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FR. GENERAL has appointed **Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess SJ (RAN)** as the new Provincial of Ranchi Province. He will assume his office from 23 May, 2020.

FR. GENERAL has appointed **Fr. Jerom Stanislaus D' Souza SJ (KAR)** the new President of South Asia.

PROVINCE SUMMER GATHERING 2020:

In view of the Corona virus pandemic and lockdown, we will not be able to have the Province Summer gathering -2020 as usual. Further, all our common events such as scholastics gathering, Retreats, vocation camps etc, will remain suspended.

FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

BHURKUNDA.

COVID-19 pandemic is the buzzword of our daily conversation, news reading, T.V. viewing, WhatsApp bombarding of latest news, views and smart, funny and controversial snippets. Who is not! The parishners are either glued to the T.V. or mobile for the Palm Sunday and/or Holy Week services tele released online by the Ranchi Archbishop Felix Toppo or by the Pope Francis from Vatican. It is said that our people have become super devout this year. We empathize and pray for all the souls world wide, who have succumbed to the corona-virus attack.

The board exams of class 10, 9 and 8 were just over and the school exams of classes 7,6 and 5 and other classes were over too prior to the lockdown effect, but the Government's first of its kind 7,6 and 5 class board exams were smashed to smithereens by the claws of corona-virus.

The newly introduced online learning for students on WhatsApp through DIGI SATH in collaboration with NCERT, JCERT, DIKSHA, Pathshala, You Tube, Sampark etc. have begun to make up for the

deficit of teaching due to lockdown. The children from class 5 onward are encouraged by the parents to take advantage of it during this shutdown period.

Our two novices, **Francis Lakra** and **Gulshan Toppo** could preach in two villages and due to coronavirus outbreak were forbidden to go out but they utilized their time very profitably working in the house and the school. The school library has been given a decent and up-to-date look, thanks to their painstaking labour of love.

We were torn between two O.P. Thanas (Police Stations) as from the time of lockdown to further twice extended shutdowns, having donated rice, pulse, oil, potatoes, soaps to Bhurkunda Thana, similar requests came repeatedly from Bhadaninagar too, which our community readily complied. Who is more confused which Thana we really come under?

BOKARO ST. XAVIER'S.

Classes for the students of Std X and XII commenced early, on March 4th. Social Service School inaugurated its academic

year a week later. The rest of the school was to open on the 19th. **Fr. James** gave a one-day orientation for the teachers of De Nobili School, Chandrapura on the 17th. The same day the State of Jharkhand ordered the schools to be closed. On 21st he was in Hazaribag for the funeral of Sr. Hyacintha AC, who had collaborated closely with her for training the teachers of the dalit village schools in the mid-1990s.

At the end of the Province Apostolic Planning Meeting, after the Janata curfew, having clapped and banged plates as demanded by the honourable Prime Minister, late evening he rushed back to Bokaro with IT consultant Abhishek Sinha. The school offices closed next day and Abhishek returned to Pune to set up an online learning system for the school.

A new website-<https://www.xaviersbokaro.com> was created quickly to provide information to parents and facilitate online classes which would begin on April 14. The preceding week was spent in providing teacher's training in the use of Google Suite for Education, which includes Classroom, Gmail, Drive, Meet, Sheets, Slides, Docs and YouTube. There were 12 online parent orientation sessions. The school day is simulated for the students who attend classes using PCs or mobile devices from their homes. After one week, the attendance of the students reached almost 90%. Under the guidance of **Fr. Arun** and other Vice Principals teachers review and plan their lessons collaborating online. Daily training sessions for teachers continue. As a result, teachers are acquiring new skills and finding greater ease in the use of technology. Classes 4-10 have adaptive e-learning in Mathematics besides their other regular classes.

During the lockdown the alumni association, BOXA assisted the civil administration to provide dry ration to families without ration cards. About 500

packets, each containing 5 kg rice, half kg dal, salt, oil, turmeric powder, biscuits, potatoes, and bathing soap. The school staff helped in packing. The school deposited Rs 3,25,000 in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Of this 2,24,250 is the staff contribution, equivalent to one day's salary.

HAZARIBAG, ARRUPE NIWAS,

Arrupe Niwas has adjusted to the lockdown in various ways. With no staff, every day two of us were on cooking duties, so every day a surprise as to what would be served up. Fortunately, deacons **Simon Murmu, Marianus Tigga** and **theologian Nirmal Kullu**, now with us, are excellent cooks as are some other community members who are showing hidden talents. **Francis Marian**, our minister, is busy going out to get supplies and keeping us up to date on what is happening in Hazaribag. There is now much more activity in our garden, with **Francis Marian** and **Santosh**, actually a regular, joining our theologians, preferring to cultivate vegetables rather than flowers, a very practical approach. An occasional film is shown, educational of course!!, the last seen being "The Final Inquiry", on Emperor Tiberius investigating the resurrection of Jesus. With no Masses in convents, there is a community Mass every morning and all the Holy Week ceremonies were performed, including the vigil Mass. That from Maundy Thursday to the Easter Sunday, instead of a homily by one person after the Gospel reading, all nine of us got chances to share our own experiences on the theme of the day. One day, **Francis** and **Bob** had a Zoom Meeting with **Helen Forde**, the CEO of the Jesuit Mission to share the situation of our place.

We are grateful to Ms. Helen for linking Bob Slattery and **Francis**, via Zoom for a conference and your Easter wishes to all of us. As **Francis** has shown in his report, in different ways and in different places our Province men are trying to help

in the real crisis with so many millions out of work, daily labourers depending on daily income, no savings and then there are also farmers shut in by the lock down.

Just a couple of days ago, **Kalyan Bara**, our cook, returned so partly back to normal on that front. Unfortunately for him, because of the lockdown, his marriage has had to be postponed. Kalyan Bara, lost his younger brother, Marianus Bara (21) in a tragic tractor accident on 29 of March, 2020.

The nieces of the late **Fr. Lou Lachal**, Mary Brabenic and Kate McCluran paid a visit to us from 12th to 17th March. **Fr. Lachal** was the senior member of the first band of Australian Jesuits to arrive in Hazaribag. He was the parish priest of Mahuadanr, Chandwa, Hazaribag, Bhurkunda and Bokaro Steel City. Mary and Kate were able to drop in to Charhi Jesuit residence, and to Hazaribag parish. On 13th, they visited Lou's grave at Sitagarha, then dropped in the PTEC, St. Xavier's School Sitagarha, Loyola School, PTEC Practice Middle School, and enjoyed lunch at the PTEC residence. In the afternoon after dropping in to St. Xavier's School, they were taken by Bill Dwyer to enjoy the hospitality of the Clarists. On 14th they headed for Mahuadanr in heavy rain, had to backtrack often because of a broken bridge, water flowing high over the road, eventually taking nearly 12 hours to reach Mahuadanr. In Mahuadanr, they were able to visit St Joseph's School, St. Xavier's College girls hostel, St Mary's Chiro, and local convents. They are very grateful for the wonderful hospitality they received wherever they went and stayed.

Fr. Provincial had to cancel his visitation in the month of March and April, 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

And on 13th April, once again the lock down has been extended, till 3rd of May. Our government has to take difficult decisions, on the one hand trying to stop

the spread of the virus, on the other hand, to save millions from hunger.

The number of Covid-19 infected and related deaths keep increasing day by day. But the strict measure of complete lockdown and compliance to this effect the spread of the virus is limited to a great extent. But we do not know when the numbers will start to decrease or may have to face up to a long haul, for months, numbers going up to thousands upon thousands.

HEALTH UPDATE: DN. SIMON MURMU

On 24 April, 2020, Fr. Sushil Lakra and Deacon Simon Murmu went to Holy Cross Hospital Tarwa for the check-up. Sushil had his blood checkup and he got medicine for typhoid. Simon had some cold, cough and throat irritation. After observing these symptoms, Dr. Sr. Laisa, HC decided to keep and observe him for fourteen days. So, with the recommendation of Fr. Provincial Sr. Laisa agreed to keep Simon at Tarwa hospital. Since it is a general hospital so Sr. Laisa HC, had to inform the concerned health official at District health in-charge, Dr. Praveen. After informing Fr. Provincial, Santosh Minj and Dr. Praveen, Simon was admitted in the Holy Cross Hospital Tarwa in the evening.

On 25 April, 2020 in the morning, there was some uneasiness among the hospital staff when they learnt of Simon's recent travel. So, Dr. Sr, Laisa informed Fr. Santosh Minj SJ, and Dr. Praveen and after consulting him it was decided to send Dn. Simon to Hazaribag medical college for blood test.

On the same afternoon, Sushil went to Tarwa to bring Deacon Simon to Hazaribag Medical College, Sadar hospital, for the blood test. But, on that day whoever came to Sadar hospital for the check up they were all admitted and kept there for quarantine. As a result Simon was also admitted in Sadar hospital.

The next day on 26 of April, Deacon Simon, along with four others was taken to polytechnic center near Silwar Pahar for quarantine. We tried to contact the concerned authorities to make intervention to keep him at any of our Jesuit house but it did not work. On the first day, Simon and the others had to go through a hard time at Silwar pahar as things were not organized properly there.

The following day on 27 April, something good emerged as Sr. Britto, HC, and Sr. Dr. Laisa HC, decided to provide Lunch and supper to all the people who are placed for quarantine at Polytechnic centre, Silwar pahar for 14 days. So, each day the sisters from Holy Cross Tarwa provide lunch and Sr. Britto and her team from Banahapa (*near Hutpa, which is on the right hand side from the main road*) provide supper for them. Mean time Simon continued his medicine and at present he is keeping well.

HAZARIBAG, PRERANA R. CENTRE,

On the 8th of March **Fr. Christopher** held the Prerana Women's day celebration at St. Robert Girls School hall. Sr. Sheela SCSC was the Chief guest and it was attended by about 400 women. There was another Women's day celebration at Kuju. All other celebrations were cancelled due to the lockdown. **Fr. Christopher** attended the three day Seminar cum Retreat conducted by **Fr. Aurel Brys** and **Tony Herbert** at Sitagarha for all the staff of all our centres.

After the lockdown was declared Prerana is celebrating the community Eucharist on a rotation basis keeping in mind all those who wish to participate in the Eucharist but cannot. On 27th with the help of the Ambulance of the MC sisters **Fr. Shyju** went to Patra and took **Fr. Sunil** to 'quarantine' facility at Tarwa. As of now he is perfectly well but under watch.

Fr. Christopher continues his games in St. Xaviers with the veterans there. **Fr. Thomas Joseph** is seen at 5PM on the

terrace for his health walk and **Fr. Shyju** is seen taking care of onions, cabbages and beans. We expect a good crop! We are privileged to have the service of our cook during these lockdown days.

HAZARIBAG, ST. ROBERT'S

ANKUR: The First year Intensive English Course candidates went to SSC Sitagarha to bid farewell to **Fr. Geoff** on 06 March. The 12th Std. students began their classes after the matric and intermediate exams got over but soon the whole school was closed in view of the Corona Virus pandemic. Sensing the situation we sent our Ankurites to their homes before the lock down.

On 13th March the candidates of the vocation camp came to Ankur from Kajarkilo. **Br. Francis Mathias** gave a talk to them on the importance and joy of being a Brother in the Society of Jesus. In the absence of the Candidates all three of us with our co-worker Mr. Kuldeep are enjoying the calm and quietness of this place. In our daily life cycle here little bit of gardening and badminton games are our daily activities of the day.

In our domestic farm a hen and a cock are the latest additions. A wild cat managed to deprive us from another one. This month we were glad to welcome **Fr. Anil Bhusan Kerketta** from Kajarkilo and Deacon **Simon** from Delhi.

ST. ROBERT'S: On 3rd of March we started our selection process of the students for the academic year 2020-21 and started distributing admission forms for high school section (7th to 9th). On 10th we conducted exam for the new applicants and on 20th March, the names of the selected students were displayed.

Our school was a correction centre for the secondary board exam and the principal attended a few meeting at DEO office related to exam paper correction. We installed some CCTV cameras in class rooms and school quadrangle.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic the school was closed. We are not sure whether we will be able resume classes as per the government schedule. Due to lockdown all the community members are staying at home.

We have started our new toilet construction work for school and hostel and the construction of administrative block is under process. Due to lockdown all the construction work for time being has been stopped. Due to the heavy rain one section of school boundary wall collapsed. Based on the government order on 30th and 31st March midday meal rice and cash were distributed by our staff to the students.

HAZARIBAG, ST. XAVIER'S,

Since no one of the Jesuit community has been out of the campus in the lockdown there has been a mixture of enforced inactivity and various forms of domestic activity with each one is occupied in some form or other. **Fr. George** continues to look after the finances of the Province and the community. Bro. Francis' role of guest master has not been called upon, but he has kept the pantry well supplied so that meals remain as satisfactory as ever. **Fr. Manoj** focuses on improving his health. He is very much improved. **Frs. Rosner** and **Ranjit** are seen coming going to the school office, and in between times shower care on the young trees in the campus. The recent rain was welcome. Elsewhere in this issue **Fr. Rosner** will present a report on the school. **Fr. Saju**, our only lockdown guest, keeps fit with a vigorous walk around the campus each evening. **Fr. Bill** spends some hours each day in the Province library culling old, damaged or never read books. They are going to a junk dealer. Duplicates and some books, more suitable for an institution library are being sent to the Mahuadanr College. Just inside the library is a cupboard of good books removed from the library; they are there for the taking. Novels have been shifted to the community reading

room. All this work, at the wish of two Provincials, is to make the library slimmer and more usable.

The more relaxed community atmosphere in the lockdown has given rise to an enthusiastic game of dominoes each evening.

Kudos to our two cooks Raju and Gulshun who have been on duty each day. Our factotum, Arvind, keeps up a supply of vegetables and fruit from the garden. Our two housekeepers Asha and Sunita, have also put in some hours each day to keep the residence and environs clean.

KAJARKILO,

At Kajarkilo, all of us are well by the grace of God and the help of your prayers. **Sch. Sushil Bage** and **Fr. Bob Billings** are half way through their retreat. Unfortunately, some people have used the time of lockdown to extend their nefarious activities. We have had a spell of robberies - two pigs and a pump, going to fill their bellies and whatever.

Haven't been able to do much on the corona virus front apart from handing out some masks and ration - the sisters are ahead of us in that respect, truth to tell. On 27 April, **Fr. Pius** and **Fr. Anil Bhushan** mounted a little expedition to check on some of the parishners and found them to be all okay. Unfortunately, some of them are trapped in Kashmir and won't be back for a while.

Christopher, was having a persistent cough which was troubling him, though he seems a better now. Some children from 'across the way' have expressed boredom because of the extended holiday, and want to come to Christopher for English coaching classes.

MAHUADANR, ST. JOSEPH'S

Frs. Dilip, Amod, Kamal and **Silverius** went to Lotapani, Gowalkhar, Datukhar and Udalkhar to distribute Rice and vegetables to the Korwas. They were able to give rice and vegetables for fifty

families. In their endeavours they have to face the difficulties of less travels roads through forest and mountains. They had good experience of doing noble works. On the other hand Fr. Dilip is still in contact with the government officials such as SDO, BDO and DSP for further cooperation in the fight with COVID-19.

During the lockdown period school family went around the houses of the students to distribute MDM rice and money. All the staff members worked happily for three days. There are different WhatsApp groups formed to take online classes. English spoken classes through WhatsApp are also continuing for the teachers during the lockdown period.

Fr. John and SJA sisters distribute masks, rice, soaps etc. to the people of Chutia, Velwar and Parhatoli. They made people aware of Endemic and pandemic.

In Chiropath, **Fr. Barnabas** and sisters of Handmaids went to the villages identifying the families who were very poor and distributed rice. He received 600 kg of rice from the Mukhiya to distribute to the needy people. On the other hand he cooked Khichdi to feed the hungry mouths. He also distributed potatoes and dal.

During lockdown Cooperative Bank of Mahuadanr was opened for the people of Chechhari Valley to meet their needs. Fr. Roshan and co-workers used masks to keep up the social distancing.

SITAHARHA, PTEC JESUIT COMMUNITY,

The month of March in the PTEC campus was a month of Semester-End (annual) examinations and of new admissions. The PTEC practice middle school began its annual examination during the first week of the month, starting with some auxiliary subjects. Everything was going on smoothly until the government of Jharkhand announced the closure of all schools and colleges of the state on 17th March 2020. As the school management did not foresee it, there was a moment of

confusion with regard to the ongoing examinations. However, Sr. Anima H.C. with the assistant of her staff managed to conduct a few more exams of the main subjects, and then considering the safety and wellbeing of the students, she closed the school.

During the month of March, St. Xavier's +2 High school completed public examinations for classes 9th and 11th students. Then, the school began the new admission of students for class 9th. Fortunately, **Fr. Sibrus, S.J.** had just managed to complete the first phase of the class 9th admission of the PTEC practice middle school students before the lockdown was announced. The second phase of admission of students in class 9th from neighboring schools is still waiting. After the lockdown, at present, **Fr. Sibrus** is working on a new class time-table for the school and also getting ready for new admission in Plus Two Arts and Science streams.

Fr. Leo, S.J. in Loyola English Medium School also completed its annual examination and managed to deliver progress reports of the students at the beginning of March. Fr. Leo too was in the middle of the admission of new students for class Prep before the state lockdown was announced on 17th March. At present, Fr. Leo is getting ready with a new class timetable of the school and at the same, expecting for few more new admission in class Prep after the lockdown is removed.

At PTEC, the entire college was ready to celebrate the College Day on 19th March – The Feast of St. Joseph. The usual annual drama was almost ready and other cultural programs, including feast day liturgy service; almost all items were lined-up and finalized for the big show on 19th March. But, before it could be actualized, the state government announced its first statewide lockdown from 17th March. After having received the order, Fr. Vincent, S.J.

called for an emergency staff meeting to discuss and re-plan the academic and cultural programs of the college. As a result, on 17th March the annual drama was enacted in front of the local crowd, and then, at the end of the program, Fr. Vincent shared important information on COVID-19 with the students and staff; and announced the closure of the classes and office works until next directions from the government. During the lockdown period, students are sent the details of the academic projects, assignments, and reading materials related to the various courses through emails and WhatsApp services.

At the PTEC Jesuit community, during this lockdown period, all are keeping good health. **Fr. Raska, S.J.**, as usual, continue to take care of the front gate of the residence with a book in his hands and a cup of coffee on the table. Since, all classes are suspended, **Frs. Sibrus, Leo and Francis**, are making the best use of the time for completing the pending office works in their respective institutes. Due to the long lockdown period, the academic, as well as the economic conditions of all units of the campus, are badly affected. We also appreciate and extend a special thanks to Fr. Silas, S.J. for organizing a meaningful liturgy for the campus during the Holy Week. **Vincent**

SITAHARHA, ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE,

On 5th March, at 12:20 A.M. **Fr. Geoffrey Michael Meagher SJ** breathed his last in Tata Memorial Hospital Kolkota. During his last days of life **Fr. Geoff** was well looked after and was given quality time by **Fr. Saju, Fr. Theodore and Selius Kandulna**. His brother Bob and Sisters Mitchel and Helen also gave him a fitting farewell. The mortal remains of Fr. Geoff was brought to SSC Sitagarha by late evening and the following day on 06th March, a huge congregation of brothers, sisters and the fathers gave him a meaningful farewell. The funeral mass was

presided over by the **Rt. Rev. Bishop Anand Jojo, DD**, the Bishop of Hazaribagh diocese. A huge number of friends and well-wishers came from Bokaro and Ranchi. God also showered His blessings in the form of lightning, thundering and good rain during the burial. The Juniors gave a tearful farewell to their beloved professor late **Fr. Geoff**. They miss him for his dedication and commitment to the growth of the Juniors.

Fr. Patras and **Fr. Anil Aind** attended the Budget meeting in Arrupe Niwas. **Fr. Tom Venad** gave two weeks of classes for the RTC theologians. Scholastics **Dilip Indwar** and **Anish Hansdak** from De Nobili College, Pune came on 23rd of March, due to lockdown of Maharastra and are in 14-days quarantine in the Tertianship wing. For a week **Fr. Ignatius Tete** went to RTC Ranchi and to Samtoli for the vocation talks. He went to Ranchi and then to Longa for the annual function before the Lockdown, and got stuck as it was announced the same.

Another batch of LNN programme was organized by **Fr. Tony Herbert** for diaspora community of Prerna Resource Centre i.e. Patra, Tarwa and Dumber and their lay collaborators. **Fr. Aurel Brys** and Mr. Philen Horo from Charhi, were the resource persons.

The Master and the Socius were busy preparing the novices for the Lenten preaching ministry. The Novices went on 5th and 6th of March to different parishes for the same. Two Ranchi Novices namely **Samir** (For Co-adjutor) and **Anuj** decided to leave the novitiate. Both of them were accompanied by the **Fr. Master Anil Aind** to Sadvhawna, Ranchi Provincialate on 4th March. Thus, there are total of 24 novices in the novitiate now. Before going for the Lenten Ministry, the novitiate family had an outing to the Lara river and came back visiting Dhawaiya School. The novices left for the Hospital and Preaching ministry in the second week of lent. **Fr. Prabodh**

Barwa, the Socius, accompanied those who went to Patna, others managed to travel by themselves. On those days the novitiate wing remained absolutely silent.

Due to LOCKDOWN the novices had to be brought back from Ranchi. **Fr. Prabodh** went to get three novices back from their hospital experiment; another two were reached by the Kajarkilo community. Thus, there are five novices in the novitiate and rest are in their respective parishes and hospitals.

The Juniors stopped their weekly ministry and were busy preparing for the forthcoming Assistancy level final exams. They appeared on the 10th March for the same. Now they look light and fresh. Due to the needed operation **Sch. Affin** had to go to Kerala for the regular check-ups. He was accompanied by his province man namely **Sch. Dileep Joseph**. They were asked to stay back by their provincial following the Kerala government guidelines. Here, the Juniors are following the strict guidelines of LOCKDOWN by the government. They have stopped playing the games and the outside loud reading practice. Their daily classes go on as usual. They are busy writing articles for their annual magazine 'Kislaya', for its publication, release and distribution. *Fr. Philemon Tirkey, SJ*

SHAHPUR, SAHODAYA COMMUNITY,

The Month began with planning for the next academic year. There were meetings of managing committee, and of hostel prefects. The school heads set to prepare timetables and programme for the

FROM DIASPORA

ANDHRA LOYOLA COLLEGE,

The month of March took off with the second mid term examinations. The whole Sanjeevan community enjoyed the movie outing on 7th March. The Sanjeevan community had the Visitation of **Fr Provincial** on 12th March that gave us abundant blessings. The completion of basketball court was a cause of joy to

year to begin next month. But the nature had different plans: unseasonal rains with violent wind took away vegetables and brought down the number of branches and the trees. Heavy hail stones flattened the standing crops leaving the farmers in tears. We too received the sad news of **Fr. Geoff's** death. **Frs. Lawrence Tirkey** and **Moris Ekka** attended the burial at SSC Sitagarha while the students continued with their class and got ready for Holi holidays. Few boys did not go home and remained in the hostel. Middle school was about to finish the annual examination and then the state government ordered the schools to close down to stop the spread of Covid-19 and then followed the Peoples curfew and nationwide lock down. .

Fr. Provincial, Santosh Minj came for visitation. He spent a day in each unit and gave ample time for us. It was so nice time that we almost missed his birthday. **Fr. Lawrence Tirkey** seems to excel himself in giving talks in Shadi seminar so far he hasn't missed a single seminar organised by the diocese at Sadhana Sadan.

Fr. Moris and **Sch. Nelson** started making best of the time in practising driving. But one day a tree came on the way and the Jeep kissed it. Later the Jeep refused to move forward. Now **Moris** is spending more time in his office and **Nelson** in the vegetable garden and rest of time in reading books. **Lawrence** is preparing seminars for teachers and the students. Hope he gets time to utilise them.

Sanjeevan community. We thank all, whose mediation and hard labour contributed towards the completion of basketball court. Due to the widespread of pandemic disease COVID-19 our end semester examination is postponed indefinitely. To safeguard ourselves from the pandemic disease, Sanjeevanites are meticulously following the guidelines

given by the Superior and the local government administration. On 24th March the sudden demise of **Pasala Mariamma**, mother of **Fr Marianna**, saddened the community. We all prayed for the departed souls.

The last week of March, during the lockdown we all sanjeevanites stated the new mission work everyday in the morning going out and distributing the food for poor with Fr. Principal. Some of Andhra scholastics from common houses have come and some more are expected to arrive here and have a good community life. First of all, let us surrender all our worries and needs and pray for people, who are suffering everyday from COVID-19. We pray for all our province men especially the elderly and the scholastics may not be affected by heat wave and COVID -19. **Sch. Aseet, Ashim and Arock**
RANCHI, MANRESA HOUSE,

"Events add joy and happiness in our life". February 7th to 9th we had the college fest. The students of the college rocked the stage with colorful items giving a visual treat to a packed audience. Meanwhile Manresa brothers were given the task to do volunteers in order to maintain law and order among the audience on those three days.

On 23rd February we went for a picnic to Bangoan (Jesuit parish). It was the

FROM OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA, SEVEN HILLS

First of all, Greetings to you all! I also thank you all for your prayers during our long spiritual journey. On 21st of February we travelled about 828 kms, from Melbourne to Sevenhill (SA) for our retreat. We started our retreat on 24th of February and it ended on 25th of March. After the retreat we took four days to share our experiences of the retreat. It was inspiring and very edifying to listen to the experiences of one another. Towards the end of the retreat we came to know about the struggles and panic of

red-letter day for the community as all and sundry enjoyed themselves dancing with MANDAR and NAGADA. The Bangoan Jesuit community and St. Anne's sisters joined us to double our joy.

On 17th March the college closed down the classes due to corona virus. Whereas teaching staff and non-teaching staff members continued their duties. The same day **Fr. Camile Kerketta SJ**, the Dean called for a short meeting and advised us to observe the lockdown guidelines and use the time to study.

On 19th we had a meeting over NRC, CAA and NPR at Manresa House. Jesuits from various places witnessed the event. It was our pleasure to have Dr. Gladson Dungdung Activist, Writer and Speaker as the resource person on that day. **Dr. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ**, the provincial of Ranchi Province superior and other Jesuits also put their perspectives on the subject.

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.... we are the Lord's." We were deeply saddened to learn the sudden demise of our beloved **Fr. Geoffrey SJ**. This year the college also lost its two students and a professor. May the departed souls rest in peace. **Sch. James Ekka.**

corona virus pandemic all over the world.

The pandemic affected us a lot. Some were worried about their family members and friends. Our first experiment of giving first Spiritual Exercises to people scheduled from 17th April was cancelled. Looking at the safety and better social distancing environment we decided to stay back at Sevenhill. It's a very important historical place for Australian Jesuit province. In 1848 Austrian Jesuit, **Fr. Aloysius Kranewitter** arrived in Clare with

an immigrant group from Germany. Following year two more Jesuit brothers arrived here. They bought land and named it Sevenhill. Within a short span of time there was a winery, Jesuit residence, secondary school for boys and a church. It became an important centre for them for many other missions.

All of us are very happy here as lockdown has very less effect on us. It is a beautiful place with orchards and vineyards. We often spot kangaroos and hares. Amid all chaos and uncertainty we are continuing our prayers for the victims of Corona virus and all the frontliners. **Rajendra Tete**

From Paul Horan in MELBOURNE:

At present I am in Campion. Providentially I got back to Australia before flights were suspended and borders closed. I was booked to fly out of Myanmar at the end of March when my visa expired. Fortunately we were able to change the ticket and I flew out on the twenty second. Shortly after that Thai International stopped flights to Yangon and then to Australia.

I self-isolated in the Retreat House here at Campion. The Retreat house is closed and empty so I kept away from everyone for 14 days. Fortunately, I was out of isolation by Easter and we were able to celebrate in the community. There were twelve of us – four of us from Hazaribag. **Hans, Tony, Tom Keogh and myself.**

To help me keep occupied Trung has us ringing Jesuit Mission supporters to ask how they are getting on in these uncertain times and to wish them well. I have talked to some very interesting people. One, a lady who was among the first volunteers in the Mission Office and a couple of Riverview old boys who remember the first Indian Bazaar.

From Phil Crotty in SYDNEY:

Fr. Michael Stoney and I make up the elderly end of the community. **Michael** is moving to Pymble in a few

weeks, which leaves me carrying the banner for the aged. The community is quite academic, but at the same time a pleasant Jesuit community. Even though the streets are nearly deserted we are still able to get food and other necessities delivered. Mass on Demand is gathering a lot more viewers though we are having technical problems with cameras. This morning, via Zoom, I joined a group from Star of the Sea, Kirribilli who were sharing their thoughts on the mass readings. Zoom is all the go in a Corona virus shutdown. Our four Asylum Seekers from Hazaribag seem to have settled into Campion after dealing with a few speed breakers. **Tom** had to spend a couple of weeks at his niece's home before he was able to move into **Des Purcell's** room. **Des**, who is suffering from dementia, has gone to a nursing home. **Paul Horan**, while residing at Campion, is waiting for a place at Hawthorn. He also was in self quarantine for a fortnight. Having just managed to get out of Myanmar. **Tony Ryan** was getting much joy out of travelling around Melbourne on an electric wheel chair, but Covid-19 has reined him in, much to his disgust.

CAMBODIA

We began the month March with a lot of enthusiasm and plan. In the first week of March we the regents of Cambodia went to Mondulkiri for our tri-monthly regents' gathering. Mondulkiri is a beautiful natural place in the mountain top. **Fr. Jub Phokthavi,sj**, (a Thai Jesuit who was working in Cambodia for almost 10 years, before joining the Society) and at present Socius to the delegate of Korean Provincial, drove us by his car for 460Kms. It was a moment of grace for us to listen to each other amidst the beauty of the nature. From 16th of March we began the 1st semester exam. Suddenly on 19th of March because of Coronavirus, Mr. Hun Sen the Prime Minister of Cambodia

ordered to shut down all the educational institutions in Cambodia. Even though we couldn't finish conducting the exams we closed the school until further notice is given. **Rev. Bishops Olivier and Bishop Kike** made the announcement that the catholic practices will not be done for the time being. Volunteers are called back to their respective countries by their governments. A very few of us are staying in the community. Community time table has been re-scheduled. I am good and safe; I just remain in the campus, lot of time for self-reflection, prayer, personal time, reading and reflection, exercise, cooking food, taking care of the house. Happy Easter to all, may this Easter Sunday and Easter season fill us with hope, happiness, prosperity and abundance of God's divine grace. *Sch. Deepak Lakra, sj.*

FRANCE, PARIS

(At Blomet Jesuit Community), The lockdown in France started on 17th March, 2020 (Tuesday), we had started to follow the directives of hygiene before two weeks. The day before the lockdown i.e. 16th March, we had usual days and all of sudden it changes with the mass in the evening at 6.45pm. When we entered the chapel, everything looked abnormal. One could feel something is different. The chairs are at distance from the other. The instruction says: "Kindly keep a hymn and psalms book along with you". The distribution of the Communion was done differently. The sanitizer finds its place beside the alter. Mass ends, we find ourselves in the big room for the community instructions. Again, all the seating arrangement was different. The superior gives instructions though he kept saying does not want to fill our ears with the information how it was a dire need. He urges the community to follow the guidelines to be protected from Covid-19 and do it at least for the respect other friends in the community if one does not respect oneself. The meeting

was over. The supper started in two shifts again another strange thing. The tables which have capacity of 6 and 4 persons reduced to 4 and 3 respectively.

Almost everyone felt a shock with this change in the house. Each one becomes a potential danger to another. The situation triggers the sentiments: Faith, hope and respect are the only consolations. Everyone has to have faith on other of the community and the respect in the same measure.

The community of Blomet have 34 Jesuits having age difference from 25 to 80 yrs. and 2 Asylum-seekers at present. It has a three floors and small garden behind. Life can be lived happily but the lockdown makes it difficult. A garden behind the house remains the only consolation that provide free exit of the house for fresh air. The service at the table was changed. Each receives his food from the kitchen direct served by the kitchen staff. The tea and coffee are served in three different places to avoid the crowd. The frequency of mass per increased from 1 to 2 to avoid flocking in the chapel. The frequency of mails of the community was 4 times more than usual days. The frequency of hygienic activities has doubled. The academic session of the week continues normally.

The confinement produced psychological negative impact. Everyone came up with different ideas to make the community busy and happy. The proposed activities: good films for the evening depending the day and strength of a room with social distancing, paintings, physical activity like Judo, yoga, the conference twice each week presented by different members of the community according to their specializations. The tournament of "Pétanque" (typical French game) was organized in which Indian Jesuits are champions and experts. Each one is free choose according to one's availability. The groups of the community take time

too meet frequently to help one another in different ways.

We had one case of Covid-19 in the house after the first week of lockdown. He was isolated in his room for 3 weeks. Superior of the house took food for him with the mask and gloves put on him. He also avoided other activities in the community just to keep others' safe. We were happy to hear the recovery news. Life continues in happy mode despite all the hurdles. Last week, few Jesuits proposed to do some social service with Secure Catholic (an NGO) and it was agreed in the community but it was later refused by the NGO in view of danger that could bring to older Jesuits in the community. In this pandemic, the EOF Province has lost more than 15 Jesuits from different old age homes. Thank you for your prayers, we are safe!

KENYA, NAIROBI,

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord fill your hearts in this unusual Easter Season celebrated in the total seclusion of a lock down. Let us hold on to the hope that the Risen Lord is present and active in the world ensuring that the scars of suffering and death will not always disfigure the face of humanity (GC 34/29) . As I write this, we too are in a lockdown like in India. The numbers of infected people are rising day by day and we are hoping and praying to be spared from a large-scale community transmission.

The tertians completed their long retreat. They are now studying the Constitutions. They were to go out for experiments after Easter till June. My plan was to come to Mumbai at that time to meet my doctor and then proceed to Hazaribag for the Province meeting etc. All those plans remain cancelled. We are rearranging the Tertianship programme. They will continue with their sessions instead of going out for experiments and we will wait and see how the situation

develops. We have a spirituality Centre here in which the Tertianship is also housed. This centre is shut down till June.

The East Africa Jesuit Province, which covers six countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, (North) Sudan and South Sudan), is exploring the possibilities restarting the province's mission in Sudan. That is where the Ranchi Jesuits, **Polycarp Toppo** and others, started their mission.

But because of the political situation and long drawn out ethnic conflicts, the province had to close down our communities there. The province has also started the process of preparing a terna for a new provincial as **Fr. Joseph Afulo**, our present provincial, completes his term in December.

Finally, I am sure, you will be interested to hear that the practice of social distancing has made the Indian Namaste quite popular here especially during the sharing of peace at the Eucharist. **R.C. Chacko SJ.**

SPAIN, SALAMANCA,

The Pandemic Covid-19 has damaged a lot. In the province of Salamanca (Castilla y Lyon) till now 17,402 are affected and 1,582 dead. People can go out if they have to buy groceries, get medical assistance or do permitted works. All Universities and schools are shut down, however, I attend the online classes daily. I recovered and after the quarantine went for test twice and the result is negative; I am all right. We don't have any common activities in the house and so the house is safe till now, specially the infirmary. In two months we lost four companions **Fr. Melecio Agundez SJ, Br. Jose Redondo SJ, Br. Luis Carballo SJ.** and **Br. Domingo Ramos SJ.** The Mass and other activities during the holy week were online.

KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR

PRAYERS:

Fr. Valentine De Souza sj. (GUJARAT) passed away on 06 April, 2020 at Vadodara, Gujarat – I N D I A. 92/74

Fr. Jose Javier Aizpun sj. passed away 10 April, 2020 in Buenos Aires, Argentina 90/72

Mrs. Siberia Xess, (69) the sister in-law of **Fr. Francis Xavier Xalxo,** died on 29 April, 2020 in Andamans,

Assistancy Appointments
Between 1st Oct, 2019 – 30th Apr, 2020.

Appointments by Fr General:

Fr Boniface Panna (MAP) Appointed, Rector of Satya Nilayam, Chennai on 2nd Apr. 2020. Took charge on 12 April, 2020.

JDV Pune:

Fr Herman Tirkey (MAP) Additional charge. Appointed Secretary and Treasurer, of Jnana Deepa and Jesuit Educational Trusts, JDV Pune, w.e.f. 1st Jan 2020.

Fr Ryan Rodrigues (KAR) Appointed to JDV for Trial Teaching, w.e.f. 1st Jun 2020; residing at DNC.

Papal Seminary Pune:

Fr George Cordeiro (BOM) Additional Charge as Moderator of Philosophers Papal Seminary, w.e.f. 15th Sep, 2019.

Fr Dinesh Braganza (GUJ) Appointment as Spiritual Director of Philosophers Papal Seminary, w.e.f. 15th Sep, 2019.

Fr Vincent Crasta (KAR) Appointment as Secretary, Papal Seminary Trust w.e.f. 1st Jan 2020.

Fr V.M. Jose (DUM) Appointment as Treasurer, Papal Seminary, w.e.f. 1st Jan 2020.

DNC Pune:

Fr Richard Lopes (GUJ) Additional Charge as Secretary DNC Trust, w.e.f. 1st Jan, 2020.

Fr Patrick Arockiaraj (PUN) Residing at DNC community with immediate effect.

Fr Martin G. Pragasam (AND) Residing at DNC community from June 2020.

Fr Anthony Andrade (DEL) Appointment as Spiritual Guide to DNC Philosophers, from June 2020.

Fr Anthony Mattapallil (PAT) Appointment as Spiritual Director to DNC Theologians from 1st June, 2020.

S.N Chennai:

Fr Satyabalan Arokiasamy(CEN) Appointed to Satya Nilayam, Chennai for Trial Teaching w.e.f. 1st Jun 2020.

Fr Vinod Soreng (RAN) Appointed Librarian of Satya Nilayam, w.e.f. 1st April, 2020, in addition to Teaching.

VJ Delhi:

Fr Sunil Padannamakkel (KER) Appointment as Treasurer VJ, (Additional charge) .e.f. 15th June, 2020.

Fr Boniface D'Souza (KHM) Appointment as Spiritual Director VJ w.e.f. June end 2020.

ISI-D:

Fr Anthony Dias (BOM) Appointment as JESA Secretary, w.e.f. 1st June, 2020:office in ISI_D, Residence Jor Bagh, Community.

Sadhana Institute:

Br. Anthony Arockiasamy (KHM) Appointed as Administrator and Secretary of Sadhana Institute and Trust, w.e.f. 1st June 2020.

Kandy Tertianship:

Fr Jose Jacob Maruthukunnel (KER) Appointed as Co-Tertian Instructor at Kandy Tertianship w.e.f. 1st May, 2020.

Conference Development Office (New Delhi):

Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) Additional charge as Conference Communication Coordinator for three years w.e.f. 25th April, 2020.
Ms. Elsy Samuel GIAN and Conference Coordinator for Ecology, w.e.f. 15th May, 2020.

JRS Mission:

Fr Alex G., SJ (JAM) Appointed to JRS Afghanistan Mission.
Fr Robert C. Rodrigues (KAR) Appointed to JRS Afghanistan Mission.
Fr Jesu Raja Raju (MDU) Appointed to JRS Afghanistan Mission.

Studies for Conference Common Works:

Fr Ronald Lawrence Serrao (KAR) Assigned to Common Works, for Islamic Studies. Residing at ISI_D Hostel.
Fr Midhun Francis (KER) Appointed to Study Arabic & Urdu at Henry Martin Institute, Hyderabad; residing in the hostel on campus.

Assistancy Committees:

Fr Lancy Lobo (GUJ) & Ms. Auxilia Peter Resource persons to JFFSA. (7th Nov, 2019).

Fr Joy Karayampuram (PAT) Coordinator for “Safeguarding work”, along with Frs. Stanislaus Alla (AND), Konrad Noronha (BOM), Joye James (KER), Sr. Tera Paul CSC. (7th Nov, 2019)

Gratitude for services rendered to Common Houses & Works of South Asia:

Fr Michael Amaladoss (MDU) & Fr Rudi Heredia (BOM) for services to the JFFSA.
Fr Gnanapragasam Alex (JAM) for services to JDV, Papal Seminary as Secretary & Treasurer and of estate manager and investments for JDV, PS & DNC.
Br. Fulgence Ekka (MAP) as Treasurer VJ Delhi.
Fr Caesar D’Cunha (GUJ) as Spiritual Director VJ Delhi (2017 – 20).
Fr Sannybhai (Jebamalai Stanislaus) GUJ as JESA Sec. (Oct 2011 – May 2020).
Br. Hermon Anthony (NEP) Adm & Sec. Sadhana Institute, (2014-2020)
Fr Ilanko Xavier M. (CEN) as Spiritual Director DNC, Pune.
Fr Robin Seelan (CEN) as Librarian of Satya Nilayam, Chennai.
Fr Thomas Anthonysamy (PAT) as Tertian Instructor at Goa; Co-Tertian Instructor Kandy.
Fr Lumnesh Kumar (KAR) as GIAN & Conference Coordinator for Ecology.



Fr George Pattery, SJ
President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia
Date: 28th April, 2020