

VOL. XXIII, No. 5

NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA JESUITS

Sept-Oct 2019

POPE FRANCIS announced on September 1, the names of 13 new cardinals who will be created during a consistory on October 5. Among them are three Jesuits:

Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg (he is from the Province of Japan since he was a missionary in Japan before being appointed Archbishop of Luxembourg);

Fr. Michael Czerny, of the Province of Canada, currently Under-Secretary of the Migrants Section of the Dicastery for the service of integral human development;

Most Reverend Sigitas Tamkevičius, Archbishop Emeritus of Kaunas (Lithuania).

FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED:

Fr. Durai Fernand, presently Province Consultor, Superior and Principal of St. Xavier's High School, Gandhinagar, as the next Provincial of Gujarat Province.

Fr General has approved **Fr Thomas Mathew SJ** as the Superior of Good Shepherd Jesuit Community, Gungjung. (Dima Hasao Mission)

REGIONAL SUPERIOR' S PROGRAMME:

October

17-20: Visitation of KHM Scholastics, VJ, Delhi

21-29: JCSA Meeting, Ranchi

November

01-07: Visitation, Arunachal Pradesh

08-13: Classes in OTC, Shillong

15-16: Region Consult, Guwahati

19 :RAP with Wendell and Richard

20-21: Visitation of KHM Juniors, VN, Trivandrum

22-25: Visitation of KHM Scholastics, Arrupe Nivas, Bangalore

26-30: Visitation of KHM Scholastics, Asha Kiran, Mangalore

December

01-02: Home Visit, Mangalore

05-07: Ordination of Deacon Khathing, Ukhrul

09-10 : Region Consult, Guwahati

12-15: Visitation of KHM Scholastics: SN, Chennai

16-17: Visitation of KHM Juniors, VNL, Mumbai

18-21: Visitation of KHM Scholastics, DNC, Pune
22-23: Visitation of KHM Scholastics, PMJ, Ahmedabad
29-30: Ordination of Deacon Liavi David, Razeba

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR:

Ordinations

Khathing C.M., at Hungpung on 6 December 2019
Liavi David Nukhu at Razeba on 30 December 2019
Regin Joseph at Cherthala, Alappuzha District, Kerala on 01 January 2020

Kohima Region:

Congratulates Fr Melwyn Fernandes on his ordination today, the 18th of October 2019 in Mangalore. Thank you Lord for blessing Kohima Region with the first of a series of ordinations in this **Golden Jubilee Year**.

Rejoices at the decision of **Sch. Avi Krocha** and **Sch. John Pamei** to work in China Mission. They have safely landed in Taipei, Taiwan, on 20th September and have begun the study of Mandarin. We wish them all the success in their endeavours.

Delights at the inauguration of the Jesuit Residence at Diyungbra. It was blessed by **Fr Melvil Pereira** and inaugurated by **Fr Valerian Castelino** on 8th October. For the last 20 years our men managed in the school, now they have a spacious home of their own. Congratulations **Fr Vilezo George**. We thank the Jesuits of the Province of France, especially its former Provincial **Fr Jean-Yves Grenet SJ** through whose generosity this residence was constructed.

Thanks the Lord for the prayerful participation of its men in two retreats in the month of August directed by **Fr Philip Endean SJ** (BRI). The first retreat was held at St Paul's, Phesama, and the second at Ka Rympei Arrupe, Mawshohroh.

Appreciates the presense of volunteers, Kyle D'Souza and Jade Pereira, from Jesuit Parishes of Mumbai. Kyle, a professional photographer, visited all our centres capturing the pictures of our students, parishioners and institutions. He mesmerised our people through the use of drone technology to capture pictures. Jade, a professional baker, spent time in Liyai and Bhalukpong helping our women bake bread and cookies. She also chipped in with classes in our schools.

Salutes the Jesuits working in Meghalaya for their active participation in the cluster level RAP (Region Apostolic Planning) workshop held at Ka Rempei Arrupe, Mawshohroh, on 10 & 11 October, 2019. **Fr Arul Susaimanickam** and **Fr Richard Jarain** were the resource persons. Over 20 participants prayed, reflected and articulated their dreams and desires for the Region. We look forward to the upcoming cluster level RAP workshops which will be held in Phesama on 27 October, in Guwahati on 4 November and in Palizi on 7 November.

DAWAGRE

We are blessed with many things in Dawagre; from beautiful showers of rain to guests, activities and development in the campus. The rivers around Dawagre were frequently filled with water in the last two months. Three Jesuits from Karnataka, **Frs Swebert D'Silva, Brian Pereira** and **Joy** dropped by Loyola School on their way to Loyola College. Youths from Maweit Parish enjoyed our hospitality during the Magis Program in Loyola College.

Mater Dei Parish organized a Children's Camp in the end of September and **Fr. Lawrence Nuchiso** was a resource person. From 23rd to 27th of September our students wrote their Second Terminal Exams. On the 2nd of October Loyola School celebrated Gandhi Jayanti by organizing Quiz Competition and Speech Competition. Soon after that, the School organized a cleaning drive from Dawagre market till the school campus. A few students represented the school to clean Williamnagar with other students from other schools. A class X student, Ms Emre won the first prize at a district level competition for Science Seminar. She represented the district on the 23rd of September in a competition held in Shillong. The students of Classes VI - X for the first time had their retreat organized by Loyola School which was preached by **Fr. Hector D'Souza. Deacon Melwyn Fernandes** left Dawagre for Mangalore on the 30th of September to prepare for ordination. **Fr Yan** and 48 parishioners will leave for Mangalore on the 15th of October to attend the Melwyn's Ordination. **Fr Albert** will also be attending the ordination of Melwyn in Mangalore.

-Sch Gerry Myrthong SJ

DIYUNGBRA

Our hearts are filled with joy to celebrate the Holy Eucharist along with our boarding children. On August 15th we celebrated the 73rd Independence Day of our country. An impressive march-past, to conjure up the memories of the patriots, who shed their blood to set India free, was one of the highlights. This event made our students become aware of the real meaning of freedom in various ways. On 26th we began the second terminal examination for classes I - VIII students and unit tests for classes IX - X students. We are proud to congratulate three of our students who won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in the essay competition, conducted within the Jesuit schools of Dima Hasao Mission



On 5th of September we celebrated the Teacher's Day organized by the class IX students, which made every staff feel proud of their profession of being a teacher.

The result of the second terminal examination was announced and the class 10 students have begun their Pre-selection exam as a preparation for their annual examinations. Eight of our class IX students participated in the recent National Science Congress competition held at Haflong, in which one of the groups got selected for the finals.

It was indeed a time for all the students from K.G to class X to show their talents to their parents in the Parents' Day celebrated in the school on 4th October. We thank all our Jesuit communities in Dima Hasao Mission as well as other religious communities who joined us to share our joy.



By the grace of God, on 8th of October, the Jesuit Residence at Diyungbra was blessed by **Rev. Fr Melvil Pereira SJ**, the Regional Superior, and inaugurated by **Rev. Fr Valerian Castelino SJ**, the pioneering missionary in Dima Hasao. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who came from different places to make this occasion a memorable one for the Jesuits in Dima Hasao especially for the Diyungbra Jesuits.

-Ebenezer Amalraj B

JAGRITI

On 23rd June, we discovered the advanced stage of lung cancer in **Fr Alphonsus D' Souza**. He endured it well with a spiritual strength derived from the Eucharistic Lord. He took it well with a surrendering attitude and offered himself to the Lord and was ready to go. He shared it with all and prayed for the members of the Society and all those who came to meet him. His family members, Jesuits of the Region, his students and acquaintance came in from Nagaland, Meghalaya, Siliguri and as far as Mangalore. The end came quickly and he offered his soul to the Lord on 6th September. Funeral took place at the Novitiate at Mawshohroh on 8th.



Gideon Warisa from Biblicum, Rome, was with us from 8th July to be with his ailing father, Mr. Abraham, who was admitted to the hospital at Guwahati. The end came on 28th July. The community rallied round the bereaved family to say the final good bye.

On 31st July, the feast of St Ignatius was jointly celebrated by Jesuit House and Jagriti communities at Jagriti. Archbishop John with Thomas Menampampil joined us for the celebrations. The Fathers, Sister of the neighbourhood celebrated the feast with us. **Melvil** welcomed the gathering. **Valerian** and **Owen** organised the food. **Anand** was the MC.

Samir Talati being with us for eight months, left to Chicago for his doctoral studies on 12th August. He was a constant companion to Alphonsus in all these months, listening to his wisdom and knowledge and learning the research methodology from him.

Nuchiso Lawrence Sakha was God sent angel to help the community as an administrator on 22nd July. He made it his loving mission to look after the ailing Fr Alphonsus. Fr Alphonsus blessed him, just two days prior to his going to heaven with a special blessing. **Lawrence** has taken up the unfinished works at Jagriti and its surroundings.

Hector D' Souza took over the rudders of NESRC on 23rd August as the Director. Fr Alphonsus held it for a year and more with Frs Walter and Melvil helping him. It is a full ship now.

The new batch of Juniors of FMA our neighbours were invited for tea with us on 14th August. **Fr Walter** played the major host as he reminded us of the tradition of the house. The community

acknowledged gratefully the tender loving services Sr. Angela SCCG, the outgoing Director of St. John Hospital and her sisters rendered to Fr Alphonsus and hosted a dinner in her honour.

KAR Jesuit from Bangalore Colleges, **Frs Brain Pereira, Daniel Fernandes, Francis Almeida, Manoj D'Souza, Swebert D'Silva** and **Victor Lobo** visited us in the evening of 16th Sept and saw our works. They spent time discussing our ministry and shared a meal with us.

Four Deacons: **Khathing C.M., Liavi Nukhu, Melwyn Fernandes and Regin Joseph** came in for a recollection from 19th to 21st September prior to their ordination. **Hector** directed the recollection; they went back to their missions rejuvenated.

The annual visitation, a spiritual exercise which Father Ignatius gave to the Society brought us the usual graces. **Melvil Pereira** was with us for two full days on 30th September and 1st October, listened to us, met the staff members of LCHR and NESRC, offered Mass and had breakfast with two neighbourhood Religious communities of FMA and SCCG. He shared his wisdom with us, prayed for us and partook in the simple celebration we had in his honour. Come again, Melvil.

Walter Fernandes has been travelling round the Northeast directing studies on displacement and conflicts and peace. He was in Vijayawada to present the Andhra Telangana displacement study to some government officials of Andhra Pradesh. On August 27-28 he represented NESRC at the meeting of Jesuit run research centres held at Satya Nilayam Chennai and had an enjoyable evening with the eight Kohima men there. He represented NESRC at a meeting held at Delhi on the peace project on September 3-4. He is now in Nagaland and Manipur collecting information on the history of the Kohima Region. All of it keeps him busy and out of mischief and away from NESRC.

Owen Chourappa was the visiting professor at Oriens Theological College, Shillong for the final year seminarians on the Law and its practices, issues touching the life and priestly ministry. He is often called for consultation on the kidnapped young children at the parishes. His bare-foot lawyers are involved in animating the villagers on issues connected with kidnapping, trafficking and child labour. He was the resource person at the Seminar conducted by the Ursuline Sisters at Dimapur. He is one of the selected members of MISSIO in propagating the mission of Northeast to the German Catholic Church for a whole month of October in this Year of Evangelisation initiated by Pope Francis. He will be addressing many a group in Germany and at the Lawyers Fraternity at Aachen.

LCHR organized three days 4th Regional Convention of North Eastern Legal Fraternity at Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati from 6th to 8th of October 2019. A total of 57 Catholic lawyers from various dioceses of North East participated in the convention. The convention deliberated along the theme "Catholic Lawyers for New India."



Fr Jerry Rosario SJ of Madurai Province was the main resource person, along with **Frs. Hector Dsouza** and **Valerian Castelino** for the convention. The Convention had two parts, one was spiritual

awakening consisting of one-day retreat, second was social awakening consisting of two days' deliberation on the scheduled themes.

Rt. Rev. Albert Hembrom, Coadjutor Bishop of Dibrugarh, and the Patron of North Eastern Legal Fraternity attended the second day of the convention and Rt. Rev. Andrew R Marak of Tura dioceses attended the third day's programme. The participants richly benefitted from the programme and have made a commitment to take up serious activities in their respective dioceses for the benefit of the people.

- Hector D'Souza SJ

JAKHAMA



It's an ecstatic moment to be in Loyola Jakhama because of the aesthetic beauty of the campus and bursting of life in the campus. The entire campus is keyed up with various people especially hundred boarders, pre-novices, scholastics, AC Sisters, Fathers, Teachers and Co-workers. There have been various activities enriching our lives in the campus.

Jesuit Community

All the Scholastics are active and full of life. They are the rock-stars in the St. Joseph's College. They are wound up and filled with spirit to do great things after attending the Annual Charismatic Retreat in the College led by Rev. Fr. John Berman MSFS on 13-14 September 2019. They too are the key responsible persons for the beautification of the campus by planting more than 100 saplings initiated by our Rector, **Fr. Charles SJ**. Presently, the scholastics are cramming for their semester examinations without sailing under false colours and mundane feelings. We were all enthralled by the presence of **Fr. James Kulvi SJ**. He made the best use of his time especially helping in the school, motivating the Pre novices and actively administering the Holy Eucharist in the villages. We are grateful for his invaluable presence amongst us. The Regents are busy in various activities of the school, boarding, and pre-novitiate as well. The Treasurer, **Fr Lancy**, is on his wheels looking after the Liyai school construction and attending various meetings. The campus is under various beautification works as a preparation for the Golden Jubilee Celebration



Loyola Higher Secondary

The school is smoothly operating under the guidance of **Fr. Victor D'Mello**, our Principal. There is a whole awakening of life in the school due to the spirited and active Head mistress,

teaching and non- teaching staff as well. The TTC students from the St. Paul's Institute of education had a week of teaching experience to our students. They were all captivated by the response of our students.



We were all at the top of the world due to the successful Parents' Day Celebration on 28 September followed by the School Annual Sports day on 2 -3 October. Loyola School retained its reputation due to the various prizes in the State level and District level. The students partook in the Swacchatha Packwada competition organized by the Govt. of India, secured 1st in painting, 2nd in Essay writing and 3rd in Letter to Bapu. Two students who

participated in the All Nagaland Private Schools Association Quiz competition had secured the 4th place. Three of our students joined in the 8th Nagaland Spelling Bee Championship 2019 and one of them reached the quarter finals. We are all grateful to God Almighty for the blessings to our school.

Jesuit Training College, Jakhama.

We were all exhilarated to welcome **Fr Robert Chawngthu SJ**, The new director of JTC. His presence is making a lot of difference in the JTC. He is continuing his untiring job as the Vocation Promoter. We celebrated the birthday of our new Director in the presence of the whole community with joy. The various sessions on study skills and motivational classes by Fr. James Kulvi, SJ made a prodigious difference in our pre novices. Presently,



the pre novices are enjoying their

puja holidays. They too participated in the MAGIS program in Phesama and other catechism camps conducted under the Parish. We do experience some disturbance due to the incessant leaving of our second-year pre-novices due to various personal reasons. We ask everyone to pray for good vocations and interested and committed and young boys for the Society of Jesus.

JALAPHET

On 15th and 16th August a good number of our parish women participated in their annual seminar in Jalaphet and they staged a well prepared variety religious competition which included a cultural show cum fashion parade. During the Bible Week on 23th August we had a Bible Quiz and the first Debate Competition in the school. At the parish



level the following Sunday we organized a Bible Quiz, Singing, and Bible Skit Competitions. Though both of us were not at home, **Fr. Mark Raper SJ**, Mission Superior of Myanmar along with Scholastics **PV Joseph** and **Reginald Kurkalang** enjoyed the hospitality of the Sisters and the hostellers during their visit to Jalaphet. Having chosen our school for the celebration of the Girl Child Day, the Women Commission of the Jowai Diocese visited our school on 6th September, and after giving an inspiring talk they distributed sweets for our students.

MAWSHOHROH

Mawshohroh has been experiencing unusually heavy showers, accompanied by thunder and frightening lightning, for the past few months, but bringing great relief to **Fr Arun Babu** as he need not worry about water problem this year. All our lakes in the campus are overflowing, but unfortunately our pumps, quite often, are out of action, damaged every now and then due to heavy lightning. **Fr Boniface** has made sure that we have enough and more fish in every lake on the campus, though fishing is strictly prohibited. Fish in the circular tank in front of the house has become one of the tourist attractions, with many taking videos of the fish movements. Luckily, many who come to see the fish, also visit the grotto nearby to pray and get spiritual blessings.

We have taken the UAP on environment and care of the earth very seriously, and novices are busy digging holes to plant the saplings. We have already planted a few hundreds and will be planting more in the days to come. Within next 3-4 years, there will be enough fruits to support the house, if not attacked by birds and workers first. The sacred grove, too, is well taken care of by the novices under the guidance of Fr Boniface.

Novices had exposure to Small Christian Communities through training program for 5 days with Sr Martina MSMHC animating them from August 6 – 10. This has enhanced their pastoral skills in village ministry on Sundays.

They were helped in the prayer life with Zen Retreat directed by **Fr Cyril Mathew SJ** of Bodhi Zendo from Sept 24-28. Many of the novices are now able to concentrate better in prayer and studies, more aware of their experiences and living more in the present. The first years now are busy with Autobiography of St Ignatius while the second years are trying to understand and assimilate the Constitutions.

The Visitation by **Fr Melvil**, the Regional Superior, from Sept 19-23, helped us to see things better in the light of the UAPs and renew our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. We very much appreciate the feedback given to us to improve the quality of our service to the novices as well as to the retreatants. We deeply appreciate the time Fr Melvil spent with us and especially in meeting every novice, listening to them and encouraging them.

The Community was happy to host the Region Retreat by **Fr Philip Endean SJ** from Aug 16-24. The novices were edified by the seriousness with which the Jesuits made the retreat. The funeral of **Fr Alphonsus D' Souza SJ** on September 8 was a moving experience to all of us. The words of appreciation expressed by different people on how Fr Alphonsus had touched their lives, were a challenge as well as an invitation to live a meaningful and fulfilling life as a Jesuit: to be men for others. The sense of belonging to a loving and caring family of the Society of Jesus was felt by everyone as the mortal remains of Fr Alphonsus were laid to rest. May the Lord grant him eternal rest!

The Community was blessed with many guests during the past two months, in fact, invaded by guests from Bangalore. First, we had the Jesuits from Mother Province Karnataka – **Frs Swebert, Victor, Manoj and Joy**, from Bangalore. They had come to attend the Xavier Board Meeting at Guwahati and found time to visit the novitiate. The novice master was excited to meet his novice, juniorate and college companion Fr Swebert. Then, we had the family members and relatives of Fr Arun Babu from Bangalore, who spent a few days here visiting Shillong and other places. The Magis Group from Mumbai was here for two days on their way to Dawagre and Williamnagar.

On 24th August, we received the sad news of the death of Mr Mark D'Souza, elder brother of Fr Boniface at Mudarangady, Mangalore. He was 77 years old and was suffering from Parkinson. Fr Boniface left immediately to be present for the funeral and we remembered his brother praying for him at the Mass next day. On the same day, novice master too left for Guntur for his first meeting of the Novice Directors of the Assistancy. He came back renewed, refreshed, relaxed and of course, enlightened.

In the meantime, the Jesuits set aside for retreat ministry are busy with retreat direction. There is not a single day without having retreatants at the novitiate. Retreatants are in dilemma as to whom to choose for retreat direction as all the three veterans, Albert, Julian and Scotus are in high demand. **Fr Albert** defies age as he shuttles between two to three retreats at a time quite often and with much ease. **Fr Julian**, when not out of station on account of retreats or fund raising for the Region, puts the youngsters to shame, through his regularity at evening exercises, walking around in short pants and shoes. **Fr Scotus** continues with retreat direction, classes for novices, regular reading practices, and much sought after photographer for every function. **Fr Boniface** too, not to be outdone, managed two retreats for the Franciscan Brothers of North East in the month of September. This undying enthusiasm and zeal among the seniors are having a good and lasting effect on the novices who are trying to excel in the spirit of Magis.



On 6 October the Mawshohroh community celebrated the month's mind of Fr Alphonsus in a spirit of profound gratitude to God for the many blessings that God has given to us through Fr Alphonsus.

PFUTSERO

The entire school of over a thousand students took part in the cultural dance and song competition. Mrs. AtulaWai, the Principal DIET Pfutserowas the chief guest and spoke eloquently on the importance of culture and identity of our people. She urged the principal and the institution to research on the effects of changing culture on Naga society. The parents, who were present in large number, intensely enjoyed the programmes and genuinely appreciated the school for giving such importance to teaching our children to learn and to appreciate their culture.

This year's Teachers' Day celebration took an added significance as the institution honoured Sir Sapuni Gregory Pao who completes 25 years of teaching at Nazareth School. The Alumni and the student body honoured him with words of appreciation and gratitude. Sir Sapuni's family members,

close friends and relatives from his village also took part in the celebrations. Sir Sapuni hosted a meal for the staff and the special invitees.

The students of class 10 were taken on a four day Educational Tour to Manipur, Moreh, Tamu Burma by **Fr. Dhazü** and **Sr. Elizabeth**. Nazareth School bus and Eden Gardens bus ferried the children which was a very enjoyable, educative and inexpensive educational tour. We are grateful to Fr. Felix and the Moirang community and Fr. Samy of Moreh for helping with logistics.

Two students who participated in the district science seminar at Phek bagged first and third positions. Ms. Sukhulu who was the district winner participated in the state level science seminar at Mokhochung. Despite the intense personal care of Br Ebanazar Bareh in the Loyola hostel, two brothers of Porba village studying in classes 9 and 10 managed to dismantle two double-decker cots and to chop them into pieces.



A spate of burglaries has been taking place in Pfutsero town wherein thieves have been breaking into shops at night and stealing cash and destroying other goods. After a carefully planned vigilance and the setting up of CCTVs in the town area, the traders union finally caught the gang of thieves which was a bunch of about 20 students armed with instruments going around after midnight in a planned and organized way. We had the distinction of having 4 of our students among the outlaws.

Fr Anto and **Fr Dhazü** took part in a young priests recollection in Guwahati. They said that they were consoled to sit alongside the veteran young priests such as **Fr Ashok Sandil** and **Fr Arun Babu**. They felt the sharing reminded them of the experienced older priests of our region.

A new lease of life and activity is taking place in Kikruma School and community. Several curricular and co-curricular activities have been organized much to the appreciation of the students and the village. St. Peter's School Kikruma is preparing to host the JESON Games and Cultural Fest 2019 on the 18-19 October. Holy Family Parish hosted a one day seminar on "Catholic Faith and Marriage and Lay Apostolate" organized by the Chakesang Catholic Association and Chakesang Catholic Youth Association. Mr. Rocus Chase was the resource person. The attendance of participants was beyond expectation but the organizers rose to the occasion and everyone had enough to eat.

PHEsama

Phesama Campus was filled with a large number of Jesuits who were here for the Region's Consult followed by two days of training for our superiors in Region Apostolic Planning (RAP) by **Fr**

Wendell D'Cruz SJ from Mumbai Province. 35 Jesuits of the Region attended the Region annual retreat directed by **Fr Philip Endean SJ**. Soon after the retreat the Regents had three days of input sessions by RCF, **Fr Anand Pereira** on how to deal with school children and boarders.

The Community is very grateful to **Fr. Robert Chawngthu** for his yeoman service to the community and is now transferred to Jakhama Community. We are also filled with joy to receive **Fr. Philomin Raj** into our community. He will concentrate on directing retreats to various groups. We get many visitors who come and stay with us. Recently we were happy to receive three wise men **Frs. Brian, Swebert and Manoj** from Karnataka province.

Classes IX and X students had one and a half days of retreat each conducted by **Fr. James Kulvi**. Fr. Philomin Raj along with Fr. James Kulvi conducted three staff retreat (Pfutsero, Phesama and Khuzama, Village schools staff of Nazareth Pfutsero). All the staff members were very much appreciative of the retreat and this is the first time they went through a retreat. Everyone appreciated the time given to them to reflect on their lives as teachers and as students.

The school is equipped with Robotic Lab materials under ATL and a three day workshop was conducted to enable the teachers to make use of this facility. Many thanks for the fruitful effort of **Fr. Felix** who wrote the projects for several of our schools.

Fr Arul had taken the Teaching and non-teaching staff for an excursion to Sikkim and Darjeeling from 3rd -8th of October. Regents from Manipur and Nagaland had their recollection conducted by **Fr Emma**.

With the arrival of 55 first years on the 1st of August, TTC is fully packed and now the strength has gone up to 103. At least 30 first year TTC students are graduates. A two day orientation program was conducted for the first years on August 2nd and 3rd. Independence Day celebration was held and Sir Balasius, our senior most teacher of SPS, hoisted the flag and delivered a meaningful message to the students.

On the 28th of August the 2nd year students gave a hearty welcoming program for the first years on the Freshers' Day. The 2nd years students were also having a teaching practice in different schools and their performances were well appreciated by those schools. The Campus anticipated the Feast Day celebration of St Francis of Assisi the patron saint of the



Sisters in the campus on the 31st of October. TTC students along with the JTC brothers and the Sisters' Candidate put up a wonderful program. Apart from classes, TTCs had been given lots of

opportunities to excel in their co-curricular activities, which were used in the Freshers' day, Teachers' Day and St Francis of Assisi Day. Their performances were wonderful.

In JTC the Candidates underwent a medical check-up and all were declared fit and strong. They also had their first exam in JTC. A one week Angami class was also conducted for them. The Candidates staged a fifteen minute play on the anticipated feast of St. Francis of Assisi. During the puja holidays they were making use of the school computer lab for four days to learn some basic computer skills.



MAGIS Program was also held in our campus on the 5th of October. **Fr Brian D' Souza SJ** from Mumbai Province, the MAGIS Coordinator, along with a group of youths from Mumbai organised this program. 123 youths from Pfutsero, Phesama, Jakhama and Liyai parishes, including the JTC brothers from Jakhama and Phesama, the Scholastics from Jakhama and some of the TTC students attended the program. All participants marvelled at the Magis programme. Thanks to Fr. Robert Chawngthu who worked tirelessly to make this programme a

successful one. The youths expressed that they had got a taste of it and desired it for more.

With the help of all the priests, life in the Parish is revitalised. We had three marriage rectifications in the parish church with a holy mass specially celebrated for this. Every first Sunday is marked for baptism, and the sick people are given communion. On 6th of October, for the first time the senior citizens were honoured during mass and it was a moving experience for many. At least one of them has decided to study Theology through an online course that Vidyajyoti is offering. Few more are ready to join. If there are few more lay people who can read and write English and willing to study Theology, maybe we could even make Phesama as a centre for their study!

THRIZINO

Life in the school as well as in the boarding is no less than an action movie set. Everyday something or the other is happening. We have to be always on the lookout because we never know what the children would do next. One night, four of our boarding boys decided to have a walkathon home at midnight by escaping through a window in the toilet and walked all the way home; a distance of about 66 kilometres. Consequently, their parents



hurled all sorts of abusive language at us. Two of them came back after a week, but the other two have not shown their faces so far.



Our campus looks like a miniature menagerie right now. We have quite a few varieties of residential animals ranging from dogs, cats, guinea pigs, ducks, chickens, goats and also a few regular visitors of cows, mithuns and horses. Recently, we lost three well-fed pigs out of the four that we have. To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of the father of the nation,

we had to kill the last surviving pig before we lose it. The children enjoyed sumptuous meals of pork for three consecutive days. What a joy to see smiles on their faces because of the sacrifice the pig made; giving its all for them.

Our half yearly examination began early this year from 27th September to 5th October. We celebrated the birthday of **Fr. Michael Kerketta**, our School Principal and Boarding Director on the 29th of September in a sober manner because of the exams. However, it was solemnized by the presence of **Fr. Pravin**, the Superior of Arunachal Mission as the main celebrant. The presence of **Br. Anthony** and candidate **Samuel's** too added more joy to the occasion. The choir, which comprised of teachers and sisters, sang melodiously during the Eucharistic celebration. After the Mass, we had a short felicitation programme by the children and the teachers for Fr. Michael which was followed by dinner along with the staff and boarders.



On the 1st of October, a cleaning competition of collecting plastic wastes, papers and bottles from all the localities, colonies and schools under Thrizino administrative HQ was organized by the PHE sub-division, Thrizino. Our school got the first prize for being the cleanest campus under Thrizino administrative HQ and bagged two big size dust bins along with a cash prize of Rs 3000. Some of the prominent examiners who came to check the cleanliness competition were the ADC of Thrizino, the AE of PHE sub- division, Thrizino along with some junior officers.



On the 2nd of October, a drawing, painting and essay writing competition was

organized by the PHE sub-division, Thrizino on the theme “**SWACHHATA HI SEVA HAI**” (cleanliness is a service) and two of our students bagged the first and the second prizes in the essay writing category. On the same day, specially made bamboo cups were distributed to the winners, an initiative to beat the use of single use plastics and plastic cups.

On 3rd October, **Fr. Manoj**, the Parish Priest of Seppa Parish along with his team of teachers conducted an awareness programme on climate change, its impact and the immediate solution to solve it. The main speaker was **Mr Anuj**, an officer working in the Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal. He encouraged all of us to plant more trees to beat climate change. Right now, the campus looks very quiet and empty because all the children are at home for a week-long puja vacation.

-Darimio Susngi SJ

UMOID

The First Exams:

At the time of writing this newsletter, our students have just finished their first exams. Some of them, I imagine, would have done quite well. We enrolled a few students who were already high academic achievers. But I suspect a number would have fared poorly. I hope I am wrong, and in a few days the verdict will be out.

Many of our students had their early schooling in village schools where the teaching was often weak and usually done in the vernacular. They are the ones who, for no fault of their own, have been struggling the most.

The results of these examinations will be an indicator of how well they have learned, but will also reveal the progress they have made in English, the medium of instruction at our School. Based on the results of these first examinations, we, the staff, may have to reassess our teaching methods and review our plans for the next semester.

Our Students:

We closed admissions this year with 57 students – 31 girls and 26 boys. Our students come from 14 different villages. While some of them carpool to come to school – at times with as many as 9 students packed in a mini taxi – others come walking, often taking over an hour each way.

In terms of religion, three of them belong to the traditional Khasi faith – Niam Khasi, five belong to a Protestant denomination, and the rest, 49 in all, are Catholics.

Most of our students come from socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Besides being full-time students, some of them do a considerable amount of work at home, ranging from cooking and cleaning, to fetching water from a village tank, to taking care of their younger siblings and doing farm work over the weekends. But if effort and commitment are indicators of how well or badly our students may fare in the future, I suspect that most of them, if not all, will gradually improve and succeed.

A “Sacred” Forest, Of Sorts:

The Khasis, the tribe whom we serve, often demarcate certain wooded lands as “sacred forests” or groves. Traditionally, they have believed that spirits dwell in these forests and as a result the woods are sacred, to be respected, and that the trees may not be cut.

In keeping with this local tradition, we have started a “sacred” forest of our own on our campus, even if it is not necessarily an abode for the spirits. We have fenced off an area where we have planted over a hundred saplings. We hope to plant more trees and bamboos to extend our “sacred” forest after knowing which sites are earmarked for future buildings and playgrounds. Presently, our students look after the new saplings. They find consolation in knowing that the trees will be a living testament to their having been at St. Xavier’s.



Introducing *Jainsems*:



Talking of local traditions, on special occasions Khasi women typically wear a dress known as a *Jainsem*. Keen on ensuring our school serves to strengthen our students’ love for their culture, we introduced *jainsems* as part of their school uniform.

Unbeknownst to us, we later found out that we are the very first school to ever introduce this local dress as part of the school uniform. Pictures we took of our girls in *jainsems* went viral on social media. Two newspapers ran front page articles on the school. Two other TV

stations also did a piece on our school. This publicity, we imagine, will help our school, which is located in a rural and neglected part of the state, to be better known in the state though it was never our intention of seeking publicity. Besides the media hype was the work of unknown admirers of the college!

The most consoling aspect of introducing *jainsems* at school has been enthusiasm of the Khasis about it – that we would choose to adopt their local dress for our uniform, and the pride of our local villagers in the publicity that their little village is receiving because of this initiative.

Our Growing Staff

In July, **Deacon David Nukhu SJ**, joined the school staff. A native of Nagaland, David is an experienced school administrator and teacher. His coming has been an asset to the school and a great blessing to our students. They appreciate his interest in their well-being.

In December this year, David will be ordained a priest. Needless to say, many of the students and several of the local leaders are planning to go to Nagaland for his ordination.

Our New Building:

Today, in addition to our students completing their first examinations, the workers finished casting the slab for the second floor of our new school building which is under construction.

The building will be a three-storied structure. The ground floor will house the offices and some common spaces. The first floor will have six large classrooms and the second floor will have three more classrooms and a hall.



The work has been going smoothly, thanks to the meticulous planning of Bah Hamarles Thabah, a Shillong-based contractor, and his team of supervisors and workers. He visualizes having the building ready by February, and hopefully we will be able to occupy it by April 2020.

A New Path:

A good friend of ours, Mr. Elias, offered to construct a flight of steps leading up to the school.



Earlier, all we had was a rough footpath which, because of the moss that grows in profusion here during the rainy season, would be slippery. The path was also steep, and the slipperiness made it so much harder to negotiate. So thanks to Elias, we now have cemented steps leading up to the school. These steps also serve to remind us at St. Xavier's of the path our students have chosen to walk.

Coming to St. Xavier's has been a major change for most of them. They are in a school now where the teaching is all done in English, where expectations are high and hard

work and regular attendance are the norm, where respect for the environment and others, and reverence for one's faith, are cherished and encouraged.

The path ahead for many of them will be steep. But with the eagerness of our students to improve, with their openness to being guided and the work ethos they have inherited from their families, and most of all with their faith in God and their desire to succeed, we are confident that they will indeed climb the steps leading to a brighter future, even though for some it may be just one small step at a time.

At St. Xavier's, we thank God for His many blessings. We also thank you for your continued interest in our school and your unstinting support. Without these, not much would really have been possible.

-Paul Coelho SJ

WILLIAM NAGAR

We are deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Ms Preskilla Ch Marak of 2 BA History. The Lord took her back to heaven prematurely on the late evening of Monday, September 2 due to

kidney and liver failure. Ms Preskilla was a gentle and pleasant young lady. The thought that this beautiful life is no more brings sadness to our hearts. Dear Preskilla, you are very dear to us in Loyola.

The many colours and variety of dresses of the teachers of Loyola on Teacher's Day 2019 were evidence of the multicultural and multi-ethnic make-up of the staff. The programme by the students brought out the best in them as they praised and serenaded the staff, and the heart-felt response from the staff as articulated by Lecturers Mr Bosco Marak in song and Ms Charime in her words. The festivities ended with the sumptuous lunch arranged by **Fr Scaria**.

LoyolaCollege

Williamnagar, presented its annual musical play, this time "Beauty and the Beast", in the presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Smt. Agatha K. Sangma, and other dignitaries such as Shri. Marcuise N. Marak, Hon'ble Chief Whip Govt. of Meghalaya,



Shri. Dinang T. Sangma, MDC, GHADC, and Shri. Swapnil Tembe, DC, East Garo Hills. The college proudly showcased the talents of its bright and dynamic young students, who put up a colorful show displaying the 2017 Walt Disney adaptation of the famous fairy tale. **Deacon Melwyn's** sweat and perseverance in directing the play bore abundant fruit.

In her address, Agatha Sangma commended the young performers for their dancing and singing and for their ability to bring alive what she acknowledged as one of her favourite stories. While adulating the institute for its mission of "holistic individual development" of every student, she also



urged the young students to "read" and dream bigger dreams. The college released its annual magazine "Magis 2019" and felicitated the meritorious achievements of the rank holders in the various departments: first and second rank in Dept. of Garo, fifth rank in Dept. of English, and eighth rank in Dept. of Political Science.

With the limited seating capacity that the college has, most of the students and parents could not watch the programme. And so, a special show was organized for them with more songs and dances thrown in, on 28th Sept. evening, in which they were drenched (literally, too) with happiness.

Ms Pritya G Momin was selected from the district by the State Government youth exchange programme to go to Bhutan for a one week of exposure trip. She came back with colourful and vivid memories of the varied experience which she shared with the whole college body in the assembly.

The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October was celebrated with literary competitions, skit competitions, service projects, tree plantation, cleanliness drive in the campus and Williamnagar town, street plays highlighting the values of non-violence and peace which was attended by the Deputy Commissioner.

Fr Bryan D'Souza SJ. (Bom) accompanied by 5 young people came all the way from Mumbai and interacted with about 150 of our college students, 7 from Mawait, 10 from Umbir, and 6 from Jalaphet parishes as part of the Magis program on 2nd October.

Fr. Scaria is working hard to complete the fencing of the Dawachipet farm land. Meanwhile, the construction work of a piggery there is in progress, and he is trying to take care of the tender shoots of the areca nut trees.

VIDYAJYOTI

“BER”months, beginning with September, have brought us consolation and enjoyment in the form of cool weather. Heavy rain, in and around Delhi allows us experience early winter. It is much appreciated and welcoming. Fans are almost becoming a thing of the past.

The convention to commemorate the **“50 years of Justice and Reconciliation: An Anniversary for Justice”** was jointly organised by JESA and Vidyajyoti at Navjivan Renewal Centre, New Delhi on 26-27 September, 2019. It was a convention to walk with the poor, the outcastes of the world, those whose dignity has been violated in a mission of reconciliation and justice. We were indeed glad to have **Fr Valerian Castelino** and **Ms AnuJebisow**, who represented our Region in the Convention. A quick halt made by **Schs Avi and John**, en route to Taiwan recently brought us much joy. We wish them all the very best for their new mission.

Presently, we are in the middle of our Semester and classes are in full swing. Our third years **Pheiga** and **Zoliana**, are working harder than ever in order to complete their Seminar papers on time.

-Stephen L

BOMBAY JUNIORATE

The thrilling activities and ongoing courses at Vinayalaya, Mumbai, have kept the Juniors on their toes and in tune with the fast pace of life. Courses on ArtAppreciation by **Fr Wendell D'Cruz SJ** and **Fr. Vijay Gonsalves SJ** and Psycho-Spiritual-Sexual Integration by **Fr Dudley Mendonca SJ** have helped us to understand and discover our inner selves. It has helped many of us on the road to healing and wholeness.



On 9th September, we had our annual pilgrimage to the popular pilgrim site at Mount Mary's, Bandra. This was indeed a spiritually enlightening and renewing moment. Seeing the devotion of the people around us is also a help for us to deepen our own vocation.

Our weekend ministries have kept us spiritually alive. We had a special course on awareness about the POCSO Act, Gender Inclusiveness and Trafficking, given by Sr. Sagayamary. Through these courses we are becoming more aware about the current issues in the Church and in civil society which need much attention.

To keep our fitness levels up we are busy cooling ourselves in the pool as we begin our Course in Swimming, at the nearby pool in Holy Family School. Now, the Juniors are burning the mid-night oil preparing for the First Semester Exams which will be on 23rd - 25th of October 2019. We will then go for a 4- day break to Khandala where we will be amidst more relaxed activities.

KOLKATA JUNIORATE

On 5th September Dhyan Ashram Community celebrated the birthday of two historical figures: St. Teresa of Calcutta in heaven and Dr. Radhakrishnan in whose honour we celebrate Teachers' Day. **Fr. Patrick Vincent** – the Dean of Studies – celebrated the feast day Mass and offered prayers for the members of the Missionaries of Charity, and for all the teachers. The Juniors and the Novices organized a short programme to honour and felicitate our two Bengali teachers. The program included a lively dance, a thought provoking speech, a song and a skit. One of the teachers addressed us in Bengali encouraging us to put efforts in learning Bengali language so as to be able to interact with the local people.

The Nativity of our Lady was celebrated on 8 September. The Juniors were cordially invited by our neighbouring Jesuit Community for the solemn Eucharist and a delicious breakfast.

A week long *Basic Communication Workshop* was organised by **Fr. P. J. Joseph, SJ** - the director of Chitrabani. The workshop was part of the Juniorate training to equip ourselves to understand the reality of communication in the modern world. The workshop comprised of varieties of courses of the communication, namely, still photography and basic camera operation, news reporting and interview technique, TV news broadcast and TV production, origin and development of cinema and film movements, basic pastoral communication and Church and media, visual effects and new media. The workshop had 10 eminent resource persons and all of

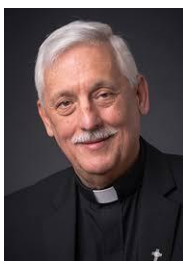


them are Chitrabani alumni. The programme updated the Scholastics with new methods and technology. Besides, becoming aware of the various techniques, it also initiated us to become good writers, reporters and photographers, critical analysers. Basically we learnt how to communicate human values through the media.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started,” says Mark Twain. We have just got the taste of media communication, as we are on the threshold of 5G world. On 23rd September we celebrated the birthday of Sch. Roynal Machado. It is said, “The way to success is always under construction.” Currently the Juniors are in the full swing as they are preparing for their first term exams.

-Schs. Joanies, Roynal & Joel

Q & A WITH FATHER GENERAL



Q: Which leader inspired you the most?

A: **Fr General:** “Well I think there are many leaders that have moved myself. When I was a young guy, *my father* was very important because his way of facing life. I remember for example he used to comment at our family table, that we cannot be quiet if our country is not good, we have to be committed to the change of the society. And the sense of the life is not to look for our own happiness, but the happiness is to be shared with the big society.[During] my experience as a student at St Ignatius School in Caracas, many Jesuits specially young Jesuits. And I always remember in my formation, two kinds of Jesuits that inspired me.

The Brothers: some of them were teachers, others were working in maintenance, and the cook, all of them were smiling, always serving without asking nothing and very very in touch with us students.

And the *young Jesuits:* there were also a group of *Jesuits in Regency* that really they were able to connect with the students and to promote different activities and reflections; I used to say that I don’t remember nothing about Chemistry, about maths; I study a lot you know.. biology.. I don’t remember but I really remember the importance of being with the others to participate the Eucharist, to be at place the service, to go to the places. We visited the Barrios, the hospitals... so that’s what I really received from that kind of collective leadership”.

-Transcribed from Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcX6RDKnuZU>

www.jesuits.global (Italicized words are editorial)

IN CHRISTO:

Fr Alphonsus B. D' Souza (KHM, 78/62) on 06 September 2019 at Guwahati

Fr Edward Jeganathan Anthony (MDU, 83/62) on 10 September at Madurai

Fr Aloysius Thoppil (AND, 56/31) on 01 October 2019 at Vijayawada

Archbishop Dominic Jala (Archbishop of Shillong Archdiocese) on 10th October (11th in India) 2019 in USA

TILL WE MEET AGAIN, FAREWELL DEAR FR ALPHONSUS D' SOUZA SJ

-Fr Melvil Pereira SJ

With mixed feelings we bade farewell to Fr Alphonsus who passed away on the morning of 6th September 2019 at St. John's Hospital at Guwahati. While we grieve at the departure of Fr Alphonsus, we also celebrate the 78 years of his life. He lived his life to the full and gave his best. We are grateful for all the blessings he received from the Lord and for the blessing he was to each one of us



Born in Bajpe, Mangalore, on 13 February 1941, Alphonsus was the 6th among 10 siblings, 6 brothers and 4 sisters. One of his brothers, late Fr Denis D'Souza, was an SVD priest and another, late Mr. Cyril D'Souza, was an ex-Jesuit scholastic. Fr Alphonsus did his early education in the parish school. He joined the Jesuits on 1 July 1957 in Christ Hall, Calicut, did his juniorate from 1959-61 at Mt St Joseph, Bangalore and went on to do his Philosophy studies at Aloisianum, Gallarate, Italy, from 1961-64. Then until 1966 he did his regency in Mapuça, Goa, and at St Joseph's Indian High School, Bangalore. From 1966-68, he pursued

Master's in Sociology at Karnataka University, Dharwad. For his theology studies he was at St Mary's College, Kurseong, and at Jnana Deepa Vidyaapeeth, Pune, from 1968-72, and was ordained priest 1971. From 1972 to 1995, for about 23 years he taught Sociology at St Aloysius College, Mangalore. He set up the Department of Sociology there. During this period, he did doctoral studies at the Delhi School of Economics. He also did a number of studies for the Mangalore Diocese and was a much sought-after mentor of young Jesuits and diocesan seminarians who did their studies at SAC, Mangalore.

In 1995 he took voluntary retirement in order to work in the Northeast and joined Kohima Region. From 1995 to 2007, he taught Sociology at St Joseph's College, Jakhama, where he set up the Department of Sociology. During this period, he was twice principal of the College, was rector of Loyola School, Jakhama, and of St Paul's School, Phesama, and Parish Priest of Jakhama Parish. He moved to Jesuit House, Guwahati in 2009 as a Senior Research Fellow at the North Eastern Social Research Centre. During this period, he was also guide and supervisor of doctoral students of Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, and Don Bosco University, Guwahati. At NESRC, he was associate director, librarian and senior researcher. He edited and published the tribal theology series of the Centre, personally taking care of copy-editing and proof-readings of most of the publications. His book on the traditional systems of forest conservation among the Angami of Nagaland is much acclaimed in academic circles.

Alphonsus was a caring pastor, as attested by the tearful presence of parishioners all the way from Jakhama and Phesama at his funeral. He loved his role as a parish priest and knew the importance of rites of passages whether Baptism, communion, confirmation, matrimony or death. He was a

Sociologist and hence had very deep insights on parish life. He had genuine respect for the indigenous structures of parishes in Nagaland.

He continued this pastoral commitment, while in Jagriti, making himself generously available for sacramental ministry to FMA sisters at their Provincial House and to the Sisters of Charity at St John's Hospital. Some young priests, especially Jesuits and Salesians, chose him as their spiritual guide and confessor.

Fr Alphonsus was diagnosed with lung cancer in June 2019. The tumour had grown beyond the fourth stage and it was not possible to arrest its growth. His vital organs were affected and doctors gave up hope of recovery. Gradually losing weight and becoming frail and weak, he accepted the terminal illness with equanimity and even joked, 'When is He going to take me? Isn't He tired of waiting on me?'. During all my visits to him he would say: 'I have lived a happy life, I have done my job, I am ready to go to my Father'. He kept the cross, which he had received during his first vows, on the table and used to tell me: 'I derive my strength and spiritual grounding from looking at this cross'. That was the depth of his spirituality and familiarity with God.

At Jagriti, he was well taken care of by Frs. Hector, Walter, Owen, Nuchiso and Samir. Hector's leadership was crucial in making the right decisions and guiding the community during these three intense months. He would sing some Konkani hymns/songs and recount old stories to Alphonsus. One cannot forget the dedicated commitment of Jacinta who nursed and took care of him like her own father. Fr Nuchiso attended to his needs through long nights. Both Jacinta and Nuchiso were angels, caringly accompanying Alphonsus. At John's hospital, the sisters, doctors and nurses were kind and generous with their time and energy. Jesuit brethren, his colleagues at NESRC and his friends would constantly visit and cheer him up.

Fr Alphonsus's life as a Jesuit was a wonderful example of his faithfulness to his call to be a Jesuit. He was essentially a teacher and a researcher. He lived 62 years in the Society with commitment and taught Sociology for over 35 years. He was liked by his community members and admired for his simple life-style and high thinking. As a teacher, he was respected and admired by his students in the class and by his colleagues in the Department of Sociology at St Aloysius College, Mangalore, St Joseph's College, Jakhama, and North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati.

If we saw a man of easy charm and gentle nature, then there was also the voracious reader, the man with a probing mind, a keen sense of observation and a formidable knowledge and analysis. He had the gift of assimilating complicated ideas and expressing them in simple language. His preaching, always with anecdotes from his life, had a simplicity, warmth, joy and immediacy that could touch even the most hardened heart. He combined a wry sense of humour with wisdom and his consummate intellectual clarity. Yes, like any of us he had his weaknesses, but as the years went by, he kept them under control and did not allow them to come in the way of his intellectual and pastoral work. He was faithful to the end.

Towards the final days of his life, despite physical pain, he constantly told me, 'I am praying for the Region, for the Church every day. Do not worry, God is always there to help'. May his soul rest in peace. We can be assured that we have a powerful intercessor for us in heaven.