



RANCHI BULLETIN



Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, Servant of God

Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, Servant of God

80/4 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand **April 2021**

Easter Wishes

FR. PROVINCIAL AND THE MEMBERS OF
RANCHI JESUIT PROVINCIAL'S CURIA
WISH ALL OF YOU -
"GRACE - FILLED HAPPY EASTER"!

JCSA APPOINTMENTS

As on 25 March 2021

BY FR GENERAL

1. Fr Antonysamy Stephenraj, SJ (PAT) – Regional Director, JRS
2. Fr Sunny Jacob (JAM)– Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for 'Educate Magis'
3. Fr Stephen K.C. (DUM), new Provincial of Dumka.

BY THE POSA

Subject to the appointment by CBCI

4. Fr Jesu Benjamin (DUM) - National Director, AICUF

Jor Bagh, Delhi

5. Fr Shajumon C.K. (DAR) – Superior
6. Fr James Arjen Tete (CCU) – Secretary, Formation
7. Fr Arun Kumar (KAR) – Secretary of Faith
8. Fr John Ravi Selvan (DEL) – Secretary, JEA
9. Fr Nelson Gonsalves (GOA) – Asst Finance Officer, JRS

ISI, Bangalore

10. Fr Francis Balaraj (KAR) – Administrator and Program Head of Social Inclusion and Democracy

ISI, Delhi

11. Fr Thomas Perumalil (PAT) – Acting Superior
12. Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) – Director MAIN (Additional responsibility)
13. Fr Shin Kallungal (KER) – Asst Director, MAIN
14. Fr Franklin Rex (CEN) – JRS
15. Fr Alwyn D'Souza (KAR) – Research Scholar
16. Fr Lancy Lobo (GUJ) – Research Scholar

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

17. Fr Francis D' Souza (KAR) - Registrar & Treasurer
18. Fr Arul P. Stanislaus (CEN) - Minister and Spiritual Director
19. Fr Benedict Lakra (RAN) - Spiritual Director
20. Fr Lindsay Lobo (GOA) – Trial teaching and Asst

Program Coordinator of SNRI

21. Fr Martin Gnanapragasam (AND) – Trial teaching

Papal Seminary, Pune

22. Fr Antony Raj R (JAM) –Moderator of Philosophers & Spiritual Director

23. Fr Rocha Rozario (GOA) – Spiritual Director

24. Fr Linus Dabre (Pune Diocese) – Trial teaching at Jnana Deepa

Jnana Deepa, Pune

25. Fr Peter Ignatius (PAT) – Registrar and Teacher

26. Fr George Cordeiro (BOM) – Moderator of PG Students and Manager of PG Block

27. Fr Biju Vadakkumchery (KER) – Change of residence to PG Block

De Nobili College, Pune

28. Fr Paul Chemparathy (NEP) – Treasurer

29. Fr Joji Devara (AND) – PhD

30. Fr Jagdish Parmar (DAR) – PWP Office relocated to De Nobili College, Pune

31. Fr Clement Jesudoss (MDU) – Teaching at Jnana Deepa

Vidyajyoti, Delhi

32. Fr Hector Pinto (GUJ) – Registrar & Treasurer, Vidyajyoti, Delhi

33. Fr Anthony D' Souza (KAR) – Trial Teaching, VJ

34. Fr Edwin Philip Rodrigues (BOM) – Teaching, VJ

JRS, Afghanistan

35. Fr Jerome Sequeira – Country Director

Tertianship

36. Irudayaraj Manickam (GUJ) - Tertian Instructor, Sitagarha

37. Fr William Sequeira (KAR) – Tertian Instructor, Kandy

38. Fr Jose Jacob M (KER) – Tertian Instructor, Shembaganur

39. Fr Valerian Mendonca (JAM) – Tertianship at Shembaganur

IGNIS

40. Fr Somy Mathew Mannoor(JAM) – Editor, IGNIS

Gratitude for the services rendered to Common Houses and works of South Asia

1. Fr Edward Mudavaserry (HAZ)

2. Fr Michael Thanaraj (JAM)

3. Br Christuraj A (CCU)

4. Fr Jose Thayil (PAT)

5. Fr George Karuvelil (PAT)

6. Fr Paul D'Souza (GUJ)

7. Fr Alex Gnanapragasam (JAM)

8. Fr Chandy Kumblankal (KER)

9. Fr Louie Albert (CEN)

10. Fr Stanislaus Fernandes (PUN)

11. Fr Linto Kanichai (KER)

12. Fr Stephen K.C. (DUM)

13. Fr Keith Abranches (GUJ)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY FR. PROVINCIAL

1. **Province Days 2021: - May 23 – 25:** A list of the participants will be prepared by the Province Curia who will attend the Province days. Province Days Organizing Committee Members: -

Fr. Medard Xalxo (Coordinator)

Fr. Raymond Kerketta

Fr. Francis Minj

Fr. Erentius Minj

Fr. Edwin Ritesh Dungdung

Fr. Pradeep Kerketta

Fr. Ajay Arun Minj

Fr. Ignatius Lakra

2. **Province Congregation 2021:** - Fr. Superior General has convoked 71st Congregation of Procurators which will start in Loyola (Spain) between the 16th and the 22nd of May 2022. "To see all things new in Christ", is the motto of the

Congregation. As a part of preparation for the Procurators Congregation, we will have Province Congregation from September 26, 2021 onwards (It may take 5 -6 days) Information to the members of Ranchi Jesuit Society will be sent in due course of time.

3. Annual Budget Sessions-

Due to the prevailing unfavourable situation, we suspend all the Budget sessions that were scheduled to take place in different zones.

However, all the communities must send their budgets (Soft Copy) of different units to **Fr. Vijay Manohar Tirkey, the Bursar**, Sadbhavna not later than April 10, 2021. Most of the communities have submitted their budgets except few.

The **Finance Commission** will go through your budgets and do the needful. If there will be some clarifications to be made, The Commission will write to the communities.

STATUS OF SCHOLASTICS, 2021-2022

Due to unavoidable reasons the following changes have taken place in STATUS.

SN	NAMES	STATUS	PLACE
1.	Sameer Ekka	Regency	St. Xavier's School, Moriang, Manipur
2.	James Ekka	Regency	Delhi
3.	Wilson Lakra	Regency	St. John's High School, Dorea
4.	Fulit Dhanwar	Philosophy	JD, Pune
5.	Sumit Soreng	Philosophy	Satya Nilayam, Chennai
6.	Rohit D. Dungdung	B. Ed	St. Xavier's College of Education, Patna

SCHOLASTIC'S GET TOGETHER

DATE: 17 MAY - 18 MAY 2021

PLACE

FIRST GROUP:
CATHOLIC CHURCH, TONGO

SECOND GROUP:
CATHOLIC CHURCH, SARWADA

NOTE: *Scholastic's Get Together is subjected to change, depending upon the situation of Covid-19.*

**ANNUAL RETREAT:
26 MAY EVENING - 03 JUNE EVENING**

DIACONATE ORDINATION IN ROME ON 6TH APRIL, 2021



Dn. Nirmal Minj, SJ

Our special prayers and Hearty
Congratulations to would-be-Deacon

Nirmal Minj, SJ (RAN)

MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

The New Year picnic was organized at our favourite picnic spot near the pond in the campus. Our co-workers and Jesuit friends of neighboring communities were the special invitees for the picnic on 1st January. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess S.J., our Provincial, gave us an inspiring message for the New Year. In his New Year message, he urged us to give up our old selves and put on new selves like trees which are shedding the old and yellow leaves and embracing the new and tender leaves. Our scholastics had prepared delicious and varieties of dishes for the day which everybody enjoyed. The picnic was concluded with singing and dancing. This occasion brought us together. It was well appreciated. Cooperation and team spirit was very much visible among the community members. On 5th January, all the Manresa scholastics and some Fathers participated in the Priestly Ordination of Deacons Claver Minj SJ and Elphiz Kerketta SJ in Kereng Parish. On 31st January too, many of our community members had opportunity to witness the ordination of Deacon Bimal Nag at Maranghada parish. Our presence was a gesture of love and encouragement for newly ordained priests. In spite of pandemic restrictions, we celebrated the Republic Day with great fervor and enthusiasm. Sch. Ashish Soy SJ inspired the audience with patriotic feeling by his thought provoking and mesmeric message. On 14th February, Fr. Binod Toppo pronounced his final vows. Many of his family members, friends and well wishers were present to pray for and extend to him many good wishes. Apostolic boys led the choir and made the atmosphere very devotional. Bro. Blacius Tigga, our minister, took all the trouble to feed the guests well. The spring season thrilled our scholastics as it brought us a pleasant climate. But as the end semester drew closer the scholastics experienced exam fever. After having had hectic schedule of online classes, they busied themselves in preparing for offline exams which commenced in the first week of February. The exams got over successfully for some in February and for others continued till the last week of March. On 1st March Scholastics and regents from different provinces, who had passed out of St. Xavier's College, arrived Manresa to write Generic Elective exams from 4-6th March. With great zeal and vigor they wrote the exams and soon moved to their respective places to resume their mission. Moreover, the Manresa kitchen, washing zone and refectory was repaired and white washed to give new look before Easter. Some of our senior citizens, namely Fr. Pratap Toppo SJ, Fr. Robert Kindo SJ, and Fr. Severius Ekka SJ were admitted in Constant Lievens Hospital Mandar for better nursing care. Fr. Pratap and Fr. Robert regained

strength very fast and came back home soon. On 8th of March, six scholastics went for the burial of Fr. Edward Kerketta SJ in ATC Namkum. The following day, the Juniors kept some time aside for plucking 'futkal' and fishing. They caught about 40 kg of fish. Certainly, it was a great day for Manresa community. On 14th there was an orientation for First Semester Students in the College. After working hard for the exam, the first year juniors were replete with excitement and they began their first semester exams on 16th March. On 21st March, the 2nd and 3rd year Scholastics and some fathers were blessed to go for a Pilgrimage to Jamgain Village, in Hulhundu Parish to celebrate 136th anniversary of the arrival of Fr. Constant Lievens in Jamgain. The motto of Fr. Constant Lievens SJ "Fire Must Burn" was vividly seen in a huge number of religious and faithful gathered for the occasion. We enjoyed the festive meal and left for home satisfied. While on the way back home, we visited famous Dhurwa Dam and St. Xavier's community, Doranda, Ranchi. Thanks to St. Xavier's Doranda Community for availing bus for us.

Schs. Ranjit and Amit, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

March 2021 was full of various academic and co-curricular activities. It started with the End-Semester Examinations of Semester-V, Semester- III and Semester-I. Due to covid-19 guidelines the number of the examinees was kept small and this made the exam fever linger for the whole month. First of all Semester-V examination began followed by Semester-III and lastly Semester-I. In spite of such demanding conditions the students gave their best to get through the examination. It was quite strange for Semester-I students to come to college and write End-Semester Examination. They came to college for the verification of their certificates that's all as the admission was taken online. Seeing the possible inconveniences for the students the Orientation Programme was arranged. On 5th March the B.Com. and Vocational students attended the programme section wise. It started at 7.30 a.m and went till 3.30 p.m having break for an hour in between. All these were done under the leadership of Fr. Pradeep Kujur, SJ. For the B.A and B.Sc students the Orientation programme was held on 14th March under the care of Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ. The time was allotted according to their honours subject. The programme started at 9.45 a.m and ended at 3.00 p.m. In the Orientation Programme the students were briefed about the Jesuit Education, Life of St. Francis Xavier, Way of Life in the College Campus and also about the Mid-

Semester and End-Semester Examinations and unfair means if any in exams. There was also Recollection for Teaching and Non-Teaching catholic staff on 21st March. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ the Chairman of the Governing Body of the college gave a talk. He stressed on the uniqueness of each person and also the tendency of human beings to go away from God. He reminded the unconditional love and mercifulness of God. The recollection ended with Holy Eucharist. Fr. Vinod Kr. Bilung, SJ is in St. Martha Dispensary, Samtoli. He is improving and the physiotherapist says that it will take another few months to walk and move independently. We congratulate Fr. Prabhat Kennedy Soreng, SJ on passing the CSIR-UGC NET in Life Sciences.

Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DORANDA

More of academic activities were witnessed at the close of the academic year. The school conducted the Online Final Term Examination for the KG to IX and XI from February 27 to March 12, 2021. The seriousness about the examination was easily seen during the online examination on students' faces. The answer scripts were submitted by the parents once in the middle and at the end. Sch. Patras Topno, SJ participated in Regents' Recollection in Jharna which was held on 6th and 7th March, 2021. Fr. Jyoti Paul Baxla, SJ gave a meaningful talk on 'Regency: The third stage of formation', emphasizing the importance of Regency in the Jesuit formation. On 8th March the school celebrated the International Women's Day. During the assembly we thanked and prayed for all the women teaching and non-teaching staff associated to our school. We acknowledged their selfless service to the institution. On the same day there was launching of E-Book (Computer book) 'Brahmastra: The weapon', authored by our own staff Mr. Santosh Kumar and Ms. Shalini Shikha. This is meant to help the students for Board Exams. Mr. Chhavi Ranjan IAS, DC who was invited as chief guest, launched the E-Book successfully. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ the Provincial gave his online message to the gathering. Fr. Henry Barla celebrated his 75th birthday on 17th March. We thanked the Lord for his life and prayed for many more grace-filled years to come. On 20th March the school General Body and Governing Body had its annual meetings. All the members were present in the meeting. Fr. Stanislaus Alla, SJ (AND) stayed for few days and shared some

insights with us. The SXD community participated in the pilgrimage to Jamgain Hulhundu on 21st March, taking the neighboring Communities of Nuns to participate in 136th anniversary of Fr. Constant Lievens' arrival to the Chhotanagpur Mission. A huge crowd gathered to commemorate the historical day. Ranchi Zone II had a meaningful Recollection day on 24th March in Saparom. Fr. Henry Barla SJ gave the points combining the theme of Easter and Ignatian Year 2021-22, 'Christ and Cross and Ignatian Conversion'. The school fraternity organized a blessing ceremony for the students of class X and Class XII as part of their farewell programme on 27th March. The outgoing students left the campus with sincere gratitude and nostalgia.

Sch. Patras Topno, SJ

JHARNA ASHIRVAD, NAMKUM

On 13 March 2021, 12 second year novices set out two-by-two like disciples of Jesus to six different parishes for their Village Experiment to preach the Word of God and to train themselves better being with the people and working for them, which also becomes the means to inculcate the Jesuit Value of being men for others. The 06 first year novices were also supposed to join them but due to COVID-19, they could not go and stayed in the novitiate itself. They had intensive English and Music class in the fourth week and practice of Easter hymns and music class in the fifth week. As the second year novices were out, the first year novices in turn were involved in serving the sick (Frs. Severus Ekka, SJ and Fredrick Kujur, SJ) at Holy Family Hospital in Mandar. On 04th March, NS Akash Xaxa replaced NS Amar Bara and then NS Ambros Toppo went to replace NS Akash Xaxa on 10th March. NS Akash had headache and fever after coming back from the hospital therefore he visited St. Anne's Hospital in Ulhatu and went through Covid test, blood test and X-ray, but nothing serious was found. However, he was found positive for Typhoid and he is under medication. On 17th March NS Bhushan Kandulna replaced NS Ambros Toppo and he was replaced by NS Rohit Paul Kerketta on 24th March. NS Anuj Beck served the superior, Fr. K C Philip for four days, who felt weak and suffered from giddiness. On 14th March 2021, we celebrated the birthday of our superior, Fr. K C Philip in a simple way as his health was not good. We all thanked the Lord for the gift of his life and Jesuit vocation and his dedicated service to the mission entrusted and prayed for his good health. On 21st March 2021, Fr. Master, Fr. Socius and the first year novices made a pilgrim journey to Jamgai, Hulhundu Parish, which was held to commemorate the annual

pilgrimage and the 136th anniversary of the arrival of Ish Sevak Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, the Servant and Apostle of God in the land of Chhotanagpur. Father Constant Lievens came to Chotanagpur in 1885 from Belgium and worked for the poor people. The ceremony started with the welcoming of the guests and followed by the Rosary Procession. His Grace Felix Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi and His Excellency Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi presided over the Eucharist as main celebrant. All of us felt blessed being in the land from where Fr. Constant Lievens sowed the seed of faith and hope in Chhotanagpur 136 years ago. Jharna Spirituality Centre continued quenching the spiritual thirst of the faithful who came for it : 15 Jesuit Regents (Recollection, 06 - 07 March, Guide - Fr. Jyoti Paul), 07 Calasansanz Sisters (Retreat, 9 - 15 March, Guide - Fr. Camil), 2 SCB and SJA Sisters (Annual Retreat, 10 - 18 March, Guide - Fr. K C Philip), 2 MMS and OSU Sisters (Annual Retreat, 15 - 25 March, Guide - Fr. K C Philip), 11 SDB Regents (Workshop, 16 - 20 March, Guide - Fr. Edwin), 3 Capuchin and SVD Deacons (Retreat, 21 - 26 March, Guide - Fr. Camil). Fr. Edwin Dang, SJ, also went to Holy Cross Convent, Bardhaman Compound, Ranchi on 22nd March to give retreat.

NS. Ajay Ekka

RTC, TARUNODAY, KANKE

The month of March began with an uneasy note. It brought us a lot of sufferings, fears and anxieties of COVID-19. Deacon Sandeep Kujur continued to be under medical care for COVID-19 at Constant Lievens hospital Mandar. Sch. Celestine Minj complained of high fever which turned to be COVID-19 positive. On his birthday March 7, he was admitted in Constant Lievens hospital. After one week of medical care in the hospital, he along with Sch. Sandeep Kujur came back to Tarunoday. They were quarantined in the old bungalow. On March 12, Bro. Patras Minj and Sch. Alok Ekka tested COVID-19 positive. They were admitted in Constant Lievens hospital. On March 18, all the community members went through COVID-19 tests, in which 4 members: Sch. Ignatius Tete, Sch. Suresh Tirkey, Sch. Amit Xalxo and Deacon Johny Kujur were found with Corona positive symptoms. On the following day, they were sent to Mandar for treatment and quarantine. On March 19, Bro. Patras Minj and Sch. Alok Ekka, too, returned to Tarunoday and are home quarantined. Fr. Michael Kerketta, the House Superior, had not been feeling well for some days. On March 20, he was admitted to Mandar Hospital. After treatment in the hospital for three days, he came back to Tarunoday for home quarantine. Meanwhile, the health of Deacon Sandeep

Kujur deteriorated. He was suffering from high blood pressure. He was again admitted in Mandar. He went through several medical tests. According to medical tests, there is some growth in his heart. On March 24, Fr. Superior was admitted in Seva Nilaya, Aragate. He was suffering from typhoid. On March 25, senior members of the community Fr. Emmanuel Horo and Fr. Sudhir Kujur were vaccinated for COVID-19. Our academic schedules were packed in the month of March. The First Year Students had the courses of Church Social teaching with Fr. Amrit Tirkey and Sociology of Religion with Fr. Francis Minj. Fr. John Mundu and Fr. Francis Minj taught jointly Land Theology to both the year Students. We had Semester Exams from March 23 to March 26. The rest of the days of this academic year are reserved for integration papers. We are busy in writing our Integration papers. We are observing the rules of social distance and other regulations to keep ourselves safe. We are given our respective places in refectory. We are in partial quarantine. The Taruns are happy to have erected new Bascket Ball boards under the guidance of Fr. Sudhir Kujur. The work of installing interlock bricks in the Tarunoday road and the erecting the new gate at the entrance is in progress.

Sch. Valentine Sinduria, SJ

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH, PATRACHAULI

We are thankful to God for He has kept us all safe and sound in this month and very especially in this Corona pandemic period. A three days Charismatic Retreat program from 5 March to 7 March 2021 was organized for the faithful in the parish. The retreat was conducted by Fr. Prem Prasad and four member team from Kandhri Matridham Ashram. Almost 500 faithful attended the retreat program and benefited from it. We completed our Lenten Tour to different villages. During this Lenten tour we emphasized on the sacrament of reconciliation which most often male faithful tend to avoid it. The monthly Recollection of Ranchi Zone-II was arranged at Ingo School, Saparom. The purpose of this recollection was to prepare us to participate meaningfully in the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fr. Henry Barla, SJ gave the points to ponder. He highlighted LPG-Listen, Pray and Give. It was really an enriching occasion. The central Joint committee meeting of the parish was held on 14 March to plan and celebrate the Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Vigil Mass and Easter Sunday in a meaningful way. On 25 March Managing committee meeting of High School was

held at our premises. Fr. Parish Priest is the secretary of the Janta High School Managing committee. He was also present there. One week marriage class got completed on Saturday, 27 March. Only four couple attended the programme this time. The parish tried to give them best input with the help of priests, catechists, nurse and some other experienced couple who have lived their married life. Janta High School, Patrachuli lost three students. Two died in a motorcycle road accident that took place at our school gate. They were students of class IX. Both of them died on the spot and the third one committed suicide. May God grant their soul internal rest! Fr. John Crus Tigga returned from Patna. He had gone to Patna to write exam for M.A. We the teachers of St. Joseph's Middle School Patrachauli, SMC and the students had the expectation and great desire to start the classes from the new academic year 2021-22; but the threat of Covid-19 still looms in and around our State and in our country. After one year of gap, students had hoped that they will come back to school for their education; but reopening of school is still in a question mark. The parents have complains that their children have forgotten reading and writing. They have forgotten their subject matters. Further, they are unable to control and keep their children in discipline at home. Only the class 8 students are coming regularly for their classes as per government direction. Besides their classes, they have some time to play volleyball, Carom etc and enjoy with their friends. The school boundary wall, which collapsed during last rainy season needs repair. It will be repaired after the Easter. These days, our teachers are busy on their smartphone screen to complete the DIKSHA training. This is almost 23-25 long courses to complete in the given time limit. With the help of the province, we are able to help our private teachers. Thanks to Fr. Provincial and the Ranchi Jesuit Society for helping our private teachers for their payment.

Fr. Anthres Minj, SJ

ST. MICHAEL'S JESUIT COMMUNITY, KHUNTI

We are all enjoying good health in the community. All the priests are serving our neighbouring communities with Eucharistic meal. Electrification of the community building is on progress. Sch. Rohit Dungdung attended recollection of the regents at Jharna, on 6TH evening to 7th March; on the same day community members visited our sick brother Fr. Ranjit Horo at Manresa House. We have few tribal students in the hostel, who are taking care of the campus as well as preparing for the upcoming

exam. Meanwhile new hostel building is coming up. For Inter college students offline classes are arranged on alternative days. From 1st of March, XI standard students joined us in good number. At the same time teachers are guiding students on online mode. 8th and 9th standard students are responding well, who come on alternative days of the week. Loyola English Medium school successfully finished academic session 2019-20 on 14th of March, on that occasion parents were invited for parent-teacher meeting and collected progress report from the respective class teachers. On 19th March panel interview was arranged to examine aspiring teachers, for English Medium. Soon new academic session will begin on online mode.

Sch. Rohit Dungdung, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S, BUNDU

St. Xavier's High School, Bundu instantaneously responded to the green signal from the state government which permitted offline classes for VIII and IX from 1st March, 2021. On 4th to 6th March there was a workshop on "Group farming through Modern Agriculture" organized by Kurdeg Association in St. Xavier's Hostel, Bundu. It chiefly aimed at promoting small scale business beside regular farming for economic progression. The inputs from the resource persons and field visiting were an eye-opening experience for the 32 participants who hailed from rural areas of Kurdeg. Cheers to Fr. Walter for coxswaining such impetus which heightened their curiosity towards smart farming for income generation in the changing times today. The community postponed the birthday celebration of Fr. Ravi which was on 5th March, to 7th March as it was Friday. The Jesuits from highway zone along with Fr. Binod Toppo and Br. Telesphore Horo from Manresa House, added extra flavour to Sunday's evening celebration. On 13th March Fr. Ravi gave a one-day recollection to the Catholic students along with their parents in Holy Cross Convent School, Ghato. The next day he gave a half-day recollection to the Holy Cross sisters of that region in Charhi. On 16th March Fr. Ravi joined the Inter College staff for a Mahadharna near Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha, Dhurwa which was called by All Teachers' Association of Aided Institutions of Jharkhand. The massive rally of teachers from every nook and corners of the state was a testimony in itself - "faith that does justice". The final results were out and the English Medium School has begun the new academic session for classes VIII to X from 17th March. On 19th March the High School started Pre-Board Exams for class X students. On 20th and 22nd March there was a budget session

in the community. On Sunday 21st March, Fr. Alex Toppo and Sch. Ajay Paulus Minj accompanied by the zonal superior Fr. Benjamin headed to Vijaygiri for a fraternal visit. The hill station surely might have eased them from the baking heat of the city. The Lenten Tour Masses in four villages namely- Ambajharia, Bardanda, Bera and Chokahatuwere in view of Easter preparation which gratified the spiritual needs of believers residing in these far-flung areas. On 25th March, Br. Modestus went to Ranchi for Covid-19 vaccination and after that he delightfully remarked- "it was a joyful get-together of 60 plus, moreover the antivirus has now immuned them to complete a century". On 27th March, Fr. Ravi gave recollection to the parishioners of Bundu. Frs. Raju, John and Vijay from Vijaygiri availed themselves for hearing confession. On 31st March he gave recollection to SRA Sisters, Ghaghra. The levelling of High School and Inter College premises has augmented beauty and hygiene, whereas the construction of open stage and portico is under progress. With daily watering the garden, Fr. John has vowed not to let the greenery diminish away from the campus. Br. Modestus has been persistently cross-examining the toddlers and their parents with regard to new admissions and promotion.

Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ

RUMTUKEL

The month of February was full of God's favour and blessings since four pairs of couples were blessed in the parish. The church had its normal activities. We had regular meetings and evaluations of palli samiti, Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh and parish youth group. All our catechists along with Khunti diocesan catechists had training program in Kunjla, Khunti Diocese from 28 February to 6 March 2021, Frs. Paneer Selvam and Francis, Sitamari were the efficient resource persons, who refreshed the Spirits of all the parish priests in the joint session on 6 March 2021. Theme was Prem ka anand. Rumtukel parish had mixed experiences of both growth and hurdles within the parish. One hand parish is flourishing in all sphere of life but on the other hand it is facing a bit hurdles created by Binda Unit and Marianist Society. We (palli samiti and catholic sabha) had meetings Twice to find out the better ways and means but seems to be meaningless. The issue is that Binda unit wants to have a separate parish in the campus of Marianist Society. The present members of the community seem to have no objection in this regard. We had 4 meetings along with Marianist and Binda Units with palli samiti and catholic Sabha. We are hopeful that

God will bless us and keep uniting us. God has sent us two holy angles Simon Tudu and Suman Shishir Orey from Namkum Noviciate to help us in preparation for the paschal celebrations during the Lent. They arrived here on 13 March 2021. They helped the faithful as well as the parish priest in his Lenten tour efficiently. They are back to the Noviciate on 5 April 2021. Congratulations to them and a Big thanks to both the Provincial and the Novice Master. In the midst of chaos and confusion and fear, Jerome Dungdung received the first dose of Covid 19 Vaccination in Rumutkel Panchayat on 24 March 2021. Preparation for the Easter and Holy Week is going on well.

Fr. Jerome Dungdung, SJ

ST IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL, GUMLA

On 1st March 2021 school reopened for class VIII, IX and XI, after almost a year long lockdown due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The school campus became lively with the presence of the students as they engaged themselves in different activities. For class XI, it was the first day of their formal class in the college; hence a short inaugural ceremony cum orientation programme was organised to give them a feeling of formal welcome in the college. March 8-15 pre-board examination was conducted for class X. After the exam three-days Jeevan Pravesh (Life-Orientation) seminar was organised for the Apostolic boys, whereas the hostel and day-scholar boys had two-days orientation and motivation programme conducted separately. Fr. Augustine Kujur, SJ was an inspiring resource person who gave orientation and motivational sessions to classes X, XI and XII on different days. Thanks to Fr. Augustine who happily accepted the request of the headmaster. Fr. Binod Toppo, director of Minor Seminary was here on 13th and 14th March, to take interviews of the class X boys of Apostolic School. On March 18th the illustrious alumnus of St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla, Mr. Benjamin Lakra was invited to address students of standard X and XII on career counselling. It was very inspiring and thought provoking.

Fr. Manohar K. Khoya, SJ

APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, GUMLA

Apostolic School, Gumla campus is 11 acre in size and approximately 180 students from class VI to class X reside here and attend classes in St. Ignatius' High School.

Due to COVID-19 the campus was completely desolated and deserted and wild grass had grown everywhere, but after 12th February, slowly the students started coming to continue their online and offline classes. The campus has been cleared of all the wild grasses and now campus has come clean and alive. On the occasion of the ordination of Fr. Bimal Nag, SJ at Maranghada, some boys from class X had gone to witness and during felicitation programme, presented the tribal dance, which was appreciated by all. An Entrance Test was conducted by Fr. Director on 6-7th February, followed by an interview for 30 students and again on 20-21 March, 19 students were interviewed for class VII. There was a Jeevan Pravesh programme for class X students. Fr. Pradeep Tirkey, SJ, Sr. Basanti Kerketta; Mrs. Lucia Khoya and Mr. Ambrose Soreng conducted the four days' programme. This programme enriched their personality and gave them new hope, new understanding of life.

Sch. Francis Tirkey, SJ

ST. STANISLAUS JESUIT COMMUNITY, LOHARDAGA

Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ, the Headmaster of school arranged the staff meeting to discuss on how to go about with the offline classes for IX and VIII standard students as well as VII and VI. Fr. Philemon visited DEO of Lohardaga to get permission to conduct offline classes for VII and VI standard students but the permission was not granted. As the Government of Jharkhand allowed starting offline classes for the IX and VIII standard students we began offline classes on 1st of March. The students were very much keen and enthusiastic to attend the offline classes. We are continuing online caresses for VII and VI Standard students. On 2nd of March, Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ went to Manresa House Ranchi. He stayed there for four days to appear in the special exam which was conducted for the college students of batch 2015 -2018. On 6th of March, all the Ranchi Regents assembled for one day recollection in Jharna Spirituality center Namkum. Fr. Joyti Paul Baxla, SJ, gave the points to ponder over. He also accompanied them during the time of sharing their experiences of Regency place. It was wonderful time for all them where they could enrich one another by their sharing. Sch. John returned to community on 7th of March. On 6th of March, Fr. Ranjit Lakra, SJ the superior of the House celebrated his birthday with the community members and inmates of our campus. On his auspicious birthday, sisters form St. Anne's community and Fathers from nearby

communities were invited to join in the celebration. On 8th of March, International Women's day was celebrated at Kaimo Patratoli in Arouse centre. Dr. Sr. Iline, OSU, was the resource person on this special day. On 10th of March, Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ and his Arouse team participated in LOK MANCH quarterly review meeting at Simdega. On 13th of March BDO of Lohardaga, Mr. Rajesh Dundung was invited to the community. We expressed our heartfelt thanks to him for his marvelous jobs and service, rendered to the poor and needy of our localities. Mr. Rajesh too expressed his thankfulness to the community as he moved to carry his mission in Bundu. Fr. Superior conducted one day recollection to St. Anne's sisters of Chandwa community on 14th of March. On 15th of March, three members of our community, Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ, Br. Nicholas Topno, SJ and Fr. Philemon took their Covid-19 vaccine at Sangrahaalay Messo Campus in Lohardaga. On 20th of March, we bade farewell to 10th Standard students of St. Stanislaus School, Lohardaga and gave best wishes to all of them as they are preparing themselves intellectually and mentally for their matriculation. In the month of March, under the guidance of Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ and his Arouse team were fully involved in conducting sports day to the different villagers. They completed sports day in 18 villages. Each village had taken part in sports in good number. The children, parents and community were involved in sports to make a common endeavor. On 21st of March our community received three Social Activists, Sr. Rubi, Mr. Siju and Mr. Jaswant. Three of them stayed overnight in the Community. On the following day, they gathered for their External Evaluation on LOK MANCH along with AROUSE team. Mr. Siju was the resource person of the External Evaluation. On 24th of March, she went back her home. Fr. Philemon made a trip to Chainpur for his KYC work at BOI, Chainpur. Fr. Sushil Tirkey attended a meeting at Bagaichan Namkum on 24th March. He also participated in a meeting held at Arouse, Gumla on 25th of March.

Sch. John F. Ekka, SJ

JESUIT COMMUNITY KATHALGURI, ASSAM

The annual exam for all three schools was conducted from the 8th to the 16th of March. After the exam, the curiosity of the children seemed to be high as they all waited to see their hard work. The result day and the new admissions kept us busy for almost a week. St. Xavier's School Tipkai has its glorious entry of class

9th students to the 10th as its first batch. On the 7th of March, international women's day was celebrated in the Kathalguri Parish. After Mass, the group singing competition was organized for them according to different Mandalies. The dynamics of the SCC (Small Christian Community) group was initiated once again in Kathalguri Parish. The objectives of this SABHA was to inculcate in every one of them the value of Christ and impart this to his/her family members at an individual level. After the Mass, there was SCC PRAYER MEET based on faith sharing. Just after the annual exam, the free coaching class was arranged by the school authority for the hostel boys and girls (class 10th students).

Fr. James Balmuchu, SJ

JESUIT COMMUNITY, BALIPARA

Our people are in the tea-garden and villages are in a fix because the election wave is quite hot and the allurements of money is very strong. In this regard Ours are taking lead to organize together with lay leaders to reorient and make them aware of their rights and duty to make right choices so that their life starts changing positively after the election. On February 28 a meeting was called for sixty-two youths just to motivate and inspire for the coming election. Fr. Pius and lay leaders gave the input. Another programme for one hundred and fifty youths of the whole diocese was arranged on March 14 where the leaders came from Guwahati. Frs. Elvius, Suresh, and others were very careful that everything moves well and none of them leave without food. The school authorities know when to strike the cords, so after the hectic final tests of the students Fr. Suresh and Sch. Kanchan arranged for one day bus outing for the hostellers both boys and girls to Balukpong close to Arunachal border. A matter of concern: once Covid 19 lock down was relaxed and the schools reopened, many children of SXS Tarabari did not come back for the classes. Therefore, Fr. Principal Suresh called for a parent's meeting on March 5 and the parents formed a core committee to take care of such situations. Our PP Fr. Elvius has arranged Lenten tour programme in the tea-garden and in the villages. Wherever there is big number of people we three priests go together in the evening for the sacrament of reconciliation and the holy Eucharist. The Community also witnessed thirty-four pair of couples who came for a week marriage rectification programme. They had been living together without sacraments. Therefore, after catechizing non-Christian women and their children they were baptized. Frs. Elvius, John B. Dungdung, Sr. Pratibha and the head catechist played important role preparing them for the new beginning. On March 21 nearly three hundred

mothers came for the recollection led by Fr. Erenius Toppo, the Principal SXC Sonabheel assisted by Fr. Elvius and others. The mothers began with the way of the cross, talk, confession and the holy mass. The mothers left for their respective places after late lunch. On the same day all of Ours who came from different mission centres to witness handing over ceremony of outgoing Mission Superior Fr. Pius Xalxo to Fr. Thomas Barla our new Mission Superior joined Birthday dinner of Fr. Superior Benedict Lakra at noon. A warm welcome was given to Frs. Francis Minj and Raymond Kerketta who came from Ranchi. In the evening all of us went to Jesuit Bhawan, Tezpur for handing over and farewell mass followed by supper.

Fr. Benedict Lakra, SJ

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, SONABHEEL

St. Xavier's Junior College Sonabheel had a sports week from 1ST March till 6TH March 2021. Finale was on 6th March. During those days many events took place such as Marathon race both for boys and girls on 4th March, winners from the boys side was Anukant Topno and among girls side was Sushmita Chetry. High jump, long jump, discuss throw, short put, Javelin throw etc. On 6th March Saturday was a grand finale of the sports week. Fr. Ranjit Kujur, SJ, the Principal of Junior College, welcomed all the guests with Assamese gamosas. After the traditional welcome the lighting of the light was lit by the dignitaries and student representatives, followed by flag-hoisting. After the flag hoisting, Fr. Xavier Lakra S.J. the Chief guest, delivered the speech encouraging all the sport participants to take active part and develop their inner hidden talents in the fields of sports and to keep up the spirit of the sports. Due to bad weather the March passed took place inside the Semi open stadium. After that the entire contingent moved to the sports field and there was lighting of the "Mashaal" (sports torch) by Fr. Erenius Toppo, the Guest of honour. Thereafter the finale of different races like 100, m, 200m, 400M, 800m, Bamboo race, spoon race, tug of war took place, and for all the professors bomb blast game was organized by the students. All the winners received their medals and certificates by the chief guest and guests of honours. There were Volleyball and Basket ball tournaments among the four groups. In the Junior College on 13 March some pending prize distribution took place. There was also basket ball competition among the houses. Yellow and red Houses played the final and yellow House was the champion. For the March Passed Yellow House got

the first prize and overall champion was Green House. Congratulations to all the athletes who participated and made the sport day 2021 a success. Sport day was concluded by the distribution of sweets and refreshment snacks were served to all the students and professors. Degree College Freshers' Day was celebrated on 10 March at St. Xavier's Junior College semi-open stadium. Fr. Erenius Toppo invited all the staff and students of Junior College for this programme. The chief guest was Fr. Pius Xalxo S.J., the Mission Superior; Guest of honour was Fr. Xavier Lakra S.J. Stage was well decorated by the Degree College students. Programmes were good and well prepared. Junior College students also performed four different cultural dances. Fr. Erenius Toppo gave vote of thanks. On this occasion all the staff as well as the students of Junior College was invited and it was held in Semi open auditorium of the Junior College. Lot of different cultural items were performed and they entertained all the audience. Fr. Pius Xalxo, the Delegate, was the Chief Guest of the Day. He shared the special characteristics of the Jesuit education and challenged the students to be men of transformation of the society, to be men of integrity and Character. All the staff and non-teaching staff of both the Junior and Degree were honored with Assamese gamosas. This was for the first time the college staff, non-teaching staff as well as the students participated and enjoyed the programme. At the end of programme all the students and the staff members were served delicious snacks. This programme will certainly attract the students of Junior College to join the Degree College at Sonabheel itself because quite many Major subjects are available in Arts stream. On 12 March Frs. Ranjit Kujur and Xavier Lakra were invited by the Principal Fr. Suresh Aind S.J. of St. John's School Balipara for the farewell celebration and to address the outgoing students and to motivate them to join St. Xavier's College. Fr. Xavier wished all the best for Class X students, expressed his wishes that all of them must pass the Matric with good marks and invited them to join St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel where there is a possibility to have their higher studies in one campus till they finish their graduation studies. Fr. Ranjit also praised the old St. John's students and their role in the junior college. They are the leaders of the College and he invited them to join for higher studies to St. Xavier's College. Hopefully many more students will join in bigger number to St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel. From 18-24 March was the day of career guidance for the Class XII students of Junior College by the Professors of Degree College to help them to choose the various subjects for their Major studies or higher education. We are sure this would help

them to choose the right subject for their higher studies. 25 March is the day of Farewell for the Class XII students by the Junior College XI students. It was very interesting programme, wishing all the best and success for their XII final exams and success in their future lives. There was various colourful different ethnic tribal dances. At the end of the programme all the students and staff were served delicious snacks. For three weeks on Fridays Frs. Xavier Lakra and John Berchmans Dungdung were invited by the faithful of Sonabheel local church's faithful to animate them and prepare them for the Easter. Xavier spoke about Eucharist and sacrament of reconciliation and John spoke about the importance of Cross and passion of Jesus Christ. On 21 March Fr. Erenius was invited to give an animation to 450 mothers of Balipara parish in preparations of Easter and he shared with them about the Passion of Jesus Christ. On 20 March Fr. John had been to Balipara Parish to speak to 34 couples on the occasion of the rectification of the marriage about the responsibilities of the parents to bring up their children and to make their future bright. On 21 March in the evening there was handing over of responsibility of the Delegate of the Provincial in Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur. From our different centre some members were represented. During the Eucharistic celebration handing over took place. Fr. Pius thanked everyone for the cooperation he received from the members of Assam Mission, in his farewell speech he shared with us his 4 Rs. Review, Renew, Revitalize and 4th R? He challenged us by sharing to make our communities more vibrant and cooperative to continue the mission of the Lord. We wished him all the best for his new responsibility as rector of Jesuit Community at Samtoli. We assured Fr. Thomas Barla of our full cooperation in shouldering responsibilities as the delegate of the Provincial.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ

DIGLIPUR, ANDAMAN

Fr. Roshan left for Port Blair on 3rd March 2021 for the completion of the work related to school, the School dairy, receipt and payment voucher, seal of the school etc. and also to attend chrism Mass which will take place on 11th March. After serious discussion and reflection both the Frs. Alex and Roshan find themselves at ease to start up school whenever it is needed and permitted. Confirmation classes continued but due to some unavoidable reasons, to have class is possible only on Sunday, yet we come to decision that children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 7th

April 2021, according to the availability of Diocesan Administrator. Preparation is hard but it has to be done. Though Andaman is quite safe and protected from the decrease of pandemic but still precaution is always taken by the people seriously and it has become the rule for the administration to go through the CORONA TEST before one moves from Diglipur to Port Blair or travels from Port Blair to other islands. Zero case is there in Diglipur yet people need to go for CORONA TEST to make sure, they do not carry the germ of CORONA. In the evening on 7th March Fathers Alex and David went for the same and the result was negative thus they were permitted to travel to Port Blair. This early morning of 8th Frs. Alex and David left for Port Blair by bus and reached Prothrapur at 5.30 P.M. Journey was little tired some and full of dust. ATR (Andaman Trunk Road) is still in the process of NH4. Zigzag, ups and down, construction of many culverts on the way does not allow the people to go faster. We are very optimistic one day we will have very good and smooth road and less obstacles. Though community members of Prothrapur found themselves busy in their Lenten Tour but Fr. James Pascal stayed back to welcome the Jesuits coming from North. On the way we receive the news of demise of Fr. Edward Kerketta. Many people enquired of this message as they knew him who had served at Diglipur as Parish priest and as assistant parish priest at Prothrapur. We all pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Edward, May his soul rest in peace. To mark World Women's Day, women of Diglipur clubbed together at the premises of Catholic Church Diglipur under the umbrella of Ranchi Association. Mrs. Laxmibai and committee members took the pain to organize this which consisted of procession, talks and sharing but unfortunately there was rumour of cancelling the programme due to this many failed to attend the programme. They are never discouraged to see the sizeable number of women and they utter start up is better than never. It was for the first time now they wait for next and better organized. Mrs. Sitamani, a teacher was the resource person who spoke on education of women and children and challenged the mothers to be more effective and aware of the present situation and the importance of education. Sr. Abha, the superior of D.S.A. community at Magarnala delivered her speech on the responsibilities of mothers to make the world a better world and society to live for human beings. On 10th evening at Prerna Deep, Lambaline, Port Blair, the Lenten Talk was given by Most Rev. Bishop Anand Jojo, the Bishop of Hazaribagh for Diocesan and religious fathers and sisters. He spoke on three vows which helped us to live our lives for the people of God and to surrender fully. He also added the Evangelical

Church and pointed out some draw backs of religious and diocesan priests with regard to preaching Gospel or proclamation. Chrism Mass was held in Stella Maris Cathedral, Port Blair on 11th March at 5.30 P.M. The main celebrant was Most Rev. Bishop Anand Jojo. It is realized that after a long time the Bishop landed in these islands. Liturgy was well prepared and after Holy Mass all the fathers had dinner at Prerna Deep before they depart to their destination. So also Frs. Alex and David left for Diglipur on 12th March. Fr. David celebrated Holy Eucharist in the parish followed by recollection for youth on 14th March. Around 100 youth participated and benefitted spiritually. Fr David guided them through his talk. By different example made them to understand and motivated how a youth can bring changes in his life and form a better society and world. He insisted them to have aim in their lives, they should march towards goal, speed up towards goal and work hard tirelessly on it. Just after talk sisters prepared the youth for confession on the other hand adoration continued and priests availed themselves for confession. Sisters helped the youth for adoration and finally programme was concluded with the meaningful celebration of Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr. V. Selvaraj the Diocesan Administrator. Mr. M. V. Jose, the engineer and Mr. Sunil the driver of Bishops' house had flying visit to Diglipur parish then moved to D.S.A. convent Magarnala on 16th March. After lunch they went back to Rangat via Mayabunder. Lenten season offered yet another occasion to organize a recollection for Mahila Sangh on 21st March in the parish. Day began with a journey with Jesus through the Way of the Cross followed by Praise and Worship then talk by parish priest, Fr. David. Later pastoral sisters prepared them well for confession and all the mothers had very good confession individually. The climax of the programme was the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Mothers praised and thanked God for this great opportunity.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

JHAPA, NEPAL

In the beginning of March, Fr Arul Selvam SJ went to Dumka for vocation promotion and also met a Pre-Novice of Nepal there. On March 20, 2021 the Arrupe Niwas community was happy to receive Pre-Novices from Matigarha who came with their Assistant Director Sch. Evan Basnet. All of them were given a gift of cloth bag each to campaign against the use of single usage plastics to save mother earth. Fr. Boniface explained in short the purpose of making the cloth bags. Frs. Arul Selvan and Dilip guided them to explore Jesuit Jhapa mission

for two days. The Maheshpur Parish celebrated feast of St. Joseph on March 20, 2021 and the faithful of Deonia went for pilgrimage to the parish. There was Holy Mass for entire Maheshpur parishioners on that day. Classes XI and XII had their term exams in the middle of March. There was also the meeting for the patents of Class X in small groups for three days. The students of class VIII went for their Educational Field Trip to Ganesh Agro Rice Mill , Bhadrapur with their subject teacher Sch. Wilson Kandulna on March 15, 2021. The school also organized two days of Annual Sports Day successfully on March 25, 2021 and March 26, 2021. Many students participated in the spirit of sportsmanship and won medals.

Sch. Wilson Kandulna, SJ

FRANCE, PARIS

Bonjour à tous

The month of March is very special in France because in the middle of march we officially finish the season of L'Hiver (The Winter) and we begin the season of Le Printemps (The Spring). This year on 21st of march is officially declared as the beginning of the season of Le Printemps (The Spring). This year during the winter it was very cold minimum -6 degree and in Paris we have snowfall continuously for one week. Now in the spring season temperature will go to maximum 12-15 degree. It is a very good season and weather in the France. We continue our 2nd Semester class in the CATHO (Institute Catholique de Paris- ICP). we have our regular classes at the ICP. Due to Covid-19 and confinement we have 3 days classes are in the campus and 2 days classes are held on Zoom. Now we have joined for the Cours de Amicale (Conversation Course) which is organized in the alternative days. This is basically for the conversation, discussion and expressing ourselves in French language. There was holiday at the ICP (institute of catholic Paris) from 15th March to 20th March. So, some of the scholastics went to spend their holidays in other cities of France. We planned to visit the city of Lyon. It is in the region of East- Central France. On 15th of March, we left for the Lyon and reached the Rue de Salla Noviciate Community of the province. It was overwhelming and interesting visit to the novitiate community and spiritual centre. In Lyon we visited the Cathedral of St. John and the Basilica of Notre Dame. We went on a pilgrimage to the holy town of Ars (Ars- sur Formans). It is a parish well known for St. John Mary Vianney (the patron saint of priests). We walked around

10 -12 km to reach the parish of Ars. We saw the beautiful view of the village, Basilica, Monts d'Or, Monument de la Recontre and Beaujolais. We also participated in mass in the Parish of Ars. We also visited the mountain town of Lalouvsec. Lalouvsec is known for the St. Francis Regis the regional saint of the France. It was a very enriching and meaningful visit to the places. Those who had gone out for holidays they came to the community on 20th of March with many different experiences and fresh mind and heart. On 22nd of March we began our regular class at ICP. On 8th of March, we had a special community meeting for sharing our personal experiences and the experiences of apostolate. This gave us the opportunity to know each other better and get the information about the other's apostolate in which they are engaged. This was helpful for us to get the picture of the apostolate. From 13th to 14th of March we had two days of community Recollection and Prayer service. On this occasion we had a special sharing session on theme "The present activities, prepositions and dreams of our province". This was very well planned and appreciated by all. This has helped us to know the other provinces and acknowledge the different missions and activities they are doing for the welfare and good for the people. In week-end on 22nd of March Sr. Noelie Xavière (Congregation of La Xavière) shared the objectives of her Congregation and also her vocation in the congregation. She is from South Africa it was very inspiring to listen from her about their life story, and policy of the congregation. The situation of pandemic is getting more worse in some city of France. It is very difficult and critical situation in most of the cities. The cases of Covid-19 is still increasing day after day. So, the government of France has declared the 3rd phase of confinement (Lock Down) for the four weeks. In this phase of confinement some relaxation is given that we can move under the territory of state. No one can move and go beyond the boundary of one state to another state. Everyone has to put mask when they are in public places or move outside the house. In France also many Jesuit communities are affected by this pandemic. The situation is uncertain and unclear so we are still in the confinement (Lockdown). Though some relief and freedom is given by the government but we have to always abide by the rules and regulations of the government. The government and all the people concern are trying to control and overcome this situation of Covid-19. The medical facilities are available for all the people and Covid -19 vaccination is given to the affected people and those who are old.

Sch. Sudhir Lakra, SJ

CAMBODIA

Despite strange pandemic situation in Cambodia Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ was able to organize step one for 9 candidates on 28th February, 2021. The step one is the first step towards their baptism. The number of the youth and children interested in learning English and key board is increasing. Fr. Rajat does not want to disappoint them. He gives his full capacity to make the lesson easy and interesting for them. He is very happy to have very big-big mangoes this years. The mango trees were planted by Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ then parish priest in the year 2016. Fr. Manoj was extremely happy when Fr. Rajat offered him a big mango the first fruit of the mango trees planted by him. Fr. Rajat is also very happy to see varieties of vegetables planted by him giving very good fruits. He arranged a Lenten talk and the Sacrament of reconciliation for the parishioners on 14th March, 2021. Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ successfully finished boundary wall around his parish campus. A good amount of the total expense of the boundary wall came from contributions of the parishioners. Hearty congratulation to Fr. Manoj. After having a good harvest last year Fr. Manoj became not only self-sufficient but he supplies the surplus rice to different institutions and hostels in and outside the Church campus. Fr. Manoj attended the fourth and the last module by zoom leadership development workshop organized by JACP conference from 16th to 28th March, 2021. Fr. Manoj and Fr. Rajat attended two zoom meetings for re-structuring the Cambodia mission for a better service to the poor and the marginalized on 15th and 22nd March, 2021. The pandemic covid-19 situation in Cambodia is becoming worse and worse. There are already few deaths and new cases are being found every day. The Government and the people are worried about the situation. The Royal Government Cambodia has announced semi-lockdown in some big cities and provinces. All the schools and Masses are cancelled. Let us pray for one another.

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ

AMMAN, JORDAN

From March 5 -9, Pope Francis made his first historic visit to Iraq in spite of security concerns and Covid-19 pandemic challenges. He was there as a "Pilgrim of Peace". It was first ever papal trip to Iraq. Till July 2020, the House Superior of Jordan was also the in-charge of Iraq. Thousands of Iraqis – Muslims, Christians, Yezidis and others live in Jordan as refugees. We work with them. Due to visa complications for non-Europeans,

only Fr. Marc Stephan was sent to Erbil on behalf of the Jordan community to be a part of the Pope's visit. Erbil is the capital of the Kurdistan region where Jesuit Refugee service (JRS) and Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) is there for the displaced people. We had a famous Baghdad College and a high school in the capital of Iraq. After years of war, the government is ready to give back to Jesuits. The process has begun. Fr. Peter Balleis was in Jordan for a week-long official visit to JWL. He had a reflective sharing with us in the community. Earlier he was Director of JRS. In the course of time, he was able to foresee the intellectual needs of refugees and started JWL with the help of many Jesuit universities. March 16 was observed as the 10th anniversary of the civil war in Syria. There is still a long way to end this war. It has brought destructions after destructions and the bordering countries are obliged to bear the brunt of it. Thousands of Syrians are sheltered in Jordan and hope of returning to their homeland is a distant dream. Before entering into the Lenten season we had the birthday celebration of Sch. Moayad Maya. He was a successful civil engineer and worked for eight years in the Gulf before joining the Society. He's in first year of regency giving his service in JRS. Due to Corona restrictions he gives online conferences in Arabic language on various topics. He's the first Jesuit vocation from Jordan. His parents are no more. He has his elder brother. He was invited for dinner with his family to double his brother's joy. For Easter celebration, it has been agreed that all Christian denominations follow oriental Lenten calendar in Jordan together. It started on 17th March. Our Easter will be on May 02. This year it is one month behind the Latin rite.

Fr. Bimal Kr. Kerketta, SJ

ROME VATICAN

Due to covid-19 after a year of curtailed movements, the Holy Father once again began his apostolic Journey. The apostolic visit to Iraq from 5-8 March 2021 was one of the most heart-desired Journeys of the Pope. Covering his discourses and movements in the biblical war battered nation reunited us with the pain and suffering of the Iraqi. On 18th Fr. Antonio Spadaro, the director of La Civiltà Cattolica shared with us his chilling experiences of Iraq. Pope Francis' one of the most dangerous and daring journeys, he summed it up as Pope's visit to Iraq as messenger of peace: peace and reconciliation among the Muslim brothers. On the safe boarding back to flight, he said that it was a Paska experience.

Before the second total lock down in Italy, on 14th March

as province we gathered in San Canisio community for a requiem, led by Fr. Anselm Ekka to thank and praise God for the gifts of our departed brothers. Missing one during Christmas and New Year, though small and short, it was a much required province coming together.

Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka, SJ

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GESÙ

Kuldeep, Sandeep and Nirmal were content and relieved after completing the First Semester exams, and they had every reason to enter into the month of March with relaxed mood. Although, they had to take turns to come to the University for the classes according to their Roll Numbers, they were extremely happy to meet their classmates face to face. Fr. Orlando Torres, Rector of the Community started meeting the Scholastics individually from the beginning March. In a relaxed atmosphere, the Scholastics from Asia meticulously planned a cultural evening on 5 March. Jijumon presided over the Holy Eucharist and wisely integrated some of the Asian elements into the Eucharistic celebration, which were deeply appreciated by the Community members. Special prayers were offered for the needs, hopes and aspirations of all the Provinces of South Asia Assistency.

To enhance the bond of companionship in the Community, a Table Tennis Tournament was organized; and the final match was played on 11 March. The long fight between the two finalist groups demonstrated the spirit of “never give up” and to struggle until the last moment. A precious lesson learnt and lived through the Table Tennis Tournament. In the evening of 12 March, the Community started the Recollection as part of the spiritual preparation for the Easter. Saturday 13 March was set apart for prayers and reflections in silence. Paul Bere enriched the Community members spiritually with his inspiring points and reflections on the Pascal mystery. On 23 March, along with other Third Year Scholastics, Nirmal went to Martha House for the 8 Days Retreat to prepare himself for the Diaconate Ordination. He will come back to the Community for the Easter Triduum. After the Easter, he will be ordained a Deacon on Tuesday 6 April. Notwithstanding the uncertain Covid-19 situation, Nirmal extends a cordial welcome to all Ranchi Province men to participate in his Ordination Ceremony from distance and be united with him in prayers. All the best and Heartfelt Congratulations, Nirmal!!

COLLEGIO SAN ROBERTO BELLARMINO

As the inmates of Collegio Bellarmino, the Community of Deepak and Kulwant, were in relaxed mood after the conclusion of the First Semester exams, Fr. Johan Verschueren, Delegate of R.P. General for the Roman Houses, came for the Canonical Visit. After meeting each one individually, he addressed the entire community to share his reflections to encourage and sustain the Community spirit in a difficult and uncertain time caused by the Covid-19. The main points of his sharing were: the impact of Covid 19 on the community both on the individual and communitarian level affected each one’s minds and hearts negatively. His challenging question was, “Can we learn some precious lessons from all the negative experiences that we have collected?” Based on his challenging questions, he suggested the community to create a “Crisis Cell” (because all have different skills) to handle such situations, so that, the entire responsibility does not fall solely on the Rector or on the Minister. He further invited the community to make the individual examine of conscience reminding the Community members the 10th Chapter of the Constitutions (812 - 814), which entails the unity of different apostolic bodies. Exhorting the Community to walk together, he made an earnest appeal to deepen the common basic experiences of being loved and called by God the Creator.

He offered two questions to be considered. The first question was, “Where are you?” which allows a person to situate himself or herself immediately in a context, in a story, in interpersonal relationships because God continues to Himself through personal, social and historical contexts. The first question challenged to introspect each one honestly and to find an adequate answer without judging others even though one feels vulnerable, naked and embarrassed in front of the reality, as Adam was naked and embarrassed. The second question was, “Where is your brother?” It was obvious from the question that in the moment of tension, different kinds of walls are easily erected and a dynamic of discord arises automatically. Such tensions or discords are even greater in an international Community like Collegio Roberto Bellarmino making it more difficult to understand the other person’s evaluations, decisions, emotions and judgments. Since the question “Where is your brother” can be answered only when one knows his or her brother well, the challenge was to make more serious efforts to know one another, which ultimately helps build the community bond. The Delegate emphasized that if one takes the first question in his prayer to Christ, and finds a safe environment to share himself to the community, it would be possible to find the answer to the second

question. Definitely, the exhortations of the Delegate gave substantial inputs to reflect and pray during the Lenten season to deepen the fraternal bond in the community.

Both Deepak and Kulwant are highly motivated and determined to do well in their research and studies. Deepak has started the Second Semester on a high note. Kulwant is gradually moving towards defining and shortlisting the theme for his Doctoral studies. Meanwhile, he has to appear for an exam on 26 March as part of the requirements for the finalization of the theme. Because of the Covid-19, both will stay back at home for the Easter celebrations.

GENERAL CURIA

For Anselm, the Lenten season brought deeply enriching and abiding experiences amidst the uncertain and difficult situation caused by the Covid-19. On 24 February, along with the other members of the Curia Community, he participated actively in day of recollection to refurbish the community as well as the spiritual life during the Lenten season. To spur the prayers and reflections, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, Papal Almoner, shared his reflection on the theme “Our Attitude Towards the Poor/Homeless in Rome”. He elucidated the theme by basing his reflections on the Gospel passage – Lazarus and The Rich Man. In his reflection, he presented the poor as the straight road to God. He emphasized that the poor were the treasures of the Church and an important part of the religious life. They inspire the religious to live the Gospel for reaching out to God. He posed a challenge before the community by saying, “Can we keep the door of our house and our life always to welcome and serve them?” He also narrated how the Vatican has taken initiative to take care of the poor in and around Rome; for example, Pope Francis has not only entrusted a Vatican Ambulance to the Office of Papal Charities to serve them efficiently, but also included a mobile clinic called Mother of Mercy Clinic to provide the First- Aid care to the homeless people in St Peter’s Square.

On 24 March, the Community gathered to reflect life and apostolate assigned to each community member in Rome. Danny Huang, a Professor of Gregorian University, gave inputs on “The Mission of Christians Today”. After the inputs, the community dispersed in the small groups for prayer, reflection and sharing session. In the sharing session, each one shared how the theme has struck personally and how one is going to apply it in personal life.

Continuing with the group reflection and sharing on the

Apostolic Plan for Curia 2022-2026, the community members had two ZOOM meetings in the month of March in which each one reflected on the first phase, that is, the gratitude to God for blessing He has been bestowing on the Curia and on its different missions over the last four years. Anselm is convinced that the Apostolic Plan has greatly strengthened R.P. General in his governance of the Universal Society. The process of discernment in common through spiritual conversation has proved to be working well for the purpose of identifying the UAPs which has become blessing for the Curia members. Anselm strongly feels that such process of discernment has improved the common perspectives in developing structures and policies to promote discernment, collaboration and networking among Apostolates and Provinces. A highly positive and encouraging sign, indeed!

PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

The regular classes of Second Semester had started on a positive note with the physical presence of at least a good number of students in the class. Observing strictly the norm of Social Distancing, some Seminars and Workshops were going on with full-fledged number of students in larger and spacious class rooms signalling the possible return to normalcy. The steady progress in the process of vaccination to the students and to the teaching staff of the schools and Universities was strengthening the hope of a better future. However, taking into consideration a notable increase in the contagion cases, the Government issued a Decree which placed most part of the country under Red Zone from 15 March. All the didactic activities were to be held online. The University kept open the Library for a limited number of students with the prior online reservation for a place on any particular day. Most of the Bars, Restaurants and Shops remained closed; but people could move out of their residence with a self-declaration document which certified the purpose of venturing out of one’s house.

On 20 March, Prem was supposed to go to Anagni, a city on the outskirts of Rome to present a Paper in a Conference organized by Leoniano Theological Institute. However, the Government Decree forced the Theological Institute to organize the Conference online using Webex Cisco platform, which allows almost thousand participants. The theme of the Conference centred on the impact of

Covid-19 on human life, interpersonal relationships, and the urgency of redefining symbiotic relationships with creation attracted as many as 336 participants. Along with two other resource persons, Prem put forward some challenging and intriguing questions on the changing perspectives of human relationships and on the urgency of adapting integral and integrating approach to life for a better future. The discussions in different Workshop groups highlighted some concrete ways and means to augment the spirit of collaboration to stand together at all times – a precious lesson arising out of the bitter experiences from Covid-19.

From Friday 26 March, the University will be closed for the Easter Holidays until Sunday 11 April.

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

MARQUETTE, USA

With tremendous joy and thrill, O'Brien Jesuit Community at Marquette, Milwaukee, declared itself open on March 24 for guests and friends after a year of closure due to a horrendous pandemic. All the 32 Jesuits residing here, have received both the doses of 'Pfizer' or 'Moderna' or a single dose of 'Johnson and Johnson' vaccines. As per the Midwest province and the Marquette University's combined guidelines, the community followed an isolation to be safe and help others be safe. Jesuits, who used to go out to the university, were known as "far siders," and the rest elders were known as "near siders." Masks, washing hands, sanitization, refraining from sharing the elevators, cars, reading rooms, dining rooms, and recreation halls with the elderly had become a norm of the community. Now, a ray of hope of completely normal life can be seen at the end of the tunnel but not so soon. As President Biden has affirmed with unwavering hope that July 4, the American Independence day, would be a morning when the family members would be seen together in the parks, restaurants, and Churches with no fear, no restriction, and or any apprehensions. Corona restrictions and prohibition of any travels gave me ample time and opportunity to finish analyzing my survey data. I am finalizing my dissertation on "media literacy education for Tribals" with my guide and three other committee members. I am moving towards an online meeting with committee members set for April 16. The dissertation committee's feedback and expected approval will shove me forward for the final dissertation defense in June. I have almost become a researcher in the cave with my

books, articles, and resource materials, spending roughly ten hours every day revising, improving, and correcting my paper. Of course, on Sundays, I squeeze time to drive to play soccer in an astroturf of Bavarian Club, some 10 km away from the residence. As preparation for Easter, the community had organized a 'faith sharing meeting' on the experience of COVID. Sharing was very enriching and faith-deepening. I found the moments of COVID as an invitation to be connected, rooted, renovated, and transformed. I was the only doctoral student in the community for two years, but I am glad to be blessed with four more (3 African & 1 Ecuadorian Jesuits). Fr. Greg, the Rector, and Fr. Mark, the Minister, have been very kind and thoughtful in organizing the moments of prayer, relaxation, sharing, and deepening the fraternal bonds with one another. March 12 was one such auspicious moment when we drove to "Jesuit Villa at Lake Five" (spread in hundred acres, with forest and lake) some 45 km away from the community and enjoyed together. Of course, with a sumptuous meal with an American delicacy prepared by Rector himself. I personally would like to congratulate and appreciate Fr. Provincial, the new editor Fr. Medard, and his team for the new responsibility and a new and fascinating look of Ranchi Bulletin with well-organized contents. I do remember all our beloved brethren (Frs. Anthony Doongdoong, Edward Kerketta, Fr. Anil Tirkey) whom God called into His kingdom before us to reward for the services they rendered with tremendous love and commitment for the people of Ours.

Justin Tirkey, SJ

GUYANA

The Lord's invitation during the Lenten Season was "Come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning". From 20th Feb. to 20th March for five Saturdays, the online retreat was offered for the Parish Lay Assistants, extraordinary Holy Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Acolytes by Brother Pascal Jordan, OSB and his team from Trinidad and Tobago and Fr. John Packiaraj, SJ and his team from Georgetown, Guyana. In the year of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, many activities were taking place to strengthen their Christian family life. In the interior of Guyana – in St. Robert Bellarmine's Aishalton, in St. Ignatius Mission Lethem, in St. Therese Karasabai and in St. Joseph's Mission Kurukabaru, the marriage Seminars were conducted by Fr. Paulose Velacada, SJ, Fr. Ronald Fernandes, SJ, Fr. Amar Bage, SJ, Fr. Edwin Anthony, SJ, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, Sr. Sosan A. Kujur, OSU, Sr. Nishi S. Kujur, OSU, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU and Sr. Helena Soreng, OSU. Along with Bro. Sylvester Sebastian, the Chair Person of

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Kurukabaru, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ the Parish Priest, went down to St. Ignatius Mission Lethem by his ATV (All- Terrain Vehicle) for a week from 14th to 19th March, on his Lenten Mission visiting all seven villages- Kato, Tuseneng, Monkey Mountain, Yurongparu, Rukumuta, Tipuru and Karasabai on the way and rendering his spiritual services- the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist and one day Seminar on the Family Life based on the life of St. Joseph. On 16th March, Fr. Amar Bage, SJ, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, Fr. Ronald Fernandes, SJ and Fr. Edwin Anthony, SJ received the Covid-19 Vaccine in Lethem Hospital. On the same day Fr. Elias Surin, SJ got renewed of his ATV documents in Lethem. On 19th March, the feast of St. Joseph, the patron Saint of St. Joseph's Mission Kurukabaru was celebrated in very meaningful way. Prior to the feast day, there was novena prayer to St. Joseph.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

OBITUARY

BR. BASIL TIRKEY, SJ (1947-2020)

The death of Br. Basil Tirkey came all of a sudden when he was undergoing the CT Scan and Xrays to diagnose his problems on the Ratu Road Centre in the morning hours of 7 December 2020. He had been, though, suffering from cough and tiredness which he bore silently and carried on his daily cross without making much fuss about them, unaware that the simple cough could be deadly. He had been admitted to the Seva Nilaya Health Centre, Ara Gate for all these ailments. The treatment process was on through the Xray machine, he breathed his last.



Br. Basil Tirkey, SJ, was born on 7 July 1947. His parents were Marcus and Sabina Tirkey who lived in Chamutoli village under Banabira Parish, Simdega District, Jharkhand, some 40 kms West of Simdega. After finishing his primary school at Banabira Parish he proceeded to St. Mary's High School, Samtoli for matriculation. After completing his matriculation he came to Apostolic School, Gumla, as a candidate for Brotherhood in the Society of Jesus as in those days brother candidates were kept there for six months to one year. Thereafter his long training and apostolic works continued at different places of the province until his death.

After his first vows till his last day, he had been posted to a number of Institutions and Parishes: as a workshop manager in St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha and Agricultural Training Centre, Namkum; as a minister, in charge of the field and farm, garden in St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla, Ashirvad/Jharna, Namkum, St. Michael's Khunti and St. Mary's High School, Samtoli, he served these institutions wholeheartedly, putting all in his capacity. Community members were happy that they had such a handy person in their communities available for various engagements.

Br. Basil has been suffering from the blood pressure hazard constantly. He faced it bravely by himself finding out all types of treatment: such as wearing hand band in the wrist regularly to keep the blood pressure checked, using some herbal combinations, etc. In the end he did succeed in taming the blood pressure. Besides, it was not known whether he ever suffered any other ailments.

Br. Basil had a happy temperament, sometimes jovial and would burst into a natural and real laughter on some interesting things or subtle jokes on somebody. He enjoyed the company of province men and the community members. He never criticized anyone unless when things were too much to bear, but soon after easily forgotten. He was ready and willing to undertake any type of work. Any assignment, status or in institution he would do and fulfill his duty cheerfully and earnestly putting his heart and soul completely into them. One never saw an irritated approach to his work who saw to it that it was completed satisfactorily.

A variety of assignments were given to him: in a parish life he made sure that the gardens were green and full of vegetation. He was regularly and continuously supplying vegetable to the community kitchen. In the school set up he looked after the working staff efficiently and kept them in good humour. The school buses had their own appointed drivers, but due to some reason if the driver is absent, in such a situation Br. Basil would himself drive the bus to bring the students to school on time. He was a committed Jesuit ever ready and willing to fill the gap of this kind and he enjoyed such moments, that he got the opportunity to show no sign of wearisome moments disturbing the routine of the school.

Br. Basil was a music lover for which he would put aside all else and be a part of the choir. He had a Casio on which he practiced the hymns at leisure times. He had the whole bundle of cassettes in his possession. When needed he would play them. The Sunday Mass saw Br. Basil never missing from the choir. On his Casio he supplied the melody for the devotion of the faithful. Perhaps this ministry gave him the greatest satisfaction.

Driving was his another hobby. He liked driving since he had been trained in Pune as a mechanic. The travelers

felt safe when he was at the steering wheel, though there were some mishaps here and there.

A man of gentleness, kindness, generosity, readiness for any assignment, happy demeanour, all these characterized him as a good human person. In his office as a minister or kitchen care taker he promptly welcomed the visitors and made them comfortable and homely and he would serve them cheerfully.

Fr. Ajay Soreng, SJ

FATHER LINUS DUNGUNG SJ (1951-2020)

Fr. Linus Dungdung SJ who never lost touch of consciousness of himself was a man always prompt in his response and willingly submitted himself to the judgment and decisions of his superiors. He was an unassuming person in his pastoral ministry, and in the responsibilities entrusted to him. He knew his strengths and limitations and made the best use of his capabilities in the service of the laypeople, religious and priests. He, thus, recognized how he could best serve the Church and realized his mission. He had learned how to live his Jesuit vocation in constant discernment of God's will and possessed the right disposition in his interior life and of the community. He lived his life following his Master, in this manner, till He bid him to his eternal abode. The final response to His call for him was, however, not without struggle and fight to the finish as he succumbed to the infection of the deadly SARS Corona Virus pandemic and died on 29 December 2020. He became the second Jesuit of the Ranchi Jesuit Province to fall victim to this pandemic.



Fr. Linus, hailing from a remote village of Chorbindha under Jitotoli Parish at that time (now Rampur), had an opportunity of doing most of his schooling in an urban set-up on account of his brother who worked in Ranchi. He would later complete also his university studies as well in Ranchi. The urban influence of Ranchi, however, did not diminish his rustic nature, lifestyle, and way of thinking. He remained a country-man all through who possessed some of the fine qualities of a country people—simple, sincere, down-to-earth faith, and hard-working.

Fr. Linus Dungdung understood much early in his Jesuit formation, the value of his down-to-earth faith that he had inherited from his family and environment, which he earnestly applied to his life of prayer. This was reflected in his attitude and way of life. Yet, it was not

a world cut apart but an integral aspect of his daily life and work. What he taught as a Master of the novices for several years, he had himself ordered and appropriated it in his way of life. He could, thus, set it as an example for others. No wonder, that it was rightly remarked about him among the members of the Province to be a man of prayer. A faithful observer of the set time of prayer and regularity in it was one of the marks, he was much appreciated for.

If Linus had a depth of prayer life that gave solidity to his faith, his social life and the human relationship, on the other hand, was equally lively and full of warmth. His cheerful look and good humor made his colleagues and friends as well as strangers, comfortable with him to establish a point of contact. He was always discreet in any given situation and humane in his dealings with others. Though trained as a professional counselor, he never used his profession as a tool for self-aggrandizement and popularity other than in helping others in their needs, especially— the religious, and others seeking spiritual direction, personal counseling, and guidance in a process of discernment.

Fr. Linus Dungdung had a zest for apostolic work. He applied his whole heart and mind in the discharge of his duty to whichever responsibility he was entrusted with. He may not have been very perfect and efficient in doing the job but he was trustworthy, and he was consistent, and persevering to bring things to their logical end. His sense of duty and his tactfulness in dealing with any grave matter or any sensitive issue was commendable. The finest aspect of his person was, no doubt, his integrity which won the faith and trust of all those who came into contact with him or sought any help from him.

The type of works Fr. Linus Dungdung was called in to serve, reveal the amount of trust the province had on him: a sub-prefect of the boys' hostel with over 400 inmates in St. Ignatius' Gumla, and as Assistant Director of the Apostolic School in the same place, Minister of the Manresa House, Master of novices at Namkum, Socius to the Provincial at Sadbhavna, Parish Priest of Tongo— one of the largest and the only Jesuit parish in Barway (diocese of Gumla), and among the Mundas in Maranghada in Khunti, Rector of St. Mary's High School Samtoli, where he facilitated the opening of a new University College— St. Xavier's Simdega. These works, more than anything else, speak of his apostolic availability.

Observing the humble character of Fr. Linus Dungdung, his polite behavior, and his good humor, one could easily be puzzled to see another side of his personality that exhibited conviction and firmness in the discharge of his duty. He would not compromise on the matters of discipline and principles. Yet, he knew how to blend

them with prudence and kind sensitivity, and avoiding unnecessary confrontations in any situation.

Linus, being very conscious of his limitations, was never very assertive and forthright except where it pertained to his bound duty. This may have been a weak-area of his person. All the same, he was able to mitigate this by his human concern and sympathy. It is in this that he was a very down-to-earth person whereby he could able to touch many hearts. Conscious of his duty, he would go any length to make sacrifices, even at the cost of his health and need. To a certain extent, the tragedy of his contacting Corona Virus, which proved fatal for him, lies in this spirit of dedication and self-effacing in service to the community and others.

Could it have been a mere coincidence that the man whose life had moved around the commitment to his master in true dedication to service of others, missed not even the least act of rendering his service? Fr. Linus, even as lay in critical condition with cold and high fever in the dispensary of the Ursuline Sisters at Samtoli, did not fail to make the necessary arrangements for board and lodging for the 15 Seminarians and the two Jesuit professors accompanying them on a three-day-pilgrimage to the landmarks of the Jesuit mission in Chotanagpur- in Khunti, Biru and Barway. Forgetting his physical indisposition, he made several calls to inform the group about the arrangements, who arrived Samtoli much behind the fixed schedule, has left a mark on his sense of commitment and of service. On the next day Fr. Linus was taken to Ranchi for better treatment but he would return never to his earthly dwelling than to depart for his heavenly abode on the morning of 29 December 2020 and his earthly remains are laid to rest in the cemetery at ATC Namkum, Ranchi.

Fr. Sudhir Kumar Minj SJ

FR EDWARD KERKETTA SJ (1952 – 2021)

Father Edward Kerketta was admitted in Samford Hospital, Kokar, Ranchi on 1st March 2021 as he was tested Corona positive with pneumonia. Earlier he was being treated in Ursula Hospital, Konbir Noatoli for three days. When covid-19 symptoms were suspected, he was brought to Mandar Hospital from where he was referred to Samford Hospital for better treatment. In spite of all efforts of the medical department there, Father's condition did not improve, and he breathed his last in the morning at 8:30 am on 8



March 2021.

Born on 24 February 1952 to John Kerketta and Agnes Kerketta in an ordinary farmer's family but devout Catholics, in the village Gindra Chamatoli, Rengarih Parish, about one km east of the great river Sankh. Early schooling of Primary and Middle was done at RC Middle School, Rengarih. On his way back home on the way from the school young Edward would join other group of boys and play with them, hunt rabbits, rats and birds and reach home late in the evening to face the displeasure and ire of the parents. All these habits did not spoil him though. After Rengarih he came to Apostolic School, Samtoli to complete matriculation in 1972. He was one of them to choose religious life from among his 5 brothers and 2 sisters.

As a Minor Seminarian at St. Aloysius Minor Seminary, Ranchi, after completing his Intermediate at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, he joined the Novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha on 20 November 1974. Pronouncing his first vows on 13 November 1976 and finishing his Juniorate in Sitagarha itself in 1977, his graduation studies brought him to St. Xavier's College, Ranchi 1977-79. To continue his formation for Philosophical study he was at Satya Nilayam, Chennai in 1979 to 1981. He did his regency in Apostolic School, Gumla 1981-83 where he was loved, respected, liked and obeyed by all the apostolic boys which he cherished so much in later years. The theological studies were at two places, one at Regional Theologate Centre, Tarunoday, Ranchi and Vidya Jyoti, Delhi 1983-87. He was ordained Deacon at Vidya Jyoti in 1986 and ordained priest on 29 April 1987 in Samtoli by the Archbishop Telesphore P. Toppo, DD. He did his Tertianship under the skillful hand Fr. Pierre Jacob, SJ, at Sitagarha and took his last vows at the Rengarih Church on 3 September 2002.

What Jesus had said of Nathanael, "Behold, indeed, in whom is no guile!" (Jn. 1, 47) fits well with Fr. Edward Kerketta, a person of simplicity and innocence. No one has ever seen him picking up heated argument or strong disagreement on any point with anyone whatsoever. A man of kindness, gentleness, openness, obedient, friendly and pleasant in all situations, who fulfilled his duties as a parish priest wherever he was, without complaining for anything and doing them sincerely and faithfully.

His field of action was mainly in parishes right from his ordination in 1987 to his last day on 8 March 2021, such as Patrachauli, Muri, Soso, Rengarih, Diglipur (North Andman) and finally Keondtanr Parish. In Diglipur he served the longest 13 years. He kept his community members happy and cheerful never giving them any worries or anxieties. He took care of them lovingly and with great concern. Superiors also found him very

obedient. Once he was sent to his own home parish, Rengarih. He was asked whether he would mind going to his own parish; his reply was “if you are not finding anyone then I am ready,” and he did go there and took his final vows there itself – a great consolation and coincidence.

As a parish priest he shepherded the faithful in a very spiritual way, would be ready to go to the faithful to administer the sacraments at any time of the day, sincere in his pastoral services, undermining his personal interests in order to fulfill the needs of the faithful. He often visited the faithful, not talking much but doing his pastoral ministry diligently. Whenever he was requested to go to any village he would be prompt to go and serve them with a long smile on his face. He would not often care for his food, but rather be busy in their care, love, service and sacraments. For all these he was loved and respected by the people.

He was a man of prayer too. He would not miss any prayer service with his people. Prayer was his first priority and because of this he never hurt his people by his word or action. He tried to keep his parishioners happy, satisfied, blessed them and encouraged them in their spiritual life. People would not hesitate to come to him because of his openness, availability and punctuality in responding to their call. He always bore quietly his pains, difficulties, problems and failures without complaining about food, clothes, residence, people, authorities, rules, pastoral duties, any appointment, place or lack of facilities. He was appreciated for all these by his fellow Jesuits, other religious and the people.

He was a person of a little more than a short in stature, well and strongly built physique, sturdy enough to face the parish life hazards. His facial composer was serene and contended, unperturbed by anything, which radiated the inner joy and fulfillment of his religious life.

On October 2019 he came from Andamans to Ranchi for a medical check-up for the bone-pain in the leg and other ailments. Having done all this he was appointed parish priest on November 2019, but joined it only on June 2020. Within a few months he could win the hearts of the parishioners through his cordial pastoral care and approach. He came to know the villages soon, its people, its distances from the parish, number of families, their daily works and so on. He had hardly been busy in 8 months at Keodtanr Parish, after the Ash Wednesday 2021 he felt a body pain, fever and cold, possibly due to the weather change. He thought the sickness would go away soon, so he remained with the treatment of the local doctor. After two days he could not function normally, he agreed to go to the Ursula Hospital, Noatoli, run by the Ursuline Sisters on 26 February 2021. The early

detections were typhoid and pneumonia.

His innocent living reflected in this that in his last days as he was suffering from cough and fever he carried on saying Masses in the villages and being available to the people in other engagements till his sickness aggravated to a point of impossible. By then it was too late. Without realizing Covid-19 had taken hold of him to the point of no return. He suffered from high blood pressure as well and other ailments too.

He was a religious of great commitment, dedication and honesty. He believed more in giving than receiving for himself and quietly went on doing what he thought was his duty. May his soul rest in peace!

Fr. Ignatius Kujur, SJ



1. Fr Edward Kerketta, SJ (RAN 69/46), passed away on 8 March, 2021
2. Fr Anil Kishor Tirkey, SJ (RAN 67/47), passed away on 27 March in C. Lievens Hospital & Research Centre Mandar, Ranchi.
3. Fr Arul Jeevan, S.J. (MDU 73/50) passed away on 22 March at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
4. Br Victor Campos, S.J. (GOA 87/20) passed away on 10 March in Goa.
5. Fr Savarimuthu Xavier, S.J. (CEN 83/59) passed away on 3 March at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
6. Mrs Paulina Minj, 81 years old, mother of Fr Florence Kujur, passed away on 5 March, 2021
7. Mrs Philomina Kujur, 82 years old, mother of Fr Anselm Kujur passed away on 10 March, 2021.
8. Mr. Dominic Kawa, 65 years old, uncle of Sch. Mathew Kawa, passed away on 15 March in Philobarri Parish (Assam) due to Brain tumor.



Happy Birthday



APRIL

01	Minj Ajit	Tirkey Justin,	Lakra Shailesh
02	Lakra Polycarp, Ekka Britius Minj Ajay Arun	15 Toppo Binod	05 To'ppo Ireneus
03	Minj Praveen	16 Ekka Ravindra	06 Ekka Ishak
04	Dungdung Anthres	16 Mathias Joseph B.,	07 Minj Gyan Prakash
05	Kerketta Sameer	20 Ba'a Ashwin,	Soreng Pradeep
06	Bage A. Amar, Barla James	Kerketta Sikander	08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen
07	Ekka Vital, Ekka Anthony Kerketta Anand	23 Bara Sandeep	09 Minj Bimal
08	Tete Felix P., Orea Sudhir	24 Bara Pramod,	Xess Gabriel
09	Guria Cyril, Bara Suman Bara Pradeep, Kujur Emmanuel	Kandulna Wilson Xalxo Saban Binod	10 Dungdung Kuldeep
11	Toppo Alexius, Kullu Praveen	26 Minj Francis	11 Minj Anand
12	Topno Nicholas	Toppo Amrit	12 Khoya Manohar
13	Tete James Pascal	28 Kawa Mathew	14 Soreng Alok
14	Kandulna Ashok, Xalxo Pius	29 Surin Zacharias	Soreng Blacius
		30 Baxla Emmanuel	15 Kerketta Xavier
			16 Kerketta Benjamin
			19 Dungdung Alexius
			20 Ekka Praful
			Kujur Ajit Kalyan
			24 Ba'a Ephrem
			28 Chermako Sylverius
			29 Tigga Lalit John
			30 Kullu Francis David
			Minj David
			31 Horo Peter Paul

MAY

01	Soreng Xavier		
02	Minj Ajay Prakash Kujur Hemant		
03	Barla Amit, Minj Erentius Soreng Hemant		
04	Toppo Erenius, Dungdung Samir		

NOTE:The last date to send/submit your articles for RANCHI BULLETIN is 25th of EVERY MONTH.

Kindly send your articles on the following ID: medardsj@gmail.com either on or before 25th of EVERY MONTH.

RANCHI BULLETIN EDITOR: MEDARD XALXO, SJ