

2021/05-06

MAY - JUNE 2021

73RD Year

OFFICIAL..... 

Fr. General has written:

➤ A letter (2021/05) to the whole Society on 12 April 2021 on **Promoting vocations to the Society of Jesus**. Excerpts from his letter:

“We must **rekindle a broad and deep culture of vocation promotion**, one that encourages all of us to labor together to attract the new companions needed for the future to which God draws us. This focus on vocations is ... not something we are prompted to do simply in response to decreasing numbers. It is part of our way of proceeding, an essential characteristic of our Jesuit culture and identity.”

“Vocation plans also should envision how best to collaborate with Youth Ministry in each Province, Region or Conference of Major Superiors. ... since its foundation, the Society has desired to help each person discover what his or her vocation may be. This work of accompaniment and discernment is a special characteristic of our youth ministries, and it is integral to the Third Universal Apostolic Preferences.”

“We might also ask ourselves, in the work we do, how are we collaborating creatively with religious sisters, local parish priests and our lay partners to identify men who might have a vocation?”

➤ A letter (2021/07) to the Major Superiors on 6 May 2021 on **New Calendar for the 71st Congregation of Procurators**. According to the new calendar, while the venue remains unchanged (Loyola, Spain), 71st CP will begin (a year later than the earlier schedule) on 15 May 2023 and the Procurators and Relators are to be in Loyola on 6 May 2023 to begin the Spiritual Exercises.

In the letter Father General says:

“Some Provinces have already initiated the process that will lead to their Provincial Congregations. These processes may continue. However, the new calendar offers greater flexibility in the schedule:

- the Provincial Congregations must be completed before 31 July 2022;
- the Acts of the Provincial Congregations must reach Rome before 1 October 2022;
- the reports of the Procurators or Relators must reach Rome before 15 December 2022.”

In the light of the letter of Father General setting a new calendar for the 71st Congregation of Procurators, our Patna Province Congregation, scheduled to begin on 13 October 2021 may also be postponed; kindly await further communication. However, please send in your ballots as per announced schedule. .

Fr. Provincial has appointed:

Alwyn Vaz = Director, Atmadarshan
 Martin Poras – Acting Rector, XTTI
 Vinoy Choodiyankal – Administrator, Shanti Sadan, Allahabad

With the shifting of Pre-Novitiate from Shanti Sadan, Allahabad to Sanjivan Niwas, Patna (on 13 April 2021), Fr. Antonysamy Joseph, Director of Pre-Novitiate, has become a member of the Sanjivan community.

Theology:

P. Arockiasamy – Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Regency:

Anuj Toppo – Prabhat, Sakri
 Cyprian Minj – READ Bettiah
 Vicky Lal – KR Candidates’ House, Bettiah

Philosophy:

Nalabothula chinna Siddaiah - DNC, Pune

College:

Felix Richard – Ahmedabad
 Prabhat Minj – Mangalore

Juniorate:

Anish Sah, Sagar Barwa & Binay Lakra – Mumbai
 Bablu Kumar, Avinash Kujur,
 Ankesh Kumar & Anjelus Dunddung – Hazaribagh

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

16 May 2021 – Last date for the letter containing ballot of the Province Congregation 2021 to reach the Provincial.

20 May 2021 (anniversary of the injury at Pamplona) – Opening of the Ignatian Year, which will conclude on 31 July 2022, “The 12th of March 2022 will be its centre, marking the IV centenary of the canonization of St Ignatius with St Francis Xavier, St Teresa of Jesus, St Isidore Labrador and St Philip Neri.” [Ref. Letter (2019/23) of Father General to the whole Society, dated 27

September 2019 (Anniversary of the Bulle Regimini militantis Ecclesiae) on **Ignatian Year 2021-2022**].

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

In the months of May and June 2021 Fr. Provincial will be in Patna.

DEADLY APRIL & AFTERMATH

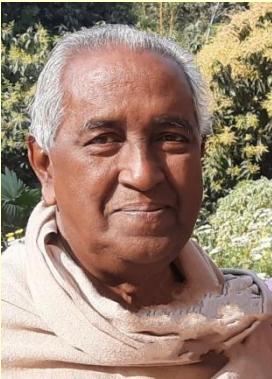
The second wave of the Corona pandemic in India began in the third week of March 2021 and by April 2021 it was raging through many states of India, amidst apprehensions that the peak may be in mid-May 2021. Daily death tolls were 3,000+, with daily fresh infections over 3,00,000. Jesuits of India, including Patna Province, were part of these numbers.

The month of April 2021 turned out to be quite deadly: 28 Indian Jesuits, including 3 of Patna Province, died during this month of 'Deadly April'.

21.04.2021 - **Fr. George Karamayil, SJ** (PAT, 75/53)

24.04.2021 - **Fr. Sushil Sah, SJ** (PAT, 67/47)

29.04.2021 - **Fr. Joy Karayampuram, SJ** (PAT, 65/41)



Friends,

We miss you.

Rest In Peace

Intercede for us.

One of the painful aspects of the pandemic is that due to safety protocol we could not even properly mourn our dead or bid them farewell with a solemn liturgy. Thanks to **Fr. Sebastian Alphonse, SJ**, who live-streamed the burial ceremonies, so that Province and family members, friends, well-wishers and acquaintances could participate / witness the rites and bid farewell to our departed companions.

By his letter dated 30 April 2021 Fr. Provincial suggested to the Province members that since we could not gather together for burial rites of our companions, tenth-day memorial celebrations be held

in our communities / institutions / centres. Accordingly we paid tributes to our departed companions on 01.05.2021, 04.05.2021 and 09.05.2021 respectively.

Many of ours tested positive for Covid and were in hospitals for varying durations: **Frs. George Karuvelil** (while on a visit to be with his sick mother in Kerala), **Anthony Mattapallil** (in Pune), **Rajesh Jacob Bhaju**, **John Ravi**, **Antony Prakash**, **Manish Osta**, **Joseph Sebastian**, **Anto Joseph** and **Scholastics Amul Jacob** and **Savariappan Manickam** [in Kodarma – they had gone to Sitagarh for Pre-Ordination Programme (POP)]. Those who tested positive for Covid but managed with home-quarantine: **Siji Varghese** (in Delhi), **Pius Thekemury** (in Allahabad) and **Jose Kariakatt** (BDVS, Patna).

On 05 May 2021 Fr. Provincial held a zoom meeting with Local Superiors, Community Leaders, Ministry Coordinators, Director of Social Action Centres and Parish Priests to share and discuss the safety measures for our members and to explore the possibility of reaching out to and / or serving the needy.

As a follow-up of the zoom session, Fr. Provincial has written a letter to all the Province members dated 07 May 2021, providing guidelines for safety measures, formation of zonal health teams and information about his decision to establish Atmadarshan (hostel buildings) as 'Space for Rehabilitation and Rest' for priests and religious who are recovering from Covid or otherwise.

The Government of Bihar took note of the second wave of the Corona pandemic and on 3 April 2021 announced some restrictions. These were extended and expanded on 9th (closure of all places of worship for the devotees), 18th, 28th of April and 4th of May 2021. According to the last Govt. order, Bihar is in lock down from 5 to 15 May 2021.

The spiritual consolation in the midst of all this has been that even with some Covid restrictions in place, we were able to celebrate the Holy Week in a devout manner. The Risen Lord, who walked with His disciples on the road to Emmaus, is walking with us.

LOCAL REPORTS

Aurangabad: The months of March and April were busy ones for **Frs. Saji** and **Manish** in the School. After a long gap of many months, the School reopened for Classes I to IX on March 1, which was a joyous occasion both for the students and the staff. Final pre-board exams were held for Class X students from March 8 and annual exams were held for classes I to VIII from March 17. Due to the pandemic the usual outing for the school staff was cancelled, instead, a *Litti-Chokha* picnic

was arranged in the campus itself on March 24. Jesuit community also joined them for the grand lunch prepared by the teachers. The school gave farewell to the outgoing Class X students on March 26.

On March 29, after the Palm Sunday Celebration in our parish, the Jesuit community members left for Mokama for a pilgrimage and a day of recollection and community sharing. Thanks to Fr. Irudayaraj, who gave us an inspiring talk in order to facilitate our recollection and sharing. The Holy Week celebrations were held very meaningfully in the parish. FIHM Sisters put their heart and soul to prepared the altars, while men and women of the parish voluntarily took care of the singing during liturgies. **Fr. Albert** and **Sch. Savariappan** went to Kudra parish to help out during the Holy Week liturgies.

On April 3, **Fr. Saji** went to see his relative, Fr. P.T. Augustine (DEL) who was hospitalized in Delhi. On April 10 and 11, **Fr. Vimal** had a workshop with SND Formators at their Provincialate in Patna. He also had a day of orientation programme for the Teachers of our School on April 17 and an online Ignatian Retreat for the novices of Bethany Sisters in Kolkata from April 12 to 19.

Most part of the month of April went in fear and anxiety as we lost two FIHM Sisters – Sr. Avila (Superior) and Sr. Rani Rao and **Fr. Manish Osta** was admitted in KHFH, Patna. Fr. Tony Andrade (DEL), who visited us on his way to Sitagarh on April 14 and **Sch. Savariappan** who joined him to go to Sitagarh for his POP programme, tested positive for Covid and were treated in Koderma. All of them have recovered and are recuperating. Thanks to KHFH, Patna and FCC Sisters' Hospital, Koderma, for their life-giving care to our brothers. As of now, all except **Fr. Manish** and **Sch. Savariappan** have taken the Covid 19 vaccine.

As usual, **Bro. Abraham** continues his works silently and in an unassuming way, and **Fr. Joe Thadavanal** keeps us cheerful and continues to encourage and guide us in his own gentle and friendly way.
- *Vimal Kishore*

READ Bettiah: The month of April paralysed all the regular activities at READ. We had just revived all our programs and activities after the first wave of Covid and were just picking up momentum and the outburst of the second wave brought everything to a standstill. Though we have cancelled all the physical movements from READ, we could not stop reaching out to the people completely. We have continued the online classes for our students of 11th and 12th. As the spread of the pandemic in Bettiah and rural West Champaran was getting worse, at READ we decided to reach out to the people in need through social media and telephone. We have constituted a network of all our animators and the supervisors who report on Covid cases in their area. With the help of a few doctors, we provide medical consultancy and the emergency patients are guided to reach the Covid ward at MJK Hospital, Bettiah. The Patients who are

Covid Positive and can be kept in home quarantine are provided with proper guidance, medication and oximeters. READ is also in touch with other likeminded NGOs in reaching out to the needy. The situation is becoming worse as there is a steady increase of cases in the rural areas and the hospitals are putting up display boards saying they are full and oxygen supply is limited.

- *Joyson Fernandes*

Kurji Parish: Burying the dead, attending sick-calls and consoling the family members of those who died or are sick have been our main activities during the month of April. Thirty of our parishioners have died during this month, of whom seventeen have been buried in our Kurji parish cemetery and



others elsewhere. Our phones are ringing constantly, with people sobbing and sharing with us about one or another of their family member/s being affected by the Corona virus and asking for the sacrament of the sick, for prayers, guidance and / or help. Due to massive spread of infection and high rate of mortality, the second wave of the pandemic has created a sense of fear, anxiety and uncertainty. Even as the well-to-do parishioners are anxious of the dwindling of their savings, the poor families are completely at a loss.

This month has been a time of testing as well as strengthening of our faith – accompanying people with prayers, sacraments and viaticum as well as with consoling words, gestures and many a time just silent presence and a compassionate look through the face-shield. The depth of faith of the people and the value with which they receive our humble services, makes priesthood a vibrant daily lived experience, unlike the 'ordinary' period or 'good' times. Similarly, the spirit of resilience, solidarity with fellow-sufferers and optimism of the people is a source of nourishment as well as challenge to our own faith and life style.

- *Rajesh Somepalli*

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: The joy and peace of the Risen Lord filled our hearts and blessed us with lots of hope. We took over new portfolios with great

enthusiasm. The Easter vigil, Our Lord's glorious triumph was celebrated with solemn Eucharist, melodious singing and sumptuous meal. Jesuit Fathers from Kaiserganj came over here to share the joy of the Risen Lord with us on Easter Sunday. On 8th **Fr. George Nedumattam** took class on the guidelines and significance of POCSO ACT. From the second week of April, we experienced a tough time in the community as most of us were found with some symptoms of Covid-19 and were quarantined for a couple of weeks. We gratefully thank and pray for Fr. Christopher Kandulna, the Novice Master, and a few novices who were real warriors during the time of ailment, reaching out to us to provide for our needs. We also give thanks to the Almighty God for granting complete healing and keeping us safe and sound. As most of the people of our neighborhood and in Uttar Pradesh are becoming victims to the deadly pandemic, we are pleading God through a special adoration for an hour daily in the afternoon to bring healing to the suffering world. **Fr. William D'Souza** has fully bounced back to good health. As we are regaining better health, we have begun our minor holidays on 27th. A sudden thunder storm and rain damaged the roof of the staircase as well as trees in the campus. We are grateful to God for Fr. Christopher Kandulna and **Fr. Nicholas** for keeping all of us safe and sound.

- *Avinash Kujur*

Manthan, Khagaul: The Month of April began with Maundy Thursday celebration in the parish. The Lord's Supper was presided over by **Fr. Susai Raj** the parish priest. This has set the tone for the entire Holy week celebration which culminated on Easter day. We had vigil mass at 10.30 pm and a good number of parishneors and others participated in it.

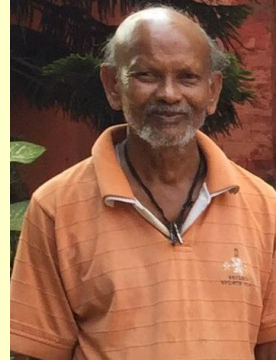
On the 1st of April Manthan started three tailoring centres for the adolescent girls. More than 100 adolescent girls registered their names. Regular classes for Class 10 students kept the residential children busy and focussed. We had the residential children's parents meeting on the 11th in which parents expressed their desire that their children excel in their studies. We also had a meeting of the 10th passed out students on the 20th. We congratulated them for the good result and encouraged them to continue the hard work.

On the 5th **Sch. Ashish** and two more MSW students from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work joined us for internship. On the 12th **Fr. Junas Kujur** went to Jharkhand for Vocation Promotion tour and he was back on the 23rd. He was in quarantine for a week.

We celebrated **Fr. Jose Kariakatt's** birthday on the 13th with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration. On the 25th He was tested positive for Covid. He was taken care by **Fr. Anto** in BDVS. Now he is recuperating well.

Fr. Juno was busy with a few online meetings by the funding agencies and preparing reports and action plans for the next financial year. We stopped all

our activities in the villages on the 23rd as the situation was getting worse. Residential Children were sent home on the 21st. At present we are in



touch with our people in the villages. People are falling sick and some of them are getting well fast while a few have passed away.

On the 5th of May, the entire Manthan family was drowned in



sorrow. Mr. Pratap Ji, lovingly called 'BABA' the care taker of church campus and Mewa Manjhi, our gardener, died in their own respective villages. These two were committed and dedicated persons. Pratap Ji was part of Manthan 'family' almost from the very beginning of Manthan. We miss them very much. The flowers and trees miss their tender care. We believe that they are caring for all of us from above.

- *Juno Sebastian*

Prabhat, Sakri: The month of April began with the *Holy week triduum* with a small community in our center. Mr. Chandrakant and family participated in the Easter celebration. With the renewed vigor and joy of the Risen Lord we started our ministry in the village conducting programs for villagers and children in the centers. Children were quite enthusiastic and overwhelmed to come to the centers to learn as the schools were closed in the state and districts. They were proud to be in our learning centers to acquire knowledge and one could see the improvement in their learning levels. But the second wave of pandemic certainly upset our rhythm. Everything has become topsy-turvy. As the situation was getting worse and worse, we called off our programs in the villages. At present all our activities in the villages are suspended

Here in the community, **Fr. Jose Vadassery** and myself are enjoying good health and looking after each other to ensure that we are not affected by this viruses. **Fr. Jose** has taken the first dose of vaccination and is waiting for the second one. **Fr. Anand** has taken both the doses, along with the resident staff. We had also gone for *Antigen test* and the result was negative for Covid. Community is taking many precautionary measures such as taking *Karha* (drink made of herbs) everyday, wearing masks, taking steam inhalation morning and evening and checking our Oxygen level regularly.

- *Anand Kerketta*

Sanjivan Niwas, Patna: The month of April was filled with uncertainties. On 9th April 2021 we had a short farewell programme for the Candidates and for Sch. Gnana Muthu. Foreseeing the effect of the second wave of Covid-19, we sent the Candidates home for holidays on 10th April, much earlier than what had been earlier scheduled. All the candidates reached home safely. We thank all the Jesuits and the communities around Patna for helping, guiding and inspiring the candidates with their love, care and generosity. Before the candidates left for their home leave **Fr. Edward Dungdung**, PCF, made his official visitation and motivated the Candidates. **Fr. Sushil Bilung** had gone to Jharkhand for Vocation Promotion. **Br. Manoj** is safely back after his home leave. **Fr. Antony Samy** reached Sanjivan Niwas on 13th April. He has meticulously planned and brought many necessary things from Allahabad Pre-Novitiate to Sanjivan Niwas by a truck. Five Juniors from Hazaribag stayed a few days in Sanjivan Niwas on the way to their homes. **Sch. Vicky Lal** and **Sch. Richard Lakra** are with us. Their active and youthful presence gives more energy and support to the community. We celebrated the birthdays of **Br. Sadhu** and **Fr. Raneesh**.



We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of **Fr. George Karamayil** (our community member), **Fr. Sushil Shah** and **Fr. Joy Karayampuram**. On 23rd April **Fr. Sushil Bilung** lost his uncle, **Fr. Basil Dungdung** (of Simdega diocese) due to Covid. All of us in the community are safe and taking necessary precautionary measures. Eight members of our community have already received Covid vaccination. Among them **Fr. Lawrence** and **Br. Sadhu** have received the second dose also. We make sure that those who come to Sanjivan from other places (mainly the Scholastics returning to the Province) are asked to remain in quarantine for a week. We pray that God may protect all of us under the wings of His love.

- *Candidates Anjit & Rohit*

Sasaram: The month of April began with the Holy week celebrations. From Maundy Thursday to Easter Vigil, each celebration was held with traditional piety and fervour. We had the Holy Week services both in

the parish and Dehri-on-Sone. Though following the Covid protocol, people flocked to the church in good numbers to pray and commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Since last year they were devoid of the Easter celebration, a large number of faithful attended the Easter Vigil services this year. The resurrection of the Lord was dramatically depicted and it was a new faith experience for the people. To share the joy of the Risen Lord, we had our Easter lunch together with the Sisters and all our co-workers working in our campus. From April 06, school was supposed to conduct annual exams but it could not take place, due to the lockdown imposed by the Bihar Government on April 05. However, we conducted the annual exams in a different way. Questions and answer sheets were sent to the students and they wrote their exams at home and submitted their answer sheets in the school office. During this lockdown period, the teachers of our school were given opportunity to learn some basic computer skills coupled with a few Spoken English Classes taken by **Fr. Albert Abraham**. **Sch. Cyprian** participated in Regents' recollection on April 11 in St. Xavier's, Patna, which was guided by **Fr. Prakash Louis**. All of us in the community are hale and hearty.

- *Cyprian Minj*

Shanti Sadan, Prayagraj (Allahabad): Shanti Sadan, Prayagraj went through some historical changes in the month of April 2021. The Delhi Jesuit Society handed over the administrative responsibilities of Shanti Sadan fully to the Patna Jesuit Society on the 1st of April. We are immensely grateful for the magnanimity of the Delhi Province for looking after the needs of Shanti Sadan with great care and generosity until now.

It was transition time for the Pre-novitiate too. The hard work of **Fr. Jose Elampassery** and **Schol. Anish Raj** came to fruition, as the Pre-Novices completed their courses and left for their home visit by mid-April. After going through the report of the Pre-Novitiate Evaluation Committee, it was decided to shift the Pre-Novitiate to Sanjivan Niwas, Patna. **Fr. Antonysamy Joseph** took care of packing and moving the Pre-Novitiate materials to Patna.

Shanti Sadan is now fully available for spiritual and renewal programmes for the dioceses of Eastern U.P. as well as for entire north India. The long retreat conducted by **Fr. Jose Elampassery** was fruitfully concluded just in time before the onslaught of the second wave of Covid-19. **Fr. Vinoy Choodiyankal** was happily welcomed by the community, to take over as the new Administrator and Treasurer of Shanti Sadan from the the 1st of May. **Fr. Pius Thekemury** and **Schol. Anish Raj** are in isolation as they are being treated for Covid, and are making steady progress with their health.

- *Joy Pulikunnel*

St. Michael's, Patna: Before the surge of the second wave of COVID-19, we the St. Michael's community was very fortunate to take part actively in the Holy Week services, which strengthened us spiritually. The current COVID-19 wave is worrying all of us and we are taking all the necessary precautions to keep ourselves fit and healthy. Almost seventy percent of our members have taken both doses of vaccination and the remaining thirty percent have taken their first dose and are awaiting their second dose. At this moment as we cannot move out freely, we make it an opportunity to strengthen our community life and enjoy each other's company in prayer and recreation. It is also a time to know one another a little more and strengthen our community bond. The school had conducted Entrance Tests for new admission for various Classes. These tests were spread out throughout the month keeping in mind all the protocols. CBSE AISSCE Practical Examinations were also conducted for the 12th Std. Beside this the school had conducted a Slogan writing competition on the Earth Day. It was really nice to see our students and teachers acknowledging our worker's valuable service through a short video program on Worker's Day. Now the school has announced early Summer vocation for the Students. Despite the pandemic, St. Xavier's College of Education, also managed to conduct online classes successfully. Before the declaration of the lockdown, it managed to conduct Mid-term examinations in phases. Since the Governor's secretariat has advanced the summer holidays, it will not be able to conduct the End Term examination by the end of this month. All the same, they are in the final days of concluding the portions of first and fourth semesters. If the situation is brought under control, the End Semester examinations will be conducted in the month of June 2021. We are saddened to see many of our students and teachers getting affected by the Corona virus. We pray for all of them and for the rest of suffering humanity. Meanwhile, **Fr. Ignatius Topno** managed to publish an article on "Self Esteem of Secondary School Tharu Students of West Champaran" in International Journal of Advance Research (IJAR).

- *Jeevan Issac*

SXCMT / XTTI: Eight girls of our college participated in the National Throwball Tournament. On 14 April, YFI members visited slums in Digha, Rajiv Nagar and Ashiana Nagar and shared with the residents the life and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar. They also recited inspirational quotes and distributed sweets, and stationeries. The Social Awareness Committee organized poster making competition. On 23 April, Faculty Development Program was conducted by Ms. Sabeela Rashid, who presented the book "The 3rd Alternative" by Stephen R. Covey. **Fr. Sebastian Kanekattil, SJ** brought out the salient features of the book and staff members gained a lot from this session. On this day, Social Awareness Committee organized competitions to mark Earth Day. NSS

volunteers organized webinar on Earth day. Dr. Arun Mani Babu and Dr. Raman Ranjan shared their thoughts on saving planet earth and making life meaningful while encountering the Corona pandemic. On 24 April, students under the guidance of Mr. B.N. Choudhary, celebrated National Panchayat Raj Day. They prepared videos highlighting the importance of local governance. With the aim of generating positivity, Xavier Quiz Club conducted inter-college and inter-school quiz competition on Indian Festivals. The college has started accepting online applications for admission for 2021-22. Welcome to visit the college website www.sxcpatna.edu.in for more details. On 6 May, the Management, staff and students organized online prayer service in memory of **Fr. Joy Karayampuram, SJ**, Rector of the College, who passed away on 29 April 2021 due to Covid-19. The Jesuits, staff and co-workers shared fond memories of **Fr. Joy** and prayed for the world suffering from Corona pandemic. In compliance of the directives of the govt., classes are suspended till 15 May.

The Jesuit community is limping back to normal activities after the sudden demise of our rector Fr. Joy. Fond memories of **Fr. Joy** overshadows our emotions and conversations. **Fr. M.M. Mathew** is on home visit and other members are in good health. Our Acting Rector **Fr. Martin Poras, SJ** and Administrator **Fr. Raj Kumar, SJ** have taken several steps to contain the spread of Corona virus and to improve the general health of community members.

- *Alphonse Sebastian*

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: Joseph Ddungdung and Prakash Louis were vaccinated and along with the cook tested negative for Covid-19. Since some inmates tested positive, Masses are suspended in MC and also in the Parish. **Joseph** lost a cousin brother and priest of OFM Cap Congregation at the young age of 30. **Prakash Louis**, along with Fr. Anand of IMS, initiated some medical relief work under the aegis of Varanasi diocese, along with CRI and civil society. Over 50,000 leaflets in Hindi were printed titled, "COVID-19 Protocols and Remedies" and distributed in the parishes and ecclesial centres. This is being translated into other languages. Over 40 sets of Oximeter and Nebulizer have been made available for priests, religious and the poor. Masks are being distributed and awareness created. Arrangements have been made to get the priests, religious and formees vaccinated, tested and houses sanitized. Attempt is in progress to get medicine kit from government and distribute among those who need it badly. We are also planning to prepare medicine kit and distribute among the needy.

- *Prakash Louis*

DIASPORA

Gesu, Rome: Last four months have been a difficult time for our Gesu community. Many sad news from different parts of the world were pouring in, especially about the military rule in Myanmar and the second wave of Corona pandemic in India. In addition, two of our Indian Scholastics lost their beloved parents - Sch. Devadhas Varghese (NEP) lost his mother and Sch. Sridhar Marneni (AND) lost his father. Many regions of Italy were under lockdown during the Lent and upto Easter Octave. The lessons in Gregorian University have been taking place through online.

Amidst all of these, the community continued to experience God's blessings in different ways. We thank God that so far no member of the community has been affected by the Corona virus; and, regular academic activities and other programmes have continued as usual. In the month of January and February the theologians dedicated themselves to their first semester exams of the present academic year. In the month of March began our second semester soon after the exam. The third-year theologians began preparing themselves spiritually with an annual retreat before their diaconate ordination.



After Easter, on 6th of April 13 theologians were ordained deacon by His Eminence Cardinal José Tolentino Mendonça (an activist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church) in the Church of Gesu. Father Johan Verschueren, S.J., Delegate of Father General for Roman works and houses, made his annual visit to our community in April after the Easter Octave. On April 25, 11 Gesu Scholastics received the Ministry of the Lectorate and 6 Scholastics, including **Dinesh Toppo**, the Ministry of the Acolyte from Fr. Johan Verschueren, S.J. - *Dinesh Toppo*

Paris, France: In the beginning of the Lenten season, we shared about our understanding of Lent and became aware of the cultural variations in its observance in different parts of the world. The community agreed to save some money as we fast during the lent season and utilize that amount for the needy people. We participated in the Holy Week services in different churches. There were many

choices like Ignatius church, St. Sulpice church and Notre Dame church. Scholastic Sudhir Lakra (RAN) and myself attended the Easter Vigil Liturgy with Fr. Bertrand Heiard-Dubreuil in the community itself. On the 4th of April we celebrated Easter together in the community with different activities. Celebrating Easter in a different culture and circumstance than the one I was accustomed to, was an enriching experience. On 6th of April we had a good time, sharing in the community on the celebration and experiences of Easter. Fr. Thierry Lamboley, Auxiliary to the Provincial, came for canonical visitation of our community. He was with us for three days. We had one week of holidays. During the holidays, we went to visit nearby places.

- *Sanjay Marandī*

St. Aloysius College, Mangalore: Sch. Pramod, along with Sch. Sandeep (KAR), did his annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. William Siqueira, S.J. at Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore. It was an enriching experience for both **Pramod** and Sandeep. We joyfully celebrated Easter. We, the Scholastics of Patna and Delhi Provinces, came together and shared our life in Mangalore. We also recalled the Vision and Mission of our Provinces.

Sch. Pramod put himself at the service of the community, including work in the community library and archives. He helped in designing the official website of B. Ed College. He joyfully volunteered to be at the farm till his study began. His long-awaited B.Ed. classes at St Aloysius College, Mangalore began on 19 April, 2021 with an orientation program. Three of the community members got affected by Covid-19 and are now recuperating: Fr. Melwyn Pinto, S.J. - Rector, Fr. Praveen Martis, S.J.- Principal and Fr. Sujay Daniel, S.J. - Chapel In charge.

- *Pramod Kumar*

SOCIETY IN NUMBERS

As of 1 January 2021,

we have 68 Provinces, 3 Independent Regions, 6 Dependent Regions, and 1 Mission (Myanmar - MYN) dependent on the JCAP President.

The total number of Jesuits was 14,839:

10,721 priests, 894 brothers, 2,593 scholastics, and 631 novices

- a net loss of 480 members from 1 January 2020.

The total number of Jesuits in the South Asia

Assistancy was 3,996: 2,680 priests, 148 brothers, 984 scholastics, and 184 novices

- a net loss of 62 members from 1 January 2020.

The total number of Jesuits in Patna Province was 199: 153 priests, 14 brothers, 22 scholastics, and 10 novices

- a net loss of 6 members from 1 January 2020.

SOCIETY AROUND THE GLOBE

Something new for “Central Europe” – A truly multi-cultural Province:

“I am pleased because the whole preceding discernment process has shown that the foundation of the Central European Province is not only an organizational matter. Rather, it is an active response to the changes and challenges of our time.”

This is the opinion of Father General Arturo Sosa in the video message he sent to his companions, but also to the partners and friends of the Jesuits in this vast region. Indeed, 27 April 2021 sees the birth of a new Jesuit Province: ECE, for “Central Europe.” It is a grouping of four Provinces that are quite different from each other: Germany, Austria, Lithuania-Latvia, and Switzerland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) [till 2016 known as ‘Apostleship of Prayer’]:

Intention of the Holy Father for the month of **May 2021:**

The world of finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Intention of the Holy Father for the month of **June 2021:**

The beauty of marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

Fr. Cyriac Poovakot has tested positive for Covid and is in quarantine in Xavier Bhawan from 08 May 2021.

For the Departed:

Jesuits of the South Asian Assistency (in April 2021)

Fr. Philip Crotty, SJ (HAZ, 89/71) – 6th Apr.
 Fr. Varghese Paul Chollamadam, SJ (GUJ, 77/56) – 10th Apr.
 Fr. John Joseph Amaladoss, SJ (AND, 75/58) – 14th Apr.
 Fr. Jesuraj Arputham, SJ ((GUJ, 60/39) – 16th Apr.
 Fr. Erwin Lazarado, SJ (GUJ, 58/37) – 17th Apr.
 Fr. Jerry Sequeira, SJ ((GUJ, 73/54) – 18th Apr.
 Fr. Sylvester Kerketta, SJ (DUM, 62/42) – 18th Apr.
 Fr. Francis Guntipilly, SJ (KAR, 72/54) – 18th Apr.
Fr. George Karamayil, SJ (PAT, 73/53) – 21st Apr.

Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj SJ (KAR, 41/22)– 22nd Apr.
 Fr. Panoor C. Joseph, SJ (MDU, 85/66) – 22nd Apr.
 Fr. Srinivasan T. Joseph, SJ ((MDU, 89/69) – 22nd Apr.
 Fr. Severius Ekka, SJ (RAN, 82/60) – 22nd Apr.
 Fr. Augustine Peedikamala, SJ (DEL, 82/60) – 24th Apr.
 Bro. Clestus Baxla, SJ (MAP, 53/30) – 24th Apr.
 Fr. Samuel Marandi, SJ (DUM, 56/32) – 24th Apr.
 Fr. Sushil Kujur, SJ (DUM, 58/35) – 24th Apr.
Fr. Sushil Sah, SJ (PAT, 67/47) – 24th Apr.
 Fr. Royce Wenceslaus Macedeo, SJ (AND, 89/71) – 25th Apr.
 Fr. Peter Terrence Jones, SJ (HAZ, 90/66) – 25th Apr.
 Fr. Mangal Kerketta, SJ (DAR, 46/23) – 25th Apr.
 Bro. Modestus Turkey, SJ (RAN, 72/53) – 25th Apr.
 Fr. Hilary Lobo, SJ (JAM, 80/59) – 26th Apr.
Fr. Joy Karayampuram, SJ (PAT, 65/41) – 29th Apr.
 Fr. Thomas Thekkethala Joseph, SJ (HAZ, 74/56) – 29th Apr.
 Fr. John Turkey, SJ (RAN, 59/35) – 29th Apr.
 Fr. Christopher Kerketta, SJ (Haz, 68/45)–29th Apr.
 Fr. Gyan Prakash Minj, SJ (RAN, 46/25) – 30th Apr.
 (Obituaries of Patna Jesuits will be sent later.)

Others (in April and first week of May ’21):

Fr. Mathew Thadavanal, 85, **elder brother of Fr. Joseph Thadavanal, SJ**, and a priest of Indore diocese – 09.04.2021.
 Mr. Susai, 96, **an uncle** (mother’s elder sister’s husband) **of Fr. Susai Raj, SJ** – 10.04.2021.
 Mr. Mr. Vedanayagam, 51, **elder brother of Fr. Babu Jagadeepan, SJ** – 11.04.2021.
 Mr. Amal Raj, 78, **elder brother of Fr. Peter Arockiasamy, SJ** – 16.04.2021.
 Mrs. Rosamma, 87, **mother of Fr. George Karuvelil, SJ** – 16.04.2021.
 Mr. Dennis Raj, 49, **a nephew of Fr. Rajendran Francis, SJ** – 21.04.2021.
Fr. Prakash Louis, SJ lost 3 members of his family within a week: Ms. Matilda Mary, 60, cousin sister – 28.04.2021; Fr. Moses Chinnapan, 70, cousin brother and priest of Bangalore Archdiocese – 01.05.2021; and, Mr. Xavier Nathan, 73, a family member – 05.05.2021.
 Mrs. Helen Michael Toppo, 66, **elder sister of Fr. Pius Prashant Michael, SJ** – 05.05.2021.
 Fr. Francis Mattathilani, Administrator of Buxar diocese – 05.05.2021.
 Fr. Ajit Dungdung, OFM Cap, 44, **cousin brother of Fr. Joseph Dungdung, SJ** – 06.05.2021.
 Mrs. Rosy Jacob, 86, **mother of Fr. Rajesh Jacob Bhaju, SJ** – 06.05.2021.
 Mr. Raymond Mathias, 64, **elder brother of Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ** – 06.05.2021.
 Mr. Ilango Arulraj, 62, **elder brother of Fr. Rajendran Francis, SJ** – 07.05.2021.

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