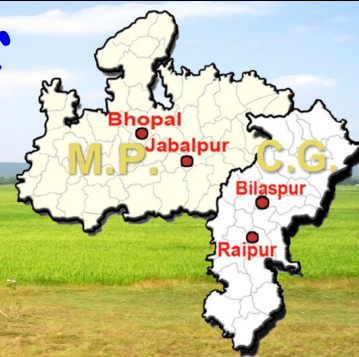




MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

November 2019

Year 40, No. 10

FATHER GENERAL ANNOUNCES AN IGNATIAN YEAR: A CALL TO CONVERSION

"It is my desire that at the heart of this Ignatian year we would hear the Lord calling us, and we would allow him to work our conversion inspired by the personal experience of Ignatius." This is the invitation extended by Fr. Arturo Sosa, as Superior General, in a letter addressed to the entire Society of Jesus on 27th September 2019.



This Ignatian year will last 14 months, from 20th May 2021, the date of Ignatius' injury during the Battle of Pamplona, to 31st July 2022, the feast of Saint Ignatius in the liturgical calendar. The theme of conversion is therefore linked to the experience of the founder of the Society. It is because of his being wounded that Ignatius the knight was forced to undergo a long convalescence during which he was able to reflect on his life, on the meaning that his life had had until then and on the meaning that it could have afterwards.

The year will be marked by important events for the entire Society. The 400th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Ignatius will be celebrated on 12th March 2022. Let us remember that Saint Francis Xavier was canonized the same day, along with Saint Theresa of Jesus, Saint Isidore the Laborer and Saint Philip Neri. The 71st Congregation of Procurators will take place in Loyola from 16th to 22nd May 2022; it will be preceded, in 2021, by Provincial Congregations all over the world.

In his letter of 27th September, Father General makes the connection between these celebrations of 2021-2022 and the spirit of the *Universal Apostolic Preferences*. He writes "The *Universal Apostolic Preferences* (2019-2029) have confirmed the call to our personal, community, and institutional conversion, which is necessary for our greater spiritual and apostolic freedom and adaptability. Let us take this opportunity to let God transform our life-mission, according to his will".

The motto chosen for the Ignatian Year is "To see all things new in Christ". This is what conversion leads to. A specific dimension is highlighted by Father Sosa, that of poverty which, he insists, includes personal friendship with the poor and help for the poor. The Ignatian Year should be a privileged opportunity to hear the cry of the poor, the excluded, and those whose dignity has not been respected.

Courtesy: sjweb.info

FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER

- 1-4 Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 5-6 Boirdader, Pathalgaon
- 7-9 Visitation, Khrist Milan Ashram & Parish, Namna
- 10 Inauguration of Silver Jubilee, Dhanwar
- 11-15 XLRI, Jamshedpur
- 18-20 Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 21-22 Meeting of the Selection of Ministries Commission, All Commission Coordinators at XISA, Raipur (Arrival 21st evening)
- 23-24 UAP Orientation for Rectors, Superiors & Commission Coordinators, XISA, Raipur
- 25 Provincials' Meet, Raipur
- 28-5 (Dec) Annual Retreat, Indore

DECEMBER

- 1-5 (Cont.) Annual Retreat, Indore
- 7-11 Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 12-18 Visitation, St. Xavier's Bandiyakhar, Prakash School, Asha Deep, Pathalgaon & St. Joseph's Kerakachhar
- 19-22 Visitation, St. Xavier's Ambikapur (School, B.Ed. & Apostolic)
- 23-30 Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

APPOINTED BY PROVINCIAL

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Fr. Sebastian Lakra SJ | Asst. Director (Migration Studies), In Charge of the House & Treasurer in Bagaicha, w.e.f. 1 December 2019 |
| Fr. Prabhu N. Khalkho SJ | Principal, St. Xavier's School, Baramkela |
| Bro. John Sona SJ | Minister, Farm & Garden, Jhingo |
| Fr. Ashok Lakra SJ | Pastoral Ministry & Teacher in RVTC, Kerakachhar |
| Fr. Bernard Ajay Ekka SJ | Pastoral Ministry, Jhingo |
| Fr. Justin Kujur SJ | Pastoral Ministry, Shantibhawan Jashpur |
| Fr. Ignace Kindo SJ | Pastoral Ministry, Dhanwarkala |

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

- 03 January 2020 **Dn. Sandeep Tigga SJ and Dn. Sanjeev Tirkey SJ** will be Ordained Priests in Ghaghra
- 07 May 2020 **Dn. Anmol Lakra SJ** will be Ordained a Priest in Bhelwan

APPLICATION FOR SACRED ORDERS

The following Scholastics have applied to be admitted to Sacred Orders. If anyone has any information that he thinks would help Fr. Provincial decide about their request, is requested to submit the same by 10th December 2019:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sch. Akhilsai Albert Bara SJ | 4. Sch. Dino Pinto Toppo SJ |
| 2. Sch. Alok Kumar Toppo SJ | 5. Sch. Pritam Prakash Panna SJ |
| 3. Sch. Dilip Minj SJ | 6. Sch. Virendra Tirkey SJ |

XIDAS, JABALPUR

We were very happy to welcome four guests of ours on September 30 evening. Fr. Satyaprakash Tigga (Kunkuri) dropped in here on his way to Campion, Bhopal for the Central Zone Educators' Meeting. Fr. Abraham Toppo (Umaria) and Fr. Theodore Toppo (Manpur) came here to meet Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, in connection with construction works in their respective places, and Fr. Xavier Soreng (RAN) who accompanied Fr. Alexius Ekka (RAN) who arrived here to take charge as the Director of XIDAS. Such occasions are rare when we get so many guests together on working days. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, came here again from Bilaspur on 12 early morning for the GB Meeting and left for Bhopal in the evening.

Four Hazaribagh Province Jesuits made a halt at XIDAS for five hours on October 5 afternoon on their way to Bhopal for the Central Zone Educators' Meet. It was their first ever visit to XIDAS. While here they went round to see the campus and departed for Bhopal after supper.

Fr. Alexander Ekka was in Jabalpur on October 08 for the celebration of *Nayakhani*. He was invited in a very special way by the Munda, Oraon, Kharia Adivasi Vikas Samiti for the occasion as the Chief Guest. After the celebration he came over to XIDAS in the evening and stayed with us overnight. He told us that he had a long-standing connection with the Adivasi Samiti of Jabalpur as he was instrumental in starting it late 1990s when he was at Sneh Sadan.

Frs. Satyaprakash Tigga, Tej Kumar Minj & John Crus Lakra made a halt here on 10 morning on their way back from the Central Zone Educators' Meet at Campion, Bhopal. While Frs. Satya Prakash and Tej Kumar left the same day by Jabalpur-Ambikapur Express at 2.00 p.m. for their respective destinations, Fr. John Crus stayed on with us for a day.

Fr. Fulchandra Kujur from Baramkela reached here on 12 evening. He stayed with us three days doing referencing work in connection with his doctoral studies and departed with Fr. Sanjay Kujur for Bhopal on 16 afternoon to participate in a UGC-sponsored national seminar in fulfillment of the requirement from the doctoral students. He returned here 22 evening and continued his referencing work and data analysis.

Another chapter was added to the history of XIDAS when Fr. Alexius Ekka (RAN) was installed as the new Director on October 01 in the presence of Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial. The short ceremony started at 2.30 afternoon in Camille Bulcke Hall with a short welcome address by the outgoing Director Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra. It was followed by an introduction of Fr. Alexius Ekka by the Dean of Academics, Dr. Uma C. Saha. Then Fr. Ranjit Tigga formally made the announcement by reading out the letter of the appointment of Fr. Alexius Ekka as the new Director. Thereafter the handing over of the inventory by the outgoing Director to the incoming one took place. He was given time to address the staff and the students in which he said that he was very happy to get a chance to lead the Institute founded by late Fr. Michael Van den Bogaert with whom he had an opportunity to work for some time at XISS, Ranchi earlier. He said further that he would learn a few things from the staff and the students to be able to function properly and take the Institute in the right direction. Fr. Sanjay Kujur gave the vote of thanks to all present and the ceremony was brought to a close with refreshments for all in the canteen. As XIDAS welcomes the new Director, it also sincerely thanks Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra for being at the helm for four months.

The first Board of Governors' Meeting of 2019-20 Academic Year was held on 12 for which Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, was here in his capacity as the President.

Having finished their first Trimester End Exams of this academic year on September 30, the students had a break on October 01. From 03 they had their regular classes during which they got orientation for exposure programmes. Accompanied by the Faculty Members, the First Year students left for Sagar on 13 evening for their week-long Rural Exposure and the Second Year students for Indore for their Industrial Exposure. They returned here on 19 morning and left on 22 for the mid-trimester break-cum-Diwali holidays till October 29.

- Fr. Valentine Ekka SJ

KOELARI, UMARIA

We had a lot of activities this Month was full of fun and frolic. We completed our Quarterly Exam before Dushara holidays. We came refreshed and re-energised to the school after pooja holidays. We declared the result of Quarterly exam on 19 October. The students came to get the result with their parents. It was a nice time to interact with parents. Most of the students have done well and they promise to do better further.

We celebrated the feasts of *Karam* and *Nayakhani/Tusgo* (Harvest Feast) on 20 October in Umaria Parish. Nirdosh Ekka, SJ was the main celebrant and *Pahan*. He explained why we celebrated *Karam* and *Tusgo*. He stressed on



Adivasi culture and on its preservation. After the Mass we cut the *Karam* branch and started our celebration. The *Jhimir Jhita pani* added colours to our *Karam* dance. The entire Umaria Parish Campus was resounding with *Mandar Tal*. We had a fellowship meal thereafter with the parishioners. It was a wonderful occasion to see all young and old dancing *Karam* dance in one circle.

We had a staff picnic on 24 to *Johila fall* where we enjoyed the beauty of the creation and the company of each other. It was a gala time for the staff. At present we are busy preparing students for the Annual function of the school.

- Dn. Anmol Lakra SJ

LOYOLA KUNKURI

The Jesuits are very grateful to **His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta D.D., Bishop** of Diocese of Jashpur availing Rev. Fr. Ranjit Kerketta, from the diocese, as a Professor of English in the College. We are also grateful to **Rev. Sr. Florencia Minj, Provincial** of the Daughters of St. Anne allotting Sr. Anjana Pale, DSA as a Professor of Commerce.

Fr. Pancratius Toppo, S.J. guided an eight retreat to the Daughters of St. Anne of Jalpaiguri Province. The theme of the retreat was 'Live, Love and Labour in the Spirit of the Gospel'.



Fr. Pancratius Toppo S.J. and Fr. Vijay Minj S.J. attended the Jesuit Conference of South Asia for dialogue in Delhi held on 11-13th October 2019. They too were asked to share about dialogue mission of the Province. Fr. Kinley Tshering S.J., Bhutan, Fr. Bob Mc Cohill (Mary Knoll/ Bangladesh) shared their rich working experiences with the people of other faiths. Fr. Sunny Jacob S.J., JEA Secretary shared the mind boggling situation of present political scenario of India and our expected response as vigilant citizens. Fr. Vincent Shekhar S.J., JCSA Secretary for dialogue suggested for the implementation of some programme: education of peace and harmony, education of Human Rights and education of Constitution to promote cordiality and companionship.

Fr. Pancratius Toppo S.J. gave Spoken English classes and Learning Communicative English skills to the students of Holy Cross Nursing College Kunkuri before they enrolled themselves for the nursing course. This was 88 hour credit course. The students' fluency of language was visible on the stage performance on the concluding day.

The Students of Apostolic School participated in the *Karam* festival celebration at Cathedral parish on 5 October. This brought great impetus in the students and the staff to appreciate Adivasi culture.

The Apostolic School, Kunkuri Family went to St. John Berchmans' Apostolic School, Samtoli, Simdega to witness its Golden Jubilee celebration on 20 October. The students were impressed with the arrangements and learnt much from that great event.

The Terminal examination has begun in different departments of the College. The AICUF had organized one day workshop on 20 October. The theme of the workshop was 'Know Adivasi Culture, Identity, and Rights'. Mr. Chandan Prakash Xess, Principal of Redial English Medium School Pandripani, gave Adivasi history in detail with facts and figures. Fr. Deepak Beck, Lawyer of Jashpur diocese spoke on the Indian Constitutional Rights given to Adivasis. He sensitized the youth with impressive and elaborative knowledge of Constitutional Rights. He reiterated the need of the demand of their rights of which people are still unaware and ignorant about. Sr. Mary Kusum Tirkey, DSA spoke about the development and strengthening of youth in tribal society.

- Fr. Cornelius Ekka, S.J.

ASHA DEEP, PATHALGAON



An Ignatian retreat was organised for the students of St. Anne's H.S. School and Gyanodaya English Medium School, Tapkara from 6 to 8 September under the guidance of Fr. Dr. Oscar S. Tirkey, SJ. The number of the retreatants was close to two hundred. The evaluation showed that it was very effective. The retreatants felt that they were transformed and had become disciples of Jesus Christ.

MAP Deacons - Suresh Tirkey, Sanjeev Tirkey, Sandeep Tigga and Anmol Lakra, had their recollection and sharing in C. A. Boirdadar on 14-15 Sept. They were guided by Fr. Dr. Oscar S. Tirkey, SJ, MAP Deacons' in charge. Boirdadar Community was very hospitable and generous. Their next recollection and sharing is in XISA, Raipur on 12-13 November.



There was a programme of Formation and training for Christian Life Community (CLC) Animators of Gumla Diocese held in St. Patrick Bishop's House, Gumla on 21-22 September. Thirty nine CLC Animators participated in the programme. Fr. Dr. Oscar S. Tirkey, SJ was the resource person. The theme was "How to take CLC classes?". The resource person taught them twenty one different methods to take CLC classes which will make the members of CLC more loving and caring, developed persons and be successful in life and career. The Animators were enriched very much by the programme. The pro-



gramme was organized by Fr. Vijay Tigga, CLC Director of Gumla Diocese. The Bishop's House was very cooperative and understanding.

Four Deacons, nine Regents and five Collegians had their *Triduum* in Asha Deep, Pathalgaon from 8-10 October guided by Fr. Dr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ. It was very enriching and transforming for the participants.



An eight day annual Ignatian retreat was guided for Ursuline Sisters at Ursuline Convent, Dharamjaigarh from 7-14 October by Fr. Dr. Oscar S. Turkey, SJ. Seventeen Sisters participated in it. Participants had deep experience during the retreat.

20 October was the day of cultural celebration for the people of Pathalgaon. The programme was held at Haddigodam- Pakargaon, Murapara. The programme is being organized successfully by the *Sanyojak Mandal of Uraon-Kurux Samaj* since last four years with the purpose of fostering team spirit, cultural revival and unity of *Uraon-Kurux Samaj*.

The program consisted in two parts, first, football match and secondly, cultural dance competition. This year forty six teams participated in the football match. The final match was played between Jherapara and Saraitola. Jherapara was the winner and Saraitola the runner up.

It was an occasion of showing Uraon-Kurux unity through games and cultural dances. More than 25000 people witnessed the event. Mr. Mohit Kerketta, MLA of Pali was the Chief Guest. Local dignitaries and leaders graced the occasion. Mrs. Dhanmati Pradhan, BDC, Mr. Tikeswar Ekka, BDC, Mr. Patel Toppo, Surpanch, Mr. Surendra Turkey, Surpanch were the main organizers. They conducted the program with the help of many volunteers and well-wishers and generous direct and indirect supporter. Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ Played a vital role behind the curtain.

- Fr. Bipin Kishore Kujur, SJ & Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ

JIWANDHARA ASHRAM, MAUHAPALI

The Jesuits at Jiwandhara Ashram, Mauhapali reached out to many villages in the last summer to speak about the school and its education including the availability of the hostel facility. Many parents and children responded positively to their efforts for better education. The number of students has gone up from 126 in previous session to 153 in the session 2019-20 in the school. The efforts are still on. However, Jesuits were disappointed with the negative response for taking the available facilities of the hostel. Jesuits were ready to accommodate even one student to reopen the hostel. A few students from far off villages have expressed to stay in the hostel now from the middle of the academic session.

Fr. Blacius Kerketta, S.J., Principal is trying his best with other Jesuits in the school to improve the quality of the school. They are organising various extracurricular activities to bring out the hidden talents of the students.



They are also instilling in them the values which are expected of the students. They are excited with the positive growth of the school and the students.

Fr. Eligius Kandulna, S.J. and Fr. Blacius Kerketta are also trying to upgrade the physical and infrastructural facilities in the campus, namely renovating the staff quarters, sanitary facilities for students

and kitchen shed for the Jesuit community. These enhancements will certainly help Jesuits to impart better services to students and people around.

Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J. is trying to understand the life of *Ganda* community in and around Mauhapali village. He realises and experiences that people of *Ganda* community are bearing the brunt of untouchability of the society. The people are divided based on the social hierarchy. Lower the place in social hierarchy worse is the life in every sphere.

He also gave an eight-day Spiritual Exercises to the Ursuline Sisters of Mauhapali from October 6-14, 2019. And later he took classes for the first year B.Ed. students of St. Xavier's College of Education, Ambikapur on qualitative research, especially the ethnographic research methodologies from October 21-24, 2019. These inputs were much needed as per their observation on teaching-learning atmosphere in various schools they go for their internships.

- Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J.

CAMPION, BHOPAL

The year 2019 has been very fortunate for us, the members of the Campion Community, to host the Annual Meet of the Assistancy Commission for Formation (ACF) at Campion School, Bhopal from 30 September to 4 October. The entire Campion Community with great enthusiasm accepted this opportunity and cheerfully welcomed the dignitaries and the formators of the South Asian Assistancy. Fr. George Pattery, S.J., Provincial of South Asia, Fr. Raj Irudaya, S.J., ADF, the Rectors and the Superiors from common houses and the PCFs/RCFs hailing from different Provinces and Regions. A welcome dinner was arranged in the Campion Community on their arrival and they were also taken to different units- on 2 October, to AICUF Ashram and on 3 to Campion School Bhauri with the purpose to show our apostolates and mission in Bhopal.

The Central Zone Educators' Meet was organized from 6—9 October at Campion school, Bhopal. The Campion Community brought all the hands together to make this event a success. Around 130 educators from the Central Zone Jesuit Provinces came to take part in suitably chosen theme, 'Be the Change to make the Change' in the process of ever fast changing world in every field and sector. In education too we need to bring changes first and foremost in us and that will automatically impel us to bring changes whom we are teaching. On 6 October the Meet started off by an evening cultural programme by the students and the staff of Campion School and the Jesuit pre-novices. A well prepared skit on the life of St. Ignatius was put up. In the skit the Saint comes down to the earth and meets some young students and narrates how he first had worldly dreams and an incident completely changed his life, and how he wants that the Jesuits and their collaborators bring changes in themselves using the modern means and help change the men and women of today to make a better society. The evening programme gave an apt introduction to the meet by executing various elements of the theme. The community left no stone unturned for the smooth running of the programmes, logistics, meals, stationery, speakers for the theme and the minutely planned programmes of the day. Campion School, Bhauri arranged an evening programme for the participants on 7 October. Fr. George Pattery, Provincial of South Asia, Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, Madhya Pradesh Province, Fr. Sunny Jacob, Secretary JEA, Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess. and Fr. Sijji (ADO) and a team from Eklavya were the eminent resource persons who led the gathering to ponder over the current challenges.

St. Edmund Campion parish celebrated on 12 October the two tribal

festivals, *Tusgo* and *Karam*, to enable the tribals of this parish to be rooted and grounded in their culture and tradition. Fr. Stany, the main celebrant of the Eucharist, guided all of us to revisit our identity. After the Mass a “*Karam Daal*” was installed and the “*Karam Story*” was narrated by Fr. Lalit. It was a very meaningful celebration as all the parishioners were made to ponder upon their identity and after a common meal the *Karam* singing and dancing gave yet another occasion to realize their great cultural heritage which should be promoted by everyone.

- Sch. Naveen Kerketta, S.J.

AICUF ASHRAM, BHOPAL

We had a tribal cultural dance competition, “*Akhra Nu Nala Bara*” as a part of AYCM (1994-2019) jubilee year celebration held on 13 Oct. in Campion School. Rev. Dr. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial of Madhya Pradesh Province graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Arun Kiro, Asst. Curator (Rtd.) Indira Gandhi Sanghralaya, Bhopal was the Guest of Honour. About 400 people turned up to witness the event. Mata Mariam Church, Patel Nagar bagged the 1st prize(10001/-), St. Edmund Campion Church, the 2nd prize (7001/-) and St. Joseph’s Church, Idgah Hills, the 3rd prize (5001/-). Congratulations to parish priests Fr. Joji, Fr. Christi, Fr. Kapil, Fr. Justin and all the winners for their painstaking effort.

“*Ohre nagapuriar eka tara kadar ender ge rajin suna nandar ho...*” a song with tremendous meaning echoed the Aicuf Campus during jubilee, which pinned AICUFers of late Prof. Edmund Toppo the then professor of Gossner college Ranchi and of course of Fr. Gabriel Ekka (1982-1993). For about two hundred young AICUFers from 7 states of India celebrated AYCM Silver Jubilee. The celebration lasted from 25-27 October. It was held at the premises of AICUF Ashram with much grandeur and gusto. There was a traditional welcome to the guests. Fr. S. Emmanuel S.J., National Advisor, Fr. Nagin Macwan S.J., Fr. Anthony Swamy, Fr. AthnasLakra S.J., Principal, Campion school, along with a host of other dignitaries were escorted by Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh AICUF Unit. Fr. Alok Kujur S.J., delivered the welcome address. This was followed by a brief account of the activities conducted by AYCM Convener Mr. Aniket Beck (Ranchi) and State President Mr. Nandesh Kumar Rajwade (Chhattisgarh).

Following day on 26 morning the function commenced with Holy Eucharist, presided over by His Grace Most. Rev. Dr. Leo Cornelio, SVD. There was a ceremonial lighting of the lamp by all animators and unit leaders to invoke divine blessings for the successful accomplishment of the programme. In his address to the students His Grace said that “25 years have been like relay race and quite a few people have played substantial role to its completion.” His Grace congratulated all on reaching this milestone. After the mass, to mark the jubilee celebration, 25 colorful balloons were released by the Archbishop together with state advisors and animators. Symbolically it was to explore all possibilities in life and soar to the skies. On third day, 27 October, Fr. P.P. Joseph, Parish Priest, Barkhera parish offered Holy Mass for the AICUFers and urged them to nurture the virtue of humility.

The next to follow was a cultural extravaganza by the bubbling young AICUFers. The Chief Guests for the cultural evening was Mr. Prakash Kerketta (Judge) and Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur, (AYCM Co-coordinator 1993-1999) was the Guest of Honour. Both of them shared their experiences and gave away the prizes. Thereafter, the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were accorded a formal welcome with mementoes, bouquets and shawls presented to them by Fr. S. Emmanuel S.J., National Adviser. Aicufers rocked the stage with spectacular cultural

events. All animators were felicitated and given memento as a token of gratitude for their commendable service and accompaniment to youngsters. All-rounders were also awarded prizes. Like Mr. Francis Hansda (Dumka) for mellifluous tune, Mr. Johnson (Ranchi) for the best acting of scenes from the ruling government, enacted by Ranchi Aicufers kept the audience glued to their seats. Through their *Nukkad*, they infact gave the Midas touch to jubilee celebration. Similarly tribal dance of GujuratAicufers and their *Garba Dance* enthralled the audience. The Chief Guest gave away Aicuf Certificates to all the participants.

The focal points of discussions of the jubilee celebration were - AYCM history, Rights of the Tribal Culture and Social security, Leadership Quality: in this Changing Rhythm of Life, Identity of Tribals. Mr. Vinay Prakash Ekka, Mr. Arun Kiro, Assit. Curator (Rtd.) Indira Gandhi Sanghralaya Bhopal, Mr. Raimond Minj (BHEL), Mr. Anand Prakash Toppo, Social Activist, Kolkata and Mr. Nobentus were the speakers. The program ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J. M.P. State Adviser.

Hats off to Amos Toppo- AICUF full-timer, CG State President Nandesh, Fr. S. Emmanuel, National adviser, Sr. Anjana Pale, Sr. Sangeeta, Miss Sonam, Fr. Kalyan Panna and Sr. Anita Minj for their meticulous planning. We are grateful to Fr. Zacharias Kerketta, Principal, Campion School, Bhouri, Fr. ArvindVinay Tirkey and Campion Jesuit community.

Fr. Alok Kujur, SJ

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Vidyajyoti community continues to deepen its roots in doing theology in the present context of our country and the Church. The month of September progressed with various spiritual and academic activities to foster our religious life. On 24 the VJ community got together to express appreciation for all the good works in the community this month and to take up few concerns to be dealt with in the future. The *Onam* celebration in the college has been a memorable event. We rejoiced together with our brothers and sisters from the state of Kerala by participating in the celebration and sharing *Onam* sweets prepared for all.

VJ community participated in the Fiftieth Anniversary of the journey for justice and reconciliation organized by JESA, ISI, and Vidyajyoti College, on 26-27 September at Navjeevan Renewal Centre. It was indeed a very enriching experience for many of us as we attentively listened to the Jesuits, the lay Collaborators and other Religious who are active in Jesuit Social Action in South Asian Assistancy. The prominent speakers and social activists from different parts of India presented thoughtful reflections on social action and the reality that threatens the unity in diversity of India. They also made us aware of the challenges that minorities and other weaker sections of society face today and the responsibilities we need to carry on our shoulders with faith and courage. The Jesuits and collaborators from our Province too participated in the meeting. It doubled our joy to have them present among us and to enjoy their interactions and sharing with us. They shared with us some of the mission activities and happenings of the Province.

The visitation of Provincial, to MAP scholastics in VJ on 24-29 was well appreciated. He encouraged us to do well in our theological studies and deepen our Ignatian spirituality.

The month of October was a wonderful month for VJ community. We

had *Karam* celebration in the VJ community on 6th. All the Fathers and Scholastics took part in the *Karam* celebration. On 14 October the first year theologians went to Banaras in search of knowledge as part of their contextual study about Hinduism. The second and the third year theologians kept themselves busy at VJ College to fulfill their thirst for knowledge. On 27th of October the first year theologians came back to VJ safe and sound. All the MAP Scholastics, Fr. Leander and Br. Fulgence are happy and good in health. Now, we await the approaching winter which may come along with new challenges and opportunities.

- Sch. Dilip Minj SJ

DNC, PUNE

The month of October was very fruitful to us. The visitation of Fr. Dilip Soreng, PCF made us happy and delighted for he met us individually as well as in the group. His support and encouragement enriched us. This month Fr. Herman Tirkey, SJ joined the PG Block community and also joined JDV as one of its members of the faculty. We brothers in DNC were busy preparing for the exams and wrote our exams from 7-14 October. We did our best and the semester came to a good completion.

We departed for our cultural tour and pilgrimage to Goa on 17 October. 1st year Philosophers and 2nd year Theologians went to Ajanta-Ellora and 2nd year Philosophers and 1st year Theologians went to Goa. The 3rd year Theologians went for their diocesan retreat to Belgaum. All of us are back from touring safe and sound. Fr. Arohit finished his German language class successfully in Pune and is back to the province.



We began the *Triduum* on 23 October evening led by Fr. Illanko, Spiritual Father of DNC. Thus our holidays ended and classes resumed on 30 Oct.

- Sch. Firoj Fulgence Bara, SJ

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

The second year philosophers had gone to visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram located in Pondicherry as a part of their syllabus of integral yoga of Aurobindo, September 27 accompanied by Fr. Lawrence Fernandes and Fr. Solomon Barwa. The day was spent visiting beautiful places like Sri Aurobindo Ashram, the Basilica of Sacred Heart of Jesus and the rock beach where we enjoyed a lot and relaxed. Fr. Boniface Panna SJ, Rector went for the annual meeting of Assistancy Commission for Formation (ACF) to Bhopal to be held From Sep 30– Oct 4. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Satya Nilayam community organized a football match between the Brothers of Satya Nilayam and Berchmans Illam. After a good fight, the Brothers of Satya Nilayam were the winners by 3-1. After two days we had a recollection in the evening given by Fr. Alangaram SJ from Madurai province on the theme “WALKING WITH THE POOR AND THE OUTCASTES IN THE MISSION OF RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE” Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, principal of Sacred Heart College, attended JHESA MEETING in Kolkata from 5-8 October. We started our second continuous assessment on 8 October and ended it on 12 October. Soon after the exam, on October 13, Jesuit Ser-

vice for Migrants organized a seminar for the migrants with the topics, “NEW LABOUR LAW, LABOUR PROTECTION, COMPENSATION, ACCESS FOR MIGRANTS TO RATION MATERIALS AND PRESENT ISSUES RELATED TO MIGRANT WORKERS” in Loyola Engineering College, Chennai. We had a long-awaited living group dinner on 15 October when we enjoyed the company of living-group members. We had the first zonal Mass on 19 October. We had holidays from 14-23 October to prepare ourselves for semester exams. We started the exams on 24 Oct.

- Sch. Anup Minj SJ

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DEONIA (NEPAL)

The *Dashain* Holiday hallowed most of us in the community as we set sail for the annual retreat to different places. Fr. Dennis went to Kurseong for his annual retreat and Sch. Ivin and myself joined Darjeeling annual province retreat at Matigarha. Meanwhile, Sch. Wilson went for his passport work to Ranchi, India. Classes resumed on 14 October after the *Dashain* Holiday and having classes for a week, the students began the fourth cycle test along with their usual classes. There was the annual alumni meet—2076 B.S. on 4 October. The students of class 7 ‘A & B’ had a field trip on 18. We were pleased to have Fr. Charles Lasrado, S.J., Assistant General Treasurer from Rome and Fr. Bobi for accompanying him and celebrating the Holy Eucharistic celebration with the small local Church. Meanwhile, we also were blessed with a number of guests in our community and sharing our companionship with them.

- Sch. Ravindra Bara SJ

JESUIT MISSION IN MP

Article 22

Open Persecution (Contd.)

Letter from Galunda: “Last Sunday very early in the morning 2 men from Rattamatti came to call me at Galunda, so I (Galunda *Pracharak*) sent news to the *Pracharak* of Unchdih about my coming. From there the *Pracharak* of Unchdih, some Christians, and myself, in all 13 men, went to Rattamatti to make *girja* and help our brethren. On Friday the newly appointed *chaprassi* had reported all that had passed during the *Padri Saheb's* visit. On Saturday the 10 newly appointed *chaprassis* and some other men, headed by Gandur and Bhanu daffedar, some 20 or 25 men altogether came to Rattamatti with the obvious intention of ill-treating the people of Rattamatti, for they had shut them upon the *bhandar* together with the *Pracharak*, and had forced them to write a *kabuliyat* (engagement). At this moment we arrived from Galunda and Unchdih and we beat the gong. At the sound of the gong, 4 *sipahis* rushed out of the *Bhandar*, to stop us making *girja*, asking by whose order we beat the gong and wanted to make *girja*. At this moment there was much disputing. After a while a *sipahi* told someone to call Gandur. This man came to the spot where the people of Rattamatti usually make *girja*, accompanied by all his men and wanted to take us all to *Bhandar*, but this we refused to do so. On this we had a kind of *panchayat* under the tree where *girja* takes place, and during this a *sipahi* gave a blow to a Christian of Galunda. Gandur threatens to send a report against us for what we have done.”

“Tomorrow I (Fr. Van der Linden) will get most likely some further news. I will not fail to inform Your Grace. This is liberty of conscience with a vengeance.” That further news arrived 5 days later, and was bad: “Tongo, 5th November : The people of Rattamatti have

again been forced to abandon the Christian religion. After what had happened in the village, the men were called to Nagar, and there it seems the Chief morally forced them to become pagans again. Besides, yesterday 5 men from Galunda came to tell me that *sipahi* was in their villages with a notice ordering all those who had gone to Rattamatti with their *Pracharak* to appear at Nagar. The *Pracharak* is left out for he may be able to give good answers. (These young men of Glaunda went with their *Pracharak* for fear they might otherwise have been beaten; they had not even a stick with them whilst on the *zemindar's* side there were at least 20 men).

"Another fact: On Monday 30th October, 6 Christians of Jadia, 2 of Tukotoli, 2 of Bartoli, were called to Nagar by the *Gomosta* of their *zemindar*. The illegitimate daughter of the Chief asked whether they were going to become pagans or not. On their answering that they would remain Christians at any cost, they were ordered then and there to carry bricks, and up to 3rd November had not yet been set free. Of course no food was given to them and as they could not warn their people, the *Pracharak* who had accompanied them, bought *Chiuda* for 8 annas. and that is all they got to eat on that day. On the next days the people of their respective villages brought, and continued to bring them their food. "The Christians expect much from Your Grace's interference. If that succeeds, most of those who have abandoned, will come back, if not, I am afraid that still more will become pagans." The staunch perseverance of those 3 last villages is a bright ray in an otherwise dark horizon. Jadia, Tukotoli, Bartoli, in spite of such persecution from Gandur Ram, are today Catholic to the last Uraon.

Father Van der Linden had informed the Archbishop that he was going to Mahuadand to give a retreat. The latter will have asked him for a complete account of the losses undergone. This is the reason of the reply from Mahuadand, 8-11-1911 : "I received Your Grace's letter last Sunday. The villages that have abandoned Christianity under pressure of the Jashpur authorities (in which I include the *zemindars* and *thikedars*, who have themselves been urged by the authorities to induce the *ryots* to become pagans) are: Sardih, Rattamatti, Kiling, Nimgaon, Pakertoli, Bhudkela, Dumartoli (Marga). In all these villages (Dumartoli excepted) a *chaparassi* has been appointed by the *zemindar* of Kiling, who is the right hand of the Chief in his action against Christianity.

"I have not heard of any of the perverted villagers being charged with any extra *begari*, as the others are constantly charged. Unfortunately, the Pindih villagers went of their own accord to the Chief to promise that they would become pagans, in order to get rid of their *barahil* (manager of their *thikedar*) and of a policeman who was put in their village as punishment for an unproved murder that had taken place there. The very next day the *barahil* was dragged out of his house, by two *sipahis* sent by order of the Chief himself, and the policeman was taken away from their village a few days later." The murder was that of an unfortunate woman, considered a witch (*dain bisahi*). Patras, the Gholeng *Pracharak* told that it was for that murder the village had been punished. Later on, after this apostasy, the murder must have been proven. For it is related that the *Pracharak* got some 8 months prison, because he knew the murderer and had tried to hide his identity. "I (Fr. Van der Linden) do not know when Pindih returned from

that apostasy. Today this very large village is Catholic to the last man. The people are not very easy to deal with, not very generous to the Mission, but the number of boys and girls they send to schools, High schools included, is surprisingly great."

"In Patratoli, 3 families became pagans on account of bad marriages. The Christians left them severely alone without in the least molesting them. The heads of these 3 families went to Nagar to complain and without the least shred of proof, the Christians accused, were condemned to write a recognizance of Rs. 50/- each to keep the peace, which had in no way been broken. The *Pracharak* who had been summoned to appear with them was first sent out of court for boldly answering questions about religion and about the house he was living in. Then he was called back and on answering again when questioned, was forced to write a recognizance of Rs. 25/-. This seemed so unjust that a *mukhtar* who was present, undertook the defence of the *Pracharak* without being asked. Next Saturday, I will go back to Tongo, and complete the information asked by Your Grace"

That information did not take long to complete. On 14 November, he (Fr. Ven der Linden) again wrote from Tongo: "Last Saturday I came back from Mahuadand and found 3 *Pracharaks* waiting for me with the last news of Jashpur. On 4 November, Gandur of Kiling, accompanied by Bulet *goal* of Kiling (another *ahir* of the place), Thupra Lohar of Paiku, 2 *sipahis* and the *chaprassis* of Kiling, Rattamatti, Pakertola, Bhudkela, Pindih and Sardih went to Bartoli (village near Pindih) and having assembled all the Christians asked them whether they would become pagans or not. They answered: they would not, whatever happened. On this Gandur gave two slaps to Ghassi Christian, 2 slaps and a blow with a stick to Lagna Pardhan; 2 slaps and a push to Dukha, 2 slaps and a blow to Bhako. Having beaten them, he told them to give up going to church and went to Fatehpur, close to Bartoli. Gandur took a cloth from Bisai Christian and has refused to give it up till now."

"On the day before, Gandur accompanied by the same men, had gone to Rattamatti. While there, he sent men to bring Emile *Pracharak* of Rattamatti to the *Bhandar*. As he had fever he refused to go at first, but on being threatened that they would drag him out of his house, he went. When in the *Bhandar*, he was told that he had to go to Nagar immediately (it was about 3 p. m, 3rd November). On his pleading fever and the consequent impossibility of going to Nagar, he was told he had to go or be carried. Seeing there was no escape, he finally consented and was going to warn the *Bhandari* (keeper of the store house) to bring his clothes and food, when one of the *sipahis*, thinking that Emile was going away, rushed at him as if he were going to beat him. On this the *Pracharak* ran away and hid for some time in a house. There would certainly have been a good deal of trouble had not the Jungle *Daroga* come at that moment. He prevented them from doing any harm to the *Pracharak*, who on their swearing that they would not beat him, came out of the house and went to Nagar accompanied by 2 *sipahis* and 2 Uraons of Rattamatti. The next day he was taken before Dewan Singh, who made him sign an agreement that he would leave Rattamatti within a fortnight." It must have been a great consolation, in the midst of all these onslaughts, to find such staunch Christians as those of Bartoli, and also of Jadia and Tukotoli. Some of these beaten ones were still alive e.g. Dukha and Bhako. The old men of Bartoli narrated later with pride and pleasure the sufferings and temptations they had to endure then.

Fr. Van der Linden had told that the persecution was by no means spread all over his district. Between Lokhandih and the Sunkh was the small district looked after by Fr. Ford, from Majhatoli. Here was what the latter replied to the enquiry of the Archbishop : 5-11-1911 : "No village of my district has become pagan, nor am I aware of any person having done so under pressure of the Jashpur authorities. The people complain of the *begari*. In two villages they were told to become pagans, but not troubled much on this account, and the *Pracharak* of Lodam was told to leave the village, and to go to Nagar. I told him to be quiet and not do either; and no more was said to him. "Mine is quite a small part on the borders; so they must have been left out, as not worth bothering about."

On 15 November 1910, the Chief Secretary Mr. De Brett announced to the Archbishop that Mr. A. Napier, I.C.S. was to become Commissioner of Chhattisgarh Division and that a date could be arranged after 6 December for discussion between him, the Commissioner and the Rajah so that mutual grievances might be settled to the best advantage. Two days later Mr. A. Napier sent himself a personal letter to His Grace, suggesting dates that would suit him and from which the Archbishop could choose. The letter was very obliging : "I give this information in order that our meeting may be facilitated. As you know, as an official, my time is not my own and there happen to be a number of engagements about this time. I trust that if you can arrange to come to Raipur, you will do me the honour of staying at my house, where I shall be better able to arrange for your comfort than at the Circuit House, a somewhat cheerless building. I can also put your Chaplain or whoever may accompany you."

No mention is made in these letters of Mr. Blakesley, yet on previous occasions the Political Agent played the chief part at such interviews. The Archbishop accepted the proposal and chose the date of 11 December 1911. He stated that Fr. Van Hoeck, Rector at Ranchi, would accompany him. Mr. Napier, immediately on 7 December, sent another personal letter accepting the date, and excusing himself if he could not be present by 9.30 a. m. as there was to be Coronation Durbar that morning: "Your coming will be an excuse for getting away early from the latter function (a distribution of prizes to school children), an excuse which I will appreciate but my servants will show you and Mr. Van Hoeck your rooms. I am sorry that you can't stay but I know how difficult it must be for a busy man like you to come at all." Such delicacy on the part of this unknown high official must have given them a presentiment of good luck. **(To be contd.)**

- Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ



1. Br. Paschal D'Souza (GOA) 83/59 24 Oct. 2019
2. Fr Romuald D'Souza SJ (GOA) 93/74 01 Nov. 2019
3. NS Amarjeet Panna lost his elder brother late Nirmal Panna, on 30 Oct 2019 in Chiringa

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN OCTOBER FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	NAME	DEATH	BIRTH
01	Bp. Michael Minj, SJ	15 Nov 2004	08 Oct 1932
02	Fr. Deonis Tirkey, SJ	19 Nov 2005	15 Aug 1929

Kindly send your News and Photos by 25th of every month to:

<mapsj.information@gmail.com> and a copy to <mapsocius@yahoo.co.in>



JCSA Group Photo, Ranchi (21-28 October 2019)

PROVINCE ANNUAL RETREATS

1. **4 Feb. evening-12 Feb. 2020 evening** in XISA, Raipur for Pastors and fellow Province men. Guide: **Fr. Vincent Saldanha, SJ**. Contact persons are Frs. Christi & Stany. Fee 2500/-
2. **27 Apr evening-5 May 2020 evening** in Asha Deep, Pathalgaon for Priests & Brothers to be directed by **Fr. Ignatius Tete, SJ**. Contact person is Fr. Jaiprakash Toppo. Fee 2500/-
3. **15 May evening-23 May 2020 evening** in Asha Deep Pathalgaon for Scholastics and fellow Province Men to be directed by a **fresh Tertian**. Contact person is Fr. Jaiprakash Toppo.

Birthday List

NOVEMBER

- 02 Ekka Shanti Prakash
- 02 Kuiur Sanjay
- 03 Ekka Valentine
- 04 Minj Pancratius
- 06 Tirkey Arvind Vinay
- 06 Toppo Khelsai
- 08 Bara Arun
- 09 Minj Gabriel
- 11 Ekka Fulgence (K)
- 14 Tigga Tobias
- 16 Ekka Vincent
- 21 Tigga Sandeep
- 22 Lakra Ashish
- 22 Sona John
- 23 Tirkey Arvind
- 24 Ekka Cyril Naresh
- 24 Ekka Vijay Kumar
- 24 Lakra Francis
- 24 Xess Simon
- 26 Kujur Theodore
- 30 Bara Rakesh Kumar

DECEMBER

- 01 Xess Mukti Prakash
- 02 Bara Kuldeep
- 02 Kujur Akshay
- 02 Tirkey Vinod Kr.
- 04 Lakra Prakash
- 06 Ekka Pradeep
- 06 Minj Nirmal S.
- 09 Lakra Xavier
- 09 Tirkey Sushil
- 12 Tirkey Anil
- 13 Toppo Pintu Dino
- 13 Xaxa Kapil
- 14 Ekka Emilius
- 20 Ekka Ranjit
- 20 Minj Vijay Kumar
- 23 MINJ PATRAS
- 24 Ekka Casmir (T)
- 24 Kindo Sanjit
- 26 Lakra Kamal
- 27 Bara Ravindra
- 28 Kujur Patras
- 30 Kujur Bipin Kishore

Happy Birthday

