

2021/03
73RD YEAR

PATNA MISSION CENTENARY YEAR (1921-2021)

March
2021



OFFICIAL

FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. KC Stephen, SJ as Provincial of Dumka-Raiganj.
Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, SJ (GUJ) Rector, DNC Pune
Fr. Nirmal Raj, SJ (DUM) Rector, Vidyajyoti, Delhi

□ 'A Commission on the Role and Responsibilities of Women in the Society of Jesus' by his letter (2021/04) to the whole Society on March 8, 2021 International Women's Day. This Commission of ten members includes Sister Mary Sujita, SND - Bihar, India.

"In the present apostolic body of the Society of Jesus, whose way of proceeding emphasizes discernment in common, apostolic planning, collaboration and networking, an enormous number of women are involved. Addressing the issue of women's participation from the perspective of collaboration in mission is an opportunity to understand more deeply where the Spirit is leading us and to give greater vitality to our life, which is deeply committed to the mission of reconciliation and justice in all our apostolates." Writes Fr. General in the letter. "This Commission will function for three (3) years and after they present their final report and evaluation, I shall decide further actions." he has added.

FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Rajesh Kant	-	Kaiserganj
Stephen Raj	-	JRS, ISI-D
Albert Abraham	-	St. Anne's, Sasaram
Isidore Kerketta	-	Kurji Parish

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

March 2020

03	-	Closing of Patna Jesuit Mission Centenary
06 - 10	-	Budget Meetings
11	-	Loyola Sadan, Lucknow
13	-	Inauguration of Jesuit Residence, Kaiserganj
15 - 18	-	Vis. Shanti Sadan, Allahabad
24	-	Archdiocesan Consult
25	-	Ext. JHESA Meet, XTTI
30, 31	-	Province Consult

April 2021

01 - 03	-	Easter Triduum
15 - 20	-	Jhajjar, Jaipur
30	-	Province Consult

PATNA JESUIT CENTENARY

शताब्दी समारोह HISTORY - HERITAGE-HORIZONS

March 2021 was indeed a great day in the history of Patna Mission – a year-long celebration of the Patna Jesuit Centenary was brought to a close, but it was also the beginning of a new chapter in the story of Patna Jesuits.

The celebrations began at 8.30 am at the sacred resting place of our ancestors (XTTI cemetery) with a prayer service, which included paying homage to the Jesuit pioneers and companions who had toiled to serve the people of Bihar and nurture the Patna Jesuit Mission in the past 100 years.

From there, symbolizing the pilgrim church in Patna Mission territory, we walked in solemn procession to Kalaam Hall of St. Xavier's College of Management and Technology, Patna, to offer our sentiments of thanksgiving and to pray for our future journey, at the altar of the Lord of History. Melodious singing by the Kurji Parish Choir led us devotionally into the Holy Eucharist, Archbishop of Patna Archdiocese, Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura was the main celebrant, accompanied by the bishops of Muzaffarpur and Bettiah dioceses, Archbishop Emeritus, Administrator of Buxar Diocese and over a hundred priests. Following the Corona pandemic restrictions, only about five hundred Province members and invited guests were present in the Hall. At the offertory, the congregation truly sang from the heart 'TAKE AND RECEIVE O LORD...'



The Holy Eucharist was followed by a cultural cum motivational programme. Our Provincial, **Fr. Donald Miranda**, gave a warm welcome to our honorable guests. The whole programme celebrated the joyful 'partnership for the gospel' (Phil 1:5) among the Patna Jesuits, the Diocesan Fathers, Religious women and men, and the laity. Video messages from Father General Arturo Sosa, Fr. Brian Paulson, Provincial of the Mid West Province, USA, and **Fr. Theodore B. Bowling**, senior most member of Patna Province (96) brought alive the history of hundred years. Fr Stanislaus D'Souza, the President of South Asian Assistency (POSA), Provincial of Delhi and delegate of the Superior of Nepal, Provincial representatives of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (Consultors of POSA), Provincial of Calcutta and Socius of Darjeeling Province, Vicar General of Patna Archdiocese, Superior Generals of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart (SSH), and Sisters of the Charity of Nazareth (SCN), former Superior General of the Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) Provincials / Regional Superiors of eight congregations of Sisters, lay representatives from among our collaborators and beneficiaries, were our esteemed guests who were felicitated on the occasion.

Dances, singing, a short play depicting our history kept the audience spell bound. A book consisting of sharing and reflection of thirty-four of our veterans regarding their Jesuit life in Patna Mission, titled



'WINGED COLOURS OF HOPE', edited by **Fr. Donald Miranda**, Provincial, was released. Another book, 'HISTORY-HERITAGE-HORIZONS – Apostolic Plan of Patna Province for 2021-2026', which is a compendium of the apostolic plans of all our ministry commissions and their units (institutions and centres), was released, marking the promulgation of these plans. In his beautifully worded letter Father General had approved these plans by a letter and blessed us with his encouraging words as we took a leap into the new horizon of the next and many more centuries to come; his letter was read prior to the release of the compendium. The centenary song, composed and sung by **Fr. Edward Mendonca** and four other Patna Jesuits, added to the melody of the programme.

However, it was not the end of the show! It was the delicious and sumptuous meal which gave the final touch to the day's celebrations.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude towards and prayers for our benefactors including our near and dear ones, collaborators and beneficiaries of our services. Truly, we, Patna Jesuits, are 'Blessed by the Lord' (this was the title of the book which presents 'A History of the Patna Jesuits 1921-1981', published in 1996) because of His being with us in and through all our friends in the mission and we step into the future 'With Renewed Vigour and Zeal' (title of Decree 1 of GC 35).

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

To **Frs. Jose Vadassery, Benny Moolan, Prashant Pius Michael, Prakash Anthony, Rajesh Somepalli and Scholastic Ravi Bhushan**, organizing Committee of the Patna Jesuit Centenary (1921-2021) celebrations, for the meticulous planning and efficient execution of the various forms of celebrations during the centenary year (2020-2021), including the grand finale on 03 March 2021 in spite of the Corona pandemic. Well done! Kudos folks!

A special note of appreciation, to **Fr. Benny Moolan** for the dynamic leadership to the Committee in organizing and coordinating all the four major components of the 03 March 2021 celebrations: prayer service at the cemetery, the Eucharist, cultural cum felicitation programme and the agape meal.

To **Fr. Joy Karayampuram** and all the members of XTTI community, especially **Frs. Tomy Nishaant, Martin Poras, Sebastian Alphonse and Raj Kumar**, for hosting the concluding celebration and making the day a memorable one.

Thanks to your support staff and student volunteers for tasteful decorations and attentive services.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Blessing and inauguration of Jesuit Residence at Kaiserganj on March 13, 2021 at 11.30 a.m.

Father Provincial intends convoking the **Province Congregation** on 19 March 2021, to be held at Atmadarshan during the Puja holidays in October 2021.

LOCAL REPORTS

Ara: A few significant community and school activities kept us on our toes. Catholic High School (CHS) was the centre for the Board exams of XII and X students. St. Xavier's School (SXS) continued to keep the students engaged with online classes. Admission forms for new students were distributed in SXS and there was rush every day to get the admission forms from school office. The parents are eager to admit their children into SXS. The process of admitting the students with all tests and interviews is over now. SXS conducted tests and interviews for the recruitment of teachers. Some Fathers and Sisters from Patna and other places came for taking the interviews of the teachers. They were also the panel members for the demo classes of the aspirants. It was a great help and support for us from the Fathers and Sisters in serving the people effectively and smoothly through our apostolates. We gave farewell breakfast to **Fr. Edward Mendonca**. **Br. Siluvainathan** has joined the community as a new member. MC Sisters are here to begin their service to the poor in Ara. They will be residing in the old boys' hostel building. They will be officially welcomed here by the Buxar diocese on 19 March. **Frs. Francis Palliparambil, John Bosco, Br. Siluvai and Sch. Amul** were part of the glorious Patna Jesuit Centenary celebration in Patna. We are now busy helping and preparing our parishioners to have a fruitful Lenten season by paying special attention to their spiritual needs.



- Amul Jacob

Aurangabad: The month of February began on a joyful note as **Fr. Manish** joined the community again after his tertianship. **Fr. Saji** is happy to share his responsibilities with him. The Bihar Board Intermediate Examination was held in our school till 13th February. The classes for Std. VI to X began from 17th. The school was once again filled with life and enthusiasm as our children walked in after a year of break. Now we are having classes in two shifts for the entire school. Annual exams will be held in the coming days and we will begin the new academic year in the month of April. The school is having almost 95% attendance of students and so the daily hustle and bustle of the pre-pandemic days are back. **Br. Abe** had his right eye operated in Patna on 26th Feb. He looks much better and cheerful as usual. **Fr. Vimal** went to Patna for

the monthly Province consult and stayed back for some urgent work and Centenary celebrations. **Fr. Joe Thadavanal** is a great support to the community and especially to the school with his expertise, advice and counsel. Fr. Albert is seen moving on his bike to different villages as the teaching centres at villages resumed their teaching activities. Sch. Savari is busy with his online Theology classes and is always available to reach out in various needs. **Fr. Saji** is gone to Delhi after the Jubilee celebration to meet **Fr. P. T. Augustine**, his uncle, who is very sick. Meanwhile **Fr. Manish** is holding the fort at the school. The SVS had its AGM on 17th Feb, in which all the members were present. The community had a range of meetings on budget preparation. **Fr. Vimal** gave a one day workshop to the teachers of St. Mary's School, Aurangabad. Our parishioners joined the parishioners of other parishes of Gaya deanery in conducting prayers and Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Grace, Mokama.

- *Manish Osta*

Fatima Mata Susamachar Kendra (FMSK): Joy and newness of life began enveloping our centre as people resumed coming for prayer services. The people who were longing to come for God experience but could not do so due to the Corona pandemic, are once again experiencing God's love in their lives. Everyone in our community could experience the presence and action of God in the lives of the people. On 25th Feb. **Fr. Satya** left for his home visit. He was in quarantine for a week in Sameeksha, Kalady, Kerala. Our centre was blessed with 28 seminarians along with two regents from Gurukul Muzaffarpur, 20 SCN candidates with their in-charge from Mokama and 50 lay people. They attended the five-day residential retreat. From the time they accepted Jesus as their own, we could perceive a marked difference in their outlook and orientation. A special thing that is happening is that the members of gypsy community (nomads of Nut caste) started coming in good numbers.

- *Virendra Jagdish*

Kaiserganj: Former Superior General **Father Adolfo Nicolas** redrew the boundaries of Patna province and entrusted to Patna Province in 2015 the care and development of Jesuit ministries in the territory of five dioceses of Uttar Pradesh. Thereafter, the Province undertook significant steps to initiate our apostolic works in UP through various means. The Province purchased land at Kaiserganj in Baharaich district under Lucknow diocese in 2016. The task of establishing a school and other ministries at Kaiserganj was entrusted to St. Xavier's School, Patna (Xavier's Patna Association). Further, a Jesuit Community was established at Kaiserganj in 2020 as a dependent community of St. Xavier's, Patna.

We are happy to announce that the Jesuit Residence at Kaiserganj will be blessed and inaugurated on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 11.30 a.m. Kindly join us in thanking God and all our well-wishers and benefactors as we take definite steps towards our apostolic involvement in Lucknow diocese.

- *George Nedumattam*

KR Bettiah: Our Provincial arrived here on 1st February. His presence and guidance has enthused us to be better servants of Christ's mission. **Br. Marcus** came here on 10 Feb. and was with us for a few days. The Candidates with their Director and Assistant Director went on a day's picnic to Ratanpurwa. And the next day the Candidates went for Bettiah Darshan during which they visited the religious communities in Bettiah and Dussaiya. Meanwhile **Frs. Periya, Christopher** and **Rajesh Kant** went to Patna for different works. **Fr. Daniel** visited us on 27 Feb. and gave a motivational talk to the Candidates of KRCH. As the culmination of the month, we celebrated **Fr. Albert's** birthday.

All the schools in our campus were busy with various activities. St. Xavier's H.S. School conducted the annual exams for all the students and gave away the report cards too. KR High School conducted classes for those students who were deprived of the offline classes during the lockdown. KR Non-formal School too conducted classes for the students. The classes and all other activities in the schools seem to be slowly coming back to the pre-pandemic time. This gives joy to all of us.

- *Anuj Toppo*

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: After making monthly recollection, we welcomed the month of February with renewed spirit. On 4 Feb. we celebrated the feast of St. John de Britto, the Red Sand Saint of India. **Fr. Nicholas** gave a brief introduction about the saint during the Eucharistic celebration which inspired us much. **Fr. William D'Souza** fell sick and was hospitalized on 07 Feb. in St. Joseph's Hospital, Gomti Nagar. After ten days of treatment, he was discharged from the hospital. He is now recovering well and getting back

his smiles.

Fr. Edward Dungdung, PCF of Patna Province visited us on 10 Feb. He shared a session with us on evaluating the Pre-Novitiate and its atmosphere of study. We were busy writing Intensive Journal; which we found as very fruitful in our spiritual journey. We entered the Lenten Season with a day of recollection and fasting. Screening of the movie 'Passion of Christ' helped us to enter into the sufferings of Jesus. In this Lenten season we are participating in the passion of Christ through fasting, way of the cross and adoration. We are praying for all the victims of the pandemic and for the whole world. We would appreciate a whisper of prayer for the good health of **Fr. William D'Souza**.



- Binay

Manthan, Khagaul: The month of February kept all of us busy with various activities in Manthan. On 5 Feb. Fr. Junas Kujur joined the community. On 13th **Fr. Joe Pulickal** was given a fitting farewell and Fr. Junas was welcomed by the Long Term residential children with a colourful programme. We wish **Fr. Joe Pulickal** all the best and a fulfilling mission at XISR. **Fr. Junas** is busy visiting the Christian families and becoming familiar with them. **Fr. Pulickal** blessed the marriage of the son of Mr. Thomas, an old friend of many of us and a member of our parish. On 10th Sr. Gracy BS went to Ranchi to attend their Province Assembly. Sr. Pushpika has gone to Andhra to write her B.Ed exam.



We had 15 days of residential programme for class VII & VIII students. This was a month of exams for students –students of Class IX& X had their 'Manthan' send-up test before their final exams. On 17 Feb. 26 class X students started their Board Exams and completed them on 23rd. Class IX students began their send-up exam in the school from 26 Feb.

On 20th Manthan celebrated किशोरी दिवस (Young Girls' Day). Ms. Prathima Kumari was the Chief Guest and Mr. Awadesh Kumar, a renowned Maghahi poet was the Guest of Honour. Both of them inspired the Kishoris through their messages. More than 250 adolescent girls participated in it. They put up meaningful cultural programmes like skits, speeches, awareness songs, dance etc.

Manthan also conducted various trainings for, women, Adolescent girls, AnganWadi Workers, Career guidance for Government school children etc. On 6th February we had one day Teachers' training for the ILP staff by teachers from St. Xavier's school. We thank the principal for his generosity and cooperation.



On 14th we had a Parish आम सभा (meeting of all the parishioners) in which a new Parish Council was elected. **Fr. Susai's** presence makes a lot of difference in the parish. On 21 Feb. members of Mahila Sangh from Danapur, Phulwarisheriff and Maner parishes came to Khagaul Parish for a day of sharing and reflection. Sr. Jane, SCN, guided and motivated them through Bible quiz, sharing by participants and input on the role of women in the family and society.

After two years of stay in Manthan, **Fr. Joseph Velam** was searching for ways and means for a transfer. When all his efforts failed, he found one way out - he transferred himself from the first floor to the ground floor. The community members warmly welcomed him to the ground floor. He is busy with his writings; most probably it will be titled as "Sound of the Silence of Old Age".

Archbishop. Sebastian Kallupura visited us on his way back from Dhansoyi, Itarhi. Now all of us are busy with the preparation for Women's Day anticipated celebration on 6th March.

- Juno Sebastian

Prabhat, Sakri: The month of February was a month of God's blessings for us, which began with the visitation of Fr. Provincial. His presence and his encouraging words on our life and mission gave us

greater enthusiasm to go ahead in our mission. He also visited Belam CRC and interacted with the students and staff of the centre. Our reflection on the province centenary with our residential staff and others made us all aware of the struggles of our predecessors and the outpouring of God's blessings on all of us due to their radical commitment. The selection of girls for the short-term residential programme was done very meticulously and the outcome of the programme was encouraging not only for the girls but also for us. They were given prizes for their excellence in studies, discipline and good behaviour. Different trainings on teaching methodology, evaluation of answer sheets and marking system, etc., helped our CRC and SEC teachers to have a proper perspective in their involvement. The short visit by PDD staff to monitor the projects also helped us to be aware of the need for proper documentation.



- Dilip Kumar

Sanjivan Niwas, Patna: The month of February brought many joyful and unique experiences to us. We had the common birthday celebration on 4th February. On that day we celebrated the birthdays of **Fr. Sushil, Br. Manoj**, Sch. Gnana Muthu and Candidate Adarsh. The candidates presented a short cultural programme which was liked by all. On 5 Feb. **Fr. Sushil** left for Jharkhand for vocation promotion cum home leave. On



15 Feb. Fr. Josey went to Ranchi for some official work. The B. Ed students and **Sch. Ashish** are very busy in attending classes and completing assignments. The candidates are having regular classes and other activities. On 18 Feb. Candidate Ayush Kumar went back home. Now the total number of candidates are 17 (14 for Patna and 3 for Delhi). As we are in the Lenten season, we have the Way of the Cross on Wednesdays and Fridays; on Fridays we join the parishioners in Kurji parish church.

The Province Centenary Organizing Committee is giving the Candidates many and hard practices for the skit, which will be performed on 3 March. The Candidates are privileged to be part of the Province centenary programme.

- Candidates Raj Ekka & Manoj Soreng

Sasaram: The month of February was filled with many events. On 3 February, we thanked and bid adieu to **Br. Siluvainathan** from Chenari community. The next day he left for Ara for his new mission. On 5 Feb. three seminarians of Buxar diocese came here to make their recollection under the guidance of **Fr. Benny**. Our school was a centre for both Intermediate and Matric exams which commenced on 1 February and 17 February respectively. From 8 Feb. we started classes for the students of class VI to VIII keeping in mind the safety protocols. On 11 Feb. the Catholics of Kalashahar celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is their village feast. **Frs. Benny, Maxentius** and some Sisters participated in the festival Mass and celebration. On 15 Feb., on his way to Varanasi, Fr. Provincial stayed with us overnight. The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday – at the holy Eucharist good number of faithful joined us. On 1 March, we started the classes for the students of class I to V. The students of class VI to IX started their half-yearly exams on 27 Feb. and finished them on 4 March. As of now, regular offline classes are going on for all.

- Cyprian Minj

Seva Sadan, Ratanpurwa: The month of February was full of activities that kept us busy. **Fr. Francis** along with the staff of St. Thomas Hr. Sec. School visited the villages of children coming to the school; they met the children and parents in order to discuss resuming of normal teaching and learning. **Fr. Anil Minj** joined the community on 8 Feb. and made visits to villages of Seva Sadan outreach programmes. Sr. Ishpriya, Provincial of FSMA, made her annual visitation to Seva Sadan from 9 to 13 Feb. She was felicitated with a colourful cultural programme by our long-term residential program (hostel) girls. **Fr. Edward Mendonca** arrived on 16 Feb. and began his 'probation' to take up the leadership of the community! On 18 Feb. birthday of

Fr. Francis was celebrated with the hostel children. On 22 Feb. we conducted entrance test for new admissions in the school for classes I to VIII. On 27 Feb. **Frs. Eddie** and **Anil** were welcomed and **Fr. Eddie** was introduced as the new Joint Secretary of the school as **Fr. Stephenraj** was given a farewell in the school. To mark the occasion two tree-saplings were planted in the school premises. On 28 Feb. we had the welcome and farewell programme in the hostel and community. Meanwhile Fr. Stephen had to make several trips to Patna for his passport. As usual, **Bro. Vijay** has been on his toes to complete the planting of sugarcane and harvesting of mustard.

- Francis C.



Shanti Sadan, Prayagraj (Allahabad): The month of February brought a pleasant atmosphere as we entered into the spring season. Our garden was full of beautiful flowers and honeybees. The month started for the pre-novices with 8 days of Bible classes on the Gospel of Matthew given by **Fr. Pius**. **Fr. Jose** returned from Bengaluru after taking classes for Philosophers. The visit of Fr. Soosai Mani, Provincial of Delhi, was a source of many blessings for us; he arrived at Shanti Sadan on 7th. To celebrate the joy of the visitation of Delhi Provincial, our goat 'Bharat' 'offered himself' as a sacrificial animal. We pre-novices put up a short cultural program to welcome the Provincial. That day we had a fellowship meal with all the Fathers. On 11th Fr. Provincial left Allahabad. **Fr. Benny** (Pat) arrived on 14th for a visit. He interacted with us and shared about the upcoming centenary celebration of Patna Mission. On the eve of Ash Wednesday we had a special meal called 'gosht puja'. We had a solemn Mass on Ash Wednesday in the parish church. **Fr. Benny** left on 17th. We had a good harvest of potatoes this year. **Fr. Robert** brought six students from Bettiah for an ECO Camp to introduce the 'Tarumitra' mission in Prayagraj. The students worked here for three days with **Fr. Robert** and then returned home. Fr. George Stephen (AND) took one of the four-sheet interviews of the Pre-novices on 23rd.

- Arpit

St. Xavier's School, Patna: It was a refreshing and relaxing day for all our support staff as they went on a picnic to Rajgir on 16th February. **Frs. Vinoy** and **Devashish** accompanied them, which was appreciated much. We celebrated **Fr. Vinoy's** birthday on 15th Feb. in the School with great joy. Around hundred



students of the KidZone were felicitated on 20th Feb. for their success in the virtual English Story, Show & Tell, and Fancy Dress competitions. The winners of the competitions were conferred medals and certificates in recognition of their achievement by the Chief Guest **Fr. Alphonse Sebastian**, the Controller of Examination, St. Xavier's College, Patna. LKG Admission for the new academic session took place on 24th and 25th Feb.

We celebrated the home-coming of **Fr. K.M. Joseph** as he returned to the community after his treatment at CMC

Vellore. St. Xavier's Alumni Association (SXAA) organized the Annual Reunion on Saturday, 28th Feb. His Grace Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna, was the Chief Guest and Shri Ashok Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of Building Construction Department, was the Guest of Honour. These days, our students are busy writing their annual examinations which began on 27th Feb.

- Devashish

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: **Joseph Dumdung's** hanging and ground gardens are bearing rich fruits. Fr. Provincial made his visitation. **Prakash Louis** was Chairperson of Working Committee of Delhi Forum in Delhi and participated in the Review Meeting of Bihar Program of NEG FIRE, Patna. He directed the integration day of SRA Novices. He also took an online session on 'Eucharist - a Socio-Pastoral Understanding' for 2nd year students of Vidya Jyoti, Delhi.

- Prakash Louis

SXCMT/XTTI: On 28 Jan. Xavier Quiz club organized an Inter College and Inter school competition on the theme “The world in the last six months”. 19 colleges across India and 6 schools in Patna participated with 474 registrations. In the College category, first and second place were won by our students and the third place was won by St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. In the School category, students of St. Michael’s High School won the first place; the second and third place went to St. Karen’s school. On 1st Feb, Academic Committee conducted graduation day of 2017-2020 batch. On 4th Feb, the social awareness committee organized cancer awareness exhibition. ‘Xavier Legend’, an e-magazine of students’ initiative, to share news and views, was published. The NSS unit of the college organized webinar to pay tribute to the jawans who died in Phulwama two years ago. Mr. PeeyushPranjpe, Regional Director of NSS Bihar-Jharkhand chaired the session. On 19th Feb, the Sports Committee organized Inter-departmental football match and the Cultural Committee organized Talent Hunt. During 20 & 21st Feb, Jashn-e-nukkad was jointly organized by the Department of Mass Communications and Xavier Theatre Club. 14 teams participated in the maiden event which portrayed many aspects of our society. Mr. Md. ParveshAkhter and Mr. RishikeshSulabh graced the occasion. From 25th Feb – 10th March, the II and III years will write their university exams and the I years will appear for internal exams. Youth for Free India (YFI) members celebrated Republic day and Saraswati Puja with slum children. The students collected money and distributed sweets, study materials and conducted cultural events for the children. On 15th Feb, **Fr. Joe Pulickal** was given a warm welcome in our community. The members of the XTTI community actively contributed to the successful celebration Patna Jesuit Mission Centenary on 3rd March 2021.



- Fr. Alphonse Sebastian

DIASPORA

Arrupe Niwas, Bengaluru: The month of January was very hectic for the first year students as the college conducted end-semester examinations offline. I completed the examinations by 5th of February and went to Mangalore for a break to relax after the end of backbreaking semester. I was happy to meet **Schs. Pramod** and Nelson and visit a few places in Mangalore; I returned to my community in Bengaluru revitalized after two days.

I started the classes for the second semester on 8th February with renewed fervor, thanked the Lord for the gift of my life as I celebrated my birthday on 7th February. Arrupe community wished and prayed for me. The offline classes are going to commence from 15th March. I and my friends are excited to come to the college for offline class.

- Ravibhushan Kumar

Hazaribagh, Juniorate: We had a variety of activities in the month of February. We went to Ranchi Patratu Dam for a picnic. There we enjoyed ourselves seeing the beauty of nature. Our Dean, Fr. Francis Kurien, went to Kolkata for his treatment on February 8. We started giving homily from 8th of February. Now our new synthetic basketball court is ready. We all are excited to play the inauguration match. We had our second trimester exams on 26 and 27. We are grateful to Sr. Tessa for 5 days of seminar on ‘Affective Maturity’. The goal of the seminar was greater apostolic effectiveness in religious life. Some of our companions got the opportunity to donate blood for a Hazaribagh Jesuit. The novices went to different parishes on 27 for a month of preaching ministry. Now we are praying for our dean, Fr. Francis, who is undergoing treatment in Kolkata.

- Prabhat Minz

SOCIETY AROUND THE GLOBE

Father General calls for support for the people of Myanmar: On 1 February, Myanmar's military forces seized power by force and arrested State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. We contacted the Myanmar Jesuits to ask them to clarify what they are going through. Their messages give us a balanced picture of the situation and call us to solidarity with our brothers and sisters in this Asian country.

As a starting point, in order to avoid outbreaks of violence, the religious leaders suggested avoiding overly rapid reactions from abroad. For example, Cardinal Charles Mang Bo wrote on 3 February: "With love towards all, seeking a durable solution, we are praying for an end forever to the periodic darkness that envelops our dear nation." He encouraged his fellow citizens "to stay calm, never falling victim to violence," because, he added, "We have shed enough blood. Let not any more blood be shed in this land." According to him, the path of reconciliation is the only valid one; peace is possible, dialogue is the way, democracy is the light that illuminates this path.

The days have passed and it is with restraint but also with a real expression of support for the people of Myanmar that leaders from several countries have expressed their concern. Pope Francis, twice already, has asked the world to pray for the Burmese in this troubled hour. In the spirit of the universal brotherhood he promotes, he stressed: "Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people - often forgotten people - who, without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time." He also called for the release of imprisoned political leaders and respect for the votes of millions of citizens.

Father Arturo Sosa, as Superior General of the Jesuits, addressed his companions and called the whole Society of Jesus to prayer. On 12 February he wrote:

"The military coup in Myanmar has made headlines in many parts of the world. This is a very troubling development, especially as it follows in the wake of the November 2020 elections, which saw a stronger mandate for civilian rule and which observers deemed credible and reflective of the will of the people. I am especially worried about further repression and curtailment of basic human rights, more poverty and suffering in the context of the current pandemic, and the descent into violence. Needless to say, I am quite concerned about the safety of our Jesuits and all partners in mission."

Speaking directly to his fellow Jesuit confreres, he added: "It would be important for you to open conversations that can help towards deeper analysis of the situation and help chart alternative ways forward. (...) I join many other Jesuits in fervent prayer for Myanmar. I ask for Our Lady's intercession so that through all this, you may continue to give witness to what it means to be Christians and sons of St. Ignatius."

Economic crisis... and St. Alberto Hurtado:

Alberto Hurtado, a Chilean Jesuit, died in 1954 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Though he lived only 51 years, a Jesuit for 29, his legacy continued to grow, spurred on by his dedication to providing strong Catechesis, education and leadership training to the poor rural communities across Chile. On October 23, 2005 - less than 50 years after his death - he was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI, becoming the second saint of Chile.

Today, St. Hurtado's influence continues even in a mostly secularized society. The metro station at the heart of Santiago, the Chilean capital, is named after him and the shelters ("Hogar de Cristo") and social services he started have become a network that have served millions since their founding.

At a time when the majority of clergy in Chile were foreigners, Hurtado saw the mission of the Church through the eyes of a native Chilean. He knew the most pressing needs that the Church could address, and the congregations that were underserved. As legend goes, he bought an old green pickup truck and used it to monitor the streets of Santiago, providing protection and assistance to all he could find.

This legend has endeared Father Hurtado to new generations who admire people who serve those who most often go unserved. They look at his shelters, his community activism, his hand in the formation of unions that protected workers and the vulnerable, and his teachings born not only from study, but from experience. They see all of that and in him they see the best of Chile.

At a time in history when so many around the world suffer from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, Alberto Hurtado is an inspiration to those who would devote themselves to the service of the most neglected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) [till 2016 known as 'Apostleship of Prayer']: Intention of the Holy Father for the month of **March 2021** –

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

The Secretariat of Faith of our Conference in collaboration with Madurai and Chennai Provinces, is organising the **ROOTS & WINGS 2021** from April 6th evening to May 8th afternoon at Shembaganur for the Jesuits and those Religious who follow the Jesuit Spirituality. For more details and to apply for the course please contact:

Fr Devadhas Muthiah SJ: 9600411531/8056662524/ devadhasm@gmail.com

Fr Patrick Ravichandran SJ: 9445676172 / sup.shc@mdusj.org

Last date to apply is: March 15th 2021

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

After his successful heart surgery in CMC Vellore,

Fr. KM Joseph returned to Patna on 25 Feb.'21. He is hale and hearty.

Fr. William D'Souza was discharged from Hospital and is recuperating in Loyola Sadan, Lucknow. He has a long road to full recovery.

Fr. Cyriac Poovakot had a surgery for hernia in KHFH on 10 March; he is recovering well.

Mrs. Rasammal, **eldest sister of Fr. Francis Chinnappan**, is diagnosed with tumour in her head and is admitted in JIPMER Hospital, Puthussery.

For the Departed:

Fr. Vasco de Rego(GOA 96/75) passed away on 17 Feb.'21, in Pune.

Fr. Anthony Dungdung (RAN 87/63) passed away on 20 Feb.'21 in Seva Nilaya Hospital, Namkum.

Fr. John Vattanky (KER89/70) passed away on 22 Feb.'21 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.

Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomes (CAL 99/78) expired on 27 Feb.'21 at St. Xavier's College Infirmary, Calcutta.

Fr. Oscar Rozario(BOM 78/63) passed away on 28 Feb.'21.

Fr. Edward Kerketta (RAN 69/46) expired on 08 March '21 in Samford Hospital, Ranchi.