an 'exodus rosary', with the pilgrims going round the hillock, praying the rosary, led by the ladies of the "gogo dol" of Mariampahar Parish. Fr Albinus Murmu, the Parish Priest of Kundli Parish, was the main celebrant assisted by 30 priests. Fr Albinus, in his homily, highlighted the role played by Mother Mary in the history of salvation. He also spoke of the importance of praying the Holy Rosary every day at home. The singing, led by the Mariam tola choir group, was very melodious, devotional and uplifting. The entrance dance at Holy Mass, performed by the Chilimpur parishioners, was very apt and beautiful. Some people, who were healed through the intercession of Mother Mary, offered goats and sheep at the offertory. The faithful participated with great devotion at Holy Mass. Fr Jisu Raj SJ, who took care of the cleanliness of the campus, saw also to the smooth running of the programme and the sound system. Fr Sudhir Ekka SJ and Sr Mukta, with the help of the children, prepared food packets and then distributed them with Fr Ignatius Manjhi SJ, Parish Priest of Salti-Pokhor, coordinating the distribution. The altar, the shrine and the grottos were all very well decorated by the Sisters of the Holy family and of the Holy Cross. The children worked tirelessly with an attitude of ever-ready to help at any time of the day and night. The Parish Council members, the "gogo dol" (women) and youth volunteers held four meetings prior to the festival, to ensure its success. A Muslim friend from neighbouring Talbaria village who had studied in our School when Fr Joseph Borg was in Mariampahar, provided us with drinking water. The main entrance gate was professionally very attractively decorated by the people of Manjurjhuti village and the lower grotto decoration was sponsored by Mr Anand Marandi, a School teacher from Mariam tola. *(Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ).*

Lenten Retreat

Lent is a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday through which we attain redemption. So the Chilimpur

Parish Priest, Fr Sushil Kujur, is busy organizing retreats in different villages and the biggest response he received from Chandana village is something surprising. Fr Sushil organized three days retreat in Chandana village on 18-20 February. The preachers, Mr Mohan Murmu, Stephen, Sonamuni, Sona and John Hansdak prepared themselves spiritually, purified the places around and started the Retreat with the theme of God's love. The preachers made the faithful to share the experience of God's love in their own lives and later they prepared them for the sacrament of reconciliation. A huge number of faithful made their confession after a long time and a number of them experienced spiritual and physical healing. Totally over 1000 faithful and some of our other faithful from nearby villages too participated in the Retreat and strengthened themselves spiritually. The faithful expressed their heartfelt gratitude to God for keeping them safe during the pandemic Covid-19 and they also appreciated and thanked Fr Sushil and other preachers for all the arrangements and making the Retreat meaningful to experience the love of God. *(Fr Sushil Kujur SJ).*

Jibonpur: Customary but Fruitful Activities

From the month of January to the beginning of the Ash Wednesday, it was a hectic and fruitful time at Jibonpur Parish. Many customary activities such as Baptism of children on the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the presentation of children on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Pilgrimage to Mariampahar, Marriage Rectification and Blessing, Thanksgiving and Bhandan Mass in families were held. The activities like Marriage Rectification, Thanksgiving and Bhandan Mass were held in grand manners. There were 38 pairs for Marriage Rectification and 108 for Christian Initiation in the Parish. Thanksgiving and Bhandan Mass were organized in their respective families and villages. These activities were customary but fruitful because the faithful enthusiastically witnessed their renewed faith in God and his blessings through the ministry of the Church. *(Fr Dayal Lakra SJ).*

Inauguration and Blessing of St Xavier's School, Rasikpur

On 13 February 2021, the new St Xavier's School building at Rasikpur, close to the railway station at Dumka, was blessed by Rev. Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ and inaugurated by Fr Paul Aquilina SJ, who cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new institution. Fathers, Scholastics and Candidates, present for the occasion,

prayed for the Lord's abundant blessing on the new institution. On this occasion, our building contractor, Mr Munna, was especially thanked and appreciated for his efforts and dedication towards the completion of a strong, specious and beautiful School building. As a token of our appreciation, Fr Provincial honoured him with a shawl. The School has ten magnificent classrooms, an assembly place of colourful interlock bricks in front, modern toilets for boys and girls and a long playground. The school is easily accessible from the Dumka-bypass-road. After the inauguration and blessing Fr Anand Minj SJ invited those present to a fellowship refreshment. Frs Ravindra Darshima SJ and Anand Minj SJ are appointed Director and Co-Director respectively of the new institution. As a Province we applaud the vision and the new mission undertaken by the Province and we feel truly blessed to have one more institution which will cater to the educational needs of people around. **(Fr Ravindra Darshima SJ).**

National Science Day

St Xavier's College, Maharo, observed National Science Day on 27 February 2021. The event started with an invocation for God's blessing by the IQAC coordinator of the institution Rev. Fr. Dr. David Raj SJ. It was followed by the keynote address of the Principal, Rev. Fr. Dr. Stephen Raj SJ who spoke at length on the vision and mission of St Xavier's College, Maharo, and extended his best wishes for the day. The core part of the programme started with students presenting various posters and art works related to the theme of the day. The presentations were evaluated and judged by the dignitaries and the judges appointed for the occasion. The Chief Guest of honour, Dr Hashmat Ali, Head of the Postgraduate Department of Chemistry and Dean of Sciences, at SKMU, Dumka, addressed the gathering and offered his visionary ideas and warm appreciation for the exhibits. Then the results of the event were declared. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Mr Gopinath Gorai, Head of the Chemistry Department of the College. The entire programme was anchored by Mr Parimal, Head of the Department of Physics, and was coordinated under the management of Dr Arun Vincent from the Department of Zoology and Mr Himadri Sekhar Dutta of the Department of English. **(Mr Himadri Sekhar).**

World Cancer Day

St Xavier's College, Maharo, organized a poster competition on Thursday, 4 February 2021 to mark the

occasion of *World Cancer Day*. The programme was a joint venture of NSS and Science Departments of the College. Mr Gopinath Gorai, Department of Chemistry cum NSS Coordinator, introduced the theme with a brief lecture on the subject "*I am and I will.*"

The judges of the competition, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Head of the Department of Zoology, and Dr Viswanath Yadav, Head of the Department of Mathematics, appreciated the presentations of the participating students and offered a few important suggestions. The programme was conducted by Mr Parimal and Mr Amit. A vote of thanks from Dr Arun Vincent Kisku, Professor of Zoology, concluded the programme. **(Mr Gopinath Gorai).**

International Mother Language Day

Johar HRD Centre, Dumka, together with Gota Bharath Hul Baisi and Xavier Communications Centre (XCC), celebrated International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2021 at Johar HRD Centre with the purpose of encouraging, promoting and preserving one's Mother Tongue. An interactive quiz programme was organized for Santal School children on the themes of Santali *Kudum* (Riddles) and Santali *Bhentakatha* (Idioms and Phrases). The active participation of school children from seven High Schools and three villages made the day very educative and informative in appreciating and loving one's own Mother Tongue. All the students who were present were awarded a small gift, as a token of encouragement to remain rooted in their Mother Tongue, Santali.

Mr Nalin Soren, MLA, Shikaripara, and Dr Louise Marandi, ex-Minister of Jharkhand State, in their speeches encouraged the students to be rooted in Santali, their Mother Tongue, and to be creative in contributing to Santal society at large through literature, dance, drama and other art forms. The other dignitaries were Prof Sanoj Hembrom of Sido-Kanhu University, Dr Sardha Kisku, Prof Reena Lakra and Fr Joachim Jacob of Bhagalpur diocese. Fr Jesu Benji, the Director of Johar, in his vote of thanks, urged the children to be eager to study and learn through their Mother Tongue. He encouraged the audience to write more in Santali, even to bring out books in Santali. Xavier Communications Centre (XCC) took the initiative to bring the 50 students, who took part, from seven different High Schools and three villages, close by or far. **(Fr Vernard Antony SJ).**

Tuition Centre at Bhognadih

From 1 March 2021 a tuition centre for neighbouring village children has been started at our Cultural Centre at Bhognadih. A former student of St John Berchmans

High School, Mundli, is running tuition classes on his own initiative. We have offered class room facilities in our premises. *(Fr P.A. Chacko SJ).*

Xavier's Pride: DGP Niraj Sinha

Mr Niraj Sinha, an ex-Xaverian from ICSE batch 1976 and also a 1987 batch IPS officer has been appointed as the Director General of Police of Jharkhand (DGP). He is currently posted as full-time DGP in Anti-Corruption Bureau replacing incumbent Mr M.V. Rao. He is currently ADGP of Anti-Corruption Bureau.

On his appointment, Mr Sinha said that his priority will be to carry forward the good works of his predecessors and continue the campaign against Naxalites in the State. It is indeed a great honour for St Xavier's School at Sahibganj to have Mr Sinha as one of its alumni. It is to be noted that DGP Niraj Sinha is the son of Dr Arun Sinha, a well known retired Professor of Sahibganj College, and a well-wisher of St Xavier's School. The Xavier Family wishes God's abundant blessings on Mr Niraj Sinha! *(Mr Shyamal Palmer).*

NCC Orientation Programme

St Xavier's College, Maharo, organized an awareness cum orientation programme of NCC (National Cadet Corps) in its premises on 19 February 2021. The guests of honour on this occasion were Commanding Officer Colonel Randhir Singh and Major Zila Singh of the Jharkhand Girls' NCC Unit. The programme started with the keynote address and speech by the Principal of the institution Rev. Fr. Dr. Stephen Raj SJ followed by an address by the IQAC coordinator Rev. Dr. David Raj SJ. In his address Colonel Randhir Singh dwelt on the various aspects of NCC and informed the students of the various aspects related to the NCC programme, its norms and career options for female cadres. He emphasized the importance of national integrity and discipline and motivated the students to aim for participation in the Republic Day parade at the Rajpath in New Delhi. He motivated the girl students to actively take up every challenge and opportunity in life and shine bright. Then Major Zila Singh presented the various agendas of NCC and spoke at length on road safety. It is important to abide by government rules regarding road safety. Awareness of and respect for the same rules make people worthy citizens of the country. The programme was attended by a large number of girl students and faculty members of the College. The programme was coordinated by the College NCC officer Ms Preety Sagar. St Xavier's, Maharo, looks forward to start the NCC programmes for boys very shortly with the same spirit and zeal. *(Mr Himadri Dutta).*

Dance Competition at Bhognadih

On 6 February 2021, Arrupe Tribal Cultural Centre, Bhognadih, organized Sohrae dance competition. A number of village groups participated in it. The group that secured first prize walked away with Rs2000 while 2nd and 3rd prize winners got one sack of rice each. *(Fr P.A. Chacko SJ).*

Fire at Nunbatta

On 28 February at siesta time around 1:30 pm, half asleep as I was, it sounded at first like a heavy rainfall soon to be followed by a hailstone with strong winds blowing leaves about. I couldn't figure out what was going on. Curiosity led me to peep through the window and then, I saw the unexpected, a blazing fire was raging fiercely in our campus just in front of the residence. We raised the alarm and all in the mission rushed to douse the flames with water from pipes and mainly with buckets. It took almost three to four hours to extinguish the blazing furnace. We thank Providence that little damage was done to the house. We still do not know how the fire started. *(Fr Gregory Kujur SJ).*

Mundli Community

The month of February was not so favorable to us. Fr Thomas Kuzhively had to go to Kolkata to see a cardiologist. Fr Peri Moses had a fall and is having treatment for his teeth. Fr Sunit Kullu has some eye trouble. Yet, the blessings are greater. Fr Peri Moses took classes for the Catechists at CTC, Torai, from 22nd to 27th of February. Pre-board exams were conducted for the class tenth students at St John Berchmans' High School following the Government mandated Covid-19 rules. After a long wait, class 9 classes began from 4th of February. Loyola hostel which looked deserted a few months is now blessed to have some boys of classes 8 to 12. *(Sch Borson Hembrom SJ).*

Diaconate Ordination

De Nobili College, Pune, witnessed ordination to the Diaconate of 13 Jesuit Scholastics on 14 February 2021. It was a day of great joy for the DNC community. The diaconate ordination was conferred by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune. The newly ordained deacons include 7 from Karnataka, 2 from Pune, one each from Andhra, Hazaribagh, Kohima and Madhya Pradesh Provinces. The theme of this auspicious occasion read - "Sent to Heal and Reconcile." In his message Bp. Dabre said that priests and religious have no choice but to be simple, creative and original servants of Christ in order to remain relevant to the world of today. *(Sch Innocent Tudu SJ).*



**Celebration of Marian Feast Day
at Mariampahar**





Pastoral Activities at Jibonpur Parish



Mother Language Day at Johar, Dumka



World Cancer Day at St Xavier's College Maharo

National Science Day at St Xavier's College Maharo



NCC Orientation Programme at St Xavier's College Maharo



Blessing of the New School Building at Rasikpur, Dumka