



Ganga Lahar



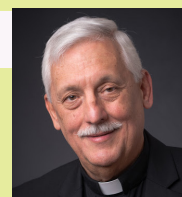
Patna Jesuits
News letter



OFFICIAL

FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr. Agnelo Mascarenhas, SJ (GOA) - Provincial of Pune Province	
Fr. Fabien Gasigwa	- Regional Superior of the Rwanda-Burundi Region
Fr. José de Pablo (ESP)	- Vice Ecclesiastical Assistant of the World Christian Life Community (CLC)



FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Bernard Rajarethinam	- Assistant Treasurer, Province & PJS
Joseph Thadavanal	- Aurangabad
Josey Mathias	- Director, Prabhat Prakashan, Patna
Marcus Michael	- Rest & Renewal
Norbert Menezes	- Rector, St. Michael's, Patna
Vimal Kishore	- Superior, Aurangabad



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 2020

02 PM-05 NOON	- Province Apostolic Planning (AD)
05 PM	- Jubilarians' Mass and Agape (XTTI)
10 - 14	- Visitation to St. Xavier's, Patna
22 - 24	- Visitation to Barbiga
27 - 28	- Visitation to Manthan, Khagaul
30	- Province Consult

DECEMBER 2020

Provincial will be in Province office in December

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR JUBILARIANS

50 Years in the Society

Fr. Jose Vadassery
Fr. Mathew Kattathara



50 Years of Priesthood

Fr. Mathew Chemplan
Fr. Joseph Kunnunkal
Fr. Sevanand Melookunnel
Fr. Joseph Velamkunnel

60 Years in the Society

Fr. Joseph Kunnumpuram
Fr. Joseph Njarakulam
Fr. Joseph Srampickal



We had the province level jubilee celebration of 2020 of the Patna Jesuits on 05 November 2020. The XTTI Community left no stone unturned for the grand celebration with decorated chapel, illuminated lawn, meaningful liturgy, melodious choir and delicious dinner. **Fr. Jose Vadassery** joined by fellow jubilarians presided over the solemn mass. **Fr. Mathew Kattathara** gave a personal homily. After the mass, the jubilarians were felicitated at the lawn next to the chapel by Fr. Provincial and the Rector of XTTI. It was wonderful to have our candidates from Sanjivan Niwas led by Fr. Premlal singing the hymns in the chapel and the felicitation song. Thanks to the Rector and Community of XTTI!

LOCAL REPORTS

Ara: Let me start the report with the visitation of Fr. Provincial to Ara in October. Our extended community member, **Fr. Edward Mendonca** came all the way from Buxar for the manifestation of conscience. While the Provincial appreciated and encouraged us for the good works that are being accomplished, his fatherly care and tender loving concern didn't come in the way of admonishing us and suggesting ways and means for the betterment and progress, both at the level of apostolate and community. The Provincial pointed out to us that the average age of the community is 60.4 years! Lo! Within two weeks by sending two young men, **Fr. Sylvester Dungdung** and **Sch. Amul Raj**, he pumped enough young blood into the community making us ever more vibrant and energetic. Sylvester is sent as High School English Teacher. Amul would be perusing on-line Theology Classes as a student of Vidyajyoti, Delhi.

The community is still struggling to cope with the two tragedies that struck two of our community members. Fr. Amalan's beloved dad died fighting cancer. He rushed home to be with the family and to bid farewell to his father. The day after **Fr. Amalan** left for home, **Fr. Bosco** was informed that his younger brother, the only one left at home to take care of his ailing mother and sister, is very serious. He is paralyzed on one side and his one eye is badly infected and getting almost blind. Bosco is still at home. Our prayers are with both the families.

As life and work resume and as we get used to the new normal, the students of class IX to XII of Catholic High School, Ara, who attend the classes twice a week, as per their turn, are constantly reminded to adhere to caution and care to fight the pandemic. Seeing them wearing mask, washing hands and struggling to keep the needed distance, though make us smile, we don't forget to appreciate and encourage them to keep it up. Catholic Middle School continues with the on-line teaching and regular homework correction, tests, etc. to make sure that the students are not left high and dry. At St. Xavier's, in fact, the on-line teaching is going on very efficiently and successfully. Cooperation and enthusiasm of the students and parents are amazing. Administration has taken all the needed steps to make sure that Teachers are well trained and are

at home with the new method of teaching. Parents are conscientious enough to cooperate and accept the situation. Children are enthused and prepared well to make the best use of the facilities provided. Though we are in virtual quarantine and remain stay put in the campus, quite a few activities keep us totally engaged. Concrete structures are coming up on a fast pace in the campus of Catholic High School as well as St. Xavier's. Two more storeys are being built on the former Middle School, now St. Xavier's building. Roof casting of the third storey is complete. Half of the fourth storey roof casting is complete. By November end, the other half will be complete. State of the art toilets both for boys and girls of the Hindi section are reaching completion. Leaking roof of the Parish Church has been made water proof using the latest technology available. Our engineer, Mr. Raman, has assured us that he has successfully done it elsewhere and therefore stands guarantee for its efficacy.

- Francis Palliparambil



Barbigha: After spending months in lockdown, we saw many parishioners showing their genuine interest and actively participating in liturgy. The First Communion classes were arranged in the parish for a few students and their parents. In the school, on-line exams were conducted for the students of Classes IX and X. The consultation classes for Class IX and X are going on. On 21 October, we organized the voters' awareness program at Mission Chowk in collaboration with the ECI of Sheikhpura. Many

students delivered inspiring speeches highlighting the importance of voting. **Frs. Peter Ignatius, Dominic KP and Prakash Antony** exercised their franchise on 28 October.

- A. Prakash

K R Campus, Bettiah: Fr. Michael Ekka has joined the community as the Vice Principal of KR High School. Fr. Albert Abraham and Sch. Anuj have returned to the community after completing their final exams. We bid farewell to Fr. Sylvester Dungdung in the presence of the Jesuits from Ratanpurwa, Gaunaha and READ. Fr. Joseph Maripuram, the rector, has gone to CMC, Vellore for his treatment and in his absence, Fr. Christopher is taking care of the community as acting rector. Meanwhile, Frs. Joseph Thadavanal, Sebastian Alphonse and Bro. Joseph Vetticatt were our guests for a couple of days. They joined some of the members of our community in the farewell programme of Br. Francis Thattaparambil in Gaunaha. Fr. Periyamayagam, along with Frs. Joyson and Babu Jagadeepan, participated in the Meeting of the young priests at Atmadarshan, Patna. Fr. Richard D' Souza participated in the meeting for the Province Apostolic Planning. In the end of the month, K R School was closed for a few days since the police who are to be deployed on election duty were encamped here.

- Anuj Toppo

Kurji Parish, Patna: The blessings of Mother Mary have been the glad tidings in the life of the faithful and us, as we had everyday evening rosary followed by Eucharist. Fr. Prashant Pius made a brief visit to his brother in Jamshedpur. We had marriage classes for some parishioners who couldn't attend a similar course at Navajyoti Niketan. Fr. Junas had gone to Assam to partake in the joy of his Sister's Jubilee. Fr. Rajesh Somepalli went on a brief home visit after his ordination in Patna to see his parents and family members. The Parish team is learning and experiencing a great spirit of collaboration with the youth, laity, clergy and religious of our parish. This was substantially visible during the preparation and meaningful celebration of All Souls Day here at Kurji Parish. Respecting the sentiments of people and taking precautions due to the pandemic, we had a meaningful celebration of All Souls Day with three Masses and thereafter blessing of the



graves. It was all possible because of the combined hardwork and collaboration of the people and the other religious groups of the parish. A big thanks to all those who lent a helping hand! They helped us to experience the moving presence of the Holy Spirit. It was also a time of grace to see the Universal and the Province Apostolic Preferences in action.

- Rajesh Somepalli

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: The month of October was hectic with many activities. On the first day of this month the feast of St. Teresa of Child Jesus was celebrated. On this day, we had special mass for Frs. Christopher(DEL) and **Vimal Kishore**. During the mass, Fr. Christopher Kandulna(DEL) took charge as the new Novice Master and Superior. On 09 October, we had a thanksgiving mass for **Fr. Vimal Kishore** followed by a fellowship meal and a short farewell programme. Indeed, the programme was highly appreciated. On 11 October, **Fr. Vimal** went to a hospital for treatment and returned home after a week. The charity classes by the Novice Master helped the second year brothers to be in touch with their true self. It was very helpful to know each other closely and to deepen our companionship.



On 26 October, the second year novices presented a preview of the Spiritual Exercises to the first year novices. On 26 October, the first years started the long retreat. The second years are engaged in hospital and work experience both in the novitiate and in the nearby religious places in groups. **Fr. Donald Miranda**, the Provincial and **Bro. Joseph Ullattil** visited the community for a short while. We celebrated the birthdays of Bros. Sailendra, Anjlus and Ankesh. The repair work of the chapel is about to be completed. We are very eager to pray in the renovated chapel. Abraham [DEL], a second year novice, left the Society and we wished him well.

- Avinash Kujur

READ, Bettiah: The month of October brought a lot of joy as we harvested paddy richly. On 02 October, we, along with the Missionaries of Charity sisters, distributed rice, clothes and biscuits to a few deserving families. The previous batch of XIIth students wrote their annual exams on-line from 03 to 06 October. The children of Class XI arrived in READ on 09 October. There are 19 Manjhi, 7 Tharu and 2 OBC children among them. On 21 October, there was a career guidance programme for village youth in READ. The



The resource person was **Fr. Jesuraj**. He addressed the youth through Google meet. On 24 October, **Fr. Joyson** and Sr. Sunita addressed the youth animation meeting in Chuhari, where 35 youth participated and benefitted out of it. The livelihood programme for the migrant labourers is in full swing. They have received five thousand rupees each which they are using productively. The previous regent **Sch. Robert Razeem** left for Trichy on 24 October for his Masters in Botany. **Fr. Joyson** participated in the young priests' meeting in Atmadharshan from 26 to 28 October. On 30 October, there was a meeting organized in Poojaha for the children of migrant labourers highlighting the need for education. **Fr. Joyson** interacted with the parents and explained the government schemes for the school children during covid-19 pandemic. At present, the students of Class X are busy in preparing for their sent up exams.

- P. Arockiasamy

Sanjivan Niwas, Patna: On 02 October, the candidates took part in the cycle rally along with the students of St.Xavier's College on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. **Fr. Sushil Bilung** and **Sch. Gnana** joined the candidates and cycled around fifty kms for promoting Gandhiji's messages of love, freedom, ahimsa,



cleanliness and right path. On 07 October, we presented a farewell programme to the three outgoing B.Ed. students. Congratulations to **Schs. Savariappan, Amul Jacob** and Punit Antony for their outstanding results in B.Ed. final exams. With the departure of two more candidates, the number of candidates stands at 19. All candidates are doing well in their studies and there is a gradual growth in all the aspects. On 24 October, the candidates had the monthly picnic to river Ganges and

St. Xavier's School, Gandhi Maidan. It was a meaningful and joyful day for all of us. On 29 October, our boys had a competition on dialogue and fluent conversation in English conducted by **Fr. Sushil Bilung**. Once in a week, **Schs. Ashish** and **Jeevan** teach the candidates how to play Tabla and Harmonium. On 30 October, we had our monthly recollection and confession under the guidance of **Fr. Andrew James**. **Fr. Sijo** also helped out in the confessions. On the same day, we had faith sharing. We thank God for the progress in the treatment of **Fr. George Karamayil**. On 31 October, we had grand celebration on the occasion of the feast of St. Alphonse Rodrigues, welcoming our new community member **Fr. Josey Mathias** as the new director of Prabhat Prakashan and common birthday celebration. The Candidates showed their talents through a small cultural program.

- Candidates Aman & Setu

Sasaram: We opened our church for the regular Sunday mass for the faithful from 04 October. We also cater to the spiritual needs of the faithful in Dehri through regular Sunday mass there. On 04 October, **Fr. Maxentius Lakra** joined us as a new community member. He was accompanied by **Fr. Stephen Raj**. We welcomed him to the community with a special dinner prepared in his honour. The next day, he was introduced to the staff and students of the school by **Fr. Isidore Kerketta**, the Headmaster. On 10 October, **Fr. Maxentius** and **Sch. Cyprian** went to Aurangabad Jesuit Community to partake in the thanksgiving mass cum farewell dinner of **Fr. Norbert Menezes**. While returning in the morning, they fell off the bike as it skidded and sustained some minor injuries. We thank God for saving us from any major mishap. The students of class IX and X wrote their first terminal examination from 14-19 October. Meanwhile, we distributed the mid-day meal rice to our student beneficiaries for this month. The class IX and X students continue to come for regular contact classes. On All Souls Day, we had mass in the cemeteries at Burhan and Kalashahar. On this day, we specially remembered and prayed for the departed souls of **Fr. Matthew Mannaraparambil**, the martyr and **Fr. Joseph Mann**, the pioneer of Sasaram mission, along with other departed souls of the Sasaram parish. May they intercede for us from heaven that we may carry forward the mission which they started long back with new zeal and vigour. During this month, all of us in the community were down with a bout viral fever. We are hale and hearty now and have returned to normal life.

- Cyprian Minj

Shanti Sadan, Allahabad: The month of October came in with a number of feasts and celebrations. On 05 October, we were a little perturbed since we did not have electricity for two days and adding to our misery our generator too failed to start. Therefore, there was a scarcity of water. On 10 October, seven Nazareth Sisters left Shanti Sadan after completing their retreat. On 11 October, the parish church was open to the faithful for Sunday mass after a six months of lockdown. With strict precautionary measures, the faithful are welcomed to the Church for the Sunday Eucharist. On 16 October, we bid farewell to **Sch. Sanjay Marandi** and prayed for his further studies. We were blessed to have Rev. Bishop Raphy of Allahabad on a casual visit to our community. He shared his joy and happiness with us. We had the community recollection and confession on 21 October, guided by **Fr. Pius Theckemury**. One of our companions Vishwajeet was diagnosed with dengue and is recuperating in the house. Since the month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, the pre-novitiate community sought the intercession of Mother Mary by praying the rosary regularly. This special devotion to the Rosary culminated with a special prayer combined with a candle light procession on 31 October.

- Rajesh Kumar

St. Michael's Patna: St. Michael's Community bid farewell to **Fr. Seraphim John** for his dedicated service over three year and half years successfully shepherding us with his able leadership. We bid farewell to **Fr. Francis Chinnappan** who was a source of inspiration and motivation for students, teaching and non-teaching staff members during his tenure as vice principal for almost three years. We had a small thanksgiving programme to express our gratitude for their valuable contributions. On the one hand, we went through a parting moment, on the other, it was a great honour for us to welcome our new Rector **Fr. Norbert Menezes**, an eligible person with many years of experience in the Educational field to lead us ahead. Earlier, he had served St. Michael's School as Principal for 12 years. He took over as Rector on 18 October. Along with him, we also had the joy of welcoming the new vice-principal Mrs. Marie D' Cruz. She is indeed the most professional, supportive, creative and considerate educationist. After many years of committed educational services **Fr. Tom Perumalil** has moved to XLRI, Jhajjar for the new assignment. Beside all, the School and the College have been conducting online classes regularly. It is a great consolation to see the regularity of students. In spite of many hindrances, the School was able to conduct the first term examination for the students. The college was also able to conduct the second semester for B.Ed. and M.Ed. students and the fourth semester examination for B.Ed. and M.Ed. students successfully. The results were declared for all the batches within a stipulated time because of the well-executed plan of the Controller of Examinations with the help of the faculty members. The College had organized micro teaching programme in two groups keeping in mind the social distancing. The college is slowly gearing towards NAAC Accreditation process for the 4th cycle in the month of April, 2021. Meanwhile, **Fr. Ignatius Topno** published an article in a high Impact Factor Journal (7.08 out of 10) on "Corona Lockdown: Creating New Horizons for Professional Learning to Teach" in International Journal of Advanced Research Vol. 8, Issue Oct, 2020, Pp.142-150.



- Jeevan Isaac

St. Xavier's, Patna: The month of October was filled with many activities. A virtual celebration of birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri took place on 02 October with great enthusiasm.



We were extremely sad to hear about the sudden demise of Mrs. Shobha Henry, one of our Primary School Teachers, on 01 October, 2020. She was under treatment following a brain hemorrhage which left her partially paralyzed. The school organized a virtual PTM for High School on 03 October. The Second Terminal Examination concluded on 22 October after which various activities were conducted online for our Primary Students. The winners were awarded on 31 October

in a felicitation programme organized in the school. The parents were quite impressed and appreciative of the hard work put up by Sr. Phyllis, Primary Coordinator, and the teachers. The school witnessed a very nostalgic moment when we bade farewell to three teachers and a librarian on 10 October. As a token of our appreciation, we hosted a memorable Thanksgiving Ceremony and a sumptuous dinner. Online seminars have turned out to be a boon for our teachers as they come to hone new skills. Many of them took part in a webinar on 22 October on the topic, "Managing Physical and Emotional Wellness".

Fr. Devashish went to Atmadarshan to participate in the Young Priests' Meeting on 25 October. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian** is suffering from backache for more than a week. **Fr. Christu**, Principal, is engaged in the planning and execution of programmes for the teachers and students. **Fr. Peter Arockiasamy**, Plus Two In-Charge, keeps himself busy conducting Sent-Up Exams and Practicals for the Plus Two students.

- Devashish

Xavier Bhawan: On 18 October, while getting down from his bed in the morning, **Fr. Joseph Parekkattil** fell and broke his left hip. He was taken in an ambulance and admitted in Kurji Holy Family Hospital the same day. On 27 October, Fr. Joe had a successful surgery for the broken hip. He has returned to Xavier Bhawan now. On 22 October, **Fr. Augustine Ambrose**, who was suffering from high blood sugar, was taken to Kurji Hospital to consult a doctor. After laying down his office as Rector of St. Michael's, **Fr. Seraphim John** joined us on 23 October for relaxation and rest. On 30 October, **Fr. George Karamayil**, who was having chemotherapy in Vellore for his blood cancer, returned to Patna and is now residing in Xavier Bhawan to continue his therapy which may take a few months. He is in good spirits

- Joseph Vellaringatt

XTTI Campus, Patna: On 01 October, to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Xavier Quiz club organized online quiz competition on the life and message of Gandhiji. 9 colleges and 5 schools participated and won awards. On 05 October, a cyclothon was organized by NSS unit in collaboration with Xavier Sports Club and Green Riders of the college to promote cleanliness and healthy environment. The cyclothon was flagged off by Mr. Manoj Kumar, sub-inspector from Digha police station. 45 students including 10 girls participated in the event that passed through Raj Bhavan, Eco park, Bihar Museum and Golghar before culminating at Gandhi Sanghralay where our students staged a nukkad natak. On 06 October, our college students interacted with Mr. Saiket Guha, Principal scientist and Director of Quantum Networks Centre at Arizona University, USA. An alumni of St. Michael's High School, Patna, he fondly remembered his schooling and inspired our students with lessons from his life. The college recognized his success by presenting him "Xavier Pride of Bihar award" On 23 October, the Department of Business Administration conducted webinar on the topic "Skills for career Development in post Covid world". On 25 October, to mark the occasion of DurgaPooja, third year commerce students served food to 250 needy people in and around Patna Railway station. The students mobilized Rs. 5000/- being inspired by the regular Foundation and Mentoring classes in the college. From 27 Oct – 02 Nov, NSS observed vigilance awareness week with programmes to highlight corruption free India. On 29 October, third year students of Business Economics with academic committee organized discussion on New Agricultural Bill 2020. On 29 October, prominent candidates of Digha assembly constituency participated in a "Know your candidate" event at the college. The candidates presented their views, their political ideologies and their stand on public policy issues. They also assured the Christian community of safeguarding its rights. On 01 November, the Department of Commerce conducted webinar on "Opportunities in mutual funds market". Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Joint Assistant Vice President at HDFC highlighted the current market condition, passive investment strategy and common mistakes that investors make. On 02 November, In house faculty development programme was conducted on the theme "Jesus Christ in the eyes of Swami Vivekananda". On the eve of the second phase of election in Bihar, NSS organized "Youth 360" webinar. It was an interaction with Mr. Tuhin Shankar, lawyer in Patna high court who motivated youth with the constitutional right of voting. 90% of the admission is over and still spot admission is on for the remaining seats. The examination department conducted theory and practical exams for VIth semester students of 2017-2020 batch. Internal assessment for academic year 2020-2021 was conducted for Second and Third year students. Our staff continues to take online classes using Microsoft Teams platform. The Jesuits at XTTI gave a hearty welcome to **Fr. Joy Karayampuram**, the new Rector and **Fr. Sijo**, Assistant Treasurer.

- Sebastian Alphonse

DIASPORA

Clive's House, Trichy: Ever since I reached this scholasticate on 25 October, I am under a strict quarantine. In few days, I'll complete the quarantine and join the community. I have no symptoms of Corona till now because throughout my journey I was keeping myself distanced from the crowd and frequently used the sanitizers. The online classes are keeping me busy and occupied always.

- Robert Razeem

St. Stanislaus, Hazaribag: The month of October made our lives colorful and meaningful with lots of programmes. Fr. Sandeep returned to MP province after spending a month and a half with us. His classes were very useful for us. Our Dean was back after spending two months in hospital due to his ailing health. We are indeed glad to welcome our Dean to the community. We had our first-Semester Exams. We went on a day of outing to the Jesuit social action centre at Dumar after finishing our first semester Exams. We had a good time. Tertian fathers completed their Long Retreat on 05 October. We had a small prayer service as well as a cultural programme by the Novices as gratitude to God for the fruitful retreat of the Tertian fathers. The Tertians conducted a special community prayer and prayed for Fr. Stan Swamy. We joined a demonstration supporting his cause. The first year novices began their long retreat on 10 October. The Second year novices have gone for their village experience to Dumar. We were privileged to have a four-day course on one of the UAPs, namely 'Care for our common home' by Fr. Saju Bastian (HAZ).
- Siddhu

VARIA

Patna Jesuit Migrant Service (PJMS): This Team, set up by Fr. Provincial to address the issues of the migrants of Bihar and UP following the webinars and other communications, has been responding to some of the issues. **Fr. Anto Joseph** was busy coordinating with our social action centres to identify and provide support for over 150 migrant families in 5 of our centres so that they undertake some alternative livelihood programme. **Fr. Martin** coordinated the research study of the status of the migrants. We have interviewed over 1,450 migrants and the data entry is done. We are grateful to Fr. Provincial and PDD for mobilizing the resources for the income generation programs from the Curia, Rome. **Fr. Prakash Louis** mobilized the resources for the research study.
- Prakash Louis

Young Priests Meeting: On 25 October, eight young priests of Patna Province along with **Fr. Susai Raj**, began our meeting in Atmadarshan. Four of our young priests could not participate in the meeting for different reasons. The main theme of the meeting was: "Priesthood in the light of Corona Pandemic". We had personal reflection and sharing focusing on three levels: at the personal level, at the collective level, and 'an invitation to read the sign of the times in the context of the centenary of the Patna Jesuit Mission. **Fr. Susai Raj** had prepared the points and presentation meticulously. Our sincere gratitude to him! We also welcomed **Fr. Rajesh Somepalli** into the fold of Young Priests Forum. We bid farewell to **Fr. Babu Jagadeepan** who could not make it due to fever and prayed for his ministry. Along with reflections and sharing, we spent quality time with the companions. We also thank XTTI Community and Xavier Bhavan Community for inviting us for delicious meals. Our special thanks to **Fr. Mathew Poovakkottil** for the arrangements at Atmadarshan. We ended our sharing on 27 October with the lunch in Xavier Bhawan.
- A. Prakash



PATNA PROVINCE APOSTOLIC PLANNING AT ATMADARSHAN, PATNA, 02-05 NOVEMBER 2020

41 Patna Jesuits including 02 observers participated in a Meeting for the Province Apostolic Planning at Atmadarshan from 02-05 November, 2020. The meeting started at 4.30 pm on 02 November. **Fr. Jose Vadassery**, the head of the Apostolic Planning Process initiated in 2019, led us through the process of the planning in the province. Earlier, the Province Commissions for different ministries met to discuss the apostolic plans submitted by different institutions/ centres and worked out an apostolic plan and discernment statements for the respective commissions. Discernment Statements are action statements that presented the priority areas of action of a ministry for the next five years.

Fr. Donald Miranda, the Provincial explained the dynamics of the meeting which involved the presentation of Discernment Statements (DS) by the commission heads followed by Spiritual Conversations in five groups. The heads of the commissions presented a collated report of the fruit of the discussion by the five groups in a plenary session where the modified or the original discernment statements were deliberated upon and voted on. The meeting deliberated on the Discernment Statements presented by the Province Commissions. Each Ministry presented three or four DSs. Two ministries were taken up as a cluster in each session. While three groups discussed the DSs of one ministry, another two groups discussed the DSs of the other ministry. So in one plenary session, we deliberated on the DSs of two ministries.

Fr. Franco (GUJ) who has been the resource person for the Province Apostolic Planning could not be present in Patna because of the pandemic. Earlier the same meeting was scheduled for April 2020 but could not take place due to pandemic. **Frs. Joseph Thadavanal** and **Susai Raj** served well as the observers for the meeting and guided us by their insightful comments. **Fr. Donald Miranda**, the Provincial and **Fr. Jose Vadassery**, the Convener, guided the meeting efficiently in collaboration with others.

One could feel the movement of the Spirit in our deliberations together as God guided us through different persons and moments. At the end of the meeting, our men were greatly enthused and enriched by the process as well as the companionship experienced as an apostolic body. The gathering also became wiser knowing better about the apostolic activities of ministries other than one is actively engaged in.

In the concluding session, it was decided that these discernment statements will be further sharpened in the light of the opinions shared in the plenary session and the general perception of the gathering expressed through the vote on each DS. **Fr. Jose Vadassery** and his team will send out to the Heads of the Province Commissions the reworded/voted DSs for their consideration. The Heads of the Commissions will ensure along with the Heads of institutes and Commu-



nities that the apostolic planning for the DSs are reflected in the final apostolic plan besides the specific plan for each centre. We expect these two processes to be completed before Christmas and then the Provincial and his team may finalize the Province Apostolic Plan and send to Father General for his approval.

There was discussion about the earlier plan to present the apostolic plan in the Province Assembly in May 2020 which could not materialize due to the pandemic. However, due to the pandemic it is not advisable to have the Province Days in the near future.

Province is grateful for the participation of our men in a spirit of generosity and solidarity. We are grateful to **Fr. Mathew Poovakkottil**, administrator of Atmadarshan for his hospitality. The leaders and secretaries of the five groups along with the Chairmen of the plenary sessions helped in the smooth conduct of the meeting. Thanks also to the secretaries of the plenary sessions and the heads of the commissions for their hard work. We are grateful to **Fr. Jose Vadassery**, the Convener and **Frs. Joseph Thadavanal** and **Susai Raj**, the observers. The Province is indebted to Fr. Franco (GUJ) for his accompaniment and guidance through his communication and presence during the whole process prior to this meeting. Deo Gracias

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

Fr. George Karamayil returned from CMC, Vellore after the first cycle of chemo treatment. He stays at Xavier Bhawan now. He has just begun the second cycle of chemo at KHFH, Patna. He requires five cycles of chemo lasting a total of nine months. Fr. George is cheerful and walks about without pain.

Fr. Joseph Maripuram is under treatment at CMC, Vellore, for lung cancer. The oncologist has advised six to eight weeks of radiation which will begin once the preliminary tests are conducted. **Fr. Daniel Raj** is accompanying him to the hospital. We are grateful to Chennai Province for accommodating them at Ranipet Jesuit Community.

For the Departed:

Fr. Paul Vadakel, SJ (KER 91/71) died on 08 October 2020 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode, Kerala.

Fr. Wilson Arockiasamy, SJ. (MDU 56/36), died 17 October 2020 at a hospital in Nagercoil.

Mr. Michael Francis (88), **elder brother of Fr. Vincent Francis, SJ**, died on 24 October in Asansol.

Fr. Gregory D' Silva, SJ, (JAM 56/37) died of massive heart attack on 25 October 2020

Mr. John (57), **the elder brother of Fr. Stephenraj, SJ**, died on 02 November 2020 in Tamil Nadu.

Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar, SJ. (MDU 78/57) died on 03 November 2020 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul.

Conference Appointments Between 30th Apr, 2020 – 10th Oct, 2020

Appointments by Fr General:

Fr Danis Ponniah (MDU) South Zone; **Fr Melvil Pereira** (KHM) North Zone; **Fr Santosh Minj** (HAZ) Central Zone - appointed as Consultors to the President JCSA, & ex-officio convenors and chairs of their respective zones, w.e.f. 9th July, 2020.

Fr. W. K. Abranches (GUJ) - Rector, Collegio Internazionale del Gesu, letter dated 22 Aug, 2020

JDV Pune:

Fr Ryan Rodrigues(KAR) - JDV for M.Ph & Trial Teaching, w.e.f. 1st Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr George Karuvelil(PAT) - P.G. Block to continue Research work, w.e.f. 01 June, 2020. Belongs to DNC community.

Fr Devara Joji Babu(AND)- M.Th in Spirituality at JDV Pune, w.e.f. Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Fr (Dr) Francis Gonsalves(GUJ) -to reside at JDV PG Block; continue as community member of PS, w.e.f. 3rd Aug, 2020.

Fr (Dr) Victor SagayamSVD - Lecturer, Missiology Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st July, 2020.

Fr (Dr) Gregory Arokiaswamy OMI - Lecturer, Pastoral and Moral Department of Theology Faculty, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020.

ISI-D:

Fr Paul D'Souza (GUJ) - Acting Superior ISI_D, Jesuit Community, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Conference:

Fr W. Keith Abranches (GUJ)- CDF w.e.f. 1st June, 2020, additional charge.

Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) - Coordinator of Conference Secretaries w.e.f. 1st June, 2020

Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) - GIAN Ecology in-charge in the capacity of the Director-CDO (CDD), w.e.f. 1st Oct, 2020.

Studies for Conference Common Works:

Fr Sandeep Jagtap (PUN)- MA in Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan, June 2020

Assistancy Committees:

Leadership Program Team for SA.

Fr Joe Arun (Convenor), Fr Nelson D'Silva (Joint Convenor) Joye James & Siji Chacko (Members).

Gratitude for services rendered to Common Houses & Works of South Asia:

Fr Joy Karayampuram (PAT) as Superior ISI_D (from May 2013).

Fr Raj Irudaya (CEN) as ADF (from June 2014).

PATNA MISSION: GREAT GROWTH PHASE-I, MISSIONS, MINISTRIES, INSTITUTIONS AND COLLABORATORS

Jose Kalapura, SJ

Bishop Sullivan's Leadership

The 17 years of Bishop Bernard Sullivan's work of evangelization (1929-1946) in Patna Mission and Diocese, were years of development and consolidation, phase-I. Calamities, deaths of young missionaries, poor health, persecutions of converts, earthquakes, were the background for God's mighty intervention.

Bishop Sullivan's policy had been a successful blending of conversion and education which had been faithfully carried out with-the help of the Jesuit Superiors and an increasing group of Jesuits, diocesan clergy and Sisters. Consequently, Patna missionaries were building a church and a school, and not one without the other. Missionaries who were stars in the work of education, spent long years in the work of evangelization. In 1947 failing health led to Bishop Sullivan's resignation (retired to USA).

The Earthquake Tragedy of 1934

The great Bihar earthquake on January 15, 1934 wrought havoc everywhere in the Province. There were no casualties among the Fathers, Brothers, or Sisters working in the diocese. The majestic Bettiah church, built by the Capuchins a hundred years before, came down like a castle of cards. The fathers' bungalow was also a mass of ruins. In many other places in Patna Mission area, the effects of that earthquake were felt in a more or less intense degree. The pro-cathedral put up in 1850, enlarged in 1877, and rebuilt in 1927, saw the cracking of the two front towers.

Bishop Sullivan was faced with the enormous task of rebuilding or making major repairs in every one of the diocesan institutions. Nevertheless the Bishop and Father Superior confidently pushed forward new projects. Men of faith that they were, the missionaries with fresh enthusiasm, and more deeply convinced than ever, started again building missions, churches, and orphanages. Help came even from unexpected sources such as from the government, and from friends in India and abroad.

During the 30 years after the arrival of the Jesuits, 16 mission stations were founded, besides managing the 21 missions inherited from the Capuchins. The most beautiful church structure was the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Grace at Mokama, built by **Fr. Marion Batson**. In January 1943, Bishop Sullivan laid the foundation stone of the Shrine, to be built with the financial support from a devout and generous Catholic entrepreneur, **Mr. Leslie Martin**, senior partner of Messrs. Martin and Co., one of the largest building and engineering firms in India and S.C. Lahiri, the architect. The shrine is of Hindu-Persian architecture, a blending of eastern and western art, a thing of superlative beauty, proportionally exquisite. A Russian artist, Mr. Derujinski, carved the statue of Our Lady. Adorning the Shrine was one of the bells of Bettiah church presented by the parishioners of Bettiah. It was solemnly dedicated on November 4th, 1947. Martin also donated finances to build a few other churches.



SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF DIVINE GRACE AT MOKAMA

Growth of Institutions

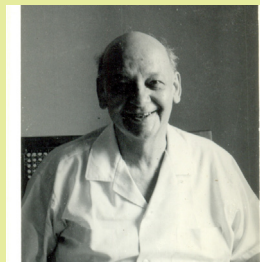
Besides churches and schools in rural areas, a few prestigious educational institutions were founded in Patna Mission by 1950. Started in 1940 in a rented house on Exhibition Road, the St. Xavier's School was soon located in a solid building built at the present site, thanks to the efforts of **Fr. Frank Loesch**, the Superior and **Fr. Marshall Moran**, the first Principal. It became a prestigious school in the capital city, thanks to the efforts of **Fr. Gordon Murphy** and other Jesuits.



Fr. Frank Loesch, SJ



Fr. Marshall Moran, SJ



Fr. Robert Stegman, SJ



Fr. John Sloan, SJ

The success of this school attracted the attention of the Diwan of the Kingdom of Jaipur, Sir Mirza Ismail in 1942. He invited the Patna Jesuits to found a school at his capital, Jaipur, which was facilitated by Moran. Moran on a visit to Kathmandu as a Patna University Syndicate Member and Examiner was invited by the Government of Nepal to start a similar school at Godavari, in 1951. By the end of this period, the Jesuits founded the Loyola Industrial School at Kurji to give industrial training, directed by **Fr. Stegman**. The youth who graduated from there ably used their skills in the building works at many stations such as at Itarhi, Bettiah, Gaya, Fakirana, Bar Bigha, Sheikhpora, besides at Chakai, Jaipur, Ranchi, etc.

Other Ministries: Press, publications, Retreat/Renewal

A few other ministries were started during this period. Begun on February 5, 1938, the Jesuit Mission Band was preaching missions in 50 dioceses, to European, Anglo-Indian and English speaking Indian Catholics in many cities of India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The visionary behind the Mission Band was **Fr. Peter Sontag** whose policy was intensifying Christian life in Christians, and evangelising non-Christians. Sontag excelled in two ministries: preaching and writing. He set aside several Jesuits for the first task. The leadership for the Mission Band was given by **Fr. John Sloan**, an Irish-born British Jesuit of Patna Mission, and was assisted by **Fr. Richard Welfle**, **Fr. Chamberlain**, **Fr. McGowan**, **Fr. Edward Scott**, **Fr. James Nolan**, et al.

Sontag also envisioned to preach through Christian literature for which he founded the Institute of Home Study (IHS), a program of correspondence on Christianity through letters to thousands. As he grew older and was commissioned to De Nobili College, Pune, he shifted the centre of IHS there where it is being continued by **Fr. Theodore Bowling** (since 1951), retired professor of Patna Province, at DNC. The program of Correspondence Courses, approved by the Bishops' Conference of India, was offered in several Indian languages for enquirers on Christ and Christianity. Today's Catholic Enquiry Centres having scores of centres all over India, grew from this initiative.

The press and publication ministry got underway, when the Sanjivan Press was founded in 1949, with the blessing of Bishop Augustine Wildermuth, by Loesch, assisted by **Fr. John Barrett** and **Brother Bruno Karpinski**. Sanjivan the first Hindi Catholic newspaper began publication at this press, but it was shifted to Delhi in early 1970s. The press flourished and got printing orders even from Patna University, Patna Medical College and Hospital and the Government of Bihar. With some 40 employed men the press printed thousands of copies of Sontag's Moral Law series for schools, 35,000 copies of 100 letters of Sontag's IHS besides several Catholic literature in Hindi and books for the Catholic Book Crusade, another missionary venture of the Patna Jesuits founded by Father Henry Westropp. Bishop Sullivan was put in charge of the Chaplaincy Service of the American armed forces in India. Many of the Fathers served as auxiliary chaplains to the Catholic soldiers in India.

Patna Jesuits, Collaborators and Institutions

Four Religious societies were working in Patna Diocese when the American Jesuits came to Patna: the Congregation of Jesus (known earlier as IBMV) (since 1852), the Irish Christian Brothers (since 1858), the Sisters of the Holy Cross (since 1894), the Franciscan Sisters of the Third Order (Clara Bahins) since 1890s. Bishop Van Hoeck founded the Congregation of the Sacred Heart Sisters (SSH) (1926) who worked mainly in mission centres. The IBMV Sisters, helped out in the girls' school at Bhagalpur and later at Gokhla. Being German-Austrians, they were interned by the British government during World War II and the management of the school was given to SSH. Similarly the IBMV Sisters had to give up their convent school in Gaya to the Loreto Sisters in June, 1942 for the same reason. The HC Sisters already giving nursing service in Bettiah Hospital since 1914, extended that service at Muzaffarpur Sadar Hospital in 1949. Later they started a school at Muzaffarpur in 1950. In December 1947, came six Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) from USA, at Mokama, set up a dispensary, which developed into a big hospital (Nazareth Hospital). In 1951 the Bishop asked them to take over the girls' school in Gaya, replacing the Loreto Sisters who did not have enough members. Later they opened the Nazareth Academy at Gaya. In October, 1949, six Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) from USA arrived in Jamalpur to open a girls' school. The SNDs developed two fine schools Notre Dame Academy at Jamalpur and Mongher later.

The decade of 1940 saw the founding of two more prestigious institutions in Patna Mission. Invited by the Bishop Sullivan, the Apostolic Carmel Sisters from Mangalore opened the first women's college in Bihar, the Patna Women's College (PWC) in 1940 at Bishop's House, which was vacated by the Bishop who temporarily shifted his residence to St. Xavier's. The PWC building became a grand structure thanks to the workmanship of Fr. Loesch, assisted by Fr. Stegman, and supported by Fr. Moran, besides Bishop Sullivan and other Jesuits.

The Medical Mission Sisters were invited to open a hospital (Holy Family Hospital) and nurses training centre at Patna City in 1939. Though the Holy Family Hospital has never been a Jesuit institution, the Patna Jesuit Society contributed 23 acres of land it had purchased in 1941 and raised money for the construction of the hospital, an amazing five-storey building (1956), at Kurji overlooking the majestic Ganges, through the efforts of Fr. Loesch and Fr. Stegman.