



OFFICIAL

FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

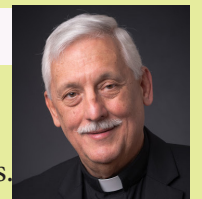
Fr. Joy Karyampuram – Rector, XTTI, Patna, w.e.f. 01 November 2020

Fr. General has approved **Fr. Deepak Lakra** for the final incorporation in the Society of Jesus.

Fr. Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz (Dion)- Provincial of Karnataka Province.

Fr. Kizito Kiyimba - Provincial of the Province of Eastern Africa.

Fr. Joseph O'Keefe - the first Provincial of the newly created province of United States East



FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

Francis Chinnappan - HM, St. Thomas, Ratanpurwa

Jeevan Isahak - Resides at St. Michael's, Patna

Joseph Kootinal - Teacher, Sanjivan Niwas, Patna

additional responsibility; Res. Atmadarshan

Mathew Manoj V. - Administrator, Sanjivan Niwas, Patna

Maxentius Lakra - Teacher, St. Anne's, Sasaram

Michael Ekka - Vice Principal, KR Primary, Bettiah

Periyanayagam S - Director, KRCH, Bettiah

Sylvester Dungdung - English Teacher, Catholic High School, Ara



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

September 2020

03	–	Webinar on Migrants
07 – 08	–	Visitation, Aurangabad
09 – 10	–	Visitation, Bodh Gaya
12	–	Ordination of Dn. Rajesh Somepalli
13	–	Meeting of Invited Sch Sup/ Treas.
21 – 22	–	Visitation, Ara
28	–	Province Consult

October 2020

03	–	Final Vows – Fr. Deepak Lakra
05 – 09	–	Visitation, XTTI
12 – 22	–	Personal Retreat
26 – 28	–	JCSA Online
30	–	Province Consult

November 2020

05 th NOON	– 02 PM	– Province Apostolic Planning (Atmadarshan)
	– 05 PM	– Prov. Jubilarians' Mass and Agape (XTTI)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Deacon Rajesh Somepalli, SJ, will be ordained a priest on 12 September 2020 by Most Rev William D' Souza, SJ, the Archbishop of Patna, at St. Xavier's, Patna. The Solemn Eucharist will begin at 5.00 pm. Those Patna Jesuits, who wish to attend the ordination, please inform the minister of the house – *Fr. Vinoy C. SJ*

Fr. Deepak Lakra, SJ, will pronounce his Final Vows in the Society of Jesus at Asha Deep Chapel, Muzaffarpur on 03 October 2020. The mass will begin at 10.30 am.

A meeting of the invited Superiors along with Province Finance Commission and Consult is scheduled on 13 September 2020 at Atmadarshan, Patna. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. The invitation has been sent by email.

LOCAL REPORTS

Aurangabad: Our Community witnessed a lot of activities in the month of August. **Frs. Norbert Menezes, Saji Mathew and Manish Osta** foresaw the upcoming events and planned accordingly. The school managed to conduct the first terminal exam from 05 to 16 August. Our teachers corrected the notebooks of students and distributed to the parents from 24 to 29 August. Our teachers really did a commendable job. On 02 September, we begin our online classes for the Second Term. The school celebrated the Independence Day keeping in mind the rules of social distancing. On the same day, we had a thanksgiving Eucharist for **Fr. Manish** who left on 17 August for Tertianship in Bengaluru. **Br. Abraham** and **Sch. Pramod** also travelled with him to Patna for their work. The children of our target group are given much attention. Under the guidance of **Fr. Albert Tirkey**, the animators are working hard to provide the learning materials to them. Our children successfully appeared for the first terminal exam. They were given the printed sets of questions and followed the rules of the scheduled exams.

Br. Abraham is alert and active in his work. His disciplined life is an inspiration to all of us. **Sch. Pramod** helps the School and Community especially with his technical skills. **Fr. Norbert** has updated himself with the new National Education Policy 2020. After having become familiar with the latest means of communication, he has started making use of those means of communication to share his updated knowledge on the National Education Policy to CJ sisters of Patna Province, Persons in education ministry in Karnataka, Patna, and Jamshedpur Provinces; Buxar and Patna Dioceses, and Christian Minority Education Institutions Association. He is keen to update himself by listening to experts on the National Education Policy. His presence in the School is felt very much.

- Pramod Kumar

Gaunaha: The campus wears a lush green look due to showers throughout the month. We filled mud around the school boundary wall to channelize the stagnant water. Eleven Manjhi girls from our intervention villages completed matric and got them enrolled in class-XI. They have resisted child marriage and showed much

interest and motivation to pursue their education. Six supervisors along with **Fr. Babu** were engaged in household survey in 15 Musahar villages of Ramnagar Block to continue our mission in Anganwadis and government schools. On the occasion of Earth Day on 09 August, around 200 saplings were planted in the school premises by the Manguraha Range officer, Mr. Sunil Kumar Pathak and other forest officers. We celebrated Independence Day in a simple manner with our school staff. The national flag was hoisted by **Fr. Rajan Lakra**. The visitation of the Superior General Sr. Meera (OLP) and the Provincial, Sr. Sheila (OLP) on 21 August brought immense joy to us. The students of Class X and XII were busy filling their examination forms from 22 to 28 August.



- Rajan Lakra

Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya: **Fr. Cyriac Poovakot** helps to enhance the beauty, fertility and utility of our campus. Now the plants are very healthy; flowers are brightly catchy; and fruits- Bananas, Jackfruits, Guavas, Custard apples, Coconuts and Papayas are fleshy and tasty. **Fr. Pradeep N.** along with **Fr. John Ravi** has made sure with their alert supervision that the roof-casting of the Girls' Hostel and Kitchen is done well. **Fr. Anto Joseph** kept on visiting villages to help out the returned migrants to start some business or other. **Sch. Sachin** besides attending his online classes extended his services to the community in running the kitchen. And he is getting ready to travel to Xavier Nilaya, Bengaluru.

- S. E. Lawrence

Kaiserganj, Uttar Pradesh: Wednesday, 02 September, 2020 was a historic day for the mission at Kaiserganj. After the preparations of almost three months, we laid the foundation for the Jesuit Residence today. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian**, Rector of St. Xavier's, Patna, blessed the foundation in the presence of a number of Jesuits and Fr. Simon Fernandez of Lucknow Diocese. The presence of **Fr. Rajesh Jacob** and **Br. Manoj Mathew** from Patna and Frs. Christopher Kandulna and **Nicholas Kulandai** from Loyola Sadan, Lucknow, added to the joy of the day. We were indeed glad to have our engineer and the contractor present for the occasion along with a few of our well-wishers here and the workers who will be engaged in the construction of the residence.



We had a slight drizzle which we considered as showers of blessings, while there was heavy rain just a few kilometres away from our place and the rest of UP.

Meanwhile, the regular works on the campus continue and we are trying to keep the campus clean and some cultivation will take place in the days to come. We have been a little cautious in moving out and visiting other places and villages due to the prevailing situation of the pandemic. We have slowly begun to establish contacts with the people around. The responses of the people have been good and we look forward to fruitful Jesuit Mission here at Kaiserganj.

- George Nedumattam

K. R. Campus, Bettiah: The month of August was very serene and quiet, and free from the hustle and bustle of life. **Fr. Albert Abraham** returned from Patna after spending his valuable time taking care of **Fr. Sushil Sah**. On his return, he brought **Fr. Periyamayagam** along with him. Meanwhile, **Fr. Albert** completed his period of house quarantine. During that period, he had covid-test and was found negative.

- Anuj Toppo

Kurji Parish: We are all positive at Kurji Parish; it's not Covid +ve. But, the Unlock 1.0 brought new rules in Bihar and Churches and other religious places of worship were not allowed to open. Once again, the thirst and the faith of the laity keep the flame of hope in Christ alive and continue to challenge us to be true



'Shepherds with the smell of the sheep'. The months of July and August, although difficult at times, but still continue to be the revelation of Christ in and through pastoral sensitivity. In the third week of July, **Dn. Rajesh Somepalli** moved to St. Michael's community to prepare for the Comprehensive exam that was held online on 28 August and he passed the exam with flying colours. On 19 August, **Most. Rev. William D'Souza** solemnly blessed the foundation stone of the New Presbytery in the presence of Frs. Joseph Raj, **Junas Kujur**, **Prashant Pius** and Sr. Remya SND. The Parish Priest continues to reach out to people in and through the administration of Sacraments and **Fr. Junas** after successfully finishing the quarantine at St. Michael's for having the mild symptoms of fever, joined the Parish and is fully involved in the parish in his usual style and manner. We are now preparing ourselves to celebrate the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother, through a special Novena to Our Lady of Velankani. Please be assured of our prayers.

- Rajesh Somepalli

Loyola Sadan, Lucknow: The Month of August brought us ample opportunities to grow spiritually, intellectually and socially. **Fr. Sudeep Chacko** shared with us his inspirational life experiences in the field of social work. The guided meditations by **Fr. Christopher** and over-all-guidance of **Fr. Vimal Kishore**, the Master, helped us to evaluate the present situation and feel with the struggles and sufferings of the entire humanity. The classes on the autobiography of our founder Father Ignatius of Loyola were taken by the second year novices. The OLP sisters shared their love, joy and sisterly concern for all of us on the occasion of Rakshabandhan. We wished good luck to **Frs. Sudeep Chacko** and **George Nedumattam** and prayed for the growth of the new mission as they moved to their permanent tents at Kaiserganj. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian**

stayed with us for two days on the way to Kaiserganj. On 12 August, Fr. Christopher Kandulna left for Allahabad to make his retreat in preparation for his final vows. We celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary along with the Independence Day on 15 August with a solemn mass. A disciplined parade by the novices and the hoisting of the National flag made us feel proud of all the brave freedom fighters. We cordially welcomed **Fr. Soosai Mani**, the new Provincial of Delhi Province and Fr. Xavier Ignatius on 21 August. **Fr. Christopher Kandulna** pronounced his final vows on 22 August during the solemn Eucharist presided over by Fr. Soosai Mani. A delicious fellowship meal of joy was shared with the neighboring religious communities. Frs. Soosai Mani and Xavier went back to Delhi on 23 August. We had a cultural evening felicitating Fr. Christopher on 24 August. We thanked God for the gift of life to Brs. Elias, Barnabas, Bablu, Rohit, Ralph and Abraham as they celebrated their birthday.



- Anjlus

Prabhat, Sakri: On 08 August, Ms. Suman Kumari and Ms. Asha Tirkey with the help of **Fr. Jose Vadassery** conducted a workshop on the New Education Policy for our staff. There was a training of teachers conducted by **Fr. Anand Kerketta** on government schemes on 11 August. NEG – FIRE has been supporting Prabhat since last 14 years and the agency has communicated its inability to support us any further. Hence, the programmes that were supported by the NEG- FIRE are being handed over to the village women leaders organized under the banner of 'Dina Bhadri Morcha'. This was done from 19 to 27 August in 42 Saday-Manjhi hamlets of Pandaul Block of Madhubani district organized under six clusters. In order to familiarize our staff more about the context and the people with whom we are engaged in especially the Saday-Manjhi community, Prabhat is organizing week-end programmes for the staff on 'What keeps the Saday – Manjhi commu-

nities entrapped in Poverty?'. Prabhat has already identified 65 Saday-Manjhi families who are involved in small scale livelihood programmes and has given financial assistance to them. There was also a seminar on capacity building for the staff of Prabhat from 27 to 28 August at Prabhat organized by **Fr. Anand Kerketta** which was sponsored by Caritas India. We have also been actively pursuing the Samiya murder case. The core group meeting is regularly organized on every Saturday. Despite the lock down, we kept in touch with our people and have been helping them to access government schemes

- Dilip Kumar

READ, Bettiah: The month of August was a moment of grace for us as the General of the OLP's (Our Lady of Providence), Sr. Meera along with former General, Sr. Gracy and the Provincial, Sr. Sheela, paid a visit to READ on 18 August. They stayed for two days. On 22 August, **Fr. Anil Minz** left for his tertianship in Bangalore. **Fr. Joseph Sebastian** paid a flying visit to READ and motivated the students. Keeping the pandemic in mind, we organized meetings in different villages for the selection of students to class IX & XI. It was an enriching experience for us to visit all the children's houses and interact with the parents regarding their stay and studies. But the poverty in most of the villages coupled with the unemployment is a haunting reality. The READ team has been on constant move to different villages and blocks in rescuing the children from Child labour and Child Marriages.

- P. Arockiasamy

Sanjivan Niwas: The Candidates' Programme has been moved from Bangalore to Sanjivan Niwas, Patna, for this year due to the severe pandemic situation in South India. **Fr. Raneesh Jose** is appointed as the Director and **Sch. Gnana Muthu (DEL)** is transferred from Bangalore to Patna to be the regent here. There were totally 26 candidates who reached Sanjivan from six States. There were 7 candidates for Delhi and 19 candidates for Patna. Two of the candidates are promoted to the Pre-Novitiate in Allahabad and three boys returned home. Now there are 21 candidates. The candidates had an orientation programme conducted by **Fr. Oswald Saldanha** and his team from 8 to 29 August. On 15 August, we had the Independence Day celebration in our campus and **Fr. Lawrence Paschal** was the chief guest. On 17 August, **Fr. Sushil Bilung** addressed the candidates and gave a glimpse of the Jesuit formation and training. On 31 August, **Fr. Donald Miranda**, Provincial, formally inaugurated the candidacy programme with the Holy Eucharist and addressed the Candidates



highlighting the purpose of the candidacy programme. The regular classes have begun from 01 September. We are grateful to **Fr. Donald Miranda** (Provincial), **Fr. Edward Dungdung** (PCF), **Fr. Sushil Bilung** (PCVP) and **Fr. Raneesh** (Director) for initiating the candidacy programme in Sanjivan. Thanks to our vocation promoters, **Frs. Daniel Raj, Joyson, Jesuraj** and **Peter Ignatius**, and the Delhi vocation promotion team for their support in bringing the candidates from different places to Patna. As of now, there are 21 candidates of whom 6 are 12th passed and 15 are 10th passed. At present, 18 candidates are for Patna and 3 are for Delhi. The scholastics were generous accompanying **Fr. Sushil Sah** in the hospital for a month. The scholastics at Sanjivan are engaged in their online classes these days.

- Amul Jacob

Sasaram: The month of August began with all the community members attending the virtual recreation organized by the JCSA on 01 August. Thanks to **Fr. Siji Varghese & Co.** Indeed, it was a well-thought out idea to organize an event of this sort. On 07 August, **Frs. Saji Mathew, Manish Osta, Br. Abraham** and **Sch. Pramod** visited us. They were gifted jackfruits as our jackfruit tree has yielded plenty of fruits. There was the Earth Day celebration in the school organized by the Rohtas Forest Department on 09 August. The Rohtas



DM, Mr. PankajDikshit, was the chief guest on this occasion. To mark this day, about hundred different saplings were planted in the school campus. From 11 to 20 August, we distributed rice to the mid-day meal beneficiaries of our school. We had a flag hoisting ceremony in the school on 15 August. All the Class X students finished filling their registration forms by 23 August. Finally, the month of August ended in a positive note with a beautiful 'Karam' celebration in the school on 29 August. On this occasion, we had a karam mass presided over by **Fr. Isidore Kerketta**, followed by a festive sumptuous lunch for all. After lunch all of us enjoyed dancing together.

- Cyprian Minj

St. Michael's, Patna: **Fr. Thomas Perumalil** returned to the community on 06 August after the 'Wellness programme' in Mokama. Many of our community members were down with fever and typhoid in August. We had closed the school for ten days, from 07 to 17 August, due to the spreading of corona virus around the school. We had the mid-term online exams for classes VI to XII in August. We have finished the online admission of class XI. The students have started the online classes on 24 August. The orientation programme was recorded and played at the start of the class on each whatsapp group of the class. **Fr. Armstrong**, the Principal, gave a meaningful message to the students emphasizing our Jesuit Education and its characteristics. **Deacon Rajesh Somepalli** had his online comprehensive exam on 28 August and all of us in the community were present for the same. He passed with distinction. We had a special dinner to mark the excellent performance of Rajesh and in honour of **Fr. Kalyan Minj (MAP)** who left for his Province on the following day after having spent a year with us in the community.

- Francis Chinnappan

Vidya Niwas, Varanasi: **Fr. Joseph Ddungdung** arrived on 17 August and is recuperating well. He has got into different works of the house. **Fr. Prakash Louis** attended a planning meeting as follow up of the evaluation of the Diocese of Varanasi on 28 August. The Patna Jesuit Migrant Service Team organized a webinar for men of the province to discuss the migrant issue on 03 September. Due to Covid-19, there is less possibility of any research students joining the community.

- Prakash Louis

Xavier Bhawan: On 07 August, we were saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of **Fr. Isidore Pinto**, who passed away during his siesta. Since **Fr. Pinto** was a heart patient, probably he had a heart attack which caused his death. He has now joined his friend **Bro. K.C. Joseph** in heaven. **Fr. Sevanand Melookunnel** suffered from general weakness, probably due to high blood sugar. He had no appetite which increased his weakness. He has now been restored to good health, but the weakness has not left him fully. **Fr. Joe Vellaringatt** had an attack of mild cough which caused general weakness. Now he has fully recovered. Our Infirmarian, **Fr. Gyan Prakash** has been looking after the sick with tender loving care. **Fr. Sushil Sah**, who had a stroke recently due to which his right side was paralyzed, joined the community on the 22 August for recuperation. Thanks to the help of our co-workers and the prayers of all, **Fr. Sushil** has been making remarkable progress. On 22 August **Fr. Augustine Ambrose** was admitted in Kuji Hospital with high blood sugar. He was discharged on 31 August. But he is quite weak. But, on the whole, members of the community enjoy good health. Thanks to Mrs. Jincy Sebastian who brought us a lot of delicious 'payasam', we celebrated Onam on 31 August with good cheer. Jincy is a nurse on the staff of St. Michael's High School, who visits Xavier Bhavan thrice a week in the afternoon to look after the needs of the sick.

- Joseph Vellaringatt

DIASPORA

Arrupe Niwas, Bengaluru: I arrived in Arrupe Niwas on 02 August and went into home-quarantine for almost 14 days. Since I travelled by train, the community members were quite worried that I might be a carrier of Covid-19. After a couple of days, I indeed felt feverish, body pain and tiredness, and so I too was worried considering the symptoms. After taking medicines and hot water for two days, I felt better and energetic. Probably, it was a viral fever! I joined the community after completing my quarantine period. Fr. Rector welcomed me in the community. I started my online classes from the very next day I arrived here. I went to meet **Fr. Mani Poovakot** and **Fr. Daniel Raj** at Xavier Nilaya on a Sunday. I was happy to meet them. It was my first time to be at Xavier Nilaya. After three weeks of classes, I got two weeks of holidays as the college is conducting the online exams for the final year students. The online classes will commence from 10 September.

- Ravibhushan Kumar

Hazaribag Juniorate & Tertianship: After having celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we, 30 juniors from 5 Provinces at St Stanislaus College (SSC), Sitagarha, hopped into August with great enthusiasm. But in the first and second week some novices and juniors and some fathers including our Dean, Fr. Francis Kurien, suffered from viral fever. Later, Fr. Kurien was taken to Ranchi for treatment of pneumonia. We welcomed the 26 Tertian Fathers, including **Frs. Anthonysamy, Juno Sebastian** and **Dominic Francis Xavier** of Patna Province on 14 August. We had classes on 'Social Analysis' from 17 to 23 August. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Anthony Herbert and team for widening our understanding of economic, social, political and cultural realities of the world, India and Jharkhand. **Sch. Chinna Siddhu** had a minor ear operation on 23 August. **Fr. K. C. Philip** and **Junior Felix Richard** gave him company at the hospital. **Siddhu** is back and is recuperating. Dean Fr. Kurien is taking rest at St. Xavier's, Hazaribag. He is expected to return to SSC after a month of complete rest. Meanwhile, **Fr. K.C. Philip** is holding the fort. We also had a short workshop on Journalism by **Fr K.C. Philip**. We are praying for our Tertian Fathers in the campus who started their long retreat on 02 September.



- Prabhat Minz

Mount St. Joseph, Bengaluru, Tertianship: "Free at last, Free at last, Thank God Almighty, We are free at last" said Martin Luther King Jr. This was our sense of gratitude as we reached our destination with all the uncertainties and odds. We, the 23 Jesuits from 12 Provinces reached Mount St. Joseph's, Bangalore, for our tertianship on 24 August. Considering the pandemic situation, we feel so grateful to the POSA, the Karnataka Provincial, and our Tertian Masters for shifting the Tertianship from the hill top Shembaganur to the plains of Mount St. Joseph's. We have pitched our tent at Prerana (Centre of Ignatian Spirituality). After arrival, we were in home quarantine for a week. On 01 September, we officially began our inner journey with the Lord as Tertians. We were fortunate to have the POSA elect, Fr. Stanislaus D'Souza as the main celebrant of the inaugural mass along with the Provincial designate, Fr. Dionysius Vaz and Fr. Antony Joseph, the Rector of Mount St. Joseph's. Fr. Stany welcomed each one of us and set the key note address regarding tertianship. We had the introductory session with our tertian masters Fr. Arul Sivan (MDU) and Fr. William Sequeira (KAR). **Anil Minz** is given the responsibility of games and **Manish Osta** is the choir in-charge. We feel happy and privileged to meet some of our companions after many years of formation. We will begin the Spiritual Exercises on 26 September. We request the members of our province to bless us with their prayers. We assure each of you of our special remembrance as we enter into the "School of Heart".

- Anil & Manish



VARIA

Jesuit Peace Mission Initiatives: Fr. James Rosario, the director of SAGAR SANGHAM, the Patna Archdiocesan Dialogue Centre in Rajgir and the Chairperson of Inter-religious Dialogue Commission of Patna Archdiocese and **Fr. Eucharist Lawrence**, the director of Dialogue Ministry, Bodhgaya, had a meeting at SAGAR SANGHAM, in the last week of August 2020 to evolve a plan to promote the Ministry of Inter-religious Dialogue in Patna Archdiocese. It was planned in the meeting to facilitate the establishment of an Inter-religious group in every Parish in Patna Archdiocese. **Fr. Eucharist Lawrence** shared the present initiatives being done in and around Bodhgaya. He also discussed elaborately the possibilities of establishing 'Panchayat Level Peace Groups' in and around Gaya and Nalanda districts. We dream to extend our Inter-religious initiatives to the other dioceses of Bihar Region too.

- S. E. Lawrence

REQUESTING YOUR PRAYERS

For the Sick:

Bro. Tony Dias was admitted to KHFH for blood transfusion and he is better now.

Fr. Sushil Sah was discharged from KHFH. He is recuperating at Xavier Bhawan. He is showing remarkable improvement in his health.

Fr. Augustine Ambrose was discharged from KHFH and returned to Xavier Bhawan. However, he is quite weak now.

For the Departed:

Fr. Isidore Pinto SJ (PAT 78/57) died on 07 August 2020 at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.

Fr. Elias Arockiasamy, SJ (AND, 80/58) expired on 12 August, 2020 in Visakhapatnam.

Fr. Gaudentius Kongari SJ, (HAZ 86 / 66), died of massive heart attack on 12 August 2020 in Ranchi.

Mr. Thomas Prathazham (68), **brother-in-law of Fr. Paul Varickamthotty, SJ**, expired on 13 August 2020 in Kerala.

Fr Patrick de Melo (GOA 78/61), passed away on 14 August 2020

Mrs. Hilda (85), **sister in law of Most Rev. William D' Souza, SJ**, Archbishop of Patna, died on 14 August 2020 in a hospital in Mumbai.

Fr. Augustine Tigga SJ (HAZ 72/51), died on 15 August 2020 at SCC, Sitagarha, Hazaribag.

Mr. Issac Abraham (75), **father of Sch. Jeevan, SJ**, expired on 21 August 2020 at Latonah, Bihar.

Mr. Cecil Gomes (70), **brother of Fr. Gregory Gomes, SJ**, died on 21 August 2020 in Nasik.

Fr Gaston Roberge, SJ, (CCU 85/64) expired on 26 August 2020 in Calcutta.

Fr. Walter Stephen Andrade, SJ (KAR, 78/53) died on 26 August 2020 in Mangaluru.



Fr. Anthony Panangatt of Patna Archdiocese expired on 16 August 2020 in Patna. He was born in 1934 in Kerala and was ordained a priest in 1960. He served as Assistant Parish Priest in the parishes of Jehanabad and Barbigha and Parish Priest of Bankipore, Kurji, Nawada, and Biharsharif besides being priest-in-charge at Rajgir and Raja Bazar. He also served as the Vicar General of the Patna Diocese. He retired to Prerana in 2013. We express our heartfelt condolences to the Archbishop, clergy and laity. May his soul rest in peace!



**FR. ISIDORE ALBAN EGIL PINTO, S.J. (78/57)
Died at Xavier Bhawan, Patna, India, on 07 August 2020**

Born : 10-05-1942
Entered the SJ : 01-07-1963

Ordained : 03.05.1976
Final Vows : 05.11.1982



Formation & Studies

Novitiate & Juniorate : XTTI, Patna, 1963-65 & 1965-66
Graduation: St. Xavier's, Ranchi, 1966-69
Regency: Darbanga, 1969-70, St. Xavier's, Patna, 1972-73
Philosophy: Pontifical Athenaeum, Pune, 1970-72
Theology: Vidyajyoti, Delhi, 1973-77
Ordination: St. Aloysius, Mangalore, 03.05.1976
Tertiaship: St. Stanislaus, Sitagarha; 1979-1980
Final Vows: Ara, 05.11.1982 & B.Ed. Studies: Jamshedpur, 1983

Apostolic Assignments as a Priest:

HM, Loyola Middle School, Chuhari, 1977-79
HM, Catholic Middle School, Ara, 1980-1989
Teacher/Vice Principal, K R. Sch, Bettiah, 1989-97
Vice Principal, St. Xavier's, Patna, 1998-2004
Staff, Sanjivan Niwas, Patna, 2006- June
Teacher & Retired to XTTI, October, 2006
Moved to Xavier Bhawan, Dec, 2017

Fr. Isidore Pinto was born in 1942 at Maryneer House, Hosabettu, in Mangalore Diocese, as the youngest of the nine children of Late Raymond and Magdalene. He was the youngest and much-loved person of the family. After his schooling, propelled by the desire to become a priest, he joined Gonzaga House, the apostolic school, while doing his high school and PUC from St. Aloysius in Mangalore. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1963 in Patna Province. After completing his graduation in Ranchi and studies in philosophy and theology in Pune and Delhi respectively, he was ordained a priest in 1976 in Mangalore. Following his tertiaship in Sitagarha in 1979-80, he pronounced his final vows in 1982 in Ara. He completed his B.Ed. from Loyola College of Education, Jamshedpur in 1983.

Fr. Pinto was a soft spoken, simple, sincere and dedicated person, who spent his entire apostolic life in the education ministry serving as the Head Master of the Middle Schools in Chuhari and Ara, Vice Principal of K.R., Bettiah and St. Xavier's, Patna. After a brief stay at Sanjivan Niwas, the pre-novitiate, he retired to XTTI in 2006.

Fr. Isidore Pinto was a person of committed, serious, and steady character. He was faithful to his commitment to the Jesuit religious life - he was very regular with his daily Eucharist and other spiritual exercises, which was the centre and source of his life; and, he always carried out the responsibility entrusted to him to the best of his ability. Serving in different schools over a span of thirty years, in a quiet and unassuming way, he enriched the lives of the students. Beyond his teaching in the class room, his life was a witness to order and discipline, which are the corner stones of character formation in students. His rhythm of life built on simplicity of life style, perseverance in monotony and service, with no expectation of anything in return, had taught the students more than his words. He loved his students and was kind and generous to them. He was readily available to serve in any capacity and did his work whole heartedly, whether it was serving in a school or leading daily choir during the Eucharist at Xavier Bhawan. He was always neat and prompt in all he did.

As a man of faith and prayer, he was an eloquent witness of a person consecrated to God. He was committed to his religious life and devoted to priestly ministries. He loved the Society of Jesus, his companions and cherished his vocation as a priest. He didn't keep any grudge against anybody. He was concerned about the poor and reached out to them in his own way.

Fr. Pinto struggled with health problems quietly throughout his life. He underwent a life-saving surgery for thyroid problems as a scholastic, and later as a priest, he had a heart surgery. Fr. Isidore exhibited contentment and interior peace. Conscious of his own limitations, and concerned about his failing health in later years Fr. Isidore rarely ventured out beyond the extent necessary for discharge of the specific responsibility entrusted to him.

On the 7th August, the day of his death, he joined the community for mass and meals, though he was coughing and unwell. Since he didn't show up at his regular time for tea, one of our co-workers visited his room and found that he had passed away in his sleep. As in life, so in death, he passed away quietly, not wanting to trouble anyone. May the Heavenly Father who sees what is done in secret, reward His silent servant with eternal life! (Mt 6:4-6) May his soul rest in peace!

- Fr. Selvin Xavier, SJ,

All members of the Patna Province are to offer one Mass intention for Fr. Isidore. The members of the Atmadarshan Community will offer one additional Mass intention.

Two Pioneering Mission Ventures of Patna Jesuits

Jose Kalapura, SJ

As noted in earlier chapters, Patna Jesuits, entrusted with Patna Diocese, inherited 21 mission stations where they pastorally cared for the existing Catholics (Indian, Anglo-Indian and Europeans including chaplaincy service to Catholic soldiers of the British Army). In this chapter we discuss the first two new initiatives of the Patna Jesuits: founding of Gahiri (Ghyree) Mission in north Bihar and evangelisation of Santals in south-eastern Bihar. The former flourished for a decade, but declined thereafter, and the latter flourished for a decade but was handed over to the Franciscans.

Our Lady of Victory Mission, Gahiri

Gahiri mission, founded by Fr. Henry Westropp in 1924, was the first missiological experimentation of the American Jesuits in Bihar. It was there they experienced the pangs and pain of evangelisation among non-Christians and learnt tough mission work in the crucible of opposition.

Westropp's strategy of evangelisation was through self-sufficiency programs, first caring for their hungry bodies, then caring for their souls. He set up job-oriented industries such as spinning, weaving, dyeing of cloth, carpet making, collection of used stamps, processing and reselling them, etc.

He had done the same type of mission work earlier at Chuhari (1922-23) and Chanpatia (1923-24). The industrial workshops housed in huts made of grass and mud at Chanpatia incidentally got burnt in fire. Realizing the need of pukka building structures, he acquired the Indigo Factory in Gahiri, then in the possession of the British in lieu of the debt the Bettiah Raja owed to them, and was managed by a German planter. The Factory and the plot of 30 acres near an adjacent lake was acquired for Rs. 9000/- and he set up his cottage industries wherein a large number of poor people (outcastes, lower castes, catechumens and Christians and a few "old Christians" from Chuhari) were employed.

Soon he got a Post Office sanctioned through which hundreds of letters and parcels would go to all his benefactors and clients in various parts of the world. The Austrian Holy Cross Sister Frida came to help with her medicines, and a few Clara Bahins (Bettiah's indigenous congregation) from Bettiah came to teach in the schools. On July 15th, 1927, Fr John Kilian replaced a worn out Westropp, followed by Fr. Carl Miller and Fr. Raymond Conway. They made missionary visits to Chapra, Siwan and Motihari.

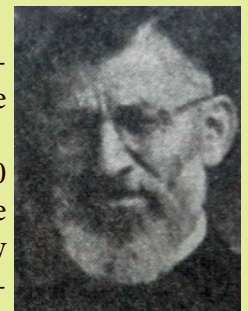
Trials and Persecutions

Aside the natural calamities were persecutions. The missionaries were tensed with apprehension, for anti-missionary elements threatened to burn down the mission and kill the missionary. There were a number of instances, of which a few are narrated here.

In 1927, awful rumours began to circulate among the people around: '125000 Doms around Gahiri were Christians and were to be rounded up for a monster sacrifice somewhere. For other sacrifices innumerable Dosadhs, Chamars, Natuas and other low castes were to be seized,' etc. Another rumour was that a bridge was being built, somewhere whose pillars could only be fortified by sacrificing and burying children under them. But the priest took all these in his jovial way.

Arya Samaj known for its violent opposition to Christianity was active in the area. It tried all means to prevent people going to the mission and becoming Christians. Its followers had once harassed the old Bettiah Christians who boldly chased them away with a shower of bricks. So they turned to Gahiri.

Once an unusual crowd of Brahmins, Sadhus, Babus, peasants, and others armed with bamboo staffs barged into the mission. The cool Kilian confronted them in his genial way. He took out this camera – he had no film in it – and made a tremendous show of talking pictures of the different angry faces surging around him. The fear of prosecution by civil administration given the un-lying evidence of the camera saved the day. Sneers and jeers went for a while, and the mob dispersed with a tremendous shout, "Hindu Dharmki jay". Soon afterwards, a large truck filled with armed volunteers of the Bihar Light Horse, a small militia of the



Fr. John Kilian SJ

European planters came followed by the Bettiah Police, to assure protection.

On another occasion there was a plot against Kalian's life. Further, word went around that he would be drowned in the lake. But Kilian had his "intelligence department" of hostel boys who did not sleep, and were alert. Our Lady of Victory Mission looked more like Our Lady of Defeat.

At the end of a decade, there were over 300 converts in Gahiri. There were some 200 employed persons in the mission. In addition to the Industrial School the Mission conducted 4 primary schools, 5 night schools for adults and one school for girls catering to 193 students of whom 116 were non-Christians, with the help of 70 catechists, besides the native Clara Bahins.

Gahiri mission was practically abandoned in 1934 due to the Bihar earthquake and the Great Depression in America. It remained a visiting station for almost 50 years. What we presently see in Gahiri is a resurrected mission where the Sisters of Notre Dame established a primary school, health centre and socio-pastoral centre under the then diocese of Muzaffarpur in 1983. It had only about 25 Christians.

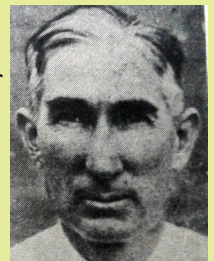
The Santal Saga

Unlike the Gahiri initiative, the Santal initiative was a huge success. It was started, again by Westropp, the mobile missionary of Patna Mission. During his stay for 'rest' at Jamalpur, he surveyed the Santal villages around. Later when he was transferred to Jamalpur he opened the mission of Burka Hatiya in 1927 among the Santals. With the active support of Bishop Van Hoeck, the Santal mission was started and Fr. Peter Sontag and Fr. James Creane joined in. The new Bishop Bernard Sullivan and the new Superior Sontag were quite supportive of this new venture.

The Santals living in Godda Subdivision, of Bhagalpur District of Bihar, juridically belonged to the Archdiocese of Calcutta. The Bengal Jesuits had attempted to evangelise them for nearly 60 years. Unsuccessful and due to want of men, the Calcutta Archbishop requested Patna Jesuits and the mission area of Godda was commissioned to Patna Diocese.

The superior of Patna Mission practically drained the other areas of the mission of manpower in order to make a concerted effort at evangelizing the Santal field. By August 1929, over a hundred Santals had been baptized.

Besides the two pioneers (Westropp and Creane, known as 'Santal Jim' or 'Santal Tramp') several Jesuits such as Kilian, Dertinger, Edward Scott, Frank, Miller, Morrison, et al, worked there. In 1930 Bishop Sullivan asked the IBMV (now CJ) Sisters to help evangelize, teach and heal the Santals.



Fr. James Creane SJ

The Santal Mission was a big success compared to the Dalit mission in Champaran. Twenty four 24 Jesuits, 8 sisters, assisted by over 90 catechists and numerous school teachers, worked hard and effected numerous conversions (6,107 Catholics in 1927, 8,533 in 1938). Mission centres Baccha, Poreyahat, Gajhi, Chakai, Barka Hatiya, etc. were founded by them.

Unfortunately, the flourishing Santal Mission lasted only ten years for Patna Jesuits because they did not spare more missionaries for a growing mission. Therefore, on December 8, 1938, the Santal Mission



Church at Gajhi-humble beginnings

was handed over by Bishop Sullivan to the Third Order Regular (TOR) Franciscans from Pennsylvania, America. Eventually the Santal Mission developed into Bhagalpur Vicariate in 1956, and Bhagalpur Diocese in 1965: presently the most successful diocese in Bihar.

The decline in Champaran and the loss of Santal did not deter the Patna Jesuits. With effervescent enthusiasm and commitment, they began to work among the Dalits in central Bihar, south of the Ganga, by mid 1930s. During the next 40 years the Dalits responded to evangelisation in large numbers. These converts comprise the largest segment of the Catholic community in Patna Mission. We shall discuss this story in the next chapter.

Note : Last Ganga Lahar (Aug 2020), Fr. Rosenfelder's photo was printed in place of Fr. Pettit. The editor regrets the error. Please find the photo of Fr. Pettit.

