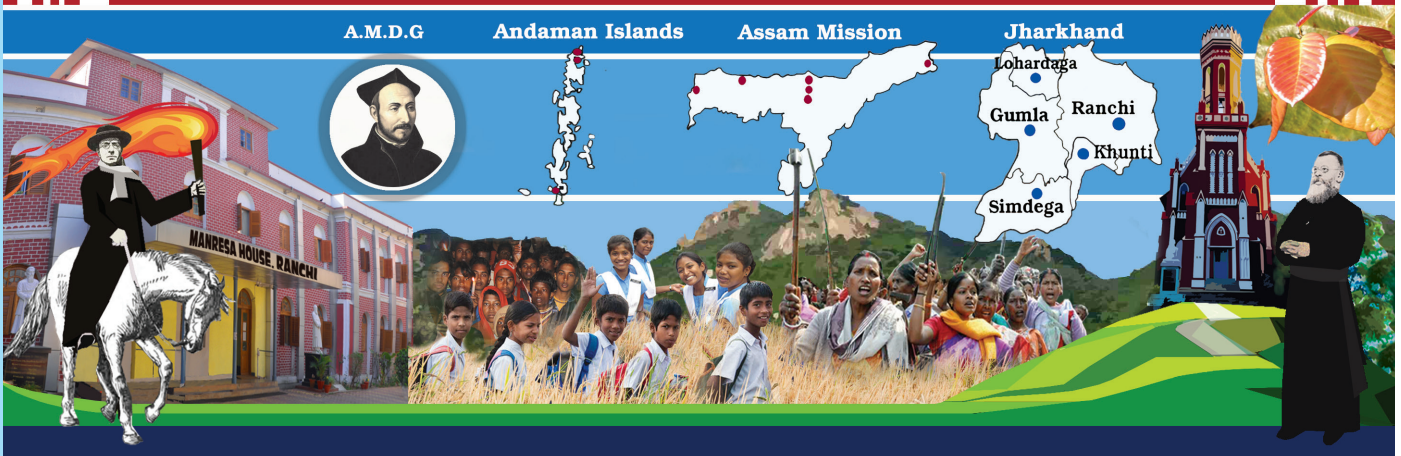




RANCHI BULLETIN



80/3 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand **March 2021**

APPOINTMENT BY FR. GENERAL

- Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ : **Rector, St. Mary's High School Samtoli, Simdega**
- Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, SJ (GUJ) : **Rector, De Nobili College, Pune**
- Fr. Nirmal Raj, SJ (DUM) : **Rector, Vidyajyoti, Delhi**

APPOINTMENT BY FR. PROVINCIAL

- Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ : **Provincial's Delegate of Assam Mission**

Ranchi Jesuit Society thanks Fr. Pius Xalxo, who was the Provincial's Delegate of Assam Mission since last three years. Under his able leadership Assam Mission could accomplish its potentials.

Now, Fr. Superior General has appointed Fr. Pius as the Rector of St. Mary's High School Samtoli, Simdega. We wish him all the best in his new responsibilities.

Ranchi Jesuit Society thanks Fr. Thomas Barla for accepting the new responsibility as the Provincial's Delegate of Assam Mission. With his missionary zeal and enthusiasm, the Mission will achieve its greater height. We wish him all the best and prayerful support.

Pope's Intention: Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

INFORMATION

Due to the unavoidable circumstances, the scheduled budget sessions are suspended. They will be rescheduled and intimated to you. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ
Provincial

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DORANDA

After some rigorous online and offline classes, the teaching and non-teaching staff went for a picnic on 10 th February to Bakaspur on the way to Kamdara. It really refreshed the energy and re-strengthened the bonding of entire Xaverian faculty. It was a memorable day to spend time with nature. The golden jubilee celebration in the Society of Jesus of Fr. Britius Ekka, SJ, was arranged on 12 th February with Thanksgiving Holy Mass. Keeping in mind his health condition the entire programme was short and simple but very meaningful. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial preached an inspiring homily and encouraged Fr. Britius. The community marked the Valentine's day with the birthday celebration of Fr. Ravi Hemant Kujur SJ. On 16 th Feb. St. Xavier's Community went for an outing to Keondtarn Jesuit Community. It was very nice to be with fellow Jesuits. The Holy Mass was arranged for the Christian teaching, non-teaching and students on Ash Wednesday. There was a Managing Committee meeting on 20 th Feb. 2021 to discuss and plan for the betterment of school. The entire school is ready to conduct the Final Term Examination online from 27 th Feb. onward for the students of KG to XI as per the latest guidelines of Government. Also, the academic planning for year 2021-22 is almost done with the preparation of School Diary, Calendar, booklist etc. The entire school campus is undergoing with some repair works. The interior and outer finishing is underway in the new building with a hope to inaugurate it very soon. Apart from counselling Fr. Henry Barla, SJ, is accompanying the non-teaching staff with the thrust of UAP by visiting their work places. He is regularly making rounds and the helpers feel very encouraged to see him.

Sch. Patras Topno, SJ

REGIONAL THEOLOGY CENTER (RTC) ARSANDAY

Month February was a month of blessing for us; though it was accompanied by little struggles. It all began with the singing practice for Deaconate ordination in the evening every day. Which was a moment of learning and preparing ourselves for the Deaconate ordination. Fr. Ignatius Tete arrived in our community on 6th February 2021 from Hazaribagh. We are blessed with his presence amidst us. He is giving input on Pauline Corpus for both first year and second year theologians. On 9th the candidates for Diaconate ordination from Jamshedpur and Madya Pradesh Province reached RTC. Namely sch. Prabhakar (JAM) and Sch. Tobias and sch. Cyril (MAP). Fr Francis Minj the Dean of Regional Theologate Center familiarized them with the procedure of Deaconate ordination. 13th February, 2021 Six Scholastics Johny Kujur (RAN) Libin Kerketta (RAN) Sandeep Kujur (RAN) Tobias Tigga (MAP) Cyril Beck (MAP) and Prabhakar Oddipalli (JAM) were ordained Deacon by Most Rev. Felix Toppo, SJ, DD Archbishop of Ranchi in Christ the King Church Kanke. It was historic day and day of blessings in the life of RTC and Kanke Parish to have Deaconate ordination in Christ the King Church for the First time. Despite the pandemic scenario, family members of the Deacons managed to participate in Deaconate ordination. After the Holy Mas there was short felicitation programme followed by buffet.

On 14th we went for picnic. It was a combined picnic of religious around Kanke parish; St. Anne sisters, Montfort Brothers, Parish community and RTC community. It was a moment of great refreshment after intensive work for deaconate ordination. It re-vitalized all of us physically and mentally and spiritually. From 15th we had course on land theology by Fr. John Mundu, SJ and Fr. Francis Minj, SJ. We were enlightened with the knowledge and understanding of different aspects of land and issues. We felt exceedingly privileged to have theology of land.

On 20th Deacon Sandeep Kujur was admitted to Seva Nilaya Health Center Ara-Gate. Next day he was tested Covid-19 positive and was taken to Mandar for treatment. On 22 Fr. Sudhir Kujur, Fr. Michael Kerketta and Sch. Celestine Minj had corona test. Celestine was tested Positive but was kept home quarantine.

Along with all the activities of the community the construction of road with cemented block is going on in full swing. With new road now RTC looks more beautiful and attractive. Over the month of February was blend of joys and sorrows.

Sch. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ.

BINGAON

The following activities have taken place in Christ Jyoti Church, Bingaon Parish in the month of February. Thirty three (33) pairs of marriages were rectified and blessed by Fr. Mukul Kerketta, SJ, Twenty of them were also given the Sacrament of Confirmation by Fr. Mukul Kerketta, SJ, with due permission from the Bishop of Khunti. Six (6) CCTV cameras were installed in the Residence and church building of Bingaon Parish. Thanks to the community of SXD who donated these security measures for Bingaon. Partial fencing of the compound wall was done for agricultural demonstration. Again a big thanks to Fr. Ravi Hemant Kujur, SJ, and SXD Community for their kind and open hearted charity to Bingaon. By the initiative of Fr. Mukul Kerketta, A Hundred KVA Transformer was also put up in the campus to provide better electricity facility to the parish and school. Supply of current will still need some more time. Eighteen members of women's Self-Help Group of the Parish participated in the two training programs conducted by "Semina Agro" on the importance of commercial cultivation. They also gave the farmers a technical tips on how to make the best seedlings. The Seminar was organized by Fr. George Kerketta, SJ, and socio pastoral team. Our New Priest Fr. Elphiz Kerketta, SJ, made his first landing into his mission land of Vijaygiri and Tamar where he is going to be involved in social work with Fr. George Kerketta, SJ, and the team. Fr. Elphiz was so excited as well as surprised to see the place and people that we Jesuits can really 'think about the unthought-of' and 'Reach the Unreachable'. He says elephants are exceptions, he can befriend them.

Fr. Solomon Barwa, SJ

ST. MICHAEL'S JESUIT RESIDENCE, KHUNTI

St. Michael's Jesuit community is hale and hearty. On 4 th of February, we had a meaningful feast day of St. John de Britto. During the community mass, special prayer was offered for all the sick member of the Society of Jesus, especially remembered Fr. Ranjit Horo. We invoked the aid of St. Francis Xavier and dedicated him to God for his fast recovery as mother of St. John de Britto offered and prayed for her son. Now, Fr. Ranjit Hore is back from the hospital after the long treatment and getting better. He is still under medication. For the time being, he is resting in Manresa House, Ranchi.

It was a great opportunity to attain the ordination of Fr. Sameer Xavier Bhawnra on 7 th of February as community at Dhingurpani Parish. We responded very positively the letter "Jesuit Way of Life" circulated by the provincial and had a meaningful sharing in the community. Br. Elias Minj is occupied in the garden whereas the other community members are engaged to their respective ministries.

Loyola Inter College:- In the absence of Fr. Ranjit, Fr. Shailesh Lakra takes care of the Inter Section. Offline classes are going on for all the streams in two shifts. Students are responding it well in this pandemic. College building has been painted. It looks pretty well and attractive. The principal's office and staff rooms are decent and presentable now. New staircase is under construction.

Loyola High School:- The major renovation work of school building has been completed. Now students find in it more conducive atmosphere as we are having offline classes for the class 10 th students. Fr. Isaac Xalxo is making it sure that pleasant atmosphere remained in the campus. He is also giving his best to get the recognition of the school.

English Medium School:- Final assessment started on 11 th of February for all the standards to evaluate the students response during the online classes. During the working days, all the teachers are available in the school premises. Fr. Bipin Tirkey is tied up with the documentation work of English Medium. He is also making sure that all the paper is ready for the NOC and affiliation. Before everything, it is a big challenge to get Naksha of the existing building. Without passing the Naksha, construction work had started; so, we may have to pay heavy amount as a fine. At the same time, the construction work is under progress.

Loyola Hostel:- The demolishing work of the hostel building is in progress. Soon, we will find a new structure for the hostel boys, which can accommodate many poor students who come to stay in the hostel.

Sch. Rohit Dungdung, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COMMUNITY, BUNDU

Amidst the fading clouds of lockdown, X th and XII th classes were started with a thrust on 4 th January 2021. Initially the number was diminutive, however it started picking up progressively. The examination form was filled up by the XII th students and were submitted to JAC. The Republic Day was celebrated under the strict guidelines of Covid protocol, nevertheless the spirit of patriotism culminated when Fr. John Beck delivered a stirring speech. Br. Modestus Turkey, the veteran was the one to unfurl the tricolour. Several high school students posted self-recorded patriotic songs, paintings, speeches and poems as participants of online competition which was instructed ahead of time by Fr. John, the Principal. The offline/ online classes were on progress and examination was conducted for classes VI th - IX th from 27 th to 30 th January. On 31 st January the community joined for the Ordination of Deacon Bimal Nag in Maranghada, whereas Frs. John and Ravi had gone to Simdega to attend the Ordination and First Mass of Deacon Ajit Kerketta on 31 st January and 1 st February respectively. Fr. Walter Minj could not join for the First Mass as he had to rush to Kurdeg for the funeral of his brother-in-law Mr. Tarcisius Turkey (62) who died due to heart attack on 1 st February. On 4 th February evening, the neighbouring Jesuits from Dorea and Vijaygiri came to celebrate the birthday of Fr. John. The 100% attendance was a symbolic gift- 100 years of long life to the birthday boy! On 7 th February, Kurdeg Association organized a meeting cum get together in the English Medium premises. Fr. Walter celebrated the Holy Mass with his country cousins to initiate the event meaningfully. It was an efficacious gathering with a good number of Kurdegians. On 14 th February, all except Fr. Walter had gone to Manresa House, Ranchi to celebrate the final vows of Fr. Binod Toppo. On return Fr. Walter, the House Minister astounded us with a full bucket of fish caught in the house pond "OMG...Valentine's Day Secret Mission." The Middle School conducted offline examination for classes II nd - V th from 15 th to 20 th February whereas the English Medium School conducted the final exams from 8 th to 20 th February. From 22 nd February onward the tiny tots for Nursery, LKG and UKG had interview along with their parents

which was followed by admissions. Tusu Mela, the iconic festival of this area which begins on 15 th January and reaches the climax on 25 th January was dispirited due to Covid protocol, nevertheless celebrations were held in pockets. Just the fever was waning out, Saraswati Devi the goddess of knowledge, saturated her devotees into transcendence. Unfortunately, most of them were our students who were absent for days. On 18 th February Frs. John and Ravi went to Bal Krishna Plus Two School, Ranchi to attend a meeting called by Mr. Arvind Bilung, the DEO of Ranchi. On 20 th February Fr. Ravi had gone to Ursuline Convent, Muri to give a one-day recollection to the sisters. On 22 nd Frs. Florence Kujur and Brice Bilung visited the community and went to St. John's High School, Dorea along with Fr. John, Fr. Ravi and Sir Raju Mahto to help Fr. Issac Tete in arranging the documents required for the permanent affiliation of their school. It was a worthwhile experience. Sch. Ritesh Dadul went to Ranchi for preparing himself for appearing in his generic elective exams from 25th February to 06th March. Intermediate first years began their practice exam on 18 th February and will be ending on 3 rd March. With the initiative of Fr. John and Ravi the outlook of High School and Inter College is changing. 300 tractors of mud were filled in the playground to renovate it into a professionally good-looking ground. Varieties of flowers were also planted and fenced to promote eco-aesthetic environment. Fr. Benjamin Kerketta, the House Superior and Treasurer was meticulously looking into all the nitty gritty of different units in view of preparing the Annual Budget 2021.

Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, S.J.

ST. MARY'S SAMTOLI

Fr. Rajesh Sandil suffered from cold and cough and was admitted in the Constant Lievens Hospital and Research Centre, Mandar for his better treatment. After good treatment and medical care he was discharged from the hospital and after good rest in Manresa House came back to the community on 12th of February 2021.

Fr. Raymond Kerketta the Socius to the Provincial represented the Provincial for the priestly ordination of Dcn. Ajit Kerketta in St. Anne's Cathedral Samtoli on 31st of January 2021. All the community members participated in the ordination ceremony. Fr. Bruno

Toppo gave commendable commentary and proved himself as a good and professional commentator. He was appreciated by one and all. Frs. Fredie, Elias and Sch. Joseph Kennedy Soreng in collaboration with St. Anne's Sisters and Ursuline Sisters conducted the choir for the First Thanksgiving Holy Mass offered by newly ordained priest Fr. Ajit Kerketta on 1st of February. Frs. Dominic, Ephrem and Sylvanus concelebrated the First Mass. The last ordination for this year was in Dhengurpani where Dcn Samir Xavier Bhawnra was ordained a priest. All the community members went to witness it. Fr. Ajit Saras was the commentator who spoke good Biru sadri and drew the attention of the faithful. In the middle of the ordination ceremony Fr. Fredrick Kujur had severe chest pain and was rushed to Ursuline Martha dispensary, Samtoli. Fr. Elias Kullu accompanied him. Soon he was taken to Dr. P.S. Linda and after check up treatment began. It was suspected by the doctor for gastric and accordingly he was treated. The following day there was no pain and so Fredie wanted to do some urgent office work, but the following night he felt pain again, so the next day on 9th Feb. Fr. Raymond was consulted and he was taken to Manresa House. Same evening he was admitted in Orchid. In his absence Fr. Florence Guria is shouldering ably the office responsibility.

English Medium School staff picnic was organized on 4th of February to Basatpur. It was the day to relax, enjoy the beauty of the nature, mixing and knowing one another in a better way. Frs. Elias, Fredie, Florence, Dominic and Sylvanus joined the picnic and enjoyed thoroughly. English Medium School Staff took online classes regularly. Many of them slogged in the beginning, but learnt to use modern technology and feel happy and satisfied. From the second half of February IXth and Xth std students are having offline classes and tests, the rest are still having online classes and exams. During lock down period Fr. Elias made use of the talents and skills of non-teaching staff and got all the class rooms and school building painted. It looks very colourful and grand.

St. Xavier's College continued online classes. Fr. Anup Arvind Ekka is always busy organizing and conducting online exams. Final results of the students of the 2nd batch 2017 – 2020 was published and the students are given mark sheet. All those who had appeared VIth Semester exams declared pass. Congratulations to all the students, Fr. Principal and his team. One of these passed

out students, Ashwin Soreng met with an accident and died near Barghat while going home to Lakra Berna, Kahupani parish on 13th of Feb. Fr. Sylvanus went for the burial on the following day. Painting of the college building is going on under the supervision of Fr. Bruno and it looks grand. Fr. Rajesh Sandil is trying his best to collaborate and assist Fr. Principal. Fr. Ephrem has improved a lot, now he can walk with his walker, but finds difficult to climb staircase.

Fr. Alois Beck from Pengri, Assam came to Samtoli on 8th of February for his neighbor Fr. Anil Soreng's ordination and First Mass and is held up due to cold and cough. After his thorough treatment and improved health plans to go back soon. As Fr. Vinod Bilung is taking special medical care in St. Martha dispensary, Frs. Nabor Lakra, Roshan Baa, Edwin Ritesh Dungdung, Pradeep Kujur and many professors from St. Xavier's College Ranchi visited him. They generously took time and visited us too. Thanks to Ursuline Sisters who regularly visit Fr. Vinod. He is improving very fast.

Frs. Dominic Topno, Ephrem and Sylvanus went to Ranchi to attend Fr. Antony Doongdoong's funeral mass on 21st of February. Whole St. Mary's community was sad and in deep sorrow for the untimely demise of our V.G. and Parish Priest Fr. Tobias Kerketta on 23rd Feb. 2021. All of us took part in the funeral Mass on the following day.

Sylvanus Kerketta, S.J.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH PATRACHAULI

All the fathers and co-workers are hale and hearty. The fear of pandemic is still there; therefore, we have been extra careful with our health. We have been taking giloy karha and milk with turmeric etc to fight against the covid-19. Ever since the lockdown was little relaxed, we have been going around the villages to administer different sacraments, gami and house blessing etc. Faithful too are coming regularly to attend the Holy Mass and receive other sacraments like Baptism, Confession and rectified marriage.

The Lenten season has started with vigor. The faithful came to church on Ash Wednesday to begin the Lenten journey. They were reminded of the call, "You are dust

and you shall return to the dust". Our Lenten village tour is in full swing.

Deacon Samir Xavier Bhawnra duly completed his diaconate ministry at Patrachauli parish and was ordained priest like Melchizedek on 7th February, 2021 by Rev. Bp. Paul Lakra DD of Gumla Diocese. He celebrated his first Holy Mass on 8th February 2021 in his village at his home. Community members- Fathers and Sisters went to Dhingurpani on 6th February to attend the priestly Ordination programme of Samir. The Parishners joined the programme on 7th February 2021. Fr. John Crus Tigga went to different places to attend the Priestly Ordination and First Mass. On 25th February, he returned to Patrachauli after his honeymoon. His mother, brother and relatives came to reach him back. On 28th February, both the newly ordained priests Samir and Rohit, who completed his diaconate ministry previous year, offered Mass for Patrachauli Parishners. After the Mass a short and sweet felicitation program was arranged. All Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh and youth were present.

St. Joseph's Middle School, Patrachauli

Due to Covid-19 and nationwide lockdown school is still closed. The Government has announced to open only from 10 to 12 classes. We hope and pray that the impact of Covid-19 may get over soon so that the children may continue their studies. During the lockdown period, the students missed their mid-day meals in the school so these days our teachers are busy distributing rice, dal, oil, vegetables, eggs etc to the school children.

Online class was not possible because most of the students have no smart phones. In our school, we have students from K.G to class 8. Only the students of class 8th were coming for their classes since October 2020 because their board exam was near. The rest of the students were at home. We have created the WhatsApp group for each class and we were sending the study materials daily but only the few students benefited. We are also affected very much in the school. Since there was lockdown and so, there was no admission of the new children in the school. It was difficult to pay the private teachers. The Jharkhand government has not appointed the teachers since 2012. Meanwhile many teachers got retired. Now we have 12 private teachers in the school. We have not paid the teachers since May 2020. Now again, from 1st of March 2021, the students of class 8th are coming for their classes.

Fr. Anthres Minj, SJ

ST. STANISLAUS JESUIT COMMUNITY LOHARDAGA

It was a great joy for all teaching and nonteaching staff members of St. Stanislaus School Lohardaga who on 1st of February attended the first Holy Mass of Fr. Bimal Nag S.J. Soon after the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, through a beautiful song we wished him and congratulated him for his successful priestly life and his fruitful ministry. On 6th of February all the staff members were invited for the blessing of newly built house of Mr. Michael Minj, the retired teacher of Middle school Lohardaga. Before the Holy Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Philemon Ekka, S.J blessed the newly built house. He presided over the holy mass. Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, S.J along with the teachers led the choir during mass. On 6th of February, Fr. Shushil Tirkey, S.J and his Arouse team participated in the social activist evaluation held at Bagaich, Namkum. This meeting was arranged for both laity and religious but religious were in majority. Fr. Philemon and Sch. John stayed overnight in St. Mary's Community Simdega on 6th of February. The following day on 7th of February, both of them witnessed the ordination of Fr. Sameer Xavier Bhaora, S.J in Dingurpani Parish. On 7th of February, Fr. Tony Dias JESA, Secretary of South Asia visited Lohardaga and cheered up the endeavor made by Mr. Camil Topno. Man from Thakurain Dera, in Kisko Block of Lohardaga District for generating the electricity by Hydro-power. Fr. Ranjit Lakra, S.J, the Superior of the house was suffering from ankle ache. On 10th of February, he was admitted in Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga for his medical treatment. He was there for a week. He got discharged from the Hospital on 17th of February. The DEO and BEO of Lohardaga, called all the Headmasters of different schools for a meeting on 11 and 12th of February in the Premise of Nadiya School Lohardaga. Fr. Philemon, the Headmaster attended the meeting on both days. Fr. Dharamsheel kujur, S.J was physically weak. He was taken to Manresa Infirmary. He was there for 18 days. After complete rest and regaining his strengths he returned to community on 14th of February. On 15th of February, arouse and its team organized a meeting for the study centers teaches to promote and impart a good knowledge to village school boys and girls. On 16th & 18th of February, Fr. Philemon made a trip twice to Donbosco School Kokar for laptop and Bolero work.

17 th of February, Fr. Philemon, the headmaster arranged a meeting for primary teachers for the evaluation of the academic year 2020 – 2021. On 18 th February, Fr. Sushil and his team from Arouse Lohardaga attended the civil Society Pre-budged consultation on food and social security schemes held at Viswa Kanke Road, Ranchi. On 18 of February Br. Nicholas Topno, S.J visited an urologist for his check up. On 20 th of February, Arouse organized workshop on Kurukh Language and Script (Tolong Siki) at Patratoli Lohardaga. Dr. Narayan Oraon was the main resource person. Around 150 people from different villages participated in this workshop. On 25 th of February, Fr. Philemon, the Headmaster arranged the staff meeting to discuss on the offline classes for the VIII and IX students that we are going to start on 1 st of March, 2021.

Sch. John F. Ekka, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S, BHIWADI (RAJASTHAN)

Community: In the community, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Sebastian on 15 th of Feb., followed by dinner. Many Jesuits joined the celebration from different communities. Fr. Antony joined the community as a new member, on 14 February. On 20 th Fr. Britto and Br. Gyan Prakash from Shahabad, had a stay overnight here. They brought some vegetables and a few bottles of alma murraba for us. We had community prayers and meetings which made us feel one in the community. School: In the school a lot of activities took place. On 15 th we had birthday celebration of Fr. Sebastian and farewell program for Fr. Amalraj in the school. All the Staff members were present for the program on that day. On 16 th there was a Managing Committee Meeting in the School. Many Jesuit fathers and a few lay persons represented their schools. On 22 nd onwards the Yearly Examination started for the student of prep. to 9 th . For Prep to 5 th exams were conducted online and 6 th to 9 th offline. On 27 th , we had graduation day for the students of Class 12 th . On this occasion, a short program was organized to mark the day. Maria Sadan: All the Jesuit Candidates were busy in preparation of the Yearly Examination, also they attended the classes regularly in the school. Fr. Amalraj got Transferred to a new mission.

We welcomed Fr. Antony as the new director of the formation house. The coming of new director brought a lot joy and excitement to the candidates. We had games every day as usual in the school ground. It has been a good exercise and relaxation for the candidates.

Parish: In the parish, Sunday masses are celebrated in parish church, earlier it used to be in school hall because of covid-19. On 17 th we had Ash Wednesday Mass in the evening. A good number of people came for the mass. It was really a home coming feeling for us all. As the tradition goes, we have Way of the Cross every Friday evening followed by the Holy mass. Social work has been started after the pandemic. Tailoring, Beauty parlor training and special education for less privileged children have been started. Sr. Ranjana FLSG is very active as the collaborator in our mission.

Sch. Nitish Ekka, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S MAHWA (RAJASTHAN)

School: Shorter though the month of February is, it had activities galore. On 2 Feb., the Principal addressed the Parents online on many issues. Another meeting was held again on 7 Feb., to brief the parents on the reopening of the school on the following day and the directives by the government. Well, the School did reopen on 8 Feb., as scheduled. The students were coming to the school after 10 months and they were pretty excited. On the first the attendance was just about 60 per cent; but on the following days it reached cent per cent. SOP was strictly observed from the word go. Canvassing for admissions continued on Saturdays and Sundays. The school Managing Committee Meeting was held on 24 February. Three FSM (Franciscan Servants of Mary) Sisters have joined St. Xavier's, Mahwa as collaborators on 25 February. Hope their coming helps the Mission grows bounds.

Community: Member of the community are doing well physically and spiritually. Fr. Dayal had a good opportunity to participate in a matrimonial ceremony of one of his Students in Jhotwara Parish on 10 Feb. Fr. Jugal and Fr. Jose went to Delhi to attend the budget meeting on 12 Feb. While Fr. Jugal returned home

after the meetings, Fr. Jose returned latter. On 16 February we all went to Bhiwadi to attend the Managing Committee Meeting and the birthday celebration of Fr. Saby Mukalel. Fr. Soosai, the Provincial, paid us a visit on 17. He addressed the students during the break and left after Lunch. On 18 the community attended the JXEA meeting in C-Scheme Jaipur followed by the Birthday celebration of Fr. Mani. Sch. Ruben joined the scholastics for a Recollection in C- Scheme held on 20. Though the birthday of Sch. Ruben was on 19, it was clubbed with the Managing Committee Meetings on 24. On 25 evening we had a special welcome Mass for the FSM Sisters followed by dinner. Off the record: We had the harvesting of the mustard. Real bumper!

Sch. Ruben Xalxo, SJ

JESUIT COMMUNITY KATHALGURI (ASSAM)

The blessing of the New Church in Kathalguri has brought some prominent changes as now quite a good number of people turn up for Sundays Eucharistic celebrations. Some faithful from close by join us for the daily morning offering during the weekdays as well. All three schools, Loyola English Medium, St. Xavier's Tipkai and St. Joseph's School Jacobpur are running in a full swing. Right now the students are busy preparing themselves for their Annual exam which will begin on the 8th of March.

Fr. Amar Beck after his Tertianship, joined the Jesuit Community Kathalguri as a new community member on the 7th of February. He is fully involved now in different Pastoral activities and time and then he finds time to visit all three schools to inspire and encourage students.

On the 13th of February, a one-day CAREER GUIDELINES Seminar was organized by Gana Chetna Samaj for all the 9th and 10th students. Students were given inputs on how to choose different streams after their Matriculations. During the Seminar, the psychological aspects of the students in the current time were also highlighted by Fr. Amar Beck. He also brought out the struggles and challenges which students face during this particular time of their age.

On the 22nd of February, a Seminar based on NEP was conducted for all the teaching staff of three schools in Loyola Campus Kathalguri. Fr. Sunny Jacob, the resource person, very efficiently introduced to us the present scenario of the education system in India and the upcoming effects of NEP in our minority Private Schools.

Fr. James Balmuchu, SJ

JESUIT COMMUNITY BALIPARA

During this Covid-19 period Frs. Elvius, Suresh, Sch. Kanchan and myself, we all were/are a hundred percent. People in general were scared of Corona, and so they followed the government's guide line. The faithful who could not get sacraments like confession, Holy Mass and Holy Communion were hungry for it. As it's relaxing a bit, with the help of the community members of St. Xavier's College, we are fulfilling the inner desires of the people by offering Masses in their centres and grave yards in the morning and evening under the leadership of our Parish Priest, Fr. Elvius. Fr. Suresh, Principal St. John's was missing the children very much because the school campus was noiseless for nearly seven months, meantime the government allowed IX and X classes to reopen from 18 th October onwards. In order to be safe and have classes as well, the parents, students and staff came together to plan. The Students of IX and X come School on alternative days and have their classes under the open shade. Recently the students of class VI to VIII are coming on alternative days. Due to Corona, there was zero fee collection but slowly the situation is improving. Children do not forget that they are still students, therefore, small written tests are given. LKG to V write their test papers at home and classes VI and X write in the school. Meanwhile the Principal and the staff members are busy with "Zero Balance Account" of the students, ordered by the government. Covid-19 gave us the opportunity to do some concrete works. Fr. Elvius initiated and the "Parish Pastoral Council" was formed on 4 th October. Twenty-two pare of couples

were instructed and their marriage was rectified on 11th October. Fr. Suresh began his on-line M.Ed. exam on 14th October. Fr. Benedict went to Solabasti for the recollection, confession and mass for FMA sisters who came over there from five different Communities. Sr. Veronica Murmu, HC, (Vice Principal) went for her annual retreat. This gave an opportunity to Sch. Kanchan Minj to learn a few official matters. Mahogany, Teak and Tambul plants were planted around the playground and in the campus to make more eco-friendly. The School playground is being ploughed in order to be levelled so that when the government fully allows our children can roll in it.

St. John De Britto Parish, Balipara witnessed on February 7, 2021 the priestly ordination of Deacon Martin Tuti for Itanagar Diocese, Arunachal Pradesh. Bishop Thomas of Itanagar ordained him. Emeritus Bishop Gabriel Kujur gave a short sermon but to the point, and Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo of Tezpur Diocese graced with his presence. There were nearly three thousand five hundred faithful, fifty priests and many more religious men and women. Due to small parish campus the Ordination ceremony took place in St. John's School premise. Corona has adversely affected every aspect of our life so also the Church. The faithful in the beginning were discouraged to come to the Church but their hunger for the Sacraments has ever increased. Now as we have entered into the Lenten season under the leadership of our Parish Priest Fr. Elvius Kerketta we have started administering sacraments, especially Confession and Holy Mass in the tea gardens and in the villages. Though Covid- 19 has hindered the whole academic year still Frs. Principal Suresh Aind and Elvius have managed quite well to convince the parents that their children do not lose interest in studies. On their part school authorities arranged online and offline classes and tests. At present the situation seems to be quite okay, of course the academic year is coming to an end, and so all the students are busy giving their final tests. Our students, staff, parents, faithful in the tea garden and villages, and of course Sch. Kanchan, Frs. Suresh, Elvius, myself and our Holy Cross collaborators are Corona free. And this the good news.

Fr. Benedict Lakra, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE SONABHEEL

The new Principal of Degree College, Fr. Erenius Toppo, accompanied by Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur reached St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel on 27 January 2021 evening. Fr. Anand Kerketta received them at Guwahati airport and brought them to Sonabheel. St. Xavier's College Community, Degree College Staff and the students welcomed Fr Erenius Toppo, the new Principal with "Assamese Gamocha" on 30 Jan. 2021. On 10 Feb. 2021 there was a priestly ordination of Deacon Martin Tuti, from Murikuti Bakola village for Itanagar Diocese at St. John De Britto parish Balipara. Our community Fathers were fully involved in preparation of the ordination, its arrangements and conducting the choir. Panipotta youth took the lead for liturgical singing. Deacon Martin Tuti was ordained by Rt. Rev. Bishop John Thomas, Itanagar Diocese and Rev. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, Tezpur Diocese, Bishop Emeritus Gabriel Kujur S.J. concelebrated along with 54 priests from Tezpur cum Itanagar dioceses. The Degree College Staff and students went for a picnic on 11 Feb. to 12 miles at the river Jia Bhoroli close to Sotai Village some 25 km away from the College. All the participants enjoyed the picnic. On 13 Feb. St. Xavier's Junior College organized job orientation programme on Aviation. Mr. Abhilas Simon and Miss Merlin the aviation crew members from Guwahati presented job opportunities in aircraft, airport, airbase, airhostess and its different services rendered in categories. About 150 students from Junior cum Degree College and a few staff members participated. The students were excited to learn about the same. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Fr. John Berchmans Dungdung. St. Xavier's Junior College organized yet another seminar on medical health awareness on "Stroke" On 20th February. A Medical Team of Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur presented a lecture on causes, symptoms and management of stroke. In this health awareness programme about 200 students and staffs from St. Xavier's Junior cum Degree College actively participated. At the end the medical team also served the nutritious snacks to all the participants. St. Xavier's Junior College organized volleyball and basketball matches between the first year and the second year students. The first year students won both the matches. The Senior students

of the Junior college organized the 'Fresher's Day' programme on 26 February and presented a variety of cultural as well as entertainment programme with full gusto and zeal. Daily hard work of Fr. Theodore Baa is bringing colors in the Jesuit Residence flower garden as there are varieties of flowers in their full bloom. It has become the attraction for the students, Staff as well as for the outsiders. Fr. Ranjit Kujur is trying to give a proper shape for upcoming Football- Hockey-Cricket stadium by putting truckloads of soil in the low laying areas. Best wishes to Fr. Ranjit.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ

JESUIT BHAVAN AND GANA CHETANA SAMAJ, TEZPUR

Visitors: Mr. Stephen Lakra, AASAA President came on February 15, 2021 and stayed overnight. Fr. Rakesh SJ from Bana, Arunachal came on February 27, 2021 for the serving of school bus and stayed with us.

First thanksgiving Mass: Fr. Cyril, Fr. Pius, Fr. Xavier, Fr. John Berchmans and Fr. Theodore attend the first thanksgiving Mass of newly ordained priest named Fr. Jeremeush Guria, Tezpur Diocese at Khalihamari, Tezpur on February 01, 2021. Family members and relatives welcomed him with traditional tribal dance and customs at home. Holy Mass began around 11.00 am with the words of welcome by Fr. Clement Ekka, Parish Priest of Cathedral church, Tezpur. Holy Mass saw a big number of invitees from near and far. A short life-sketch of newly ordained priest was presented and he was invited to lead the congregation into the Eucharistic celebration. During his homily he explained the motto "Your are precious in my eyes" Is 43:4 which he had chosen for his ordination. He emphatically said that each one of us has been created in the image of God and thus we are precious and there is a call from God for everybody to take care of his creation. He, too, mentioned about the difficulties, struggles of his life and also the grace and blessing of God which accompanied him in every moment of his life journey. Holy Mass was followed by felicitation which was marked by prayer dance, cultural dance, honouring the guests with Assamese gamosa etc.

We religious and priests were invited for meal while felicitation was still in progress. After having meal came back to our communities. Another first thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Martin Tuti, a newly ordained priest was held at Holy Cross Convent, Bakola. Holy Mass began with the entrance dance. Fr. Jeremeush was the M.C for the ceremony who read out the short life-sketch of Fr. Martin. After this Fr. Martin was invited to lead the congregation into his first thanksgiving Mass. He in his homily disclosed how his life went through a series of difficulties and uncertainties but by the grace of God he could see this day. It was followed by felicitation and meal. Fr. Pius, Fr. Thomas, Fr. Elvius and Fr. Benedict took part in the first thanksgiving Mass.

Handing over: Handing over ceremony between Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur SJ, the outgoing Principal of St. Xavier's College, Tezpur and Fr. Erentius Toppo SJ, the incoming Principal was held on Feb 01, 2021 in the evening in the presence of Fr. Xavier, Fr. Pius, Fr. Cyril, Fr. Theodore, Fr. John Berchmans and Fr. Anand at Principal's office. Handing over ceremony started with a short prayer led by Fr. Xavier. Fr. Pius presided over the ceremony with the words of appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur SJ, outgoing Principal for the valuable contribution he made for the college and words of welcome and best wishes for Fr. Erentius Toppo, SJ, the incoming Principal. Fr. Pradeep handed over to Fr. Erentius Toppo the keys, External hard disk, Registers, all the documents, files and assets of the college. He, too, disclosed the future plan he had for the college. After this sufficient time was given for Fr. Erentius for clarification and queries. Fr. Erentius was given time to speak his mind where he assured of giving his best for the college. Fr. Pius once again thanked Fr. Robert Pradeep for his good work and also expressed best wishes to Fr. Erentius Toppo. Handing over ceremony came to an end with final prayer said by Fr. Xavier Lakra SJ. After this session dinner was served in the house refectory which was enjoyed by all the members of three Jesuit communities working in Tezpur Diocese.

Welcome & farewell dinner: Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur arranged for a dinner on February 02, 2021 in honour of Fr. Erentius Toppo SJ, incoming Principal SXC, Sonabheel and Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur SJ, outgoing Principal of SXC Which saw all the members of Xavier Sadan, Balipara and SXC, Sonabheel. We had first the presided over by Fr. Xavier Lakra, the Vice-President.

prayer service for both of them led by Fr. Cyril. It was followed by formal welcoming of Fr. Erentius Toppo SJ and bidding farewell to Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur SJ. Fr. Pius welcomed with the words of welcome to Fr. Erentius to Assam Mission and Jesuit Bhavan and expressed words of appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur for all the service rendered by him to SXC. Keeping the tradition of Assam Fr. Erentius was welcomed with Assamese gamosa by Fr. Cyril and Fr. Robert Pradeep honoured by Fr. Thomas. It was followed by dinner with saying of the grace by Fr. Thomas and partaking the dinner.

Journey: Fr. Cyril left for Guwahati airport early morning on February 06, 2021 to take flight to Ranchi. He went for the marriage blessing and ordination ceremony. After attending the programmes he came back to community on February 16, 2021 and resumed his office.

Ordination: Ordination of Deacon Martin Tuti, Itanagar diocese hailing from Bakola was held at St. John's school open hall, Balipara. Bishops were received at the school gate and were led to the hall with Adivasi, Boro and Garo dances. Ordination Mass was presided over by Bishop John Thomas DD, Itanagar diocese flanked by Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, Tezpur diocese and Bishop Gabriel Kujur SJ emeritus with a good number of concelebrant priests. Fr. Robert gave commentary for the ceremony and Fr. Thomas read out the short life-sketch of Deacon Martin Tutu. Bishop Gabriel Kujur preached a meaningful sermon suited for the occasion. Bishop Thomas ordained Deacon Martin a priest and he was included in the group of priests through the kiss of peace. Soon after the Mass, group photo session was held in front of the altar which saw a big number of photographers belong to all age groups. Fr. Suresh and Fr. Erenius led the choir with professional touch and helped the congregation to praise God. After the Mass, felicitation was held marked by variety of cultural dances to the liking of everybody. Congratulations to Fr. Elvius, Parish Priest, Fr. Benedict, Fr. Suresh, Scholastic Kanchan and all the Holy Cross Sisters for your hard labour and making this day a grace-filled, memorable and successful day. Everybody was served meal which was enjoyed by all. Another ordination of Deacon Nobin Panna was held on February 14, 2021 at Catholic Church, Salana, Tezpur diocese. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD, Tezpur

presided over the Mass and ordained Deacon Nobin a priest for Claretian order. After the Mass, meal was served followed by felicitation. Fr. Pius and Fr. Thomas along with Sr. Cornelia OSU and Sr. Alma OSU attended the ordination ceremony.

Career guidance and Child Rights: Mr. Anand, Mr. Manohar and Miss Rachel from GCS conducted seminars on Career Guidance for the students of class IX – X and Child Rights for the instructors of study centre at Manas Bansbari on February 11 & 12. From there they moved to Kathalguri for the same purpose of conducting Career Guidance to the students of class IX – X and a workshop on Child Rights for the instructors on February 13, 2021. Students of Dolabari, Kokrajhar also benefitted from career guidance seminar which was held on February 14.

IB enquiry: IB conducted an enquiry of Xaviers Trust, Purvodaya Seva Samaj and Gana Chetana Samaj. In the absence of Fr. Cyril, the Treasurer, we had had a tough time to locate the necessary documents but with the help of Fr. Ajay Minj and Fr. Xavier Lakra managed to furnish the document for submission. A big thanks to Fr. Ajay Minj for his timely help.

Meeting: Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD, Tezpur Diocese convened a meeting of Parish Priests, Provincials, Superiors, Catechists and lay leaders on February 16, 2021 at pastoral centre, Tezpur in view of coming Assembly election in Assam. Mr. Alen, Bishop Thomas emeritus, Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, auxiliary Bishop, Ranchi Archdiocese were the resource persons for the day. All of them clearly highlighted the present situation of our country and appealed the participants to save democracy, constitution and their own rights. Bishop Theodore from his experience of actively involved in preparation for last Assembly election in Jharkhand gave some practical suggestions to defeat the evil forces which are infringing the minority rights and taking away the identity of Adivasis. Talks followed by interaction was very eye opening and enriching. A core group was formed to draw action plan for the coming Assembly election in Assam. Meal was served for all the participants.

General Body meeting and Governing Body meeting of Gana Chetana Samaj, Purvodaya Seva Samaj and Xaviers Trust was held on February 22, 2021 in the evening All

the members were welcomed and honoured with Adivasi gamosa manufactured by GCS. All the points in the agenda were discussed at length and resolution was taken to open accounts in local SBI branch for the said Society and Trusts which are necessary for the purpose of their renewal. Supper was served for all the members which was arranged by Fr. Thomas, the minister of the community.

On February 28, 2021 Fr. Pius attended two meetings at Balipara and Rangapara regarding the coming Assembly election while Fr. Thomas attended a meeting at Pastoral centre for the same purpose. In this meeting an attempt was made to give political awareness through critical analysis of the present situation that is affecting the people of all sections. Meeting was quite fruitful and hope to get good results in coming election.

Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ

DIASPORA

JHAPA, NEPAL

We were happy to have Fr. Jomon for data collection for his PHD study. Fr. Daniel made a short home visit at the end of January. Fr. Amrit Rai and Fr. Augustine visited us before going to Matighara for joint consult. On February 17, 2021 Arrupe Niwas community went to Kathmandu for Region Days. The scholastics had their one day Recollection and togetherness at NJSI Regional Center, Panchkal. We were happy to have Fr. Mathew A, and Mr. Kiran for the internal Auditing of our school and community.

The school started the regular physical classes. It is a wonderful feeling of having all the students back to the school. In the middle of January the school conducted Cycle Test for all the students.

On January 29, 2021 the School teaching and non-teaching staff went for picnic to Kalika Simsar. On February 13, 2021 the Green Club students with their guide Mrs. Babita Gurung had their plant caring and plant beautification activities.

Sch. Wilson Kandulna, SJ

CAMBODIA

The month of February was very busy month for Fr. Manoj Ekka, S.J and Fr. Rajat Hassa Purti, S.J. Fr. Manoj Celebrated his 18 th priestly ordination anniversary and birthday on 29 th January, 2021 in the fullmoon night. Xavier Jesuit School Svay Sisophon. Many Jesuits and collaborators attended the thanksgiving Mass for him. Fr. Manoj and Fr. Rajat attended the annual meeting of all the religious working in the diocese in Siem Reap the city of wonder. They reflected on the theme the Year of St. Joseph. Fr. Rajat gave one day seminar on soft skills to his kindergarten teachers on 2nd February 2021 followed by his own three-day prayers and reflection to celebrate his 15 th priestly ordination anniversary. He arranged a short workshop on how to take care of chicken effectively for the poor farmers in his parish on 10 th February 2021. In the end of the workshop, he gave 5 hens to each family to strengthen their economic life. He felt happy when some people reported to him that the hens already started giving eggs. On 12 th February, 2021 Cambodia celebrated Chinese- Vietnamese New Year. Fr. Manoj was the main celebrant. He wished all the families who have some connection with the Vietnamese and the Chinese origin a happy and prosperous year. On 13 th and 14 th February, 2021 Fr. Rajat welcomed Fr. Manoj and 25 youth from his parish for a two-day youth programme for interaction and exchange of their experiences. Fr. Rajat gave exhortation to the youth to be fourth kind of soil which is fertile to bear fruits in abundance. They had Taize prayer, sharing, visit to the poor families and the Holy Mass together. Ash Wednesday was celebrated with devotion and great desire to enter into the Lenten season. Fr. Manoj organized second step to baptism for 13 catechumens on 21 st February, 2021. They are now ready for the baptism. The two-month long Christmas football cup tournament came to an end despite many difficulties due to pandemic covid-19. This was the effort of Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ with the local youth to bring the youth of the parish together. Altogether 20 teams participated. Congratulations to Fr. Manoj. Cambodia does not have many cases of pandemic covid-19. Thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia for dealing with it very efficiently from the beginning until now. All the people infected by it are quarantined and treated successfully.

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purti, SJ

AMMAN (JORDAN)

On 17th February all over the world the Latin rite churches celebrated the Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season started. In Jordan Greek Orthodox church is in majority. It's agreed here that Easter is observed together with them with all other denominations and churches following the Julian calendar according to Oriental rite.

This year it is a month later than the Latin calendar. We are still in Ordinary Week of the liturgical year. Our Lenten season would begin on 17th March. Christmas is celebrated together on 25th December and not on 6th January as the oriental churches.

In mid-February we had heavy wind and rain. It's a rainy season now. Suddenly the climate changed and there was a heavy snowfall for more than a day all over Jordan.

For the moment, people forgot the Covid-19 restrictions and were seen enjoying and playing with snow.

On 3rd February, one of our Community members Fr. Stephen Curtin (Australia) was diagnosed with Covid-19 positive. It was a mild one yet it took almost twenty-three days to get the negative result. Last week one of our lady co-workers also found corona positive. She was admitted to the hospital immediately as she had a breathing problem. In spite of restrictions and precautions by the Government, Covid-19 doesn't seem to disappear. Every Friday again the 24hrs, a complete lockdown curfew will be imposed.

Fr. Bimal Kr. Kerketta, SJ

ROME

VATICAN RADIO

Vatican Radio celebrated its 90th year of Mission anniversary on 12 th of February. We participated in the thanksgiving mass presided by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the secretary of the Vatican state, in the Basilica of St. Peter. On 19 th Fr. Federico Lombardi, the formal director of Vatican Radio imparted a keynote address to St. Pietro Canisio community, the community of Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka and threw us light on the inception of Vatican Radio and its mission. It is the brain Child of Pope Pix XI born on 12 February 1931 by Guglielmo Marconi. On 24 th the Jesuits involved in the Pope's

Radio spent half a day with Fr. Lombardi who guided us to reflect and evaluate our mission contribution to the Holy See as well as to the universal Church through the Vatican Radio. It was a great moment of renewal and self-retrospection as God invites each one of us to share in his Trinitarian mission, as communicators of good news to the world.

Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka, SJ

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GESÙ

February was a month of transition for the Scholastics of Gesù. During the first half of February, all were engaged in serious studies to do well in the Frist Semester exams. This year, the modes of conducting exams were unique because of prevailing situation. The Professors adapted written as well as oral exams according to the need and the convenience of the students. To conduct fair online exams, a few standard measure were put into practice; whereas strict social distancing and other preventive measures were strictly followed in face-to-face exams. Both the Professors and the students had highly enriching experiences during the exam period. Kuldeep and Sandeep were extremely happy to complete the First Semester successfully. The exams were over by 10 February. After a short Semester break of 3-4 days, the regular Second Semester classes started from 15 February. In normal situation, the Scholastics would have gone for a Living Group outing to different cities of Italy for 5-6 days. However, all the outings were cancelled because of Covid-19. A short vacation in Rome itself was organized which was very pleasant and relaxing. For the regular classes, the students are allowed to come to the University premise based on their Roll Number. For one week, the students with odd Roll Numbers are physically present for the classes, while the students with even Roll Numbers follow the classes online from their respective homes, and vice-versa. The students are happy to be physically present for the lessons.

Apart from keeping up with the tight Academic schedule, the Scholastics are tactfully commit themselves in various formative activities within the Community. The First Year Scholastics started a course on Proclamation of the Word of God, whereas the Second Year Scholastics began a course on the effective Homily Preaching under the careful guidance of Ms. Silvia Fanfani. The Third

Year Scholastics, who will be ordained Deacons on Easter Tuesday 6 April, are being taught Liturgical Services by Massimo Marelli, Rector of Gesù Church. Each course were programmed for an hour once in a week in the community itself. All of them are benefitted a lot from those courses. Like all other would-be Deacons, Nirmal too actively involved himself in preparing himself as well as the community for the Diaconate Ordination and accepted gladly the responsibilities assigned to him for the day. In view of Covid-19, a simple, but meaning ceremony is being planned; however, the day is awaited with great enthusiasm and joy.

COLLEGIO ROBERTO BELLARMINO

The month of February was probably one of the toughest months for the inmates of Collegio Roberto Bellarmino, the community of Deepak and Kulwant. Deepak was about to finish his First Semester exams and was awaiting to start his well-deserved Semester break. Unfortunately, when the days were ripe for the final exams, the community had to be in Home Quarantine. Towards the end of January, there was a Covid-19 Positive case, which increased to four within four days. The Authorities decided to go for Covid-19 test for all the community members. To the awful and sad surprise, 14 were found to be positive. With such discovery, the community was shaken and scared. Strong recommendations were made by the Medical Personnel that the entire community be placed under Quarantine, which brought the community life to a halt. Strong directions and guidelines were given to avoid the further surge in Positive cases; wearing of masks and the use of gloves while touching anything in common were made compulsory. Common Masses and Social Hours were cancelled and the presence of the community members in the refectory for meals was drastically restricted with one person per table, the House Library was closed down, moving out of the house, even if one was negative, was strictly forbidden, and all were asked to stay in the personal rooms as much as possible. The community was kept under the regular observation of a Medical Team with Covid-19 tests done on regular basis. After more than 25 days of home Quarantine, thanks be to God, all have tested Negative. Those who had tested positive continue to be in isolation even though their latest test result showed Negative. Now, the others are allowed to go

out for a solo walk and to the University for the classes. Amidst all those frightful days, Deepak is happy with his performances in the First Semester exams; and now, that he is gradually mastering the Italian language, hopes to do still better in the Second Semester. And, there is no doubt whatsoever!

Kulwant had left for Ranchi on 7 January to concretize his doctoral theme and to collect more materials on the Servant of God Herman Rasschaert. After participating in the family function on 25 January, he visited Gerda and Kutungia for further study and research on Rasschaert's life and mission. He met Rev. Valentine Kerketta, Parish Priest of Kutungia, and Rev. Jailas Kullu, and exchanged with the ongoing work on the Beatification process of the Servant of God. Kulwant was extremely happy to know that under the able guidance and inspiring leadership of Rev. Valentine Kerketta, the Episcopal Delegate, the Diocesan Inquiry Board is carrying out the Beatification Process with indefatigable energy, conviction and enthusiasm. As a result, so far the Inquiry Board has interviewed 17 witnesses. The Board is determined to finish the Diocesan Process by the end of 2023. Having visited Gerda and Kutungia, Kulwant spent nearly two weeks in Manresa House. He was very much impressed by the hospitality of Manresa community. All Young as well as the Experienced Jesuits encouraged him to do better in his life. After spending nearly 50 days in the Province, he came back to Rome safe and sound on 27 February. However, keeping in mind his own safety and the safety of the community, he was immediately put into 10 days of Home Quarantine. Knowing the fact that the whole world and few Jesuits of Ranchi Province are under the debilitating impact of Corona Virus, Kulwant extends his prayerful support to all saying: "Wound is the place of healing; healing is the place of grace; grace is the place of God and God is the place of everything".

GENERAL CURIA

On 5 February, the General Curia called for a meeting of all the Jesuits and the lay-collaborators in order to initiate the preparation for the Apostolic plan of the General Curia 2022-2026. All assembled in the Congregation Aula and spent time in prayer for half an hour. Then R.P. General spoke on the theme "Why Apostolic Plan for Curia?" He highlighted some points saying that the starting point for all is to listen attentively

to the Holy Spirit and allow it to make everyone anew. He put to the fore the need to recognize the call to see all things new in Jesus Christ. He emphasized that the life and the mission of the Society of Jesus has undergone drastic changes all over the world with the implementation of GC36, the UAPS and with the prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic. The General Curia is disposed at the service of this mission. Therefore, all have to examine the processes and the structures in order to improve, and change them in such a way to be able to develop a better planning for the mission. Further he announced that every six weeks there will be meetings of the entire staff, Jesuits and lay for continued reflection and sharing. All need to go forward step by step praying, reflecting, listening and sharing together in a new way. After the introduction and explanation given by R.P. Geneal, John Dardis, Discernment and Planning Counsellor, briefed the different phases of the nine round of discussions in nine different linguistic groups. The month of January was the first phase for the preparation. In the second phase, February to March, all are expected to express their gratitude to God who has been working amongst all for the last four years 2017-2020. In the third phase, April to June, there will be a review of the last Curia Plan of 2017-2020 based on two points: the general experiences of consolations and challenges. Later, the possible priorities for the Curia will be discussed, the emerging challenges will be shared, and the preferences will be fixed on those discussions and sharing. And in the last phase, July to September, the Apostolic plan of the Curia 2022-26 will be finalized and declared. Anselm is convinced that such a process of communitarian discussion and sharing would help all in renewing and strengthening the spirit of the Society of Jesus for the service of faith and Christ's mission.

GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

Gregorian University has successfully managed so far in keeping safe the University premise from the Covid-19 by strict observance of social distancing, the use of masks and the regular sanitization of the class rooms and the other common places. The temperature measuring machines have been installed at the entrance, which does not allow anyone to step inside the premise if he/she has a body temperature more than 37.5 Degree Centigrade. The Professors are now have acclimatized themselves with various modes of teaching. Two modes

of conducting exams – online and physical presence – were profoundly enriching to both the Professors and to the students. Now, it is almost certain that the Second Semester classes will be conducted on two modes – the students will take turn to come to the University according to their odd-even Roll Numbers. Some students are still held up in their country of origin; and hence, the online classes are highly beneficial to them. Probably, the ubiquitous Covid-19 and the subsequent uncertainties have given rise to new and innovative methods of learning and teaching, which will go a long way in defining also the student-teacher relationship. Some positive notes amidst despair and fright arising out of uncertainties!

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

PARIS, FRANCE

Bonjour à tous!

Nous souhaitons à tous une bonne saison de Carême (Season of Lent) We began the new month of February as the days of giving thanks and sharing our different experiences and information with one another by the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration. We continued to attain the French language classes in different places and schools. On 7 th February there was a sharing on the theme of Art and music by three scholastics Schs. John, Christian and Pierre -Alexender, which was really amazing and inspiring. It was very much informative and experience-based sharing. We benefitted a lot from their open and enriching sharing. On 8 th of February, we began our 2 nd Semester in CATHO (Institut Catholique de Paris- ICP). Before joining and beginning the regular classes in ICP, we had to write the online test. Now we continue our regular classes at ICP. We have 3 days classes in the campus and 2 days classes on Zoom. There was holiday at centre Sevres University from 8th February to 13 February. So, some of the scholastics Went to spend their holidays in other cities of France. But for the Student of ICP there was no holiday so specially the first-year student has to stayed in the community. Those who had gone out for holidays they came to the community on 13 th of February with many

different experiences and fresh mind and heart. On 15th of February, we had special community meeting in the view of preparation and sharing of the Lent. The different country, culture and tradition practices of lent was the main point of sharing. It was very meaningful and eye-opening sharing about the practices of Lent. Some of new propositions and practices for saison de Carême (Season of Lent) was introduce to each other. Finally, we agreed and decided to practice some of practices of Lent; Which are one day (Friday) of fasting, special adoration or prayer service and almsgiving to the poor and needy. It was necessary and personally that we do good works in whatever ways possible for us. On 17th of February Mercredi des Cendres (Ash Wednesday) was celebrated in different and unique way. We all participated in the common holy Mass. The ash was not put on the forehead but priest poured the it on the head because of the pandemic Covid-19. On 21st of February there was a sharing on the theme Music by Fr. Noel and sch. Aimé; which is so fantastic and heart touch for me. On 22nd of February we replanned and proposed some of new changes and practice for the Lent, which was basically at the community level. At present we have begun our 2nd semester in the ICP, so we have regular classes throughout the week till the afternoon. Sch. Peter continues his classes with Mr. Arnauld 3 days in a week, Mr. Arnauld MIOLLIS (FRANCE) who is the former Army retired. It is very difficult and critical situation the cases of Covid-19 in still increasing day after day. In France also many Jesuit communities and affected by this pandemic. It is Sad to inform you that the six communities of France in severally affected by the Covid-19. The number of covid-19 cases goes high and low. So, it sometime difficult to decide and make a clear decision for everyone. Still, we are in the confinement (Lockdown). Though some relief and freedom in given by the government but we have to always abide by the rule and regulations of the government. The government and all the people concern are trying to control and overcome this situation of Covid-19. The medical facilities are available for all the people and Covid -19 vaccination is given to the affected people and those who are above 75 years old.

Sch. Sudhir Lakra, SJ

GUYANA

The presentation of the Lord was observed as the Religious Day. One day recollection was arranged by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB and Sr. Mary Harper, OSU to mark the day of consecrated life for all the priests and the religious men and women of the Diocese of Georgetown.

The manifestation of the conscience with Fr. Peter McIsaac, SJ, the Regional Superior, was first time by Zoom. We, Fr. Ronald Fernandes, SJ, Fr. Paulose Vellacada, SJ, Fr. Amar Bage, SJ, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ and Fr. Edwin Anthony, SJ, the Interior Mission team- gathered together in St. Ignatius Mission Lethem, Rupununi for the exhortation on 8th February. It was a gracious moment to connect ourselves.

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Joseph Raj, SJ after rendering his four years of generous service to the people of Guyana, is going back to Kolkatta, his home province on 11th March, to take up the new responsibility. Along with Fr. Amar Bage, SJ and Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, he paid a short visit to the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Angela House, Karasabai on 8th February. Sr. Sosan A. Kujur, OSU, Sr. Helena Soreng, OSU, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU and Sr. Nishi Susana Kujur, OSU expressed their deep sense of gratitude for his valuable service and wished him all the success in his new mission in the province.

Honorable Mr. Mark A. Phillips, the Prime Minister, and Honorable Pauline Sukhai, M.P. Minister of Amerindian Affair of Guyana, visited Kurukabaru, North Pakaraimas on 18th February. They gave away the investment fund for Job creation, income generating and infrastructural development projects in Amerindian Villages in the region.

The Lay Ministers' Formation Lenten retreat started virtually on 20th February by Br. Paschal Jordan, OSB and Fr. John Packiaraj, SJ. The good number of lay ministers are participating in it and getting benefit. Seminars on the sacrament of matrimony were arranged in different villages to understand the beauty of family life and the role of family to build the community.

On 23rd February, the 51st Republic Day of Guyana was celebrated as Mashramony day (Carnival Day) to mark one people, one nation and one destiny.

In J.W.L. (Jesuit Worldwide Learning), the first batch of the learning facilitator programme was successfully completed. They will be graduating in the first week of March 2021.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

OBITUARY

FR. ANTHONY DOONGDOONG, SJ
(7 APRIL 1933 – 20 FEBRUARY 2021)



*E*nergy and enthusiasm in prayer, life and work epitomized the life and works of Fr Anthony Doongdoong, the only odd spelling of surname found among the Kharias. Born to Mr Paulus Dungdung and Mrs Mariam Soreng on 7 April 1933 at Bindhaintoli of erstwhile

Samtoli Parish, young Anthony pursued his early education in Samtoli. Academically bright, Anthony moved to St John's High School, Ranchi and stayed at the Apostolic School with the noble intention of becoming a priest.

His friends often nicknamed fair skinned Anthony as "Fransisi" (Frenchman). He did not mind it. During his high school days, he exhibited his proclivity for science, an orientation that his mentors loved to promote. Anthony, then, went on to do his I. Sc., and he was proud of it. He also prayed for his vocation in front of Our Lady of the Poor installed on the Cathedral premises. He joined the novitiate on 30 July 1957 at St Stanislaus College, Sitagarha together with Albert Dungdung, John Ekka, Walter Kongari, John Lakra, Joseph Lakra, Anil Mitra (CCU), Cedric Rebello (CCU), Carolus (Charles) Soreng, James Tirkey (MAP), Vincent Topno, Mathias Toppo of whom John Lakra and Walter Kongari (JAM) are alive. Br Angelus Xess was also his co-novice but Fr Martin Topno mentored the Brothers. Well-schooled in Jesuit life by Fr Francis Quirijnen, his novice Master, Anthony pronounced his first vows in 1959, and stayed at SSC for his Juniorate.

He was back to Ranchi to do his B. Sc. from St Xavier's College. After his philosophy he enjoyed

teaching science during his regency at St Xavier's School, Ambikapur. He was ordained on 24 March 1969 at St Mary's School, Samtoli. His theology during the post Vatican II era proved easy for him; he took his exams in English, not in Latin. However, he did have to learn Latin because soon after his theology, Anthony moved to Gregorian University, Rome to pursue his Licentiate and Doctorate in moral theology. Someone seems to have commented that an Adivasi like him would take years to complete his doctorate. Anthony took up the challenge and completed all his studies in three years!

However, his achievement came with a cost. Anthony suffered from both mental and physical fatigue. Sensing the problem, Fr Philip Ekka, then Provincial, sent him for tertianship at Vinayalaya, Bombay. On his return to Ranchi Fr Anthony took up teaching moral theology at St Albert's College. Again, like his Gregorian days, he would forego sleep and meals for books. Fr Jules Backaert had regained his mental health when appointed Rector at Sitagarha. Would it work for Fr Anthony too? Fr Philip thought so. Fr Anthony found himself as Rector at Sitagarha in 1977-1978.

Teething problems at Sitagarha, both managerial and otherwise, affected Tony's health. Again, Fr Philip thought that Tony would be healthy in the company of his batch mate. So, Fr Tony found himself in Rengarih in 1979 as assistant Parish Priest. He lived in Rengarih until 1993 and assisted Fr Albert Dungdung (1978-1982), Fr Cornelius Ba'a (1982-1987), Fr Albert Dungdung (1987-1991). Fr Alexander Beck (1991-1992). Enthusiastic and energetic as he was, come rain, winter or summer, he always availed himself for administering sacraments, especially anointing the sick. He walked through the muddy fields or thick forest if his cycle or motorcycle did not move, much ahead of the person who came to take him. On one such occasion, well past midnight he walked to Gariabahal, a village in the forest,

to anoint a dying woman in her travail. Fr Tony put on his stole and began to pray. The baby was born! Both mother and the child were safe. "The power of the priest's stole and of prayer!" the people said. Tony himself had survived a major accident.

He worked in Keondtanr (1993–1997) and Kohima Region (1998–2000). He wished to stay in Assam but his health issues brought him back to Ranchi. He stayed at Tarunoday as assistant librarian and spiritual director (2000–2007). His last assignment was in Patrachauli (2007–2010) parish. He came to Constant Lievens Infirmary in 2011 at Manresa House and remained there till the end of his life. On 18 February 2021 he was admitted to Seva Nilaya Health Centre at Ara Gate for typhoid. His Rector Fr Amrit Lakra thought he would be back to the community in a week's time. Quite used to administering the sacrament of the sick, even during his last sickness he made frequent nocturnal visits to the ailing Deacon Sandeep Kujur at the same health centre. On 20 February, he looked restless. Fr Raymond Kerketta, Socius to the Provincial, assured the sister in-charge to send a novice to be by his side. But Tony died of a massive heart attack at 11:45 a.m.

Despite intermittent psychosomatic illness, Tony seldom lost his élan of life. He troubled the dullards like the bedbug even on what others considered unimportant. As a child of Bindhaintoli, he belonged to Samtoli, Barwadih (since 1963) and to Bindhaintoli (since 1987) parishes but he talked much about Rengarh; so people thought he was from Rengarh. His lengthy sermons treasured his desire to promote the faith. An ardent admirer of Louis Cardon, the Biru Mission pioneer, Tony wished to have a shrine at Bandipahar, the launching place of the mission. He had the people dig the supposed grave of Cardon's horse only to find some human hair! He treasured intellectual inquisitiveness, banter, energy and enthusiasm to work with

determination and learn new things. He appreciated the intellectually gifted persons exhorted young men and women religious to excel in life. He authored three books, two on the Kharias of Chotanagpur, and one on Fr Louis Cardon. He wanted to have his doctoral thesis published. He travelled all around in search of it but could not recall the name of the Jesuit to whom he gave the only copy of his thesis. Well, Tony, may God publish the doctoral thesis of your life in heaven!

Fr. Francis Minj, SJ



- Fr. Anthony Doongdoong, SJ (RAN) 87/63 passed away on Saturday, 20 February 2021 in Seva Nilaya Hospital, Namkum.
- Bp. Linus Nimal Gomes (KOL) expired on 27 Feb. at St. Xavier's College Infirmary, Kolkata.
- Fr Vasco de Rego SJ (GOA) 96/75 passed away on 17th February, in Pune.
- Fr. Oscaar Rozario, SJ (BOM) 78/63 passed away on 28th Feb. at Holy Family hospital, Mumbai.
- Fr. John Vattanky, SJ (KER) 89/70 passed away on 22nd Feb. at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.
- Ankit Minj, 15 yrs old, cousin of Sch. Erencius Minj expired on 02 March.
- Agapit Minj, 78 yrs old, uncle of Fr. Bimal Minj, expired at Malbaza Medical Hospital on 02 March.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



MARCH

- 01 Ba'a Roshan
 05 Kujur Frederick
 Xess Ravi Bhushan
 06 Lakra Ranjit Walter
 Lakra Pryatam
 Beng Albert
 07 Kindo Alexius
 Minj Celestine
 09 Lakra Sudhir
 10 Kerketta Rohit Paul
 Kujur Habil
 11 Kullu Anil
 12 Lakra Suman
 14 K.C. Philip
 16 Ddungdung Christopher
 Tirkey John
 17 Barla Henry
 19 Horo Sibil Joseph
 Soreng Jaywant
 20 Nag Bimal
 Soreng Wilson
 21 Lakra Benedict
 Beck Anand Amar

- 23 Bilung Brice
 24 Kullu Ranjit
 25 Soreng George
 27 Tete Nicholas
 29 Kiro Benedict
 Bhanwra, Samir
 30 Bilung Tej Kumar

APRIL

- 01 Minj Ajit
 02 Lakra Polycarp
 Ekka Britius
 Minj Ajay Arun
 03 Minj Praveen
 04 Ddungdung Anthres
 05 Kerketta Sameer
 06 Bage Anugrah Amar
 Barla James
 07 Ekka Vital
 Ekka Anthony
 Kerketta Anand Kr.
 08 Tete Felix Prakash
 Orea Sudhir

- 09 Guria Cyril
 Bara Suman
 Bara Pradeep
 Emmanuel Kujur
 11 Toppo Alexius
 Kullu Praveen
 12 Topno Nicholas
 13 Tete James Pascal
 14 Kandulna Ashok
 Xalxo Pius
 Tirkey Justin
 Toppo Binod
 15 Ekka Ravindra
 16 Mathias Joseph B.
 20 Kerketta Sikander
 23 Bara Sandeep
 24 Bara Pramod
 Kandulna Wilson
 Xalxo Saban Bibnod
 26 Minj Francis
 Toppo Amrit
 28 Kawa Mathew
 29 Surin Zacharias
 30 Baxla Emmanuel

NOTE: The last date to send/submit your articles for RANCHI BULLETIN is 25th of EVERY MONTH. Kindly send your articles on the following ID: medardsj@gmail.com either on or before 25th of EVERY MONTH. RANCHI BULLETIN EDITOR: MEDARD XALXO, SJ