



November 2019

Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

No. 501

Message from Fr Provincial

Fr Provincial's Programme

November

Dear Friends, in my interaction with senior officials after the Mundli incident, one thing became clear to me. It was that in today's Jharkhand, Missionary institutions could be attacked, looted, ransacked or even destroyed; yet the blame would be on the missionaries because of the weapon of anti-conversion law. A few of our own beneficiaries can be and will be coerced, using allurements, threat to life and property or any other means, to be witness to forcible conversion. Such coercive acts are not considered as criminal acts in today's Jharkhand provided they are used against Christian missionaries. All the State administrative units will overtly or covertly support such tactics and take action against the missionaries. So we are on the receiving end from all sides.

Do we need to be unduly concerned about such worldly cunningness? We are called to follow Christ carrying His cross to Calvary and so His passion will be ours too. But at the same time we have to learn to be like Jesus who actively lived His life by doing God's will. The will of God for us today is to spread the kingdom of God which is spreading God's compassion and merciful love; to learn to be like Jesus who surrendered his will to God's will in his passion and death on the cross. We have to learn to recognize the signs of the time and act accordingly. Sometimes our simplicity and naiveté can give away a lot to those opposed to us and they may make use of such words and actions of ours to attack us. Let us keep our hope and faith alive and increase our trust in God's providence and at the same time do our part well so that we may be able to work for the kingdom without being persecuted.

Appointments by Fr Provincial

Fr Emmanuel Besra SJ: Johar - Legal Ministry

Fr Varkey Chenakalayil SJ: Jisu Jaher - Faith Formation through Retreat Ministry

5-6 Jibonpur	6-7 Mariampahar, Salti
8 Bhognadih	9 Jirulia School Building Blessing
12-13 Kodma, Mangrutikur	14 Bathbanga
16 Consult	18 Kalidanga
20 Satia	22-23 Prov. Apostolic Planning

Province Apostolic Planning

The Province Apostolic Planning (2nd Stage) will be held at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka, on 22-23 November.

Zone-wise Spiritual Conversation

Nov 30 Kalidanga	Dec 7 Nichamari
Dec 14 Tinpahar	Dec 21 Jisu Jaher

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)

Pope's Intentions for November 2019: "Universal: Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East - That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together."

Province Retreats 2019

Thirty seven of our Province men made use of the Puja holidays to make their annual retreat at Jeevan Dhara from 4-12 October under the guidance of Fr Konrad Noronha SJ of Bombay Province, who is at present Director of Pastoral Theology at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV), Pune. He started the retreat with the invitation to all the retreatants to be aware of their deepest desires, dreams and longings and led them through the eight days to realize the Society's deepest desires in the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP). Each day we had one talk in the morning, followed by reflections and Eucharist, spiritual conversations in groups at 3:00 pm and adoration with the themes from UAP before supper. Fr Konrad's talks were centered on GC 36, UAP and recent exhortations of Pope Francis and within the framework of Spiritual Exercises. (*Fr George U. SJ*).

The second Province Annual Retreat 2019 started at Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, on 13 October night. **Fr Francis Pudicherry SJ (GUJ)**, Director of Ignatian Spirituality at DNC, Pune, directed the retreatants. Every day, in an hour's talk, Fr Francis gave us the points for four periods of prayer and enlightened us on various aspects of Ignatian spirituality to the satisfaction of all. Silence during the retreat was admirable and conducive to prayer, meditation and contemplation. The retreat ended with supper on 21 October at the start of which **Fr Damian Tudu SJ** gave the vote of thanks. (*Fr Paul Aquilina SJ*). The Province expresses its heartfelt **gratitude to Frs Konrad Noronha SJ and Francis Pudhicherry SJ** for leading us into a meaningful retreat. Thanks to both Jeevan Dhara and Jisu Jaher communities for the accommodation and looking after the needs of the retreatants!

Youth Conclave



The "Youth for Jesus" had its first-ever youth conclave on the theme, "Leaders for Jesus" on Sunday, 27 October 2019, at St Xavier's, Sahibganj. A total of 55 Christian youth from various places, namely, Sahibganj, Pakur, Majlispur, Tinpahar, Nichamari, Nichitpur, Altapur, Jibonpur, Mariam Pahar, Purnia, Satmi and Dumka participated in the one-day workshop and thus became the original members of the "Youth for Jesus." **Fr Sahay Raj** of Purnea Diocese was invited to grace the occasion as the main resource person of the day who conducted a much appreciated workshop for our young boys and girls. The workshop began with a Prayer Dance performed by St Xavier's School children which was



followed by a Welcome Address by **Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ**, the Animator, and then began ice-breaking session. The first half of the day was devoted to listening to Fr Sahay

who, through his talks tried his level best to inspire and ignite the young minds. Fr Sahay's talks were mainly centered around the Bible and the life experience. His talks were followed by Group Discussion and sharing. The second half of the day, that began immediately after the lunch, was devoted mainly to Action Plan. Members formed themselves into groups

zone-wise to discuss various issues pertaining to their zones and the role they would play in their own zones. In a general



session, the Members also decided the Office Bearers of the "Youth for Jesus" and this was done on voluntary basis. The newly appointed Office Bearers are: **President:** Mr John (Pakur), **Vice-President:** Ms Teeya Hansda (Sahibganj), **Secretary:** Mr Annu Murmu (Dumka) and **Treasurer:** Ms Komoli Kisku (Jibonpur). The next mega Camp of the "Youth for Jesus," as decided by the Members, is to be held at St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, on December 28-29, 2019. All the Zones are encouraged to bring more youngsters from their respective Zones for the Camp. The workshop ended with a Holy Mass celebrated by **Fr Sunit Kullu SJ** and a solemn oath taking by the Members.

Zones & Co-coordinators: To facilitate an easy and effective functioning of the "Youth for Jesus," the Core Committee Members have divided themselves into 8 Zones with a Co-coordinator for each: **1. Bengal:** Fr Arul Doss SJ, **2. Purnia:** Fr John Robinson SJ, **3. Sahibganj:** Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ, **4. Boreo/Barheit:** Fr Deepak Tirkey SJ, **5. Pakur:** Fr Vimal Kerketta SJ, **6. Dumka:** Fr Vernard SJ, **7. Cilimpur:** Fr Ajit Hembrom SJ, **8. Mundli/Durgapur:** Fr Sunit Kullu SJ. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Women's Seminar at Nichitpur

A one-day seminar for the women of Nichitpur Parish was organised on 20 October 2019 at St Ignatius High School, Nichitpur in which 120 women took part. The resource person was **Fr Sunil Hansdak** of Bagdogra Diocese. The main aim of this seminar was to educate and encourage the



women on how to manage their families in the given socio-economic and political situation as well as to know about their rights and privileges in the civil society. As part of the seminar they were also given a detailed explanation on mushroom cultivation and making medicines for daily use with the help of easily available local plants and herbs. The women have shown a great interest in mushroom cultivation. Since many of our people are landless labourers and only seasonal work is available for them, Fr. Sunil Hansdak has promised to teach them in a practical way how to cultivate mushroom in their own houses without much expense. This will take place in the coming month. The youth of the parish was fully involved in taking care of the food and other necessary things needed for the seminar. We hope to have many more seminars of this kind to make our people self-sufficient in their lives. (*Fr Arul Doss SJ*).

My Unique Experience at AHCC

Fr Shin Kallungal SJ of Kerala Province who is an LLB student and in-charge of the Migrant ministry at Kalady, Kerala, presently doing his Tertianship at Sitagarha, Hazaribag, spent some days at Alternative Health Care Clinic (AHCC) as part of his Tertianship programme. He describes his experience at AHCC as follows: “It was a unique and



ever memorable experience for me to be in AHCC with the sick and the suffering as a Tertian. My heart was really moved when I saw paralyzed men

and women walking, the mentally challenged children responding, the young and old with withered legs and hands are getting strengthened through the healing touch of **Fr M.J. Peter SJ**. I could feel the Divine hand of God and the Gospel is becoming alive here in this unique healing ministry of AHCC. Fr Peter feels with each and every sick and suffering person and touches the heart with his genuine love and concern, diagnoses the sickness immediately and treats them holistically giving hope and healing. Even a few who went through treatment at famous hospitals and could not get healed are improving here and are happy. And being with hundreds of poor marginalized of any caste or religion who were helpless and hopeless earlier now smiling and hopeful fills me with inner joy. They challenge me to be humble, merciful, hopeful and



persistent. I am extremely happy and grateful to Frs M.J. Peter SJ and Christopher Dungdung SJ for their hospitality and for my enjoyable stay at Inigobari, AHCC, Kalidanga.” **Fr M.J. Peter SJ** adds: “Frs Nirmal Raj SJ and Edwin D Souza SJ came for treatment in their holiday time. We feel happy when many persons like Fr Shin SJ come and express their concern and love and support for our ministry.”

Blood Donation: Men and Women for Others

On the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, **St Xavier's College, Maharo**, decided to pay its hearty tribute to the Father of the Nation by being of some service towards the society following the footsteps of this great leader who devoted his entire life for the well being of humanity. What better could be attempted in its small way other than donating some units of blood which would save and serve some lives? Accordingly, the NSS (National



Service Scheme, S.K.M.U) unit of St Xavier's College, Maharo, in collaboration with the Red Cross Society of Dumka, organized a Blood Donation

Camp in its premises on 1 October 2019. The event was supervised by Dr Devasish Rakshit of Dumka Hospital; Mr Amrendra Kumar, Secretary of Dumka Red Cross Society, and Mr Manoj Kumar Ghosh of Lion's Club who have been vital figures in this field for a long time. The faculty members and students were very excited about this programme and had given their names heartily in the donor's list in large numbers. On this day, they donated one unit of blood each with great zeal and positive enthusiasm and vowed to be of service towards the society forever. On this occasion, the Principal of the college, **Fr Stephen Raj SJ** expressed his views on the concept of Blood Donation and termed it as the greatest service and dedication towards one's society and nation. He said, “Blood Donation is the greatest donation.” God has given us this precious life and by saving another life, one gets an opportunity to thank the Lord for his greatest gift to humanity. Many students and professors donated blood on this occasion. Mr Binay Herold Dumdum, the NSS officer-in-charge of the college, supervised the arrangements from the beginning towards a successful completion of the camp. The college aims to be of such service towards the society on every available opportunity. (*Mr Himadhri*).

A Blood Donation Camp was organized on 2 October 2019 on **St Xavier's School, Sahibganj**, campus by the SOXA

(Sahibganj Old Xaverians Association) Members. The Camp was inaugurated by Dr Mohan Paswan, a well-known Doctor

respect and preserve Mother Nature till its last breath. (*Mr Himadhri*).

Hathimara News

With the arrival of the winter season Hathimara campus looks beautiful. **Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ**, with help from the middle school children, has produced a beautiful Cosmos garden in front of the school. When the parents come to meet their children, they love to spend some time there taking photographs.



A two toilet room building, a contribution from the local MLA, Shri Stephen Marandi, meant especially for the women who come visiting, is ready. The freshly painted St Stanislaus' High School building looks magnificent. The boys' hostel management is much better disciplined under the able care of **Frs Nishtamani Toppo SJ and Manoj Toppo SJ**. The boy, who topped this year's Matriculation exam in Pakur District, was from our hostel. For the small boys of the hostel, we have acquired a new flat Sony TV with a large screen. It is meant to help them learn good Hindi and become aware of happenings around us. (*Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ*).

Youth Science Fair

The Government of West Bengal had organized the State level Students Youth Science Fair for the year 2019. The selection for the participation at the Youth Fair was done at two levels: the Science Fair at the Block level which was



of Sahibganj Sadar Hospital. Among the generous donors were SOXA Members, teachers of St Xavier's including **Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ** and **Fr Lourdu Xavier SJ**. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Tree Plantation and Environment Campaign

St Xavier's College, Maharo, marked the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, by organizing, in collaboration with Act Now, a socio-academic NGO of Dumka city, a Tree Plantation and Environment Campaign Programme on the eve in its adjoining Sarsabad village. Sarsabad is first in the line of many more rural communities to be adopted by the college as part of its extension of academic life. Academics is complete in its truest sense only when it becomes a holistic social phenomenon and the college wishes to achieve this very aim in its academic dream. The programme was organized under the college NSS (National Service Scheme) banner with a view to putting into action the Mahatma's vision of clean and healthy socio-environment life for all. As part of the programme, students



and faculty members walked up to the river banks of Sarsabad after having finished their day's classroom activities.

At the predestined site, all planted saplings and trees looking forward to a three dimensional goal - Environment Conservation, Pollution Reduction and Checking Soil Erosion. The plants had been provided by the Forest Department of Dumka in lieu of welcome contributions from the entire Xavier's family. Mr Binay Herold Dumbum, the NSS officer and Mr Abhishek Anand, founder of Act Now supervised the proceedings in the presence of students from various streams of the college and vowed to carry on with more such endeavours in the coming times. Small gestures like this are small but steady steps towards a social framework that would

organized at Dalkhola High School and at the District level which was organized at Milanpalli High School, Islampur, on 26-27 September. **St Ignatius High School, Nichitpur**, bagged third position at both levels and got selected for the State level Youth Science to be held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata. The students and the institution were awarded with medals, trophies and certificates. We wish the students' team all the very best for the State level competition. (**Fr Arul Doss SJ**).

Educational Tour

The Departments of Commerce and Business Administration of St Xavier's College, Maharo, jointly organised an Educational Industrial Tour to the Rice Mills of Babupur, situated at 3 kilometres from the premises of the college on 22 October 2019. It was planned as an extension of the academic



curriculum where the students could have practical hands on experience of the industrial life and culture around the city.

This tour was intended as a prelude to similar upcoming academic excursions that the departments wish to conduct in near future. Any theory is best realised when it is put to active practice and the students participated in this tour under the guidance of their professors with this motto in mind with great enthusiasm. Faculty members from both the departments: Dr S.P. Mallick, Mr Alok Emmanuel Kisku and Mr Binay Herold Dumdum accompanied students and guided them in the perception of the various processes at work in an industrial area along with the inputs and demonstrations by the coordinator of the rice mill. Students were highly benefitted with such an excellent opportunity of practical experience from close quarters and wish to enrich themselves with many such projects in the coming times. (**Mr Himadhri**).

Home Returning

The boys of St Ignatius Hostel, Sahibganj, came back to hostel on 13 October 2019 from their Puja Holiday. From the very next day they had exams which they had not completed after which the students followed by their guardians were shown their answer sheets. Apart from the study boys are preparing for the Annual Sport's Day which kick-started with Marathon race conducted on 31st October. **Fr Victor** has returned to hostel from Kolkata after his successful operation and is recuperating slowly and steadily. (**Sch Marianus Ekka SJ**).

Hallowed Footprints of St Francis Xavier

On October 24, 2019, 21 Tertians, among them two from

Dumka-Raiganj Province, along with the two Tertian Instructors **Fr Arul Shivan SJ** and **Fr William SJ** set out from Shembaganur, near Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu, on pilgrimage to follow the footprints of St Francis Xavier SJ. In Tuticorin, we visited the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Snows, then to Punnakayal, Manapad, Kanniyakumari and Kottar, Nagarcoil, the Cathedral and Shrine of St Francis Xavier. At Holy Cross Church, Manapad, a coastal village, 60 kms from Tuticorin, we celebrated the Holy Eucharist. St Francis Xavier started his missionary activity on the Fishery coast from here in 1542. A well containing sweet water is just five feet away from the sea. It is said that St Francis Xavier dipped the crucifix into the well and the water became drinkable in all the wells along the coast. When I touched the Cross of Francis Xavier, I experienced a kind of peace within me and also his blessings. Concelebrating Holy Mass in St Francis Xavier Cathedral and Shrine at Kottar in Nagercoil, was another unforgettable experience. The pilgrimage made me take a good look into myself as a companion in the Society of Jesus. GC 32 has these memorable words: "The Jesuit is a man whose mission is to dedicate himself entirely to the service of faith and the promotion of justice." (d.2 no.31) (**Fr Ignatius Lakra SJ**).

Treading on Holy Ground

Like our Father St Ignatius who with great desire visited the Holy Land where Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour lived and died, we, the Tertians at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur in Tamil Nadu, had a great desire to visit places where Saint Francis Xavier laboured so hard and where Blessed Devasagayam Nilakantha Pillai suffered martyrdom in 1752. Both witnessed to their great love for Christ to the people of Tamilnadu. Both fulfilled the words of St Paul, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," (Rom 8,39). We visited the places where St Francis lived and worked, a cave at Manapad and a chapel at Poonakayil.

I was very much touched by the story of Blessed Devasagayam who underwent horrible tortures and finally death to remain loyal to Christ. A magnificent church in the town and a beautiful shrine at the place where the martyrdom took place have been built in honour of Bl Devasagayam. During the day prayers and adoration are conducted in both places. We are very grateful to our fellow Madurai Jesuits for the brotherly welcome given us wherever we went. (**Fr Gregory Kujur SJ**).

An Ignatian Experiment

In the month of September 2019, I went to Mumbai for my month-long Ignatian Experiment (experience) at Asha Daan Ashram of the MCs of Mother Teresa. There are about 350 inmates altogether men, women and children. The main

experience consisted in cleaning the wounds of the inmates and bandaging them, every day for two and half hours.



After that, I would spend the time in talking with, listening to and counselling the inmates in different wards. The daily offering of Holy Mass and the three recollections I gave to three different groups of Sisters were joyful moments. As I look back at the experience, I just wonder how I was able to withstand it since, initially, I felt it extremely difficult and challenging. Now I realize that I could engage in difficult works of charity only with God's abundant grace obtained through personal prayer and the examination of conscience. My working with under-privileged people gave me many valuable insights in life. I felt a deep inward movement calling me to journey with them and, at the same time, calling me to reflect on myself: who, where, for whom and for what do I exist. These touching and unforgettable experiences have given me a deep understanding of and sympathy with suffering humanity, especially the inmates of houses of works of mercy, who suffer not only physical sicknesses but also rejection by their own families and civil society. Psychological and mental sufferings are more painful than physical ones. This Ignatian experiment has deepened my faith in God, strengthened me in my religious vocation and deepened the sense of my vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. I experience some kind of transformation in me including a sense of the third degree of humility to be more humble, simple and compassionate in particularly towards the needy. It was a very rich experience indeed! (*Fr Ignatius Lakra SJ*).

DNC, Pune

On 5th October, we, the Scholastics and Fathers of Dumka-Raiganj Province bid farewell to **Fr Seraphim Tirkey SJ** who left for his higher studies to Austria. In the second week of October, the first year philosophers went to Ajanta and Elora for a tour. The beautiful scenery of Ajanta and Elora and visiting the statues of Buddha gave them God



experience. While the second year philosophers went to Goa for a tour, the third year Theologians went to Goa for their retreat. We, the philosophers, got blessings of St Francis Xavier and had different colourful, glorious and wonderful experiences in Goa. On returning back to DNC, we had triduum by Fr Elanko SJ which helped us to reunite ourselves with God through different experiences. In the name of



Diwali, On 27th October, a hockey tournament was organized by Chotanagpur Cultural Association (CCA) in which DNC hockey team got the first prize (goat). (*Sch Borson Hembrom SJ*).

Health Bulletin

Fr Sebastian Tudu SJ on 13th October suffered a minor stroke in Karon. He was rushed to Dumka and was admitted at St Ursulla Hospital for a day and from there was moved to The Mission Hospital, Durgapur, where he recovered his power of speech and the use of his arm. Fr Saby was discharged on 23rd October and taken to Jisu Jaher at Dudhani, Dumka. On 27th October he was taken to Pakur for further treatment. He is now residing at CTC, Torai, and is having treatment at Pakur. Fr Emmanuel Besra SJ attended who attended to him while at Durgapur is now assisting him at Torai. **Fr Jesuraj Poobal SJ** was down with viral fever and was admitted to St Ursulla Hospital for two days. **Fr Benjamin Tigga SJ** felt ill while returning from home visit, toward the end of October, and was admitted in the Orchid hospital at Ranchi. Fr C.M. John SJ and Sch Davit Tirkey SJ brought him to Jisu Jaher, Dumka. On 4th November, he was taken to Kalidanga, Rampurhat, for further treatment. **Fr Charles Tudu SJ** experienced restlessness on 28th October at Mariampahar. **Br Bernard Kisku SJ** accompanied him to Kolkata. The cardiologist found a small clot in one of the heart's arteries and prescribed medicine. **Fr Peter Marandi SJ** at CTC Torai, was down with fever and was admitted to St Ursula Clinic, Dumka, for two days. He is back at CTC, where a catechists' course is going on at present. **Fr Edwin D'Souza SJ** was admitted to St Luke's hospital, in Dakaita. He also spent a few days at Inigobari, Kalidanga. **Fr Theophil Tigga SJ** has recovered from a viral infection. **Fr J.L. Xavier SJ** had a ligament rupture during a basketball game.