



RANCHI BULLETIN



85/01 Ranchi Jesuits, P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand **January 2026**

POPE'S INTENTION: JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the Word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

APPOINTMENT BY RT. REV. FR. GENERAL

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed **Fr. Pudota R. John Susai Raj, SJ, (AND)**, as the new Provincial of Andhra Jesuit Province.

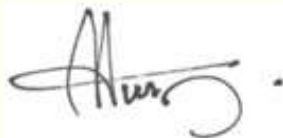
APPOINTMENTS BY REV. FR. PROVINCIAL

A. w. e. f. December 2025

S.N.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ	Faculty Member of the Science Department, SXC, Simdega
2	Fr. Henry Barla, SJ	Campus Counsellor, SXC, Ranchi.
3	Fr. Pradeep Soreng, SJ	Asst. PP, Catholic Church, Burudih-Kochang
4	Fr. Patrick Xalxo, SJ	PP Catholic Church, Sogra
5	Fr. Clement Kullu, SJ	Asst. PP, Catholic Church, Sogra
6	Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ	PP, Catholic Church, Bingaon
7	Fr. James Toppo, SJ	Asst. PP Catholic Church, Bingaon
8	Fr. Roshan Bage, SJ	Headmaster, R.C. Middle School, Bingaon
9	Fr. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ	PP, Catholic Church, Tipkai, Assam (Additional)
10	Fr. Laurentus Kiro, SJ	Angulia Mission (Assam), attached to Kathalguri Com.
11	Sch. Paulus Dungdung, SJ	Angulia Mission (Assam), attached to Kathalguri Com.

B. w. e. f. February 1, 2026

S.N.	NAME	DESIGNATION
1	Fr. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ	Assistant Teacher, RC M/S Saparom
2	Dn. Sunil Lakra, SJ	Minister, Manresa House, Ranchi
3	Fr. Henry Kullu, SJ	Staff, English Medium School Diglipur
4	Fr. Francis Tirkey, SJ	Assistant Teacher, RC Boys M/S Jharain
5	Fr. Suresh Tirkey, SJ	Assistant teacher, RC M/S Bardih



Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ

Provincial

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

JANUARY 2026	
05	General and Governing Body Meeting of CPR
07	Province Consult
08 - 09	Visitation of the 4 th year Scholastics at Manresa House
15	Priestly Ordination in Noadih (Gumla)
17	Meeting with the Alumni of Ranchi (4:00 pm)
18	Priestly Ordination in Bingaon (Khunti)
19	Meeting with the Committee of Fr. General's Visit to Ranchi
23	Final Vows of Fr. Ajit Kalyan Kujur, SJ in Saparom
24 - 31	Curia Office
FEBRUARY 2026	
01 - 08	Visit of Regional Superior of Belgium to Ranchi Province
10 - 12	Visitation to St. Ignatius' Gumla
13	Priestly Ordination in Gumla (Gumla)
15	Blessing of the Way of the Cross (Kochang)
17	Province Consult
21 - 28	JCSA Kolkata
MARCH 2026	
03 - 08	Visit of Rev. Fr. General to Ranchi Province
11	Visitation in Noadih
12	Visitation in Tongo
14	Visitation in Soso
15 - 20	Annual Budget Sessions: 2026
27	Province Consult

INFORMATION

ANNUAL BUDGET SESSIONS 2026-27

Date	Day	Zone	Venue
16 - 03 - 2026	Sunday	Assam	Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur
17 - 03 - 2026	Monday	Assam	Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur
20 - 03 - 2026	Thursday	Ranchi I	Manresa House, Ranchi
21 - 03 - 2026	Friday	Ranchi II	Manresa House, Ranchi
22 - 03 - 2026	Saturday	Khunti	Manresa House, Ranchi
23 - 03 - 2026	Sunday	Gumla	Manresa House, Ranchi
24 - 03 - 2026	Monday	Simdega & Andamans	Manresa House, Ranchi

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers,

On this New Year, we are reminded that our Jesuit calling is not merely to pass through another calendar year, but to walk it prayerfully, attentively, and courageously with the Lord. We begin 2026 not as routine workers in the vineyard, but as companions of Jesus, called to listen deeply to the movements of the Spirit. Discernment is our distinctive grace—it trains our hearts to notice God's invitations even in uncertainty, to choose what leads to greater service, and to act with generous love.



Across the Province—whether in our schools and colleges, parishes and villages, social apostolates, or formation houses—we carry one single mission: the mission of Christ. None of us works in isolation. We are sent, together, to proclaim hope, to heal wounds, and to stand with the poor and the searching. May the fire of this mission never grow dim in us, but be renewed each day with creativity, apostolic zeal, and compassionate hearts.

We are sustained in this mission by the precious gift of community. Our houses are not just places of residence; they are spaces of grace. In praying together, sharing life, forgiving one another, and walking patiently with our differences, we become a living sign of the Kingdom. Let us keep building communities marked by trust, honest dialogue, and genuine care—so that anyone who meets us may glimpse the face of Christ.

Brothers, may 2026 be a year of deeper discernment, bolder mission, warmer community, and greater openness to the Spirit who leads us. With St. Ignatius walking beside us and Mary, Our Lady, gently guiding us, let us move forward together—seeking and finding God in all things.

With gratitude and prayers.

Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess

Provincial

PROVINCIAL'S OFFICE

December was a particularly grace-filled and busy month for Fr. Provincial, marked by major ecclesial celebrations, meaningful encounters, and joyful moments of communion with the wider Church and society.

The month began on 3 December with the solemn celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated with the staff and students, offering a beautiful moment of thanksgiving for the great missionary saint whose zeal continues to inspire the educational and apostolic mission of the Society of Jesus.

A special highlight of the month was the Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee Celebration held on 21 December at Rasschaert Hall, Manresa House, Ranchi. The Province joyfully celebrated 50 years in the Society of Jesus of Frs. Alexius Tirkey, SJ, Sudhir Kr. Minj, SJ, and Emmanuel Barla, SJ, and 60 years in the Society of Jesus of Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, SJ. The celebration was organized by the Ranchi Province under the leadership of Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial, as a grateful remembrance of God's fidelity and the Jubilarians' lifelong service to the Church and the Society.

Another major highlight of the season was the Christmas Get-together on 19 December at Loyola Ground, Ranchi, organized by the Catholic Sabha, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi. It was a historic gathering in which all the Churches of Ranchi came together in a spirit of unity and celebration. Sri Hemant Soren, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial, played a vital and active role in organizing this large-scale event, which became a powerful witness of Christian harmony and joyful proclamation of the Christmas message.



On 22 December, the Sadbhavna Jesuit Community staff gathered in the central courtyard of the campus for their Christmas celebration. Fr. Provincial addressed the staff with a warm and inspiring Christmas message, thanking them for their dedicated service and wishing them and their families a joy-filled and prosperous New Year.

The following day, 23 December, a Christmas Get-together organized by the CRI, Ranchi was held at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, with the Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand as the Chief Guest. Fr. Provincial was present for this important occasion and once again played a significant role in its organization, strengthening the bonds between religious congregations and civil leadership.



Fr. Provincial also participated in the Christmas celebrations at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi, sharing in the liturgical joy of the parish community. On Christmas Day, he also visited our brothers in the Infirmary at Manresa House, Ranchi, bringing them comfort, blessings, and the warmth of the season. During the Christmas vacation, while attending a few family gatherings, Fr. Provincial spent most of his time at Sadbhavna, where numerous dignitaries, well-wishers, and friends visited the Provincial's Office to exchange season's greetings and Christmas wishes, reflecting the warm relationships and goodwill enjoyed by the Society of Jesus in the region. Indeed, December was a month rich in faith, fellowship, and festive joy, marking a fitting conclusion to the year in the spirit of gratitude and hope.

Fr. Deepak Toppo

SADBHAVNA, RANCHI

The Sadbhavna community joyfully joined the St. Xavier's College family in celebrating the feast of St. Francis Xavier on 3 December 2025, sharing in prayer and thanksgiving for the great missionary saint.

During this period, we were concerned to learn that Fr. George Kerketta met with a minor accident while going for morning Mass. He was initially taken to Lievens Hospital, Mandar, and later shifted to Debuka Nursing Home, Ranchi. After nearly twenty days of medical care, he has now returned to the Province Infirmary at Manresa House, Ranchi, where he is recuperating well. We keep him in our prayers and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Fr. Deepak Toppo returned to the community on 10 December 2025 after participating in the Ignatian Programme for Discernment in Common for Facilitators, and after visiting our scholastics in Paris and Rome. His return enriched the community with fresh Ignatian insights and international Jesuit experiences. Soon after his return, he also organized a meeting of the Province Formation Commission at Manresa House, Ranchi, on 13 December 2025, contributing significantly to the ongoing discernment and planning of formation in the Province. Around the same time, Fr. Johny Kujur accompanied Fr. Kulwant Minj to Vellore for a medical review, as Fr. Kulwant was in the country for an assessment of his health.

A major highlight of the month was the Golden Jubilee Celebration held on 21 December 2025 at Manresa House, Ranchi. The entire Sadbhavna community was deeply involved in organizing this joyful and grace-filled event, marking 50 years in the Society of Jesus of Frs. Alexius Tirkey, Sudhir Kumar Minj, and Emmanuel Barla, and 60 years in the Society of Jesus of Fr. Gilbert D'Souza. The celebration was a beautiful witness to faithful Jesuit life and generous service to the Church and the Province.

A short but meaningful Christmas get-together for the staff of Sadbhavna was organized by Fr. Provincial and Fr. Superior. The occasion included a prayer service and a beautiful Christmas message by Fr. Provincial, creating a warm and prayerful atmosphere. Following this celebration, the Curia Office remained closed for Christmas holidays from 23 December 2025 to 2 January 2026.

For the Christmas ministries, especially the Midnight Mass, members of the community were out to various places to share the joy of the Lord's birth. Fr. Sylvester Chermako, Superior, went to the Daughters of St. Anne's Novitiate. Frs. Johny Kujur and Nirmal Minj joined Fr. Provincial at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi and Frs. Francis David Kullu and Deepak Toppo went to Keondtanr. Despite being in different places

for ministry, the community came together on the evening of 25 December to celebrate Christmas in a spirit of fraternity and gratitude. After the community celebration, members proceeded to various places for pastoral and family visits.

The offices resumed on 3 January 2026. As we step into this New Year, the Sadbhavna Community warmly wishes everyone a grace-filled and prosperous 2026. May God's abundant blessings accompany us in all our ministries and endeavours throughout the year.

Fr. Deepak Toppo

MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

The month of December was a time of preparation and renewal, both physical and spiritual. The Scholastics began with singing practice for the feast of St. Francis Xavier on 3rd December, while some were occupied with Mid-Semester exams.

From 4th December, levelling work of the ground was undertaken. On 6th December, Fr. Rector accompanied Fr. James to Bingaon as the new assistant priest. The following day, Frs. Rector, Dominic, and Anupchand, along with Br. Patras, went to Bingaon for the installation of the new Parish Priest, Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta. Bishop Binay Kandulna presided over the ceremony in a homely and prayerful manner.

Many tertians, having completed their tertianship, passed through to their provinces. Ranchi and Madhya Pradesh Deacons also passed through Manresa House on their way to Dumka for their Ordination Retreat.

A few took the initiative to bring four book racks to preserve books lying in the corridors of Manresa House. All the Scholastics gave themselves wholeheartedly to the college fest preparations, the fest itself, and crib-making. They also extended their helping hands for the province-level Jubilee celebration on 21st December.

On this day, the Golden Jubilee of priestly ordination of Frs. Alex Tirkey, Sudhir Minj, and Emmanuel Barla was joyfully celebrated at Manresa House, Ranchi. The occasion was marked by thanksgiving, fellowship, and the presence of many confreres and faithful.

For Christmas, the Scholastics were sent to different

parishes outside Ranchi to assist in pastoral ministry.

Later in the month, on 27th December, the Golden Jubilee of Fr. Alex Tirkey was celebrated in Gumla, where parishioners, friends, and fellow Jesuits gathered to honor his dedicated service to the Church and Society.

Under the aegis of Hoffmann Law Associate, Frs. Anupchand and Pankaj organized a practical workshop on EPF compliances. Thirty-one participants took part under the able guidance of Fr. Devid Kullu.

Fr. Justin, together with the Parish Khel Committee, organized Aagman Utsav-2025 cum Christmas Gathering-Mela at Loyola Ground, graced by the honourable Chief Minister. The festive spirit was marked by cultural performances, joyful fellowship, and the message of peace and goodwill.

Alongside Fr. Provincial, Fr. Justin also coordinated the Christmas Milan Mahotsav with the honorable Governor, successfully held under the banner of CRI Ranchi in the St. Xavier's College auditorium. Both events highlighted the spirit of unity and celebration, bringing together Church, society, and civic leadership in joyful communion.

Fr. Rector encouraged all priests to be available for confessions wherever their help was needed, ensuring that the faithful could prepare spiritually for Christmas.

We also remember with prayer Late Ursula Dungdung, the Bhabhi of Fr. Nicholas Tete, who passed away on 5th December, and Jacinta Horo (55), the aunty of Br. Tele, who passed away on 9th December.

Fr. Alexius Toppo

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

The community celebrated a thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, on 11th December 2025, on the occasion of Fr. Nabor Lakra SJ's, superannuation and transfer to St. Xavier's College, Simdega. Fr. Lakra rendered 29 years of service to the college and college community on various capacities as a professor of chemistry, hostel warden, twice as rector of the college, and as its principal. On the following day, Fr. Sudhir Minj S.J., the Rector, accompanied him to St. Xavier's College, Simdega, where he will be Coordinating the upcoming Science Faculty, and as a Mentor and as an academic Counsellor of the students and for academic

advancement of the teaching staff.

On 11th December 2025, Fr. Ephrem, Dr. Jyoti Ignace Tete, and Prof. Shalini Minj went to St. Xavier's School, Hazaribagh, to participate in the Three-Day JHEASA Zonal Conference of the Central Zone from held from 11th to 13th December. The zonal representatives discussed on the theme "Jesuit Identify and Our Mission".

Fr. Pradeep Kujur SJ, the Principal returned to the College from Belgium on 13th December. He took part in the Partner Week and in the 40th anniversary of the University Foundation for Development Corporation (USOS) at Antwerp held from 24th to 29th November 2025. The Partner's consisted of various Meeting sessions, Partnership, Networking and Panel discussions, Research and Mobily Project proposals, Book Launch, and a Closing Anniversary Ceremony.

The College organized a College fest 'Xavier Utsav 2025' from 15 to 17 December 2025, after a break of five years following the outbreak of Corona virus pandemic in 2020. At the Inaugural ceremony, Dr. Fr. Dr. Fr. Nicholas Tete S.J., the former Principal, challenged the students in his address by reminding them of the slogan, 'once a Xavierian, always a Xavierian,' to testify their mark and character as Jesuit alumni wherever they are placed. The Three-Day College Fest, (Xavier Utsav 2025) Anastasis (glory in revival) was concluded on 17th December 2025 with an orchestra. It animated the huge gathering of the students to a grand dance session that filled the entire college playground and the courtyard. Resurrecting the past tradition to a new beginning infused a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the faculty members. They did not leave any stone unturned to make the event successful. Dr. Fr. Sudhir Kumar Minj SJ, the Rector and the Guest of honour, urged the students to grab the opportunities, the college offers to them through Collage fest and other events to discover their talents.

Annual Day of the College on 18th December 2025 was graced by Dr. Prof. Dharmendra Kumar Singh, the Vice-Chancellor of the Ranchi University Ranchi, who was its chief guest. Dr. Singh, in his address, enlightened the faculty, parents and students by his plain talk that the advanced technology can give information but it is only a teacher who can transform the life of a student. Fr. R. Pradeep Kujur SJ, the principal of the College, presenting its Annual

Report, noted that the Academic year 2024-25 had been quite eventful for the College. During the year, the college strengthened its academic frameworks, expanded student-centric initiatives, and enhanced its alignments with contemporary education reforms.”

On 21st December 2025, all the community members joined Fr. Sudhir Kumar Minj, the Rector, and his two other Jubilee companions, Fr. Emmanuel Barla and Fr. Alexius Tirkey in thanking God on their Golden Jubilee celebration organized by the Province at Manresa House, Ranchi.

On 23rd December, 2025, Catholic Religious of India (CRI), Ranchi Unit, organized Christmas Milan Mahotsav at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. His Excellency Santosh Gangwar, the Governor of Jharkhand was the Chief Guest on the occasion. His Grace Vincent Aind, the Archbishop of Ranchi and Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, the Provincial, Ranchi Jesuits, were the guests of honour. A good number of religious from different religious Congregations at Ranchi, attended the Mahotsav in the College auditorium.

Fr. Sudhir Kr. Minj

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DORANDA

The month of December at St. Xavier's School, Doranda was exceptionally busy, meaningful, and grace-filled. It was marked by a series of academic, cultural, spiritual, and community-based programmes, all carried out with great dedication and enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, parents, and staff.

The month began with the joyful celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier combined with the School Day Celebration. The Holy Mass was solemnly celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Linus Pingal Ekka, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Gumla, as the main celebrant, with around 20 priests concelebrating. The celebration was spiritually enriching and very successful. Teachers, students, and parents participated with great energy and devotion, making the occasion memorable.

The Annual Sports Day was celebrated on 5th and 6th December with great enthusiasm. The Senior Section Sports Day was held on 5th December, and we were honoured by the presence of Mr. Rishav Kumar Jha, IAS, ATS (Anti-Terrorist Squad), Jharkhand, as the Chief Guest. His presence and encouraging words

greatly motivated the students and added significance to the event. The Junior Section Sports Day took place on 6th December. Shri Ramesh Gholap, IAS, Special Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Mission Director, Government of Jharkhand, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial of the Ranchi Jesuit Society, was the Guest of Honour. Both Sports Days were very successful, with full involvement of students and teachers. Students displayed remarkable discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while teachers played a key role in organizing and managing the programme efficiently. Parents were present in large numbers, joyfully witnessing and encouraging the performances of their sons and daughters.

From 11th to 13th December, Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) were conducted for classes KG to V, fostering meaningful dialogue between parents and teachers. In the Senior Section, PTMs were held from 9th to 13th December, followed by a Unit Test on 15th December. From 15th to 19th December, Junior Section students appeared for their class tests along with regular classes, ensuring academic continuity.

On 19th December, a Christmas Gathering was organized for outreach students and staff, with Fr. Sudhir Kumar Kujur, SJ, Superior, as the Chief Guest. The programme reflected the spirit of inclusion and care for all.

On 20th December, Christmas celebrations were held separately for the Junior and Senior Section students, followed by a joint celebration with teachers and non-teaching staff. A meaningful exchange of gifts among Christmas friends strengthened bonds of fraternity and joy. This was followed by a Christmas lunch, lovingly prepared by some of the school staff themselves. On the same day, the school announced Winter Vacation from 22nd December 2025 to 4th January 2026.

In preparation for Christmas, reconciliation services, confessions, and Holy Masses were conducted for teaching staff, non-teaching staff, students, and parents. Fr. Medard Xalxo, SJ served as the resource person, guiding everyone towards spiritual renewal and inner peace.

On 22nd December, the Jesuit Community distributed Christmas gifts to bus drivers, helpers, and support staff, acknowledging their valuable service and sharing the joy of the season.

Pastoral Mission and Christmas Celebration at Sukurda

On the afternoon of 24th December, all the community members proceeded to Sukurda Mission for the Christmas celebrations. This celebration was especially significant, as it marked the first full fledged Christmas celebration with the faithful at Sukurda Mission. A deeply meaningful Vigil Mass was celebrated in the evening, followed by a Morning Mass on Christmas Day. A large number of faithful participated with deep faith, devotion, and joy. Interestingly, the Morning Mass witnessed even greater participation than the Vigil Mass, showing the strong faith and enthusiasm of the people.

Taking up the Sukurda Mission, especially in the area of pastoral care, is not an easy task for the community members of St. Xavier's School, Doranda. The mission area is located at a considerable distance, and pastoral ministry there requires time, commitment, and sacrifice. However, despite these challenges, all the community members remain very positive, hopeful, and enthusiastic about carrying forward the mission entrusted to them.

Each member of the community is finding special joy and deep satisfaction in being part of the Sukurda Mission. There is a growing sense of responsibility and shared mission, as the community journeys together with the faithful, accompanying them in their spiritual growth and strengthening their faith. The Sukurda Mission has become a source of renewed zeal, unity, and grace for the entire community.

On the evening of 25th December, the community returned to St. Xavier's School, Doranda. In the evening, a warm tea programme was organized with the DOX members at the community. The day concluded with a festive community dinner, marking the joyful end of a blessed Christmas season.

Overall, the month of December was a time of dedicated service, joyful celebration, spiritual renewal, and strengthened community life, helping the institution and the community move forward with renewed faith and enthusiasm.

Fr. Sandeep Kujur

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOLS, RANCHI

December 2025 was a month of remarkable achievements and joyful celebrations at St. John's

School, Ranchi. The community witnessed a blend of academic excellence, cultural vibrancy, spiritual enrichment, and sporting milestones that reflected the institution's holistic approach to education.

The month began with a Science Exhibition on 29 November, where students showcased creativity, innovation, and scientific temperament. The event drew enthusiastic participation and highlighted the school's emphasis on experiential learning. The following day, an educational tour to Manali, led by Fr. Sikandar, offered students valuable exposure beyond the classroom through observation and interaction.

Preparations for the Annual Sports Day were marked by discipline, rehearsals, and house-wise gatherings. The event itself was conducted smoothly, with coordinated supervision and active participation, demonstrating teamwork and commitment from both staff and students. Alongside, students gained intellectual and civic insights through programmes such as the JH MUN Workshop and the Vidhan Sabha exposure, which broadened their perspectives on global and social issues.

The spirit of Christmas was celebrated through outreach initiatives from 16–18 December, including visits to MC Sisters, Radharani, St. Anne's, Ulhatu, and



UC, Hesag. On 18 December, the school organized Christmas Khichri at the school gate, reinforcing values of sharing and charity. Students also prepared spiritually through Confession before the festive gathering. The Christmas celebration was conducted with reverence and discipline, featuring Holy Mass, parent participation, and joyful community spirit.

On 24 December, the Installation Ceremony of the House Chapel Tabernacle, led by Fr. Erenius, marked a significant spiritual milestone for the school. The month concluded with sporting glory on 30 December, as St. John's finished Runner-Up in the 1st International School League (ISL) 2025, narrowly losing to St. Ignatius' Gumla. The achievement reflected the

dedication of the players and the committed guidance of their mentors, Kripa, Sanga, and Sanjay.

Overall, December 2025 stood out as a period of growth and celebration at St. John's School. With the exception of the Manali tour and the Tabernacle installation, all activities were conducted by the English Medium section. Each event concluded successfully, underscoring the school's mission of nurturing students through academics, spirituality, sports, and service.

Sch. Nitesh Rohit Minj

JEEVAN DEEP PRE- NOVITIATE, ATC, NAMKUM

The month of December was a season of grace, reflection, and celebration for the ATC community. It was filled with moments of joy, prayer, and togetherness, as the community prepared to welcome the birth of Christ. From spiritual renewal to festive engagements, each event reflected the unity and vibrancy of community life.

On 11th December, the community gathered for a meeting to discuss two key matters. The first focused on the preparation for the Christmas celebration, emphasizing liturgical planning, decorations, and the organization of cultural activities. The second concerned the planning for the pre-novices during the holiday period, ensuring that their time would be both enriching and formative. The meeting was marked by collaboration and enthusiasm, with each member volunteering to contribute to the festive preparations.

The following day, 12th December, the pre-novices participated in a recollection and confession, allowing them to renew their spiritual commitment and prepare their hearts for Christmas. On 16th and 17th December, Sch. Vicky shared his musical gifts by teaching Christmas hymns and carols to the pre-novices, an experience that deepened their sense of harmony and fellowship.

On 17th December, the pre-novices began their Christmas crib preparation, creatively depicting the Nativity scene with devotion. Soon after, on the 18th, they commenced their second-semester examinations, which concluded successfully on the 20th December. That very evening, the entire ATC community joined the Christmas gathering at Mahuwa Toli, where the pre-novices played a vital role in leading the choir and

organizing performances, contributing significantly to the joyous celebration.

The 21st of December marked the Christmas gathering at the ATC Mass Centre, celebrated joyfully with the faithful. However, amid the festivities, the community shared in sorrow when Fr. Erentius Minj's sister passed away on 23rd December. Having visited her in the hospital earlier, he brought her home upon seeing her critical condition. The community offered prayers and heartfelt condolences to Fr. Minj and his family during this difficult time.

On 24th December, the community celebrated Christmas at Jharna Ashirwad, Namkum, together with the faithful, in a spirit of deep joy and thanksgiving. Later, Fr. Rajesh Sandil travelled to Simdega on 26th December to bless a marriage. On 27th December, Schs. Anil Nag and Ananias Xess left for Hazaribagh for their triduum, while Fr. Sandil returned, and Fr. Anil Kullu went for his home visit.

Bringing the month to a cheerful close, on 28th December, the pre-novices went for an outing, enjoying moments of recreation, fellowship, and relaxation. They shared lunch and supper outside, marking a refreshing conclusion to a spiritually rich and eventful month.

The community ended December with hearts full of gratitude, joy, and renewed zeal to continue their mission with faith and love in the coming year.

Sch. Ananias Xess

KISHOR NAGAR, NAMKUM, BARGAWAN

The month of December brought a noticeable chill to the campus, signalling the arrival of true winter. The Second Terminal exam began on December 5th and was scheduled to continue until December 13th, 2025. The main exam started on December 8th. The boys were all spending quality time studying. On December 10th, Mr. Bandhu Tirkey, former Education Minister and an alumnus of Kishor Nagar, sponsored fast food for the boys. He ordered various dishes, including chicken chili, chicken chowmin, and Panipuri. The Pre-Novices, the ATC community, and some neighbours also joined the gathering.

On December 11th, a group of Class 5 students from Loreto Convent visited Kishor Nagar to share the joy, peace, love, and hope of Christmas. They were accompanied by four teachers from Loreto Convent. The Kishor Nagar group performed a beautiful

dance for the occasion, and the Loreto students also presented a lovely dance. They shared sweets and Christmas cake with our boys. At the end, everyone enjoyed fresh sugarcane juice and took a tour around the campus. On December 15th, a group of students from Carmel School, Loadih, came to our campus and shared sweets to double the Christmas joy. They each presented gifts to our boys and sang Christmas songs. In return, our boys also performed beautiful Christmas songs. The boys of Kishor Nagar went on Christmas holiday on December 15th, with some leaving on December 17th. Our boys prepared cribs for five different places on the campus. It was a joy to see such a variety of cribs. On December 23rd, Sch. Vicky, along with Eliyajar, went Christmas shopping and bought decorative items to adorn the cribs and chapel. Fr. Sanjay celebrated the vigil Mass, and Fr. Walter celebrated the Christmas morning Mass. The vigil Mass was held at 10 o'clock at night, followed by a Christmas dance. On December 25th, Dr. Samuel sponsored food for everyone on campus, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner. His family was present for lunch on this day.

Sch. Nitish Ekka (RAN) arrived from Dumka on December 27th and, along with Sch. Vicky, went to Hazaribag for the Triduum of Regents, scheduled from December 27th to 30th.

Sch. Vicky R. Soreng

JFCT, TARUNODAY, KANKE

Despite the December nippy weather our Taruns kept pace with the marching year so well that they kept the religious fervour on the feast of St Francis Xavier on 3 December and also attended classes. But that joyous day also brought the sad news of the sudden demise of Sch Praveen Kullu's father Mr Damian Kullu (70), after a massive heart attack. The entire Tarunoday community joined the funeral service of Mr Damian at Lowakera Karamtoli under Konbir Noatoli Parish. On their way back they visited the future parish campus at Sukurda.

Despite facing a tough time, Praveen also returned to JFCT on 5 December in time to oversee the arrangement for the Bible Quiz at Tarunoday. Our JFCT campus was abuzz with activities as the excited children, all students of catechism in the parish, reached the campus earlier than expected. Fr Ajay Paulus Minz, SJ presided at the Eucharist with his creative homily. Praveen, assisted by other Taruns, conducted the first ever high-tech online Bible Quiz for eight groups of

children. The children received questions on their smartphones. The alert minds with their fastest fingers scored higher than the less fortunate ones. It taught us how to use digital technology for learning the Bible!

While our Taruns conducted the Bible quiz for children, they too got ready for their second trimester exams that got over on 18 December. But before that, they took active part at the "Jingle Bells," an innovative Christmas gathering with many stalls with eateries and merchandise. Meanwhile, on 12 December we received the news of the sudden death of Fr Agapit Tirkey, SJ (MAP), 81, caused by a massive heart attack. Frs Francis Minj, David Minj and Milianus Beck with Fr Deepak Toppo travelled to Ambikapur for the funeral. Bishop Anthonis Bara of Ambikapur, with Bp. Emmanuel Kerketta of Jashpur and Bp. Paul Toppo of Raigarh, and Bp. Emeritus Patras Minj as concelebrants, presided at the Eucharist. Fr Agapit Tirkey taught Adivāsi Theology at Tarunoday for 43 years and he already planned to teach our Taruns in July 2026. Unfortunately, the Lord called him. We miss you, a good and faithful servant.

Our Taruns, after a meaningful Christmas gathering on 20 December at JFCT, left on 21 December for Bardih, Bingaon, Charhi, Jharain and Sarwada for Christmas ministry. Meanwhile, Fr Dvid went to Sidraul for Christmas ministry while others stayed home to help out in the Parish. With different engagement during the Christmas vacation the green vegetables on the campus make up for our absence.

Fr. Francis Minj

CATHOLIC CHURCH, KANKE

The Advent and Christmas season of 2025 was marked by vibrant faith and fellowship across the Catholic community of Kanke.

On 7 December 2025, a joint meeting of the Catholic Sabha, Catholic Mahila Sangh, and Catholic Yuva Sangh was held at the parish to plan and evaluate key events. The agenda included preparations for the Inter-denomination Christmas Gathering 2025, the Combined Christian Youth Society (CCYS) Christmas Gathering 2025, the youth-led Jingles-2025 Christmas Mela, and the forthcoming Christmas and New Year 2026 celebrations. The meeting also reflected on the successful observance of Christ the King cum Parish Day 2025, affirming the parish's commitment to unity and mission.

The LNN family Christmas Gathering followed on 11 December 2025 at Katma, Hesag, bringing together 70



members from Ranchi, Vitta, Mandar, Saparom, and Samlong units. The gathering began with prayer before reports from each unit were shared, highlighting small yet meaningful leadership initiatives. Plans for the year 2026–2027 were presented and will be finalized in January. The evening concluded with carols, role play on the birth of Christ, gift exchanges, and a fellowship meal—strengthening bonds of faith and friendship.

On 14 December 2025, parishioners participated in multiple celebrations. The Jingles Christmas Mela at Gabriel Brothers' campus drew admiration for its festive setting, while the Inter-denomination Christmas Gathering at NWGEL Church, Kanke, brought together Christians from different traditions. The CCYS Christmas Gathering at CIP ground was marked by a symbolic procession, with faithful from Catholic, CNI, and NWGEL churches converging at Kanke Chauk and proceeding as one community—a powerful witness of Christian unity.

The parish culminated its celebrations with the Christmas Vigil Mass at 10:00 PM and the Christmas Day Mass at 7:30 AM on 25 December 2025. The choir, led by Sr. Emma Kujur, DSU, animated both liturgies with youthful energy and devotion. The Vigil was celebrated by Fr. Samir Dungdung, while the Christmas morning Mass was presided over by Fr. Francis Minj. All arrangements were coordinated by the Catholic Sabha and the catechist, ensuring a prayerful and orderly celebration.

These gatherings and liturgies reflected the joy of the Incarnation, the unity of the Christian community, and the renewed commitment to mission. The parish of Kanke continues to shine as a beacon of faith, fellowship, and service in the wider Ranchi Church.

Fr. Samir Dungdung

PRABHAT TARA, DHURWA

This month was full of activities and programs. First of all, we had the Advent tour Mass for all seven units. We divided among ourselves, but Fr. Philemon went to all the units to get familiar with the place and people. However, due to daily wage earners and other services, the presence of the faithful was not very satisfactory.

On 3 December, the feast of St. Francis Xavier was celebrated in a very simple manner. In the English Medium School, there was a short program where the life and mission work of the saint was acted out by the students. Fr. Philemon went to St. Xavier's Doranda for the school feast day, which began with Holy Mass. In the evening, we again joined the fathers and brothers for their fellowship dinner at St. Xavier's Doranda.

On 7 December, there was a "Youth Christmas Gathering" for the whole Ranchi Diocese. About three thousand youths participated from all the parishes of the Diocese. The Youth Director of the Diocese presided over the Holy Mass. It was followed by Christmas carol singing and dances. From each parish, one outstanding youth was honoured with a memento and certificate. The program concluded with a fellowship meal.

On 16 December, the parishioners had a "Parish Christmas Get-Together." It began with Holy Mass, with prayerful and devotional singing by the parish youths. After Mass, they had a simple breakfast. To make the day more meaningful, Fr. Vijay Panna, the Clarissan parish priest of Saparom, gave a short and sweet reflection about Christmas. After the prayerful meditation, we had a cultural program by all seven units. There were singing, dances, and jhanki presented by different units. The best boy or girl from each unit was given a memento. Students who were toppers in Matric and Intermediate were also honored with mementos. At the end, all were served a fellowship meal.

On 21 December, the president of all churches, Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ, organized a Christmas Gathering in St. Thomas School (C.N. Church). Fr. Philemon gave a welcome address, and the program began. Faithful from all churches presented a variety of programs. Rev. Thomas K. Thomas was the Chief Guest, and Mr. Manoj Lakra, the Personnel Director of HEC, was the Guest of Honor. In the middle of the program, the Chief Guest gave a beautiful Christmas message. It was a great effort to unite Christians of all churches around Dhurwa.

Christmas was celebrated with joy and sharing. We had the night Vigil Mass at 10:30 p.m. Fr. Vijay Kr. Minj, SJ, was the main celebrant of the day. Frs.

Philemon and Jerome concelebrated with him. There was a good number of faithful present for the vigil. On the morning of 25 December, we had another celebration where Fr. Jerome was the main celebrant, and Frs. Philemon and Vijay joined him. Fr. Jerome gave a short and inspiring practical message which people appreciated very much.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2026 from Prabhat Tara.

Fr. Philemon Ekka

ST. MICHAEL'S KHUNTI

On 29 November, Loyola High School staff took time out to be together at Rimix Fall. It was a refreshing time. All the teaching and non-teaching staff enjoyed the beauty of nature. They also enjoyed cooking, eating, dancing, and boating together. Fr. Mahendra P. Tigga accompanied the faithful of Rumutkel to Bendora for a pilgrimage.

On the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, Fr. Amrit Lakra was at St. Xavier's High School, Sarwada, as the main celebrant in the Holy Mass and chief guest for the cultural program. Later in the evening, other community members went to greet the community at Sarwada.

On 4 December, our community was invited by St. Anne's Khunti for Holy Mass and dinner on the occasion of the farewell of postulants. Fr. Amrit Lakra presided over the Thanksgiving Mass. There was a short felicitation program to extend their gratitude to us for our service, followed by dinner. The next day, Fr. Bimal Minj accompanied the postulants to the Novitiate.

Fr. Mahendra P. Tigga left for Bhopal on 5 December as a resource person in a program for AICUF. On the same day, Fr. Suman P. Toppo rushed to Rengarih for the burial of his uncle.

On 6 December, Loyola English Medium School and Inter College went to Rani Fall for an outing, leaving their daily schedule aside.

Fr. Mahendra P. Tigga returned from Bhopal hale and hearty on 7 December. Fr. Amrit Lakra and Fr. Bimal Minj were in Bingaon for the installation of the new Parish Priest.

On 12 December, the students of Loyola English Medium School exhibited their talents and innovative ideas in a Science Exhibition and Art & Craft display. Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, the Vice Principal of St. Xavier's Doranda, was the chief guest of the day.

On 13 December, the Entrance Test for Navodaya

Vidyalaya was held in Loyola High School and Inter College. In the evening, all the community members went to wish Fr. Simon Horo a happy birthday. They returned after dinner.

Fr. Amrit Lakra gave a three-day recollection to the sisters of St. Anne's Khunti from 16 December in preparation for Christmas. Fr. Emmanuel Barla was busy giving a triduum in St. Anne's Karra and Pelaol from 17 to 20 December. Fr. Bimal Minj rendered his spiritual service in St. Anne's Sarwada from 18 to 20 December.

A series of Christmas gatherings began on 15 December. Fr. Mahendra P. Tigga and his colleagues organized a Christmas gathering on 15 December in Hoffmann Law Cell. Members of neighbouring communities were invited for the program. Fr. Amrit Lakra blessed the crib, and Fr. Bisu Benjamin Aind delivered the Christmas message. Loyola High School Hostel had its Christmas gathering on 19 December. Fr. Amrit Lakra blessed the crib and gave the Christmas message. There was a Recollection-cum-Christmas gathering in Pastoral Centre Kunjla on 20 December for the priests and religious of the diocese. On the same day, the junior section of Loyola English Medium School celebrated its Christmas gathering. On 22 December, the Loyola family came together for a Christmas gathering. There were well-prepared carol singing, dances, and skits based on Christmas presented by the students. Rev. Vikla Baxla, the pastor of St. Augustine Church, Satranji (Dasmile), was the chief guest and gave a very inspiring Christmas message.

Fr. Emmanuel Barla, along with his two novitiate companions, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his religious life in Manresa House, Ranchi, on 21 December. Fr. Amrit Lakra and Fr. Bimal Minj were there to witness the celebration.

All of us availed ourselves for Christmas ministry in the parish. Fr. Amrit Lakra said the First Mass in the Cathedral. Br. Elias Minj assisted him in the distribution of Holy Communion. Fr. Emmanuel Barla served the faithful of Birhu on Christmas Day. Fr. Swarn Tigga offered Mass in Munda Kunjla Chapel. Fr. Suman P. Toppo was the main celebrant in the Vigil Mass at Pastoral Centre and in the morning in Dabgana unit, accompanied by Sch. Kanchan Minj. Fr. Bimal Minj was in Kanadih unit for the Vigil Mass. Fr. Mahendra P. Tigga was in Khunti Jail with the inmates. In the evening, we came together to celebrate Christmas and the birthday of Fr. Emmanuel Barla.

Fr. Amrit Lakra

ST. IGNATIUS' HIGH SCHOOL, GUMLA

The month of December 2025 was truly a grace-filled and joyful period for the St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla community. It was marked by prayerful celebrations, meaningful gatherings, cultural creativity, and deep bonds of community life. Each event reminded us of God's blessings and strengthened our sense of togetherness as one Ignatian family.

On December 3rd, 2025, we had the grand celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier at St. Xavier's School, Gumla. Staff members and students together honored this great missionary saint. The highlight of the day was the solemn Holy Mass, reverently presided over by Fr. Rector Florence Kujur. The Eucharistic celebration filled everyone with spiritual joy and thanksgiving. After the Mass, a common breakfast was served to all, reflecting the spirit of sharing and unity.

Later in the day, a colorful cultural programme was organized by the students. Their performances were creative, lively, and full of enthusiasm. Through songs, dances, and meaningful presentations, the students expressed joy and gratitude. In honor of the feast, a special festive lunch was provided to all members of the St. Ignatius family. The celebration left everyone with smiling faces and grateful hearts.

On December 12th, the community gathered to celebrate the birthday of Fr. Elphiz Kerketta. The occasion was marked by a warm community gathering. Fr. Elphiz was wished a happy birthday, and a birthday cake was joyfully cut. This simple yet heartfelt celebration strengthened the bonds of brotherhood and mutual affection within the community.

A few days later, on December 14th, the St. Ignatius community undertook a pilgrimage to Kochang. This spiritual journey offered members a chance to step away from routine life and spend time in prayer and reflection. The pilgrimage was enriching and refreshing, helping everyone renew their faith and commitment.

As Christmas approached, special efforts were made to celebrate the season meaningfully. Before closing the year, Christmas gatherings were arranged separately in different units, allowing each institution to celebrate in its own way. On December 20th, St. Xavier's School and Arouse Gumla celebrated Christmas together. On December 22nd, the Apostolic School, Gumla held its Christmas celebration, followed by the Christmas gathering of St. Ignatius High School and Inter College on December 23rd. Each celebration was filled with

joy, fellowship, and festive spirit.

For Christmas pastoral services, two priests went to Tongo, one to Bardih, and three to Soso Parishes, while four community members attended the Vigil Christmas Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Gumla. On December 24th, the St. Ignatius community also went for Christmas carol singing to different religious houses and parishes. The programme was well organized and warmly received everywhere.

In preparation for Christmas, a day of recollection was arranged in the house, helping members prepare spiritually for the great feast. Confession was also organized for the community, allowing everyone to celebrate Christmas with renewed hearts.

Adding to the joy, on the evening of December 23rd, the community lovingly celebrated the birthday of Fr. Christopher Lakra, anticipating his special day with greetings and fellowship.

Indeed, December was a blessed and joyful month. With grateful hearts, we wish each one of you a Happy Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year 2026.

Fr. Nelson Minj

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, SAMTOLI

School Day: On December 8, 2025, we celebrated "School Day." This day was remarkable as it comprised many events such as the Science Exhibition, Art and Craft, and Voice of St. Mary's in both categories, senior and junior. The day was made more memorable by adding fun games as part of the school. Fr. Rector was the main guest of the day, who made the celebration more vibrant and meaningful through his presence.

All students were delighted and energetic in showing their creativity, innovation, and expertise in different events. To make this day successful, various committees played a vital role, including the student council members and other volunteers.

Examination: On December 11, we commenced the second terminal examination for both the High School and Intercollege students. This examination continued up to December 19. Classes 6, 7, and 8 continued their additional examination conducted by the JAC Board up to December 23.

Science Exhibition: On December 12, a group of science students went to DIET for the Science Exhibition competition and secured 2nd place.

Parents-Teachers Meeting: On December 22, there

was a Parents–Teachers meeting for Classes 6, 7, and 8. All the rank holders were honoured with certificates and shawls.

Farewell: We bade farewell to Fr. Patrick Xalxo on December 12, 2025, as he was appointed the new Parish Priest of Catholic Church, Sogra. The farewell programme started with the Thanksgiving Holy Mass in the evening, presided over by him. He assumed the office of Parish Priest on December 13, 2025. We thank Fr. Patrick Xalxo, who rendered his service as minister, Acting Principal of St. Mary's English Medium School, kitchen and garden in-charge, and caretaker of the Apostolic School during the absence of the Director and Regent. We wish him all the best and every success in his new pastoral ministry.

Welcome: Fr. Nabor Lakra joined St. Mary's High School community on December 12, 2025, as a new member. He was given a traditional welcome by washing his hands, offering a flower plant, and a gamosha. We thank Fr. Sudhir Kumar Minj, SJ, and Fr. Justin Tirkey for accompanying him to our community. He was warmly welcomed by the College family on December 13, 2025, on its campus.

Christmas Gathering: The Christmas gathering was a great event in our educational institutions and community. It was held on December 20 in St. Mary's English Medium School with much fervour and gaiety. Fr. Nabor Lakra was the chief guest of the day, who gave an inspiring and meaningful message of Christmas and also extended best wishes for New Year 2026 to the school family. The celebration was marked by carol singing and dance, which conveyed the Christmas message to the entire school family.

The community arranged a Christmas gathering for the co-workers on December 24. It started with the blessing of the crib by Fr. Pius Xalxo, followed by a Christmas message by Fr. Rakesh Kerketta. Soon after, the Christmas cake was cut by Mr. Vijay and Miss Prisca, our co-workers. Christmas gifts were distributed to the co-workers by Fr. Rector, and finally, dinner was served by the community members. Thanks to Fr. James P. Balmuchu for doing the MC work efficiently and to Fr. Rakesh for his Christmas message.

The Jesuit community had its Christmas gathering on December 25 in the evening. Scholastic Amit did the MC work efficiently, and Scholastic Suman Bara gave a short but inspiring Christmas message. Christmas gifts were exchanged among ourselves with much affection and love. Fr. Pius thanked everyone for

committedly carrying out their responsibilities and making the Christmas preparation and celebration a great success.

Crib Visiting: Priests and Religious Sisters of Samtoli proper came to visit the community crib with great joy and festive disposition. They wished us Merry Christmas and danced to the tune of the Mandar, drum, and nagara. They were served cake and soup, which energized them to resume their dancing and drumming. Our sincere thanks to them for visiting and wishing us a grace-filled Christmas.

Christmas Ministry: Community members showed their generosity in taking up the Christmas ministry in different places. Fr. Roshan, Fr. Rakesh, and Fr. Edwin, Regents, and Ursuline Sisters went to Dumki for the Christmas celebration on December 24–25. The faithful of that place and surrounding areas were very happy to take part in the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Pius and Fr. Florence went to Joretoli, and Fr. Bruno and Fr. Samir went to Beritoli to offer Holy Mass for the faithful on December 25, under Sogra Parish. Thanks to all of them for taking up the Christmas ministry for the joy of the villagers.

Construction Work: Construction work in the Academic Block and Jesuit residence in the new campus of SXC, Simdega, will take some more days for completion. Hopefully, the building construction will be completed by the end of January 2026. January will be the busiest month for our brothers working in the college as the shifting of assets and things will begin. Campus decorum is another important task that needs to be addressed soon. Certainly, the coming months will be hectic as we plan to move into the new campus. Let us hope for the best.

Closing Ceremony of Jubilee Year: The Jubilee Year 2025 in Simdega Diocese was closed with the Holy Eucharistic celebration on December 28, 2025. The Jubilee Year Cross was taken ceremoniously and placed near the stage where the Eucharistic celebration was held. Twenty-five lamps symbolizing the Jubilee Year were jointly lit by the Bishop, Priests, Sisters, and faithful. The Bishop blessed the cross of the faithful and the Jubilee plaque, followed by the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rt. Rev. Vincent Barwa. His sermon on the Holy Family and Jubilee Year was very inspiring and meaningful. He urged the faithful to build good Christian families and keep the graces and spirit of the Jubilee Year alive in the coming year. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, a book titled “मैंने तुमसे प्रेम किया है”—the Hindi translation of “Dilexi

Te” by Pope Leo XIII—was released. The faithful were encouraged to read this book and be inspired to help the poor and the Church financially.

Fr. Pius Xalxo

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

The month of December unfolded as a profoundly grace-filled and spiritually enriching time for the Vidyajyoti Community. Marked by prayer, reflection, celebration, outreach, and renewal, the month invited the community to pause, discern, and recommit itself wholeheartedly to the core values of religious life and mission.

December began on a prayerful note with POSA’s annual visitation to the Vidyajyoti Community from December 2 to 6. Far more than an administrative exercise, the visitation became a moment of grace, offering space for honest reflection and renewed fidelity to vocation. On December 3, Fr. Stany Jerome D’Souza formally inaugurated the visitation with the celebration of the morning Holy Mass. In his homily, he offered a creative and memorable spiritual insight by encouraging the community to “drink BEER every day.” Through this striking acronym—Bible, Eucharist, Examen, and Reconciliation—he highlighted four foundational practices essential for nurturing a disciplined, balanced, and Christ-centered religious life. His message strongly underscored the importance of daily prayer, self-examination, and ongoing conversion as sources of spiritual vitality.

During the same period, Vidyajyoti College marked an important milestone with the inauguration and blessing of a new audio-visual studio, formally blessed by POSA on the feast of St. Francis Xavier. This significant development opens new avenues for academic creativity and skill formation, especially in media and communication, enabling theology to engage meaningfully with contemporary modes of evangelization.

On December 5, the VJ-JD Students’ Seminar 2025 was successfully held on the theme “Contextual Theologizing in the Light of Gaudium et Spes.” Seven students and one priest presented insightful and well-researched papers, grounding theology in lived realities and challenging participants to read the signs of the times with faith and critical engagement.

POSA’s visitation concluded with a heartfelt community address that balanced appreciation with honest challenge. He encouraged personal and communal examen as a way of life, while inviting deeper growth

in intimacy with the Lord, creativity, competence, and commitment. He also affirmed positive signs, notably the growth of companionship beyond province boundaries and the encouraging practice of early morning personal prayer.

As Christmas approached, the community joyfully lived the spirit of the season through various outreach initiatives. Carol-singing visits to the Missionaries of Charity convents, pre-Christmas celebrations, the Rickshaw Pullers’ Ministry, and gatherings with staff and their families beautifully embodied Gospel solidarity, compassion, and joy. The month concluded with moments of deeper spiritual renewal through the Diaconate Retreat for the third-year brothers and the Triduum for the first- and second-year brothers.

With hearts full of gratitude and renewed zeal, the Vidyajyoti Community looks ahead with hope, committed to journeying forward in the spirit of MAGIS.

We, the scholastics of Vidyajyoti, wish you all a prosperous and grace-filled NEW YEAR 2026!

Sch. Robin Minj

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

December 2025 was a month of blessings, celebrations, and community life at Satya Nilayam. The month began with heavy rainfall from Cyclone Ditwah on 1 December, coinciding with the return of Fr. Valerian Mendonca, SJ, from Manila after an academic seminar, and the sad passing of Fr. Benedict Lakra’s elder brother. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier was doubly joyful as it marked the birthday of our Rector, Fr. K. Amal, SJ.

Christmas spirit was kept alive through Secret Santa, decorations, and gatherings with the Perungudi Parish and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. A special evening prayer was led by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network team on 9 December. Academic highlights included the PhD defence of Fr. Anthony Das Satin, D, and dissertation proposal presentations by second year scholastics. On 11 December, office responsibilities were formally handed over, and the SN basketball team proudly won the Chennai Inter Seminary Tournament.

Community birthdays of Sch. Rohit D. Dungdung, SJ, and Sch. Pawan Kandulana, SJ, were celebrated with joy. Outreach visits brought Christmas cheer to St. Camillus Convent, Asha Niketan, and Karunai Illam. The community celebrated Christmas with carols, gift exchanges, and a festive meal.

Looking ahead, SN prepares for Community Days, the Triduum, and the New Year celebration. The scholastics extend warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2026!

Sch. Shailesh Khalkho

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

The first and for most, we the Ranchi Jesuits of Pune extend our new year 2026 wishes to all the members of the Ranchi Province worldwide. May this new year by the grace of God be a happy, a blessed and a prosperous one.

On Dec 9, 2025 the team of MAIN (Migrant Assistance and Information Network) was here at DNC from the ISI Delhi, who addressed the community about the living situation of migrant and its networks across India in reaching out to migrants for help. The presentation with life-context real stories truly inspired and positively challenged us to move to the periphery mission of the Society.

After successfully finishing the mid-semester examinations of the Scholastics, on Dec 19, 2025, a penitential rite was arranged as a spiritual preparation for the Christmas in the community. On Dec 20, 2025 the Christmas vacation started which would get over on Jan 4, 2026. The scholastics began their Christmas preparations with full of joy and with a cordial teamwork. At the entrance of De Nobili College, the crib team who worked continually for some days, made a beautiful Christmas crib highlighting the jubilee year theme 'pilgrims of hope'. Instantaneously, the Scholastics who are involved in Chottanagpur Cultural Association (CCA) from the DNC as well as some CCA youth and mothers of Pune worked hard to clear up the DNC lawn, made elevated stage for mass, put up some lightings etc. for the Christmas vigil Mass. The rest of the Scholastics decorated the house, made cribs in the chapels. It was very encouraging and enthusiastic to see the Scholastics of both the CCA as well as other scholastics going for the Christmas carols in the evenings from Dec 20 – 22, to various parts of Pune who shared the joy of carols and prayed with people. On certain days, some priests too joined them for the carols. On Dec 22, Scholastics had their spiritual alms in the living groups for half a day, helping one another with fraternal correction and charity for the growth of one another.

On the Christmas vigil mass, nearly two thousand people gathered at DNC for the solemn Hindi mass.

People came from various parts of Pune and made the celebration a more meaningful one. Fr Leander Xalxo, SJ (MAP) was the main celebrant and Fr Dayal Lakra, SJ (Dumka Province) was the main preacher who mesmerized the crowd with his powerful preaching. After the mass, all were served with some refreshments followed by Christmas community dance. Many DNC priests happily celebrated Christmas vigil mass in various parishes in Pune and some even went to outside of Pune for the vigil mass. Scholastics those who are in parish ministry contributed in their parishes for the vigil and Christmas mass.

We had the community Christmas mass before the festive lunch which was celebrated by Fr Rector as the main celebrant and Fr Jerome Francis, SJ (CCU) and Fr Henry D'Almeida, SJ (KAR) were the concelebrants whose birthdays were on the Christmas day. After the Holy Mass, we had a sumptuous Christmas lunch sharing the joy of Christmas. On the same afternoon, the third year Scholastics of DNC as well as three Brothers of other Congregations went for their Diaconate retreat to Belgaum, Karnataka who would finish their retreat by Jan 3, 2026. Sch Sagar Xalxo, SJ (RAN) has joined for the retreat and we assure him and his companions our prayerful support. There was Christmas dinner out for the Scholastics in the evening.

On this Christmas, something novel, good and the most satisfying charity work was done through the initiative of the Scholastics. With the contributions of scholastics and priests, total 120 blankets were bought and given to the street dwellers in Pune on the Christmas night in sharing our joy with them. A big appreciation to scholastics who took initiative and made all the possible arrangements.

On Dec 27 to Dec 30, Scholastics of both philosophy and theology (those who have not been to those places) went to Ajanta Ellora and Goa respectively for their Christmas exposure programme. Some priests too accompanied the Scholastics in their tour to these places. The rest of the Scholastics remained at home doing their ministry and study.

Fr. Wilson Kandulna

BERCHMANS ILLAM, CHENNAI

The month of November concluded with the grand celebration of the Feast of St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of the Scholastics, held on the evening of 26 November. This joyful celebration strengthened

our communal bonds, both within the community and with our lay collaborators. On 5 and 6 December, Loyola College organized the Department Festival, which provided students with a valuable platform to showcase their academic and creative talents. The event stood out for its innovative programs and collaborative participation with various colleges across Chennai.

On 8 December, the community gathered for a meeting to discuss the monthly programs and other important matters to ensure the smooth functioning of the community. Meanwhile, from 10 December, third-year undergraduate students began their one-month internship programs at different institutions according to their respective subjects. This internship serves as a significant learning experience, helping them enhance their academic and practical knowledge.

The month of December is always marked by the spirit of sharing joy, peace, hope, and love as we prepare to welcome the Child Jesus, our Savior. On 14 December, along with the Chotanapur Cultural Association (CCA), we celebrated a Pre-Christmas gathering at Laurance Sundaram Hall, Loyola College Campus, Chennai. This event brought together the Northern Hindi-speaking community in a spirit of unity and celebration. On the same day, the Jesuit Migrant Service (JMS), Chennai, also organized a Pre-Christmas celebration at Bertram Hall, Loyola College Campus. This event was led by Fr. Ruben Xalxo, SJ, Assistant Director of JMS Chennai, along with his dedicated team.

On the evening of 19 December, Scholastic Naveen Lakra was admitted to St. Thomas Hospital for knee surgery. The surgery was successfully performed on Friday afternoon, and he returned to the community house on Monday afternoon. He is now gradually recuperating and is well cared for by the community.

Loyola College celebrated its Christmas gathering on 20 December, followed by a fellowship meal with all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the entire Loyola Campus. Later that evening, the Berchmans Illam community visited differently-abled children cared for by the Little Flower Sisters to share the joy and love of Christmas. Through interactions, carol singing, and dance performances, we experienced a deeply meaningful evening that helped us reflect on the realities of suffering faced by many of God's people.

On 22 December, we made a second Advent visit to an old age home, which brought immense joy and consolation to the inmates. These visits enabled us to truly experience the spirit of Christmas by sharing joy, peace, happiness, and love with those in need. Finally,

on 23 December, the community celebrated Christmas together in a special way. Each member received a Christ Child to pray for individually and offered a small Christmas gift, making the celebration more prayerful and meaningful.

Sch. Surbhi Kullu

SSC JUNIORATE, SITAGARHA

The SSC community at Sitagarha remained vibrant and active throughout the months of November and December 2025, marked by spiritual solemnity, academic enrichment, and heartfelt community gatherings.

Spiritual Commemoration and Solemn Farewells:

On November 23, the Juniors participated in the solemn Eucharistic celebration at the parish to honour the Feast of Christ the King. The liturgy was followed by a grand procession through the streets, proclaiming the sovereignty of Christ, and concluded with a period of silent Adoration at Loyola Ground. The community also experienced moments of profound sorrow. We mourned the sudden passing of our dear community member, Fr. Lawrence Tirkey, SJ, whose unexpected departure left a void in our hearts. On the following day, the house gathered to bid a final, prayerful farewell to the soul of Fr. Lawrence Tirkey, SJ, celebrating his life of dedicated service.

Cultural Expressions and Skill Development:

On November 25, the Juniors commenced rehearsals for the stage production, "The Pious Odyssey of Job," a play exploring the themes of faith and endurance. Simultaneously, we benefited from a specialized seminar on Social Skills and Etiquette conducted by Fr. W.K. Pradeep, SJ, which provided us with essential tools for interpersonal growth.

On November 28, Fr. Lloyd, SJ facilitated an enlightening course on Indian Religious and Cultural Traditions. This session deepened our appreciation for India's pluralistic heritage and fostered a spirit of interreligious harmony.

Festivals and Community Bonds:

December 3 marked the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron of missionaries. The community celebrated the legacy of the "Apostle of the Indies" with great fervour. That evening, the Juniors staged the final performance of "The Pious Odyssey of Job." The play was well-received by neighbouring religious communities, who lauded the Juniors for their evocative performance and weeks of disciplined practice.

In a gesture of camaraderie, the Juniors hosted a Gratitude Bonfire Dinner for the Tertians. This evening served as a tribute to the Tertians for their companionship and the inspiring commitment they model for those in early formation.

Seminars and Social Outreach: On December 5, we welcomed Ms. Akriti and Ms. Deepti from Ranchi for a vital seminar on Gender Sensitization and Safeguarding. These sessions offered profound self-insights and emphasized the importance of creating safe, respectful environments. The following day, the Juniors enjoyed a “High Tea” at the Holy Cross convent, strengthening our ties with the Tertian Sisters through joyful interaction.

On December 8, the house organized a formal farewell for the Tertian Fathers. Both the Juniors and Novices expressed their deep gratitude through various cultural tributes. Later that day, after participating in the Parish Mass, the community enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere of the Meena Bazar. We were also delighted to host four guests from Australia, providing us with a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural dialogue.

Welcoming Christmas and Leadership: The joy of the season was heightened on December 15 by the visit of Fr. Alfred Toppo, SJ, Provincial of the Madhya Pradesh Province. His presence and guidance were a source of great encouragement for the entire house. As Christmas approached, the Juniors participated in a Formees’ Gathering at St. Gabriel’s on December 20. Formees from various congregations gathered to celebrate the Nativity, showcasing a variety of talents; our community contributed a moving Tableau of the Christmas story. Finally, on December 21, we concluded our series of events with a Christmas gathering for the parishioners, sharing the joy and peace of the season with the wider Sitagarha community.

Sch. Avinash Ekka

VIDYANIKETAN, KERALA

On the eve of Christ the King, we took part in Vespers at Vettucaud Parish. The annual visitation of the southern provincials doubled the joy of the feast day of St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of scholastics. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Henry Pattarumadathil SJ, Provincial of the Kerala Province. They encouraged the juniors to focus on their academic life.

We took part in the annual day celebrations at Loyola



School, Srikaryam, and Jyoti Nilayam School, Thumba. On the feast of St. Francis Xavier, we were invited by the St. Xavier’s College community, Thumba, for the festive gathering where the juniors led the prayer service.

From 3rd–5th December, we had a media education course which enhanced our knowledge of how to use the media with faith in our mission. We gratefully acknowledge the tireless effort of Fr. Anothy Arul SJ (KAR).

The second semester exams were held from 16th–22nd December. On 21st December, we took part in the Christmas gathering of CRI at Bakitha Bhavan. December was a month filled with learning and many activities for Vidyaniketan.

Sch. Maximus Kachhap

DHYAN ASHRAM, KOLKATA

This month was full of new learning and experiences in Juniorate. We got the opportunity to learn many things such as Art and Aesthetics, Poetry, Drama, Literature, Debate, delivering speeches, and Health Care. Each of these sessions broadened our understanding and helped us gain knowledge.

On 24th November, we attended the Art and Aesthetics course conducted by Fr. Saju George. Through this course, we learned about Rasa theory, Ragas, and the historical and symbolic significance of the Nataraja statue. This course helped us appreciate how art expresses beauty, culture, and spirituality in daily life.

On 28th November, we had our Community Recollection with the theme “Eco-Spirituality.” It was a meaningful time of prayer and reflection.

On 3rd December, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier. After the Holy Mass, we played a friendly basketball match with novices. It was a day of prayer and celebration in the community.

On 15th December, I had the opportunity to

participate in Carol Singing at the MC Sisters' house and the Pillar community. It was a joyful experience of sharing Christmas joy with the poorest of the poor.

Our second trimester examinations began on 18th December. The first day was on Public Speech and Literature. The second day focused on Drama. The third day covered Poetry, Grammar, and Digital Learning. Ankit and I felt confident about our performance throughout the month.

On 21st December, we visited Kalahridaya for Carol Singing. It was a memorable experience filled with dance, music, joy, and companionship.

On 22nd December, we celebrated Christmas with our co-workers. We performed a dance and Christmas Carols. The novices also performed their programs.

Overall, this month was filled with learning, prayer, and celebration.

Bro. Santosh Tirkey

OURS IN ASSAM MISSION

JESUIT BHAVAN GANA CHETNA SAMAJ, TEZPUR

In Assam Mission of the Ranchi Province, two important historical events happened in the month of December 2025:



1. DECREE OF THE CANONICAL ERECTION OF THE PARISH: ST. XAVIER'S PARISH, TIPKAI (DIOCESE OF BONAIGAON)

December 7, 2025, Tipkai - In a grand celebration, St. Xavier's Parish, Tipkai, was officially declared a new parish, marking a significant milestone in the region's spiritual landscape. The parish, run and managed by the Jesuits of the Ranchi Province, will be led by Fr. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ, as its first Parish Priest, alongside Sch. Pradeep Bara, SJ, as a member of the Jesuit community.

Eucharistic Celebration: The declaration ceremony was marked by a grand Eucharistic celebration, officiated by Rt. Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil, DD, Bishop of Bongaigaon Diocese, and concelebrated by: Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, Delegate of the Provincial, Fr. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ, newly appointed Parish Priest, Frs. Kamal C. Bage, SJ, Ignatius Minj, SJ, Pradeep Kullu, SJ, Rozario Mosahari, SJ, Gulshan Kujur, SJ and Amit J. Lakra, SJ.

Parish Priests of the existing Gossaigaon and Bashbari parishes: The ceremony included traditional dances, scripture readings, and a homily by the Bishop, emphasizing community and spiritual growth. After the homily, Fr. Kamal Chandra Bage read out the official declaration letter, and Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, read the appointment letter of Fr. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ, as Parish Priest. Fr. Lazarus Basumatary, SJ, was then officially installed as Parish Priest, and the parish was declared open.

Geographical Boundaries: The new parish is carved out of the existing Gossaigaon, Kathalguri, and Bashbari Parish, covering areas within Kokrajhar district in Bongaigaon Diocese. Its boundaries stretch east to the Parbotjhora civil sub-division, west to the Parbotjhora civil sub-division, north to the Parbotjhora civil sub-division, and south to the Silai River.

Population and Socio-Economics: The parish has a diverse population of Garos, Santhals, and Boros, with 152 Catholic families spread across 10 villages. Garos are the majority, inhabiting 6 villages, while Santhals are in 4 villages, and there are only 3 Boro families. The community relies on agriculture, cultivating rice, jute, betel nuts, rubber, and tea. With a literacy rate of 58.51%, efforts are underway to improve education, especially among tribal communities. Challenges persist in infrastructure, healthcare, and education, leading to limited economic opportunities and out-migration. The new parish aims to address these gaps, fostering spiritual growth and community belonging.

2. HANDING OVER OF MANAS BANSBARI MISSION TO DIOCESE OF BONGAIGAON

On December 12, 2025, the Jesuits were given farewell by the teachers, students, parents, guardians and the parishioners of Manas Bansbari, marking the end of 21 years of service by the Jesuits of Ranchi Province. The occasion was marked by a grand thanksgiving and farewell ceremony, attended by students, teachers,



parents, parishioners and clergy.

The centre, which began as a small mission in 2003, was officially opened as St. Xavier's School on January 30, 2005, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil. Fr. Telesphore Lakra, SJ, was the pioneer who worked tirelessly to establish the mission, often traveling from Barpeta Road to Manas Bansbari.

Over the years, Jesuits like Fr. Ajay Anil Tirkey, SJ, and Fr. Laurentus Kiro, SJ, continued to serve the community, building the school and serving the people. Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, Delegate of the Provincial, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and announced the Jesuits' new mission in Angulia.

Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial, highlighted the Jesuit charism of mobility and availability, while Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, shared the history of the mission and thanked the Kohima Region Jesuits for their support.

The ceremony featured entertainment programs by students, speeches, and a delicious meal prepared by the parents.

On December 13, 2025, Fr. Laurentus Kiro, SJ, formally handed over St. Xavier's School and Parish, Manas Bansbari to the representatives of Diocese of Bongaigaon Fr. Thomas D'Silva the newly appointed Principal and Parish Priest to Manas Bansbari, Fr. Balen Baro Administrator and Fr. James Vadakeyil, Chancellor in the presence of Rev. Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Provincial, Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, Delegate of the Provincial, Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, Fr. Pradeep Kullu, SJ, Fr. Ignatius Minj, SJ, Fr. Anuranjan Purty, SJ, Sch. Paulus Dungdung, SJ and Diocesan priests Fr. Raymond and Fr. Nicholas.

Fr. Provincial thanked Rt. Rev. Bishop and the Diocese for the opportunity to serve, wishing them blessings. The handing over concluded with prayer and emotional greetings.

A Thanksgiving Eucharist on December 14 was presided over by Fr. Nitish Marak, Vicar General, marking the official transition. After the homily, Fr. Thomas D'Silva was officially installed as the new Parish Priest.

Following Holy Communion, Rev. Fr. Provincial read the official agreement between Ranchi Province, Society of Jesus, and the Diocese of Bongaigaon. The document, signed and sealed, was handed to Fr. Nitish Marak, representing Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, DD.

A short farewell and welcome cultural program followed Mass, and the Jesuits bid emotional farewell to Manas Bansbari, ready to begin their new mission in Angulia.

Fr. Thomas Barla

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE SONABHEEL

St. Xavier's Primary & Senior Secondary School: The students of St. Xavier's Primary School started their second unit test on 10th December and concluded on 19th December. On the last two days the teachers and the students prepared a few items for the Xavier's Day and Pre-Christmas celebration held on 22nd December. The students of class XI and XII of the Senior Secondary School finished their half yearly examination on 6th December, thereafter continued their classes. Class XII students completed filling the forms for their final examination on 4th December. Then on 22nd December both the Primary Section and the Senior Secondary Section jointly organized the Xavier's Day cum Pre-Christmas Celebration along with the faculty, staff and students of the College. It was enchanting to see how the tiny tots as well as the senior secondary school students including their teachers along with the faculty, staff and students of the College put up the prayer dance and welcome dance besides singing the Christmas carols. Fr. Ignatius Minj, SJ the Parish Priest of St. John De Britto Church was the Chief Guest. All the winners of various sports – events conducted on 8th November were awarded prizes and given certificates of their illustrious performances. Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ, the Superior of the Xavier campus gave the Christmas message narrating what St. Irenaeus had said: "God became a human being so that human being can become God", meaning that the Creator God took the human form in all humility and simplicity. So

also, we must be humble and simple in our lives to be loving and serving others and be counted as great in different careers and positions in life. Mrs. Apurwa Talukdar proposed the vote of thanks. All teachers, staff and students present for the gathering were given delicious snacks. The teachers and staff also joined the festive lunch in the Fathers' dining hall at 1.00 p.m.

St. Xavier's College: St. Xavier's College conducted the second internal examinations for the first and the fifth semesters from 1st December and ended on 6th December. The final practical examination for Computer Applications (Skill Enhancement Courses) was conducted for the first semester on 10th December and ended on 16th December. The Internship final presentation and Viva-Voce examinations for the fifth semesters for both FYUGP B.A. and B. Com. were conducted from 18th to 19th December. The FYUGP – B. Com. fifth semester examinations started on 15th December and will end on 31st December. The Guahati University has declared the winter vacation from 1st January to 18th January 2026. So, the classes for even semesters will resume on 19th January 2026,

Fr. Claber Minj, SJ, the Vice Principal and the Assistant Professor Abinash Tirkey participated in the "Conference of the Central Zone Jesuit Higher Education of South Asia (JHEASA) on the theme "Jesuit Identity and Our Mission" held from 11-13 December at St. Xavier's School, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Both of them highly benefitted from the Conference.

Ministry of Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, the PDD: As the pioneer of Assam Mission Fr. Xavier Lakra, was present at the handing over ceremony of the Manas Bansbari Parish and St. Xavier's School to the diocese of Bongaigaon on 12-14 December along with Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, the Provincial, his delegate to the Assam Mission Fr. Thomas Barla, Fr. Anuranjan Hassa Purty, Fr. Ignatius Minj and Fr. Pradeep Kullu including Fr. Ajay Tirkey one of the stalwarts of Manas Bansbari Parish and St. Xavier's School.

Advent and Christmas Ministries: The Parish Priest of Tezpur assigned the Fathers of St Xavier's College the Advent and Christmas ministries in the surrounding Tea Garden village churches for Confessions and Holy Masses. All the Fathers of the community briskly carried out their ministries. And to cap the festive season, the community joined the Christmas celebration at the

Jesuit Bhawan along with the Jesuits from St. John the Britto Parish, Balipara on 25th December at 7.00 p.m. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr. Alex Ekka

ST.XAVIER'S SCHOOL, BOGAPANI, ASSAM

The month of December 2025 was a vibrant and eventful period for the St. Xavier's School Community, Bogapani. It was marked by academic enrichment, creative learning, celebrations, sportsmanship, fellowship, and spiritual preparation as we moved towards the end of the academic year and the joyful season of Christmas.



On 27 November 2025, officials conducted a Jio land survey on the school campus and surrounding areas. The survey involved measuring and recording individual land details, and it was carried out smoothly with the cooperation of the local community.

After the completion of the 3rd Unit Test, the school organized a week of creative learning beyond the classrooms. Students actively participated in loud reading and conversational activities, which helped them improve their confidence, communication skills, and love for language in an engaging and relaxed environment.

On 1 December, a special craft education session was conducted by a resource person from Delhi. Students learned practical skills in reusing waste materials creatively and the art of cutting and arranging flowers. The session encouraged creativity, environmental awareness, and hands-on learning.

The Annual School Day was celebrated on 3 December in honour of the feast of St. Francis Xavier, our patron saint. The occasion was marked with cultural programmes, performances, and expressions of gratitude, reflecting the values and talents of our students.

The Annual Sports Day was held on 4 and 5 December. Students enthusiastically participated in various games and athletic events, displaying team spirit, discipline, and sportsmanship. The event promoted physical fitness and healthy competition among students.

On 6 December, the school staff enjoyed a picnic together. It was a refreshing break that strengthened bonds among staff members and provided an opportunity for relaxation and mutual fellowship.

20 December marked the last working day of classes, after which students left for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The day was filled with joy and anticipation for the festive season.

On the same day, 20 December, a joyful Pre-Christmas celebration was organized for the boarding boys and girls. The programme included songs, skits, and messages that helped the students understand the true meaning of Christmas—love, sharing, and joy.

The month of December concluded with hearts full of gratitude, joy, and hope. As a community, we thank God for His blessings and look forward to the New Year with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.

Sch. Nelson Hassa Purty

OURS IN DIASPORA

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GESÙ

On the 2nd of December, the portal of the Gregorian University was opened for booking dates for the winter examinations. The online Exam booking traditionally signals the onset of a more demanding academic season, for scarcely a month later the examinations commence, inviting the students to renewed seriousness and disciplined study. On the 13th December, the community set out on a fraternal excursion to Anagni, renowned in history as the “City of the Popes”. Anagni, as one of the ancient towns, rose to particular prominence between the 12th and 13th centuries, having given the Church four Roman Pontiffs. Among them were Pope Innocent III (1198–1216), one of the most influential popes of the medieval era, Pope Gregory IX (1227–1241), a great legislator and promoter of Canon Law, Pope Alexander IV (1254–1261) and Pope Boniface VIII (1294–1303), remembered especially for his strong assertion of papal authority. Walking through the

historically rich city allowed the community members to touch the living memory of the Church’s past, while at the same time offered a joyful occasion to be together as a community, strengthening the bonds of fraternity and friendship.

From the 19th to the 21st of December, the community journeyed to Rocca di Papa for the Annual Triduum, a sacred time of prayer and interior renewal during which they solemnly renewed their Vows. The spiritually enriching experience was guided by Federico Lombardi, whose wisdom and pastoral insight deeply nourished the communal and personal reflection. Upon returning home, the community dedicated the following two days to cleaning and decorating every nook and corner of the House, and thus, joyfully prepared everything for the celebration of Christmas. On the 23rd December, the community shared a festive lunch with the House Collaborators and, as a sign of the heartfelt expression of gratitude for their generous service throughout the year, presented them with Christmas gifts.

On Christmas Day, the community celebrated the solemnity with a joyful lunch together with the EUM Provincialate community. Later in the afternoon, some of the Scholastics visited the San Pietro Canisio Infirmary to share the joy and consolation of Christmas with the sick members and gave witness to the compassionate spirit of the Incarnation. From the 21st of December 2025 until the 6th of January 2026, the community observed the Christmas holidays, a gracious period for rest, renewal, and quiet joy. Yet, mindful that the examinations lay just ahead, several members wisely made use of the free days to continue their studies with diligence and discipline. Others, in turn, took the opportunity to make short trips to various destinations, allowing themselves moments of relaxation and refreshment, so as to return renewed in spirit and strength in 2026.

COLLEGIO ROBERTO BELLARMINO

The Month of December was marked by a full schedule of events, a month of preparation, celebration, and relaxation. On the 3rd of December, together with the entire Church and the Society, the community celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier with a solemn Mass at the Church of Gesù at 7 p.m., followed by a buffet-style dinner in the Belarmino community. The community held the Advent retreat on the 6th of December, led by Professor Donna Oruto, Director

of the Department of Moral Theology and Spiritual Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. The retreat was centred on prayer and reflection, with the theme “Rallegratevi nel Signore, sempre....Il Signore è vicino” (Rejoice in the Lord, always.... The Lord is near), followed by personal prayer, spiritual conversation in the sharing groups, and finally a community Eucharist with the renewal of the Vows. On the same morning, Kulwant Minj journeyed to India after the final submission of his doctoral thesis for his treatment and a visit to the Province and family.

On the 7th of December, Alok and Pramod had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Assisi, organized by the ABHAS group, under the leadership of Alok and Jugal TOR. It was a moment of spiritual upliftment, and a grace to witness the place of four great Saints of the Church – Basilicas of Saint Francis of Assisi, Santa Chiara, Santuario of San Damiano and the burial place of St. Carlo Acutis, in the Santuario of the Spoliation, which is part of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Assisi (a recent Saint known as “the patron of the internet” for using the technology to spread Eucharistic devotion). The ABHAS family was glad to have the inspiring company Robert Pradeep Kujur during the pilgrimage.

On the 8th of December, community members joined hands to decorate the house, keeping the Christmas celebration in mind. In the evening, Deepak Toppo visited the Belarmino community; a time to cherish his wonderful memories there, and he spent some time sharing with Alok and Pramod. Later, all the RAN Jesuits gathered to have a supper in his honor at the community of Gesù. On the 12th of December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was celebrated in the Community with utmost zeal and enthusiasm. There was a solemn Holy Mass in the evening, followed by a festive supper featuring a variety of Mexican dishes prepared by the collaborating Sisters of the community. The presence of A.R.P.N. Superior General on festive evening made the celebration more joyful.

On the 17th of December, the community gathered together for Christmas Eve, a moment of joy to welcome baby Jesus through Christmas carols and other events by the various Jesuit Conferences. The event also demonstrated the community's richness. The celebration was well organized and executed under the leadership of Alok and the team.

From the 21st of December 2025 to the 6th of January 2026, the Pontifical Gregorian University

remained closed for Christmas and the New Year. Many Community members journeyed to various places for the Christmas ministry or for a personal programme. On the 21st of December, Alok went to Porto Sant' Elpidio for the Christmas ministry, while Pramod remained in the community for his Christmas celebration and to continue his thesis work. It was unfortunate that Alok fell sick just as he arrived at the place of his apostolate. While recuperating, he engaged himself in the ministry to the best of his ability. On the 26th, of December, he returned to Rome, accompanied by the Parish Priest. Within a few days, he regained his health.

On the 27th of December, Sanjay Ekka invited all the RAN Jesuits to celebrate together the joy of Christmas as a Province with a delicious dinner at the Jesuit community of Canisio. The next day, Alok and Pramod visited Prem Xalxo at the hospital of St. Raffaele and spent a quality moment with him, sharing the Christmas joy, fraternal love, and wishes for his speedy recovery. Graceful Happy New Year 2026 to all!

PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

The month of November was marked by active academic and community engagements at Pontifical Biblical Institute. Jyoti Paul continued with his regular classes throughout the month. From the 6th to 8th of November, the Institute hosted a three-day International Conference on “Bible and Ecology,” which drew Scholars from across the globe. The conference explored ecological perspectives withing biblical texts, emphasizing the biblical mandate to hear the cry of the poor and the exploited. With a focus on ecological biblical hermeneutics and diverse methodological approaches, the event highlighted the voices of marginalized communities and encouraged dialogue on ecological responsibility. Key presentations examined God's ecology in Genesis, animal imagery in Isaiah in conversation with South Indian harvest festival, and eco-sensitive interpretations of water-related narratives in the Gospel of John. Participants collectively underscored the need for global ecological awareness inspired by Laudato Si', the Books of Ezekiel, Revelation and other biblical texts in order to foster global dialogue toward an integrated eco-biblical vision.

On the 12th of November, before returning to Ranchi the following day, R.P. Provincial Ajit Kumar Xess, visited the Biblicum community, joined them for

lunch, and briefly interacted with some members. That evening, the community took part in a Safeguarding training session facilitated by Hans Zollner, Professor of Psychology at the Gregorian University. R.P. Delegate of DIR was in the Biblicum Community from the 18th to 21st of November 2025 for the Annual Canonical Visit. A solemn Holy Mass was presided over by R.P. Delegate on the 20th of November, which was followed by a community lunch featuring French cheese.

PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

All the activities of the month of December revolved around Christmas at various levels: individual, community, institutional, religious, and secular. In the given context, the community had its recollection points by Bryan Lobo, to help members live out the spirit of Advent more meaningfully and prepare well for the coming of the Child Jesus. The students of South Asia Assistancy celebrated their Christmas gathering on the 7th of December. The celebration included the Holy Mass, carol singing, gift sharing, and a self-cooked Indian meal, representing different dishes from various regions of India. The Pontifical Biblical Institute organized Christmas carol singing on the 19th of December, with performances by all eight student groups (African, East Asian, South Asian, East-Central Europe, Italian-French, Spanish-Portuguese, Latin American, and English). The Indian students (South Asian) sang a Hindi carol, "*Chup hai Chanda, chup hai tare...*", and a Khasi carol, "*Ka Khristmas basuk...*". From the following day, the 20th of December, the Christmas and New Year break began. During the break, Jyoti enjoyed visiting Christmas cribs and attending various Christmas events in Rome with his friends. He celebrated Christmas with his community members and later went on a touristic trip to Milan from the 26th to the 28th December. He spent the remaining days of the holidays, which concluded on the 6th of January, fulfilling his academic commitments.

GENERAL CURIA

Anselm sent a grace-filled and quality time during the Christmas festivities with the Curia Community members as well as with the Office Collaborators. He gladly narrates his enriching festive experiences in his following words:

We, the Curia community, entered the Holy Season of Advent with a spiritual preparation, drawing spiritual food from Pope Leo XIV's address to the Major Superiors of the Society of Jesus on the 24th of October 2025. We focused our prayers and reflections on two main messages of Pope: first, the messages of global challenges, and second, the messages of consolations. We identified several pressing global concerns, including rapid cultural, economic, technological, and political shifts; the ethical questions raised by Artificial Intelligence; ecological degradation; the marginalization of the poor; and the weakening of spiritual depth and solidarity in a consumerist culture. The community reaffirmed the importance of Synodality, transparent and Gospel-rooted structures, and continued commitment to the Universal Apostolic Preferences. We emphasized the need for spiritual closeness to Jesus and courage in advancing justice. Despite these challenges, the community found consolations in the Pope's messages that Christ continues to send his Disciples with divine support. His recognition of Jesuit presence on the frontiers as a source of innovation and discernment was notably praiseworthy, which encourages and sustains us by the fraternal support of the wider Jesuit mission and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Under the theme *Una settimana tutti insieme tra noi* (One Week altogether amongst Us), the major Office Holders of the Curia gathered for a week to discuss and finalize their respective Budgets for the 2026 Financial Year. The meetings held with A.R.P.N. Superior General, General Treasurer, and Assistentes ad Providentiam. The Financial Year runs from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 2025. Once A.R.P.N. Superior General gives his approval, the finalized 2026 Budget will be distributed with all the Office Holders, encouraging them to follow and embody the spirit of evangelical poverty in the service of Christ's mission.

We celebrated the Christmas Night Solemn Mass in the Borgia Chapel of Curia together with an international community of faithful, including homeless guests and migrants. During the sacred moment, we experienced the profound grace of welcoming our Saviour, who enters our dark world with His Divine Light and overflowing Love, offering us His good news to share with all. We offered tea and snacks to everyone after the Mass, creating an occasion for sharing of joy and fellowship.

PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

Traditionally, the month of December is eagerly awaited by the students and the staff to begin the Christmas festivities by Carol Singing and Cultural Presentations. By the Feast of Immaculate Conception on the 8th of December, a classical Crib and a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree came up signaling the start of the mega Christmas Carol singing in different cultural and linguistic groups. During each break the beautiful Quadrangle of the University resounded with melodious Christmas Carols in various languages presented by different groups of students from all over the world. The Carols also present an excellent platform to exhibit the diversity and beauty of each culture and tradition from each corner of the world. The number of students from Indian sub-continent in Gregorian University has gone up notably, and from among them, a group of students presented beautiful Carols in five different Indian languages. For a change, the Indian students concluded their Carols with Vande Mataram. A group of Professors presented two classical Carols in Italian and in English on the 19th of December. R.P. Rector delivered a Christmas and New Year message to the entire University Community, which also signaled the beginning of the Christmas holidays until Monday the 7th of January 2026.

Prem had an acute problem on his vertebral column with two dislocated spinal chords, caused probably strenuous works and exercises, and lack of proportionate rest. However, he was unaware of his physical anomalies in the absence of any pain or uneasiness. During the grace-filled presence of R.P. Provincial Ajit Kumar Xess in the Gregorian Community, a severe damage to the spinal cord was detected. After numerous medical tests and MRI results, an urgent surgery was advised to repair the damage to the cervical spinal cord. He underwent a surgery on

Wednesday, the 17th of December at Salvator Mundi Hospital (Rome). The surgery was successful under the careful eyes of a team of Neurosurgeons. On the 20th of December, he was shifted to San Raffaele Hospital for further medication and rehabilitation. While convalescing in the hospital, Prem is consciously visited by the Gregorian Community members, ABHAS (Tribals in Rome) Group members, and by his academic colleagues and friends. Indeed, each visit brings joy, life, vitality, and raises his spirit up. Apart from the Authorities of the University, the three consecutive visits by the R.P. Vernon D'Cunha,

Assistant General were the excellent gestures of fraternal support, encouragement, consolation and fatherly care.

After one of the visits, Alok Ekka shared his experiences in the following words: "After his extremely delicate but successful operation on the 17th of December at Salvator Mundi Hospital, he was transferred to San Raffaele (Via della Pisana). He has been recovering well. His morning schedule involves doing many exercises guided by the physiotherapists. That takes the whole time

between the breakfast and the lunch. In the afternoon from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., he is often visited by his community members and us. He has been eating well and resting well. The bandage below his throat was where the doctors cut open to treat the nerve that was to be treated. He is in good spirit now. His Christmas and New Year's celebrations are going to be unique this year. Please continue to remember him in your prayers".

A very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2026 to all our Jesuit friends back home!

Fr. Prem Xalxo



CAMBODIA

The month of December was a busy month for Frs. Manoj Kumar Ekka, SJ, and Rajat Hassa Purti, SJ. Fr. Rajat, after a meaningful home visit and feeling energized, came back to Cambodia, his mission land, on November 24, 2025. He received his benefactor, Dr. Leonard Chan from Australia. Fr. Rajat showed him the housing project, cow bank, and chicken-raising projects supported by him since 2013. Dr. Leonard was amazed to see the changes that had occurred in the lives of the people due to his projects. The beneficiaries have better houses to live in and a sustainable source of income through the cow bank and chicken-raising projects.



The feast day of St. Andrew, the Apostle and the patron saint of his parish, was celebrated with devotion and festivity on November 30, 2025. He attended meetings of local superiors and the Xavier Jesuit School governing body on December 5, 2025. On December 7, 2025, the fighting between Thailand and Cambodia in border areas restarted. Many temples, churches, and schools were turned into shelters for internally displaced people. Jesuit Service Cambodia and the Catholic Church actively took part in providing them with urgent necessities—food, shelter, and clothing.

Christmas was celebrated in fear and anxiety as seven bombs were dropped in a military camp 17 kilometers away from Battambang city, where Bishop Kike and Fr. Rajat reside, on December 24, 2025. The agreement between them for a ceasefire was signed on December 27, 2025. There is hope and prayer for peace and harmony in both countries.

Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ, was invited by the Indian Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to give a talk on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagvan Birsa Munda on November 15, 2025. He was also

invited to preside over the solemn Holy Mass on the closing day of the meeting of Missionaries of Charity Brothers missioned in Asia-Pacific countries on November 25, 2025. Fr. Manoj came up to Svay Sisophon on December 5, 2025, for the local superiors and consultors meeting.

The new hostel for boys and girls, along with residences for priests and nuns, constructed by Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ, was blessed by His Grace Enrique Figaredo, SJ, on December 9, 2025. At the ongoing construction work of the hostel for boys and girls, as well as the house for the parish priest and religious nuns, Fr. Manoj said, “Ninety percent of the work is already done.” He also met Bishop Enrique Figaredo, SJ, to discuss possible dates for the blessing. After the blessing ceremony of the new building, Fr. Manoj said, “His work is done.” Kudos to Fr. Manoj. Great work.

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purti

CARIBBEAN JESUITS-GUYANA-JAMAICA

In the Diocese of Georgetown, the Christmas Novena prayer is ubiquitous and traditional. In many churches, people come in large numbers. The church fair is another activity, organised with the purpose of fundraising for the maintenance of the church and also as a means of socialisation and a fun day for all, especially for the children and youth. People actively participate in it and enjoy.

Fr. Amar Bage, SJ, the Parish Priest of Ascension Church, New Amsterdam, arranged recollection for two parishes, namely the Church of Ascension, New Amsterdam, and the Guardian Angel Church in Hopetown. Since Fr. John Lang, SJ (KAR), was absent from his parish, as he went to India for his home visit, Fr. Amar was taking care of all the parishes in Berbice and New Amsterdam.

Before Christmas, the Church of Ascension organised a Christmas Concert. The children and youth prepared and presented very well, so people enjoyed it, and it was very successful. The Jubilee Year of Hope was solemnly concluded on 28 December. Bishop Francis Alleyne presided over the Mass in the cathedral and invited all the churches to join online. Wherever possible, people joined online, and the rest celebrated Mass at a fixed hour.



There was also a solemn gathering of all the Jesuits living and working in and around the city and nearby towns, who came together for a Christmas gathering. The programme started with Holy Mass, followed by a social. Fr. Amar presided over the Mass.

On 1 December, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, celebrated his 50th birthday with Fr. Ramesh Vanan, SJ, Fr. Lester Shields, SJ, Fr. Rohan Tullock, Sch. Miguel Angel Francisco, and Sch. Pablo Velasques, SJ, in Patrick House, Jesuit Community, Kingston, Jamaica. His professor, Stephen Jennings, and Ms. Denise Campbell, one of his classmates, doubled his joy and happiness.

On 13 December, a one-day recollection was arranged by the Franciscan Sisters in the Immaculate Conception School, Kingston, for all the religious men and women of the Archdiocese of Kingston. There were 40 religious men and women from the Missionaries of the Poor, Missionaries of Charity, Mustard Seed Sisters, Franciscan Sisters, Diocesans, and Jesuits. Fr. Ramesh Vanan, SJ, gave the points for reflection. It was a wonderful occasion when they realised the presence of God amid Hurricane Melissa. Most of them received the sacrament of reconciliation. The one-day religious recollection concluded with a fellowship dinner.

Fr. Elias completed his first semester exams at the University of the West Indies on 18 December. The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica, will remain closed for Christmas and New Year vacation until 18 January 2026. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, came to Ranchi for his home visit on 22 December. He celebrated Christmas in his home parish, Bindhaintoli. He continued sharing his Christmas joy and happiness by participating in various activities. On 27 December, he participated in the ancestral memorial stone erection and blessing in Kulburu, Jitutoli. He joined in the thanksgiving Mass of Sr. Rashmi Kerketta, OSU, one of the Guyana

Missionaries, in Harratoli, Jarmana. On the way to Ranchi, he visited Bhikhampur, Bardih, and Tongo parishes and shared his Christmas joy with religious men, women, and the faithful.

Fr. Amar Bage

GONE BEFORE US

1. **Fr. Dominic Devraj, SJ** (BOM), 84/60 passed away on 7 December 2025
2. **Br. Amalraj Michael, SJ** (MDU), 82/63 passed away on 11 December 2025
3. **Fr. Bereciartua (Beretxi) Iñaki, SJ** (GUJ) 90/73 passed away on 12 December, 2025
4. **Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ** (MAP) 81/60 passed away on 12 December 2025
5. **Mr. Fabianus Toppo**, father of Sch. Ambrose Toppo (RAN) passed away on 15 December 2025
6. **Br. Timothy Macwan, SJ** (GUJ) 90/67 passed away on 16 December 2025
7. **Fr. Lourdu John, SJ** (MDU) 92/72 passed away on 21 December 2025
8. **Ms. Angela Minj** (65 yrs.), younger sister of Fr. Erentius Minj, SJ (RAN), passed away on 21 December 2025
9. **Fr. M. Joseph Ignatius, SJ** (MDU) 84/60 passed away on 31 December 2025



HAPPY BIRTHDAY**JANUARY**

01	Suleman Tirkey
03	Joachim Jojo
	Sagar Xalxo
05	Ujwal Kerketta
06	Patras Minj
07	Philemon Ekka
	Laurentus Kiro
	Nitesh Rohit Minj
08	Elias Kullu
09	Pingal Bilung
	Amrit Lakra
10	Benjamin Guria
11	Clement Kullu
	Rohit Toppo
12	Mathias Dungdung
13	Robert N. Kindo
15	Sumit S. Tirkey
19	Rajesh K. Kullu
20	Ignatius Tete (K)
21	Anil Nag

22	John Jyoti Kujur
24	Chonhas I. Lakra
25	Jyoti Paul Baxla
26	Raymond Kerketta
	Tej Kumar Tigga
27	Nitish Dungdung
28	Nabor Lakra
29	Telesphore Horo
30	Manoj Kumar Ekka
	Johny S. Dungdung
FEBRUARY	
01	Damian Barla
02	Rakesh Kerketta
	Ambros Toppo
	Blacius Soreng
03	Blacius Tigga
05	John Anuranjan Beck
	Shashi Samir Dhanwar
06	Anup Arvind Ekka
08	Viksal Minj
09	Ranjit Kujur
10	Robert Pradeep Kujur

