

Dumka - Raiganj Province

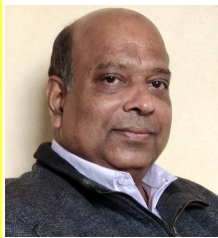


May 2021

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 519

Fr Provincial's Message



Dear Brothers, it has been a very difficult fortnight for all of us. The 'tsunami' of the second wave of Covid-19 has swept us off our feet as it has affected all our countrymen. We were stunned into total silence and help-

lessness as we were confronted with an increasing number of Covid-19 positive cases among members of the Province and with the sudden loss of three of our companions. We felt helpless as we frantically searched for better health-care facilities, for essential medicines and for the scarce oxygen cylinders for our sick brothers. We are deeply saddened by the loss of two of our companion Priests of Dumka Diocese, by the loss of fellow-religious and of lay collaborators and of so many of our people. We share in the pain and sense of loss of our Jesuit brethren of other Provinces, as well as in the loss of several Priests and Religious in the Subcontinent who succumbed to the deadly corona virus. Never in our life-time have we experienced a health crisis of such epic proportions. We share the pain and agony, helplessness and hopelessness of millions of our countrymen and women.

It is in such a time of gloom and helplessness that we are called to draw inspiration, courage and strength from our father St Ignatius Loyola whose 500th anniversary of his conversion we will observe on 20 May 2021. The cannon ball that shattered his leg at Pamplona set in motion a process that culminated at Manresa where God shattered Inigo's ego in his search of 'vain-glory'. Through that 'shattering' process, God remoulded Ignatius into a fit instrument in his divine hands. Ignatius encountered various dead-end situations when his plans did not materialize and he would ask himself 'What ought I to do?' 'What is God, now, inviting me to do?' It dawned

on him that through all that happened to him, God's plan was unfolding for him to follow. And we, like Ignatius, are invited to discern, '*what is God inviting us to do in this uncertain and challenging situation?*' God may be calling us to take care of our life by living more responsibly and by avoiding what could be harming our health. Again, God may be calling us to take better care of ecology which is being violated and destroyed indiscriminately. Or again, God may be calling us to shore up the crumbling infrastructure of health-care for our people. One of our companions messaged to me recently, "*...hope is our ally, God is our strength.*" We move ahead with this hope and trust in God. It is this strong faith and trust in the Lord that energizes me as I start my mission of leadership of the Province. Finally, I thank you, Fr Varghese Palli, my predecessor, for your very spiritual, affective and wisdom-filled leadership of the Province for the last seven years. May God continue to bless you as you take up a new mission. The Province of Dumka-Raiganj remains indebted to you!

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

The World Finance: Let us pray for those in charge of finance will work with Governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

New Provincial Installed

On 27 April 2021, Rev. Fr Stephen C. Koitharayil SJ took over as Provincial Superior of Dumka-Raiganj Province during Holy Mass at 11:00 am in the Chapel of Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. In the presence of a few of our Province men, the outgoing Provincial, Fr Varghese Pallipalakatt SJ, presided over the Eucharist with the incoming Provincial Fr K.C. Stephen by his side. Both were flanked by the two senior-most Jesuits, Frs P. Aquilina SJ and J. Gauci Sacco SJ. During his homily, Fr Varghese recalled with gratitude the cordial response

he always got from his Provincemen. After the homily, the Socius, Fr Stany Pinto SJ, read out Very Reverend Fr Arturo Sosa SJ's decree of appointment. Then Fr K.C. Stephen stood before the altar and recited the Nicene Creed. After the intercessory prayers, Frs Varghese and Stephen exchanged places. The latter continued with the Mass. After Holy Communion, the New Provincial shared his thoughts briefly: "When I received the call to become Provincial, I felt afraid and hesitant. But then I turned to the Lord in prayer and felt strengthened." Before the final blessing, Fr Paul Aquilina reminded the Provincemen that the Provincial is the visible sign of Christ in our midst and our relationship with him is one of faith. Then, in the name of the Province he thanked Fr Varghese for his seven years of dedicated service at the helm; for accompanying the Provincemen, personally caring for them in their physical and spiritual wellbeing and for promoting education of the young. Fr Aquilina proceeded to welcome the new Provincial, Fr K.C. Stephen, in the name of our Province. He wished him God's abundant blessings assuring him of our support and prayers. Father Stephen, then, imparted the final blessing. With that the liturgy of Installation came to a close. Courage, Fr. K.C.! Lead us on!! **(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).**

Thanks & Farewell to the Outgoing Provincial, Fr Varghese Palli SJ!

We, the members of Dumka-Raiganj Province, do thank the Almighty for the many graces He deigned to shower on us and our mission through the selfless dedication of Rev. Fr Varghese Pallippalakatt SJ. We wish to thank him for the personal care he always showed to each member regarding his health of body and soul.

Truly Ignatian in spirit, Fr Varghese Palli, a man of prayer and integrity and wisdom, sought to lead the Province in discerning the will of God in carrying out its mission. Quiet and hardworking by nature, he made sure to establish more schools in strategic places such as Jirulia, Rasikpur, and Sewlidanga, to guarantee the formation of children and youth for the uplift of tribals and other weaker sections of society. When visiting our schools and hostels, he checked on the diet and health of hostel children among other things. He visited Parish centres as often as the need arose to encourage our companions in their ministry or help them in their difficulties. Regular in prayer, he led the brethren by example in their union with God. We pray

for and wish him the Lord's choicest blessings for his future ministries. **(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ).**

Appointments by Fr Provincial

Fr Varghese Palli: Principal, St Xavier's School, Sewlidanga, Kotalpakur, (Temporary residence at Jibonpur)

Fr A. John Robinson: Treasurer, St Xavier's, Maharo & Teacher at St Xavier's School.

Fr Jesuraj Poobal: Head of Commerce Department, St Xavier's College

Fr Ignatius Manjhi: Asst. Province Treasurer: Treasurer of Chotparua Jesuit Society, Raiganj

Fr Peter Marandi: Parish Priest, Murguni

Fr M. Arokiasamy: Parish Priest, Chilimpur

Fr Ermelius Kujur: Father In-charge, Salti

Fr Samuel Kisku: Treasurer, Chilimpur (Additional responsibility)

Fr Jacob Chinnappan: Principal, St Xavier's School, Baghmara, Purnea

Fr Philip Hembrom: Teacher, St Xavier's School, Baghmara, Purnea

Fr Nisthamani Toppo: Director, Loyola Hostel, Mundli

Fr Peri Moses: Director, Deep Shikha, Karon

Fr Thomas Kattathara: Director, C.T.C., Torai

Fr Jacob Hembrom: Asst. Director, ATCC, Bhognadih

Fr Hillarius Anand Tigga: Loyola Sadan, Sonabari, Raiganj

Fr Francis Murmu: Treasurer, Karon (Additional)

Fr Arulsamy Britto: Tertianship, Sitagarha

NB: The transfers are to take place latest by 1st June 2021.

Diaconate Ordination of Sch Joseph Soren

Amidst the present Covid-19 turmoil on the earth, God has been very gracious to give the Church seven deacons to serve His people. Sch Joseph Soren of our Province, was ordained deacon on 1st May 2021 in St Ignatius Church in Paris, France, along with six other fellow Jesuits, one of whom was from Mumbai and the others were two from Madagascar, and one each from Rwanda, USA, and Germany. The Covid-19 protocol was observed so that each ordinand could invite up to 10 people only for the ceremony of ordination. His Excellency Rev. Mgr. Laurent Le Boule'h, Bishop of Coutance and Avranches (France), presided over a solemn and meaningful celebration with the choir creating a prayerful atmosphere with melodious singing and the litanies. An Indian flavour was added with the

performance of Arti in Sanskrit during the doxology. After the Eucharistic celebration, the deacons with their invitees had their felicitation programme and fellowship meal in their respective communities. In the felicitation programme, D-R Province members felicitated Deacon Joseph Soren with 'Janga arup' (washing of the feet), 'Chandan tika', a bouquet of flowers, a shawl and a Santali song. Our performance was well appreciated by all present. A delicious Indian meal was prepared by Schs Pradeep Albuquerque and Vinay Besra. During the meal, a PPT, presented by the superior of the community, helped us know more about Deacon Joseph and it was well appreciated. The decorated dining hall added to the joy of the celebration. Thanks are due to the community of Saint Jean de Brébeuf for making the day a memorable one indeed. Hearty congratulations to newly-ordained Deacon Joseph Soren. (*Sch Manoj Soren SJ and Companions*).

Easter Celebration

The Majlisur community busied itself in preparing people to celebrate Easter meaningfully. The Holy Week was a time to contemplate on the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus and then eventually to join in the celebration of the Risen Lord. The Easter Mass was celebrated in all its solemnity following Covid-19 protocols such as sanitizing oneself, maintaining social distance and wearing masks. (*Sch Vinil D'Souza SJ*).

Easter Triduum in ICU

Two Scholastics, Davit Tirkey and Habil Murmu, and Mr Sudu, the driver of St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, courageously brought me from Sahibganj to Ranchi. It was 31 March 2021. I was already tested Covid positive. So, they admitted me in Medanta Hospital near Ormanjhi. It was around 3.30 pm. The car stood near the Gate No. 2. As I could not walk, a wheel chair was brought. Seated on the wheel chair, I was led to the ICU and by 4:00 pm I was on the bed connected with all equipments for the supply of oxygen. It was difficult to believe that the whole scene was real and not a dream or a scene from a movie. I was calm and peaceful. Though I could not give any message to anyone for 72 hours (Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening), I felt spiritually energized. I felt as if I celebrated my Easter Triduum in the ICU in a very unique way.

As my oxygen level increased by the evening, I began to breathe properly and lying on the bed I remembered that it was Maundy Thursday. I contemplated the scene

of the upper room. I visualized Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the breaking of the bread. I deeply felt that the same Lord had anointed me to be his priest and to serve his people. Then, I imagined myself seated in the confessional and recalled my sins and asked the Lord to cleanse me and heal me. Finally, I recalled the sins of humanity and said the prayer of absolution and then I slept peacefully.

On the following day, it was Good Friday. I remained confined to my bed in the ICU. Gradually, I saw five more patients were admitted in the ICU ward. Nurses were busy assisting them to relax and maintain silence. I glanced around and heard their groaning. I asked the Lord to bless them and heal them. I contemplated on Jesus' agony in the garden and prayed the same prayer of surrender: "Father, if it is possible, take away this cup of suffering away from me; not as I will, but as you will." I was becoming weaker since there was pain in my chest. I could not cough forcefully. My sugar was high and the nurses began to give me insulin four times a day, before each meal and prior to my going to bed. When the last insulin was given, I remembered, it was Good Friday. So, I visualized Jesus hanging on the cross. He was tired, weak, thirsty, lonely, and helpless yet He cried to the Father and surrendered himself totally in his hands. So, I too surrendered myself in the Father's hands and slept. On the Holy Saturday around 10:00 am a physiotherapist came to see me and knowing that I had pain on the chest, prepared me for some special exercises. He asked me to lower my legs on the side of the bed. He gave a plastic dustbin and tissue papers in my hands. Then he asked me to bend forward and he began to beat my back as if it was a pair of tablas. It was an experience of surging love. God knew that it was painful yet it was necessary for healing. I began to cough and my mouth was filled with phlegm. For a moment I struggled for breath and I felt as if I was falling. I was made to relax on the bed and once again the oxygen helped me to feel better.

On the Easter morning Dr Tapas Sahoo visited me and having examined told me that I would be moved out of the ICU the following day. The physiotherapist came and repeated the same exercises. My throat and lungs gradually cleared and I began to feel better by Easter evening. I visualized the Risen Christ and He filled my heart with joy and peace. The following day, as I was being shifted from the ICU, I felt as if the Risen Christ led me out of tomb and gave me a new life, a second birth. (*Fr Dayal Lakra SJ*).

Jeevan Dhara

As part of the outreach programme of Jeevan Dhara, Fr Tom Kottackal SJ had gone to Amghatta to guide a seminar and retreat for 25 West Bengal Diocesan seminarians in February, and to Visakhapatnam to direct a retreat for 41 Cloistered Sisters of 'Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration Monastery' in March.

Fr Deonis Baghwar SJ, the President of the CRI unit of Raiganj Diocese, organized a Lenten recollection for its members at Jeevan Dhara on 21 March. Forty two members took part in the recollection preached by Fr George Uthirakulam SJ on the theme "Unselfing the Self." Besides this, he preached an eight-day retreat to four Sisters of Divine Saviour from 21 to 29 March, and currently he is preaching a long retreat to four Tertiaries and 22 novices of the Congregation of Theresian Carmelites from 4 April to 1 May.

Fr K.C. Stephen was here from 11 to 15 April to pack up his things and proceed to Jisu Jaher to take up his new responsibility as the new Provincial. We wish him all the best, and our prayers. (*Fr Thomas Kottackal SJ*).

St Xavier's College Toppers

The odd-semester examination results were published by SKMU, Dumka, this month: Sem-III and Sem-V students of all the streams, from St Xavier's College, Maharo, achieved excellent grades. Students from the Chemistry Department got 10 SGPA and ranked among the toppers at the university level. Similarly, students from the Zoology and English departments achieved 9 SGPA. This wonderful academic feat of the students has made the College proud and is a manifestation of its ideal of all-round excellence in curricular and co-curricular subjects. The College aims at maintaining this level of academic excellence and to excel its own records in the coming sessions. (*Mr Himadhri*).

Election Duty

Frs Blasius Soreng SJ and Ajit Paul Kujur SJ after successfully completing their election duty are back in the community safe and sound. They go into self-quarantine for 14 days, a step taken to prevent infection and to protect the community. (*Sch Vinil D'Souza SJ*).

Career Counselling Seminar

St Xavier's College, Maharo, organized a Seminar on Career Counselling on 26 March 2021. The programme was conducted by *Mahendra's Training Institute*, a new venture on career orientation and coaching, in Dumka District. The programme began with a prayer followed by

the keynote address of Rev.Fr.Dr.Stephen Raj SJ, Principal of the College. He urged the students to work hard at their studies and to choose wisely a successful future career. Then, Mahendra's team, one by one, addressed the students and presented the various aspects of the 'career' topic. In the first session, the crucial importance of selecting one's career after college studies which in turn plays a major role in shaping the future of the youth of the nation. Then, there are issues and challenges to reckon with in studies, like stress, confusion and social pressure while one is opting for a career of one's choice. These issues and challenges often mar the dreams of the young generation at the very beginning. The next session focused on the jobs available in private and public sectors.

The necessary steps to take to land any job, in the private or public sector were spelt out. A large number of students from all departments attended the programme and benefited a lot from it. A formal vote of thanks and prayer were delivered by IQAC Coordinator Rev.Fr.Dr.David Raj SJ. In his vote of thanks, Fr David Raj said that Xavier's Institution strives for a value-based education that would enable and empower its students to become successful and respectable citizens of the nation and society. (*Mr Himadhri*).

Teachers Vaccinated

On April 5th, St Xavier's school, Sahibganj, arranged for its staff the first dose of vaccination against Covid-19. The teaching as well as the non-teaching staff of the school including the Jesuits and the nuns, who are 45 years and above, were vaccinated under the supervision of a medical team that arrived. The family members of the staff, too, were invited to get vaccinated. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Covid-19 Isolation Centres

In the Pandemic that is raging unabated all over, 23 of our brothers who tested positive and 2 with Covid symptoms but tested negative were assigned by Fr Provincial to isolate themselves and be taken care of in the St Xavier's Sahibganj dispensary. Six of them were kept in Mariampahar in the large and empty floor meant for retreats. The Province is grateful to both St Xavier's and Mariampahar communities and Sr Pushpa DSH for their tireless service. Most of ours who fell sick were directed to Saint Luke's Hospital run by the CTC Sisters at Dakaita in the Diocese of Bhagalpur. The

Province is very grateful to the dedicated and caring Nuns, their hospital staff and in particular to Dr.Sr Divya, MBBS, MD. She inspires confidence in her patients because of her care and expert medication that helps in the recovery of the patients. Many people are flocking to the hospital in search of healing. *(Fr Paul Aquilina SJ)*.

School Re-opens

On April the 6th, St Xavier's school, Sahibganj, re-opened for its new Academic Year 2021-22 on with Offline Classes for the Classes VIII-XII. But the current situation in India, owing to the second wave of the Pandemic, prevented the school from continuing with its Offline Classes. So, the gates of the school remain closed for Offline Classes for an indefinite period of time. The School has resumed its Online Classes for all the students right from the Primary to the Senior Section. *(Mr Shyamal Palmer)*.

Health Bulletin, St Xavier's Sahibganj

Two Staff Members of St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, recently were operated at two different hospitals. Mr Sonu, one of the members of the Techvein Team, underwent open heart surgery at AMRI hospital, Kolkata, while Mrs Anamika Sarkar, a teacher of the Primary Section, had to undergo a major operation at Vellore Hospital in Tamil Nadu. Since both expenses were beyond their means, the school stood by them, providing financial assistance to them. Teachers, too, contributed generously. Thanks be to God, both operations were successful and both teachers are now heading back to Sahibganj. *(Mr Shyamal Palmer)*.

From Inigo Sadan, Bangalore

On 19 March 2021, we celebrated at Inigo Sadan, the solemnity of St Joseph, who is the patron saint of the well-known St Joseph's College in Bengaluru. The four academic units that make up St Joseph's College, gathered at Inigo Sadan for the celebration. A solemn High Mass, presided over by the Provincial of Karnataka Rev.Fr Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz SJ was celebrated in the auditorium. The choir, led by the Inigo Sadan scholastics, was well appreciated. After Holy Mass, we sat for an interactive breakfast and an inspirational talk by Fr Jossey D'Mello SJ, Socius of the Provincial. Unfortunately, the second and third year collegian scholastics were absent because they were busy with their midterm exams and those of the first year were having online regular classes. *(Sch Anup Marandi SJ)*.

May These Souls Rest in Peace!

Fr Phillip Crotty SJ (HAZ, 89/71) on 06.04.2021 at Lavendar Bay Jesuit Residence, Sydney, Australia

Fr Varghese Paul Chollamadam SJ (GUJ, 77/56) on 10.04.2021 in GMERS Hospital, Vadodara, Gujarat

Fr John Joseph Amaladoss SJ (AND, 75/58) on 13.04.2021 in St Joseph's Hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Fr Jesuraj Arputham SJ (GUJ, 60/29) on 16.04.2021 in a private hospital at Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Fr Erwin Lazrado SJ (GUJ, 58/37) on 17.04.2021 in New Life Para Medical Premium Hospital, Vadodara, Gujarat

Fr Sylvester Kerketta SJ (DUM, 62/42) 18.04.2021 in St Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Jharkhand

Fr Jerry Sequeira SJ (GUJ, 73/54) on 18.04.2021 in Sola Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Fr Francis Guntipilly SJ (KAR, 72/54) on 18.04.2021 in St Philomena's Hospital, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Fr George Karamayil SJ (PAT, 75/53) on 21.04.2021 in Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna, Bihar

Fr Praveen Hrudayaraj SJ (KAR, 41/22) on 22.04.2021 in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Fr Hilary Lobo SJ (JAM, 80/59) on 22.04.2021 at TMH, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Fr Severius Ekka SJ (RAN, 82/60) on 22.04.2021 in Lievens Hospital & Research Centre Mandar, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Srinivasan T. Joseph SJ (MDU, 89/69) on 22.04.2021 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Fr Panoor C. Joseph SJ (MDU, 85/66) on 22.04.2021 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Fr Samuel Marandi SJ (DUM, 56/32) on 24.04.2021 in St Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Jharkhand

Fr Sushil Kujur SJ (DUM, 58/35) on 24 April 2021 in St Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Jharkhand

Br Clestus Baxla SJ (MAP, 53/30) on 24.04.2021 in Constant Lievens Hospital, Mandar, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Royce Wenceslaus Macedo (AND, 89/71) on 24.04.2021 at St Patrick's High School, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Fr Sushil Sah SJ (PAT, 67/47) on 24.04.2021 in Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna, Bihar

Fr Augustine Peedikamala SJ (DEL, 82/60) on 24.04.2021 in Delhi

Br Modestus Tirkey SJ (RAN, 72/53) on 25.04.2021 in ATC, Namkum, Jharkhand

Fr Mangal Kerketta (DAR, 46/23) on 25.04.2021 in Gayaganga, West Bengal

Fr Peter Terrence Jones SJ (HAZ, 90/66) on 25.04.2021 at St Stanislaus College Sitagarha, Hazaribag, Jharkhand

Fr Thomas Thekkethala Joseph (HAZ, 74/56) on 29.04.2021 in Samford Hospital, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Christopher Kerketta SJ (HAZ, 68/45) on 29.04.2021 in Samford Hospital, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Joy Karayampuram SJ (PAT, 60/41) on 29.04.2021 in Ruben Memorial Hospital, Patliputra, Patna, Bihar

Fr John Tirkey SJ (RAN 59/35) on 29.04.2021 in Deokamal Hospital, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Gyan Prakash Minj SJ (RAN, 46/25) on 30.04.2021 in Manresa House, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Saju Bastian SJ (HAZ, 59/37) on 03.04.2021 in Samford Hospital in Ranchi, Jharkhand

Fr Cyril Rajesh Tigga SJ (MAP, 84/62) on 05.05.2021 in Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur, Madhya Pradesh

Fr Ramesh Tribhuvan SJ (PUN, 49/25) on 06.05.2021 in Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar, Pune, Maharashtra

Mr Sukdev Hansdak, Father of Sch Francis Hansdak, on 08.04.2021 in Kataldighi, Belpahari, Jharkhand

Mrs Salomi Besra (55), Cousin of Fr Emmanuel Besra, on 17.04.2021 at Pindari, Ramgarh, Jharkhand

Ms Regina Mary (72), Aunty of Fr Arulsamy Britto, on 20.04.2021 in Tamil Nadu

Teresa Tudu (36), niece of Fr Ignatius Soren, on 26.04.2021 in Rampurhat, West Bengal

Mr Dominic Bilung (67), Brother of Fr Nabor Bilung, on 29.04.2021 in Kulukera, Gumla, Jharkhand

Mrs Elsie Thomas (76), Sister-in-law of Fr C.M. John, on 03.05.2021 in Rajasthan

Fr Sylvester Kerketta SJ, RIP



Sylvester Kerketta was born on 11 August 1958 at Raghram in Gumla District of Chotanagpur. After completing his secondary school, he joined the Society at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka, on 9 September 1978, where he also completed his Juniorate studies. In 1983, Sylvester began his College studies at St Xavier's, Ranchi. He did his philosophy studies at Shembagannur in Tamil Nadu and in 1990 he began his theology studies at RTC, Ranchi,

and Vidya Jyoti, Delhi. He was ordained Priest on 9 May 1994. His first assignment was as assistant pastor at Mariampahar and the assignment lasted till 2000 when he went for Tertianship. Coming back to the Province, Fr Sylvester was assigned as Father In-charge at Deopur. Fr Sylvester was by nature a very modest person, rather shy. He was committed to the work assigned him. His possessions were few; his preference was to work with the poor. He liked to say Mass in the villages and felt at home among the people. His vocation was to be a priest for the people. Besides Mariampahar, Fr Sylvester laboured at Deopur, Hathimara, and elsewhere. In the last few years, Fr Sylvester was serving at Chilimpur both as assistant pastor and as treasurer of the house. He was also suffering from liver ailment which he bore with resignation. Fr Sylvester leaves behind him the image of a silent worker. May his soul rest in peace and may the Lord receive him in his heavenly abode!

Burial of Fr Sylvester Kerketta SJ

Fr Sylvester Kerketta, feeling unwell, was taken, on 10 April 2021, to St Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, where he was diagnosed with Covid-19 positive. His condition deteriorated and was put on oxygen. On Sunday 19 April at 9:00 am he, aged 62, rendered his soul to the Lord. Fr J. Lourdu Xavier SJ, who was assisting the Sick at Dakaita, accompanied the body to Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. Meanwhile, the community of Jisu Jaher offered Holy Mass at 7:00 pm for the repose of his dear soul. The Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr Sonatan Kisku, Vicar General of Dumka Diocese. After the Gospel reading, Rev. Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ followed by others recalled some beautiful memories of Fr Sylvester. The community received the body of Fr Sylvester at 8:50 pm. After Fr Provincial recited the prayers over the body and the grave, the coffin was lowered into the grave and immediately filled with mud, following the Covid-19 protocol for burials. The Province is grateful to the Bambina Sisters for decorating the coffin, the candidates for digging the grave and for making other arrangements for the funeral and the scholastics for carrying the body for burial. Sch Roshan D'Souza, Regent, did a wonderful job by arranging the Live-streaming of the community Mass and the burial. In this way Fr Sylvester's family members and our Province communities could watch the whole proceedings with respectful silence. Fr Sylvester, May your noble soul Rest in Peace!

Fr Samuel Marandi SJ, RIP



Samuel Marandi was born in Rajapur village, Chilimpur Parish in Jharkhand State on 20 November 1964. After completing his matriculation, Samuel joined the Society at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka,

on 29 June 1988. After his Juniorate studies at XTTI, Patna, Samuel studied at Loyola College Andhra where he obtained his B.A. His ecclesiastical studies of philosophy and theology were done at Satya Nilayam, Chennai, and at RTC Ranchi and Vidyajyoti respectively. In between the two studies he experienced two years of Regency, first at Nichitpur in West Bengal and then at Tinpahar. Ordained priest in 2003, Fr Samuel's first priestly assignment was that of assistant pastor to Fr Sylvester Kerketta SJ at Deopur. After a couple of years he was transferred to Tinpahar Parish which was, at the time, the responsibility of the Province. In 2009 he did his tertianship at Sitagarha.

Fr Samuel Marandi had an amiable personality. He was a sincere, simple, responsible and trustworthy person. Available for any mission given him by superiors though his preference was to work with the poor and the marginalized. He was enthusiastic in his pastoral ministry which he exercised all his life. Besides, Fr Samuel was a good community man, sensitive to the needs of others. He was also interested in cultural values.

His first assignment after tertianship was, once more, to Tinpahar Parish. Three years later he was appointed Father in-charge at Nunbatta, established in 2004. He put his mind and heart in developing the Christian community. In 2015, he was transferred to Mariampahar to take up the task of being minister of the community and at the same time to assist in pastoral work. His last assignment was to Kodma, in Sahibganj Dt, with the task of pioneering a new parish of 'Bishunpur-Mangrutikur.' Two weeks ago, Fr Samuel contracted the virus and was taken to Dakaita Mission Hospital for treatment. He was improving but four days ago he turned worse and he breathed his last on 24 April at around 9:15 am. May his dear soul rest in joy of the Lord!

Burial of Fr Samuel Marandi SJ

Fr Samuel was pioneering the new parish of 'Bishunpur-Mangrutikur,' close to Kodma. In the second week of April, he was diagnosed positive with the Covid-19 virus and taken to Dakaita Mission Hospital for treatment.

He was on oxygen and seemed to be doing well. However, his condition got bad and he breathed his last on 24 April at around 9:00 am. Arrangements were made for his remains to be taken to Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. It reached around 4:00 pm, and was accompanied by Fr J. Lourdu Xavier SJ, Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ, Fr K.C. Stephen SJ and the whole community of Jisu Jaher were at the portico to receive the body. It was immediately put in the casket, placed in the portico. Inside the house a portable altar was kept ready and the Holy Mass for Fr Samuel's noble soul began with Fr Varghese, our Provincial, as the main celebrant with Fr K.C. Stephen near him. The congregation comprised a few Fathers, Scholastics and two MC Sisters maintaining social distance. At the end of the Mass, Fr Provincial prayed the final commendation and farewell and, then five scholastics and Fr Philip Hembrom, donning protective plastic gear, carried the coffin on their shoulders. At the cemetery, Fr Provincial blessed the grave and the coffin. It was then lowered into the grave. Following the Covid-19 protocol, it was soon filled with mud. Sch Roshan did a very good job by streaming the whole function through zoom.

Fr Sushil Kujur SJ, RIP

Sushil Kujur was born on 29 November 1962 in Pinhi village in the Diocese of Raigarh in Chhattisgarh State. After his matriculation, he joined the Society in 1985 at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka. He did his Intermediate at Sahibganj College. After his Novitiate and Juniorate he



was sent to Loyola College, Chennai to do his B.A. Fr Sushil completed his philosophical and theological studies in Chennai at Satya Nilayam and RTC Ranchi and Vidyajyothi respectively. He was ordained in 1999.

Fr Sushil was a pleasant person to deal with, sensitive, compassionate, simple and hard-working. As the list of places where he served shows, Sushil was always at the disposal of Superiors to serve wherever he was needed. He was always available to his Superiors. After Ordination, his first assignment was as Minister at Jisu Jaher Novitiate, a duty which he fulfilled with grace. Transferred to Hathimara, he was assigned the same duty of minister together with that of hostel director. Fr Sushil served in different places at different times. At Majlispur he was Assistant Headmaster as well as Hostel Director. After tertianship, he was appointed as assistant head and

hostel director at St John Berchmans School at Tinpahar. He was sent to Mariampahar to be the Hostel Director. In 2013, he was put in-charge of the recently opened mission at Purana Kesari. A couple of years later, he was appointed Father in-charge at Jibonpur. When the new mission at Jirulia was established, he was appointed its first director. In 2020, he became the Parish Priest at Chilimpur. He contracted Covid-19. He was taken to Dakaita for treatment and was improving. However, just four days ago, his health suddenly deteriorated. And Fr Sushil breathed his last on 24 April 2021.

Fr Sushil Laid to Rest

On 24th, around 9:30 pm Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ received the sad news that Fr Sushil Kujur SJ, who was recuperating from Covid-19 in the Mission Hospital at Dakaita, passed away. His body was brought to Jisu Jaher at around 7:30 am by Fr J. L. Xavier SJ and Sch Roshan D'Souza SJ. Fr Provincial and the Jisu Jaher community had all things prepared, that is, the coffin prepared and placed in the portico and the grave made ready.

The community received the body which reached Jisu Jaher around 7:30 am. Having been placed in the coffin, Fr Provincial sprinkled holy water and said the prayers and, then, the Scholastics and Fr Philip Hembrom, donning the protective plastic gear, carried the coffin to the grave where Fr Provincial blessed the grave and the coffin was lowered into the grave. At 11:45 am Holy Mass was offered for the repose of his dear soul in the chapel, with three Bambina Sisters attending. May his dear soul rest in joy of the Lord!

Dumka Diocese Mourns Its Priests

The scourge of Covid-19 is sowing destruction and sorrow throughout the world. In the month of April 2021, it snatched two prominent Priests of Dumka Diocese plunging Bishop Julius Marandi and all the faithful into great sorrow.

On 14 April 2021, Fr Christopher Hembrom, just 41 years, who was diocesan treasurer and an important helper of the Bishop, died of Covid-19. Next day, a funeral Mass with a very small participation of clergy, religious and faithful, was offered by Bishop Julius for the repose of his dear soul. It was followed by burial. Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ concelebrated with the Bishop.

A few days later, on 23 April, Fr Christudas, Parish Priest of Maharo, who had just recovered from Covid-19, suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away.

Fr Christudas at various times was involved in ministries such as Pastoral Ministry, Apostolic School Director, Youth Director of the Diocese, Director of Social Development Centre, and Education Director of the Diocese. In this time of stress, Bishops and Superiors are the ones who feel the loss acutely together with the family members of the deceased. May the Lord accept their dear souls in our heavenly home!

Teachers Passed Away

Amidst the news of so many deaths all around due to the pandemic, the news of sudden demise of two teachers of St Xavier's School Sahibganj came like a bolt from the blue. Yes, during the month of April, the school lost two teachers, one from the senior section, Mr Salil Baran Biswas and the other one is from Primary Section, Mrs Anamika Sarkar. No, they were not the victims of Covid-19. Mr Salil left for his heavenly abode on 7th April at around 11:20 PM after he complained of breathing problem. Learning about his problem, Fr Xavier SJ rushed to his house at Bangali Tola to take him to the hospital. But unfortunately, Mr Biswas had a massive heart attack on his way to the hospital and breathed his last. The whole Xaverian family was saddened by the sudden demise of its most beloved member. The 7th April the school remained closed in honour of Mr S.B. Biswas and on the 8th April after the arrival of his only son from Pune, the staff members joined him in the funeral procession to the crematorium ground for the last rite. Jovial and friendly in nature, Mr Biswas was the senior most teacher of the English department of the school and was loved dearly both by the teachers and the students. He is survived by his wife and only son Indranil, an ex-Xaverian. The loss is immeasurable.

Mrs Anamika Sarkar, on the other hand, was under the treatment for her liver problem for the last few months. As her health was deteriorating, she was taken to Vellore for better treatment. The school and its staff stood by her side giving financial assistance for her better treatment and expected that she would come back one day. Though, initially she started feeling better after the treatment in Vellore, coming back to Sahibganj once again her health started deteriorating and so she was admitted to Medical College Hospital, Kolkata where she breathed her last on 10th April at 10:20 pm. Her mortal remains were brought to Sahibganj on 11th April at around 11:00 am when the teachers joined the funeral procession and bid her goodbye at *samsan ghat*. Mrs Anamika is survived by her husband and only daughter Shreya who is also an ex-Xaverian. May the departed souls of Mr Salil Baran Biswas and Mrs Anamika Sarkar rest in eternal peace! (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).



Diaconate Ordination of Sch Joseph Soren SJ in Paris, France



Diaconate Ordination of Sch Joseph Soren SJ in Paris, France



Career Counselling, St Xavier's College, Maharo, Dumka



COLLEGE TOPPERS

ENGLISH



VERONIKA TUDU SEM- V NISHA MURMU SEM- V ELEN ELIZA SEM- V REEMA HEMBROM SEM- V MONIKA KISKU SEM- V



JAYA KRITI SEM- III KONCHETA SEM- III MARY CHRISTINA SEM- III

COMMERCE



PRIYANKA ROY SEM- V LUCKY ANUPRIYA SEM- V SIBBI KHATOON SEM- III EMMANUEL SEM- III SUDEEP BESRA SEM- III

ZOOLOGY



HILARY MARANDI SEM- V PUSHPA MURMU SEM- V PRAKASH MURMU SEM- V



KIRAN MARANDI SEM- III KIRAN KUMARI SEM- III SOURAV SONOT SEM- III

College Toppers at St Xavier's College, Maharo, Dumka

CHEMISTRY



Vaccination, St Xavier's Sahibganj



RIP



Fr Christopher Hembrom, Dumka Dioceses



Fr Christudas, Dumka Diocese



Mr Salil Biswas, Teacher
St Xavier's Sahibganj



Mrs Anamika, Teacher
St Xavier's Sahibganj