



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

March, 2021

Year 42, No. 03

From Provincial's Desk



A Call 'To See All things New in Christ'

'The motto of the Ignatian Year 2021-2022 is 'To see all things new in Christ.' This motto invites us to be renewed by the Lord Himself and share our experiences with the people we come in contact. The renewal we are called to is a process of personal conversion as well as structural transformation. In the Ignatian year, we are called to go through a process of conversion and renewal and take a stock of our present reality in the light of faith and 'see all things new in Christ.'

The two mandates of the Ignatian Year are 'renewal' and 'sharing'. The first mandate is an invitation to go through a process of transformation at the individual and community levels. It invites us to have a new outlook towards our identity and mission. The Venetian experience of the first companions of Ignatius is a reference point for us which calls us to be grounded in the present reality and carry forward the mission we have received from the Lord.

The second mandate invites us to communicate and share the 'riches of our heritage' with our collaborators, Ignatian families and all those who come in contact with us. Fr. General reminds us that the Ignatian Year gives us 'a good opportunity to make known our spiritual root, that spiritual source that feeds and nourishes us in so many different ways and places.' The Holy Father has been often reminding us that we have a rich heritage given by our Founder St. Ignatius and we ought to share it with others. Today, this mandate takes a special importance for us in the context of internal and external challenges we have reflected in the process of Province Apostolic Planning, COVID-19 and its impact on our apostolates, the plight of the migrants and various other challenges.

I appeal to and encourage all members of our province to commemorate with enthusiasm the conversion of our Founder and enter into a true spirit of conversion, renewal and sharing of our experiences and rich heritage with the people of all faiths with whom we collaborate in our ministries.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.

APPOINTMENT BY FR. GENERAL

Fr. K.C. Stephen, SJ (DUM) Provincial, Dumka-Raiganj Province

Fr Susai Raj, SJ (PAT) Socius of the Provincial of Patna

Fr Francis Pudhicherry, SJ (GUJ) – Rector of DNC

Fr Nirmal Raj, SJ (DUM) - Rector of Vidya Jyothi, Delhi

DATES OF ORDINATION

1	Dn. Alok Toppo	13 April 2021	Jashpur
2	Dn. Akhil Sai Bara	02 May 2021	Baneya
3	Dn. Dilip Minj	04 May 2021	Musgutri
4	Dn. Preetam Prakash Panna	06 May 2021	Darupisa
5	Dn. Virendra Tirkey	10 May 2021	Tamamunda



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

March 2021

04	Pathalgaon
05-06	Campion, Raipur
08-09	Loyola, Kunkuri
11-12	Lureg, funeral of my father
15-20	Provincial Colloquium (Online)
22-23	Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
24-25	Review of Prov. & Comty. Budgets, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
28	Loyola, Kunkuri
30	Central Zone Provincials' Meeting (Online)

APPOINTMENT OF THE SCHOLASTICS 2020-2021

No.	STAGE OF FORMATION	FROM	TO
THEOLOGY			
1	Sch. Anup Minj	Prakash School Pathalgaon	JDV, PUNE
2	Sch. Adesh Lakra	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	VIDIYA JYOTI, DELHI
3	Sch. Naveen Kerketta	Vidya Sadan, Bhopal	ROME
4	Sch. Vinay K. Toppo	Apostolic School, Kunkuri	ROME
5	Sch. Sandeep Lakra	St. Xavier's School, Ambikapur	TARUNODAY, RTC, RANCHI
PHILOSOPHY			
1	Sch. Avin Minj	St. Xavier's School, Pathalgaon	SATYA NILAYAM CHENNAI
2	Sch. Ravikant Xalxo	St. Joseph's College, Jakhama	SATYA NILAYAM CHENNAI
3	Sch. Praween Ekka	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	SATYA NILAYAM CHENNAI
4	Sch. Vikash Lakra	St. Aloysius College, Mangalore	SATYA NILAYAM CHENNAI
5	Sch. Abhay Kispotta	St. Joseph's College, Trichy	JDV, PUNE
6	Sch. Amardeep Ekka	St. Joseph's College, Trichy	JDV, PUNE
7	Sch. Amit Toppo,	Loyola College, Kunkuri	JDV, PUNE
8	Sch. Sanjeet Kindo	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	JDV, PUNE
REGENCY			
1	Sch. Roshan Baxla	St. Xavier's School, Baramkela	VIDYA SADAN BHOPAL, PRE-NOVITIATE
2	Sch. Pingal Lakra	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, KUNKURI
3	Sch. Albester Kujur	JDV, Pune	PRAKASH SCHOOL PATHALGAON
4	Sch. Edwin Lakra	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, AMBIKAPUR
5	Sch. Ashwin Tigga	JDV, Pune	CATHOLIC ASHRAM, JHINGO
6	Sch. Vimal Dhurwey	St. John Berchmans, Dhanwar	LOYOLA SCHOOL, BHAIWAR
COLLEGE STUDIES			
1	Sch. Robins Ekka,	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI (Commerce)
2	Sch. Amarjeet Panna	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI (Hindi Literature)
3	Sch. Ranjit Ekka	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	LOYOLA COLLEGE VIJAYAWADA (Eng. Literature)
4	Sch. Gulshan Beck	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE TRICHY (Biology)
5	Sch. Akshay Kujur	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE TRICHY (Comp. Science)
6	Sch. Rohit Ekka	Dhyana Ashram, Kolkata	ST. XAVIER'S KOLKATA (English Literature)
7	Sch. Stephen Ekka	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE AHMEDABAD (Economics)

ST. XAVIER'S, AMBIKAPUR

The month of February gave us new hope and filled us with new enthusiasm. All units of our institution have been reopened after the COVID-19 restriction. The campus looks green and joyful again.

St. Xavier's School reopened on 15 February. There was a good attendance of the students on the first day itself. From 16 February onwards online classes were stopped and offline classes were resumed. There were practical and project examinations conducted from 15 to 20 February for class 12th students. And the same examination was conducted for Class 10th from 22 to 27 February.

St. Xavier's College of Education started its regular classes from 25th February. There was a good attendance of the students. They were eager to come back to the college. The college staff was very keen to follow the guidelines of Covid-19 in order to be safe from the Coronavirus.

In order to accommodate students, hostels have been reopened. There are 55 students in the Apostolic school and 70 students in St. Xavier's hostel. Students have been asked to follow the Covid-19 guidelines very strictly. The new girls' hostel opened from 1st March. Fr. Amritlal arranged all the requirements of the hostel.

On 14th February St. Xavier's Community congratulated honourable Mr. Amarjit Bhagat, Cabinet Minister, on his wedding anniversary at Kamleshwarpur, Mainpat. On the same evening, the entire community participated in a *Shradhanjali* gathering organized by Rehana Foundation at Ghari Chauk in honor of two hundred farmers who gave their lives during the protest and honoured soldiers who were killed in the Pulwama attack.

-Sch. Sandeep Lakra

SHANTIBHAWAN, JASHPUR

On the year of St. Joseph, Fr. Nirmal Minj, Parish Priest of Shantibahawan, inaugurated the Mass in honour of St. Joseph on 7th February. Many faithful attended the procession and Holy Eucharist. He involved all the fathers of the community in the ceremony. Fr. Theodolus was the main celebrant. Fr. Nirmal gave away a picture of the Holy Family each to all village chapels and some leaflets of prayer to St. Joseph. The faithful recited the prayer daily after the Holy Mass and during prayer services in the village.

The community members availed a day for relaxation

and visited nearby parishes of Jharkhand, such as Bardih, Tongo, Nowadih, Padsa and Bhikhampur on 7th February. It was a wonderful journey to share ones' life and mission with Ranchi Jesuits as well as with the Diocesan priests of Gumla Diocese. They ate their food in the jungle near Kanser.

Fr. Ajay Kerketta, Principal, English Medium School, Shantibhawan arranged a three day Scoutts & Guides Training programme from Feb. 13-15 for all the students. Ms. Juliana and Ms. Agnes from St. Xavier's School, Pathalgaon helped the students. In addition, Fr. Anand Tirkey from Loyola Kunkuri conferred 'DEEKSHA' to the 'CABS'. The 'CABS' grasped pretty well about the founder of the Scouts. They kept a 'PARADE' in honour of Baden Powell on 22 February.



A little before Lenten season, Sr. Sosan and Sr. Twinkle from Jyoti Niwas (SMI), conducted a Triduum in each of the villages of Rambaandh, Kumnichheka, Kaikachhar, Hataklata, Barpani, Citonga, Rengola, Banslanghna, Gutri, Kanmora, Purnanagar, Bada and Motu Jakba from 11-28 Feb. Frs. Nirmal and Prabodh offered the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy Mass in all the places.

Fr. Prabodh Barwa preached the annual retreat to St. Anne's Sisters of Upar Ghat from 19-27, Feb.

-Fr. Prabodh Barwa

CATHOLIC ASHRAM, BOIRDADAR

The day of Consecrated life cum candle day gathered all the Jesuit Communities of Raigarh Diocese at Baramkela for a one-day reflection on UAP-PAP interiorization. The anniversary of final vows day of Fr. Zacharias Lakra and Fr. William Beck added festivity in the gathering. They decided to have such a meeting cum recollection once in every three months.

CAMPION SCHOOL, BHOURI

Frs. Ravindra Lakra and Sushil Tigga accompanied Fr. Miliyan Xaxa, Tertian who was to render his service at leprosy asylum of Shantidan-Raigarh.

Fr. William Missiaen was remembered on his 9th death anniversary during the Eucharist. Fr. Zacharias Lakra took Fr. Miliyan Xaxa and Dn. Dilip Minj to "Jagat Janni Ish Mata" pilgrimage centre, Banhar for the inauguration and "Kalash Yatra" of the Diocesan pilgrimage centre. Fr. Miliyan was made "Pahan" the main celebrant for the blessing of the water of the pond and lead the faithful in the ceremony.

The uncertainty of pandemic compelled the faithful to observe Holy Childhood differently. The individual initiatives proved that charity begins at home. Fr. Miliyan Xaxa continued to give Holy Communion to the needy. Fr. Milyan narrated the love of Jesus for the lepers as the universal love for humanity on during the house blessing ceremony.

The PSC exam was conducted in St. Xavier's School abiding by the norms of Covid-19. Shri Raj Kumar Minj (DSP) came for previewing it. The school expressed gratitude for his kind permission to get dust for the playground. Fr. Martin M. Tirkey went to Raipur to submit the documents for Minority Certificates for St. Xavier's School, Baramkela and Mukti Prakash School and inquired about the remaining procedure of CBSE for St. Xavier's School, Boirdadar.

The customary religious actions e.g. fasting, alms-giving, and praying witnessed the unexpected crowd of faithful on Ash Wednesday. The remaining blessed Ash was taken by the members of the families. Sch. Peter Singh Chawhan attended the Eucharist before he left for Kolkota.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra celebrated the solemn Eucharist on the 4th Lamp Lighting ceremony of JMJ Nursing College on 20th February. Fr. Zacharias Lakra blessed the nurses and Sr. Molley Thomas made to nurses take pledge for regular studies, hard work and selfless devotion. The GNM was upgraded into BSc Nursing College this year.

The Catholic Women of Raigarh deanery had a two days' workshop at St. Michael Cathedral, Rambhata. Fr. Zacharias Lakra led the Benediction and adoration while the Sacrament of Reconciliation was received. All the Parish Priests also participated in the programme.

-Fr. Zacharias Lakra

The supporting staff of Campion School, Bhouri went for a picnic at Kolar Dam on 12th February. It was a unique occasion for them to come together, cook and have meal. There were also some fun games conducted by Fr. Casimir Ekka (T). The workers enjoyed all the fun games. The surprise gifts and prizes made them very happy.

There was a meeting of School Management Committee on 20th February in the school. The topics were new admission for KG section, change in school timing for KG section from afternoon to morning at 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, fee hike in the school and resuming of the new academic year from 1st April, etc. Some of the concrete decisions were taken for the betterment of students and development of the institution.

The annual home exams began from 11th February for the graded subjects and practical exams. The written exams for ungraded subjects started from 10th February. All the home exams would be over by 10th March. The students of classes 10th and 12th continued their remedial classes. Fr. Zacharias Kerketta, Principal was constantly in touch with the staff and students. Campion School Bhouri, decided to give the results of the home exams by 27th February and resume the new academic session on 1st of April.

-Fr. Casimir Ekka (T)

AICUF ASHRAM, BHOPAL

The Adivasi Rohtas Samajik Mahasabha and AICUF began a long awaited football tournament on 21st February. The Chief Guest for the occasion Dr. Athanas Lakra laid stress upon the team spirit and tribal unity in his inaugural address. The Assumption Church was the



winner and Birsa Munda team was runner-up.

There was a oneday programme in the AICUF Ashram

with the theme 'Accompanying the Tribal Youth' under the banner of SC, ST Commission for the Archdiocese of Bhopal on 27th February. The objective of the event was to speculate, analyse and encourage various factors that kept the tribal youngsters united.

Dr. Akriti Lakra, Chief Guest highlighted the admirable qualities of tribal unity at the same time drew the attention of the students towards the less admirable qualities that can hamper the tribal unity in today's changing rhythm of life. The whole event was conducted in two parts and four groups.

In the first part there was a talk by Dr. Akriti Lakra, followed by group discussion under the guidance of Fr. Nirdosh Ekka. Dr. Akriti encouraged the students not to be in the lap of luxury but to work hard she added. In the second part quite a few but well-chosen group building games were conducted. Dr. Fr. Panka shared his future plan related to skill development program in the campus. There were 160 tribal youth from 9 parishes of Bhopal.

-Fr. Alok Kumar

KHRIST MILAN ASHRAM, NAMNA

Fr. Marcel Ekka was in the Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur. He was taken for dialysis many times. After a month the pipe inserted for the dialysis began to be blocked and doctors told us that we could go on this way for more than a month. You have to make a "Fistula" for him for the next dialysis. The Doctor referred Fr. Marcel Ekka to a Higher Centre/ to Raipur, to get the Fistula made. Thanks to Fr. Provincial who talked to Fr. Stany and arranged everything for Fr. Marcel to take him to Raipur. Fr. Alexius Lakra took Fr. Marcel Ekka from Ambikapur to Raipur and got him admitted in Shree Narayana Hospital. There, the Doctors had a hard time finding out his veins. They even used machines to find veins. They could not get proper and suitable veins in his hands and legs. They prepared a fistula in the chest. It took ten days. Thanks to Fr. Stany and the community members for taking care of Fr. Marcel. Fr. Amritlal Xalxo reached Fr. Marcel from Raipur to Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna on 16 February.

Sch. Anjay Xess was discharged from the Holy Cross Hospital Ambikapur and shifted to the Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna community on 24 February. The two

trained nurses were guided by Sr. Carol, Physiotherapist about how to take care and give Sch. Anjay exercise. There was much improvement in Sch. Anjay. Thanks to these two nurses: Khrist Kiran Tirkey and Shilpa Ekka for their tender care and all the Jesuits and others for their prayers. His mother visited him frequently.

Fr. Virendra Xalxo, Parish Priest, invited the Senior Priests including Arch Bishop Emeritus Pascal Topno to Namna Parish for an Outing. Ursuline Sisters of Anjela Niwas and U.M.I. Sisters were also invited. We had some entertainment programme singing and Housie. Ursuline Novices and Candidates won the maximum prizes in singing and Housie games. All had a delicious meal, special Biryani, prepared by Fr. Pratap Toppo.

Sr. Rajni, the Novice Mistress proposed a vote of thanks. She thanked the Parish-Priest, Fr. Virendra Xalxo, and Assistant Parish Priest, Fr. Pratap Toppo for arranging such programme.

-Fr. Shanti Prakash Ekka

JEEVAN VIKAS MAITRI, PATHALGAON

Fr. Fulchandra and Fr. Yacub participated in the GB meeting of Bagaicha, Ranchi, held on 6th Feb. to redefine the Vision, Mission, Stakeholders and Thrust Areas of Bagaicha in view of the present context. All the



Provincials of Central Zone and all the CSAs participated in it. Distressed Migrants Helpline formation was extensively discussed with the help of data presented by Fr. Sebastian Lakra. There was a general sharing session on the migrant workers during Covid-19. It was a common feeling that we Jesuits missed the opportunity to some extent to serve the migrant workers for many of them have gone back to cities and still many more are in the process of going back.

There was a sharing of reflection and input sessions were held on 6-7 February. There were more than fifty participants. Fr. P.R. John, Principal, Vidyajyoti College

of Theology, Delhi spoke in his virtual input on Rereading of Liberation Theology by the Christian-activists, theologians with a special reference to Fr. Stan Swamy. In Asia, the Gospel encounters the highly sophisticated religious traditions of the East and a situation of poverty and oppression. They offer unique challenges to Asian theologians. His presentation focused on (i) On behalf of whom do we theologize? (ii) An outgoing church called to service (iii) The centrality of the people in Pope Francis' socio-cultural theology (iv) Indian liberation theology. At the end there was a conclusion was from liberation to reconciliation. He also shared Fr. Stan's contribution to Adivasis, migrant workers, PESA-Gram Sabha, under trial prisoners, views against land bank, etc.

The next day Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, Secretary SJES, Rome shared online. He shared "FRATELLI TUTTI" in 3 D's Dream, Discern and Dialogue. He exhorted to dream bigger than fear to better the world. Discernment is for choosing good in the complex technological world where love is breaking and rights being violated. Dialogue is listening one another, which would help the process and culture of encountering without threatening identity leading to friendship with the poor for liberation from injustice.

There was a Training of the Trainers program conducted at JVM from 12-13 Feb. for 21 animators and community leaders of Lok Manch project. Fr. Yacub reminded the mission-vision, objectives and activities of Lok Manch. He stressed on quality reporting and documentation in view of external evaluation to be conducted soon.

On 13th Feb. Fr. Yacub gave tips on communication skills and Fr. Chandu highlighted on situation analysis in the context of Kisan issues. Problem solving techniques were explained by the Fathers.

-Fr. Yacub Kujur

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, RAJPUR

The State Government organized a programme of felicitation for the students from Surguja Division who had managed to get their names in merit list in C.G. Board 2019-2020 on 7th February.

Prashant Tiwari from St. Xavier's School Rajpur, who secured 9th position in C.G. 10th Board 2019-2020, was

one of them who was felicitated by Mr. Amarjit Bhagat, Cabinet Minister.

The six sets of Smart Class were installed in St. Xavier's School Rajpur. They were donated by Fr. Fabianus Minj, Principal, Loyola School, Bilaspur with kind permission of Fr. Provincial. Big Thanks you Fr. Fabianus Minj and Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial.

There was a one day training programme for the teachers by technician on how to operate the systems.

-Fr. Isaac Kujur

LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

Fr. Provincial and the team had a consult meeting at Campion, Bhopal in the first week of February.

Fr. Herman Joseph Minj gave a five days' retreat to the Holy Cross Aspirants at Raipur from 1 to 5 February.

The community had UAP-PAP interiorization sessions in the first and the second week of February.

Fr. Pradeep Ekka went home on 9 February to bid farewell to his grandmother for celestial abode and officiate funeral Holy Mass for the departed beloved soul.

The members of the Province Commission for Ignatian Spirituality held a meeting at Loyola Niketan on Ignatian Year on 13th February.

The community continued praying for Fr. Stan on every Friday.

Loyola School confined to the norms of pandemic and closed all the offline classes. There had been online network with the students and the staff.

-Fr. Herman Joe Minj

PRAKASH SCHOOL, PATHALGAON

The first Community Meeting of the New Year was held on 4th February. We incorporated it with our weekly recollection on the interiorisation of UAP and PAP mission-vision and action plans.

Prakash School staff had organized a picnic for the



teaching and non teaching staff of the school on 7th of February under the leadership of Fr. Principal. The venue of the picnic was the bank of river Mand, adjacent to Deomati village. It was a time to enjoy thoroughly and spend time with our collaborators.

The community had invited Fr. Dino Pinto Toppo, newly ordained priest, on 10th of February. We had a special evening prayer wherein we prayed for Fr. Dino. Before having fellowship meal, the community welcomed and congratulated him with a song and a bouquet. He offered Holy Eucharist for the community and the hostellers on the following morning. He addressed the hostel boys on vocation promotion after the Holy Mass.

Fr. Justin Kujur, Hostel Prefect and Sch. Anup Minj, Assistant Hostel Prefect had organized a programme of welcome cum orientation for the hostel boys on 21st February. Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur, Superior delivered the speech on how to study and Fr. Eugene Toppo, Principal on the importance of hostel life basing himself on his own experience. Fr. Dilip Soreng, P.C.F. visited Prakash community on 23-24 February. He took feed-back from all the Jesuits. He offered Holy Mass for the hostellers and the community on the following day .

-Sch. Anup Minj

ST. CAMPION SCHOOL, MARIADO

Fr. Michael Ekka, Fr. Simon Anid, Fr. Deobhushan Toppo, Fr. Ishwardas Minj (Bhopal Diocese) and Fr. Prabhudas Tirkey (Bhopal Diocese) had gone to Barwani for our Barela mission tour at the end of the January. The reason of the mission tour was to see the INDAL festival of Barela and to visit Barela parishes. INDAL is celebrated in a special way. After 12 years 12 villages cut the 12 branches of KARAM tree and worship it whole night. It was around 30 km in the west of Barwani village called Limbi. It was an enriching experience. Thanks to Fr. Michael Ekka for

arrangements.

We managed to conduct quarterly and half yearly exams for the students. Those who did not have smart mobiles came to school and wrote down notes. We did it observing the norms of COVID-19 pandemic but some, so called local journalists came and took some photos and videos of the children and published them in local news papers and telecast on T.V. channels. Fr. Simon Aind handled them very carefully. Parents of the students supported the school management. Thus, we felt that it was a good advertisement for our school. Fr. Amrit Toppo and Fr. Balcius Kullu visited Mariado with their supporting staff for one day outing. Our staff prepared a delicious lunch and shared with them.

These days, we are openly going to the neighbours and participating in their social programmes under the guidance of Fr. Michael Ekka. We harvested multi-fold crops.

-Fr. Deobhushan Toppo

DNC, PUNE

The month of February was a period of grace for us. Two weeks before, all Scholastics were involved in the preparation of diaconate ordination. On 14th February, Rakesh Bara of Madhya Pradesh Province was conferred diaconate ordination along with the other 12 by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune at De Nobili Chapel. The Liturgical ceremony was live-streamed on



YouTube. Most Rev. Thomas Dabre presided over the Holy Mass and Fr. Edward Mudavassery, S.J., Fr. George Beck, S.J., Rector and Superior of DNC con-celebrated. Fr. Ryan Rodrigues S.J. conducted the Choir of DNC Scholastics. It was well appreciated by all. Only a few people participated in the Holy Mass due to Covid-19. All directives of COVID-19 were observed during the ceremony. After the photography session, a short felicitation programme was conducted to congratulate

and wish our newly ordained Deacons. At the end a high tea was enjoyed by all. In the evening, DNC Community had Province wise dinner with newly ordained Deacons.

Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, S.J. (GUJ) has been appointed by Fr. General as new Rector of De Nobili College, Pune.

- Sch. Anuj Minj

TARUNODAY, BOREYA, RANCHI

It was an auspicious occasion for the RTC community, Boreya to witness diaconate ordination at Christ the King Church, Kanke on 13th February. Two of our brothers, Cyril Beck and Tobias Tigga were among those 6 Scholastics who were conferred diaconate ordination by Rev. Felix Toppo, SJ, DD, Archbishop of Ranchi.

They joined the community for the preparation of diaconate ordination on 9th February. The motto of the ordination was "Committed for loving service". The number of the congregation during Holy Mass was around 400. The Agape was followed by the felicitation programme.



After our hectic labour for ordination, we went for a picnic on 14 February, organized by the Parish Priest of Kanke. We commenced our usual classes after diaconate ordination on Corpus Paulinum by Fr. Ignatius Tete, SJ.

The month of February turned into panic for us as two brothers from Ranchi Province were found Corona positive. Till date others were safe and sound.

- Sch. Wilson Kujur

ASHAKIRAN, MANGALORE

"Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming it", says Helen Keller.

Today the world is limping because of the Covid-19

outbreak. The intensity of this virus is not different even here in Katakana. A tiny-little virus but dangerous has devoured thousands of innocent lives across the world.. Three senior Jesuits from Fathima Retreat House Mangalore also became victims of this virus few months back. Midst of all these challenges and uncertainty the St Aloysius College has successfully conducted offline pending semester exams. The scholastics burnt their mid night oil to study and do well in the exam which began on 18th February.

After the exam, the third year scholastics went for mission exposure to different Charitable Institutions run by diocesan priests and religious sisters. Fr Alphonse Fernandes SJ had planned meticulously to send us to different charitable institution like St Anthony Poor Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Orphanage etc. St Anthony Poor Home was a home for old aged, differently able persons and for the financially poor students. This was a wonderful place for us which taught us to serve without counting the cost. Selfless service of this institution, generous and welcoming fathers, kind and cheerful inmates and enthusiasm and eagerness of the students taught us to be humble, kind and generous in the service of the people and towards every ordinary persons we come across in our lives.

Meanwhile second year and first year scholastics also



began their semester exam simultaneously. After a week later we, the third year scholastics came back from the ministry with a lot of learning and sweet memories. Meanwhile, Second year scholastics left for village exposure to the North Karnataka after finishing their exam.

Now, the third year scholastics have begun online classes and the first year scholastics will be going to learn some skills like wiring, plumbing etc to St Aloysius College ITI.

Thus, we are always kept busy in learning, teaching and giving our service wherever needed for the glory of God.

- Sch Vikas K. Lakra

C. Father Van den Driessche's District (Nich Ghat)

On 24th July 1911, Fr. Van den Driessche told Fr. Superior: "I am just back from Tapkara. There also they have been at work to make our people abandon Christianity; however up till now no violence has been used, but the people have been threatened to be deprived of their fields in Bhado (August-September). The Christians will not be allowed to harvest their gundli and goda dhan and only of Rs. 1/- field, as they say, will be left to them as beth field, i.e. begari field, for which begari is due! "In one tola they were made to sign a muchilka agreeing to a fine of Rs. 25/- if they still made girja (went to Sunday church service). This tola (Jhiliberna) I hope will come back although they are afraid. Only one man there refused to go to the bhandar. They told me that since a month they are called, and have to go to the bhandar, where they are "persuaded to become pagans! (Birsai case). Whilst I was in Tapkara, one of the fields of this man has been sown by the bhandari of Jamuna, to show I suppose that these menaces are not vain! In Jamuna the Christians are so frightened that they told me, in the presence of the bhandari, that they had gone themselves to him to ask to become pagans again!! The one who said this is an old school boy.

"In the other tolas the Christians seem determined to keep steady, and I was received and feasted with the usual enthusiasm. On Sunday at Mass, I had 63 communions, the youngsters of Lethbora had come also. Four girls of Jhiliberna did not come on Sunday; they came this morning only and said they had been threatened to be beaten if they dared to come to make girja! This is freedom of religion!! "Today I hear that even women have been beaten in Basen-Musgutri. There is no doubt that the Jashpur authorities are determined to spare no means to force the people to become pagans, and that they are helped most faithfully by all those that are at their service: bhandaris, barahils, gomoshitas, mahtos, etc.."

The ever watchful guard was not long in sending new information. 2nd August 1911: He tells Fr. Waelkens; "Things are not worse on the Tapkara side. The young men of Jamuna had been made to say that they had asked themselves to become pagans, but they have already begun to change their mind." Then he states that 2 young men of the village had gone to him to declare that they would not become pagans. The bhandari wanted to take one of the two to Jashpurnagar, to get him beaten. The one who had before the Father and the bhandari asserted that they had gone themselves khushi se (voluntarily) to ask to become pagan, was a relation of the bhandari; hence his want of courage; at present he appears to be the only one inclined to remain a pagan. The Father hopes that his young wife will object to this, and force him to come back. He instances greater courage among the women than among the men.

"Two young women married in Jamuna this year had already declared that if their husbands become pagan, they would abandon them! This may have had some influence in bringing back most of those who had shown themselves so weak! The women seem to have still more courage than the men. After I had left the bhandar in Jamuna, I was told that when the men were called before me and the bhandari, the women that told them "Don't be afraid! Say everything." But the men had not the courage. Birsai whose field has been confiscated in

Tapkara, has gone to Nagar to make a lawsuit. If he does not get justice, I intend writing to the Diwan to ask how he explains this confiscation after the affirmation contained in one of his letters that "no order as to the confiscation of fields belonging to Christians has been passed." This is in a letter of 16th June 1911. The bhandari told me he had received the order not written but oral only, in Phagun (February-March, 1911)."

Kelba, a large village on the way from Ginabahar to Musgutri, where the vox populi wished the first mission bungalow to be erected, has more than once to face the brunt of persecution. Kelba is inhabited also by rich Mahkuds (Sadan). Fr. Demonceau says that the Raja intended building there a bungalow or a palace. Many bricks were made and the work of building was begun. Due to some superstition (some ghost seen), everything has been abandoned! Just like the public road planned to pass by Kastura! The Kelba Christians had been warned by the authorities that their fields would be confiscated in August, if by then they had not returned to paganism. The Father adds: "The chaprassi of Kelba informed me that they are taking one of his fields, but he does not seem inclined to give it up. He has ploughed also and sown it after the people of the Raja had sown it.

The Father says also that at the last tarikh (monthly meeting) of the catechists, he told them in connection with confiscation of fields, "Not to mind oral orders, but to ask for written orders of the Raja, and not to give up their fields, unless they get these written orders." Five days later, on 13th August, Fr. Van den Driessche tells the Superior that another Christian near Tapkara, Mangra by name has been victimized. The thikedar of Sajbahar has harvested his gundi. These vexations brought about just the reverse of what these satellites of the Raja were hoping for: "Birsai tells me that now all say they will remain Christian. Some are still frightened on account of the doings of the bhandari, but there is not a bit of a single one, says Birsai, in the Tapkara ilaqa, who seems disposed to be a pagan, and this is why the bhandari is still giving them such trouble." The Father states that Sarbahla is still giving them such trouble." The Father states that Sarbahla and Jamuna have already come back, after having said they would abandon. Fr. Demonceau writes in October 1950 from Tapkara, "Jamuna is today entirely Catholic. It is close to Tapkara and the head Pracharak who lives there says that he had never heard that the tola had ever left the church."

Birsai whose fields had been ploughed and sown by the Tapkara bhandari, and afterwards confiscated by Sanni Ram gomoshita lodged this complaint in the court of Nagar on 5th August, 1911. Several times he had to appear in court, but they merely fooled him, pretending, for instance, that it was not his day to appear (his tarikh), when he plainly indicated that he had been called for that day. Finally there was a tug-of-war between the magistrate, Sanni gomoshita and make an agreement, and on the other side Birsai, stoutly defending his right. The latter finally had to be content with a vague promise that the Magistrate would settle the case at Tapkara itself. The case was virtually shelved like the Kastura case.

Fr. Van den Driessche makes the following comment: "They are simply playing the fool with our Christians in Jashpurnagar, and they do it with the least shame. Surely they must know that they have nothing to fear from Raipur or from Nagpur. If the Chief Commissioner had made any

enquiry as he promised to do, to His Grace in May 1911, the Kastura affair would surely not have taken place in June.” Afterwards he says: “For this case (Birsai’s) I shall write to the Diwan to ask him what it all means; at least this will show them that we are following their doings! But what do they care? However, our Lord has been helping us wonderfully and will go on helping us, till we can get our poor people out of their miseries.” On 30th November, 1911 the Father wrote to the Archbishop about the doings of the police. There we also find: “I must say a word about the decision given in Birsai’s case, to show how our Christians are treated in the Jashpur courts. Here is the decision of the magistrate, dated 14-9-1911. The case taken up and the parties called, but as yesterday 13th the accused is present and the complainant not, though he has been in Nagar, so the case is dismissed for non-appearance of the complainant, and the accused acquitted under section 247 Criminal Penal Code.”

Hence the magistrate states clearly that Birsai, the complainant was not present in court, neither yesterday on the 13th September 1911 nor on the 14th. Now Birsai had told me 2 months ago that he came to court when called on Wednesday morning, 13th and was told by the magistrate to come back in the afternoon. He went back in the afternoon and found in court the magistrate with Sanni gomoshta, the bhandari and the mahto. “When I read this order in Tapkara, where Birsai had just brought it, I asked him again, and he confirmed what he had said 2 months before, viz. that he was in court in the afternoon of Wednesday 13th. I asked the mahto before Birsai could tell him a word, and who had heard nothing of our conversation. He, the mahto, said also that Birsai appeared before the magistrate on the Wednesday afternoon, i.e. 13th. I went to Jamuna, and asked the bhandari. i.e. “the accused” of the lawsuit, and he also told me before witnesses that Birsai was present in court on the Wednesday afternoon, 13th. Am I not right on concluding that the magistrate has based his decision on a deliberate lie?”

Compiled by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.

BIRTHDAYS

Date	MARCH	Date	APRIL
2	Sch. Toppo Anuranjan	1	Lakra Anmol
3	Fr. Ekka Godfried	3	Toppo Donald
3	Fr. Khalkho Prabhu N.	4	Kujur Placidius
3	Fr. Tirkey Martin M.	4	Panna Amarjeet
4	Sch. Tirkey Sikander	6	Lakra Ashwin
5	Sch. Xalxo Ravi	7	Ekka Fedrick Vivek
5	Sch. Baxla Roshan	7	Kerketta Zacharias
6	Sch. Xalxo Amarjeet	10	Kujur Pranay Wilson
8	Sch. Tigga Ashwin	11	Ekka Marcel
9	Fr. Badne Rajkumar	13	Tirkey Juan Deepak Maria
10	Fr. Ekka Cornelius	14	Toppo Alok Kumar
11	Sch. Lakra Nelson	14	Toppo Sunil Kumar
11	Fr. Minj Cyril	15	Lakra John Crus
12	Fr. Beck William	19	Minj Elphiz
13	Sch. Beck Cyril	20	TIGGA RANJIT
16	Sch. Lakra Pingal	27	Kujur Akash
18	Fr. Minj Fabianus	22	Barwa Prabodh
20	Fr. Tigga Santosh	23	Toppo Vinay
21	Sch. Lakra Edwin	24	Kerketta Ajay
22	Fr. Tirkey Michael	25	Kujur Arvind
23	Sch. Ekka Robins	25	Minj Kalyanus
24	Fr. Kujur Charles	27	Lakra Aemilianus
26	Fr. Tigga Robert P.	29	Lakra Sebastian
28	Sch. Ekka Michael	30	Kujur Justin
28	Kerketta Bartholomis		
28	Fr. Tirkey Herman		
29	Fr. Toppo Abraham		
30	Sch. Lakra Shailendra		



Rest in Peace

- † Fr. Savarimuthu Xavier (CEN, 83/59) passed away on 03.03.2021 at Dindigul, TN
- † Fr Vasco de Rego SJ (GOA) 96/75 passed away on 17th February, in Pune.
- † Fr. Anthony Doongdoong, SJ (RAN) 87/63 passed away on Saturday, 20 February 2021 in Seva Nilaya Hospital, Namkum
- † Fr. John Vattanky, SJ (KER) 89/70 passed away on 22nd Feb. at Christ Hall, Kozhikode
- † Bp. Linus Nimal Gomes SJ (KOL) expired on 27 Feb. at St. Xavier’s College Infirmary, Kolkata.
- † Fr. Ooscar Rozario, SJ (BOM) 78/63 passed away on 28th Feb. at Holy Family hospital, Mumbai.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN MARCH FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	Name	Death	Birth
01	Fr. Robert Phelan	06 Mar 1988	14 May 1903
02	Fr. Benjamin Ekka	07 Mar 2015	21 Jun 1940
03	Fr. Victor Tucker	13 Mar 1988	19 Jul 1909
04	Fr. Emile Van Eynde	25 Mar 1980	13 Jun 1910
05	Fr. Gabriel Ekka	25 Mar 2006	24 Mar 1944
06	Sch. Joseph Jugal Baraik	26 Mar 1989	17 Dec 1957



Published by Fr Provincial of Madhya Pradesh Province. For Private Circulation only.

Kindly send your News and Photos by 25th of every month to:

<mapsj.information@gmail.com> and a copy to <mapsocius@yahoo.co.in>

Please consider your environmental responsibility before printing this Newsletter.