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Jisu Jaher, Dudhani, Dumka - 814 101

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Message from Fr Provincial

Dear friends, certain recent events unfolding in our country especially in the state of Jharkhand have made me reflect about God's plan for us and for the church in India. I was disturbed and am still disturbed to some extent but my reflection on such events have made me realize God's unfathomable love for humanity and His fatherly care for all of us. God is present and active in human lives and history and everything that happens, happens for good. We should have the patience to find meaning in all that take place. We have to learn to be much more reflective and attuned to God to realize His plan. The world is so noisy and action-oriented that we rarely reflect about what happens in and around us. As a result, we move on routinely doing what we do, living as we live and finding rarely any meaning for all our actions.

But once we change the course of our lives and become reflective of our lives and events that happen in and around us, our lives become much richer, meaningful and can perceive God's plan for humanity even in events that may look unpleasant and hard to accept. We have to learn to "live, move and have our being in God." My only prayer at this moment is that we, Jesuits, may rediscover the prophetic aspect of our religious life so that we can help others to make their lives richer, healthier and meaningful.

Feast of St Ignatius

Baghmara: 31st July was a memorable day not merely for Jesuits but also for the Priests and Religious of Purnea Diocese and for the Staff and the Students of our School. As a preparation for the feast, we had a Triduum in which all the hostel boys and Jesuits participated meaningfully. **Fr John Robinson SJ** led us on the 1st day using the theme, "The Legacy of St Ignatius of Loyola."

On the 2nd day, **Fr Jacob Chinnappan SJ** dealt with "St Ignatius, the Soldier" using the PowerPoint presentation which was liked by all. On the 3rd day, **Fr Ignacy Lazar SJ** dwelt on the theme "St Ignatius was born to fight."

On 31st July morning, we had the Holy Eucharist with **Bishop Angelus Kujur SJ** as the main celebrant while the Jesuits and Fathers from the Bishop's house were the concelebrants. After the Holy Eucharist, a beautiful felicitation program for the Jesuits was arranged by the Sisters and the Staff. Being the Hostel Day, a foot-ball match was arranged between the hostel boys and the day-scholars of our School which entertained all.

At 7:30 pm, we had an inspiring Prayer Service led by **Fr Jacob Chinnappan SJ**. The theme was: "Ignatius, a soldier of the earthly King became an ardent soldier of the heavenly King!" A PowerPoint presentation led all the participants into the mood of prayer. A fellowship meal for the invited guests was organized in the spacious ground at the main entrance of the house which was elegantly arranged by **Fr Damian Tudu SJ**. The Superior, **Fr Ignacy Lazar SJ**, extended a warm welcome to all. **Bp Angelus Kujur SJ** cut the festive cake. Different neighbouring communities sang wishing songs. A delicious festive dinner prepared by our School Staff and Sisters from St Joseph's convent was relished by all. At the end, the Bishop spoke on the importance of the Jesuit Order and its association with other orders. **Fr Damian Tudu SJ** concluded the program with the vote of thanks. (*Fr Ignacy Lazar SJ*).

St Xavier's, Maharo: In preparation for the auspicious occasion of the Feast Day of St Ignatius of Loyola on 31st July, a talk was organized on 29th July in the premises of St Xavier's College, Maharo, where the students were

acquainted with the life and works of St Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus. The session was coordinated by the



Principal of the college, **Fr Stephen Raj SJ**, who imparted his ideas on the values and principles of the Society of Jesus and how it came into existence and has been functioning across the globe following the directions of the Founding Father St Ignatius. All the students and faculty members of the college attended this lecture held in the Audio-Visual Hall and were highly illuminated with the knowledge and information about the patron saint. They held the lessons on St Ignatius close to their hearts and vowed to make their lives better on these principles.

The feast day commenced with the Holy Mass. **Fr Ravindra Darshima SJ** was the main celebrant and Fathers from the College community concelebrated with him.



Sisters, Hostel Students and faculty members joined in the solemn Eucharist and received blessings and graces of the feast. The renovated **St Xavier College Boys Home** was blessed by the main celebrant soon after the Mass. Students and faculty members wished fathers with songs. Students enjoyed immensely dancing at the college entrance. The last item of the day was a Football Match played between College and Inter-college students in the campus. The Feast day went on well praising and glorifying His name. **Dr Santosh K. Choudhury**).

St Xavier's, Raiganj: The feast of St Ignatius was celebrated with pomp and colour along with hostellers, staff and the

religious around. This year a large number of day-scholars, more than 300 joined the Holy Mass. **Rt. Rev. Fulgence**, the Bishop of Raiganj, was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist and the Chief Guest of the programme that followed. On the same auspicious day, the Golden Jubilee of **Br Andreas Hembrom SJ** was also celebrated in a grand manner. **Fr Deonis Baghwar SJ** on behalf of the community and **Rt. Rev. Bp Fulgence** on behalf of the Diocese congratulated and profusely thanked Br Andreas for his dedicated service to the people of God (**Mr M J Lazar**).

St Ignatius Hostel, Sahibganj: The feast of St Ignatius is a long awaited event for the St Ignatius hostel boys because it is a 'Hostel Day' and feast of our Patron Saint. We started our preparation for the feast with the Novena to St Ignatius. Each day a different theme was chosen for our reflection and to inculcate the virtues of St Ignatius. To know more about St Ignatius a quiz competition on the life of St Ignatius was conducted and the winners were awarded. Similarly, the best decoration group was awarded for their creativity and innovation.

On 31st July we had a solemn Mass in the School which was followed by a short cultural programme. In the afternoon, neighbouring Religious communities and Well-wishers joined us in the fellowship meal. We had formed a 'Magist' group to serve our guests as part of their learning process. Besides, the sumptuous meal, the boys enjoyed dancing to the tunes of Sadri songs and watching a movie in the evening. (**Sch Marianus Ekka SJ**).

Monica day Celebration

Banji-Kandor: St Francis de Sales Church, Banji-Kandor, witnessed active participation of 160 women from 30th August to 1st September 2019, to celebrate St Monika Feast. The resource person **Fr Vernard SJ** began the seminar focusing on St Monika's life and power of her prayer. He stressed the importance of Family Prayer, Word of God, and living an exemplary life in the villages by being part of *Ato Tola Kalisia* (Small Christian Community). The video clippings connected with these themes and the Present Life Situations helped the women to enter into a discussion in which they came out with action plans to put into practice in the coming year. Women's leadership and their responsibilities in the family and in the villages were stressed more where they found themselves empowered to lead a vibrant Christian Living.

The women devotedly took part in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration in the presence of 600 faithful with songs and dances. During the Holy Eucharist, the women renewed their commitment and presented the report of the seminar and the action plan for the coming year. Enjoying the cultural programme after the Mass, they went back home with

a determined heart to live for Christ and His Word alone. (*Sr Rosin FCC*).

Belwa: Belwa Mission celebrated St Monica Day at Belwa on 25th August and at Jhaweli, a sub-centre, on 27th August. About 200 faithful gathered at Belwa and 300 at Jhaweli.



At both the places, before the Eucharistic celebration, **Fr Silas Toppo SJ** presented a few aspects of the life of St Monica using the aid of Charts and posters. He juxtaposed the family and the social situation of that time with the present context depicting evil practices and habits of the society and reflected on how, in such a situation, a mother like St Monica can bring transformation at personal and social level. I personally felt more close to the people with these celebrations. Inspired by this celebration 85 people went to Jeevan Dhara, Raiganj, to make a retreat and nourish themselves spiritually. (*Fr Silas Toppo SJ*).

Hansdiah: Little Flower Church, Hansdiah, run by Franciscan TOR Fathers, had a glorious celebration of the 'Mother's Day' on the occasion of the feast of St Monica. **Fr Vernard SJ**, the Director of Xavier Communications, Johar, Dumka, was the main resource person. More than 450 mothers actively participated in the seminar held on 24th-25th August. Fr Vernard used video clippings to make the women to understand the subject well and to participate actively in the interactions and in the group discussions. Video films on the life of St Monica, the life situations of the Tribals and their challenges and opportunities, and video songs on Santal culture and traditions made the women more attentive and able to respond in the group discussions, looking back from their life experiences. They desired to make their families as holy and agreed for a better life by having regular family prayers, regular Bible reading and sharing the word of God, practicing the virtue of forgiveness, visiting the sick and praying over the sick person, and participating in 'Ato Tola Kalisia' (Small Christian Community). **Fr Sunny TOR** in his interaction with the mother appreciated the mothers' contribution to the Church in evangelization and keeping up

the faith. Fr Vernard SJ also celebrated Holy Eucharist on Sunday on the occasion of Mother's Day celebration. With lot of joy, children and men sang and wished our mothers on their day. **Fr Abraham, TOR**, the parish Priest, thanked the entire participant and the resource person. (*Fr Abraham TOR*).

Mariampahar: More than 750 mothers gathered together to celebrate Monika Divas on 1st September at Mariampahar. The program began with a flag hoisting by **Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ**, the Parish Priest, which was followed by Holy Mass. Mothers from different centers actively participated and made the Liturgy alive. After the Mass, the hostel children put up various programmes to show their love and respect for the mothers. **Fr Charles Tudu SJ** gave a talk on the Catholic mothers' role in the family, Church and the society. **Mr Benjamin Hembrom**, a journalist and a social worker, gave a talk on the challenges we, the Christian and Tribals face these days and called us reflect on how we could respond to those challenges. (*Fr Chrysostom Hembrom SJ*).

Saltipokhor: We had a grand celebration of St Monica's Feast in Saltipokhor on 26th-27th August. It is the 1st time that more than 400 hundred women came together. **Fr Markus Murmu SJ**, the Parish Priest of Chilimpur gave two talks which were very inspiring. He was the main celebrant for the next day. The Parishioners were taken up by his homily. Each center of the Parish actively participated in the Holy Eucharist and the rest of the programme. Singing and dancing added to the devotion of the people. The programme ended with a delicious fellowship meal which was prepared by men. **Fr Ignatius Manjhi SJ** thanked Fr Markus for his inspiring talk and the people for their cooperation in making the celebration meaningful. St Monica Day has brought a new life for the women of Saltipokhor. Praise the Lord! (*Fr Ignatius Manjhi SJ*).

Kanke Parish: The parishners of Kanke Parish observed the feast of St Monica with great pomp on 25th August. The Eucharistic celebration started at 7:30 am with a beautiful entrance dance by mothers and women flag bearers' from different 'Tolas' planting the flags. **Mrs Fulgencia Kindo** briefed the life sketch of St Monica and her role in the transformation of the life of St Augustine. **Fr Ignatius Minj SJ**, the main celebrant, focused on the importance of the mothers in the physical and spiritual growth of everyone and invited all the mothers to be rooted in prayer life and play a role in building up Christ-centered families. Mothers actively participated in the Eucharistic Celebration and the melodious and devotional choir led by Theologians made the celebration more devotional.

After the Mass, the newly wedded couples were welcomed by 'Mahila Sangh' which was followed by a grand felicitation

of aged mothers who had played a great role in building up the Church. The celebration ended with all a delicious meal prepared by the Catholic Sabha. (*Sch Stanislaus Murmu SJ*).

De Nobili College, Pune: We, the brothers of Chotanagpur Cultural Association and Santal Association, celebrated Monica Porob on a grand scale on 25th August. 80 mothers along with their husbands and children took part in the celebration. The priests and mothers were welcomed at the entrance of De Nobili College and were led into the theologians' chapel where the mothers placed candles in front of the poster of St Monica. **Fr George Beck SJ** was the main celebrant and was assisted by eight priests from the JDV campus. Fr George Beck talked about the prayer life of St Monica which transformed the life of her husband and her son St Augustine. To make the celebration more relevant and enriching, we had a cultural programme in honour of mothers. The Chief Guest **Mrs Munurose Surin** spoke about the "Empowerment of Women." The programme ended with a fellowship meal. (*Sch Emmanuel Murmu SJ*).

Jeevan Dhara Retreat Ministry

The retreat ministry in Jeevan Dhara was in full swing during the months of June-July-August. From 2-8 June, we had 14 Sisters and one Deacon to attend the Biblical retreat preached by **Fr Varkey Chena SJ** and at the same time another retreat was preached by **Fr George Uthira SJ** to 5 CTC silver Jubilarians. It was followed by a ten-day retreat preached by **Fr Deonis Baghwar SJ** to 14 Brothers of Missionaries of Charity of Gaya region from 9-20 June and a healing retreat preached by **Fr Tom Kottackal SJ** from 12-18 June. From 11 July-11 August a 30-day retreat was preached by Fr George Uthira SJ to the tertians of 5 SCCG and 10 M.C. Brothers including two Africans and one South Korean. The Santali retreat preached by Fr Varkey and team from 28-31 August had a record number of 120 people, out of which 85 of them were sent by **Fr Silas Toppo SJ** from Belwa Mission station of Purnia Diocese.

The members of JD were also engaged in preaching retreats outside JD. During the past two months Fr Varkey preached two retreats to the M.C. Sisters in Ranchi, one in Raipur, one at Barasat to the Bambina Sisters and a Triduum to the M.C. Sisters of Raiganj. Fr Tom Kottackal preached a retreat to the Carmel Cloistered Sisters of Hazaribag in July and another one to the Ursuline Sisters of Tejpur in Assam. **Fr K.C. Stephen SJ** left for Sitagarha in the 1st week of June to guide the Jesuit tertians and at present is engaged in giving the long retreat to them and getting ready to go to Rome for the tertians Masters' meet. (*Fr George Uthira SJ*).

"Youth for Jesus" – "A fire that kindles other fires"

When the Province Jesuit Educators and their religious collaborators gathered together at Jisu Jaher, Dumka, on 16th July to engage in a process of apostolic planning in Education, **Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ** asked the congregation to find ways and means to strengthen the Alumni and to create awareness among the students especially the youth about the socio-political and economic situation of our country. Fr Provincial asked the core committee to begin the process of getting the youth of our parishes and schools together so that we could move forward in organizing the youth. Thereafter a meeting was called for on 18th August at St Xavier's School, Sahibganj. The core committee was engaged the whole day on how to go about in this venture. The participants divided themselves into eight different zones having a co-coordinator for each zone. The zonal coordinators are given the responsibility to identify at least ten leaders in their own zone and have the first leadership training programme on 27th- 28th October at St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, so that in turn the leaders can train others and have a youth group called "Youth for Jesus." The Annual youth convention is to take place in December this year in a bigger scale. We hope and pray for the success of this new venture. (*Fr Arul Doss SJ*).

Hostel Directors' Meet

The Hostel directors of our Province came together on 23rd August. The meeting began at 8:30am with a prayer service. **Fr Provincial Varghese Palli SJ** introduced the proceeding and the agenda of the meeting. The main concern was: "Why should we run our hostels? And How should we be running our hostels?" After an hour of Prayer and silence the group came up with a few concrete suggestions. All agreed together that hostels are needed because still we are educating the first generation of students from various communities. Our hostels also give a chance for the poor to study in good Schools. So, all of us felt that we need to run hostels for our students.

The Second point of discussion was how we should be running our hostels. After a long deliberation a vision statement was framed for running our hostels and a few action plans were chalked out to achieve our vision. Our hostels will aim for the character formation and personality development of our students through input sessions and greater personal care. We aim to provide quality education to our students by being with them and helping them during the study hours. We aim for the integral development of our students. (*Fr Basil Manojin SJ*).

Independence Day

Baghmara: St Xavier's School, Baghmara, celebrated the Independence Day in a fitting manner. The students selected for the March-Past gathered at the spacious School ground by 7:30 am. **Mrs Pratibha Devi**, the Mukhia of Bellarikavganj Panjayat, was the Chief Guest for the day. She, along with her husband, **Mr Rajender Jadav**, were received at the entrance and were ceremoniously led to the stage with the School band. The Secretary, **Fr Ignacy Lazar SJ**, welcomed the Chief Guest and introduced her to the gathered School Staff and the students. The Principal, **Sr Pauline**, honoured the Chief Guest with a shawl while the Secretary presented a gift to her husband, Mr Rajender Jadav. The smart and disciplined march-past that followed was appreciated by all. Mr R. Yadav gave the Independence Day message in which he highlighted that St Xavier's School is a well disciplined School and that he is proud to have a School like this in his Panchayat, that it is the only School that stands and works for the poor and the Tribals, and that the Fathers and Sisters are very dedicated to the cause of the poor children. A few students too delivered the Independence Day speeches.

In an attractive cultural programme that followed the four houses, namely, Loyola, Britto, Campion and Kostka had a Patriotic Cultural Skit Competition. Each house presented a colourful, attractive, creative and rhythmic programme filled with significant messages. The entire Independence Day event was concluded with the vote of thanks by the Principal which was followed by the national anthem. (**Fr Ignacy Lazar SJ**).

Maharo: St Xavier's College, Maharo, celebrated the 73rd Independence Day in its premises with great joy and patriotism. The proceedings of the day started with Inter-College students and the Staff rally around Maharo and gathered in the college ground at 8:30 am. **Fr Stany Pinto SJ** graced the



occasion with his presence as the Chief Guest and hoisted the tricolor. After the National Anthem, he delivered the Independence Day speech where he highlighted the idea of independence with reference to the past and present situation of our Nation. He offered inspirational

quotes from Gandhi and Nehru. Inter-College students presented a beautiful march-past saluting the national flag and took active participation in various colorful events such as motivational speeches in English and Hindi, patriotic songs and dances that added more to the happiness of this celebration. To add more colour to this day, a Cricket Match was conducted between students and faculty members. The entire faculty members and the students took active participation and enjoyed immensely. (**Dr Santosh K. Choudhury**).

St Xavier's School, Sahibganj: On the eve of Independence Day, some of our students participated in various activities in the town organized by the local administration and brought home laurels.

On 15th August, despite the cloudy day, a big number of students turned out to participate in the Prabhat Pheri which started from the School at 5:30 am. The students carried banners and placards with patriotic slogans on them that attracted the attention of the public. Some students dressed as freedom fighters. The LTS of the School played a leading role in the demonstration.

At 8:30 am the staff and the students of both the English and the Hindi medium Schools gathered in the junior assembly place for flag hoisting. Breaking the tradition of the School, this year the Chief Guest was selected from among the supporting staff of the School. The Chief Guest was none other than our sweeper **Mr Nakul Munda**. After hoisting the flag, he delivered a short message on Independence Day which was then followed by a powerful and inspiring Speech by **Master Jagjeet Raj** of Class XII. Later in the afternoon our LTS volunteers celebrated Independence Day with the poor slum children of the locality. (**Mr Shyamal Palmer**).

Career Counseling Guidance

A special lecture on Career Counseling and Guidance was organized by St Xavier's College, Maharo, on 26th July. This was the first in a series of lectures to be delivered in the above mentioned area. The programme was coordinated and the talk delivered by **Prof. Kusum Kanan Mishra**, the Head of the Department of Business Administration, who is an expert in this area and has delivered several lectures in various institutions. He started his talk by inquiring from the students why they had chosen their respective subjects of study and then went on to elaborate the importance of choosing one's career options and subjects very wisely at the initial stage itself. The programme was attended by all the students of the college in its Audio-Visual Gallery where Mr Kusum

demonstrated his points with PowerPoint presentation. This



was a sort of overall introduction to the various career options available across the world both in the private as well as the public sector. Students appreciated and responded well during the entire session. (*Dr Santosh K. Choudhury*).

A Lecture on Social Responsibilities

As part of its special lecture series, St Xavier's College, Maharo, organized a talk on Social Responsibilities in its Audio-Visual Room on 2nd August. This programme was



coordinated by **Prof. Kumar Saurav**, the Head of the Department of Chemistry, who delivered an illuminating lecture on the importance of social responsibilities at the present time and our social and moral duty to take them as worthy human beings. Prof. Saurav quoted Aristotle saying that man is a social animal and it becomes an integral part of his life to promote harmony and a healthy co-existence with the rest of the society. For this, man has to dedicate a little part of his time and energy in uplifting the social life as well as the physical environment around him. This programme was attended by students from all the streams and they benefitted immensely from this session. They asked a few questions, shared their experiences and vowed to take up their responsibilities towards society from that very moment. (*Dr Santosh K. Choudhury*).

International Adivasi Day

Maharo: St Xavier's College, Maharo, celebrated International Adivasi Day in its campus with great zeal on 9th August. The programme started with a formal gathering in

the Audio-Visual Hall and was attended by the Principal, the Professors and the students from all the streams. **Mr Binay Herold Dumdum** addressed the gathering and shed light on the history and importance of this day.



Prof. Alok Kisku highlighted the importance of Santali language and its rich culture which has been able to preserve our proud heritage since time immemorial. One of our students Arila Hembrom delivered a speech on this occasion and talked about the martyrdom of our ancestors in order to keep this indigenous culture vibrant. **Fr Stephen Raj**, the Principal of the College, presided over this ceremony and addressed the gathering with his insights on the relevance of this day in our lives. Students were dressed up in their traditional attires and celebrated this occasion with cultural songs and dance. Most of the faculty members joined the students and honoured the day. (*Dr Santosh K. Choudhury*).

Satia: The Satia family celebrated the World Indigenous day on 9th August. **Mr Shivcharan Malto**, the local political leader, **Mr Paulus Malto**, the Mukhia of Sonadhani Panchayat, Gram Pradhans of neighboring villages and nearly 500 people from the hills participated in the event. The programme began by lighting of lamps by the dignitaries. **Fr Thomas Kavala SJ**, in his message to the gathered stressed that we need be proud of our own identity and continue to preserve the great legacy of our ancestors. Mr Shivcharan Malto mentioned that the identity of Adivasis is built on Jal, Jangel and Jamin (Water, forest and land). Each time the land of the Adivasis is taken away, serious crime and injustice is done to them. He also added that we, the Mulwasi (Paharias), should be positively influencing the government policies by remaining alert, vigilant and united. Mr Paulus Malto emphasized how the Paharias should preserve their culture in the rapid changing time which is so much influenced by the other cultures. He also highlighted the possibilities of benefiting Government schemes that come in favour of rescuing the Paharia people. He added that it is in taping those facilities do we enhance and develop our lives in this era. (*Fr Jacob Hembrom SJ*).

Bangalore: World Indigenous Day and Karam Festival were organized in Association with Indian Social Institution, Bangalore, on 1st September for the Migrants in Jigani, Bangalore. More than 600 people originally from Assam, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and other parts of our country took part in the festival. Meaningful and devotional Eucharistic celebration began with an Entrance dance by our Adivasi girls at 11:00 am. The main celebrant **Fr Filiyanus Sola** was flanked by another 6 priests. **Fr Dharam Kishore**, in his homily, encouraged us to live our lives to its fullest loving each and every creature on this earth. Soon after the Holy Eucharist Karam rituals were performed by the “Bangalore Adivasi Student Group.” **Fr Pankaj Kujur SJ** gave a talk on the theme “Aaj Ke Sandarb me Adiwasion Ki Pahchan” (The Identity of Tribals in the present Scenario).



Different Tribal groups put up cultural programmes in languages such as Santali, Sadri, Uraon and Assamese. The programme was coordinated by **Schs Sushil Hansda SJ** and **Prakash Murmu SJ** who are actively involved in the Migrants Ministry apart from their college studies in St Joseph’s College. Thanks to **Fr Martin SJ**, the in-charge of the migrants and **Fr Nazareth SJ** for the overall management. (**Fr Pankaj Kujur & Sch Sushil Hansda**).

Environment Day

Eco-Awareness Rally at St Xavier’s College, Maharo: St Xavier’s College, Maharo, organized an Awareness Rally in and around the Maharo-Sarsabad area on 30th July



in order to create social awareness about the environment and resources among the people of this area. The chief concerns were related to the alarmingly decaying condition of our environment and the crisis in basic natural resources

like clean drinkable water and pure breathing air in our surroundings. This programme was part of the college NSS activities in accordance with S.K.M. University calendar and was coordinated by the NSS in-charge officer **Mr Binay Herold Dumdum**. The Principal of the college, **Fr Stephen Raj SJ**, all the Professors and students participated in this awareness rally that moved around the entire Maharo



gans like Save Water Save Life, No Water No Life, Save Environment Save Humanity, were given during this walk that hugely motivated the onlookers and created a positive consciousness within them regarding their natural surroundings and atmosphere. All the participants along with the people pledged to save their environment and use their resources with care and respect. They also pledged to plant trees all around in order to improve the health and balance of Mother Nature. This event was widely covered by the local media both in print and visual mode. (**Dr Santosh K. Choudhury**).

Paryawaran Mahotsav at Satia: 10th August was a memorable day for Paharia Seva Samiti, Satia, as this day was a special day of nature the ‘Paryawaran Mahotsav’ (Environment Day). The School family joyfully welcomed our guests especially in Mr Kuldeep Chowdhary, the DC of Pakur, Mr Shivnarayan Yadav, the DDC, Mr Kumar Mahalingam, the DFO of Pakur District, and Rangers of Littipara, Hiranpur and Amrapara Blocks and nearly 900 villagers from hills and plains. Our School children and teachers welcomed the officials by a traditional welcome dance. **Fr Thomas Kavalakatt SJ**, the Director, welcomed the guests and **Fr Jacob Hembrom SJ** presented the different dimensions of the Samiti.

In his address, the DC said that Satia village blessed with a heavenly atmosphere as is surrounded by hills and trees. He also appreciated our work in the interior village to educate Paharia children. The DDC stressed the need to pay extra attention to safeguard Jal, Jangal, Jamin (water, forest, land) and the need to take necessary scientific steps for water

harvesting. He said that the younger generation must do scientific research on the richness of environment and the 'Jari-Buti' (Herbal medicine) that we have today. He also said that we need to develop sustainable energy methods so that the future generation can benefit from it. At the end of the program DC planted a tree in our campus and gave away 500 fruit trees to the people gathered on the occasion. (*Fr Jacob Hembrom SJ*).

Van Mahotsav at St Xavier's, Sahibganj: The young student-members of LTS (Leadership Training Service) Unit of St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, successfully organized a *Van Mahotsav* program on its Campus on 19th August as part of its awareness program to create an awareness about the importance of planting trees and conserving water. A group of 40 students and their escort teachers from four local Schools, too, joined the celebration at our invitation. The DDC of Sahibganj, **Ms Nancy Sahay**, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The program began at 3:15 pm with a short cultural program on Mother Earth which was then followed by planting of saplings on the School Campus by the Chief Guest, the teachers and the students. The LTSers then distributed saplings to carry home and plant to all those who came. The young LTSers deserve appreciation and special thanks for meticulously planning and executing the whole program of *Van Mahotsav*. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Malaria Awareness Campaign

As part of its activities under the National Service Scheme (NSS), St Xavier's College, Maharo, organized a Malaria Awareness Campaign in the nearby village of Sarsabad on 14th August. This programme was organized by the students of the Department of Zoology under the guidance of the Head, **Prof. Rajendra Roy** and NSS coordinator **Mr Binay Herold Dumdum**. They visited the village and input session to the



villagers on the various aspects of Malaria. The students explained the causes, symptoms and ways of prevention and cure of this serious disease. Malaria usually affects those areas which lack the basic parameters of hygiene and cleanliness. Keeping this in cognizance, the people were instructed to keep their area clean and lead a healthy life. The group went equipped with banners and audio equipment that helped in a

proper coordination of the entire programme. (*Dr Santosh K. Choudhury*).

St Xavier's Play School

On 1st August St Xavier's Play School began functioning with its 1st batch of 15 students at St Xavier's Campus II, Kornajora, Raiganj. **Fr Jesu Raj SJ**, the Director, is quite happy and optimistic about the future of the institution. (*Mr M J Lazar*).

Bipin-Simon Inter-Jesuit Schools Football Tournament

This year the Bipin-Simon Inter-Jesuits Schools football tournament was held at St Xavier's School, Raiganj, on 2nd-4th August. 11 teams from 3 states participated in the Mega Event. The event began with a beautiful cultural programme. On 3rd August, the tournament was kicked off by **Smt. Nikita Fanning IPS**, the Addl. Superintendent of Police and **Mr Prabir Guha**, Secretary, Council for the District Schools Sports and Games. The tournament witnessed many surprises and shocks. St Xavier's (Hindi), Sahibganj, emerged as the winner. The concluding prize giving ceremony was graced by **Mr Sumit Kumar IPS**, Superintendent of Police, Uttar Dinajpur District, and **Rev. Fr S. Santhappan**, Chancellor, Raiganj Diocese. The whole programme was arranged and orchestrated in a grand manner by **Fr Davidraj SJ**, the Principal, **Fr Manojin SJ**, the Vice-Principal, and the team of teachers and student volunteers. (*Mr MJ Lazar*).

Fr E Stellini Memorial Elocution Contest

The 10th Fr E. Stellini Memorial Inter-Schools Elocution Contest 2019 was successfully hosted by St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, on 2nd September, on the 16th death anniversary of Fr Emmanuel Stellini SJ. A total of 8 Schools, including 3 Jesuit Schools of Dumka-Raiganj Province, participated in the Contest. In an introduction, **Ms Archie Priya**, a student of Class XII, explained the reason why the School has instituted this Contest in honor of Fr Stellini SJ. She explained that Fr Stellini was one of the pioneers who held his chair for the longest period of time who put the School on a firm basis and tried his level best to improve the standard of English in the School. She further added that Fr Stellini encouraged Public Speaking among his students to help them express their thoughts boldly in good English with the courage of conviction. **Fr Sebastian** of Bhagalpur Diocese graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while **Dr Amitav Biswas**, an alumnus of the School, was the Guest of Honor. In the Elocution Contest, St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, came out with flying colors, securing 1st Positions both in Junior (Poetry) and Senior (Prose & Drama) Categories. In Extemporaneous Speech we secured the 3rd Position. The 'Best Speaker Award' of Rs 2000/- sponsored and adjudged by Dr Amitav Biswas

went to Master Aranya Mukherjee of St Xavier's School, Raiganj. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Teachers' Day

The Teachers' Day at St Xavier's School, Sahibganj, on 5th September was celebrated with pomp and show. The day began at 8:30 am with the Eucharistic Celebration in the Chapel organized by our Catholic students. The priests, the Catholic teachers and the students, who gathered at the entrance of the Jesuit residence, were led by a troupe of students performing a tribal dance to the Chapel at Jesuit residence where a solemn Mass was celebrated by **Fr Hilary D'Souza SJ** who was assisted at the Altar by **Frs John Chandran SJ, John Victor SJ** and **Melchi Tigga SJ**. After the Mass all the teachers of the School were felicitated by the students in the School auditorium with a cultural program of songs, skits, PowerPoint presentation and dances. Fr Hilary D'souza, our Principal, presented each teacher with a book entitled "The Art of Being Brilliant Teachers" by Gary Toward, Chris Henley & Andy Cope. The teachers' day program ended with a sumptuous fellowship meal. (*Mr Shyamal Palmer*).

Congratulations to Sch Innocent

Sch Innocent Tudu SJ stood first in the History Department in St Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli. He also appeared at the University level exam in Bharathidasan University and secured 7th place. Congratulations Sch Innocent!

AICUF National Council

2 girls and a boy with the State Advisor **Fr Marianus Minj SJ** attended the 31st AICUF National Council at AICUF house, Chennai, on 23rd-25th August. Prior to the National Council, new State President, National Team members and Commission Conveners for Dalit, Women and Adivasi were elected. Fr the Dumka unit, **Miss Kanaklata Soren** is elected as National Team member, **Mr Samuel Tudu** as National Council member and **Miss Monica Kisku** as Adivasi Commission member.

The theme of the National Council was "Capacity building of AICUF State leaders and Safeguarding Democratic Principles." The meeting was inaugurated by the Loyola College Principal by lighting the lamp with other dignitaries. Then the AICUF history and its aims and objectives, membership, structures and functions were explained to the participants. There was input session on how to capacitate to the AICUF leaders and safeguard the Democratic principles.

Though the Dumka unit participants struggled as the sessions were in English, they mingled with everybody and also it was an occasion for our youth to go to Chennai and visit

places like Loyola College, St Thomas Mount, Satya Nilayam, Santhome Cathedral and Marina Beech. Thanks to **Sch Birendra Marandi SJ** and **Fr Jisu Benjamin SJ** for receiving us and making the necessary arrangements. (*Fr Marianus Minj SJ*).

Sitagarha Tertianship

The 24 tertians at St Stanislaus College, Sitagrha, finished their one month pilgrimage into the Spiritual Exercises on the 19th August. The two of us instructors, **Fr Ignatius Tete SJ** and **Fr K.C. Stephen SJ** then left for Rome on 23rd August to attend the International meeting of Tertian Instructors at the General Curia. **Fr Biju Sebastian SJ** was there at the airport to receive us. Fr Genral was present for two of the five days that we spent together reflecting on this very important stage of formation. We also had a chance to visit La Storta and some other important Ignatian landmarks of Rome. We returned very enriched by the interactions on the 31st August. The tertians are now engaged in a serious study of the Spiritual Exercises and preparing to preach 8-days Ignatian retreats to various religious. (*Fr K C Stephen SJ*).

Fr John Felix SJ who was one among the 24 Tertians writes: "We embarked on the spiritual Journey with the theme, 'Pilgrimage into one's own Heart, into the Heart of God and into the Heart of the Creation.' The spirit of St Ignatius and constant intercession of Mother Mary guided us. **Fr Ignatius Tete SJ** (RAN) and **Fr K. C. Stephen SJ** (DUM) accompanied us. Their God experiences, insights and inputs helped us to experience God intimately. First and foremost I experienced God in a personal way. His mercy and protections were unimaginable for me. Though I went astray from God, He brought me closer to him. His unconditional Love is beyond my understanding. Jesus, the Lord and Master, taught me to be humble and invited me to labor with Him in His footsteps. The key meditations and contemplations, which St Ignatius gives in the Spiritual Exercises, purified me of my self-love, self-will and self-interest. I am enriched by the Spiritual Exercises. I was able to deepen the Ignatian and Jesuit spirituality. I, in a special way, experienced the Incarnate, Eucharistic, Crucified Risen Lord (IECRL). I personally received a lot of graces and blessings and gained lot of strength and courage for the future mission. I felt blessed to begin the new life on my birthday. I am enthusiastic, strengthened and encouraged for the future mission and to live my Jesuit priestly life meaningfully. I sincerely thank all of you for your accompaniment through your prayers."

Patna Juniorate

Apart from the regular classes, we were privileged to have many memorable events. On 31st July, we had a grand

celebration of the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola. The day began with the Holy Eucharist. **Fr Anthony Mathapallil SJ**, the Superior, was the main celebrant and **Fr Edward Dungdung SJ** and **Fr Josey Mathias SJ** were concelebrants of the Mass. On this occasion, we played a basketball match with the youth of Khaspur. In the evening we had Benediction followed by fellowship meal with our neighboring communities and a few Christian families. On 2nd August we visited Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Patna museum. We also had three days of special classes on computer Science. On 15th August, we celebrated the feast of the Assumption and Independence Day. On this occasion two of our companions delivered their impressive speeches in Hindi and English. (*Sch Anup Marandi SJ*).

Kolkata Juniorate

As a preparation for the feast of St Ignatius, we, the Juniors and Novices, conducted novena on different themes which gave us insightful and enriching experiences. On the feast day a number of religious from our neighbouring communities joined us for a prayer service which was based on the theme “Born to fight” and the feast day fellowship meal that followed. 3rd August was a joyful occasion for us as **Bp Shyamal Bose**, the new Coadjutor Bishop of Baruiipur, visited our community that day. On 10th August we went for a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Bandel to seek the intercession of Our Lady for a meaningful and smooth sailing in the Juniorate. On 15th August we celebrated the Assumption of our Lady and Independence Day. After the Eucharist, we had flag hoisting ceremony which consisted of professional and creative march-past by the Juniors and the Novices. The speeches in Hindi and English by Juniors and in Bengali by a Novice hailed the glory of India as well as highlighted the present chaotic conditions of our country. On 20th August we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary with MC Sisters. After a solemn Eucharist and delicious breakfast we interacted with the inmates there. Besides our regular classes, we enjoy learning Bengali culture and language. (*Sch Fransis Hansdak SJ*).

Sitagarha Juniorate

Albinus and I are glad to be a part of the SSC Sitagarha Juniorate. In the month of August, we had several activities on our ongoing academic formation like book presentation and novel taken by **Fr Geoff SJ**, computer classes and grammar by **Fr Phillimon SJ**, and study skills by **Fr Dean ShyamTudu SJ**. Besides our academics, we were welcomed at our parish on the feast day of St John Vianney. We were introduced to the parishioners and we got a wonderful chance to lead the choir in the parish. On 15th August, on the occasion of the Assumption and the Independence Day, we performed

a human pyramid and also played a football match with the TTC. (*Sch Ratan Hansda SJ*).

Premal Jyoti, Ahmedabad

The month of August brought many blessings for Premal Jyoti Parivar. **Fr Vernon D’Cunha SJ**, the assistant General, visited us. On 4th August, we, the Scholastics of Premal Jyoti, participated in the inter-parish football tournament organized by Loyola parish in order to accompany the youth and boost them. From 9th to 14th August, we appeared for the CIA exams. On the occasion of the Independence Day and the feast of the Assumption, we had a solemn Eucharist which was followed by a basketball match. On 17th August, we went for a community picnic to CAMP DILLY located 100 kms from Narol, Ahmedabad, a placid and tranquil, yet adventurous and thrilling place, a best haunt for endless fun in the vicinity of savory mangoes and Chikoo orchards. On 26th August the first years Scholastics went for Ahmedabad darshan and were glad to visit various religious monuments of different faiths such as Bhadra fort, shaking minarets, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial Museum, Jain temple and Gandhi Ashram. (*Sch Suleman Marandi SJ*).

Precautionary Warning

If you are offered free an attractive key chain or an internet link for free GB and other such offers, think twice before you grab them. They may be programmed or coded either to open your vehicle by remote control or to get into your digital data or to spy on you. You may be net-tracked and tricked. Another device used is Good morning/Good night messages prepared and forwarded on Whatsapp. You grab them and fast forward to your friends. They may contain virus or secret codes. Remember there is no free lunch in this world! We have arrived at a time when machine and technology are controlling our lives. We have to use them with a pinch of salt. (*Fr P.A. Chacko SJ*).

Rest in Peace!

Fr S. Joseph Maliyakal SJ (MDU), 83/65, on 02.06.2019, at St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, Tamilnadu.

Fr Gavin O’ Sullivan SJ (HAZ), 96/76, on 29.08.2019, at St Stanislaus College, Sitagarha, Hazaribag, Jharkhand.

Fr Alphonsus Benedict D’Souza SJ (KHM), 78/62, on 06.09.2019, at St John’s Hospital, Guwahati.

Fr Edward Jeganathan Anthony SJ (MDU), 83/62, on 10.09.2019, at Apollo Hospital, Madurai, Tamilnadu.

Ms Josephine Mary Regina Sarala, aged 85, the youngest maternal aunt of Fr Chandran SJ, on 09.08.2019, in Chennai. Tamilnadu

Mrs Sibriya Kujur, aged 75, the aunt of Fr Marianus Minj SJ, on 27.08.2019 in Jharkhand.