

# RANCHI BULLETIN



71/1

Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand

JANUARY 2012

## WISH YOU ALL HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012.

**Pope Benedict XVI** has appointed:

**Father Antonio Spadaro** Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Culture

**Father General** has appointed:

**Father Severin Leitner**, General Consultor and Regional Assistant for Central-Eastern Europe (ECE)

**Father Kinley Joseph Tshering**, Provincial of Darjeeling (India).

**Father Vernon D'Cunha**, Provincial of Bombay (India).

**Fr. Provincial** has appointed:

**Fr. Albert Ddungdung** Spiritual Father Apostolic School, Samtoli.

**Fr. Alexander Tirkey** Assistant Parish Priest Ramnagar (Andaman)

**Fr. Anand Kerketta** St. Xavier's College Ranchi, B.Ed. Section.

**Br. Anjelus Xess** Rest and Sundry, ATC Namkum.

**Fr. Ashok Sandil** Co-ordinator St. Xavier's Inter-College Bundu

**Sch. Arvind Kerketta** Mini reGENCY, Catholic Church Muri.

**Br. James Barla** Coordinator of Brothers' Vocation

**Fr. Jaywant Soreng** Treasurer St. John's High School Ranchi

**Fr. Pradeep Kerketta** Assistant Parish Priest ad tempus Manas Bansbari (Assam)

**Fr. Raymond Kerketta** Assistant Novice Master Ashirvad Novitiate Namkum.

**Fr. Sikandar Tirkey** Parish Priest, Catholic Church Sogra.

**Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta** Acting Superior ATC Namkum

## INFORMATION

- o **Very Rev. Father General Adolfo Nicolás, S.J.**, visits Ranchi Province from February 24 to 26. All the Ranchi Jesuits are most cordially invited to meet Father General on 24 and 25 February 2012.
- o **From the Province Treasurer:** This is to remind you all Fathers and Brothers that the accounts are kept up-to-date for the preparation of budget for the year 2012-13. You are expected to present your budget by the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to the Provincial. Kindly give your contribution towards FACSI and common expenses by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

## SUMMER COURSE - 2012

This Year, the **Summer Course Programme** will be held from **14<sup>th</sup> April - 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2012**. The candidate willing to join Ranchi Province must meet the Director or Assistant Director personally after the matriculation exam before March 30th. This does not apply to the Apostolic candidates and those who have met them already on the vocation tour. The candidates have to bring the following essentials along with them.

1. Boarding and Lodging - Rs. 900/- (Nine hundred only)
2. Mosquito net
3. Toiletries
4. Plate & tumbler
5. Accessories (things for personal use)
6. English Bible (NT)

The candidates should arrive latest by 6.30 p.m., on **14th April, 2012**.

Director,  
Fr. James V. Dungdung, S.J.

## NEWS FROM INSTITUTIONS AND FORMATION HOUSES

### ST. ALBERT'S COLLEGE RANCHI

December was the month of holidays for St. Albert's College. It was closed officially on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011. However the philosophy students studying in St. Xavier's College continued to stay till 22<sup>nd</sup>. During Christmas holidays most of the staff members were out of the station for their Christmas ministries. Some of the Jesuit members of the college, in the mean time prepared themselves spiritually by making their annual retreats during this time.

Fr. Erik Breye, the sole member of our community, participated in the Province Congregation. Besides pasturing the religious communities in and around Ranchi before Christmas after the celebration he went to bless a marriage at Tamamunda in Chhatisgarh. Fr. Sudhir Kujur went for his Christmas ministry to Simdega and later on after the Christmas went to bless three marriages. Fr. Vincent Toppo, together with his Marriage Encounter Team, conducted a Marriage Preparation course at St. Albert's College from 16 to 18 December 2011 for 130 'would be' couples (engaged couples). Earlier in the month of November he had given the same course for 158 couples. This time one girl came all the way from London to participate in this marriage preparation programme given by the Marriage Encounter Team. But she is not an English woman. She is a tribal girl from Kudda Parish. Another great feature of this programme was that a

Parish Priest of Patrachauli, Fr. Lalit Tigga, SJ took part in the whole programme and he was very happy. We invite all the other Parish Priests, especially of Gumla and Simdega Dioceses to participate in Marriage Preparation Programme conducted by the Team so that their misgivings, ignorance and prejudices may be dispelled. Our veteran Ecumenist Fr. Joe De Cuyper was engaged in the election of the new team of Office Bearers of the All Churches Committee. This was followed by the preparation and celebration of Christian Milan on December 26 in the Ursuline School Hall. Vice Chancellor Dr. Anwar Ahmed Khan was the Chief Guest. In their addresses the speakers underlined how Christmas has become a day of thanking God for sending His Son as the harbinger of peace. Prominent by their presence were the members of the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities, proof of our progress in Inter-Religious solidarity.

*Fr. Vincent Toppo*

### ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

Feast of St. Francis Xavier on 3<sup>rd</sup> December was celebrated in a special way with lot of joy and enthusiasm. On this day newly built St. Xavier's Chapel was blessed by His Lordship Bp Binay Kandulna who encouraged all of us to follow the footsteps of the Saint boldly. In fact three years ago

the foundation was laid and this dream was fulfilled in 2011. It was the dream of Fr. Van Winckel (91) that a beautiful Chapel is made for the College. That is why Fr. Van Winckel was especially present to cut the ribbon marking the inauguration of the new chapel. The Minor Seminarians with some hostel-girls of Intermediate Section and under the guidance of Sch. Ashok, Frs Swarn and Patrick led the choir with melodious singing. Soon after the Mass three tree-saplings were planted by the Bishop, the Provincial and the Principal. Fr. Xavier Soreng the Provincial also blessed five rooms of the Intermediate Section in the renovated St. John's High School Building.

On Dec. 11, the CLC College Unit Christmas Gathering was arranged in St. Joseph Club Hall. Fr. Peter Mahendra Tigga, the Chief Guest challenged the youth to live their life for the baby Jesus, lying helplessly in the manger. Due to the Semester Examinations Christmas Gathering in the College campus was not held in 2010, but last year on Dec. 21 it was arranged for the Intermediate Students in the Intermediate Hall. The songs and dances by the students were appreciated by everyone present. On the same day B.Ed. Section also had the Christmas Gathering. In spite of their first Semester Examinations the B.Ed. Students also had joyous and meaningful gathering. Fr. Ephrem participated in the Christmas Gathering held in Hotwar Jail on Dec. 22. This year as Christmas was on Sunday Fr. Provincial was invited to say Morning Mass in the Jail Premises. Frs. Pradeep, Patrick and Ephrem joined him. The Vice Principal Fr. Peter Paul received yet another prestigious Indira Gandhi Shiromani Award for his personal endeavour and valuable contributions for the development of the Rural Tribal youth of Jharkhand through his writings. The Award was given to him on Dec. 16 in Constitutional Club Hall, New Delhi. Hearty Congratulations Fr. Peter!

*Fr. Ephrem*

### **ST. MARY'S, SAMTOLI**

Month of December was full of activities. Our celebration started with the feast of St. Xavier in the community. The Second Term examinations started from 5th December. As exams got over Inter-Class Cricket Tournament was organized for different

groups of students. It was quite exciting for the students.

On 21<sup>st</sup> there was Christmas Gathering in the School. It was quite colourful. Many of our Christian boys and girls performed very good group dances, Carol Singing and solo singing. On 22<sup>nd</sup> results were given and Christmas holidays were declared.

Fr. Ajit Saras, the director of the Apostolic School, took initiative to send the students of Class IX to different parishes for Christmas ministry. These apostolic boys came back with lot of good experiences. Jesuit community members also dispersed for Christmas ministry in different parishes. Frs. Alois, Isaac, Sikander, Laurentus and Sch. Sandeep went to Dumki while Fr. Philemon along with Fr. Irenius celebrated mass for the Simdega jail-inmates. Fr. Vijay celebrated Christmas in Pakartarn; Fr. Ajit and Sch. Edwin went to Pakertoli. After their Christmas celebration Scholastics left for their annual triduum. Many fathers and sisters gave flying visit to St Mary's community and shared their joy with us.

Fr. Alex Ekka, the Director of XISS, came to share with us about the visit of Fr. General to Ranchi. He stressed that some old students and some teachers could go to meet and share what the Institutions of ours have given, and in return what they are going to give. Frs. Vijay, Philemon and Sikander went to bless their relatives' marriage in different places during Christmas holidays.

*Frs. Ajit & Philemon*

### **MANRESA HOUSE RANCHI**

The month of December brought examination fever for our collegians despite they put up a commendable melodious choir on the feast day of St. Francis Xavier. They began their semester exams on 4<sup>th</sup>.

The year-end arrived with some favourable and some unfavourable news to us. The province congregation was held at Manresa House from 5<sup>th</sup> eve - 8<sup>th</sup> of evening. On 6<sup>th</sup> Br. Polycarp lost his elder brother. On 10th early morning Br. Hilarius breathed his last in the Infirmary. Our attendant Martha heard him coughing in the morning. He was getting ready to participate the Holy Mass but could not attend it. After the mass as she went to serve him breakfast she found him sitting prayerfully

on his armchair. In his prayerful preparatory posture he journeyed to the heavenly abode around 6 a.m.

On 15<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Sikender Tirkey landed at Ranchi Airport from Canada and went to Sogra Parish on 23<sup>rd</sup>, his new mission station for Christmas celebration.

On 19<sup>th</sup> Fr. Walter Ekka, the study guide of the collegians quietly went to defend his Doctoral Thesis. The exorbitant glow and look manifested that it was a successful one. Congratulation dear Fr. Walter! This achievement of yours will certainly motivate the collegians to excel in their academic pursuit.

Nearing of Christmas filled our surroundings with joy and happiness. On 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Carol was celebrated in Satya Bharati premises. The collegians having finished their exams flung themselves preparing for celebration. They moved to Hindipiri, Nirmal Hriday Jail road and St Xavier's College respectively for singing practices. Some of the community members also moved out for Christmas ministry: Fr. Peter Mahendra went to Muri, Frs. Prabhat Kennedy and Sanjay to Bingaon, Fr. Alex Toppo to Kurdeg and Fr. Raju to Rumtukel. On 23<sup>rd</sup> the collegians giving their hand to one another completed a beautiful crib. Their master piece drew the attention of many. On 25<sup>th</sup> the Christmas eve brought us real joy of fellowship as in the community gathering Fr. Walter Ekka along with Br. Nicholas Topno led the community to melodious Carol singing which truly made us feel the joy of Christ's coming.

On 31<sup>st</sup> the last day of the year 2011, in thanksgiving prayer service at 7.00 p.m. the community assembled together to render heartfelt gratitude to Trinitarian God for all the blessings and graces received. We said goodbye to year 2011 by burning the effigy and welcomed the New Year 2012 by wishing one another a very Happy New Year.

*Sanjay D. Ekka*

#### **ASHIRVAD/JHARNA**

In December Jharna Retreat Centre received less number of retreatants. On 11<sup>th</sup> 15 CDF Brothers and their candidates made a combined monthly

recollection. Then a St. Paul Deacon came to spend five days in prayer and reflection as to prepare himself for his priestly ordination. He will be ordained a priest on Jan. 20, 2012. On 27<sup>th</sup> 22 Gabriel Brothers came to make their annual retreat. The same date 16 Jesuit regents: Collegians and Brothers started their Triduum.

The Ignatian retreat for the first year and Hospital Experiment for the second year novices ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. From the next day onwards, special routine began as Frs. Novice Master and Socius both attended the Province Congregation and then Christmas preparation began. Fr. Provincial's stay during Christmas season doubled our joy. He also shared his joy in our Christmas gathering. The Santa Clauses with their creativity made the moment joyful. They dispatched Christmas gifts to each one of our community.

*Sylvanus & Samir*

#### **ST. XAVIER'S, BUNDU**

Xavier's Day was made momentous this year by the collective efforts of the management, staff and students of the institute. On December 01, Fr. George Burh from Dorea and Fr. Augustine Kujur from Khunti big-heartedly availed themselves to assist our students towards the preparation for the day. Fr. George Burh guided the Christian students in prayer and in sacrament of reconciliation and later Fr. Augustine along with the 6 Ursuline candidates facilitated the motivational sessions for the students of the entire institute. On December 03, Fr. Florence Kujur along with Fr. Sebastian Ekka from Ranchi was the main celebrant during the Eucharist and the Chief Guest during the cultural events. The occasion was further graced by the presence of 4 Government officials - BDO, CO, LRDC, and EM - from Bundu Block. December 04 onwards Christmas tour in the Parish began. The priests took turn in going to the villages and in preparing the parishioners spiritually for Christmas. On the same day Fr. James Toppo left for Patna to be the consoling instrument for his ailing sister and for the family members.

From December 07 the 2<sup>nd</sup> term exams for the High School and the English Medium School and the 1st term exams for the Inter College began.

December 08 was the congregational feast day for the Handmaids of Mary - Maria Saheli sisters in Bundu. The celebration was simple because of exams in the schools yet the hostel boys and girls wished them well during the felicitation hour after the Eucharist.

On December 09, the Government water supply connection was installed in the boys' hostel and so a new water tank is being constructed behind the hostel building. The BDO of Bundu has promised a deep bore-well for the boys' hostel soon.

The English medium school is getting ready to shift to the new building. On December 21 during the result, the parents' meeting was held when Frs. George Kerketta, Clement Kullu, Ashok Sandil and Sr. Mariana addressed the gathering. The parents expressed their wish that the English medium school soon be shifted to the new building which would give a new milieu to the students and the staff and later they urged the administration to detach the school events of the English medium from the High school and Inter college events so that the small kids can have better and more prospects in performances.

On December 22, the school and the college closed for Christmas and New Year after declaring the results. Sr. Mariana and the Catechist directed the hostel boys in making the Christmas celebration rich and it was so on Christmas. During the holidays the community members took a little time out from their everyday jobs and visited their family members. All will be back by January 04, to begin the classes on January 06, 2012.

*Fr. Ashok Sandil*

### **SATYA NILAYAM CHENNAI**

On 2nd December Fr. Felix Raj S.J.(CCU), the principal of St. Xavier's college Kolkata gave talk on Ravindra Nath Tagore and his relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On 15 Dec. our 3<sup>rd</sup>. philosophical session started with the talks of Fr. V.S George S.J, Dean of Philosophy department and Dr. Stella Maris. Next day we visited Cholamandal, Dashin Chitra, and Mahabalipuram in order to have artistic look of sculptures and paintings. On 17 Dec. Christmas gathering took place in Manresa hall, we cherished listening various Christmas carol singing of various parishes' choir groups in Chennai around. Sch. Rajesh

Sandil had clinic malaria. He was admitted in Isabel hospital for his treatment. After few days he recovered from malaria.

On 23 Dec. we had Community Christmas Celebration and Christmas gift distribution. On 25 Dec. we {consisted of 8 [6 Ranchi scholastics +1 Pune Sch Michael+ 1 East Africa Sch. Geoffrey]} had great celebration of Christmas which began with our Cultural tour for four days. We visited Oriyur [St. De Britto Martyrdom place], Rameshwaram, Totikorin [St. Xavier's Cave and other old churches like one of the churches was discovered under the sand, so we visited many coastal churches], Poulam [Hawai beach comes under Kerala], Tiruvalur, Kanyakumari and Trichy. Finally we came back safe and sound on 31 Dec. morning. We chose Sch. Rakesh Kerketta is chosen as a new Ranchi Province Coordinator.

*Sch John J. Kujur*

### **PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD.**

The month of December began with thought and desire of self examination and culminated with a joy filled note. The feast of St. Francis Xavier was celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2011 in the St. Xavier's College Parish, Ahmedabad. The First Year students could not participate in the Holy Mass due to their First Semester University Examinations. The Premal Jyoti Community went to St Xavier's College Community to share the joy of the feast.

As December 25 was round the corner, we were led to the Sacrament of Reconciliation by Sch. Nirmal Vincent Kullu on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 2011. The mood of Premal Jyoti changed as we started our two day multi-lingual Carol Singing in our nearby Jesuit Residences and Convents on 19<sup>th</sup> of December. The Sadri Carol "Charni Upare Ka Tara tintim chamkela" was the super-hit song.

"The Culfest"-the three day College Annual Festival was inaugurated by Fr. Principal Vincent Braganza on 20<sup>th</sup> of December. The theme of the Culfest was 'Jazbah'- the inner enthusiasm. The Premal Jyoti Scholastics proved their mettle in the items of sports. The Culfest instilled the spirit of team work and self confidence in the students. Fr. Principal`s message reads: A Xavierite is a man or woman for others.

The Christmas Eve brought us joy and excitement. We participated in the Vigil Mass in St. Xavier's Parish Ahmedabad. On December 26, we had Community Christmas Tree. We had Province wise Carol Singing in other than our own mother tongue. It was great excitement to see the Scholastics sing in other languages. We participated in the Priestly ordination of Deacon Kamlesh, S.J. on December 27 in Unteshwari, North Gujarat. Same day in the evening we began our Triduum in Nadiad under the guidance of Fr. Alpesh Macwan. Post Triduum we visited AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited) dairy. It was very interesting and puzzling to see the different stages of production of Chocolates and powder milk. On December 30, we joined the villagers of Bhumel of Anand Parish in their Christmas Garba celebration. We enjoyed dancing Garba. Late night we set off for Premal Jyoti. On December 31, we had thanksgiving prayer service for the slipping year 2011 in Premal Jyoti. Then we participated in the thanksgiving Mass in the Parish. We bade adieu to 2011 with a sweet sense of gratitude and welcomed the New Year 2012 with the Prayer, "Lord, help me to change myself in 2012".

*Sch. Valentine Sinduria*

### **LANGUAGE SCHOOL - CUM - MINOR SEMINARY, RANCHI**

The month of December was a hectic schedule for the language school. The school celebrated the belated feast of Marianist Sisters on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Fr. James was the main celebrant and Fr. Ferdi was the concelebrant for the same. The sisters from Marianist community witnessed the occasion. The school gave a warm felicitation to them. We were very happy to receive the superior general and the secretary of the Marianist Sisters as a chief guest of the day. She complemented and eulogized the excellent performance of the students. There was a recollection day on 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December for all in order to prepare oneself spiritually for Christmas celebrations. Thereafter the school had second semester exams. A thanksgiving mass was offered by Fr. James on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. which was followed by Christmas gathering. The Choir group of the language school chanted away the melody of Christmas carols in between the programme. The same evening Minor Seminary had the Christmas gathering which enabled us to share a token of

love to one and all. The Pre-novices and collegians continued their classes till 21st December. Fr. James gave classes on English for the Pre-novices in view of preparing them for their final exams. The Language School remained closed from Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> - Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and New Year holidays. Sch. Ashok went to Jharna to make his Triduum on 27<sup>th</sup> - 31st December.

*Fr. James V Ddungdung*

### **SSC JUNIORATE**

SSC community celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. with great solemnity. Fr. Patras Turkey, the Rector, gave an inspiring homily on this feast day. On Dec 14, we had a farewell programme for the tertians.

The Christmas campus get-together was on the 18th of December in St. Ann's campus. We, juniors presented a creative skit (The Beacon of light) which was highly appreciated by all the religious communities. Our regular classes stopped on the 20th Dec and laboured round the clock, engrossed into making the cribs, sprucing up the house and ourselves to welcome the baby Jesus. Indeed the fruit of diligent work brought immense joy and happiness on Christmas day. We visited different communities singing carols to share our happiness and joy, Sch. Anil Kullu exhilarated us with his magical drumming.

On 28th Dec, SSC community organized a house picnic and went to Charhi, juniors and novices enjoyed playing Chinese cricket.

In the evening despite exhaustion, we joined with exuberant hearts the golden jubilee celebration of Fr. Geoffrey Meagher, SJ, P.C.F of Hazaribag Province. We showed our musical flair by hymns that led the congregation to the meaningful Eucharist.

We actively participated in the priestly Ordination of Fr. Gabriel Kishor Toppo, SJ, on 29<sup>th</sup> of December, which really strengthened our vocation. The same evening, we started our Triduum, under the guidance of Fr. Geoff, SJ, who helped us to revitalize and renew our religious vows and commitment to the Lord. Now, we have a renewed interest in prayer and study more than ever before.

*Sch. Kuldeep Ba'a*

## NEWS FROM PARISHES

### KANKE

Advent was a busy time for us as there were special Masses in different "tolas". In spite of severe cold Fr. Patrick celebrated some "tola" Masses in the evening. Christmas night was a very cold night, but the parishioners were ready to face the inclement weather. A large number of them attended the midnight Mass under a beautifully decorated "shamiana". While the Catholic Sabha made all the sitting arrangement, Prem Nagar did a creative decoration of the place. Fr. William Tirkey from the Archbishop's House was the main celebrant and delivered a homely message of Christmas. Fr. Vinod Soreng SJ., who had announced his arrival a few hours earlier, was our special guest for the midnight Mass. We were glad to have him amidst us. The presence of the Tarunoday staff and students added to the solemnity of the feast.

My eldest brother Francis expired suddenly on 8 December early morning. I had to take a leave on the last day of the Province Congregation in order to be present for his burial. I was with the bereaved family on 18 December as well for the "gami". Patrick lost two of his relatives in a quick succession: his sister-in-law, Martha Soreng (wife of his late younger brother) died on 30 December 2011 at the age of 60, while his niece Nirmala Tete (daughter of Martha) died the following day, 31 December 2011 at the young age of about 35. Martha had been sick for a long time. Nirmala's death was a tragedy. A few days ago while tying goats with a lamp (dhibri) close by her clothe caught fire and she had suffered a severe burn. She had been admitted in RIMS, Ranchi but she finally succumbed. Due to the distance Fr. Patrick could not be present for their burial. Our prayerful condolence to Fr. Patrick!

*Fr. Emmanuel Horo*

### SOGRA

During Advent Frs. Raymond Kerketta and Albert Dungdung along with Sr. Margret F.C. and the catechists prepared the parishioners spiritually to celebrate the Christmas. Fr. Raymond was sent to Tamra parish to conduct a marriage preparation course on 5th December 2011, which he successfully concluded on 24th December 2011. It was the first such joint venture of three parishes, namely, Tamra, Sogra and Kuruskela of Simdega diocese. Big thanks to Fr. Raymond Kerketta for his generous service. On 21st December 2011, students of Sogra School organized Christmas gathering and presented a variety of items. The children of K.G. section captivated the audience with their melodious singing. The following day the results were declared in the presence of the guardians. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the parish youth had a much awaited Christmas gathering. They had a colourful Christmas programme, thus sharing the joy, love and peace of baby Jesus with one another. Fr. Albert Dungdung gave an inspiring message to the youths of the parish. When Deacon Chermako recovered from his ill health he started the singing practice for the youths along with Srs. Manjula and Margret. Fr. Director Ajit Saras, S.J. also sent some boys from the Apostolic School to Sogra for the Christmas preparation. Some helped in cutting firewood and some in singing practice. Big thanks to Fr. Director and all the boys. As the New Year approached the rain and the cold could not prevent the parishioners from coming to the church for the New Year Holy Mass. Fr. Albert Dungdung was the main celebrant praying for the wellbeing of the parishioners and the world. Just after this the parishioners went around the church carrying the statue of Mother Mary and surrendering their lives and the New Year to her. This was followed by the burning of the effigy of the old man and the flying of the balloons in the air symbolizing the New Year 2012.

*Fr. Tej Mati Bage*

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## NEWS FROM ASSAM MISSION

### TEZPUR JESUIT BHAVAN

Assam Mission Missionaries' annual meet was held at Tezpur Jesuit Bhavan from 13 to 15 December in

which all the members actively took part. There was very lively sharing of our experiences which was mutually enriching. During the meeting we

planned for short and long term action plans for one year and 5 years for the faith formation of our people of different parishes of Assam Mission. Some concrete action plans to give the quality education to our students were drawn and also for us Jesuits in the line of prayer and community life concrete action plans were proposed.

Fr. Xavier had been to Ranchi to attend the Province Congregation from 5-8 December. During the Province congregation 3 postulates were about the need of qualified personnel and financial support for the development of Assam Mission. In response to the postulates Xavier felt that the whole Ranchi Province along with the Provincial is committed to develop the Assam Mission with qualified personnel and finance.

On 12 December the Gana Chetna Samaj under the leadership of Fr. George and the staff had arranged one day carrier guidance seminar for 35 College hostel girls of Shanti Bhavan. It was appreciated by the participants who expressed their desire that such programmes could be arranged frequently in the coming years.

Fr. Xavier gave recollection to the Ursuline Sisters and the college girls of Shanti Bhavan on 17 December and on 19 December he gave another recollection for 70 hostel boys and girls of St. Xavier's College in preparation of Christmas.

Xavier left for Kerala on 21 December whereas Fr. Anup and George stayed at Tezpur. For Christmas Fr. Anup had Vigil Mass at Dholailbil and on Christmas Day he celebrated the Eucharist at 9.00 a.m. with the army people at Solmara Army Camp and at 11.30 a.m. Mass in Tezpur Jail where as Fr. George had been to Missamari for the mid night Mass and during the day he celebrated Christmas Mass with the Sonabheel tea garden.

*Fr. Xavier Lakra*

## **BALIPARA**

The Church construction is in full swing to get ready for the blessing on 22 January 2012. All of you are most welcome. The mid night Christmas celebration at Balipara Church was grand which was arranged and prepared by Sr. Pratibha H.C. and Fr. James Lakra. The church was full to its capacity. Fr. Theodore Ba'a had been to Rangapara Army camp for the Christmas Day celebration. L.K.G. & U.K.G.

admission were taken before the Christmas holidays. Now the Boys hostel is coming up.

## **ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE**

In the month of December, focused attention was given on the final preparation for board exams. All the subject teachers were asked to check whether their syllabus has been covered. On 6<sup>th</sup> Dec., Fr. Principal, Fr. James left for Ranchi for the Jubilee celebration.

On 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. the Jubilee Mass was celebrate at Manresa House Ranchi. It was followed by an agape. The whole celebration was very inspiring. The Jubilarians shared their experiences. On 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. Fr. James had another jubilee celebration with his family. It was a good family gathering. The whole family thanked God for his graces. On 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. the second year students started their final sent up test. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Fr. John, Fr. James and Fr. Anup attended the Jesuits' get together for Assam Mission. All the eighteen Jesuits members of Assam Mission were present. Each one shared about one's apostolate. It was very inspiring and encouraging.

On 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. the college concluded second term with Christmas get together and class XII farewell programme. The college also felicitated Fr. James on his golden jubilee in the Society of Jesus. Fr. John was the main organizer; the students and the staff put up some meaningful items of songs and dances. Fr. Anup gave the main message of Christmas. The Gospel was read in English and Assamese languages. The farewell programme of class XII was very touching and inspiring. Students shared their feelings. Most of them feel very much attached to the college. All of them promised to live by the values, the college has inculcated in them. The college will remain closed for Christmas, New Year and Bihu festival till 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

## **OUT-REACH PROGRAMME**

4<sup>th</sup> Dec 4 new non formal study centers started in Bokajan and Malijan, sub centers of Tezpur Parish. Some religious sisters have been visiting these centers for pastoral care. Round 100 slates with packets of pencils have been provided. The illiterate women and girls mostly tribals are very enthusiastic about this programme.

During my stay at Ranchi, I had a chat with Fr. Aurel, Director of LNN. After my brief report on different projects that is run by the outreach programme of St. Xavier's Junior College, we discussed on our future plans.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. the monthly meeting of the parish youth was held. The parish youth is trying to organize itself. Activities of the parish youth on both the levels were evaluated. Most of the youth units are quite active in the village level. Regular meetings and regular activities at unit level were stressed. On the parish level there was difference of opinion on how to run the movement. Some stressed on strict structure and regular meetings and activities. Others were of the opinion that a monthly gathering could be kept up.

Among the activities of the youth besides simple get together some deeper causes like community development programmes could be also taken up. Sr. Prativa discussed about Christmas liturgy of the parish. Different units will share responsibilities to make Christmas celebration a success. Fr. James encouraged the youth to take up leadership in their respective units.

*Fr. James Lakra*

## **DIASPORA**

### **ROME**

On the first day of December, I was surprised to receive an invitation from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to be part of a group of four experts to discuss and prepare a Papal document for the United Nations' Earth Summit Rio+20, to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June, 2012. Our first meeting was held on 12 December in the presence of H.E. Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Being the youngest in the group, I was thrilled to meet, interact and to discuss with the experts who have been working for years in the field of sustainable development, current environmental issues and the sources of energy. After two hours of sharing and discussion, we were assigned to write a position paper on some selected themes and my lot fell on Energy, Justice and Peace. This particular assignment forced me to stay at home during the Christmas holidays.

The month of December always comes and flies by leaving behind the sweet memories of Carol singings and festive events with overflowing joyous spirit. As usual the main streets of Rome and various commercial establishments were attractively decorated well before the beginning of the Advent season. Gregorian University has something very special for the month of December as part of the preparation for the Christmas; that is, the Carol Singing during every break (15 minutes). This much awaited and much loved tradition offers a perfect platform for the cultural extravaganza from different parts of the world. Over the past few years, the beauty of the cultural diversity has added more color, life and participation into the Carol Singing. The Carol singing was initiated on 9 December by the students who volunteer to offer their helping hands in organizing different activities of the University. As the Chaplain of the University, I had to deliver a short Christmas message and to announce the beginning of the Carol Singing. After the ball was set rolling, the beautiful quadrangle of the University resounded during every break with Carols in different languages accompanied by different musical instruments. Altogether 30 groups from different parts of the world presented a glimpse of the Universal Church. Every Carol group received almost wild cheers and applause. The traditional Carol Singing was aptly concluded on 21 December with the singing by a group of Professors, during which R.P. Rector delivered Christmas message to the whole University. With the cheerful sounds of Buon Natale (Merry Christmas), the University was closed for the Christmas vacations until 8 January. Linus left for the Christmas ministry on the same day. He will come back during the first week of January after guiding the Sisters of St. Anne's in their three days' Retreat.

On 20 December, the Vice Rector for administration invited me to preside over the Eucharistic celebration for the personnel of the University. A well-prepared liturgy with traditional Italian Christmas hymns created an appropriate ambience for active and lively participation of all present for the celebration. The Holy Mass was followed by a buffet dinner, which provided with

another apt opportunity to interact with all the personnel of the University, with many of whom we hardly get a chance to meet during the academic year. The presence of all the authorities of the University in both the Eucharistic celebration and the festive dinner doubled the joy of Christmas gathering and rejuvenated the sense of belongingness to "comunità universitaria", a term used by R.P. Rector to create an atmosphere of mutual cordiality and collaboration among the staff, the students and the personnel.

Justin had slogged hard during the month of December to get his Radio programs ready as he had planned to go to Ranchi to bless the marriage of his youngest sister. He left for Christmas ministry on 20 December; from where he left for Ranchi on 25 December. Notwithstanding the fatigue of sitting for hours in the Confessional room, he surprised everyone by faithfully dispatching on time the Hindi E-Samachar. He will be back to his desk on 11 January.

*Fr. Prem Xalxo*

### **ST FRANCIS MISSION, ROSEBUD IN SOUTH DAKOTA (SD)**

South Dakota is a land of Native Indians. Among these native communities I started my ministry in three parishes. The opening of the ministry was with the new missal. The First Mass was quite successful though practices of the Mass response is still going on and each Sunday before Mass Sch. Tony reminds people about the changes made in the Mass responses.

The main activities were Holy Mass, Baptism, house visiting and funeral. I say three Masses in week days in two parishes and three Masses on Sundays in three parishes. I also say Mass in the hospital once in a month. There was baptism of nine children which I did and there is some more coming soon. Though it is slow, I have started house visiting specially the old people of the parishes.

For me this year 2011 Christmas means surprise. I said two Holy Masses in the Christmas night. The big crowd for the Mass surprised me. In one of the parishes there were six to eleven people used to come for Sunday liturgy and but for Christmas church was full. So I prayed that the Christmas spirit be always in the heart of people. People felt

God's favour because there was good weather, no snow fall so they could come for the Vigil Mass.

There was Christmas get together in the spirituality centre for all the Jesuits working in the rosebud Indian Reservation. Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss, Bishop of Rapid City joined us for the gathering. We had nice evening. We all enjoyed being together. In the morning Bishop presided over the Eucharist and prayed for the fruitful mission in Indian Reservation.

In the community we are six altogether: three scholastics are doing their regency and three priests, including myself, involved in different ministries in the parishes.

The challenge for me is to bring back people's faith into practices specially the youth and young couples.

*Fr. Amar Bage*

### **PROTHRAPUR**

Month of December was full of activities and programmes. Advent tour programme held to different Bastis and sub-stations of the parish. In preparation of Silver Jubilee of Stella Maris Cathedral Port Blair a day of recollection was organized for the faithful in the parish whereas same thing took place in two different sub-stations namely Carbynscove and Chidiyatapu on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Fr. David was able to complete his Advent tour with the help of Fr. Amrit Kujur, SJ, though had very busy schedule catering the spiritual need of the faithful of the various parishes of the diocese being the coordinator of spiritual and renewal of silver Jubilee.?

To mark silver jubilee, sports was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> December in collaboration with pastoral sisters and committee members for the people of this locality which was much appreciated and expected to be held again. Children, young and old everyone participated and enjoyed the day thoroughly. After few days of Christmas singing practice, youth and children started carol singing forming two groups and were able to complete this carol within a week practically all the villages. Light procession (Prakashyatra) which is something special of Andaman was another good occasion to come together on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, announcing the

coming of the Messiah is close at hand. Faithful of other denomination too joined the group. Night Vigil Mass was little disturbed as storm and good shower occurred, but this is nothing unusual of the Andaman as it is very difficult to predict weather, otherwise everything went on well.

In order to share joy and peace, and to show our solidarity there held a programme in District Jail of Prothrapur consisting of Prayer service, Cultural programme and presentation of gifts. Youth, children and sisters help out Fr. David as to carry out this programme. Many wanted to join hands and to visit

jail inmates but big crowd is always disturbance as community hall cannot accommodate all, even then David assured them to offer opportunity next time. Christmas Mela held for three days comprising of Christmas Carol singing, Christmas Dance and Biblical role play competitions held on 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> December. Many groups came up with good preparation and creativity. The participants were given the opportunity to perform for the whole parish on the very last day of the year 2011 after the Vigil Mass.

*David Bara*

### LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**Sri Francis Horo**, elder brother of Fr. Emmanuel Horo died on December 8, 2011.

**Mrs. Martha Soreng (60)**, Sister in law of Fr. Patrick Tete died on 30 December 2011.

**Miss. Nirmala Tete (35)**, niece of Fr. Patrick Tete died on 31 December 2011.

**Sri Thomas Tirkey (68)**, father of sch. Pradeep Tirkey died on 9 January 2012.

**Br. Raphael Tiru, S.J. (82/56)** passed away on January 12, 2012.

**Mrs. Josephin Tirkey (94)**, mother of Fr. Vital Ekka died on 14th January 2012.

**Mr. John Kujur (48)**, brother of Fr. Florence Kujur died on 8th January 2012.

**Sr. Sagita Toppo (61)**, Notre Dame Nun, sister of Fr. James Toppo died in January

### BIRTH DAYS: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

#### JANUARY

06 Minj Patras  
 07 Ekka Philemon  
 Kujur Anselm  
 Kiro Laurentius  
 09 Lakra Amrit  
 11 Terrens Paul  
 Kullu Clement  
 12 Dungdung Mathias  
 Kullu Albert  
 13 Kindo Robert  
 15 Ekka Beni Alphonse  
 19 Kullu Rajesh Kuldeep  
 20 Tete Ignatius  
 21 De Brouwer Christian  
 De Bock Joseph  
 24 Lakra Chonhas  
 26 Kerketta Raymond  
 Tigga Tej Kumar  
 27 Lakra Bimal Elias  
 28 Ekka Blacius  
 Lakra Nabor  
 30 Ekka Manoj

#### FEBRUARY

03 Tigga Blacius  
 05 Beck John Anuranjan  
 06 Ekka Anup Arvind  
 09 Kujur Ranjit  
 10 Kujur Robert Pradeep  
 11 Van Nuffel Peter Paul  
 12 Kujur Ignatius  
 14 Kujur Johny  
 16 Toppo Deepak  
 22 Kerketta Bimal  
 23 Tete Isaac  
 24 Horo Emmanuel  
 Kerketta Edward  
 25 Kujur Elvius  
 29 Dungdung James W.