



**From Provincial's Desk**



**Holy Father Promotes Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle**

“People should change the way they eat, travel and use natural resources, energy and products so that they minimize their harm to the earth,” said Pope Francis in a video message released in the Worldwide Prayer Network on 1 st September, 2021.

These days we have been reading and hearing much about many disproportionate and destructive natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, cyclones, fires and health hazards like Covid-19 which has gripped the entire world. Media are full of environment-related issues like global warming, acid rain, pollution of air, water and soil, depletion of ozone layer in the atmosphere, radioactive fallout, degradation of natural resources such as soil erosion, deforestation, depletion of wildlife and degradation of marine ecosystems, etc. All these are the effects of the environmental imbalance caused by human activities. The planet we live in is in a great crisis today.

In his prayer intention for September, Pope Francis has invited the world to a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle. He has invited every individual to adopt an attitude of sober and simple lifestyle, regular care for the common home, admiration and gratefulness for the creation and support and assist to the courageous decision taken by the young people who are resolutely committed to live a simple and environment friendly life.

The fourth Universal Apostolic Preference (UAP) mandates us to protect, preserve and take care of our common home. In the Province Apostolic Plans (PAP), we have outlined many activities in our apostolates and ministries geared to the care of our common home. Let us join hands with our collaborators, partners and stakeholders and leave no stones unturned in our efforts to implement them in all our schools, parishes, institutions, facilities and ministries.

*Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.*

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POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION SEPTEMBER 2021

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

September, 2021		October, 2021	
1-4	Office work - Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	1-3	Visitation – Loyola House, Kunkuri
6-7	Visitation, St. Xavier's Ambikapur	4	Visitation, Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur
8-9	Visitation, Khrist Milan Ashram Namna	5-6	Visitation – Jhingo & Rajpur
11-12	Meeting of Coetus Praevius, Loyola Niketan Bilaspur	7-8	Visitation – Dhanwar
14	Meeting of the Commission for the Selection of Ministries (virtual)	9-10	<b>Ambikapur (Visitation – Surajpur)</b>
15	AGM Meeting, IGSSS, New Delhi(Virtual)	11	<b>Baikunthpur</b>
19	Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	12	Visitation – Bhaishwar
20-27	Physiotherapy & Office work, Bilaspur	13	Visitation – Kota
28	Council of Bishops of Chhattisgarh and Major Superiors, Raipur (virtual)	14	Visitation – Kotma
		17-18	Province Consult, Loyola N. , Bilaspur
		19-23	Office work - Loyola Niketan Bilaspur
		24-31	JCSA Meeting, Hyderabad

**Information:** Sch. Pawan Lakra is on Leave of Absence from 26th July 2021 to 26th July 2021 .  
He will report time to time to St. Joseph's Niwas Kerakachhar

**Fr. Binod Toppo, Fr. Casimir Ekka ( T ) Fr. Casimir Ekka ( G )  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FINAL VOWS !**



## NEWS & EVENTS

### St. Xavier's , Boirdadar

For the first time, St. Francis Xavier's Church was blessed with the live telecast of the Holy Eucharist on 18th Sunday on 1st August by the Diocese. The faithful were enthused. They used to come in big numbers during the difficult time of ours. Kudos to the telecast group.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra went through a general health check-up and had sonography. He had treatment for thyroid in JMJ hospital. Fr. Stephen Xaxa was rushed to Apollo, Bilaspur for his angiogram.

Fr. Zacharias guided a retreat to Sr. Pushplata SJC for a week on her home leave. She enriched herself and took along the prayer book of UAP with rich in experiences of religious life pointed out to constant search for spiritual nourishment.

The International Day of Indigenous People was celebrated combined with the "Sarva Adivasi Samaj" association. It was organized by this group and it was encouraging to see Adivasis coming with traditional dresses and cultural programmes. The demonstration and whole show focused on the importance of the day and reminded of injustice done to them. It was the time to resolve to come forward and fight for their fundamental Constitutional rights. All prayed to God to become more vibrant.

The Executive of Mahila Sangh and Fr. Zacharias met Bishop Paul Toppo and Fr. Sylvanus Xalxo, VG for the installation of the statue of our Lady of Velankani on 30 August. The novena to Mother Mary on her nativity started thereafter.

The catechists and the Parish Priests were called by Bp Paul Toppo for the meeting in which he gave the kit to face the forthcoming third wave of Covid-19 with some instructions. The communities of priests and



religious were given a month ago. The donors were kind enough to provide them for the families.

The CRI unit of Raigarh had a meeting at Ursuline Convent, Dharamjaigarh. Many communities did not turn up but the usual proceeding was complete. Fr. Zacharias Lakra welcomed all after the prayer service and presented the report of the last meeting. Sr. Matilda Kujur, JMJ put the financial status. Then the newcomers were welcomed. The highest number was from the place itself. Fr. Sudhir Bara, Parish Priest, and Dean, the speakers of the day were honoured. This was followed by the election of the Executives. Fr. Zacharias Lakra was re-elected to continue but Fr. Martin M. Tirkey was elected President of CRI, Raigarh. After the talk and confession by Fr. Sudhir Bara the Holy Eucharist was officiated by Fr. Emmanuel Miree, CRS along with other co-celebrants.

The National flag was hoisted by Fr. Zacharias Lakra and Shri Deepak Ekka respectively in St. Xavier's and



Mukti Prakash Schools on 75th Independence Day. The directives of the Govt. were followed: no parade, no speech, no national, patriotic, and cultural programmes. However, Fr. Martin M. Tirkey thanking all, delivered a holistic view of India.

*Zacharias Lakra, S.J.*

### Jeevandhara Ashram, Mauhapali

Jeevandhara School being in a remote rural area, online classes for the academic session 2021-22 were not possible. Many students did not have mobile phones to attend online classes. Those who had phones, many of them couldn't afford to have the required internet data. Even the Mohalla classes proposed by the school department were not feasible. Students were spread over 15 villages and having classes at one or two villages was not possible. The school took the middle path. Students were invited to the school campus, and classes were held on the school veranda, cycle shed, and even under trees. About 75% of students regularly attended the classes.

The impact of Covid-19 was still prevalent in the rural area, especially in social and economic life. Many poor people who relied on daily wages did not get work in



the locality. Many families took loans to meet their basic needs. With the help of the Indian Social Institute, New Delhi and Conference Development Office, and New Delhi, Province Development Office, Jesuits at Mauhapali were able to distribute rations to 90 families of four villages. People were extremely happy to receive the ration items. They expressed that the gesture of concern was just huge.

All Jesuits, Ursuline Sisters, and head catechists made much effort to identify the beneficiaries with their Aadhar and mobile number. They finally managed to distribute the ration items. Beneficiaries were invited on 11 August. Each family was given rice (20 KGs), Dal (4 kgs), and cooking oil (one litre). Many more families from the same and the neighbouring villages expected similar relief packages.

The Principal organized a one-day orientation programme for the teaching staff at Mauhapali on 17 August. Fr. Prabhunarayan Khalkho, Principal, St.



Xavier's School, Baramkela was invited to give inputs on holistic teaching-learning approaches in the school. He highlighted how teachers needed to go the extra mile to understand students and give them the required impetus for learning and comprehension. After the input session, each teacher taught the students in the presence of all the teaching staff.

Every teacher was asked to evaluate the presentation of other teachers. After teaching, mutual feedback was given. The process of this teaching-learning method enlightened all. Based on the feedback from teachers, Fr. Principal announced that the teaching of Sch. Almon Lakra was the best.

St. Monica Day was observed as Mother's Day in the Parish on 29 August. Fr. Anmol Lakra from Baramkela was the main celebrant for the occasion. After the Eucharist, women served breakfast for all the faithful. The day was observed in a meaningful way to draw inspiration from St. Monica for receiving God's blessings and to keep the family united.

*Alfred Toppo, S.J.*

### **St. Joseph's Niwas, Kerakachar**

There were many activities in the Parish in August. St. Joseph's Church, Kerakachar was opened. People started coming for their spiritual, religious, and social needs. On 15 August there was Holy Eucharist in Jamjunwani and Bahnatangar. Many Faithful took part in the Holy Eucharist. On 27 August, a one-day recollection was arranged for Mahila Sangh at the Parish. More than 60 women partook in the recollection as a preparation for the celebration of St. Monica Day. St. Monica Day was celebrated as mothers' day on 29 August. Now all the Sacraments are being administered by Parish Priest and Co-Pastors.

Fr. Dilip Minj went to Raipur for the treatment of his mother on 13 August. After coming back from Raipur he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Champion Jesuit Community for their unforgettable arrangement made for their stay at the community. He conducted a one-day recollection for the Mahila Sangh of Baneya Parish on 28th August. He went to Raipur for all Jesuit Parish Priests' meet of Madhya Pradesh Province on 29–31 August.

RVTC got ready to open the gate of the campus for the students who desired to do DCA, PGDCA, Cutting and Tailoring, Electrical Technician, Computer Hardware Assembly, and Maintenance and four-wheeler Vehicle Driving studies, etc. A few of the trades are affiliated to NIOS and the remaining trades are affiliated to AISECT. All the staff members are putting their effort to make all possible arrangements for the students. The Institute is on move for the greater glory of God.

St. Ignatius Loyola School, Gorrappara started offline classes for the students. The Shala Pravesh Diwas was on 2nd August. On the opening day of school, 25% of

students were present for the Inaugural Day of the School. Some Parents too were present to encourage their children. It was a wonderful moment to see the students coming to school after the one and half year lockdown. The Students were extremely happy to find their school open.

*Dilip Minj, S.J.*

### **Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna**

On 14 August, Fr. Lalit Ekka felt considerably weak. He was admitted in Holy Cross, Ambikapur. The plasma volume test showed that his hemoglobin was very low



indicating anemia. One unit of blood was transfused immediately. His condition did not improve much even after eight days. He was discharged from the hospital on 21 August. His doctor, Dr. Ashok, recommended for dialysis twice a week.

Fr. Shanti took two days to inform him about his kidney problem. Fr. Lalit showed unwillingness to go through dialysis. Despite that Fr. Shanti with the consultation of Fr. Provincial planned to send him to Raipur to get ready Fistula for the dialysis. Meantime on 25 August morning, he was found fallen from his bed. He was taken to Holy Cross Hospital. It was found that he got a brain hemorrhage. Then in the same evening, he was rushed to Raipur and got admitted in Sri Narayan Hospital, Raipur. The doctors declared him out of danger. He needed no operation. Later he was taken back to Ambikapur for medical care.



Fr. Gabriel Minj too was admitted in Holy Cross Hospital on 17 August for a Boil problem near the left leg ankle. But this problem turned to be cellulitis disease. Luckily he went to the hospital in time and his left leg gastro crèmes muscle was lanced in five places. Lancing was necessary to stop infection. But the process of removing the infected blood was very painful since they squeezed it without anaesthesia. He was healed slowly. Fr. Marcel Ekka continued to go Through dialysis. Moreover, he got seizures now and then. Fr. Aemilianus Lakra got confined to a wheelchair again as he was unable to walk due to the increase of eczema on his legs.

*Isaac Kujur, S.J.*

### **Loyola House, Kunkuri**

The community members gathered together every day for the virtual Novena to St. Ignatius of Loyola. We had a solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration on Loyola Day, presided over by Rt. Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Kerketta, DD, Jashpur Diocese. Loyola Hostel and



Apostolic Students increased the solemnity with their melodious songs, made lasting memories with beautiful dances both entrance and the offertory, and also with festive decorations. We, the Loyola House members joined in the legacy of Fr. Stan with a nation in observing “National Day of Justice” near Jai Stambh Chowk at Kunkuri with Fathers and Sisters from various congregations around us. The initiative was taken by Loyola House, Kunkuri and on that occasion, both Dr. Kishore Minj and Dr. Fr. Oscar S. Tirkey, SJ addressed the gathering.

Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta, DD, Bishop of Jashpur Diocese inaugurated Enlighten Classes CG PSC Pre+Mains on 04th of August, 2021 in Loyola College Kunkuri. We celebrated “World Indigenous Day” with Hostel and Apostolic Boys. For this occasion chief guest was Fr. Satya Prakash Tigga, SJ who addressed students of Loyola School about the beauty of Adivasi Culture, their Rights, and their privileges given in the

Constitution of India. The students participated actively with their well-practiced dances, enthusiastic songs like “Jaago Adivasi Jaago”, slogans and Skits on “Existence of Adivasi’s and their challenges on the present scenario”. Loyola College commenced its new academic year on 16th of August. On the other hand, Loyola Hindi Medium school is conducting regular offline classes in full swing for students. Mr. U.D. Minj, MLA of Kunkuri visited Loyola House on the invitation. We proposed to him our plan of having shade for the



stage near Loyola Ground and expansion of gallery along football and hockey grounds, and He has accepted the demands verbally.

*Sch. Pingal Lakra, S.J.*

### **Prakash School, Pathalgaon**

The month of August began with new hope and zeal with the commencement of offline classes from 2 August. Showing their interest in learning, a good number of students turned up with the permission of their parents. Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur met with a minor motorcycle accident on the muddy road of the campus. The front wheel of the bike slipped, he fell, and got his left ankle deeply injured. Fr. Eugene Toppo suffered from earache. He got medical treatment in Jashpur.

The feasts of the Assumption of Our Lady and the Independence Day were celebrated in a simple way. A solemn Holy Eucharist was officiated by Fr. Dino Toppo in the morning with the school staff and hostel boys. Soon after the Holy Mass, Fr. Justin Kujur hoisted the National Flag in the school campus and delivered a short and inspiring speech. The homage was paid to Late Shri Lov Kumar and Late Shri Raja Ram, the martyrs, and ex-students of Prakash School. Both of them were killed in Naxal encounters in Bastar district. Fr. Amrit Kumar Kujur conducted the prayer service and funeral service. The presence of Jesuits and was a great support, comfort, and sympathy for the grieved family.

*Amrit Kujur, S.J.*

### **Jeevan Vikas Maitri, Pathalgaon**

A programme of book release on Fr. Stan Swamy was held at XISS Ranchi on 3 August. Frs. Nirmal S. Minj, Amritlal Xalxo and Yacub Kujur, participated in the programme as representatives from MAP. On the way back, on 4th August, Frs. Amritlal Xalxo and Yacub Kujur participated in the gathering of people at Tangargaon-Kansabel, in the protest of proposed plants by Maa Kudargarhi Energy & Ispat Pvt. Ltd. People had gathered to mark the day of the proposed public hearing for environmental impact, which is



postponed for the time being. Against this plant, now some political leaders are proposing and inviting investors for Farmers’ Breeze Food Park on the site. It is to consider, how local people will benefit from it.

The International Indigenous Day was celebrated with the local Adivasis at Paraghati Village, on 9th August, in the presence of more than 100 people at the High School campus. The guests were escorted to the dais with tribal dance and were welcomed. Fr. Yacub Kujur, Chief Guest, thanked the UN for declaring 9th August as Indigenous Peoples Day and declaration of Indigenous Rights, on 13 September 2007. These rights are the minimum standards for tribal identity,



dignity, and wellbeing. The UN theme for the year is, “Leaving no one behind; Indigenous Peoples and the call for new social contract”. In many countries, they were driven from their land, culture, and language denigrated and their people marginalized from political and economic activities. They were never included in the social contract, to begin with. The social contract was made among the dominant

populations. Jal, Jangle, Jamin, language, and culture give identity and dignity to tribals, which must be preserved and promoted. He explained the five conditions to be included in the constitutional schedule list. The people were motivated to overcome internal weakness to progress.

Mr. Hemant Lakra, the state complainer of Lok Manch, read out the UN declaration of Indigenous Rights. Mr. Jaipal Kreketta told people to benefit from MNREGA. Teachers-Anil Tirkey, Abar Tirkey, and Sushil Bara spoke on the importance of education. Community leaders-Vinay P Toppo, William Ekka, Anthres Ekka, and three women told about the impact of the Lok Manch program in their life. Sarpanches-Rajen Kujur and Rajesh Kerketta congratulated people for coming to celebrate tribal life. Women of Aamerapara and Bandhpara awakened the participants for unity and prosperity through their songs. Mrs. Ezleen Tigga, Sarpanch of Paraghathi proposed a vote of thanks and Mrs. Akashdeep Kerketta and Balwant Tigga moderated the sessions. Mr. Jerome Lakra and Firoj Kerketta made the arrangements for the program, including snacks. At the end, women enjoyed Karam dance and entertained the audience. Thanks to Schs. Robin, Rohit, and Ranjit for witnessing the celebration.

The day was observed at Pakargaon Panchayat too and tree plantation will be done at Bahnatagar village. On 15 August, tree plantation was done at Bahnatabgar village, by youth, under the guidance of JVM. Fruit trees were planted to cover the rocky land. Old people told that the rocky land was full of trees and wild animals. Thanks to Schs. Basant, Ajay, Adesh for their accompaniment. They were given exposure to social work in the protection of the environment.

*Yacub Kujur, S.J.*

### **Campion Jesuit Community, Raipur**

Hasda Parish: Fr. Preetam Prakash Panna accompanied by Scholastics Amit Toppo, Ravikant Xalxo, Ranjit Ekka, and Amardeep Ekka offered Holy Eucharist for about 30 Christian and non-Christian youth of Hasda Parish before the motivational sessions on 22 August. Fr. Rahul Philip, SAC, Director, Jivodaya, Fr. John Ekka, SAC, Basil Kujur, SAC, Abhanpur, Deacon Robert Joshi, Fr. Vijay Minj, S.J. Parish Priest, Hasda were present on the occasion. It is to note that the Satnami Christian and non-Christian communities of Hasda Parish was once pioneered by a great Jesuit missionary Fr. De Moulder, S.J. Fr. Vijay Minj, and his parishioners have begun the preparation for the Priestly ordination of Deacon Robert Joshi to be ordained on 20 November 2021, at Hasda Parish.

As per the advice of doctors, Fr. Lalit Ekka was shifted from Shree Narayana hospital, Raipur to Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur accompanied by Fr. Tejkumar Minj, House Superior, Campion, Raipur, and a nurse on 12 September.

*Alexander Ekka, S.J.*

### **AICUF Ashram, Bhopal**

AICUF Ashram, Bhopal resorted to online means for various meetings and programs because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, AICUF organized all the meetings and other proceedings online through Zoom. There was a National Council meet through Zoom under the leadership of Fr. Benjamine, National Advisor on 13-14 August. The Annual Report was presented during the meeting by the different national centers. The reports were glanced at what all the other centers were engaged with. The Annual Report of AICUF Ashram, Bhopal was presented by Miss Vandana Barwa, President of the Bhopal unit. The Bhopal unit presented two traditional songs. The songs were loaded with meaning and talked about the present situation of the tribals of the region.

The World Indigenous day and Independence Day was celebrated in Campion Auditorium on 22nd August, organized by Adiwasi Rohtas Samaj Mahasabha Bhopal. It was an apt platform to honor the youth who had participated in the traditional dress competition organized by AICUF, last year. Because of the lockdown, the prize distribution was due, to be distributed. The medals were given away by the Chief Guest, Mr. Deepak. He encouraged all the youth to stay focused on their goals and keep working hard.

29th of August was the day, planned by the Aicufers to say thanks to Fr. Alok Kujur for all his contributions to the Aicuf Bhopal. The Aicufers of Bhopal had organized a farewell ceremony for Fr. Alok Kujur. Fr. Alok Toppo was also officially welcomed by the Aicufers on the same day. It was a moment to thank God for both Fr. Aloks, outgoing and incoming. The program was meticulously planned by the Aicufers. Despite heavy rain, many young people turned up to witness the occasion and to wish Fr. Alok Kujur, best of luck and all the best wishes for his next mission. Fr. Athnas Lakra gave the message on the occasion and wished Fr. Alok Kujur all the success and God's blessing upon his mission as he was getting ready to go for Tertianship to Sri Lanka. Further, he added and

assured all the support as he undertook his new mission and challenge. Thanks to Fr. Athnas for his inspiring message. There was a fellowship meal thereafter, all the youth and the religious present there. Thus, the short farewell program was concluded thanking God for everything.

*Alok Toppo, S.J.*

### **Campion Community, Bhopal**

The month of August has been a blessing for us as we were engaged in many activities. To make the campus still greener and conducive we have planted various fruit plants. This certainly connects us with Mother Nature. On 1st August Fr. Binod Kumar Toppo and Fr. Casimir Ekka renounced their property in an evening ceremony and became completely indifferent towards the material possessions and emotional attachments in the presence of Fr. Provincial and the community. On 2nd of August, both of them pronounced the Final Profession and were fully incorporated in the Society of Jesus. There was a short and sweet felicitation programme followed by a mouth-watering banquet. On the very next day Fr. Provincial started his annual visitation to this community. This occasion of grace enabled us to re-examine our life along with the Provincial. On 5th of August Fr. Provincial addressed the community members with his memoriale. Fr. Provincial offered Eucharistic Celebration for the community members and the mission. Independence Day and the Feast of Assumption of Our Lady were celebrated with the Campion parishioners. Fr. Christi was the chief guest for the flag hoisting ceremony and main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration. On 19th of



August we celebrated the triple birthdays of Fr. Christi, Fr. Panka, and Fr. Kalyan. It was a brilliant decision to celebrate the birthdays together as we acknowledged their contributions in the community and cherished our companionship. Dr. Sr. Maria Reema, the Provincial Superior of Apostolic Carmel was on her visitation to the A.C. convent, Bhopal. On 24th of August the community invited her and the Sisters to thank them for being close collaborators in our mission in Campion

School, Bhopal and shared the fellowship meal. The following day the A.C. community invited us all to express their gratitude and to share the sumptuous dinner. On 28th of August we had a monthly recollection on the theme of the Ignatian year. The sharing was moderated by Fr. Zach and the Eucharistic celebration was lead by Fr. Alok Toppo. It was an enriching experience for us to walk with St. Ignatius in his initial journey in search of the will of God.

### **Vidya Sadan, Bhopal**

On 22nd of July, the Pre-novices arrived at Pre-novitiate, Vidya Sadan, Bhopal. They were well guided and accompanied by Fr. Dilip Soreng, PCF and Sch. Roshan Baxla, the Assistant director. Fr Kapil Xaxa, the director of Pre-novitiate, Fr. Kalyan Panna, and Sch. Naveen Kerketta received the brothers joyously. On 23rd of July we had the inauguration of the academic year and the welcome Eucharistic celebration at Vidya Sadan Chapel. On 24th of July the brothers took an oath to carry out their responsibility with sincerity and humility as they were introduced to their offices for the smooth functioning of the house. On 25th of July the brothers were warmly welcomed by the parishioners of St. Edmond Campion Parish. On 30th of July all the fathers, scholastics, and brothers were felicitated on the occasion of the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The Campion primary staff organized various interesting indoor games to make us feel special and loved. On 31st of July brothers conducted the choir and sang as the angels sing in heaven. To mark the occasion there was a football tournament organized. There were four teams; two teams consisting of brothers, the third team of fathers and scholastics, and the fourth team consisting of drivers and conductors. Both the teams of the brothers gave their best and won the hearts of the audience with the beautiful demonstration of their dribbling and controlling skills. The feast day was well organized with various activities and a delectable festive meal was served for the dinner.

*Roshan Baxla, S.J.*

### **XIDAS, Jabalpur**

The Director and the Dean along with faculty members are working very meticulously on making policy-level changes in the Manual of Policies for PGDM Courses to make it more Industry complaint and need-based. Apart from that the Academic Calendar for the coming session is also being prepared. The result of the various courses are



underway and PGDM Semester VI results were declared a week before.

The admission drive is XIDAS is in full swing, newspaper advertisements and insertion of the pamphlets are been done regularly to create awareness in a cost efficient manner. Webinar Series has been planned in which every Saturday the Institute has invited eminent speakers as well as our Alumni who are holding responsible positions to deliver a lecture on relevant topics for the students of various colleges. This initiative is generating leads that will be followed up for admissions.

As a part of the Brand building initiatives, Social Media campaigns are being done regularly to keep the student fraternity informed about XIDAS and its initiatives for a very long time.

In July Fr. Binod Toppo went round putting hoardings at the Jesuit premises of Chhattisgarh namely Baikunthpur, Ambikapur, Pathalgaon, Kunkuri, Jashpur, Raigarh, and Raipur. Jesuit brothers from the respective places were very helpful and supportive of making things done.

The Institute also purchased data of students from various organizers of various Entrance Exams. This data is being used to send emails, WhatsApp messages and even calling for admissions. A group of faculty members from XIDAS visited the local Colleges and invited them for the Webinar Series as a part of the admission campaigns.

The final reports of NTPC Lara and Talaipali were prepared and submitted to the authorities this month.

Two of our staff members Dr. J. R. Jha, a Faculty Member who served the Institute for 24 years, and Mrs. Meera Bai, a Support Staff who served the Institute for 22 years retired from the Institute on June 30, 2021. A solemn and endearing goodbye was given to these staff members on June 30, 2021, followed by a Grand farewell on July 10, 2021. The Institute thanked these members for their enormous contribution during their service period and wished them good luck for the second innings.

Paper presented on Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability at 26th Annual IAJBS World in conjunction with the 2021 CJBE Annual Meet – 'The Future of Jesuit Business Education: Serving the World with Inspired Business Education' from July 20-21, 2021 digitally by Dr. Mrs. Namrata Vasudeo Jasrotia. The Paper was an extract from the Research done on evaluation study of the Impact Assessment of the Rag Pickers Development Project at Jahangirpuri, New Delhi April 2019 by Dr. J.R.Jha, Dr. Namrata Vasudeo Jasrotia, and Ms. Kamna Michael.

To mark the Ignatian year a Three Days Prayer Service in lieu of PAP 1: "Showing the way to God was organized" on 28th, 29th, 30th July 2021 in the Bulcke Hall from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Videos on the life of St. Ignatius Of Loyola and the online prayer service in the Jesuit community were explained to all the staff members.

XIDAS organized a solidarity meet at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral campus on 29th July 2021 from 6 pm to 7 pm. The Religious from the different parishes and congregations along with members from the XIDAS Staff attended the meet. Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra welcomed and expressed his gratitude to all present. Rt. Rev. Bishop Gerald Almeida explained about the call for Justice for Fr. Stan Swamy followed by a short prayer service by all. Flexes and banners supporting the cause were prepared for the day.

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated in a grand event organized at the Bulcke Hall on 31st July 2021 from 9.15 am onwards. Representatives from the staff members shared their thoughts on Ignatian Values and how it has helped them to be a better human being. Fr. Dharam Kishore in his keynote address explained the essence and values of being a Jesuit and also expressed his gratitude to all the staff members for actively participating in the celebrations. A short video on the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola was screened for all present. The celebrations ended with a cake cutting and group photograph of all.

Fr. Binod Toppo before his Final Vows went to Asha Deep Pathalgaon for his retreat and then to Bhopal for the Final Vows. All the community members were present for the event.

The Governing Body meeting of XIDAS was held on 26th August, 2021. Due to the pandemic the meeting was on virtual mode but Fr. Provincial was physically present to chair the meeting which definitely made it a success. Fr. Jerome Minj, the new Superior and Administrator of XIDAS, also came from Ambikapur to attend the meeting but due to many other commitments he had to go back early.

*Binod Toppo, S.J.*

### **St. Xavier's School Rajpur**

July 31st was a memorable day for us all. Having attended the novena at the Province level, celebrating the feast this year was a different experience. We had a Holy Mass in Jhingo Parish and later had a small celebration with teaching and non-teaching staff that was a very happy moment.

On August 8th orientation for Principals and teachers; was organized by Fr. Michael SJ, the PCE Virtually.



We listened to experienced resource persons Fr. Marianus Kerketta SJ, Principal Loyola School Kunkuri, and Mr. N. Kujur, DEO Jashpur. Who focused on how we can impart quality education in our Jesuit schools. On August 11th Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Entrance Examination was held at St. Xavier's School. All due preparation were made under the guidance of Fr. Sebastian Tigga SJ; Principal St. Xavier's School Rajpur. Teachers supposed to be on invigilation were trained before the exam. Seating arrangements were made for above 500 poor students.

On August 15th the school community gathered together to participate in the 75th independence day. Due to lockdown, we did not go for high profile celebration, instead, we made it simple but meaningful. After the Mass local faithful, teachers, students, non-teaching staff along with children hoisted the National flag. Fr. Sebastian, in his message for Independence Day, commemorated the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country.

On August 16th we went to attend the community meeting scheduled at Jhingo. All enriched one another through their presence and sharing. Both of us are keeping well at Rajpur. We remember and pray for the well-being of you all in the province and outside.

*Virendra Terkey, S.J.*

## **Catholic Ashram, Baikunthpur**

The much-awaited new academic year 2021-22 began on 2nd August 2021 in **St. Xavier's H. S. School Rampur Baikunthpur** with 'Shala Pravesh Utsav'. It began with the lighting of lamp, garlanding the photo of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of the school. On this opening day, staff and a good number of students were present. Before the opening of the new academic year 2021-22, our school staff members underwent one-day orientation programme on 31st July 2021, which was conducted by Mr. V.M. Bhatt (MISE of District Koriya), Sr. Shanti Kerketta (superior St. Joseph Convent Baikunthpur), Fr. Charles Kujur (Vice Principal) and Fr. John Crus Lakra (The Principal).

This one-day orientation programme was mainly focused on the development of personality and quality teaching for the teachers. It was like a woodcutter who sharpens his tools before cutting the trees. Its success could be measured by this that all the teachers appreciated and expressed that such orientation programmes be held each month.



In this month our school was much blessed by the first visit of Rev. Fr. Michael Tirkey, PCE to our school. It was indeed a historic moment because no other PCE ever visited in a manner that happened this time. He saw the school buildings, went around the campus and finally he addressed the school staff. His address was very thought-provoking and inspiring for the staff members. He also inspired the teachers with innovative ideas in the order that our mission schools are very different from any other schools. He emphasized the use of new techniques in the teaching and learning process.

The best thing that has come out of Rev. Fr. Michael's visit is that now staff and students have decided and resolutely vowed to speak English in the school premises so that we and our school are different from other schools. The Principal and Vice-Principal are tirelessly motivating and monitoring the staff and students in the English speaking process in the school. Thus we can say this school has become now 'English Speaking Hindi Medium School'. We dream to see the students speaking good English in the days to come.

St. Ignatius Church Baikunthpur has now returned to normal functioning after a long gap due to Covid-19. There are three Holy Masses every Sunday. A good number of faithful are turning to attend Sunday Liturgy following the Covid-19 guidelines. These days the Parish Priest Fr. Fulgence Ekka is very busy visiting and caring for each family of the parish. Some families seemed to be lost and never appeared for any of the Sunday Masses, are now being seen in the Church. The parish priest's visit is like a spiritual renewal for the faithful. By God's providence parish people are safe and sound from covid-19.

*John Crus Lakra, S.J.*

## Loyola Niketan, Bilapur

Fr. Provincial and Socius went to Bhopal to attend the Final Vows of Frs. Binod Toppo and Fr. Casimir Ekka at Edmund Campion Church on 2nd of August and later on 15 August Fr. Casimir Ekka whose Final Vows celebration was held at Umariya. Fr. Arvind also joined these events and captured the events. They also visited Manpur and Nimha and had a glimpse of the construction work that was in progress.

Loyola School at Bilasur has resumed the classes for the students of Class 10 and 12. The students are very serious to their studies and most of them come to the school. The classes for other students are held online.



The directives of COVID –19 is overserved in the school premises seriously. The School had organised a free vaccination camp for covid in school campus. The school staff and people of the locality were benefited by the camp.

Fr. Arvind Vinay visited his father who was admitted in the Holy Cross Hospital Kunkuri in the second week of August.

Fr. Emil and Pradeep had a hectic time to deal with financial matters. They were busy in completing the audit work of this the financial year.

*Arvind Vinay, S.J.*

## De Nobili College, Pune

DNC welcomed all the theologians to the house in the third week of July. We, Sch. Anup, Sch. Ravindra, and Sch. Amit, reached safe and sound DNC on 18th July. All the theologians were kept in quarantine for ten days. After completing our quarantine period, we had a talk by Fr. Rector on our way of proceeding especially during this pandemic. Novena to our founder St. Ignatius was very meaningful and appropriate. Each day's theme was contextualized and theologized. In view of preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius, Triduum was arranged for all Jesuits of the campus, residing at DNC, JDV, and Papal Seminary. The Triduum talk was given by Fr. Tony (JAM) and Fr. Champarathy (NEP). The feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated in a very simple manner. To mark the feast, inter living group badminton and table tennis

matches were arranged. Sch. Anup represented his group. The theology wing of the house is being renovated. It is wearing a new colour. On 13th we had a recollection, points given by Fr. George Beck, SJ (DUM) the superior of philosophers. On Independence Day, Fr. Rector hoisted the flag. Sch. Amit did the job of commander. On 21st August we celebrated the feast of Onam and prayed for the healing of mother earth. Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous Onam meal served in the banana leaves. We began our mid – Sem exam from 30th August.

*Amit Kalra, S.J.*

## Satya Nilayam, Chennai

The most awaited time was over as the second-year students of Philosophy started arriving in the community on 12 of August onwards. There was joy and happiness seen in the newcomers and the staff. The staff welcomed one and all. The scholastics from MAP reached on 13th August early in the morning. It was a wonderful journey from Bilaspur to Chennai Central. We sincerely thank the Bilaspur community for all the arrangements done for our journey. The following two days were the quarantine period for the newcomers. The Independence Day and the feast of



Assumption were celebrated dully. The newly reached Scholastics joined for the holy Eucharist and flag hoisting ceremony but the quarantine continued till 16th morning. On 16th offline classes were begun with some instructions and guidelines about the campus. There was community orientation in the evening. The theme for the community orientation was "Separated 'Mess' to Together 'Ness'". It was very apt and meaningful as we came together as one community. The following evening was the address of the Rector and the minister. It was more about our way of proceeding in Satya Nilayam. On 18th there was community Mass. Our CIA exam was held from 26th to 31st August. Now the SN campus is very much alive and cheerful.

*Francis Labra, S.J.*

## JESUIT MISSION IN MP

### Article 40

The Archbishop wrote to Mr. Laurie. Strange to say the dates of Fr. Van den Driessche's letter and His Grace's to Mr. Laurie are both 11<sup>th</sup> December 1912. We know already the answer of Mr. Laurie, very disappointing, far from the sympathetic letter that might have been expected. He wrote on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1912 to the Political Agent. The rather long letter to the Political Agent contains: (a) almost textually what is related in this History about Timpu of Kunkuri, (b) almost textually what is related about Ledha: Confiscation of a *dand*, beating near the *bhandar*; but to this last item he adds that to prevent Ledha from shouting, they had put a cloth in his mouth. He also adds the name of the assailant: Baglu Chik, the servant of the jungle *daroga*. This name was kept hidden from the Father when he took to task the jungle-*daroga* Nunu Baiga, who had already caused a beating to be administered to 3 Christians of Ginabahar, Etna, Birsai and Bolo.

The Father winds up his letter with: "I could give many instances to show what the Christians have to undergo in Jashpur, but what I have said will, I hope, show sufficiently how unjustly they continue to be treated. As I know by experience that it is useless to appeal to the authorities in Jashpurnagar, I appeal again to you, Sir, to protect these helpless people against violence and injustice. I fear very much that if such a state of things is allowed to continue, we shall have some day to deplore the murder of a Christian. To old men like Ledha, for instance, a blow may soon be fatal."

The reply, dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 1913 is also among these official letters. The Political Agent had of course no other advice to give but to tell the aggrieved persons to have recourse to the courts. The remonstrance of Father Van den Driessche had not succeeded in cowering the jungle-*daroga*. To insolence he now added the basest kind of cheating. To get the people of Ginabahar into trouble with the State, he, Nunu Baiga, had 14 trees cut down in the forest, and at night cunningly mixed with older rafters on the *machans* (supports for straw stacks) of the Christians. The latter had been warned of his evil intentions. For several nights they watched that no trees be cut near their fields. Seeing that nothing of the kind happened, they stopped their watch. Just then on the night between 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> December, the vile treachery was done. The pieces were put on the *machans* of half a dozen Christians.

The above was communicated to the Archbishop in a letter of 19<sup>th</sup> December 1912. On 31<sup>st</sup> December, the Father supplied more details: (1) Nunu Baiga, jungle *daroga* had boasted at Jamchuan that he would send people to cut trees during the night along the fields of Ledha, Christian of Ginabahar, and then punish Ledha for it. Many people had heard him say so. (2) For several nights that field was watched, the Father himself saw the

watchers leave for it. (3) On 19<sup>th</sup> December morning, the Christians saw two people of the *bhandar*, the *kotwar* and the *barahil* watching the south side of the village and this raised suspicions. The people looked about to discover the possible cause and finally saw the new wood on 5 *machans*. Some were on *machans* of people who were away for *begari*, when they were laid there. (4) 14 trees had been cut in a small jungle nearby, the Father having seen the places himself. Afterwards 4 more were hidden under the straw on the *khalihan* (threshing floor) of Birsai and one at Kunkuri under the straw of Timpu's *khalihan* (the one that had been so severely beaten). (5) The whole rascality had been committed by the jungle *daroga* and his servant Baglu Chik in such a clumsy, patent manner that the Father hoped that even Nunu Baiga would not dare to act upon it. However, he adds, "In Jashpur anything may happen." As this letter is the last that refers to this rascality, very likely it had no further consequences.

### Kelba-New wave of persecution

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1912, Father Van den Driessche heard that at Kelba, one Jatta Baiga, brother of the above Nunu Baiga, had been forcing Christians to sign a *muchilka* in which they agreed to become pagan again. This time too, it was only out of fear of being beaten, that they agreed to sign. On receiving this information, the Father at once left for Kelba, and arrived just in time to stop the Christians who were being taken to that Jatta Baiga, so that they had not to sign any *muchilka*. The Father also got hold of the papers given by Jatta Baiga to the *sipahi* he had sent to Kelba to call the Christians.

The year 1913 had just dawned, when on 4<sup>th</sup> January, Fr. Van den Driessche sent to the Archbishop a very circumstantial account of Jatta Baiga's doings. Jatta Baiga was at his home in Dipatoli, Narainpur *thana*. He had sent 2 of his *sipahis* to take Christians of Kelba to him to sign the said *muchilka*. Papers of his which he had sent along with the *sipahis*, fell into the hands of the Father. "I put the papers in my Pocket, telling the *sipoy* that Jatta Baiga could come to take them back, if he wished, but that I would never return them, and that Jatta Baiga had no business with the Christians." Khedu Singh, *sipahi*, had already extorted Rs. 13/- from the Christians. He denied it, but on hearing the Christians the *ganjhu* of Kelba, agreed that the extortion seemed to be proved!" Four Christians had been called by the *sipahi*, and were threatened to be beaten, if they did not follow them.

Jatta Baiga had sent letters in all directions for a great meeting of Baigas (sorcerers) at Kelba, on Sunday evening, 22<sup>nd</sup> December. When the news of the gathering reached Gibahahar, and that 30 Baigas were already there the Father immediately left for Kelba, although it was 6 in the evening. By 7.30 p.m. he was at Kelba. Several of the Christians had run away, others were hiding in their houses, some of them did not even dare to cook the evening meal! However no Baigas were

there; none to be seen the whole night and the following morning. They had run away. The *ganjhu* said that Jatta Baiga and his little army would come back that Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>; none came, even afterwards. They had left Kelba alone.

The papers found with the *sipahi* of Jatta Baiga were of 3 kinds: One was a list with the names of the 40 Christian heads of family of the different *tolas* of Kelba, plus the names of the *Pracharak* and the Baiga. The contents of the 2 others looked at first obscure, but the Father says: "I am convinced, and so were the people, that the real object was, (which thank God, I was able to prevent) that the Christians who would have gone to Jatta Baiga, would have been forced to declare themselves pagans." In one letter dated, Khalijore (Kurdeg) 31<sup>st</sup> January 1913, it is addressed to the Raja by Fr. Van den Driessche in which he complains of this Jatta Baiga and of his satellites, Lajru *bhandari* and Mangu *mahto* of Kelba. These latter threaten the Christians of Kelba with confiscation of their fields, if they refuse to obey the orders of Jatta Baiga, to return to paganism. The reply is of course the usual one: let the aggrieved persons refer their complaints to the state authorities.

The last of the series of complaints in that letter to the Raja is this: "On 31<sup>st</sup> December a field of Ledha's brother, Ringsu of Ginabhar, has also been confiscated by order of Tippu Sikhar *gomasta*, apparently like the preceding one of Ledha because I have been campaigning for some time in Ginabhar." He inserts a rather strange piece of news which astounded the Fathers of the Upar Ghat also: "I have heard yesterday that the German *Saheb (padri)* has gone hunting with the Raja last month in my part of Jashpur! I expect this will not precisely increase his popularity with his people." Just then the Raja had broken off all relations with the Catholic missionaries. The Lutheran *padri*, goes hunting with the Raja and gets his elephants to travel about. "These last months they have begun to build chapels in their villages, already they say, and after the rains more will be constructed. Rumour even states that they got permission to build bungalows." Rumour certainly went too fast, since they had no bungalows as yet in spite of all their efforts when the state was merged into India, in 1947!

With the Jatta Baiga episode, the Great Persecution seems to have come to an end in the Nich Ghat. There are no further incidents quoted by Father Van den Driessche, and the correspondence recorded by Fr. Hoffmann ceases with a short and last letter of 20<sup>th</sup> August 1913, merely informing the Archbishop that Fr. Van den Driessche had asked for an interview with the Raja. The latter had given this curt verbal reply to the one who brought him the letter: "Tell the *saheb* that he will have no interview." Hence the Father's long journey from Kurdeg to Nagar, was useless as far as this was concerned.

There is one letter to the Raja, dated 27<sup>th</sup> October 1914 the last pertaining to this stormy period. In it the Raja is told that the above Jatta Baiga goes on terrorizing the people, beating some, extorting money from others, trying to make them pagans again. When he, the Father, met and scolded him, on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1914, he simply answered: "Things have to be managed in this way as long as Jashpur is under political rule. It is the Raja who allows me to beat people and extract money!" This time the Raja seems to have been careful not to reply. That year 1913 brought about a complete change on Ambakona side to Fr. Van der Linden, in charge of Ambakona, was able to tell the Archbishop on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1913, that everything was quiet in his district. The same could not be said of the Gholeng district, confided to Fr. Bressers. There the last act in that great drama was going to start, which ended in the condemnation and Acquittal of Father Bressers, followed by the Memorandum to the Viceroy.

As a *magnificat* of praise and thanksgiving, Father Van den Driessche ends some of his last letters, with mention of the splendid harvest obtained: On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1912: "To finish with some consoling news: I have had since the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 650 baptisms out of which 180 adults and more than 1500 communions." Again on 31<sup>st</sup> December: "In the meantime, whatever happens, our Lord won't abandon Jashpur. Perhaps Mr. Laurie would admit that "the cause of Christianity does prosper" even in Jashpur, if he knew that during these 3 months I have baptized 713 persons, out of whom 195 adults prepared in their villages, and given 1778 Communions. I had the consolation of baptizing my old friend Ledha of Ginabhar and his two brothers." Allusion to Mr. Laurie's statement of 19 December 1912, already known: "I do not think that the cause of Christianity can prosper, if people are encouraged to defy the rules of the State," quite correct as it stands, but resting on the false supposition that people were encouraged to do so.


However fierce and numerous were the attempts to make Christians give up their religion in the Lower Ghat, nowhere were they carried on with that tenacity amounting to fury, characteristic of the Upper Ghat, as kept up by those imps of the devil, Gandur Ram in the Gholeng district and Bhanu *daffedar* on the Ambakona side. This largely explains why the losses in the Nich Ghat were far less than in the Upar Ghat. Another reason not to be lost sight of is that from the beginning of 1912, Father Van den Driessche was set free to devote all his time to Jashpur, whilst Fathers Bressers and Van der Linden had at the same time a large district to look after in Barway.

*Compile by Fr. Agapit Turkey, S.J.*

(End of Volume I)

**SAINTS FUN FACTS**

**St. Ignatius of Loyola**



The Dreamer  
The Achiever  
The Pilgrim  
The Beggar  
The Thinker  
The Educator  
The Trendsetter

He died at the age of 65.

*For the greater glory of God*

BIRTHDAY	
SEPTEMBER	
1	Ekka Amardeep
1	Minj Alphonse
5	Ekka Anit
13	Bara Firoj Fulgence
15	Panna Boniface
15	Tirkey Vipin Kishore
16	Toppo Manoj
17	Lakra Fulgence
18	Ekka Avishkar
19	Minj Xavier
30	Minj Jerome
OCTOBER	
4	Parapullil Anthony
5	Tirkey Sanjeev
6	Lakra Ashok
6	Tigga Boniface
6	Toppo Eugene
7	Xalxo James
8	Tirkey Oscar Sevrin
9	Toppo Ashwin
9	Xalxo Amit
10	Xaxa Stephen
11	Minj Bartholomius
14	Minj Manoj
15	Lakra Pawan
16	Kerketta Marianus
17	Tirkey Anchit
17	Tirkey Virendra
17	Xalxo Virendra
20	Minj Benedict
22	Bara Rakesh Richard
23	Lakra Dharamkishore
24	Minj Anup
25	Aind Simon
26	Lakra Zacharias
27	Ekka Nirdosh
27	Tigga Sebastian
28	Soreng Dilip

Rest in Peace	
07 Aug	Fr. John Cheruparambil, S. . (AND 72/56), in Alwal, Secunderabad.
08 Aug	Fr. Gregory Naik (GOA 88/70), in Porvorim, Goa.
13 Aug	Fr. Roshan Lobo (KAR 49/32), in Bengaluru.
27 Aug	Fr. Joseph Parekkattil (PAT 85/65), in Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna.
04 Sept	Fr. Placidius Kujur (70/51 MAP) at Ambikapur.
07 Sept	Fr. Jean Englebert (CCU 91/72), Belgium.
08 Sept	Fr. Amritlal Thomas Xalxo (62/39 MAP), at Ambikapur.
10 Sept	Fr. Andrew Francis (CEN 60/40), in Jalandhar
10 Sept	Fr. K.T. Thomas (Kaduvathookil) (87/66 DEL), in Delhi.

Death Anniversary : September		
NAME	DEATH	BIRTH
Br. Marcel Barla	01 Sep 2002	06 Jun 1918
Br. Isaac Ashok Kujur	03 Sep 2007	16 Nov 1940
Fr. Martin Vos	10 Sep 1996	27 Dec 1907
Br. Maurice Toppo	11 Sep 2018	20 Nov 1935
Fr. Marcus Lugun	13 Sep 2000	05 Jan 1930

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