



Vol. XXIV No.5 NEWSLETTER OF KOHIMA REGION (KHNL) Sept-Oct 2020

APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Fr Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz (Dion), Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province
Fr Keith William Abranches, Rector of Collegio Internazionale Gesu, from July 2021
Fr Joseph Coelho, Rector of Loyola School Jesuit Community, Jakhama

APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL OF KARNATAKA

Fr Paul Coelho, Region Consultor
Fr Joseph Coelho, Region Treasurer

APPOINTMENTS BY REGIONAL SUPERIOR

Fr Felix Monteiro, Superior, Bishnupur-Moirang Jesuit Community
Fr Syriac Panjikaran (KER), St Xavier's School, Moirang.

ORDINATIONS

Joseph Zoliana, in Christ the King Cathedral Aizawl on 31st October 2020
Victor Joseph, in Good Shepherd Church, Palakkad Dt, Kerala on 2 January 2020
Pheiga Gangmei, in St Ignatius Loyola Parish, Bishnupur on 12 January 2020

DIACONATE APPLICATION

Scholastics Biji Thomas, James Chin Kap Sian Muang, Stephen Lalruatsaka and Thomas Varghese have applied for their diaconate ordination. If anyone has information or suggestions for a discerned decision on this matter, please send them to the Regional Superior by 31st October 2020.

Kohima Region:

Congratulates and prays for **Fr Dionysius Vaz** who took over the reins of the Karnataka Province from **Fr Stanislaus D'Souza** on 26th September 2020.

Applauds and wishes well **Fr Stanislaus D'Souza (KAR)** who took charge as the POSA from **Fr George Pattery (CCU)** on 10th October 2020.

Greets **Fr WK Pradeep** on his priestly ordination on 2nd October 2020 in Bengaluru

Thanks the Lord for the successful completion of the Region Apostolic Plan (RAP) and its promulgation on 30th September 2020

FR DION TAKES OVER THE REINS FROM FR STANY

On the 26th of September 2020, **Fr Dionysius Vaz** took over the reins of the Karnataka Province from **Fr Stanislaus D'Souza**. At a meaningful Eucharistic celebration organized in Inigo Sadan Chapel, **Fr Joe Mathias** gave a beautiful homily highlighting the true meaning of leadership in the Society. In the short felicitation program that followed, **Fr Jossie Lobo** spoke eloquently about Fr Stany and Fr Dion, their abilities and their challenges.



Fr Anand Pereira, who was present for the ceremony, shared a few thoughts on behalf of the Regional Superior and the Jesuits of Kohima. In his speech, he especially thanked Fr Stany for steadfastly supporting the Kohima Jesuits all through his tenure and assured Fr Dion of the prayerful support of the Region. **Sch. Mark Iawbor**, who is doing his regency at St Joseph's CBSC School, Bangalore, honoured Fr Dion with a Naga shawl. In his response to the toast, Fr Stany spoke about the different landmarks in his journey as Provincial. Fr Dion, who spoke next, thanked Fr Stany for his leadership and requested support from the Jesuits of Karnataka and Kohima as he takes over his new role as the Provincial of Karnataka.

Owing to the restrictions caused by the covid-19 pandemic only three members from each community were allowed to participate in the celebration. However, the entire province was able to witness the celebration as it was live-streamed.

- Anand Pereira

KOHIMA REGION APOSTOLIC PLAN (RAP)

During an online meeting of the Superiors and Directors of Works (SUPDOW) on 30 September, the Kohima RAP was deliberated and later approved by the Regional Superior. The journey that began in August 2019, under the guidance of Fr Wendell D'Cruz (BOM), came to a successful close on 30th September 2020. The 14 months process included layers of meetings at various levels – individual, community, cluster, SUPDOW and Region Consult. Over 45 Jesuits took part in the final meeting which was moderated by Fr Wendell. Through

three rounds of spiritual conversations we shared with each other the graces, consolations and desolations that we experienced during this process of articulating the apostolic plan. On the evening of the same day, the Regional Superior promulgated the RAP. Here are the concluding remarks of Fr Melvil.

“As we conclude the process of articulating the Region Apostolic Plan, we are filled with two profound sentiments: those of gratitude and of hope.

1. We look back in gratitude to God: We have completed one journey and are starting another. With the confirmation of RAP, we concluded the articulation of our apostolic plan, a journey that began a year ago. We went about this journey in an atmosphere of prayer, reflection, dialogue and discernment. We met in our communities, in our clusters, in the forum of superiors and directors of work, led by Wendell and the Core Team. We were sensitive to the inner movements and discussed and discerned where the Holy Spirit was leading us. We stayed attuned to the Spirit gently nudging us to look beyond the temptation of living in the past or ensuring our personal comfort. During this process, our dreams, desires, aspirations and plans were crystallized into Region Apostolic Plan. At his moment, as we conclude this journey, we bow before the Lord in thanksgiving for his constant presence, accompaniment and guidance. We strongly believe that God was part of this process and the RAP is the fruit of Ignatian Discernment.

2. We look forward with hope, courage and confidence: Like every new journey, our journey of implementing RAP will have its share of adventure, excitement, impatience and uncertainty. We are few Jesuits but many plans. Will we succeed in implementing the RAP consisting of five preferences, 13 strategic goals and 55 actions plans? Are we biting more than we can chew? Are we asking for the moon? These fears are natural and they should be part of this journey lest we become over-confident. There is one thing that I am certain, hope-filled and confident: that with God on our side and with collective efforts and team work as our guiding principle, we can set the world of fire. Therefore, we pray for the courage to be faithful to these new preferences, even in the face of the insurmountable challenges. May the journey of implementing the RAP help us encounter the God of surprises, knowing that He will always be with us. Together, let us collaboratively embark on a new chapter in the history of Kohima Jesuit Region”.

- Richard Jarain

IN SOLIDARITY WITH FR STAN: JESUITS IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM



The Jesuits in Guwahati in collaboration with other religious congregations and denominations organized a sit-in protest on 12th October 2020. We were over 80 people although the upper limit was 50. Archbishop John of Guwahati Archdiocese was one of the first ones to arrive. All the Jesuits from

Jesuit House and Jagriti were present except those who had their online exams. The major



superiors in Guwahati made sure that there was representation from their congregations to express solidarity with Fr Stan. We had sufficient posters and placards, thanks to our scholastics in Jesuit House, Guwahati who efficiently and in a short time got them ready. Owen got

permission for the event from the police and got ready with the banners and flexes. Walter got ready with the press release and wrote an article for the newspaper. All the Jesuits in Guwahati proactively got involved in the event. The media covered the event well. We couldn't have asked for a better show of strength and unity as Christians. The Churches - Baptist, Presbyterian, EFI, CNI - were well represented.

On the same evening, Walter organized a webinar. No sooner the programme began, we crossed the 100 members limit in the Zoom platform and people got connected through YouTube and Facebook. In his brief introductory comments, Walter spoke of the brazenness with which the investigating agencies arrested Fr Stan. Mr Allan Brooks, the Catholic leader in Guwahati, moderated the webinar. The speakers - Visakhonu Hibo, Patricia Mukhim, Sanjay Barbora, Jiten Yumnam, Roger Gaikwad – representing various states of Northeast India spoke of the changing political climate in the nation. They highlighted the increasing lack of space for dissent. Melvil summed up the deliberations reminding the participants of the need for greater mobilization in the days to come.

- Richard Jarain

IN SOLIDARITY WITH FR STAN: JESUITS IN SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A candle light procession was organized in solidarity with Fr Stan Swamy in the heart of Shillong, Meghalaya, on 12th October, by the friends of the Jesuits. Dr Moses Kharbihthai and Mr Richard Syiemiong were the main organizers. A former student of JNU, Dr Kharbihthai is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar. He contacted Fr Caldinus in Mawit and received support from



other Jesuits in Meghalaya and organized the candle light procession.

Despite the gentle drizzle, many people took part in the procession. There was participation from across denominations. The religious and clergy from Shillong, although not in large



numbers, made their presence felt. Jesuits from the Khasi-Jaintia Hills districts actively took part in this event. Among the Jesuit speakers were **Anbarasan, Gabriel** and **Norbert** while **Lambok** led the singing during the procession. Gabriel also gave an interview to PCN TV channel in Khasi. It was a successful programme.

- Richard Jarain

BISHNUPUR AND COMMUNITIES

Life in Manipur valley was hectic with a series of events in the past two months. Quarantining, welcomes and farewells, handing and taking over, commitment and responsibility, hunting for BEd. seats, erecting the statue of St Ignatius, dialogue and peace process in Lamdan village, series of meetings, completion of the new Basketball court and blood donation.

The sudden passing away of **Fr Jayant Kumar Padival SJ**, the pioneer of Bishnupur shocked us all. Within the restriction of the lockdown, the Parish organized the Requiem Mass and paid homage to their pastor in a fitting manner. All the catholic villages were represented.

During this pandemic, Loyola School, Bishnupur and St Xavier's, Moirang were the quarantine centres both for the public and the Jesuits. "The stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone." The first Jesuit Residence built by Fr Jayant of happy memory which was used for many



purposes was renovated in stages. The Jesuits who set their foot in Manipur valley during this lockdown were housed here starting from the three Juniors **Anthony, Charles and George**, followed by three Regents **Darimio, Sumit and Vyasak Titus** (KER.) The 3rd batch was of Frs. **Boniface Lewis, Hector D' Souza**, and **Sch. Cherak Sangma** besides a few families known to us. This residence also catered to the three FCC Sisters as the retreat house, directed by Fr Hector. Renamed as 'Jayant Sadan', this is now fully furnished to accommodate the BED. Scholastics, **Amos, Darimio and Sumit**. These three have contributed much in the renovation work. **Fr Jerome Veigas** set all the electrical fittings right and proper.

In a simple ceremony in the presence of Manipur Valley Jesuits, the Religious working in the Parish, the Parish Pastoral Council members and the village catechists representing twenty Catholic communities made up of Chinikon, Chiru, Chothe (Lamlanghupi), Kuki, Meitei and Rongmei ethnic groups, **Fr Cyprian Lobo** installed **Fr Hector D' Souza SJ** as the new Parish Priest of Bishnupur Parish and the Parish Community bade an emotional farewell to **Fr Cyprian F. Lobo SJ** on 6th September 2020.



A brand new six-foot statue of St Ignatius Loyola on a newly constructed pedestal near the right side of the school was unveiled and blessed by Fr Hector, the new Parish Priest. It is placed inside an enclosure of 40x40 feet with a gate and just blooming garden, thanks to **Sch. Amos**.

On 8th September 2020, **Fr Felix Monteiro SJ** made his Solemn Final Profession in the Parish Church at Bishnupur. **Fr Cyprian Lobo SJ**,



represented Fr General and accepted the vows. It was followed by a felicitation function organised by the young Jesuits, some assigned and a few sheltered in Manipur Valley.

The entire Liyai Jesuit community was present. Fr Felix lost his prefix KAR against his name as he was officially transcribed to KHM with his Final Profession, a loss for KAR and a happy gain to KHM. On the 14th Sept at an impressive ceremony at Moirang Jesuit Residence,



Fr Cyprian Lobo passed the 'Mantle of Superior' on **Fr Felix Monteiro** to guard and direct the destiny of the Society in Manipur Valley.

In spite of lockdown, at these occasions, the three BED men (Amos, Darimio, Sumit), regents Titus at Moirang and Cherak at Liyai and the young Jawans, the 'stranded Juniors' at

Moirang sang with gusto, the traditional and modern Jesuit hymns at the Mass along with the Parishioners. The community also had a thrilling basketball match between the Bishnupur and the Moirang Jesuits in honour of Fr Felix, the new superior at Moirang.

The mission team of Bishnupur comprising of the MSI sisters, SRA sisters and the Jesuits of three micro-units met on 20th September to offer a thanksgiving mass for **Fr Cyprian Lobo** the outgoing Parish Priest and to thank for his loving and dedicated service to the communities.

The last to quarantine was **Fr Jerome Veigas**, who arrived from USA on 26th September and is now getting ready to move to Poumei area for language study. Fr **Cyriac Panjikaran** (KER) flew from Agartala, Tripura Mission, to join Moirang community as the Vice-Principal of the School. He is busy learning Manipuri language. The community also bid farewell to **Sch. Silbirth** who worked here for a year as regent and has chosen to be a lay man. In the meantime, **Sch. Vysakh Titus** (KER) completed his MA philosophy exams on line with flying colours. **Fr Cyprian** is moving to Jakhama and **Fr Jerome** to Tungjoy on 12th October. **Fr Clement Kujur** is waiting the solemn entry **Fr Robert Chawngthu** at Moirang so that he could pitch his tent at Bishnupur at his earliest.



With a hope that all will be well, preparations are on for the upcoming ordination of **Deacon G. Pheiga SJ**, the first to be ordained from our parish on 12th Jan 2021. The long awaited basketball court is ready with international standards and colours. On Gandhi Jayanti day, on 2nd October, **Schs. Darimio** and **Sumit** donated blood to a deserving case.

The majority of our students do not have access to android mobile phones especially at Sacred Heart School, Lamdan. **Fr Salew-o** invented methods to get the children to the school, staggered classes with social distances, in the morning and in the evening. With the help of Sisters and village youth, he organized the students to attend the online classes in batches in the morning and evening. The response from the parents and students was great.



Slowly we have begun to celebrate regular Masses in our villages and at the Parish Centre with a sizable attendance. We hope to regularize it once the Lockdown-5 comes into place on 15th October.

Stop Press: The B.Ed aspirants are moving to greener pastures from Bishnupur as they could not get their admissions in Manipur. We wish them all the best.

-Fr Hector, Fr Salwe-o, Sch. Sumit & Sch. Vysakh

DAWAGRE

The First Half Yearly Examination was conducted successfully for all the students and done both online and offline. About 95% students gave the exams. Class IX and X students have resumed the normal classes following the strict protocols given by the State Government.



Despite the lockdown, we inaugurated the Loyola school Band in the presence of Sir. Swapnil Tembe D.C of the East Garo Hills. There was a livestream of the programme in facebook, zoom and instagram. The second batch for the band is being prepared for the Grade 1 theory under the guidance of Askira. Mater Dei Parish has started conducting Sunday masses for the parishioners. **Fr Yan**, the Parish Priest, is on the race to visit more

houses, accompanying the faithful to pray the Rosary in the family. Many rectifications of marriages have been done in the parish during the lockdown.

Fr Albert guided an eight day retreat to the Junior sisters of CFMSS and also conducted a three day retreat for the Junior Sisters of OSF.

Due to excessive rain, there was a landslide near the Jesuit Residence. The retaining wall is being constructed to stop further erosions. Our basketball court is slowly getting the final shape. We have begun training some of our students for the school basketball team. We are so glad that Sch. Goldenstar will be arriving on Sunday to help out our students.



-Sch. Gaibirei Phaomei

DIYUNGBRA



Life in the Diyungbra community goes on smoothly amidst this pandemic world. Our school, whether to open or not to open, that's the question. But the presence of few boys in boarding has made our work a smooth

sailing boat. The boys not only exercise their brains but also their brawn in many areas of our works. They lend their helping hands in paintings, trimming the trees, cleaning the farm, planting new Papaya saplings, library work, constructing a new cycle shed and most of all keeping the campus alive. Work goes on too in the community as our co-workers have come back from their holidays to finish the unfinished boundary wall of our new land.



The beauty of poor people is that they share the little things that they have with great love. This is seen in our pastoral visit to Karbivillage, Taraavi and a night in **Disamao**, a Garo village. We also had a meaningful Marian Procession during the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary conducted by the Sisters. It was a delightful moment to see all

the campus members with candles in their hands to strengthen our hope in this covid-19 world. The community had a recollection which was also joined by Cassini from Gunjung. Last month, Fr Anand visited us and gave us valuable suggestions for more beautification of our campus.

We joined our Sisters in celebrating their Founder's birth anniversary (MSMHC), Bishop Stephen Ferrando. It was a wonderful occasion to share our love and appreciate our collaboration in the mission.

-Sch. Reginald

GUNJUNG



While the Pandemic continues to hold everyone inside, Gunjung Community is still on the run with the work in the campus. On 15th August, we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of Mary and the Independence

Day. The celebration was rather simple but very meaningful. In honour of Teacher's day, we had a meal with our staff in the campus. The Dima Hasao community meeting was held in Gunjung. It was a moment of sharing love and joy with all the members of the community. Our community is glad to have **Sch. Ronald** back with us. He is striving and thriving in his language learning, seeking help from different resources. Likewise, he also spends his precious time in cleaning the campus and beautifying the trees around it. Indeed, he has

lightened the burden of the regent.

Sch. Cassini is now a full time regent as 15 hostellers have joined the hostel. Under his care and support, they are getting back to studies at the same time seeking numerous help from the teachers present in the campus. Besides their studies, the boys are also doing a great job in keeping the surrounding clean. This year, the campus is blessed with the abundance of fruits and vegetables from the garden. Thanks to the former regent who continues to be an effective in the campus especially in gardening.

After fulfilling all the requirements for the reopening of the school, classes have resumed for IX & X. The classes are in full swing. On the 2nd of October, the school organized quiz, singing, and extempore speech competitions in honour of Gandhi Jayanti. The students did a wonderful job by their active participation.



On the 6th October we celebrated Fr. Gerald's birthday both in school and in the community. Fr. Gerald in his address to the students thanked and encouraged the students to work hard and help bring development in the Dima Hasao community.

-Sch. Cassini Suiam

JAGRITI, GUWAHATI

There have been plenty of comings and goings in the last two months. **Charles** finally arrived from Jakhama on 19th July and promptly went into house quarantine for 10 days, his third one in two months. **Hector** was given a sendoff on 24 July and left Jagriti on 26th July with **Fr Boniface Lewis** to Bishnupur. To compensate the moving out of Hector, **Zoliana** walked in on 28th July and still better, the latest arrival of **Vijay** on 17th September. This brought the average age of Jesuits in Jagriti crashing down to 54. It is now the biggest community of Priests in the Region, with Zoliana's ordination we will be 6 priests.

Zoliana joined NESRC on 1st September as Research Associate. He will be involved in conflict and peace studies. At the moment he is in Aizawl getting ready for his ordination. Vijay is busy setting up his office in the 3rd floor of Jagriti.

We had some anxious days when it was found that a woman who had visited our library had tested positive for Covid-19. The whole building was sanitized, supervised by **Owen** and **Anup**. The staff did a COVID test on 5th September and all were tested negative.

Walter gave a lecture on 2nd October on "Migrants and Displacement in the Northeast" at the virtual celebration of the 58th Caritas-India Foundation Day. On 7th October he gave a lecture "Land Governance in the Northeast" at the celebration of World Commons Week.

JAKHAMA

The only thing permanent is change. In life nothing is permanent. Looking back at the past two months we see how days stretched into weeks and weeks into months. Seasons come and go like friends leaving old memories to be cherished. The Jesuit community at Jakhama witnessed a couple of transitions in the past months. We bade farewell to **Fr Charles D'Souza** and **Fr Lancy D'Costa** with a heavy heart on the one hand, but on the other hand we were filled with gratitude to God for all the fond memories we shared together and the kind services they rendered to the community.



With the first breeze of the autumn air, we welcomed **Fr Joe Coelho**, our new Rector and Treasurer of the Region. We were also happy to welcome seven new scholastics – **Anand** and **Pingal** from Ranchi province, **Andrews** and **Nithin** from Delhi province, and **Jeevan**, **Joel** and **Joanies** from Kohima Region – who will be pursuing their college studies at St Joseph's College, Jakhama. As gratitude increases and sustains positive emotions in us, **Fr Victor D'Mello** the Principal invited all the Loyola School staff members for a fellowship meal on 17 August to welcome the new members and bid adieu to the outgoing members of the community.

Fr Victor discharges his dual responsibilities of principal and acting parish priest with zeal and vigour. Teachers' Day is an occasion for the school management to recognize and thank the faculty and staff for the generous service they render. This year it was a low-key affair without the presence of students and with social distancing norms in effect. Nevertheless it was a special day marked by felicitations and a feast.

Loyola School has opened partially from 25 September. With written permission of their parents, students of classes 9 to 12 are encouraged to come to school from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for tutoring and guidance. Many students are using this opportunity to meet their teachers and clarify doubts. Necessary protocols are in place to ensure the safety of everyone concerned. **Sch. John Malangmei** was happy to begin his long awaited regency in the school and boarding with the return of the students to school and a few boarders to the boarding.



At the parish level, Sunday Masses resumed in the village churches from 6 September.



The highlight of the past two months at the pre-novitiate was the celebration of the birthday of the Director **Fr Robert Chawngthu** on 17 September. The pre-novices put up a short program in the evening followed by a fellowship dinner. Currently there are eight resident pre-novices, seven of who are doing their higher secondary studies. The rest were unable to arrive due to travel restrictions but are

expected to come in the next few weeks.

We are looking forward to welcoming two new members to our community – **Fr Cyprian Lobo**, and the newly ordained **Fr Pradeep W K**.

– Schs. Martin Chubatoshi & John Malangmei

JALAPHET

The Jalaphet community is more lively and glad, enjoying the presence of the ever charming and energetic Sch. Daniel Khyriem who is doing his online class as he could not proceed to Gujarat due to the pandemic. We are grateful to God for protecting us despite the rapid spread of Covid-19. During this pandemic the Fathers have been engaging in various works and ministries in our parish.

Fr Wilfred had been very busy with his prayer ministry, praying for the sick and the suffering people who would flock to Jalaphet despite the prevailing situation. In the meantime, Fr Gabriel, with the selfless service of the sisters and the staff worked tirelessly accompanying the students through the offline mode. We are also blessed with fresh and green vegetables which we cultivate in our garden.

Finally, God has answered us through the prayers of many people; now we are able to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the faithful. Since it is the month of the Holy Rosary we also join the people in praying the rosary in their houses which gives us a wonderful experience to be able to accompany people in prayers and other services to assure them that God still journeys with them in these times of difficulties.

-Gabriel Kharluni

JESUIT HOUSE, GUWAHATI

Jesuit House, Guwahati has been bubbling with life, despite the threat of the coronavirus and the consequent lockdowns. **Fr Anand**, our superior, has been busy picking up and dropping scholastics and priests who have been coming back to the Region or leaving for their next assignments, while **Fr Vally** has been transporting them, singlehandedly to different communities in the Region. Lockdown or no lockdown, **Fr Melvil** is stuck to his desk. His

phone is also quite busy listening to stories of the men in the missions. **Fr Richard** has been working tirelessly on the catalogue along with his faithful “socius”, **Sch. Royal Saldanha**. When he thinks that he is finally done with the work, there comes another email informing him about some more corrections that need to be done! Poor guy is forced to put into practice the many lessons on patience that he taught the novices during the last eight years. Luckily for him, he has **Fr Tarci**, his pre-novitiate companion, to listen to his woes. Fr Anand is just back from Bangalore after attending the Ordination of **Fr Pradeep**. He is now quarantined in his own room to keep him out of mischief!

Fr Rakesh Bara was with us for almost a month waiting for the gates of Arunachal to open up, while **Sch. Thomas** quietly sneaked into Bhalukpong to give company to **Fr Jerry**. Beware! We are soon going to have another series of “Tom” and “Gerry” cartoons! **Br Anthony** is here with us getting ready to begin his journey to Lonavla. We wish him all the best.

Jesuit House is now a semi-scholasticate with scholastics ranging from college studies right through theology. They are all busy doing online courses. Thanks to the delicious food served by Fr Tarci, the scholastics are literally experiencing an “all-round development”. **Fr Anand** and **Fr Vijay** guided the scholastics’ recollections for the month of August and September, respectively. While the first focused on “Formation as a gift”, the other focused on “Inculturation at the heart of mission.” They fed us with a lot of food for thought.

-Sch. Richie Rex

MAIBANG

The monsoon bade ‘adieu’ to Maibang without giving much natural disaster even if people say that we did not get sufficient rain. Maibang is dressed with greenery, morning and evening filled with singing of birds and divine tranquility. She



is gradually getting free from the shock of pandemic and people started looking at others’ face without fear and doubt.

St Xavier’s compound is filled with noise of construction of the new school building in the day time. Construction workers are shouting, calling and instructing. Our compound is lively

and active as if nothing happened in the past except that we are missing the school children and teachers.

Scholastics **Stephen, Biji** and **Remo** are motivated with the surprise visit of **Fr Anand** and they had an opportunity to spend some time with him to share their life experience especially in Maibang. They are spiritually energized by his compassion and patient listening. After a few days, **Fr Melvil, Fr Anand, Fr Richard** and **Fr Valerian** came to Maibang. Their presence brought great joy to our community because we were waiting to see our Jesuit brothers.

Fr Michael Kerketta has joined our community to gain more experience in construction work and helping **Fr Thomas** for various work in Dima Hasao district . But we missed Sch Stephen who moved to Lengpui, Aizawl recently for the greater need of the Society. We are really missing you dear Stephen and also we are missing Sr. Surekha who went for treatment to Mumbai.

After the coming of Fr Micheal the grass cutting machine loss its free time. Both are enjoying rain and sunlight. **Sch. Remo, Sch. Ebenezer** and **Sch. Biji** had their recollection, guided by **Fr Gideon from Rome**. It was a wonderful experience for them and they shared their struggle, pain and joy during the pandemic. They listened to Fr Gideon's sharing and are enriched by his experience. **Br Antony** came to Maibang accompanied by **Fr Tarci** to see Dima Hasao mission before leaving to Pune. We are very happy and grateful to them for their generosity to visit us. Fr Thomas is taking care of everybody and everything in our compound without bothering about his illness. Life moves here with love, hope and faith even in this troubled time.

MAWEIT

Due to many hindrances St Mary's School cannot conduct online class for the students. And from the beginning of August, teachers of class IX and X were asked to come to school. Since then they have been busy preparing notes for the students. Notes are printed in the school and distributed to the students. Since September, class IX and X students started coming to school to clarify their doubts from the teachers in the school. Teachers are present in the school from 9:30 AM to 12 noon.

The school conducted parents' meeting for lower primary section on the 28th September, upper primary section on 29th September and Secondary section on 1st October. In these meetings the parents of class IX and X students agreed to continue collecting the distribution of notes to the students and to give consent letters allowing their children to come to school to clarify their doubts. On the other hand, the parents of the lower and upper primary agreed to take responsibility to come to school to take the printed notes and also to submit the home works of their children to the concerned teachers.

Since for the past six months, the Church was temporarily closed, we could not have the First Friday Eucharistic celebrations and meetings. Instead we had adoration of the CRI in our house on the First Friday of August and a day of work on the second Friday of August although people and youth from some villages voluntarily offered their physical work

(Sramdhan/ in out context Jingtrei Balang) as social service to the Parish campus now and then. Moreover **Fr Caldinus** along with Scholastics and some students who volunteered preserved the beauty and cleanliness of the campus in spite of the incessant rains and wild growth of grass for the past four months.

After instructing the Church leaders to have meetings with the faithful of the villages to observe the SOP given by the various government orders, the Churches are gradually opening for worship of the faithful with 30 percent capacity. At Maweit also the Church is open for services from 4th of October.

Sch. Jokim satisfactorily manages, with the given network connections in Maweit area, his online classes for the past two months. But for library facility, he is at ease with his studies.

-Fr Anbarasan & Sch. Gerry

MAWSHOHROH

Novitiate was in lockdown mode from April onwards in solidarity with the entire nation, and as such, we regret we could not keep you up to date with the



happenings at the novitiate. First great event was the starting of the **ad tempus Juniorate** on



23rd June as our Juniors could not proceed to Mumbai due to the lockdown in place. The whole Community adjusted time, space and facilities to have a fruitful Juniorate, with **Fr Scotus** as the Dean and all other Community members (novices not included) on the staff. **Fr Paul**, the RCF, graciously provided the English classics and reference books

bought for the College for use of Juniorate. By the time the Juniors left for Mumbai on August 10th, they were confident of facing the rigours of Mumbai Juniorate and the challenges of scholastic life of serious study with adherence to excellence.

We were happy to receive the **First Year Novices** on July 7th, after days of anxious waiting. They had to spend 5 days in Government quarantine at Byrnihat (luckily the facility was arranged at Don Bosco School, Byrnihat), but they seemed fresh and full of life when they reached the novitiate. They had been already tested by fire before reaching the novitiate. We



have 5 first year novices from Ranchi Province and 2 for Kohima Region. The presence of Ranchi novices has added to the richness of novitiate life. They teach each other, Ranchi novices teach Hindi to Kohima novices and Kohima novices teach Khasi to the Ranchi novices which is needed for ministry, while Fr Scotus is trying to maintain the balance with English.

Much awaited replacement for Fr Boniface, the Socius (who has been officially transferred to Vidyajyoti, Delhi) arrived on June 15th in the person of **Deacon Pheiga**. He arrived with Dn Zoliana and Schs James & Mark. While Pheiga got into learning things from Fr Boniface and taking classes for the novices, **Zoliana** was busy with full time classes for Juniors and novices,



polishing their English, making them fit for Mumbai Juniorate. **James and Mark** were busy with campus work, daily coaching of novices in games and also catching fish. The standard of games in the

novitiate has gone up. Finally the novices have learnt the value of skill training, team work on the games field, importance of control instead of aimless running, and as such, less accidents on the games field and savings in medical bills. Online theology classes were a blessing to the novitiate as they could stay back and we were able to avail their services to the maximum.

We congratulate both **Pheiga and Zoliana** for performing well in their **comprehensive exams** on August 26th despite being busy with regular responsibilities in the novitiate and juniorate. Julian and Boniface who witnessed the online



event were full of praise and appreciation for our youngsters.

Novices had a 10-day **Music & Singing Camp** guided by **Br Andy Lambok** from Oct 1 - 10. Currently, the first years are going through 10-day one-hour practicals on **Vipassana** under Guru Boniface, in preparation for the Long Retreat due to begin on 2nd November.

Tree Planting has become a way of life here in the novitiate and this year's continuous rains have helped the plants to grow well. You will be surprised to see the varieties of plants, including fruit trees, growing all over the campus. If the lockdown continues and Fr Boniface's going to Delhi gets postponed, you will see a different campus by the year end.



Arrupe Voice, the e-magazine of the novitiate was released on 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of Rosary, by **Fr Robert Pohrmen**, our Parish Priest. Fr Robert mesmerized the novices with his well-prepared speech before releasing the e-

magazine. As usual, **Fr Scotus** is the brain behind the whole venture, and novices have chipped in with good reflective articles covering a wide range of topics, some even complicated ones.

We had our **disappointments** too. First, Novice Masters' Meet of the Assistancy which was to be held at our novitiate in August, got postponed to next year due to covid lockdown and travel restrictions. Second, novices are deprived of their regular Sunday ministry in the villages due to Covid precautions. Third, the second years are confined to the novitiate campus as they cannot be sent out for the various experiments. Fourth, our retreat ministry is badly hit as we had to cancel all the bookings. We keep hoping for good days to come and pray for the same.

PALIZI AND COMMUNITIES

Br Anthony was given a well-deserved and a heartfelt farewell on 18th September. The Jesuits, teachers, sisters, village church members and the school committee members were all present to bid adieu to him. It was an evident sign that he was loved and admired by all. At the same time, a warm welcome was extended to **Fr Rakesh Bara** who replaced Br Anthony as the Principal of St Xavier's Bana.



Fr Nilesh continues to be youthful and dynamic. He has become a prolific writer adding a new face to his already multi-faceted personality. Making use of the time available during the lockdown, he began composing many short, catchy hymns on the Bible verses which have become an immediate hit in Buragaon. Not satisfied with the composition of hymns, he began to pen a few books in the spirit of MAGIS. He has already published one book on AMAZON titled, "God must be Laughing" and another one is on the last leg of its completion. It is titled, "Litany of Rosary, Explained." All of these, besides taking full-time classes to 3, 4, and 5 grades kids. We appreciate your versatility, dear Nilesh!



Fr Jerry is burning the candle at both ends trying to get the affiliation of St Xavier's, School, Bhalukpong. The addition of **Sch. Thomas Varghese** is giving great company to Jerry. You are welcome to visit Bhalukpong to enjoy the hospitality of Jerry and Thomas. The Ursaline sisters have moved into the new convent building. **Fr Valerian**, a distant member of the community, can now begin his

project for the underprivileged girls in the old convent building.

Palizi campus look attractive as the approach road from the highway has been recently done.

Here, we witnessed a solemn Profession of the Final vows by Pravin on 8th September. **Bishop Gabriel**, the main celebrant added even more solemnity. **Frs. Jeevan, Mukti, Michael** and **Sch. Francis** all worked together in a true community spirit to make the event a very memorable one. **Fr Michael Kerketta** has been called to N.C Hills, Assam, to look after the building works which are in progress.



Fr Nuchiso and **Sch. Roynal**, practical as they are, managed to install the CCTV cameras in the school building at Thrizino. Nuchiso is working hard to get the long-pending up-gradation work of the school. On the other hand, Sch. Roynal is having the first-hand experience of a missionary life when he suddenly had to learn to cook his meal three times a day. Mukti has become the new Rowing Parish Priest, touring the length and breadth of the Parish, ably assisted and accompanied by Sara Jholie.

PFUTSERO

Teacher's Day was celebrated in a small scale. The teachers who are in and around Pfutsero, turned up for the celebration. **Fr Lancy**, the principal distributed the gifts to the teachers.

The online classes are going on in full swing. The school reopened classes for the students of classes 9 and 10. The teachers of these classes are busy with their preparation with their respective subjects in order to guide their students.

While the Catholic community and some of our teachers of Nazareth School cleaned the campus, **Fr Dhazii** along with the village community at Kikruma had a clean drive in St Peter's School campus. St Peter's School has been entirely sanitized after the Quarantine days.



Our new regent **Sch. Danielson Syiemlieh** reached Pfutsero after his Quarantine days in Dimapur. He has acclimatized himself at Pfutsero and is busy with classes. He also helps our co-workers' children in studies. Fr Dhazii, the Campus manager along with our co-workers had a clean drive in our campus. The campus looks clean and tidy. **Sch. Ebanezar** attends online theology classes and is preparing for

the upcoming Semester Examination. **Fr Anto** celebrated his birthday along with Teachers' Day. The community members made sure that his birthday went on the whole day. The community is vibrant and we have lot of fun and frolic in the community. We had community meetings and a Campus Forum meeting in order to come to know our responsibilities as community members.

The Eucharistic celebration has been resumed in the parish and in other substations as well. The faithful are very eager to participate in the Eucharistic celebration meaningfully.



We have taken all the precautionary measures for the faithful. Fr Lancy, the Parish priest visits the families on Sundays after the mass. The CYA in the parish takes active participation in the parish activities. Some of the CYA members are trained in music with the help of our music teacher.



PHEsama

We are happy to see schools re-opening and other relaxations following the norm and rules of the government. St Paul Phesama too experiencing quite many changes in the campus. St Paul's school has been re-opened for Classes IX and X with proper precautions. It's been seven months since the school has been continuing its online classes and other activities. There has been a spark of a smile on the faces of teachers of having to see the students again in the school. The campus is brightened up more with solar lights all over. The solar lights have been provided by the Government scheme. We appreciate the initiatives of Fr Arul and team. The first year TTC students successfully finished their promotion exams and the second years keep waiting for their final exams.

The community has been revived by the presence of scholastics who are energetic and keeping the campus clean and tidy. The Monthly recollection of the scholastics was guided by **Fr Francis Xavier**. He focused on neuroscience which connects the Positive and negative thoughts of the person.

There is a lot of joy and happiness in the community. All the community members keep themselves fit and energetic. **Fr Arul** has been guiding a month online Retreat in preparation for their final vows belonging to Servite Sisters in Myanmar and Fr Francis Xavier continues his spiritual directions to the scholastics in Jakhama. **Sch. Edbert** continues his incredible works in JTC and he does all the necessary works to keep the flower garden fresh. **Sch. Richard** maintains the garden in front of the garden. Both Edbert and Richard are learning Tenyide. **Schs. Nobert** and **Felix** with the assistance of driver Mung's children keep the surroundings clean. In the parish, masses have been resumed and there is a good number of people for the church activities, by following all the protocol of COVID-19 precautions. Since October is a month of Rosary, the parish has a daily rosary at 5 p.m. We are astounded to see the keen interest of the parishioners participating actively in the rosary. Let's all pray through the intercession of Mother Mary to bring peace and harmony, and end of the pandemic.



THRIZINO

On August 5th, **Sch. Roynal** arrived at Thrizino and was quarantined for 14 days. However, he spent half of the quarantine period in the kitchen since there was no cook. Having absolutely no knowledge of cooking, he had to take online cooking classes from his mother. Quite a few dishes didn't turn out well since there were no coconuts in Thrizino.

Along with the people of Thrizino, the community members cleaned the campus as part of Pre-Independence Day celebration.

As per the state government norms, our school started online classes from August 18th. Since there is no proper network connectivity in the villages, we created a WhatsApp group to upload video and audio lessons and to send the assignments. Children take photos of their assignments and send them to the respective teachers, every



day. Initially the response was poor, but now they are sending their assignments, ringing up the teachers for clarifications and some even come to the school with their questions.

On August 30th, **Fr Mukti** and Ms. Sarah visited Thrizino and on the following day went to Richukhrong. Sch. Roynal joined them for pastoral experience among the Nishis. Unfortunately, because of the slushy roads they couldn't reach the village. But the travel didn't go in vain as Fr Mukti decided to cut bamboo shoots on their way back. They came back with full load of bamboo shoots in the camper. We had a simple Teachers' Day celebration with the sisters this year. **Fr Lawrence** conducted a short prayer service remembering and praying for the teachers especially during this time of pandemic. The prayer was followed by a sumptuous meal prepared by Sch Roynal and the driver, in collaboration with the convent kitchen staff.

Prior to his final vows day, **Fr Pravin** came to Thrizino and spent a day in recollection to prepare for his final profession. We joined Fr Pravin on his final profession to pray for him at Palizi.

One day, Sch. Roynal went to Thrizino government hospital for his ear test for the first time. Since his looks betrayed him, the doctor asked him where is he from. After listening to his reply, the doctor started griping about the poor facilities in the hospital for ear checkup, as if people



from Karnataka were responsible for that. However, the doctor used his mobile torch to check what was wrong with his ears and gave him medicines which cured his ears in a couple of days.

After his farewell celebration at Bana and a community meeting at Palizi, **Br Antony** visited Thrizino on 19th September to bid us adieu. For this occasion, **Fr Lawrence** slaughtered a goat and we all enjoyed it. We also had a short gathering in the evening with the sisters.

With the help of Youtube, Fr Lawrence and Sch. Roynal installed CCTV in the school. CCTV is one of the requirements to get a School Recognition Certificate. The ADC of Thrizino along with three other officials came for inspection. The officials were happy with the infrastructure. Hopefully, we will get the certificate soon.

-Sch. Roynal Machado

UMBIR

The month of August was a blessing sight to witness **deacons Pheiga and Zoliana** appearing for their comprehensive exams online. Their presence along with **Frs Julian, Boni and Liavi** added more joy to the community. The

community felt the absence of **Banri** after he left for Mangalore.

Banri's company brought much joy and fun to the members of the community. But **Lambok** filled the vacuum.

The Umbir community feels the grace and blessings through the



presence of **Fr Wilfred** who inspires and draws many people to be prayed over. It is also very inspiring spiritual experience to see the faithful who come from near and far places.

The arrival of October brings great hope and consolation to the Parish, 24 infants received Baptism. The Parish Church resumes the regular Eucharistic celebrations after a long period of time. It is a very good sight to witness many of the faithful coming back to the church after months of gap.

-Sch. Mark CS

UMOID

Life in Umoid has been wonderful, with plenty of rains which usually come down in buckets. We are lucky enough to see some sunshine once in a while, and remember there is a sun that shines in the sky above the clouds.

A new member in any family is always a blessing. And we have been blessed with the addition of **Deacon Joseph Victor** to our community since August 9, 2020. He reached here after he completed a specialized course in self-quarantining at the novitiate. With his coming, we are now a community of three musketeers. And with an ever-increasing number of COVID cases around us, we are following the norms of social distancing faithfully by going in different directions every day, to attend to our different responsibilities, supervise our various construction works, and to meet our students in centres nearer their homes.



Joseph Victor spends most of the time at the building site, preaching to the workers like a prophet whose words make no difference to the listeners. In spite of that, and the prolonged delay due to the lockdown, we see lots of changes and progress in the building because of Joseph Victor's presence at the construction site.

It has not been possible to have regular classes due to lockdown. So we initially came up with the idea to post notes for the students via WhatsApp. When we realised the need to monitor the progress of the students more closely, **Liavi** with our teacher, Sainborlang began to visit the students at three centres each week, meeting them at Mawkyrwat on Mondays, at Umoid on Wednesdays, and at Sawsympet on Fridays. The students are free to go to whichever centre is most convenient for them to travel to.



The head of any family, as may be expected, will have numerous things to focus on and stay occupied. And so it is with **Fr Paul**. He keeps going on and off to Shillong, mostly relating to the NOC of the new College, as well as various other errands the community members request him to do.



Nothing seems to be able to stop Fr Paul from finding his way back home, not even the impenetrable Weilo fog, which he claims he has to often cut with a dao just to find the road ahead.

Despite the lockdown, the work on the higher secondary school building continues and is slowly making its way to completion. So we have put up a structure to temporarily house the higher secondary classes.

We have been very happy to welcome a few guests during this past month. The “scholastics in exile” from the Umbir scholasticate came for a day’s outing on August 15th. Then, on 30th September, we were happy to host Sch. Reginald’s family. His younger brother, Vicky, is also enrolled in our school.

-Liavi

WILLIAMNAGAR

NEHU Final Exams of B.A. and B.Com 2nd and 4th Semesters are going on. The new normal of conducting exams online continues to challenge the students, teachers and administration. Sisyphus will be proud of the effort of students to upload the exam answer sheets to the NEHU website.

As for classes, the hybrid form of online and face to face is the new normal. The online classes could reach up to 60% of the students. The enrolment in the College as of September 2020 is 1509.



Some brave new teachers have joined the faculty from as far away as Nagaland and Assam. Welcome to 4 new faces.

The college is a work in progress, and the latest in the works is the Boys’ Hostel. That, however, is stuck at the plinth level for the time being.

Scholastic **Parciush**, is the new addition to the community. He keeps busy trying to connect to Vidyajyoti - his faith in technology being tested every day as he hopes in better communication, and loving it as he theologizes

from nearer home in the Garoland.

-E.C Sebastian

AHMEDABAD

In Gujarat, Ahmedabad still holds a high number those affected by the COVID-19. However, everything seems to be in normal as we called it the New Normal.



In the last few months, the scholastics were sent to different mission stations to relax, for sometimes, from the cacophony of the Ahmedabad city. In the missions, the scholastic engaged in visiting houses, teaching basic Catechism and English classes and games, especially football. When the online classes started, the scholastics came back to their mother house, Premal Jyoti.

The third year brothers were having online exams while the first years were busy with their online classes. Apart from studies, the community gives time for spiritual nourishment through recollection led by **Fr Ambrose** on the theme 'Magis'. Sadly, the third years Eastimorian scholastics could not go back until the international flights reopen.

After three and half years spent in Ahmedabad, on 18, September **Sch. Titus** and **Sch. Polseng** left the community, the Region and the country for France on 18th September, for their Philosophy studies. The community



supported them hand in hand till they reached France safe and sound. At present, all the scholastics are busy with online test and some with their classes. And this is our Mission.

- Sch. Sylvester Pariong

BOMBAY JUNIORATE

We reached the Juniorate on 10th August safe. For the sake of precaution we were quarantined for four days. We joined the other juniors on 15th August which was a high experience and a holiday for all of us, as we entered into the spirit of the day.



Fr Dudley Mendonca SJ conducted a week's course on Psycho-Spiritual-Sexual-Integration. This helps us to be attuned with our feelings. Indeed, it was a real eye-opener for all of us.

The catastrophic pandemic is almost at its peak in Mumbai but this does not affect us as we are well

protected and we keep the ball rolling in our daily activities. We are privileged to have many walking encyclopedias in our staff. We also have two lay teachers adding more grace and resources to the Juniorate. Our classes are in full swing, and our hands are always full with assignments. It is good to see that all of us have turned over a new leaf. Not long ago, viral fever broke out in our community, and many of us became victims of its attack. But now, we are all alive and kicking.

Fr Wendell SJ, the PCF of the Bombay province, animated us for four days, in a course on art appreciation. During this course, we learnt about the chronology of western art, Indian art, modern art, and above all, how to appreciate art from different angles. It was a nice opportunity for us to learn



painting. Though painting was not a cup of tea to some of us, we at least learnt to brush our feelings on our paintings. We watched movies about the life of Michelangelo and Vincent Van Gogh. We were very much taken up by their passion for art. After the course, we came to know what good art is and what art in itself is. We have become artists in our own ways. Scholastics Jangsinrei Titus and Polseng Marak were with us for some days, before they flew to France. We were happy to see familiar faces.

As our exams are approaching, we are all busy with our studies. There is not a day without an inspiration for us. We are much inspired by the simplicity of Fr Arun, the Provincial of Bombay province with whom we live together.

We are very sad to hear about the demise of Fr Jayant recently. May he rest in peace. We the juniors wish to send our best wishes to all.

-Sch. Kho Alex

INIGO SADAN, BENGALURU

The community is now filled with new changes with the arrival of new scholastics from different provinces who are pursuing their college studies. A farewell programme was expressively conducted with various events for the outgoing scholastics. Despite the uncertainty of the pandemic, the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady and the Independence Day celebration went on smoothly without any disruption or inconvenience.

The 74th Independence Day was held as an Institutional level celebration at St Joseph High School Quadrangle in which the Rector, Fr Joseph Rodrigues, the main chief guest of the day and the Principals and coordinators of different units were present to make the day a significant one. Various online competitions were also organized for students and parents to make the celebration more enthralling.



Online Eucharistic Celebrations and Retreats were organized at certain days to rejuvenate the spiritual nourishments of the faithful who are unable to attend normal Masses due to the pandemic. As part of Teacher's Day celebration, several exciting activities were conducted for parents, teachers, and students. Marking the importance of Teachers' role for students especially for the Catholic boys of the Centre for Social Concern, we also made this day more momentous by the blessing of the renovated St Louis Boarding House in the evening. The programme was graced and blessed by the Rector.

The Nativity of our loving Mother Mary, also popularly known as Monthi Fest was celebrated meaningfully in the school and in the community. The community solemnized the feast with the Holy Eucharist and a grand meal in the afternoon. "Who is my mother? Reflecting on Mary's Role in our lives," was the main theme of the monthly recollection. The recollection talk was insightful and well-guided by Fr Rector. 26th September was indeed a captivating moment to witness the taking over ceremony of the new Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province at Inigo Sadan Chapel which also happened to be the eve of the commemoration of the Approval of the Society of Jesus, as a Religious Order on September



27th, 1540. The ceremony began with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration followed by a short felicitation programme and a fellowship meal. The former RCF, Fr **Anand Pereira SJ** seized the opportunity to felicitate both the new and out-going Provincials on behalf of the Kohima Region. The programme held in esteem and was well appreciated by all.

Recently, an analysis on National Education Policy (NEP) was done by Fr Rohan, who is proficient at the topic. His explanation truly helped the community to understand the benefits and the disadvantages of the NEP in India.

-Sch. Mark Donnam Iawbor

PARIS

France is also not in exception to have not been affected by the global situation of Covid-19, thus affecting seriously the flow of socio-economics condition in the state. As the Christians would say, “beyond crucifixion there is a resurrection”, so is France taking its momentum to rise from its ebb caused by the pandemic. Educational and other institutions have resumed their



services after a very long

pause but with much cautions, following the strict measures and regulations.

After the annual retreat, 5-14 September, all the scholastics have returned to the community for the new academic year, thus marking the end of our summer vacation. The community is blessed to have a rich diversity of nationalities from eight different countries of the globe. The **Centre Sèvres** began its **New Academic Year 2020-2021 on 21st Sept.** with the theme “**Habiter la Terre**”.

The community comprises of 36 Jesuits and the arrival of Schs. **Jangsinrei Titus Gonmei** and **Polseng B. Marak** has almost made the community complete, giving a shape of 35 Jesuits in the community. We wait for another Indian Jesuit to join the community soon. Jangsinrei and Polseng have begun to

enculturate themselves to a new life style. Soon, they will begin their French course in the **Institut Catholique de Paris** to master the language. The **Communauté saint Pierre Favre**, often called as “community Blomet” is celebrating its 50th anniversary, thus marking the unceasing presence of the Jesuits in the community for five decades. In preparations for this Jubilee, the house undergoes a continuous renovation. The final phase of renovation will be over by mid-October during the vacation of all Saints. With this, the house will have a new look and shape and finally setting in for the jubilee of the community.

-Sch Robinson Timung

ORDINATION AND FIRST MASS OF W.K. PRADEEP

The much anticipated ordination of deacon **W. K. Pradeep** was held at the St Joseph's Boys' High School Chapel on the 2nd of October 2020. The Eucharist was solemn yet simple keeping in mind the government-mandated SOP for the pandemic. Karnataka Deacons, **Jeevan James, John Baptist, Roshan Pinto** and **Vinod AJ** were also ordained along with **Pradeep** by His Grace, Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bengaluru. The Theologians from the Karnataka RTC took care of the choir, while **Fr Brian Pereira**, the Rector of Jesuit Nivas, along with his community members meticulously organized the rest of the program. Due to the restriction on numbers, only three from Kohima, **Fr Anand Pereira**, who represented the Regional Superior, **Fr William Pinto** and **Sch. Stephen Naulak** could attend the celebrations. In a simple felicitation programme that followed the Mass, Fr Anand along with the Provincial of Karnataka felicitated the parents of Pradeep.

The following day, Fr Anand, Fr. William and Sch. Stephen attended the first Mass of Fr Pradeep at St Anthony's Church, TC Palya, Bengaluru, where Pradeep also blessed the nuptials of his brother and sister in law. **Fr Anthony Joseph**, the Rector of Mt St Joseph, where Pradeep did his diaconate ministry, **Fr Edward Rodrigues** and **Fr Xavier** of Kolkata were also present for the Mass. Fr Edward preached a beautiful homily, which was much appreciated.



At the end of the Mass, Fr Anand delivered a well-prepared speech in Kannada where he thanked the parents of Pradeep for

gifting him to the Society of Jesus. He also invited all the parents present to send their sons to join the Kohima Region. During the speech, Fr William and Sch. Stephen felicitated Pradeep, his parents and his brother and sister in law with shawls. Mr William, the father of Pradeep, expressed his deep appreciation for the Jesuits of the Kohima Region for taking care of his son Pradeep and for being present on this wonderful occasion, despite all the hurdles caused by the pandemic.



As we congratulate the newly ordained priest Rev. Fr W.K. Pradeep we also wish him all the best as he begins his priestly ministry. May the Scriptural words that Pradeep has rightly chosen for his souvenir, "He has anointed to be, and to assist all to be, with Him and

like Him" be the guiding force in all he says and does in the days ahead.

-Fr William Pinto

THIS IS MY LIFE NOW: A reflection on life in the present situation

-Fr Paul Raj

Monthly recollection for me is an exercise in Ongoing Formation because **“formation is a dynamic process by means of which individuals are converted to the Word of God in the depth of their being” (VC #68)**- a conversion process, gradually imbibing the attitudes of the Living Word as encountered in creation, in the lives of people, in the sacred writings of the Bible, and certainly in the mystery of Christ in our personal prayer -hence it is a continuous ongoing life process of changing our attitudes to those of Christ.

My personal reflection these days- offered so as to evoke your own personal review of your life, and coming home to the ways in which the Lord has been directing your lives, and moving on with Him.

- Basic texts for reflection: **Eccl 3:1-11** –Seasons for everything – God given seasons – lockdowns and quarantines in the context of Covid-19; readings for 26th Sunday (A): **Ezek 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32** –Choices to be made towards this ongoing conversion – keeping in mind the No to Yes; Yes to No of those two sons in the Gospel – only when we descend to where we are at the moment will we find God guiding us to where to move on and how.
- **In this period of lock down and online Eucharistic services-** I recognize the priest that I am who did not have to go through what the ordinary Christians had been going through – it was not a virtual celebration for me – I belong to the “clerical club” – personally I was awakened, however, to share the questions that were raised about the clericalisation of this fundamental Sacrament – also, safe as I am, the risk of not

deeply feeling with the people who have been locked down from their livelihood and close relationships –this is, however, my life now of a Cleric – I am part of that story – should I be standing on my status, the ‘righteous’ one of Ezekiel?

- **Covid-19 has, however, taught me** something else, among many other things – as part of my home quarantine, I was taken for the Covid test in a Primary Health Centre, and asked to line up in a drizzle, and to sit on a wet chair, and being treated (like cattle?!) as though I was already a dreaded Covid patient! - I was furious and upset, and I needed to process these feelings - all this helped me to realize that my personal **story** had become **part of the human story** – I belong to the human race now more than ever – And, participating in the Global Ignatian Vigil Prayer for the Season of Creation, **Breathing Together**, I was led to become aware of **the three lungs** –the Amazon, the Congo Basin and the Asian Forest – that breathe with me, and with the whole human race, as truly lungs of this world – I then went out amidst trees that surround my house, and recognized **how I breathe in what the trees breathe out, and they breathe in what I breathe out!** I established this intimate connection, becoming part of the life connection that exists – this led me to become aware how my story, my human story, is really part of a larger story, the story of creation and of the universe – it’s all, in fact, God’s breath (=breath of life) breathed into me as my very sustenance so that I may breathe out God’s spirit and energy into this universe of nature and humans for their ongoing inter-relatedness.
- **All this is my life now** – not standing on my status as a priest, and as an elder, but becoming part of the larger story of life in all its fullness – conversion, hence learning, growth is possible **-from age-ing to sage-ing** – called and challenged to make wise and discerned choices at this stage of my wisdom years – this is coming home to myself, coming home to mother earth, towards **Caring for the Common Home with deep respect and deeper understanding** - and thus surely making this Season of Creation into a season of establishing connections, a true sign of real spiritual life – possibility of moving towards a mystical communion of prayer as shown by St Ignatius: Finding God in all things, and being found by God in all things as well! I believe “The best is yet to come” (Robert Browning) – the best version of our true self – let’s move on from some of these endings to new beginnings with that trust!

Some inspirational texts:

“The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” -G.M. Hopkins

“Earth’s crammed with heaven

And every common bush afire with God

And only he who sees, takes off his shoes

The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries”. -Elizabeth B. Browning

“In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” -St (Cardinal) Newman

Ps. 139

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FR JAYANT KUMAR PADIVAL: A Homage

A MISSIONARY - FRIEND AND BROTHER OF THE KOHIMA REGION

Fr Jayant’s journey back to God was unexpected and unbelievably fast. He disappeared from our midst all of a sudden. Ever since we received the news of his critical health, we had been storming heavens with prayers hoping that he would pull through. But God’s plans were different. He wanted him back. We can only accept God’s plan, hard as it may be.

Fr Jayant came to the Northeast in the early 1980s, to work as a missionary in Nagaland and Manipur. He served as pastor in Bishnupur parish and gave leadership to our schools in Manipur. Thanks to his proficiency in the Manipuri language, he was much sought after for catechetical training of the laity. His simple yet, deep spirituality endeared him as spiritual director to many of the young seminarians at St Thomas Seminary in Imphal and the priests in the Archdiocese of Imphal. He carried his Jesuit spirit of availability on his sleeves and was ready to go anywhere, anytime, putting up with limited facilities and numerous inconveniences. Our communities in Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya have immensely benefited from his services.

Fr Jayant’s greatest gift was his humane way of relating with people, young or old, educated or illiterate. That is what made him a successful missionary, a much sought-after spiritual director and a successful pastor. He built brick by brick not only the buildings where he was



assigned but also the faith of the people. He pioneered difficult missions in Manipur. The moment he got into Manipur, he learnt the Manipuri language and used it adeptly to narrate stories from the Bible to children and to impart Christian faith to the elders in the Bishnupur Parish. In fact, he was the first Kohima Jesuit to learn a local language and use it for pastoral ministry – a beautiful model for the younger men to emulate.

A brief history of Fr Jayant's journey in the Northeast of India:

Having arrived in Nagaland in 1980, he worked in Chizami for four years with a brief interval for his tertianship. From Chizami he moved to Bishnupur in 1984 to be the Head Master and Parish Priest for the next eight years. From 1993 to 1997, he served as spiritual guide for the minor seminarians in Imphal. From 1998-2002, he served as Principal of St Xavier's School Moirang, at a time when threats and death warrants from underground outfits in Manipur was commonplace. He did not hesitate to stay on and work in spite of the danger to life. He braved the anxieties of this assignment nonchalantly. A new chapter began in his life when he moved to Shillong in 2003 to be the Socius to the Novice Master. In 2006, he was assigned to St Ignatius Loyola Parish, Mawait where he was much loved for his pastoral services. In 2011, he returned to Manipur, but this time as the pastor of a remote parish in Liyai Village, among the Poumai people. In Liyai, he lived a frugal life and served tirelessly for six years as parish priest and principal.

His indomitable missionary zeal was doused only by his lungs, which had become weak because of his years of service and sacrifice to the people. It was this health setback that took him back to Karnataka. And sadly it was these same weak lungs that took him back to his heavenly father.

Dear Fr Jayant, we want to thank you for the dedicated service you offered to the people of the Northeast of India for over four decades. You were indeed one of the unsung heroes of our Region. What you have accomplished in your life is remarkable. Your indomitable zeal for the mission, your caring commitment for the people, your quiet generosity towards the needy and your timely guidance to the clergy will remain etched in our

memories. You leave behind a rich legacy to your younger brothers. We pray in thanksgiving for the gift of your life. May your soul rest in peace, and may all of us, especially your grieving family members, relatives and friends experience the comfort of our faith in the Risen Lord.

Adieu, Dear Jayant, our loving brother. We are proud of you. Rest in Peace and may you see the face of God forever.

Your Brothers in the Kohima Region

-Fr Anand Pereira

MY ADIEU TO FR JAYANTH KUMAR SJ

- Sr Ancy Mary MSI

The sudden news of the demise of Fr Jayanth Kumar SJ was shocking news to me. After praying for him I began to ruminate about our association with him. It led me to the mid night experience of 4th September 1987, at Guwahati railway station when we arrived by TVRM GHY Express from Vijayawada. Though our train was late by 16 hours Fr Jayanth was patiently waiting for us and on seeing us he exclaimed loudly “Hello sisters, hearty welcome” unmindful of the surrounding. At the very start itself his patience was tested and he had to bend his head to the plan of God. We were accommodated at St Mary’s, FMA Sisters’ Convent, Guwahati. On 5th September we flew to Imphal and finally arrived at St Ignatius Parish, Bishnupur by two vehicles from the Bishop’s house as father didn’t have any vehicle at that time. At the parish centre, he had arranged a group of children along with the teachers to welcome us.

At the outset we could notice that he was a man who had enculturated fully among the people. When he had arrived at Bishnupur there wasn’t any place for him to stay and so he stayed with one of the families for about seven months adjusting to their life style. In the parish campus there was a shed with four class rooms used as the Church, hostel & class rooms until the new presbytery was constructed. When the presbytery was ready he shifted to the new house and also kept a few children as hostellers in one of the rooms. He followed the two meal system – at 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. along with children. The campus resonated with his loud talking. He was adorned with simplicity and generosity. He would give away things to any poor person who was in need. It can be said that he was an icon of detachment. Once, when we were putting order in the store room we found his university certificate among the papers and on bringing it to his notice he said that he didn’t care about those papers.

His missionary zeal to go to the villages was praiseworthy. He showed no tiredness to climb the hills on foot for about 3-4 hrs to reach the villages. Sitting for confessions, celebrating the Mass, joining the people for a simple meal, visiting a few families etc. and then returning to the centre was his usual schedule. While climbing up the hills he would go very fast rolling the rosary beads and waiting for us if we were not seen. While coming down the hills he used to talk very loudly narrating about the people and legends of the place. After our arrival, one sister and the catechist would go to the villages the previous day and stay overnight to instruct the people. Father would be reaching there for the Mass in the morning. There were regular village programmes during the week days too. After the arrival of Fr Albert D’Silva, he made himself fully available for the village programmes. It was heart breaking to see that whatever was built up among the villagers was shattered during



the ethnic clashes between the Nagas & the Kukis in the year 1990-91.

Though he was available and good with the people he was not well understood by the nearby villagers. Though once a group of villagers attacked him, his forgiving attitude towards them was magnanimous and he never showed any reaction towards them. He would say, “I am sorry” whenever he made a mistake. From Bishnupur he was transferred to St Thomas Seminary, Imphal, as the Spiritual Director of the Seminarians. Being there he was ever available for any need of the parish or the School. Later he was appointed as the Principal of St Xavier’s School, Moirang where he had an encounter with the Undergrounds. One day, realizing the dangerous situation he was shifted to Bishnupur around 9.30 p.m. and was under house arrest until the problem was settled. His love for our Blessed Mother was so deep that he showed no hesitation to bring a big statue of Mother Mary which was gifted to him from Vijayawada. He took a special permission to keep it with him without sending it with the baggage in the flight. It seems to me that his special love for the Blessed Mother was rewarded by giving him a new life in heaven on her Birth Day.

Thus, if I continue, I can enumerate a volume of experiences I had until 1996 and later in Moirang too. Dear Fr Jayanth, we can never forget your tender love, missionary zeal and holy life. We owe much to your life witness. May the Lord give you the heavenly bliss as your eternal reward. Please pray for us.

IN CHRISTO



Fr Paul Vadakel SJ (KER 91/71) on 08.10.2020 in Kozhikode

Fr Louis Francken SJ (RAN 82/63) on 05.10.2020 in Ranchi

Fr Joseph Thayil SJ (KER 90/70) on 30.09.2020 in Kozhikode

Fr Dionysius Rasquinha SJ (PAT 65/44) on 24.09.2020 in Patna

Br Nicolas Hernandez Blanco SJ (SPAIN 92/75) on 20.09.2020

Fr Erik Breye SJ (RAN,80/61) on 18.09.2020 in Ranchi

Fr James Thottakath SJ (KER 83/63) on 15.09.2020 in Kozhikode

Fr Vijay Kumar Prabhu SJ (KAR 80/61) on 15.09.2020 in Mangaluru

Fr Jacob Carvalho SJ (GOA 75/57) on 12.09.2020 in Belagavi, Karnataka

Fr John Berchman Nag SJ (JAM 72/36), on 10.09.2020 in Jamshedpur

Fr Jayanth Kumar padival SJ (KAR 71/54) on 09.09.2020 in Mangalore

Fr Walter Stephen Andrade SJ (KAR 78/53) on 26.08.2020 in Mangaluru

Fr Gatton Roberge SJ (85/64), on 26.08.2020 in Kolkata

Fr Augustine Tigga SJ (HAZ 72/51), on 16.08.2020 in Sitagarha

Fr Patrick de Melo SJ (GOA 78/61), on 14.08.2020 in Goa

Mary Ching za man, aunt of Sch. James Vaiphei, died on 03.20.2020.

Mrs. Renije R. Marak, maternal grandmother of Sch. Parciush Marak on 01.10.2020