



# MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

October 2020

Year 41, No. 10

## From Provincial's Desk

### Beware of Coronavirus

Until about a fortnight ago, our Province was quite safe from the pandemic Covid-19 but not anymore. Now the invisible Coronavirus has sneaked in the fortified walls of our Province, communities and institutions and is in search of our vulnerable men. Three members of our Province are already diagnosed Coronavirus positive of whom two are in home quarantine and one is in hospital. While two are showing speedy recovery, one is still stagnant with a constant fever. Please continue to pray for these members of our Province.

It is undesirable but the number of our members with Coronavirus is likely to increase in near future. I strongly recommend all Province men to take precaution and use preventive measures like steam inhaling, vitamin C, garlic, drinking hot water, daily use of *karha* made of ginger, black pepper, *tulsi* leaves, *giloy* and *chiraita*, etc. Besides, keep social distance and follow the safety measures prescribed by the local administration.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.



## Provincial's Schedule

### October

- 03-04 Central Zone meeting, Ranchi
- 06 UAP Orientation for Rectors and Superiors
- 10 Ordination, Loyola, Kunkuri
- 11-12 UAP-PAP Core-Committee Meeting, Loyola, Kunkuri
- 13 Province Consult, Loyola Kunkuri
- 14 Blessing of newly constructed classrooms & labs, Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur
- 16-25 Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 26-30 JCSA meeting (Online)

## General Curia

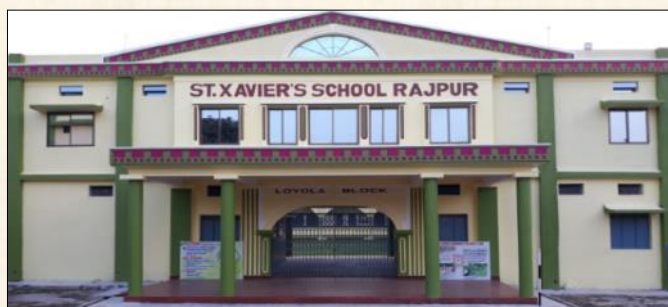
- Fr. General has appointed Fr. Keith Abranches (GUJ) the new Rector of the Gesu College, Rome.
- Fr. Soosai Mani the new Provincial of Delhi Fr. Jan Roser the new Provincial of Germany
- Fr. Dominic Vu Kim Quyen the new Provincial of Australia
- Fr. Martin Lenk the new Provincial of the Province of the Antilles (comprising Miami, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica & Guyana)



## St. Xavier's, Rajpur

On 13<sup>th</sup> of September Fr. Sebastian Tigga, S.J. took kitchen staff to Bhaiswar for outing. On 14<sup>th</sup> of this month there was a community meeting convened by Fr. Superior to talk and share exclusively about community life, as the community life of some of us was completely getting disoriented. It was underlined that community life itself is mission. Every community is set up for larger apostolate. Only united and happy community will be able to achieve its goal easily.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of this month Fr. Sebastian Tigga, S.J. went home with kitchen staff to see his aging and ailing mother.



The school looks deserted due to lockdown. And this year the normal class of school seems inevitable. However, online classes are going on, many poor students are not able to afford expensive mobile and thus missing the online class. The government has allowed charging only tuition fee for the online class; moreover many parents are not willing to pay the fee of even last academic year. Thus making it uphill task for the management to pay the salary for the teachers. On 26<sup>th</sup> of this month the management of the school had a short meeting to find a way out. And it decided to send a reminder individually that they have dues of last years to be cleared.

Scare and fear overwhelmed Rajpur when within the span of three to four days 17 staff members of Rajpur hospital were found Corona positive.

--Fr. Isaac Kujur, S.J.

## Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

The month of September found all the members of the community indoors and busy except Fr. Provincial who visited communities and Institutions as per his schedule.

Loyola school personnel were busy monitoring the staff and students regarding online classes as the school remained closed during the month of September. Fr. Sushil Tirkey organized a one day "Fit

India Programme ' for the supporting staff.



Fr. Provincial returned to the community on 21 September along with two new laptops for the students of Philosophy staying at Loyola Niketan after his meeting at Kunkuri and Pathalgaon. Campion Community Bhopal had sponsored 10 new laptops for the scholastics for their online classes. Thanks to Campion School Community, Bhopal.

Fr. Herman Joseph Minj gave a one day recollection to Holy Cross Sisters at Lalkhadan, Bilaspur on 6<sup>th</sup> September. He went to Raipur thrice and managed to submit the project of a Church and a presbytery at Pipersatti at Bishop's House Raipur on 16 the September.

Fr. Pancratius Minj started a 30 days retreat on 26 September for three seminarians under him at sadhana Kendra, Risda.

-Fr. Herman Joseph Minj, S.J.

## Namna

God has given us human beings the most beautiful gift, which is life itself. He has created each one of us unique with different qualities and abilities. The five senses are one of the most wonderful gifts of God. We must care, nurture and use them for the greater purpose of God. Our inspiring Jesuits at Khrist Milan Aashram are truly loving.

Fr. Antony Parapullil felt that his hearing capacity was going down and the hearing aid was not working properly. Therefore, he had gone for the check - up of his ear to *Tej Diagnostic Centre*, Ambikapur. The doctor suggested him to have a new set of hearing aid. However, the cost of the new set suggested was too high to buy. With the help of his nephew and the Superior, Fr. Parapullil received the ordered new hearing aid set, after ten days from Raipur. Once received, the check - up was done and the audiometer was rechecked. Now Fr. Antony happily hears well.

Fr. Boniface Tigga was little annoyed when his upper denture began to come down while talking. Thus, it



caused discomfort in talking and eating. So, he was taken to the dentist and was advised to go for a new set. After the measurement taken, Fr. Boni was called to see the new set after a few days and on fixing it, he felt little uneasy and not satisfied. So, the doctor said, "Until you are satisfied, I am not satisfied". Hence, the doctor had to do many minute corrections of the denture. Finally, with the new set Fr. Boni undoubtedly feels joyous. The other members of the community suggested him not to take meat because of the new set and he obediently does so. All the other members of the community are keeping well.

In the Parish, there are not so many activities taking place. In this month, we had started the Holy Eucharist for the parishioners in numbers of 10 to 15 para - wise. We had to stop it almost not even from a half way due to COVID – 19. The Parish – Priest had gone to Jashpur to bless a marriage from 13 to 18 of this month once he was back from Raipur from the meeting on UPA & PAP. We had a two community meetings regarding PAP and CLC on 09<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of this month. This in a way helped us to make the action plan for the Parish to implement the PAP. The church construction is gradual. Casting of the altar stage, ramp and for the shrine is done. Fr. Pratap and Deacon along with the two Scholastics are busy cleaning our garden these days. Rest all well.

-Dn. Preetam Prakash, SJ.

### Campion School, Mariado

On 2 September 2020, Fr. Sahaya Santhosh (Bhopal Diocese) who was ordained on 4 July 2020 at Asha Niketan Bhopal came to Mariado to offer thanksgiving mass. He thanked Fr. Placidius Kujur, Fr. Michael Ekksa, and School staff for the good experience of his four months of regency at Marido. We had a short felicitation cultural programme to wish him with best wishes. Fr. Simon Aind thanked for the meaningful Eucharistic celebration and joyful cultural programme and arranged a delicious dinner.

We continued to train the resident staff members to be more effective teachers. We went to teach parents and students in the villages for a few months but now due to COVID-19 all the teachers are confined to the school campus. Fr. Simon Aind is trying his best to collect the pending school fee. Fr. Michael Ekka introduced Fr. Deobushan Toppo to many villages. It was a very good experience for Fr. Deobushan Toppo to know the Barela way of life.

The insufficient rain in July and a massive pest attack have hit the Soy bean crop in M. P. Some older members of the village said that this was the first time



the crop had been badly affected. Thanks to Fr. Michael Ekka for cultivating our traditional *Godda Dhan* in our campus. It is very nice. Fr. Prabhudas our Parish Priest from Narsullaganj came to harvest with his parishioners.

-Fr. Deobhushan Toppo, S.J.

### AICUF Ashram, Bhopal

On the occasion of 480<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Society of Jesus, on 27<sup>th</sup> September there was a friendly volleyball match organized by AICUF Ashram, Bhopal. Shri Sylvester Kispotta was the chief guest and he sponsored the



cash prize for the match. It was an exciting and nerve-racking experience for Jesuits of Bhopal as they played volleyball match against Diocesan priests of Bhopal. 'Physical fitness is the need of the time during Covid-19, and should be well maintained' chief guest Mr. Sylvester added.

This was the first time in history where Jesuits and diocesan priests of Bhopal came together and had thrilling volleyball match, said Fr. Christy the guest of honour for a one-day match. There was a community spirit as all three Jesuit community members put their task on the back burner and availed themselves for the match. Along with cash prize (1<sup>st</sup> 1500/- 2<sup>nd</sup> 1000/- 3<sup>rd</sup> 500/-) all the four captains and main guests were given healthy *Mahua Saplings* as a token of gratitude.

A good number of diocesan priests, many volleyball lovers and parish priests availed themselves to witness the extraordinary match. Among them were Rev. Fr. Siby Joseph, Fr. Justin, Fr. Sylvester, Fr. Prabhu Das and few couple of sisters. At the end refreshment was served for all the participants in Campion school courtyard. Thanks to all the community members and



special thanks to Br. Naveen, Fr. Sanjay, our able captain Fr. Amrit and Blacius Kullu, S.J. for their well-timed support. For dead certain this occasion forced many priests to take a stroll down memory lane and recalling the days of their youth.

-Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J.

## Dhanwar

Fr. Bipin and Sameer visited several Koraku villages to meet and interact with the parents and students of their school who were in great trouble and confusion regarding admission. Now there is more number for admission.

30th August 2020 was observed as the mother's day in the parish in honour of the feast of St. Monica which falls on 27 August. Fr. Placidus preached one day recollection



to almost 35 women of the parish in preparation of the feast on the previous day. He also heard their confession. The local youth played a significant role in preparing the day. They prepared a meaningful liturgy with beautiful singing, dance and decoration. Fr. Bipin guided them well. After the Holy Mass a small felicitation was organised to honour the parish mothers.

On 7th September was a day of great ecstasy for Fr. Placidus who was invited by the district collector to receive an electric tricycle to make his movement easy. Fr. Sameer along with John driver took Fr. Placidus to Balrampur collectorate to get the electric tricycle. Fr.



Placidus is practicing very hard on his cycle daily to prepare himself to visit his people in the mission. His ambition and enthusiasm is praiseworthy and through this he is setting an example for all the young and motivating them for the works of the mission.

On 13th of September was observed as a *Adivasi Adhkar diwas* in Dhanwarkala parish. It is a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples day. It was observed in the form of a seminar. Four representatives from each village were invited for the programme. Altogether 63 participants from different

villages witnessed the day. Fr. Bipin with the help of his animators Rajkumar and Ramlal conducted the seminar. He spoke on the purpose and significance of the day. He also pointed out various fundamental rights given by the United Nations to all the Adivasis of the world. He emphasised saying that these rights can be achieved only when Adivasis come together to voice out their rights. This seminar was also meant to evaluate the Gram Sabha Programme being conducted in different villages and how through the Gram Sabha Programme the land issues were being addressed by the villagers with the help of the local governance. The participants were quite vocal in expressing their struggles in village level. All the fathers and sisters were also invited to speak to the gathering. After the programme a simple meal was provided for all.

On 15th of September RAHA (Raigarh Ambikapur Health Association) coordinator came to Dhanwarkala to guide all the RAHA animators in Dhanwarkala. This Health awareness camp was meant to prepare the animators to safeguard themselves and their villagers from various viruses like Corona. Thanks to Sr. Joslin who took this initiative and made it happen.



It feels so good to see small kids coming in group everyday to take text books from the school for their personal studies. They are so happy and enthusiastic with regard to their studies. They are even forcing their parents to come along to take books. This enthusiasm of children is even inspiring the teachers to take extra steps and efforts to reach to them to teach and motivate them.



Students are very excited to get new books from the school. Fr. Manibhusan Toppo, Principal asked all the students to come to the school to receive new books for this academic year. This enthusiasm of children is even inspiring the teachers to take extra steps and



efforts to reach to them to teach and motivate them. Thanks to Fr. Manibhusan Toppo for his great effort and hard work. The *mohalla* class has become a regular activity in the school to reach out the students and their parents in their door steps. At present the school is focusing on six local panchayats for the mohalla class with the consent of the *sarpanchs* and the village leaders. Parents as well as the students are very happy with this innovative step by the school. The students have now some time for their personal studies with the help of the teachers. The school is also conducting online classes for different subjects especially for the students of classes 10 and 12 through whatsapp app. Those students who have android phones are taking good advantage of this class. The school is also planning to reach out the students who are far away from Dhanwar to guide and motivate them in coming days.

-Fr. Sameer Minj, S.J.

### St. Xavier Niwas, Nimha

It was 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020. Fr. Abraham Toppo, S.J. and Fr. Mahant Ekka, S.J. superior of Umariya Community planned to go to Bilaspur to meet Provincial Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J., treasurer Fr. Emile Ekka SJ and the engineer about the new school building map structure. Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J. from Nimha got good occasion to go to Bilaspur. It was a very nice and happy occasion to meet fathers in Curia in Bilaspur and also to meet his elder sister, brother in law and nieces there. Fr. Benedict had good time with the family there. The journey was enjoyable both going and coming. Fr. Benedict came back to Nimha happily.

St. Xavier's School Nimha situated in the rural area, in spite of lockdown and difficult situation, the manager, the headmistress, sister in charge of KG and Miss Jyoti

Tigga are trying to supply notes, according to the classes for the students. All the teachers have made notes of their subjects and left the notes in the office with us. In this way the students are able to learn something at home.

Fr. Benedict has maize and urad in the fields, got ready, started cleaning and collecting them with the co-workers. Fr. Sebastian Lakra, S.J. from Bagaicha, Ranchi suddenly dropped in the campus in Nimha in the evening on 21<sup>st</sup> September. It was a great surprise to Fr. Benedict. Anyway it was very very short visit in connection with his office work. Thankyou Fr. Sebastian.

-Fr. Benedict Minj, S.J.

### XIDAS, Jabalpur

The Governing Body meeting of XIDAS was held on 28th August 2020. Due to the pandemic, the Board members agreed to attend the meeting online. Dr. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ, Provincial visited Jabalpur to chair the meeting which made it success.

We are all in the troubled times of history which can be called 'the Great Pause'. It has affected the whole of humanity. It is a time of crisis and an opportunity for change. Amidst it, the inaugural function of this new Academic session was held online on 1st September 2020. Dr. Chandrashekhar Verma, Regional Manager, Central Regional Office AICTE, Bhopal was the Chief Guest for this occasion. The Function started by paying a floral tribute to our founder and mentor Dr. Fr. Michael Van Den Boegart S.J. Apart from the Chief Guest Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial; Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ, Director; Dr. Uma Saha, Dean were the main speakers. The next day onwards the first-year students started their Orientation programme for ten days. The second-year students are having online classes as usual.

The XIDAS fraternity offered its tribute to the bereaved Staff Vimla Tiwari (Hostel Warden for Girls) who left for the heavenly abode on 3rd July 2020. A prayer service was organized on 3rd September 2020 during which the XIDAS Management and Staff offered their prayers and paid homage To the departed soul.

The Teacher's day was celebrated on 5th of September. The staff members assembled for a common high tea sponsored by Fr. Director along with some cultural programs by the staff. The celebration was short and simple due to the prevalent pandemic.

-Fr. Binod Kumar Toppo, S.J.



## Asha Deep, Pathalgaon

The final formal period of formation of the Daughters of St. Anne (Tertiaship) was started on June 25, 2020 at Asha Deep Pathalgaon. The Seven St. Anne Sisters (Tertians) under the guidance of Sr. Prabha Xalxo, DSA (Instructor) intended to take a time to step back to critically assess their experience of living and working in the congregation of the Daughter of St. Anne.

During this time they have completed the Orientation programme, focused on the purpose, objectives, and



personal vision guided by Sister Shanti Xalxo, DSA. They have also dealt the topics like Theological and Cardinal Virtues along with writing about a self-life journey guided by Sr. Prabha Xalxo, DSA. They have also dealt with another course on Prayer and Contemplation guided by Fr. Dilip Soreng, S.J. Now they are busy with various chapters of their Constitution and Directory. They will conclude their Tertiaship after 15 days of retreat by November 22, 2020.

Frs. Fabianus Xalxo, Robert Tigga, and Fulchanra Kujur twice made a trip to Rajpur (Lailunga), where a piece of land is purchased and registered in the name of Frs. Mahant Ekka and late Augustus Kujur. They met some of the villagers with an intension to guarantee the owner's



right over the land. They took stock of the purchased land in order to establish the real extension of the area under the owner's possession by revisiting the site of a total of 7.41 acres of the demarcated land.

Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J. preached a three Days guided retreat to our Deacons from September 10 - 12, 2020 at Asha Deep Pathalgaon. During the retreat, our Deacons Dilip Minj, Dino Pinto Toppo, Virendra Tirkey,

Alok Kumar Toppo, and Preetam Prakash Panna were able to find a place of peaceful silence, peace, and serenity to deepen their faith and relationship with God.

In order to mark the 11th day of a Purnima in the month of Bhado, which falls between August and September, the Asha Deep community celebrated Karam Festival on September 15, 2020, in the low key manner, because of the Coronavirus pandemic. The evening celebration was dedicated to the worship of Karam-Devta (Karam-Lord/God) the God of power, youth, and youthfulness. The main celebrant Fr. Agapit Tirkey, highlighted the importance and significance of the festival and prayed to mother nature to keep the farmlands green and ensure a rich harvest. The Tertian Sisters kept a day-long fast and worshiped the branches and prayed to God for welfare, friendship, and sisterhood by exchanging a Jawa flower to the community members. The Karam celebration ended with a festive meal and cultural dance.

*-Fr. Fulchandra Kujur, S.J.*

JVM ( Jeevan Vikas Maitri) has started Community

## JVM, Pathalgaon

Forest Rights – Learning and advocacy process in Raigarh and Jashpur Districts. JVM has initiated to facilitate the exchange of information to reinforce local level efforts for evidence-based advocacy



on Community Forest Resources rights (CFRs) under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. To date, JVM has organized ten different meetings with 960 participants and four Gram Sabhas at Mauhadarha, Mudapara, Jhakadpur, and Dhorhagaon to assert the rights over the forestland and to provide restitution of deprived forest rights. JVM is playing various catalysts roles such as awareness generation and ensuring the availability of necessary documents with the Gram Sabha, preparing the application and gathering evidence, hearing and adjudicating the disputes, coordinating with other sub-divisions, Blocks, and villages for common claims, and ensuring the final processing of documents.

On 13 September JVM observed the UN declaration on



## Loyola House, Kunkuri

the Rights of Indigenous People, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 Sept. 2007. It was to mark the day in creating awareness among people towards tribal rights declared by the UN. In observing rules of lockdown more than 20 people participated in the celebration. The programme began with giving tribute to Swami Agnivesh a renowned social activist and founder of "Bandhua Mukti Morcha."

Jerome Lakra welcomed the participants for the observation on the day as a seminar on tribal rights.

Ashadeep Kerketta briefly presented the main points of the indigenous people's rights. There was an evaluation of ground realities of these rights in India. It was sad to know that these rights have not been implemented in India to the satisfaction. After this an action plan was made to accelerate accessing the benefits of government schemes through Lok Manch efforts by the community leaders. The session was moderated by Manihar Lakra. Hemant Lakra reported the situation of campaign on forest rights and public health. He explained the procedure of claim of community forest rights, supplemented by Yacub. Four participants from Komhidole village showed great interest in started CFR

process in their Gram Sabha. A plan was made to complete soon the CFR claim going in many villages.

Local administration is not allowing to holding Gram Sabha due to covid-19 that is preventing to complete the process as soon as possible. Yet it happy to know that Kilkila village has got CFR from DLC (district level committee).

We have completed Lok Manch activities and have sent the required reports. Fr. Chandu prepared a few projects. They have been sent to PDD and Provincial for further consideration. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2020 the General Body meeting of Bagaicha (Social centre for central zone), Ranchi was held. All the provincials of central zone and social action coordinators are the members. From JVM Frs. Fulchandra and Yacub attended the meeting. Before the GB meeting, there was a meeting of coordinators and invitee Fathers in the able guidance of Fr. Joe Xavier, director ISI Bengaluru on livelihood. We discussed on the need of livelihood promotion activities to our people and possible interventions to curb distressed migration, human trafficking and poverty.

*-Yacub Kujur, SJ*

After almost five months the catholic teachers of the school got the opportunity to take part in the Holy Eucharistic celebration on the occasion of 'Teachers' Day'. During the mass, the teachers pledged and sought the blessings of the Almighty to carry out their responsibility with passion and love.

On 7th September Fr. Dilip Soreng went to Ranchi to see Sch. Anjay Xess. On 12th September the members assembled for a community meeting. The agenda of the meeting was 'Priestly Ordination' of Dn. Anmol Lakra and Dn. Suresh Tirkey. Rev. Fr. Provincial arrived Kunkuri on 16th September for the meeting of the Loyola Jesuit Society. Fr. Dilip Soreng returned to Kunkuri from Ranchi on 19th September.

Sch. Anuranjan Toppo (B.Com III) and Fr. Dilip Soreng started writing their examination on 22nd September. The examination of Sch. Martin Toppo (B.A.I) commenced on 28th September. We ended the month with a community recollection on 30th September.

*-Sch. Vinay Toppo, S.J.*

## Campion Community, Raipur

Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey, S.J., house Superior blessed the painting in the house chapel painted by Fr. Arohit kujur S.J. and team Mr. Suman Kumar Ekka, Kuldeep Bara, S.J., Scholastics Naweem Tgga, Anthony Palhe before the Eucharist on the feast of Loyola. Congratulations. Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey, S.J. house Superior was the main celebrant at the Mass on the feast of St. Ignatius followed by breakfast, football match between Scholastics and community collaborators in which former won by 01-0. Cuolourful cultural programs were well prepared by campus collaborators and Scholastics to commemorate the feast. Since we badly missed our students, staff, children, youth, Parishioners and collaborators on the feast day of St. Ignatius, our residential collaborators left no stone unturned in making the feast colourful and spicy. The final result of MP Province Scholastics quiz competition was declared after the Mass on July 31 as Sch. Naweem Tigga from Campion, Raipur bagged the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

Fr. Arohit Kujur, S.J. and his team Scholastics Naweem Tigga, Abhay Kispotta and Amardeep Ekka went to Gariaband for painting in the Church on August 1. Stanislaus Tirkey, S.J., Kamal Lakra, S.J., Lalit



Ekka, S.J. went to Gariaband at 9.00 a.m. on August 04 to celebrate the feast of St. Mary John Viany. The painting was blessed during the Mass followed by sumptuous lunch prepared by Bartholomius at 1.00 p.m.

UAP-POP and Consult meetings were held at Campion school, Raipur from September 10 to 11, 2020 in which Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J., Fr. Henry Lakra, S.J., Fr. Amritlal Toppo, S.J., Fr. Athnas Lakra, S.J., Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J., Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey, S.J., Fr. Christdhari Kujur, S.J., Fr. Anil Tirkey, S.J., Fr. Virendra Xalxo, S.J. participated.

Fr. Stanislaus Tirkey, S.J., Superior took Scholastics Shailendra Lakra, Naveen Tigga, Nilesh Tigga, Antony Palhe, Amardeep Ekka to Baramkela and Mauhapali for pastoral exposure on September 13, Sunday and came back on the same day. Scholastic Abhay Kispotta went to Pathalgaon to attend his brother's wedding and was back after a week.

**Campion School Raipur:** Amidst COVID-19 the construction work of the second floor restarted from the end of May 2020. The L shape building of Campion school, Raipur is slowly coming up. The validity of the permission by the Municipal Corporation is till 03.12.2020 for the construction work. Due to financial hitch and continual lock down the construction work has slowed down. We may have to extend the permission for construction as the works are not completed within the scheduled time.

**Hasda:** Fr. Vijay Minj, S.J. is looking after the green paddy fields inside his campus. The faithful come to the Sunday mass. Due to Corona the number of faithful in the Sunday Mass has decreased. There are around 30 Catholic families in and around Hasda, Fr. Vijay affirms. Computer coaching class is stopped due to lock down. Due to overflow of rainy water from his pond and paddy fields fish come to his residence even up to the kitchen. He occasionally supplies fish to the Campion community, Raipur. He regularly comes to Raipur for the monthly recollection. Some Sisters are planning to come to Hasda to open school and health centre. Hasda is about 40 km from Raipur.

**Gariaband:** About 90 km away from Raipur Fr. Bartholomius Kerketta, S.J. is relaxed now for sometime after his paddy transplantation. He is enjoying the green paddy fields and vegetable garden in the campus. He is regular for the monthly recollection at Raipur. Sunday Mass has resumed with a handful of Catholics. There are around 10 families in and around Gariaband, he says.

Fr. Lalit Ekka, S.J. is regaining his strength to undergo eye operation in Narayan hospital, Raipur.

*-Fr. Alexander Ekka, S.J.*

#### Herbal Medicine Cultivation:

32 women farmers of two SHGs from Lahra and Tekam tola of Devargaon village have cultivated 28 types of herbal medicine. Total 28 types of 1000 herbal seeds were provided by the Agriculture department. Including herbal seed, 2 quintal of Napier grass have been provided to Sardha and Radha SHGs.

The herbal cultivation has been done in 75 dismal land and Napier grass has been cultivated in 1 acre land in the village. The main purpose of promoting the herbal medicine plants is to get the herbal medicine standardized and sell the medicine plants & roots by



processing them. The department will purchase the processed plants and roots herbal medicine.

12 Farmers have been supported for Fish seed by Networking with Fishery Department for Individual Fish Farming.

21 farmers of Fishery Committee (Bhoxitola and Bharijhorki villages) have done Fishery Farming 30 kg Fish seeds in Panchayat Pond. Total amount 12,000 was for purchasing of fish seed. Out of 12,000, the committee members contributed 6000, and the rest amount was subsidized amount from Fishery department under their scheme provision.

Jamuna SHGs (13 members) from Bichpara Hamlet of Padwaniya village have done Fishery Farming by 22kg Fish seed in Panchayat Pond. The varieties of fish seeds cultivated are Rehu, Katla, Mirgal, Dhaskar etc.

Total 84 farmers from different villages have been provided seasonal fruit plants like guava, jackfruit, lemon, munga etc. by networking with Horticulture department.

XISA has been working in Gaurella block of the newly formed district Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi for last six years. Jogisar the village of Late and former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Ajit Pramod Jogi is also the project area of XISA. Gram Nirman project is supported



by CARITAS Australia. Fr. Stany the director, Fr. Alexander Ekka, assistant director (AD), Mrs. Anju P. Minj, Programme Coordinator (PC) and Mr. Vijay Kumar Dewangan, the account officer, visited the



project field on 03.09.2020. The SHGs are also linked with the present programme “Gothan” of the government of Chhattisgarh. By being linked with this project the women are making vermi compost and selling it to the government and also to the individuals. Thus women are not only becoming entrepreneurs in agro based activities but also are becoming innovative farmers by promoting organic production.

*-Fr. Stany Tirkey, S.J.*

### **Catholic Ashram, Boirdadar**

The feast and novena to the nativity of Our Lady in reality has become the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Good Health of Velankanni.

Due to lockdown it was done in online for which the prayer materials were sent by Dn. Dilip Minj, S.J. and Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. each day. To encourage and add the flavour in the devotion to Our Lady, Marian Hymns competition was organized for the family members. The purpose was to come family togetherness. Few responded while many did not that shows that there is a room to improve coming and praying together.



The second casting of the school building for assembly hall and lift was completed on 7th September. The prevailing situation denied a good

number of workers but the two mixture for material, made the casting easy, smooth and concrete. The Contractor and Community felt relief because rain came after its completion. The workers too offered “pooja” on the feast of Vishwakarma: 17th September. It was officiated for awaiting two more casting.

Dn. Dilip Minj, S.J. joined the group for Triduum on 9th September, under the guidance of Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J. at Pathalgaon. After reaching him, Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. proceeded to Jharkhand to visit the sick relative and back home on the following day while Dn. Dilip Minj, S.J. went home to visit the aged mother and family members in deciding for coming of his ordination. He will represent the Community in ordination ceremony on 10th October.

Natural disaster has its own way of healing and extinction. But if it is man-made then let the world has to invent vaccine. Covid-19 is in its peak. The victims are dying because of lack of medicine while others survived because the lack of medicine. Consequently immunity is asked for to improve. The district Raigarh was reluctant to announce lockdown and its implementation is equally weak. It has frightened the people. The situation has not improved. All the problems (even of the Boirdadar Parish) have the same fate. It breeds another. Finally only God will save us through human beings.

Online is the most spoken word in today’s world. Everything is becoming on line starting from the very necessities of life. It has left no alternative too. Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. and Fr. Stephen Xaxa, S.J. are still busy in either online teaching and attending online classes (webinar). By the online, regular test is organized in the school and now the date for half yearly exam is fixed and so on and it continues even to collect the text books. The guardians never fail to contact the school authority and staff about the admission and online classes. The DEO office had asked all the schools to give the filled U-DISE and also Data Capture format of the School. Therefore the Principal along with the clerks were very busy in completing it. Because of hard work and constant effort the hectic work was completed on time.

*-Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J*



## Deacons' Triduum

This is the CORONA time and we are all living with it indoors and outdoors our communities. Even if we go out on the roads, it is rather difficult to travel due to roughness and the dusty roads. Today we live in the ambience of uncertainties due to virus spread all around. We are all taking the safety measures possible to keep us safe and healthy. At this situation, it was an opportune time for us the Deacons to open up our inner doors and strengthen our spiritual well – being when the gates of our houses are closed during this lockdown.

With the due permission from our PCF and the house Superiors, we the Deacons planned to have our Triduum at Asha Deep, Pathalgaon under the guidance of Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ. It was a long break after we came back to the Province from the Theology Centres. Thus, this break to spend time with the Lord from our daily schedules was needed. We arrived to the place



on Sep. 09 and the same evening we started our triduum. It in deed was a wonderful journey with the Lord under the gifted guidance of Fr. Agapit, SJ. The community was very welcoming to us and created a suitable atmosphere to spend time in prayer and reflection. We are thankful to the Superior, minister and the Asha Deep community. We concluded our Triduum on 12<sup>th</sup> evening and after the Holy Eucharist on 13<sup>th</sup> and after having breakfast we left for our destinations. Deacon Akil Sai Albert Bara was not able to avail himself because he has been attending to Sch. Anjay.

*-Dn. Preetam Prakash, SJ.*

## SSC, Sitagarha

This year we are altogether 30 juniors from 6 different provinces. We are six juniors from Madhya Pradesh province namely; Akshay Kujur, Amarjeet Panna, Gulshan Beck, Ranjit Ekka, Stephen Ekka and Robins Ekka. So far we are keeping well and are busy with our daily classes, daily paragraph, seminars, debates etc. In the month of August, Fr. Francis Kurian, Juniorate

dean, fell sick and was hospitalized at Ranchi. He is advised to take sufficient rest and at the moment he is recuperating at St. Xavier's community Hazaribag. Fr. Sandeep Lakra was asked to come from Ambikapur, St. Xavier's Community to assist the Juniorate staff Fr. K C Philip and Fr. Binod Toppo. Fr. Sandeep joined SSC Juniorate staff on 29th August, 2020. Since his arrival most of the activities are functioning smoothly.

During the month of August we were blessed with



many enriching activities. From 17th to 23rd August we had 'Social Analysis Seminar' conducted by tertian Frs. Anthony Herbert, Sunil Minj and Chrito Kujur. On 28th and 29th August, we attended 'Journalism Workshop' conducted by the juniorate staff Fr. K C Philip who was the editor and director of *Sandesh* magazine of Prabhat Prakash publication Patna, Bihar for last 10 years. It was an eye opening workshop for us all.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August we entered into a day of recollection led by tertian fathers and on the very evening we had a get-together and common birthday celebration of the month. It was a joy filled evening to let out all our tensions and celebrate our companionship. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 tertian fathers commenced their 30 days long retreat. They are in our prayers. In a small scale we honoured and showed our gratitude to our juniorate faculty on the occasion of Teachers' day.

This year there are 5 novices two in second year and three in the first year from MAP province. As Fr. Prabodh, Socius to the Novice- master tells, "they are keeping well." To break the chain of monotony on 19<sup>th</sup> September novices went for a cycle picnic to Dumar, a mission station of Hazaribag Province. Some of the community members too joined the novices to have freshness of countryside and to get themselves refreshed. Entire province in our prayers and we request the same for us.

*-Sch. Robins Ekka*



**Kastura Case: (1)** Kastura is a village at the foot of the Loro-Ghat. It has a temple of Jagannath, where the Raja's family comes every year to hold the car festivities in July. When Fr. Bossaers with the State Engineer made the Loro Ghat road, their intention was to make it come out at Kastura, so as to avoid the very steep incline leading to the Nich Ghat. But the apprehension of threatening wrath from the god, entertained by the *Rani* and others, forced them to modify their plan and follow instead that steep incline.

In 1949, the new Central Province (C.P.) administration brushed aside these superstitious beliefs, and constructed that new way intended in Fr. Bossaers' time. Fr. Demonceau who was in charge of the Ginabagar district around 1938 tells me (Fr. Vermeire), "Kastura itself is mainly *Sadan* and pagan. There were in his time a few Khadia Catholic and two or three Uraon Catholic houses at one end of it. Saraitoli, north of Kastura, is a big Uraon agglomeration of the best villages in the Ginabagar parish. Sarbahla is the Uraon *tola* of Loro which itself is a small *Sadan* village. Khutitoli is between Sarbahla and Kastura, a small village. Pakertoli with Ambatoli is situated south of Kastura."

We now reach what in Fr. Van den Driessche's opinion was the most serious case in the Persecution on the Nich Ghat, and his best trump against the Raja, and the English officials that persisted in white washing his tyranny. Fr. Van den Driessche has left many, and some of them, long letters (One of 26 pages) referring to this case. On 24 June 1911, Christians were beaten violently in Kastura by Ram Lakhan Singh, *barahil* and Ratna *sipahi*; two men in the service of the Raja. They were beaten because they were Christians. It was to force them to renounce Christianity.

Here are the facts as reported by the Father on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, to Rev. Fr. Superior (Waelkens): "A great pagan feast had to take place in Kastura on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. On Saturday evening 24<sup>th</sup> at about 8 p.m., one of the wives of the Raja arrived at Kastura with a good number of people. On that night (24-25) at about 11 p.m. (notice the dates - it will be of use afterwards), 5 Christians of Saraitoli: Dandu, Domra, Makia, Sanichar and Bandhna, were called by Liro *chaukidar* by order of Ram Lakhan, *Barahil*. They were taken to a house near the *bhandar* of Kastura and ordered to become pagans; if they did not agree, they would be beaten - and they were beaten by Ram Lakhan and 3 *Sipoy*s of Jashpurnagar with such violence that two of these poor men: Dandu and Bandhna finally became unconscious. Liro *chaukidar* (note, he is not a Christian nor an Uraon, but a *chink*) admitted in my (Fr. Van den Driessche) presence and in

the presence of Ram Lakhan that (1) he had called those 5 people on Saturday night by order of the *barahil*; (2) he heard them being ordered to renounce Christianity; (3) they were beaten with such violence that he (Liro) felt compassion for them, and tried to interfere to stop those cruel rascals but he was then beaten himself, (4) Dandu became unconscious.

"This Liro could gain nothing by speaking out like that in the presence of Ram Lakhan. Therefore he has not invented a story, which agreed so closely with what I (Fr. Van den Driessche) had just heard from my Christians two minutes before and which he had not heard as he arrived on the spot in company of Ram Lakhan, when the Christians had finished relating the facts. Three Christians of Khutitoli: Chutia, Marchai and Lussa were also beaten for the same reason, in the house of the *thikedar* of Khutitoli, on Tuesday and Wednesday, by Liro *chaukidar* and the two sons of the *thikedar* Lumbha and Matlu. I saw Lumbha and Matlu afterwards, and they also admitted that by order, they had beaten the Christians to make them give up their religion. I did not force these two rascals to tell the truth. Two Christians of Sarbahla, Etwa and Chongu were also beaten in the *bhandar* of Kastura by Liro and a *sipoy* on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup>. Reason always the same. The people of Pakertoli, not to be beaten gave a bribe of Rs. 10/-; Besides they have to give 3 mds. of *urid*. Those of Khutitoli had to give Rs. 2/-; a Christian of Khadiatoli Rs. 2/- and those of Sarbahla Rs. 4/-."

To the statement given so far, the Father appends a note: "This statement is nearly *verbatim*, of which I left a copy, signed by me, in the hands of the *Diwan*, dated 30 June 1911." However he makes the following corrections or additions in subsequent letters on 14 July 1911: "One or two small inaccuracies might be corrected in my letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> July "beaten by Ram Lakhan and 3 sepoy", should be "beaten by Ram Lakhan and one *sepoy* namely Ratnu *sipahi*." That people of Pakertoli had to give 3 mds. of *urid*", it is more exact to say: "they were asked to give 3 mds. of *urid*, but gave only 2 mds" I came in time to tell them not to give anything more."

On 20 July he adds: "I did not tell in my letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, that the Christians had been forced to sign a '*muchilka*' (written agreement). On 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday, those of Saraitoli had to sign a *muchilka* in which, as they were told, they promised that if they remained Christians and welcomed still the *Padri* or the catechist, they would pay a fine of Rs. 50/- each, and besides get punishment (jail, some said, but this did not seem quite clear). The *muchilka* was written by a man they did not know, but it was Ratnu *sipahi* who held their hand, to make them put their thumb impression on the paper. I told them of course that such an agreement, extorted from them had no value whatever."



"I (Fr. Van den Driessche) now return to the letter of 2 July: That money and *urid* have been taken is absolutely certain. And I am sure also of the other facts, which I heard from the Christians on Thursday morning when I sent to make an inquiry in the villages, and from independent witnesses like Liro *chaukidar*, and the sons of the *thikedar* of Khutitoli, Lumbha and Matlu, who had every reason to hide these facts from me, and certainly did not invent them to please me. After the chief Christians of these villages had been beaten, they and the other men had to submit to a ceremony, namely, drink the blood of a fowl, by which they are supposed to be made pagans again. Only the men had to submit to this ceremony, not the women nor the young people. None of the men are baptized, they are only catechumens."

"In fact they force them to break their caste! Only those of Pakertoli escaped. Some had run away when they were first called, and as I arrived in that village on Tuesday afternoon and established myself there, the people of this village were left alone. Now and then a *sipay* comes to see whether I am still here. The men of Saraitoli and Khutitoli do not consider themselves as having become pagans because of this ceremony: they told me that they have submitted to it only through violence and to save their life; they were threatened to be killed if they did not submit to it, and the way in which they were treated shows enough that the rascals might have gone to that extremity! When I went to Saraitoli and Khutitoli, women and children came to me as usual. The men, frightened to death (poor chaps) took some time before getting up courage enough to approach; and they told me they were afraid of being beaten again for having come to me! In Khutitoli one had been made to swear, he told me, not to say anything to the Father." (to be contd.)

-Compiled by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.

### Rest in Peace

1	03.09.2020	Fr Kabamba Kalimbiriro Joseph, SJ (ACE), 53/33 at Chennai.
2	08.09.2020	Fr Jayant Kumar Padival, SJ (KAR), 71/54 at Mangaluru.
3	10.09.2020	Fr John Berchman Nag, SJ (JAM), 72/36 at Jamshedpur.
4	12.09.2020	Fr Jacob Carvalho, SJ (GOA), 75/57 at Belagavi
5	15.09.2020	Fr Vijay Kumar Prabhu, SJ (KAR), 80/61 at Mangaluru.
6	15.09.2020	Fr James Thottakath, SJ (KER), 93/63 at Kozhikode.
7	18.09.2020	Fr Erik Breye, SJ (RAN), 80/61 at Ranchi.
8	24.09.2020	Fr Dionysius Rasquinha, SJ (PAT), 65/44 in Patna.

### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US IN SEPTEMBER 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

## BIRTHDAYS

### 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 Ekka Shanti Prakash
- 02 Kujur 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
- 20 Toppo Maurice
- 21 Tigga Sandeep
- 22 Lakra Ashish
- 22 Sona John
- 23 Tirkey Arvind
- 24 Ekka Cyril Nares
- 24 Ekka Vijay Kumar
- 24 Lakra Francis
- 24 Xess Simon
- 26 Bara Bernard
- 26 Kujur Theodore
- 30 Bara Rakesh Kumar

Kindly send your News and Photos by 25th of every month to:  
<mapsj.information@gmail.com> and a copy to <mapsocius@yahoo.co.in>