

Calcutta Jesuit Newsletter

কলকাতা যীশুসংঘের বার্তা



Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 686

SEPTEMBER 2020

2020/07

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

Fr. Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz, Provincial of Karnataka Province

CALCUTTA JESUITS : NEWS AND VIEWS

Navjyoti Niketan, Bangladesh

We celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius in a solemn manner preceded by novena prayers exclusively for Jesuits and 'online' novena prayer services for the faithful. The feast day Mass was celebrated in the nearby parish Church.



Our community has also turned to be a 'transit' house for many Jesuits for the past few months. **Schs. Sudiopto and Radnaf**, after completing their home visits have joined us and now are waiting to get their Indian visas to study in St. Xavier's College, Burdwan.

Navjyoti Niketan is getting back to its normal life after remaining closed for several months. Many religious groups have begun to come to the center for spiritual nourishment programs. **Fr. Srijon** with the help of other community members is conducting a four month final vows preparation program for sisters. **Fr. George** guided a few retreats as well as renewal programs. **Fr.**

Ripon conducted a day of recollection for the scholastics which rejuvenated their spirit to cope with the situation and preached a triduum for the MC Sisters in a nearby convent. We are happy to have **Fr. Pradeep** back in Bangladesh after his final vows.

-Sch. Jeffrey Finney

D.A. Novitiate

On July 29, three new novices reached D.A. and started their first probation the very next day under guidance of **Fr. Sajeev**, Novice Director and their guardian angel Novice Anthony (NEP). After the completion of their first probation, they were received into the novitiate community on August 10, the feast day of St. Lawrence, and we celebrated it with a campus picnic. This was a very beautiful day of enjoyment and companionship.

We had a meaningful preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius with a novena on different Ignatian themes with creative and well conducted prayer services. On the feast day, our Rector, **Fr. Sunny**, inspired us with a thought provoking homily during the solemn Eucharistic celebration. We had an enjoyable day with different fun filled games and cultural programs including an Ignatian Quiz creatively conducted by **Sch. Manish Tigga**.

Sch. Sagar Tudu is our Bengali teacher to whom we are deeply grateful for his generosity and innovative teaching methods.



-Novice Manuel Kisku (DUM)

Holy Father's Universal Prayer Intention for September -
Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered,
but shared in a just and respectful manner

D.A. Juniorate

We celebrated the Feast of St Ignatius on July 31 in a grand manner preceded by the Novena prayers on the themes of the Universal Apostolic Preferences. On the same day, the new refectory was inaugurated by the head cook of Dhyan Ashram, Mr. Shambu, and the community took a great pledge towards making a green world by distributing some saplings to our workers.

On August 15, we celebrated our Independence Day with a thanksgiving mass presided over by **Fr. Jothi**. Mr. Montu, one of our co-workers, hoisted the National flag. The Juniors and the novices did a parade performance with the thunderous band. Three fiery speeches were delivered in three languages (Hindi, Bangali and English) by Novice Anthony, Juniors Anil and Ashim respectively. Currently, the Juniors are busy with their regular classes and writing assignments. The scholastics staying in DA due to the lockdown are a blessing to us. They are helping us in many ways to grow in our vocation.

-Sch. Santosh Murmu

Udayani

Udayani has bought a new four wheeler for its ministry. We are grateful to Calcutta Ondoan for its unconditional support to our mission. **Fr. Joseph D'souza** blessed the vehicle in the presence of our Rector, **Fr. Julian** and the community members.

The Feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated on July 30 at Udayani. Due to the COVID 19 pandemics only a few staff from the city participated in the simple celebration. July 30 is also the inaugural anniversary of the new Udayani building. We thank the Lord and acknowledge the precious contributions of our benefactors.



On July 27, we hired a room and set up an NGO office in the Jamalpur block. Gram Panchayat Pradhan of Sanchra Gram Panchayat, Director of Udayani **Fr. John Keketta** and **Fr. Anburaj** inaugurated the office in the presence of SHG members. In the month of August, we conducted capacity building trainings such as Anger Management, Computer skills, Right to food and work, Migration, Gender equality and women empowerment trainings, etc. for SHG women. On August 15, SHG women celebrated the 74th Independence Day in Jamalpur and Kalna blocks.

-Fr. John Keketta

St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.

On August 1, the Department of Commerce and Management Studies presented a one-day Webinar on "Stress Management Skills for Students under the COVID-19 Paradigm".

The academic year 2020-21 began with online classes on August 10. The core team with **Fr. J.R Dejus** as the coordinator set up the platform for the online classes using Microsoft teams. **Fr. Joseph Kulandai**, Vice-Principal (Morning), left no stone unturned to organize the Department Orientation Program. The Staff and the Students are optimistic and enthusiastic about this new way of learning.



On August 15, the Jesuit Fathers, Faculty and Non-Teaching Staff of the College and the members of the Alumni Association gathered at the College premises and celebrated the 74th Independence Day. **Fr. Peter Arok**, the Vice-Principal (Evening), began the function with a devotional prayer. **Fr. Jeyaraj**, the Rector, hoisted the flag and asked everyone to commit to the values of patriotism, sacrifice and tolerance. **Fr. Dominic Savio**, the Principal, in his address, remembered the freedom fighters and promised to send fresh relief materials to COVID-19 survivors and Amphan victims of Sundarbans area and even flagged off the consignment - arrangements done by the core members of the Alumni.

Since St. Xavier's is an A⁺⁺ College and much appreciated by the NAAC officials for the best practices, the NAAC invited St. Xavier's College for a National Webinar to present the Best Practices of the College to other Colleges in India. The College humbly accepted the invitation and on August 17 held the Webinar titled "Molding Men and Women for Service to the Nation."

On August 22, the Department of Commerce in association with the Institute of Chartered Accounts of India organized students' Webinar on "Impact of COVID 19 on Financial Markets & Residential status and Incidence of Tax."

The College Alumni Association presented the 13th

edition of Knowledge and Ideas Xchange series (KIXs) on virtual platform on August 21. Ms. Indrani Roy, a noted Educator and Psychological Counselor shared her experiences and gave some tips to cope with the Unlock Phase of the pandemics.



The Alumni Association continued its post-Covid relief and rehabilitation initiatives globally by fulfilling social obligations. The second repatriation flight came from Dubai to Kolkata on August 19, exclusively carrying the stranded UAE residents from West Bengal back home. The initiative was envisioned by Fr. Dominic Savio, the President of the Alumni Association and implemented by Dubai Chapter of SXCCAA supported by Purvanchal Pravasi UAE & Marwari Yuva Manch UAE.

Fr. David Paulraj

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata and its various departments organised 15 Webinars in total in the last four months. The Department of Mass Communication, in May-June, undertook a month-long online teaching outreach program for the underprivileged children of classes 3 to 7 of Lakshya Public School in Bangalore.



St. Xavier's University, Kolkata has officially registered its Alumni Association. The new Alumni office was blessed and inaugurated in the presence of all the Fathers, some Faculty members and Alumni/nae. The first Batch of 135 Post Graduates who passed out in 2019 became the founding members of the Alumni Association.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata in collaboration with the

Sisters of St. Anne's, Boitakhana distributed relief materials to 600 needy people in and around Sealdah Railway Station.

The University conducted a Faculty Development Program to provide Guidelines for conducting Online Classes on July 20 and to inform about the Pedagogy of the Online Classroom and its rules & regulations.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata has decided to offer a 20 per cent concession on semester fees for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the current semester, July to December 2020. The students may pay the sum in two instalments. The hostel fees for the current semester (July to December) will also be reduced by Rs 7,000 a month (70%). The Faculty members have agreed to forego 10% of their monthly salary in collaboration with the University from August to December 2020.

Online classes for Final Semester students are over. The Final exams are awaited. Online classes for Intermediate Semesters are going on. Admissions to the First Year Courses will be completed by August 31 and the online classes will commence on September 10, 2020.

-Ms Ruth De Rosario

Prabhu Jisu Girja

Community: The lockdown effects have led the community members to do creative Prayers, Mass, Adoration and also help the minister in preparing healthy food. **Fr. Cyriac** made his annual retreat on August 18-27 at PJG.

Parish: The PJG Parish Church and offices are open again from August onwards. Six masses are being celebrated on Sundays besides special day's masses. The Parish Priest, **Fr. Mahanando** along with Fr. Cyriac, the Asst. PP was happy to distribute rations to 13 families through SVP unit of PJG Parish. The Novena to Our Lady of Vailankanni started from August 29 with two masses a day. **Fr. Pat Eaton** who presided over the English masses preached on the themes based on the UAP. The PJG Parish is blessed with vibrant volunteers and helpers who can be reached out for any of the needs of the Church. The Fathers are appreciative and are happy to get their constant support.

LTS: **Fr. John Rogers** works round the clock with so much of passion and dedication after launching the LTS YouTube Channel last month. His creative approach to LTS members through online received good responses from the LTSers both nationally and internationally which has stirred his imagination to discover a green studio in Chitrabani for his work. As a result, on August 1, in the presence of the PJG Community members, he inaugurated a Chroma or Green Studio for the professional video shootings and presentations. He keeps producing all the value based and thematic videos for the LTSers who remain connected to LTS in spite of all the limitations and restrictions during this lockdown.

Chitrabani: August 26 is marked as a Black Day in the calendar of Chitrabani. An Era which led the media scholars to the present imagination ends with a deep void. The members of Chitrabani, both past and present are moaning over the sudden demise of their Founder Director, **Fr. Gaston Roberge**

who shaped the minds of hundreds and thousands people through his media education.

-Fr. L R Arun

St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata

Keeping in mind the fourth UAP – Caring for our Common Home – the Ecology Commission of the Province took up a productive initiative in association with St Xavier's Collegiate School and ALSOC and planted about 100 Ashoka (debdaru)



saplings in the school campus. **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, our Rector appreciated the venture and planted a sapling. Many of our community members and some of the ALSOC members were present for this act of care for our common home. The Commission gave 30 Mango and 50 Ashoka saplings to Dhyan Ashram and St. Xavier's School, Burdwan. About 30 Pongamia (karanj) saplings were planted in our University campus. The Commission will supply fruit yielding and timber plants to our mission stations too. ALSOC has sponsored 6 laptops and 30 smartphones for the Evening School and Night School teachers and students so that they can take part in online classes.

The school has adopted Microsoft Teams for online classes for the Secondary Section while the Primary Section continues to use the Zoom App. On August 23, the new School Canteen – sponsored by the ALSOC (1991 batch) – was inaugurated by Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy (Rector) in the presence of the Jesuit community, ALSOC members and some teachers. Mr. Rajiv Doss, our senior teacher in the Secondary, did the interior designing.



The annex building and other renovation works in the Primary Section are on the verge of their completion. The artistic touch on the compound walls of the Primary and

Secondary sections and the recent plantings of varieties of plants have enhanced the look of the school.

-Fr. Narendra Singh, SJ

St. Xavier's, Durgapur

St. Xavier's School, Durgapur has been using Microsoft Teams from the middle of April for the online classes. On an average, 80 percent of the students were attending the classes. All our Teachers have mastered the skill of teaching through online platforms quickly. Weekly virtual staff meetings were also held for training and sharing of experiences.

Online oral Mid-Term Tests started on August 24 and the First Term Examinations are expected to be completed before Puja.

Online platform was extended for catechism classes as well. On the occasion of the Feast of St. Ignatius, online competitions were organized for the Catholic students in 21 events across classes. Live online Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Devasy** for the Christian students and Teachers.



Students and Teachers celebrated Rabindra Jayanti, Environmental awareness program and Independence day online. A short video was also uploaded on the occasion of the Feast of St. Ignatius. A total of 12 videos were selected and uploaded on the YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgrTZDqTo1NHyl8GnnnhWQ>. Fathers **Francis Koikkara** and **Augustine D'Souza** spent a week in Durgapur with their novice companion, **Fr. K C Jacob**. **Fr. Thomas Varghese** preached a Triduum to Carmel Sisters MAMC, and MC Sisters, Durgapur prior to their congregation's Feast on July 16 and August 22 respectively. Thanks to Fr. Tom's innovative farming techniques, some parts of the playground have been converted into a vegetable garden. "Khelar mather kumro bagan" pictures were viral among the old students and teachers.

St. Xavier's school, Durgapur and community distributed more than 300 packets of relief materials. Each packet contained food materials worth of 500.

The new Apostolic Administrator of Asansol Diocese, Bishop Salvadore Lobo, visited the community on May 21 along with Bishop Emeritus Cyprian Monis. Pandua community visited SXS Durgapur on August 12.



Arunoday

On July 31, the feast of St Ignatius was celebrated in our community in a low-key manner. The nine days of Novena prayers helped us prepare ourselves for the feast and it had revived our Jesuit life. We have started this academic year with six Pre-Novices. After spending about a week in quarantine, they were welcomed into the community. The inauguration of this academic year was held on August 10 with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by **Fr. Alexander**, our superior. In his homily, he explained about the value of priestly vocation.

A Two Day orientation program was organized for the Pre-Novices which helped them to know the community and each other better. **Fr. Vivien**, the Pre-Novitiate director, has introduced Stag Method to our Pre-Novices. **Fr. K Thottam** spent a week in Arunoday giving a shape to his autobiography.

Sch. Rintu Samuel

St. Xavier's Burdwan

The month of August saw many occasions for celebrations. On August 1, we had a Quiz competition conducted by **Schs. John Paul** and **Antony Robert** to complete the Feast Day Celebration of St. Ignatius as our fellow Jesuits from Gurap and Pandua joined us for a fellowship dinner. A powerful speech by **Fr. Masilamani Thiruviam**, the chief guest on the Independence Day, enthralled the community, the co-workers and the non-teaching staff present on August 15. August 19 was a special day for all of us as we celebrated the birthday of **Fr. Paul Arockiam**, and our joy was once again doubled by the presence of Gurap and Durgapur fathers along with **Fr. Kurian Emprayil** was in Gurap for home quarantine. However, the highlight event for Burdwan community in August was the high-spirited Community Days (August 21-23), conducted by **Sch. K. Johnson**, our new regent, who kept all the fifteen of us on our toes with a lot of innovative, fun-filled, and intense games and activities, which, needless to say, helped us celebrate and grow into closer companionship. The presence of **Fr. Alphonse Ashirvadam** in these days added joy to our community all the more. The theologians staying in our community are on their toes attending online theology classes and comprehensive examinations.

This year, St. Xavier's College, Burdwan received many applications for admission. **Fr. Paul Arockiam** and **Fr. Sahaya Jude** are working round the clock to sort out the application forms and complete the admission processes. St. Xavier's School conducted an innovative unit test wherein the students had to make a video of themselves on a given topic. We are moving from Cloud Class Rooms to online classes via G Suite platform.

Sch. Jobin George SJ

"He who forgets death has already begun to die."

-Pope Francis:

Gaston Roberge: An Appreciation

Fr Gaston Roberge SJ, founder of Chitrabani Institute, Kolkata, and film and media scholar par excellence, passed away at St Xavier's College, Kolkata, on August 27, 2020. He was 85.



Both Chitrabani started by Gaston Roberge, and the Xavier Institute of Communications, founded by Francis "Packy" MacFarland, were born within a year of each other, a little over 50 years ago in 1969-70, in two different parts of the country, Calcutta (now Kolkata) and Bombay (now Mumbai).

The Xavier Institute – or XIC, as it came to be known – defined itself as a training institute for the professional media from the very first. Bombay was the media capital of the country, and it seemed the right place to start a college for professional media training. That's why XIC was located on the campus of St Xavier's College, Bombay. Though its courses varied in name, scope and duration over the years, it has always adhered to its academic blueprint: professional skills within the context of a humanist ethos – the universal Jesuit hallmark.

Chitrabani's design was different. Its emphasis was film (as its very name implied) and it soon established itself as a place for film lovers and serious students of cinema. Roberge encouraged many young talents to explore the visual media through photography, film and video. Among the many friendships which developed as a result, Roberge counted Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Mani Kaul and Kobita Sarkar.

One of his protégés, George Ponodath, a Jesuit like himself, took charge of the Educational Media Research Centre at Kolkata's St Xavier's, and made it into arguably the best production unit of educational films in the country.

If XIC's contribution was linear, systematic and academic, Chitrabani was more intuitive, asymmetrical, and highly personalized in the genius of Father Roberge.

For several years, Roberge also headed an adult education program in Bengali through radio. Called Chetana, it broadcast its messages of literacy, child-care and women's empowerment all over Bengal and Bangladesh.

Roberge's major contribution however has been in film scholarship, and together with it, a critical understanding of the 'new media'.

His first book, titled Chitrabani (1975), (like the institution



he started) is a basic handbook for film enthusiasts, helping one to understand the grammar and the idiom of film, with perceptive insights into the history of Indian cinema.

Another, *Mediation* (1978) is a collection of articles, anecdotes, photos, cartoons, questions and quotations on the action of the media in society. Roberge always believed – much like McLuhan before him -- that the technology of the electronic media were slowly but surely changing society, and with it human nature as we've known it. In the 1980s, when XIC started its program "Mediaworld", to inculcate critical reflection on the media in high schools, he warmly encouraged it. *Mediaworld* was a venture ahead of its time, and sadly, short-lived.

In essence, Roberge the film scholar, explored the various facets of today's media culture with imagination and variety. The books followed, one after the other. *The Faithful Witness* (2000) explored the nature of Christian communication; *Cyberbani* (2005), is "being human in the new media environment"; and *Media Dancer* (2008) took the analysis further with the internet and social media. Roberge has written almost thirty books on topics related to cinema and the media.

One of his last books returns to his favourite topic, popular film: *Indian Film Theory* (2011). "I had been asking myself since the 1980s why we do not have a new theory of popular film," said Roberge. "It was only recently that I got an answer after studying a 2000-year old Indian treatise of drama and dance, *Natya Sastra – The Science of Drama*." The result is a new perspective on the theories underlying Indian commercial cinema. It is widely acknowledged that this Jesuit priest has made a "significant contribution" to film with his new book on Indian film theory.

All through that marvelous decade of the 80s and the early 90s, when we passed from Doordarshan/ Akashvani to color TV, video, FM radio and cell phones, Roberge was a frequent visitor to XIC.

Those were still the early years of mass communication in India, and the Jesuit fraternity through its umbrella group, JESCOM, would meet frequently to discuss and argue, to share project planning and squabble over funding, to build friendships, solidarity and encourage innovation. Gaston Roberge was always there at these meetings, looked up to with respect, admiration and certain affection.

It is a sign of how much the last decades have changed us that no one speaks of the 'mass media', or 'mass

communications' anymore. Today the buzz words are 'online', 'social media' -- facebook, twitter, instagram, the internet -- and the little gizmo you hold in your hand connecting you with everyone, everywhere, all at once: *duniya mutthi mein*.

Roberge was a Jesuit in Calcutta, one of a rare breed of scholars -- men like Lafont, Goethals, Johanns, Antoine, Beckers, Verstraeten and so very many others, who left their imprint not just on a city, but on a whole epoch.

To this distinguished group, we may now add the name of Gaston Roberge. For wherever Indian cinema is studied, wherever the new media culture is analyzed, we will never forget that it was his name and his writings which first opened the door.

-Fr. Myron J. Pereira

Fr Myron J. Pereira SJ, a long-time friend and colleague of Fr Gaston Roberge SJ, retired from XIC in 2009, after serving for two decades in that institution. pereira.myron@yahoo.in

Obituary of Fr. Gaston Roberge

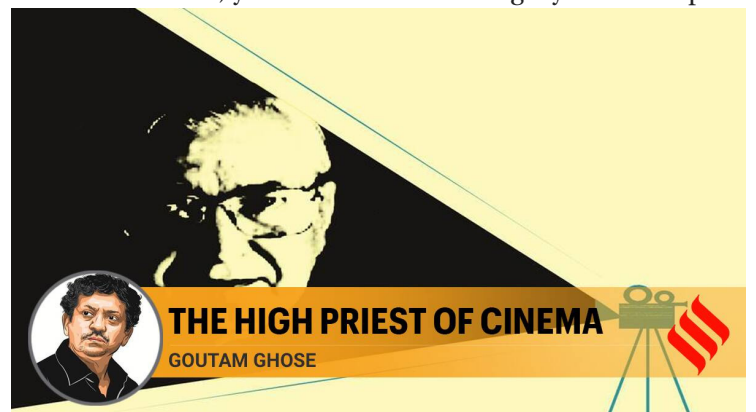
(Read Out at Funeral Mass at D.A. on 28.08.2020)

Dear friends, today you have not come here to mourn the death of Fr. Gaston Roberge; you have come here to celebrate his life; a life lived to the full; a life lived in and through media, for the people. Finally it was a life lived for God. So let us not mourn him but celebrate this great man's life. The love and respect that we have for him is greater than what death can claim and his memory will live with us for a long time to come. For a person who has lived a life of faith and commitment, death is not the end of life; it is a step into the life of God. Gaston has gone home to Jesus; let us celebrate it; that is the Jesuit tradition. Though lying motionless there, let me speak to Gaston as I have done so many times, for so many years.

Dear Gaston

Though we had lived together and worked together for so many years, I cannot be near you at your death. But I am sure you can communicate now better with me from heaven, without the encumbrance of any medium or language. You have always been a good listener and now for the last time, may I request you to listen to me again? I ask this because for me you are not really dead and gone; you will remain with me for a long time to come, probably till the end of my own life. That is the depth to which you have touched me and formed me.

Dear Gaston, you have left for us a legacy that will speak



with vitality, long after your mortal remains perish. It is a legacy of professionalism, of commitment, of intellectual integrity and originality. It is a legacy of dedication to God through excellent professional work, whatever that may be. Yes, Gaston you taught me what it means to be dedicated to one's work, especially when one is misunderstood and not appreciated. You taught me what it takes to be a professional film-maker. Do you remember what you told me when I had spent 23 hours of non-stop editing of a programme and told you that I was exhausted? I remember: you told me, "That's the price you pay for being in media; that's the cost of professionalism; do it and finish the programme". That was done in your own gentle way, and yet unambiguously. That was a challenge you gave not only to me but you practiced it as well.

You had imbibed the Ignatian idea of Magis fully and implemented it in all your works. You always wanted the best in everything. When you wanted to make a film, you employed the best cameraman in town, Subrato Mitra. When you wanted to make an animation film on the children of Pilkhana, you employed one of the best creative minds in town, Brian Balen and sent him all the way to California to learn the technology



so that the outcome would be not just good but of world standard. When you wanted good sound recording system, you brought the best equipment of that time in the world: Nagra. These are just three examples to show how relentlessly you struggled to attain perfection in all that you did. That was characteristic of you, Gaston. But you wanted perfection not in your work alone; it was just symbolic: in stretching your hand to perfection you were actually seeking the face of God!

There was a time when Gaston Roberge was a catchword that exemplified authority in the world of film and television. Television interviews, radio talks, newspaper articles, talks, lectures were all part of your daily chores. You did it gladly and each time you spoke or wrote something, there was substance and freshness in it. That is why people came to you and you were invited to various parts of the country and the world – to speak, to lecture and to teach. You were associated with a number of prestigious institutions, such as Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi, Calcutta University, Jadavpur University, Roopkala Kendro, Kolkata and others. You had a lot to do with the Bengali section of Radio Veritas Asia.



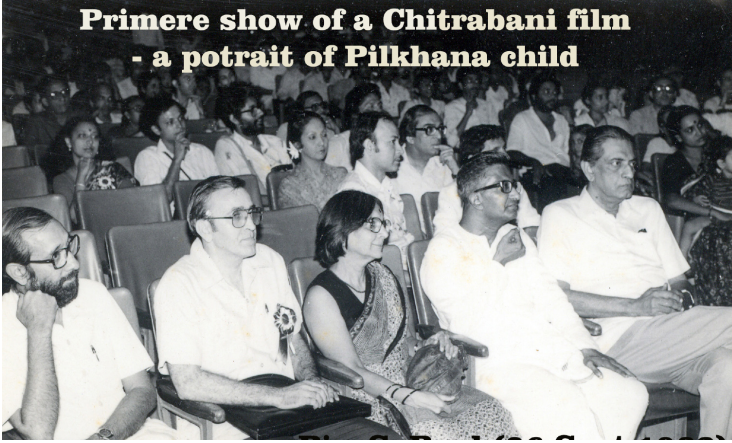
In many matters you were far ahead of your time, Gaston. That is why many, including myself, failed to understand you fully. You dared to dream the impossible and you had the tenacity to bring that dream to reality. Chitrabani and EMMRC are your dreams concretized. But that is not all. A mind like yours cannot be contained in two buildings. Your numerous books, beginning with Chitrabani, then Mediation, The faithful Witness, Communication, Cinema, Development – from Morosity to Hope, Satyajit Ray are landmarks in the world of print media. You became aware of the onset of cyber communication and immediately your ever curious mind searched for the implications of this newcomer. You came out with Cyberbani, a thought provoking, insightful look into the implications of this new medium. Your final contribution Media Dancer – who sets the tune? is both thought-provoking and a warning to the emergence of media hegemony. You were ahead of many even in this new field even at that advanced age.

Born in Montreal, Canada in 1935, Gaston joined the Jesuit order as a young man of 21. After his initial religious studies and philosophy he came to Kolkata on 15 October 1961. Though extensively travelled, he made Kolkata his home. Among his close friends were Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen; he studied their films and became an authority on them. Gaston saw and was inspired by the film Pather Panchali, already



when he was in Canada. No wonder, when he came to Kolkata he sought out and became a close friend of Satyajit Ray. But Gaston did not get stuck there; his mind was open. The Russian film maker Sergei Eisenstein was another person that he Gaston mastered and wrote a book on his films. Battleship Potemkin and October were Gaston's favourite Russian Films.

Primere show of a Chitrabani film - a potrait of Pilkhana child



One of his Canadian friends was the legendary Cardinal Leger who helped Gaston realize many of his dreams.

When a person has lived a full life, doing what he did for the greater glory of God, he can say with St. Paul, “for me to die is gain”. But God never sees his children die; he simply sees them coming home. Now Gaston, Farewell. Go Gaston, go to where the Father is, go to your real home that is everlasting and when you reach there, remember us.

Thank you. From George Ponodath SJ, your student and Shishya.

Adieu – Fr. Gaston Roberge SJ

On August 28, 2020, with heavy hearts, we bid farewell to one of the stellar personalities of our province Fr. Gaston Roberge SJ, a noted film maker, film critic, a prolific author, teacher and a proponent of film studies. His mortal remains were laid to rest at Dhyana Ashram, Konchowki in the presence of a small congregation of Jesuits and his former students and well-wishers. Fr. Provincial, Raphael Hyde SJ, presided over the requiem mass. During the homily Fr. PJ Joseph, the Director of Chitrabani, read out a moving eulogy in memory of Fr. Gaston, reminiscently penned down by his student and disciple Fr. George Ponodath SJ. His unrelenting dedication to the world of cinema and film studies was aptly emphasized. His commendable effort to build up two premier institutions of film studies namely, Chitrabani and EMMRC was lauded. At the end of the funeral mass Fr. Provincial read out various condolence messages from noted film and Jesuit fraternity. His former students and associates also paid a fitting tribute. The young scholastics carried his body on their shoulders on its final journey towards the cemetery where it was blessed and laid to rest with great honour and devotion. We thank God



for the splendid and inspiring life of Fr. Gaston Roberge SJ, “a man of God who dreamt films”. We pray that God may reward him with eternal life.

Sch. Rakesh Mondol

Rest in Peace

Fr. Isidore Pinto (PAT, 78/57) passed away on 07.08.2020, in Patna

Fr. Elias Arockiasamy (AND, 80/58) passed away on 12.08.2020 in Visakhapatnam.

Fr. Gaudentius Kongari (HAZ, 86/66) passed away on 12.08.2020 at Ulahatu, Ranchi.

Fr. Patrick de Melo (GOA, 78/61) passed away on 14.08.2020 in Goa

Fr. Augustine Tigga (HAZ, 72/51), passed away on 15.08.2020 at Sitagarha, Hazaribag

Fr. Walter Stephen Andrade (KAR, 78/53) passed away on 26.08.2020 at Mangaluru

Fr. Gaston Roberge (CCU, 84/35) passed away on 26.08.2020 at SXC, Calcutta.



Please send your news before the 25th of every month.

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