



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

October 2019

Year 40, No. 09

ECOLOGY ALSO HOLDS THE ATTENTION OF ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

SEP 9, 2019 NEWS



"The group of advisers to Father General on Ecumenism and Interreligious Relations met in Rome from 2 to 5 September. Its job is mainly to alert and inform the General and his Council on issues, processes and involvements of Jesuits and the Church in the field of ecumenical dialogue and interreligious relations. Besides, the advisers share their thoughts and expertise on a particular topic that Father General asks them to consider. For this year and in view of the coming Synod on the Amazon, the topic was ecology or the relation with nature and creation according to Christian denominations and religions (spiritualities or ways of wisdom) that are represented in the group.

We are now eleven advisers. Three deal with the ecumenical dialogue with Oriental Churches, (Mainline) Protestants, and with Pentecostals and Evangelicals. Eight others are involved with traditional and indigenous religions of Africa, the Americas and India, with Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. After a period time during which we worked as an "autonomous secretariat", the group is back under the aegis of the Secretariat for the service of the faith, since Fr. James Hanvey's appointment as the new secretary. He is the "liaison officer" of the group in the Curia and was participating in the whole meeting.

We started our meeting first by listening to Father General, then by personal prayer and finally by spiritual conversation. Father General's address focused on three

FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

- 1 XIDAS, Jabalpur
- 2-5 Visitation, Campion Schools Bhopal, Bhouri & Mariado
- 6-9 Central Zone Educators' Meet, Bhopal
- 12 GB meeting, XIDAS, Jabalpur
- 13 Silver Jubilee of Adivasi Yuva Chetna Manch, AICUF, Bhopal
- 21-28 JCSA meeting, Ranchi
- 29 Visitation, Collegians, Ranchi

NOVEMBER

- 7-9 Visitation, Khrist Milan Ashram & St. Ignatius Church, Namna
- 10 Inauguration of Silver Jubilee, Dhanwar
- 16-17 Provincial's Meet, Raipur
- 23-24 UAP Orientation for Rectors, Superiors & Commission Coordinators, XISA, Raipur
- 28-5 (Dec) Annual Retreat, Indore

APPOINTED BY FR. PROVINCIAL

- 1. *Fr. Vipin Kishore Tirkey, SJ - Minister & Asst. Parish Priest, St. Xavier's Residence, Pathalgaon

main points: the profound meaning of the *Universal Apostolic Preferences* (2019-2029), a "job description" of the Secretary for the service of the faith, and some questions to be addressed by this group of advisers about its way of proceeding. More precisely, we had to clarify the link between ecumenism, interreligious relations and the special call for the mission of the Society, finding ways of better working group from being now integrated into the mission of the secretariat for the service of the faith.

The first part of our works was devoted to sharing experiences and thoughts with guests (Jesuits and non-Jesuits), first in small groups and then in plenary, on the general situation of the ecumenical dialogue and interreligious relations in the Society and the Church.

The third day was dedicated to discussions on ecology in accordance with each Christian denomination and religion and their implications for us. Our deliberation was nourished by two presentations, one on ecology by Xavier Jeyaraj SJ, the Secretary for social justice and ecology, and the other by James Hanvey on the call for an integral ecology from the reading of the encyclical *Laudato si'* of Pope Francis. The last day was mobilized by the presentation of our responses to the three questions that Father General had put to us and of some proposals to him and his Council regarding ecology. We also did some planning for the year to come."

Mpay Kemboly, SJ
Adviser to Fr. General for African Traditional Religions

XIDAS, JABALPUR

Fr. Michael Van den Bogaert Memorial Lecture: XIDAS fondly remembered Fr. Bogaert on his 10th Death Anniversary on August 31. All the staff and students gathered around his grave at 11.00 a.m. and paid floral tributes to him. Then all entered Fr. Camille Bulcke Hall. A ceremonial lighting of the lamp was followed by a short video on Fr. Bogaert's family background, education and journey to India. A talk was delivered by Dr. M.N. Vajpayee, a former faculty member of XIDAS who had worked with him for a few years and knew him very closely. He told that he had the opportunity to personally interact with him, Dr. Vajpayee said that Fr. Bogaert was an extremely humble and simple man and had great love and concern for the poor. He possessed evaluation skills, loved birds and was passionate about the future of rural management studies. The vision and mission of XIDAS he formulated stand witness to his desire and endeavour to keep working for the uplift of the marginalized of the society. He always had a smile on his face and couldn't see anyone depressed. The event was brought to an end with a visit to the Fr. Bogaert Museum.

Munda, Oraon, Kharia Association's Football Competition: Quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final matches were played on Sunday, September 01 on XIDAS playground from 11.00 a.m. onwards. At the end the Salesian candidates bagged the champions' prize while the Norbertines were the runners-up. The day had intermittent rain and sun. Children, youth, parents enjoyed themselves cheering the competing teams. Some games for ladies and children added more colour and noise to the day-long fun in the otherwise quiet campus.

Teachers' Day Celebration: To express their *guru bhakti* and gratitude to the faculty the students organized a teachers' day celebration from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on September 05. It started with the lighting of the lamp followed by a poetry recital, *antakshari*, a solo dance performance, and a skit. In between the staff members were felicitated with presen-

tations of a flower, a coffee cup, and a candle saying "Thank you for being the light in our lives" as tokens of appreciation. All were given snacks at the end of the programme.

Onam Celebration: The students celebrated Onam with traditional fervour and gaiety on September 11 for which all the faculty members were invited to join them. It depicted the rich cultural heritage of Kerala in the form of floral *rangoli*. It was a memorable celebration as all the students had an opportunity to learn about the culture and tradition of Kerala. All were dressed in the traditional Onam wears. *Payasam* (sweet rice pudding) was served to all at the end. It was indeed a treat to be part of the celebration.

- Fr. Valentine Ekka, SJ

LOYOLA HOUSE, KUNKURI

The number in the Community has shot up with the new members- Fr. Ravindra Lakra, SJ as the Principal of English Medium School, Fr. Rajesh Xalxo, SJ (M) as the computer In-charge in Loyola college, Schs. Vinay and Pranay Wilson as regents and Schs. Ajay and Martin as first year college juniors.

About seven hundred students have enrolled their names in the college this year. It is a positive sign for the institution. The refreshers' day was celebrated in a meaningful way. The NSS had organized an awareness programme on mal-nutrition on 21st September and the NSS day was also marked with special function in honour of Mahatma Gandhiji on 24th September.

Fr. Rajesh Xalxo, SJ (M) has joined the college to help the Computer Department become up to the mark. Sr. Anjana Pale DSA has joined in Commerce Department and many other new lay staff members too are added to make the college up-to-date. The college was waiting for long a renewal of affiliation. An Inspection team visited the college and has done the ground work. The team members were as follows - Dr. B.K Garg from Government College Rajpur, Dr. Raj Kamal Mishra from Government College Ambikapur and Fr. Jerome Minj, S.J. from St. Xavier's College of Education, Ambikapur, who have had the necessary inspection.

Teachers' Day celebration in the Loyola School turned to be a golden opportunity for the students to exhibit their talents through dance, music, handicraft and many other activities in honour of their teachers. All students tried their best to impress their teachers. The CLC members of Loyola Hindi Medium, English Medium and Apostolic Schools committed their lives to Mother Mary by taking the oath on the day of the Nativity of Our Lady on 8th September. The apostolic boys deserve congratulations for their dedicated

service. All the students are busy now in preparation for the terminal examination.

-Fr. Rajesh Xalxo (M), SJ

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL RAJPUR

It is a matter of sheer joy and pride for St. Xavier's School Rajpur that Master Tanmay Tirkey of Standard Six participated in International Taekwondo Tournament held at Bangalore from 5-15 September, 2019. He won a Gold Medal in cadet category level.



Mr. B. Ekka, District Education Officer, and others congratulated him for extraordinary achievement at his tender age. He was felicitated in the school by Fr. Sebastian Tigga, Principal along with the staff and students. Fr. Principal in his address to the students encouraged to participate in all the events organized by the school and tap the inner resources to add colours of success in life.

5 September, Teacher's Day was marked with varieties of cultural items presented by the students. Teachers were honored by especial batches and "Mukut". Teachers took pledge to be true, dedicated, committed and responsible teachers.

September 16 was observed as "Ozone Preservation Day". There was an awareness rally by St. Xavier's School students to conscientise people in the locality about the adverse effect of Ozone on the earth and to preserve the ecology. They gave the message through placards, slogans and banners. It was well appreciated by the people.

- Fr. Sebastian Tigga, SJ

PRAKASH SCHOOL, PATHALGAON

Teachers' day was celebrated with much joy and excitement on 4 September, preponing for a day because of the holiday declared on 5. The day began with the solemn holy Eucharistic celebration. The student representatives organized a cultural event to honor and show respect to their teachers. It was a solid four hours of varieties of cultural and entertaining items.

September 14, a black Saturday, brought a big shock for the entire Prakash school family as it lost one of its dearest students. Somas Chauhan, was in 10th Standard in Prakash School and his sister Anjani Chauhan, four years old, studying in Holy Cross, lost their lives due to snake bite while sleeping at night at home. As the news came of the sudden unfortunate demise of both brother and sister, the school remained closed for a day after paying homage to the departed souls.

Fr. Pradeep Ekka SJ, the local CLC President arranged for a half day of Recollection on September 21 for the

Catholic Students of our School in order to prepare them spiritually for the upcoming CLC day. All were provided with a good lunch in Prakash Hostel before they started their first talk at 1:30 PM. Fr. Amrit Kujur, SJ was the preacher for the recollection. He guided the students with his rich experiences. The students left for their homes after receiving the sacrament of reconciliation.

A CLC day (*Karar Diwas*) was organized for the CLC members of Pathalgaon unit in the Hall of Prakash School, on 22 September. Nearly 500 CLC members from four different units of Pathalgaon namely St. Xaviers English Medium, Holy Cross B.T.I., Holy Cross High School and Prakash School participated in it. The Solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Bipin Kishore Tirkey SJ, the CLC director. Prakash School Choir made the Eucharist more devotional through their melodious singing. After the mass high breakfast was served for all, in the Prakash Hostel mess.

- Sch. Arvind Kujur, SJ

JVM, PATHALGAON

The United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007. To mark the occasion and to create awareness among the people for the first time in Jashpur District it was observed by Jeevan Vikas Maitri (JVM) on 13 September 2019. More than fifty people gathered in the hall of JVM. The program began with singing a tribal song. The chief guest, Dr. Oscar Tirkey and the other guests were welcomed. An homage was paid to Dr. Lakhan Singh, who passed away on 8 September. Fr. Yacub said that in 1980s he came to Chhattisgarh from MP as government employee and took keen interest on literacy campaign program and tribal issues. He was the president of PUCL since 2008. In his tenure several public gatherings, rallies, Dharnas were organized for the issues of tribals and farmers. He used to be always in the forefront. For the cause of tribals and farmers many representations were made to government officials and political leaders in his leadership. Yacub shared his personal experience with him, telling that whenever he needed a help Lakhan Bhai was always ready. He came to JVM three times for the issues like displacement, elephant, human trafficking and migration. He was also a writer and publisher. He wrote on the issues of tribals and farmers and published in cgbasket.in. Yacub told that when local papers and e-news portals did not publish his news and articles he used to send to Lakhan



Bhai and he got his matters published happily. So Lakhan Bhai was a person of movements for the cause of suffering people and a fearless writer and publisher.

Fr. Bipin K. Kujur, SJ announced the indigenous rights declared by the UN and their ground realities in our country. He explained the meaning of rights with his own experience. The ground realities of rights of indigenous peoples are not encouraging. Rights are given by the Constitution but not implemented in letter and spirit. These rights are still to be realized in the life of tribals. Fr. Yacub explained in detail the Forest Right Act 2006 (Amended in 2012) according to his experience and according to his new booklet the processes to be followed in claiming forest rights. He stressed that this Act is framed to do away the historical injustice done to Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. He wished that this booklet will help in speeding up the process of claiming forest rights.

Hemant Lakra gave information of right to food campaign 7th national convention to be held from 20-22 September, 2019 at Byron Bazar, Raipur. Mary Tirkey shared her experiences of Central Zone JESA Convention held at Loyola Ground, Ranchi from 5-7 September. Surrender Tirkey, Tikesware Ekka, Patel Toppo and some others also spoke on tribal issues. On 20 October, annual gathering of Uraon-Kurux Samaj will be held at Haddi Godam, Murapara, Pakargaon, for which action plan was made.

Dr. Oscar Tirkey, SJ the chief guest of the occasion congratulated JVM for organizing such programme to create awareness among the people and he himself shared his experience on tribal problems. Deacon Sanjeev Tirkey, SJ proposed a vote of thanks and Alphones Kujur and Ashikala Ekka conducted the programme. Jerome Lakra, Akashdeep Kerketta and Hemant Lakra made arrangements for the programme.

- Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ

VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI

The MAP Scholastics are enjoying themselves in Vidya Jyoti. As they have spent three months in Delhi, there is a sense of satisfaction and joy within. The month of September unfolded ample of opportunities before them that helped them grow into budding theologians. Thanks to early visit of Fr. PCF who visited them between Aug 28 to 1 Sept. His guidance was felt a great boost in their formation.

September 7 was dedicated for a one day recollection, given by Fr. M.I. Raj. He filled the Scholastics with enthusiasm by inspiring them to reflect upon four Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP). Soon after the recollection they entered into Mid Semester Exam which was scheduled from 9-14 September. The exam set a beautiful opportunity to reap the fruits of their hard work. All of them tried their best to synchronise their

scattered thoughts during the examination.

After their examination they looked forward to catch up with their studies. Classes got on the full swing. First year brothers engaged themselves with 'Sociology of Religion' and 'Pentateuch'. Br. Cyril, the second year went through 'Medieval Church History' and 'Cannon Law'. The third year brothers attended the classes on 'Priesthood' and 'Feminist Spirituality'. Each one tried to give ones best.

Fr. Rector began the process of applying for the Holy Orders for the third year brothers on 20 September. They prepared themselves mentally and spiritually to undergo the process. Fr. Leander regained his health and helped the community in spiritual matters. Br. Fulgence was busy providing the community with all the needful materials. Both of them were appreciated for their generous contribution inside and outside the community. All the MAP Jesuits eagerly waited for Fr. Provincial for his visit scheduled on 24 of this month. The visitation was pleasant and inspiring.

- Sch. Virendra Tirkey, SJ

DNC, PUNE

On February 13, Fr. Rector gave a talk on how to take food. The talk was attended both by Theologians and Philosophers of DNC community. A pin drop silence fell when Father



placed his finger on the nerve causing all the problems in the society. "Alcohol is affecting our people, our family members, relatives, friends and even Jesuits," the speaker expressed his deep concern. "It has become a problematic issue in snatching away peace of the families," he added. The talk was very touching, inspiring and challenging. It was a gut level talk, showing a genuine fatherly concern. He spoke with authority.

Karam celebration in DNC community spread a festive atmosphere on September 20 among all the members of the community and other priests from the campus. Participation in Karam brought joy and jolly in the community. The Feast started with Solemn Holy Eucharist. Fr. Vinod Soreng, SJ was the main celebrant on the occasion. The evening gathering added festivity in the community and the delicious food prepared by our Chhotanagpur tribal brethren indicated their presence, a "salt" to the community.

There was another Karam Celebration with the people of Chhotanagapur, settled in Pune, on 22 Septem-

ber. Once again it was a grand Karam celebration. It was held at St. Felix school campus. A good number of people (1200) attended the celebration.



Beside these celebrations brothers were busy with their studies as the exam was near. They learnt how to keep balance between ones responsibilities and extra curricular activities.

- Sch. Anjay Xess, SJ

ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

The month of August ended with our 2nd internal examination. MAP Scholastics were very happy to meet Frs. Athanas Lakra SJ and Zacharias Kerketta SJ. They made a short visit to Asha Kiran during their meeting in Mangalore on August 31.

We had a very good time with our living group members as we went for a half day outing on 1 September. The outing made us refreshed and relaxed. We came to know one another more as we shared our companionship with one another.

We celebrated the feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary on 8 September. The feast was celebrated very solemnly in Mangalore. On this occasion we were given chance to go to any of the near by parishes for the festive Mass. It was really very enriching experience for all of us. It was an occasion to see and learn our traditions and cultures which are practiced on this day. We had a solemn Holy Mass in our community on September 10.

We had musical evening in the college on September 13. We had ongoing formation talk on "The Usage of Mobile" given by Sch. Joseph Jerald, SJ (Karnataka Jesuit) on September 20. The Scholastics found it very helpful as the resource person shared his life experience with them. It was very inspiring as well as an eye opening for us.

We the MAP Scholastics were very happy to have Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ our provincial on September 22 as he came for the visitation. Our sharing was lively. His advice and feedback were energizing. He added joy to our Hindi Mass community too. Fr. Provincial celebrated Holy Mass in Hindi for the Hindi Mass community. His presence in Asha Kiran was a blessing for us as our semester end exam was due to begin on 9 October.

These days we are busy with our practical examinations as well as in the preparation for the upcoming main examinations. All of us are hale and hearty. "Pray such that as if everything depended on God. Work such that as if everything depended on you" (St. Augustine).

- Sch. Vikas Kumar Lakra, SJ

CLIVE'S HOUSE, TRICHY

The month of September set a milestone to the Institute of St. Joseph's College, Trichy, as it had the valedictory ceremony of 175th year of Jubilee celebration. The celebration was commemorated meaningfully with varied colourful events throughout the month.

The whole family of Clive's made a trip to Chithanaval Cave, (Jain Temple) Pudukotai on 2 September. There we had an opportunity to learn about Jainism and its existence since second AD. We were given inputs on Hinduism on 5 September to grow in appreciation for all religions. Karam festival was celebrated on September 10 in a full traditional manner. In order to carry out the plans drafted in CAP, the community gave an awareness programme on the themes "Child Marriage and Alcoholism" in Devarayaneri Street, on 14 September.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, paid a visit to the Clive's community on 14 September. The community held a meeting on 16 September to re-orient our community life towards its mission and expectations of our respective provinces.

The community had an Agape, congratulating and wishing the birthday babies of the month on 25 September encouraging them to bounce ahead in religious life.

The celebration of the *Dodransbicentennial* year intensified on September 27 and 28 with great jubilation coloured with several events. Many competitions and civic functions were held. Thus the Valedictory function of 175th years' Jubilee celebration was meaningful.

- Schs. Abhay & Amardeep

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

The installation of new office bearers took place on 27 August followed by thanksgiving Holy Mass. Satya Nilayam is blessed with ample rains this year and the campus looks beautiful with green trees and plants. We celebrated feast of Onam along with our Kerala Scholastics on 30 August. It was the time to share our joy and friendship with all in the community.

Satya Nilayam community took part in Annai Vailankanni Shrine for blessing ministry from 29 August - 8



September. It was a time of grace for all of us, as we celebrated the feast of "the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary" from 13 - 14 September. Sacred Heart College organized "Quest 1.0 Inter-

faculty Students Seminar 2019." From JDV Pune 8 brothers and two sisters presented papers along with 10 Scholastics from Satya Nilayam. The Philosophy department of other colleges in Chennai also participated in the "Quest 1.0" such as MCC College and Vivekananda College.

We celebrated Karam in the Community on 20 September. We were happy to have Fr. Edward, PCF of Patna and Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial of MAP as the main celebrant for the Karam Mass. The Chotanagpur Adivasis celebrated Karam in Loyola College Campus Chennai on 22 September. Satya Nilayam CNP brothers and Fathers also took part in the Karam celebration.

- Sch. Vimal Dhurwey, SJ

JESUIT MISSION IN MP

Article 21

Open Persecution (contd.)

On 24 July 1911, Fr. Van der Linden wrote to Fr. Superior: "Today I received the sad news that the village of Pindih has turned pagan. Last year a murder had been committed in that village and on that account some police were quartered there and the people had to feed them. The Rajah himself (so they say) told the people: 'Become pagans again, and I will withdraw the police. I will at the same time send away the *barahil* (keeper of the storehouse and manager of the *thikedar*) who annoys you and take your village under my direct control.' They were too weak to resist the temptation and have given in. I intend going to Pindih and see for myself how things are. This is very sad news; my *Pracharaks* are discouraged because the people are too much afraid to resist. They are like a lot of hares that know nothing but to run away from Danger."

Three days after, he wrote again from Tongo 27 July: "Yesterday I received again bad news from Jashpur. Noas, one of my *Pracharaks* residing at Tongo (Jashpur) had built for himself a small hut (*Jhopdi*) to do which the Chief of Jashpur has himself granted permission (I have kept the letter of the Chief and that of the Political Agent in which that permission is clearly stated). Last week Noas was told that he had to destroy his house which he refused to do. On Monday 24 July a *sawar* (mounted police) was sent to Tongo to

demolish the hut. All Noas' belongings were first put outside. Noas was present while his hut was destroyed. Today I have written to the Rajah to complain and I have told Noas to bring a case in court against Baisaka *sawar*, if the Rajah does not answer my letter. This is all very sad, and nothing seems to be done by the authorities, otherwise the Chief would not dare to act as he does. I say the Chief, for it is he who secretly encourages his underlings. I hear from my *Pracharaks* that the Raja has threatened the *ze-mindars* to take away their villages, unless they force their people to become pagans again."

We see that Fr. Van der Linden, who during the former better days had rather a good opinion of the Raja, too good according to Fr. Van den Driessche, was completely disillusioned by now. Here follows a letter of Fr. Van der Linden to Fr. Superior, containing at least some redress of injustice done. Tongo, 16 Aug. 1911: "I started for the Jashpur on the 7th of August. I was forced by the rain to stay 2 days at Badka Koronja, a Jashpur village close to Barway. On Wednesday 9th, I started for Bartoli close to Pindih, where my tent had preceded me. On my way I met 2 *Pracharaks*, one of whom Sanni of Kinkel. He told me that the day before, 8 August, he had been dragged out of his house by two sepoys and forced to leave immediately without being allowed to take anything with him, but what was absolutely necessary. The people of the village had all been taken to Nagar, so that he had no witnesses and he himself had failed to recognize the sepoys, as he had never seen them before. As soon as I arrived at Bartoli, I wrote a letter to the magistrate of Jashpur Nagar exposing the case and sent the aggrieved *Pracharak* with it."

"The answer I got did not satisfy me and I was determined to go myself to Nagar. I had to wait till the 11th. On that day I sent a note asking for a few moments' conversation; and that they might not put me off. I arrived as soon as my note. I was well received and the son of the Chief who is learning court work was present. I exposed the case of my *Pracharak* Sanni, and asked if an order had been given by the court. He told me that no order has been given and that he would make inquiry. On this I told him that whether an inquiry would be made or not, as my *Pracharak* had been illegally expelled from his house, he should be allowed to go back and should receive an assurance that he would no longer be molested. The magistrate agreed that he should be allowed to go back to his house, but demurred to give him the asked assurance. Then I spoke of the house of my *Pracharak* of Tongo; the house had been destroyed by Baisaki *sawar* on the order of Bhanu *daffadar* as I wrote in a preceding letter." Bhanu *daffadar* was *ze-mindar* of Rattamatti, a notorious enemy of the Christians. "Again I asked whether an order of the court had been given for the destruction of the house. I was told that no such order had been given, but that the accused party pretended that Noas had de-

stroyed his own house. On my replying that such an absurd supposition on their part clearly showed that they were telling lies, even the son of the Raja could not help smiling. However I could not obtain anything else than permission for Noas to rebuild his house. I claimed that the house should be rebuilt by those who had destroyed it, and was told that they would give me an answer in the evening."

"I then spoke of the threats used to make the people renounce Christianity, especially the threat of taking away their lands. The answer I received was the same, I have given myself frequently to my frightened Christians, whose lands have been taken away." After an hour's conversation I retired only half satisfied with the result obtained. The answer to my request which I received on Saturday morning did not increase my satisfaction. The *Pracharak* of Kinkel had gone back to his house because that had been settled. But I was asked to kindly send Noas to Nagar to have his case also settled and I feared that nothing would come of it. I was therefore agreeably surprised when Noas brought me the following note on Saturday evening 12th August, "Your *Pracharak* Noas came to me and in his presence I have directed the *thikedar* of Ghaghra-Tongo to see to his being housed immediately, as suggested by you, and also to find out what the matter really is. I am sorry to say that I have not yet been able to trace the *sipahis* spoken of by the *Pracharak* of Kinkel, but I have directed the *thikedar* of the said village to see that the *Pracharak* is no longer illegally interfered with. I hope this will be an end of the matter."

"The result of my going to Nagar is so far satisfactory that I have a public acknowledgment that wrong has been done to two of my *Pracharaks*, and especially that it encourages my *Pracharaks* and Christians, who seem to be persuaded that now for some time at least they will not be molested." In his next letter, of 3-9-11, he informs the superior that the house of Noas has not yet been rebuilt, and that he has sent him to Nagar to lodge a complaint. He tells Fr. Superior, that in the midst of these tribulations he is far from feeling discouraged, for the thought of discouragement has not yet come to my mind and I found, in my Retreat, that this is the least of my defects. Our poor Jashpurians want prayers, chiefly that they may get grace and strength to resist. It is a fact that many have gone back to paganism. Since my visit to Jashpurnagar, things are a little quieter and the *Pracharaks* who came this week for their *tarik*, had no complaints to bring." Fr. Van der Linden had thus put to advantage his boldness and marked talent for dealing with officials. Matters might have been much worse in Jashpur, had it not been for his occasional visits to the higher officials and to the Raja.

By the beginning of October, the Archbishop was

back from Europe and very regretfully learned that his representations of May had borne no fruit and that if anything, the situation had even worsened. On 1st November 1911, he sent the following stiff letter to the Hon'ble R. H. Cradock, I.C.S., Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces: "On my return from Europe, I find that the religious persecution in Jashpur has been going on unchecked, with the result that the Chief is gradually coercing the Christian subjects into abandoning Christianity. In my absence, on the 19th August last, the superior of the Bengal Catholic Mission, in a letter up to date unacknowledged, has brought to your notice one out of many facts of undoubted oppression. The letter referred to case of the Saraitoli-Kastura Christians which will be detailed in the Chapter on Persecution in the Nich Ghat. I am at a loss to understand the action or rather the inaction of the British government, in what to my mind is a notorious and flagrant violation of the religious freedom granted by his majesty's government to all his Indian subjects. I should be very grateful, if you would at an early date grant me an interview, that I may know what your views are in the matter and shape my line of action accordingly."

On 13th November, his Chief Secretary, Mr. de Brett, I.C.S. replied from Nagpur in the name of the Chief Commissioner: "Your Grace with reference to Your Grace's letter of 1st November 1911, and the letter of the Superior of the Bengal Catholic Mission, dated the 2nd August, were received at a time when local investigation by any European officer was impossible, both of the grievances of the Mission and of the grievances of the Feudatory Chief against the Mission. The Political Agent (Mr. Blakesley) went on leave, as also the officiating Commissioner (Mr. Napier) who has toured through the state. In the coming cold weather the matter at issue will be investigated locally and Your Grace will be addressed further on the subject so as to admit of the case of the mission being adequately represented."

The same day, 1st November 1911, Fr. Van der Linden welcomed the return of His Grace and sent him a sort of Report of how matters stood then. The persecution had now become a well organized affair in the Upper Ghat, specially in Fr. Van der Linden's district. At the head, the Chief had placed Gandur Ram, the notorious *zemindar* of Kiling-Jiling on the Barway frontier, a true imp of the devil. His satellite was Bhanu *daffedar*, a small *zemindar* of Rattamatti. The title *daffedar* shows that he did some work at the Nagar court. With these were associated some 10 *chaprassies* paid by the state and wearing a uniform given by the latter. Gandur Ram belonged to the *Ahir* (cowkeeper) caste. He is deaf and his sons are poor, living in the small village Jiling. Bhanu *daffedar*'s name was met before. He is the one that ordered the destruction of Noas' hut. He is still alive. Patras, *Pracharak* of Gholeng told me that he was not as wicked as Gandur, and that he has since become a friend of the Christians."

Pilai, a Christian, was *chaprassi* for Rattamatti. In spite of all his assertions of fidelity, made to Fr. Van der Linden, Pilai and not Bhanu is the chief cause of part of Rattamatti being *dogla* today, so says Patras the old *Pracharak* of Gholeng. Pilai was living with the sister of Francis Rudderpur, the present *munshi* of Noadih. That sister had been abandoned by her husband. As Pilai was forbidden to live with her, he left the church and dragged a number of other Christians with him into apostasy. Patras says that these *chaprassis* were called 'masters.' In one of his letters Fr. Van der Linden calls them apostate Christians. They may have appeared so, owing to the great mischief they were partners to. But it seems to have been due to coercion and fear more than to wickedness. Besides Pilai, Patras *Pracharak* gave me the names of some of the other *chaprassis*: Jatra for Pindih who remained a Christian; Kotre for Bhudkela, who became a pagan; Sukra of Pakertoli who became an out and out devil worshipper, going about performing sacrifices. The strangest thing about it is that his whole large household is Christian, barring him. His son Alois is one of the most active catechists and masters at present in Gholeng district. All efforts to bring back his father have failed.

In another letter, of 8 November 1911, he adds: "They have also to report what is going on in the village regarding the practice or teaching of the Christian religion and also any petty molestations on the part of the police". Besides the above, he informs the Archbishop in the letter of 1st November that he spent the previous week visiting the villages in the Eastern part of Jashpur, where no villages had abandoned the church up till now, and where they were left in comparative peace. From the very beginning of the persecution the efforts of the Chief and his men have been exerted in the central part, and that unfortunately with some success. Sardih, Rattamatti, Pakritoli, Bhudkela, Pindih are the principal villages that have

at least outwardly abandoned Christianity. The first 2 villages have simply eaten the rice given them and have up to now refused to return to pagan practices, the other 3 have lately kept up the *karam* (pagan festival).

The Chief sees clearly that the people do not return willingly to paganism; he does not believe that those who have returned are sincere, but he wants to keep them." For this reason, says the Father, he has instituted the above organisation.. "Last Thursday while I was at Galunda I heard that Gandur Ram and Bhanu *daffedar* have been trying their very best to induce the people of Rattamatti to keep up the pagan *karam* feast, without succeeding. I resolved therefore to pay them a visit. On Thursday afternoon I went there; the poor people were very glad to see me, though still too afraid to show it openly. In the evening all the men came and amongst them the newly appointed *chaprassi* Pilai of the Raja. This man told me that he had been appointed against his will and that he did not want to give up Christianity. For 2 hours I spoke to the men, showing them that they should not be afraid." They promised that they would do so in future. The next morning the women and children were present at Mass, but the men were conspicuous by their absence. "Everything that happened during my stay was reported to the Chief and here is the result according to a letter sent to me last Monday, 30 October, by a trustworthy catechist, residing at Galunda, whom I had told to help the people and catechist of Rattamatti." (To be contd.)

- Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ

Birthday List

OCTOBER

04	Parapullil Anthony
05	Tirkey Sanjeev
06	Lakra Ashok
06	Tigga Boniface
06	Toppo Eugene
07	Xalxo James
08	Tirkey Oscar Sevrin
09	Toppo Ashwin
09	Xalxo Amit
10	Xaxa Stephen
11	Minj Bartholomius
14	Minj Manoj
16	Kerketta Marianus
17	Tirkey Anchit
17	Xalxo Virendra
20	Minj Benedict
22	Bara R Richard
23	Lakra D kishore
24	Minj Anup
25	Aind Simon
26	Lakra Zacharias
27	Ekka Nirdosh
27	Tigga Sebastian
28	Soreng Dilip

NOVEMBER

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

Happy Birthday



1. Father of Sch. Deepchand Xess, the late Isidore Xess (73) expired in Jokbahla on 25th September 2019
2. Fr. Aloysius Thoppil, SJ (AND 56/31) died on 01 October 2019 in Andhra Pradesh

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN OCTOBER FOR ETERNAL REST

S.N.	NAME	DEATH	BIRTH
01	Fr Thomas Panthukulam	07 Oct 1990	11 Jan 1935
02	Fr Joseph De Pypere	12 Oct 1995	04 Apr 1917
03	Fr John Van Emmerick	12 Oct 2008	04 May 1923
04	Fr. Cornelius Ekka (A)	19 Oct 2017	18 May 1969
05	Fr Samuel Barla	20 Oct 1990	05 Jan 1916
06	Fr James Nagant	24 Oct 1986	18 Apr 1904
07	Br Jaak Somers	31 Oct 2006	17 Sep 1919

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