

RANCHI JESUITS



YEAR BOOK 2019

Release of Policy Documents of Ranchi Province



Health

Health



Higher Education



Pastoral



Social & Human Rights



*Ad Majorem
Dei Gloriam*

**RANCHI JESUITS
YEAR BOOK 2019**



Imprimi potest

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ
Provincial Superior
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Editorial Board



Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur



Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess



Fr. Ajay Soreng



Fr. Cyprian Ekka



Fr. Alexius Tirkey



Mr. K A Jacob



Foreword

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ
Provincial Superior

May 20-23, 2019! All roads to Manresa House, Ranchi, the Mother House of the Ranchi Jesuit Society! Yet another year has come and gone! However, the year may come and the year may go, but the spirit of the Society of Jesus goes on forever!

Domestic developments

The Ranchi Jesuit Province, in the last one year, has seen some unprecedented developments. Some of them produced distractions, depressions and desolations but others created great consolations. Whatever the experience of the last year, the palpable power of the Spirit was guiding the Province and God's hand was right there. Needless to say, it was a great source of creative and constructive energy.

The developments leading to desolations are narrated over here. Soon after the Province Days-2018, the first vows of the second year novices were pronounced on 21 June, Father Alphonse Aind's arrest on 19th June, his release on 20th June and re-arrest on 23rd June for the next nine months, were not only shocking but also painful, disturbing and disheartening. Everybody who knew the credentials and integrity of Alphonse was disillusioned with the system that convicted him despite the fact that he was completely innocent.

Apart from the above-mentioned concerns, there were a number of issues the *anawims* of Jharkhand were grappling with. Some of these are – efforts of Amending Chotanagpur Tenancy Act 1908 & Santal Pargana Tenancy Act 1949 (CNT/SPT Acts), Land Bank Policy, Domicile Policy, Jharkhand Freedom of Religion Act 2018, Efforts of De-scheduling the Christian Tribes from the Schedule Tribe list, Efforts of Banning Reservations for Tribal converts to Christianity/Christians, Offering ST status to Kurmi Mahatos to divide Adivasis & *Moolvasis* (Indigenous Peoples), Arrest of Sr. Concilia, MC, at the 'Nirmal Hriday Home' Ranchi, the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) harassment of the Minorities, F.I.R. on 20 persons & raid on the Residence of Stan Lourdsamy under the pretext of '*deshdroh*' (anti-national).

As if there was not enough trouble, a select number of institutions started receiving notices, primarily from three agencies, namely Anti-Terrorist Squad (22/07/2018), CID (9/8/2018) and Police.

The documents had to be submitted in 24 hours. The Church-based NGOs got panicky. Meanwhile a legal intervention was made facilitated by KM Joseph by filing a Writ in Jharkhand High Court. Provincial of Ranchi Jesuits was the main Petitioner along with 36 Societies on behalf of 62 out of 88 'Christian' Societies. The allegation was that the said societies were using the foreign funding for anti-national activities.

It should be noted that Stan Lourdsamy, accused of '*deshdroh*' along with 19 others, gives the reason as to why his premises were raided. They are as follows: (1) He questioned the non-implementation of the 5th Schedule of the Constitution; (2) He questioned why the *Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act [PESA], 1996 [No:40 of 1996]* has been neatly ignored; (3) He questioned the silence of the government on Samatha Judgment, 1997 of the Supreme Court (4) He questioned the half-hearted action of government on Forest Rights Act, 2006; (5) He questioned the inaction of the government to carry out the SC order 'Owner of the land is also the owner of sub-soil minerals', and (6) He questioned the reasons why SC observation is being ignored that 'Mere membership of a banned organization will not make a person a criminal'.

Moreover, inspection of Shelter Homes/Hostels of some select Societies were in the offing. Notice to an Order was served to find out whether it knew those who were trying to create disharmony, those having links with anti-nationals (Pakistan included). They were also asked to supply the addresses of all NGOs/Minority Organizations in their neighborhood and addresses of all places of worship in the neighbourhood, etc.

Thus, on the whole the Minorities have experience fear, insecurity and uncertainty. There have been incidents of mob lynching. Many incidents of demonizing the Minorities institutions have been reported. These developments are a cause of concern for Indian democracy at large and for the Minorities in particular. The Society of Jesus, trying to uphold the democratic principles and involved in the process of nation building, is very much affected by the recent developments. These are the experiences of desolations during the last one year.

Streams and Confluence

In spite of the desolations and depressing situation, there are rays of consolation in the Province. One of the reasons for resilience in difficult circumstances is due to the solidarity of the whole Society and of the Assistancy. Moreover, the following discernible streams in the Universal Society at large and in the Assistancy in particular give HOPE to the Jesuits that "another world is possible," which is the slogan of the World Social Forum. The said processes are as follows:

Stream-1: REGAE (Reorienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness)

Stream-2: UAPs (Universal Apostolic references)

Stream-3: GC36 with its Central Mission of Reconciliation, Peace & Justice

Stream-4: Promotion of vocation to Brotherhood as a follow up of 400 yrs celebrations

Stream-5: PAP (Province Apostolic Planning)

In all the above, life and mission of reconciliation and interculturality connect the streams, thereby leading to a confluence. The Phesama statement of 27 October 2014, in fact, had its origin in the mandate given by former Superior General Father Adolfo Nicolas (19 February 2008) about the "Universal Vocation of Jesuits". In phase-II of RAGAE, Father Arturo Sosa, the Superior General of the Society, has affirmed it.

The Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) promulgated recently have galvanized the Society. Not that anything new is presented to the Society in the UAP, but it is the culmination of the process across the Society trying to identify the apostolic preferences, which are as follows: (1) Show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and Discernment, (2) To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, (3) To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future, and (4) Collaborate in the care of the Common Home.

Apart from these processes, there are three other simultaneous processes in progress. Reconciliation, the central theme of GC36, is inclusive of peace and justice. The implication is that there is no reconciliation or peace without justice. Moreover, the clarion call given by Father Arturo Sosa for promotion of vocation to Brotherhood is another process in the Assistancy. As a follow up of the 400th death anniversary celebration of Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez, Fr. George Pattery, the JCSA President, constituted a Committee, which made and executed elaborate plan for the same. Yet another stream in the Assistancy is the Province Apostolic Planning for the next 10 years. Some Provinces in the Assistancy have already engaged in the planning, some others are going to have it in the coming months. This planning is about making a roadmap for the province for the next 10 years. Ranchi Province envisages a province roadmap for 2020-2030.

To conclude, in spite of moments of desolation due to external forces and internal lack of disposition at times, there has been a strong bonding in our journey. We have been able to discover and be grateful to the many graces received particularly during the last year. We have made a journey during the past months where God has found us standing together in mutual solidarity. We continue asking God to be with us so that we are transformed interiorly and sustained spiritually so that we can be the catalysts of change in the society that is inclusive, just and humane.



We are pilgrims. Our path involves facing the creative tensions brought about by the diversity of persons and ministries in the Society. In seeking to progress in following the Lord, the Society must constantly re-imagine and discern how our governance structures can best serve our mission entrusted to us.

[GC36, D2, 28]

From Editor's Desk...



Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ

God has bound us together in his love. We are one family because we are united in one great call to be Jesuits. We keep moving together and in our daily journeys as Jesuits we keep discovering God in various experiences of our life. The 'RANCHI JESUITS YEAR BOOK 2019' is truly a reflection of these wonderful and enriching experiences. For the last five editions, we have been successful in sharing our joyful moments with all the members of the family. The publication of the Year Book over these five years has been a blessing as this allows us to put our minds and hearts together in the love of God. Moreover, the book has actually become a platform to share our stories of successes and struggles. Not only does it inspire us to live a life of integrity but also reminds us of our Jesuit Mission.

We are witnessing transformation in all spheres of life. These changes certainly need to be viewed in right perspective if we want to be united with God in our call to be Jesuits. Hence, in the recent past, the Society has been reaching out to make sincere efforts towards Re-orientating ourselves for greater apostolic effectiveness. The SAP (Spiritual Animation Process), REGAE II and JESAA, Pune 2019, are some steps in this initiative. In order to become ever more enthusiastic in our Jesuit Calling, we have been trying to understand today's scenario and its contexts well. It certainly calls for better and greater collaboration among us. We are also sincerely working on effective networking among us. We truly believe that God is at the front to lead us in His Mission. We just have to walk together and as co-travelers we need to motivate one another with our words and actions. Hope is the leading light in the person of Christ who keeps our hearts burning with the desire to work for him and his people. He makes us stronger with the passing of each day.

I express my genuine gratitude to Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Provincial Superior in this regard. He is the man behind the publication of the Year Book 2019. He has personally taken great interest in reading and editing all the stories and articles.

He wanted the Book to become a beacon light to enlighten our mind and soul. My sincere regards for his valuable support and guidance.

Thanks to all the writers for sharing their experiences. I have realized that all the articles are the shades and colors of God's messages. The varieties of experiences that we display are truly the symbols of enriched life as Jesuits. A special word of thanks to the Editorial Team that spared their precious time in getting the present edition published in right time and in good shape. I acknowledge and appreciate the support and contribution of Fr. Ajay Soreng for his coordination work, Fr. Cyprian Ekka for his editorial work, Fr. Alex Tirkey for supplying appropriate photographs, and Mr. K.A. Jacob for working on the final manuscript before sending it to the press. Thanks to them and all others who have either directly or indirectly contributed towards making the Year Book 2019 see light of the day!

Finally, let us invoke the spirit of the Lord to encourage us in our daily endeavors to live a happy life. May God bless us all and the readers of the Year Book 2019!



We pray for the courage and the freedom “to dare the audacity of the ‘improbable,’” as we respond to God’s call “with the humility of those who know that, in this service where the human engages all his energy, ‘everything depends on God’.

[GC36, D1, 40]

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1

Forming Young Jesuits for Mission

Suman Beck

The Church's effort in formation is a continuation of Lord Jesus' own work. He "called to him those whom he wanted" ... "to be with him and to be sent out". (Mk 3:13) The Church realizes the importance of forming young diocesan seminarians, religious men and women as proposed by the Gospel. The Church's universal call to holiness "... in a very special way appears in the practice of the counsels, customarily called 'evangelical'. This practice of the counsels, under the impulsion of the Holy Spirit, undertaken by many Christians either privately or in a Church-approved condition or state of life, gives and must give in the world an outstanding witness and example of this same holiness." (LG, 39) The mission, therefore, demands well trained and dedicated men and women to work in the world.

For adequately responding to the needs and demands of the Church, the Ranchi Province Formation Commission is of the idea that the Jesuits in formation need our help, support and guidance, particularly more so in their early stages of religious formation. Since the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral identities are interrelated, they are included in appropriate measure at all stages of formation of the candidates for priesthood and religious life.

The Formation commission believes that entire Province should promote vocation and contribute to the formation of our younger members. We should qualitatively prepare ourselves for ministry in the changing world and culture.

Status of the Ranchi Scholastics in Formation (Novitiate to Theology)

Stage of formation	Place	Total number
Novitiate	Ashirvad, Namkum Sitagarha	20 (2 nd yr - 9, 1 st yr - 11) 7 (2 nd yr -3, 1 st yr- 4)
Juniorate	Patna Kolkata Kerala	4 1 4
College	Trichy Loyola, Chennai SXC, Ranchi St. Paul, Ranchi	6 (3 rd yr 2, 2 nd yr 4) 5 (1 st yr 4, M.Sc. -1) 29 (1 st yr -13, 2 nd yr 8, 3 rd yr 8) 3 (3 rd yr 3)
Philosophy	JDV, Pune Satya Nilayam, Chennai Germany	9 (2 nd yr - 2, 1 st yr 7) 7 (2 nd yr -2. 1 st yr 5) 2 (2 nd yr -2)
Regency	Assam Ranchi Cambodia	2 18 1

Theology	RTC, Ranchi Vidya Jyoti, Delhi Spain France Rome	8 (2 nd yr 6, 1 st yr 2) 1 (3 rd yr 1) 2 (3 rd yr 2) 3 (3 rd yr -2, 1 st yr 1) 2 (1 st yr 2)
Total		134 (132 Sch. + 2 Bro)

Apostolic Schools

The two apostolic schools of the Province in Gumla and Samtoli are the main suppliers of aspirants for priesthood at the initial stage. The boys are helped for discerning their vocation by monitoring their motivation and sustaining them through regular spiritual guidance.



St. Aloysius' Apostolic School, Ranchi



The objective of Apostolic School is to give spiritual foundation to our candidates. Several spiritual activities, therefore, sustain the intellectual and physical growth of the candidates here. The activities may be enumerated as morning prayer, meditation, Holy Eucharist, Rosary, Holy hour, Spiritual reading, Confession, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and liturgical reading practice. The candidates are periodically required to receive spiritual guidance from their directors.

Jeevan Deep, Pre-Novitiate, Namkum

The candidates at this stage are monitored for their human, spiritual and academic preparation before they would proceed for the Novitiate. They learn about the Society through personal contact with the Jesuits and through the study of the Jesuit history. The pre-novitiate period is an opportunity for the candidates to know themselves in regard to the state of life they aspire to adopt. More personal and spiritual guidance regarding their vocation is given so as to introduce them to building a personal relationship with God. Occasions are also provided to them for experiencing the life and work of Jesuits. Right now we have 23 pre-novices for priesthood and 2 for brotherhood.

Ashirvad, Novitiate, Namkum

Also known as school for prayer, the novitiate is a probation stage. Here, the novices go through the foundational Jesuit formation and training through intensive discernment as proposed by St. Ignatius Loyola in his "Spiritual Exercises". The





novices engage themselves in what is known as reflective learning through service, apostolic experiments and domestic chores. The process enables them to elect, affirm and confirm their calling as Jesuits. At the end of two years, the approved novices pronounce their simple yet perpetual evangelical vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in the Society of Jesus.

Manresa House

Historically, Manresa House bears witness to the life and works of the Jesuit pioneers in the Chotanagpur region. There are 85 Jesuits including Fathers, Brothers and Scholastics in the community (48 scholastics of 5 Central Zones).

Living in a community is a mission. Every year they have community day celebration. It helps the community members to foster mutual relationship among them. The scholastics will always relish the models they may meet here.

Manresa scholasticate offers many opportunities to the young Jesuits for sustaining their contact with the Lord. Their activities include daily mass, personal prayer, community evening prayer and personal chat with the spiritual father every month. When faithfully engaged in, such opportunities may foster their growth and formation.

Intellectual formation of the scholastics through academic studies occupies central concern during this stage. The process of religious formation in addition to skill development of sorts continues to occupy central focus, as always. Most of our scholastics get equipped with good college degrees and intellectual ability integrated with prayer and pastoral works.



2

Higher Education for the Excluded

Alex Ekka

The Deusto Assembly

The biggest event of the Jesuit Higher Education for the Province, the South Asian Assistancy and the entire Society, was the International Assembly of Jesuit Higher Education Institutions at the University of Deusto, Bilbao in Spain held from 8-12 July 2018. There were about 300 leaders of the Jesuit Higher Education Institutions from all over the world including 50 from the South Asian Assistancy and 2 from Ranchi Province, Fr. Nicholas Tete and Fr. Alex Ekka. The purpose of the 4 days was to explore the most urgent priorities of the Jesuit Higher Education in today's world and to create a network that would help these leaders to face these challenges in the spirit of GC36 call for greater use of networks and more international collaboration for the promotion of faith, justice and reconciliation.

The Assembly was inaugurated by King Felipe VI of Spain along with the President of the Basque Country Inigo Urkullu in a ceremony in which Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, emphasized that we have the “the opportunity and great responsibility of starting to build the future”, furthering collaboration among our institutions “to help the Church in its discernment of the service of reconciliation”.



Launching of IAJU

The first most important event of the Assembly was the formal launching of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) in the Sanctuary of Loyola. Superior General Arturo Sosa, SJ, and the Secretary of Higher Education, Michael, J. Garanzini, SJ, signed the charter, along with representatives of each of the six Conferences of the Society of Jesus that were called to the altar one by one, amidst ovations from the Assembly participants who filled the Basilica.



The Charter includes a statement of identity that describes the IAJU as “The international advisory and coordinating body of the Secretariat of Jesuit Higher Education”. The mission statement says that “the IAJU is to contribute to the progress of the Society’s higher education apostolate through the application of its decrees and documents in order to promote the development of a fairer and more humane world for God’s greater glory and honour”. The purposes of the new Association are: to promote collective reflection on the mission, to boost collaboration, to represent its members at international meetings and collaborate with others, to contribute to the development of Jesuit Higher Education and its mission through promotion of projects and programmes and to support the expansion of Jesuit Higher Education for the excluded and the poor.

The Charter also includes details about membership in the Association and the basic characteristics of the General Assembly and the Board of Director. All institutional members will be represented at a tri-annual General Assembly of the IAJU; the Assembly is advisory to the Society of Jesus and its Father General through the Secretary for Higher Education. The new IAJU board will be formed by twelve members, two from each conference. The Board of Directors will meet at least once in a year.

The Six Task Forces

The second most important aspect of the Assembly was the discussion and implementation of its outcome through the six task forces. The working paper on each of these had been circulated among the participants long before they came to the Deusto Assembly.

The first task force is **Political Leadership and Formation**. It entails that every university/

college is a social project either challenging or reproducing the status quo. Every university/college president is therefore a political leader. In an era where politics is degraded, an awareness of the greater social and political responsibility is more critical than ever linking politics to ethics, responding to concrete situations, and accompanying processes of growth, transformation and reconciliation.

The second task force is **Education of the Marginalized**. It means that Jesuit education is empowering. The God of the Bible stands with the poor, orphans, widows, and foreigners. Yahweh stood by the poor and the suppressed. He brought out of Egypt this enslaved people with 'mighty hand and outstretched arm' (Deut 7:19) and made them a great nation. And Jesus took his stand with the poor and the marginalized. His mission was to proclaim good news to the poor (Mt 5:3).

The third task force is **Environmental & Economic Justice**. The Church under Pope Francis has taken a leadership role in promoting economic and environmental justice. *Laudato Si* has captured the respect of the world's leaders and the enthusiasm support of those interested in addressing our growing economic inequality within and between nations. By linking the environmental crisis to its roots in economic forces and calling for an integral environmental humanism, the Church has pointed to economic, social, political and psychological changes that are necessary if we are to survive and our "common home".

The fourth task force is **Inter-religious Dialogue and Understanding**. Our Jesuit universities/colleges inhabit a globally-linked up of vastly different religious contexts. The very plurality may be lived harmoniously or be the source of social division, tension and conflict. The challenge is how to foster peace, harmony and mutual respect among the people of different religions.

The fifth task force is **Leadership is an Ignatian Way of Proceeding**. The future of Jesuit education relies on the availability of people, Jesuits and colleagues in mission alike, who are fully capable of leading universities and colleges in a manner consistent with and devoted to the mission of the Society of Jesus.

And the sixth task force is **Peace and Reconciliation**. The intellectual apostolate plays a key role in responding to the call of the 36th General Congregation to a ministry of reconciliation that has three dimensions, reconciliation with God, within humanity and with creation.

Back in India the PCHEs of the Central Zone had a two-day programme at XISS Ranchi on 5-6 October to imbibe all that transpired at the Deusto Assembly and thereafter participated in the annual JHEASA meeting at Chennai from 18 to 20 October 2019. In the coming days and months all the Jesuit institutions of higher learning are expected to put into practice the six task forces under the leadership of JHEASA and the guidance of IAJU.



3

'Beautiful Feet' & 'Blessed Eyes'

Ignatius Tete

The year 2018 saw a number of Jubilees of different stages: 60 years a religious, 50 Years Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus. In keeping with the tradition of the Society of Jesus of celebrating Golden Jubilee, a celebration was organized in honour of four Fathers and a Brother at 6.00 pm, on 17 December 2018, at the Loyola Training Centre, Ranchi, a newly built hall.

Those who have seen the growing Ranchi mission during the last 60 years are: Fr. James William Dungdung and late Vincent Toppo who have witnessed the drastically changing scenario in the region. They sailed all these years through the rough, deep and sweet waters of the mission. Congratulations!

The Golden Jubilee celebration of Br. Modestus Tirkey, Frs. Ajay Soreng, Ignatius Tete, Bimal Elias Lakra and Xavier Lakra respectively converged from their different communities to Loyola Training Centre which was decked up for the occasion. The Province men gathered well in good numbers as well as the family members. Fr. Ajay Soreng officiated at the holy Eucharist while Fr. Ignatius Tete preached the homily which is given below:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, as we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of 5 of us and the Diamond Jubilee of Fr. James William Dungdung at the Province level, we six Jubilarians are very grateful, joyful and hopeful. Our jubilee celebration is coincidentally taking place in the Advent Season which commemorates the threefold coming of our Lord, marked by past, present and future. He came at the fullness of time; he keeps on coming everyday with the fullness of his grace and he will come again in the fullness of his glory. Recalling the past produces in us a deep sense of gratitude, relishing the present gives us much joy and relying on God in future offers us firm hope. Yesterday the third Sunday of Advent was 'Gaudete Sunday' (Rejoicing Sunday). Today, 17 December we begin the second phase of Advent with a series of seven 'O Antiphons', intensifying our longing for the Lord Jesus Christ and his deliverance. This liturgical context does add to our sense of gratitude, joy and hope. We are grateful to God and to the Society of Jesus because the Lord God has showered his numerous blessings upon us and through us in the Society and





in the Church. We are joyful because God is confirming his gifts and blessings in the Jubilee celebration of today at this Loyola Training Centre wherein so many of our fellow-Jesuits, well wishers, benefactors and near and dear ones are gathered. We are hopeful that this celebration will stimulate us to live our remaining days with a deeper sense of joyful gratitude, seeking and finding God in all things and loving and serving him in every circumstance.

Our jubilee theme, 'Beautiful Feet' and 'Blessed Eyes' based on today's readings, highlights our sentiments of gratitude, joy and hope. The first reading taken from St. Paul's letter to the Romans concludes a series of intertwined ideas with a citation from the Prophet Isaiah, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news'! The Gospel reading selected from the Gospel according to St. Luke is concluded with the Lord's special beatitude, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see'. This beatitude is addressed to the 70 disciples who have just returned from their ministry of the Word with a great sense of achievement. What is it that makes one's feet beautiful and one's eyes blessed? St. Paul's citation from Isaiah comes from Is. 52:7 which reads: 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."' From this verse from Isaiah we can infer that the fact that makes the messenger's feet beautiful is to bring good news of peace, salvation and of God's Kingdom. Jesus the Incarnate Son sent by the Father brings that kind of good news. Applying to himself another passage from Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth he adds other components of the good news. He affirms his being anointed and endowed with the Holy Spirit, his being sent by the Father to bring good news to the poor and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor resulting in the integral liberation of the marginalized. As such Jesus' feet are most beautiful from the crib to the cross where his feet are nailed to redeem us from the bondage of sin and to make our eyes blessed to see the Incarnate Crucified Risen Son and to believe in him.

In today's Gospel Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit and thanks the Father for the fact that he reveals his Son to the infants, to those who feel dependent on him for their well-being, to those who are docile and receptive. Such ones see the glory of the Father in the Son and their eyes turn blessed. Jesus seems to tell such disciples that their feet are beautiful not due to external signs of their successful ministry but thanks to their resultant, transforming faith that ensures their hope that their names get written in heaven. St. Paul, whose feet had been beautiful in bringing the good news to the ends of the earth, highlights the effect of the beautiful feet resulting in salvation through a process of consecutive activities. It is he who has beautiful feet, who is sent and brings the good news with a sense of mission. Those who hear him believe in the Lord Jesus. Believing in him they call upon his name, praising, reverencing and serving God and thus being endowed with blessed eyes they attain salvation.

St. Ignatius when he was denied to stay in Jerusalem went to see the foot-print of the beautiful feet of Jesus on the rock of Mt. Olives. He stealthily saw them twice and felt his eyes were blessed. Thereafter in order to help souls he felt the need to study. While studying in Paris he gathered companions. They decided that they would go to Jerusalem to help souls but the failure of going to Jerusalem led them to offer themselves to Pope Paul III for a universal mission in companionship. Thereafter for them the whole world became Jerusalem. With the foundation of the Society of Jesus the feet of the First Companions and many Jesuits down the ages were destined to be beautiful not in Jerusalem but all over the world.

In our Chotanagapur the feet of the first Jesuit missionary Fr. Augustus Stockman and those of the Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens, the Apostle of Chotanagpur have been very beautiful leading numerous believers to the feet of Jesus. Not only these two but there have been as many as 529 energetic missionaries from Belgium and other countries. They have left footprints of their beautiful feet on our land and made our eyes blessed. We are privileged that four of them are still in harness including the 529th one, the very last one to set foot. We have had also many zealous missionaries from South India. Along with many sons of the soil they have labored in the Lord's vineyard for his glory and three of them are still among us.

What about us 6 Jubilarians! Have our feet been beautiful? How many eyes are made blessed! Are many names written in heaven? These are some soul-searching questions we pose to ourselves in our Jubilee celebration. We humbly and gratefully, with trustful surrender look at the beautiful feet of Jesus hanging on the cross. We are filled with gratitude that God has done certain great things in us and through us in spite of our weakness, in different parts of Chotanagapur and other parts of India and to a certain extent abroad, in Belgium and Kenya. We joyfully remember our dear four Novice companions late Fr. Hilarius Lakra, late Fr. Paulus Kullu, late Fr. Dominic Jojo and late Fr. A. T. Thomas whom God has called before us. We also fondly remember late Fr. Vincent Toppo who is enlisted in the Ranchi catalogue as a diamond Jubilarian. We are happy that the Lord is laboring with us with our fellow Jesuits supporting and encouraging us. We are hopeful that in his divine mercy through our participation in his mission, the Lord may have written many names in heaven together with our own names. We are also hopeful that in our remaining days he will make our feet more beautiful and turn many eyes blessed and will write many more names in heaven. In Pauline terms those eyes and those names will be our hope, our joy, our glory and our crown on the day of the Lord. (1 Thes. 2:15-16)



Golden Rays on the Pond, Space for Overflowing

Ignatius Tete

It was for the first time after a series of seven batches that the ponds of SSC campus did not overflow during the long retreat or at the end of it or even after it for the 8th batch in the year 2018. It has been customary for the School of the Heart at Sitagarha to read the sign of overflowing ponds as signaling the hearts of the tertians overflowing with God's blessings at the end of their long retreat. The 16 tertians belonging to 11 Provinces of the South Asian Assistency and hailing from 10 ethnic backgrounds were in no way less in their deep spiritual experiences of the long retreat than the previous batches. Yet the time tested, long-awaited and much desired sign was not granted. When the retreat began the water level in the central pond was very low. Towards the end of the first week the water level started slowly coming up and on the last day of the retreat to their delight the pond was full, yet it refused to overflow. During the retreat the tertians did experience the accompaniment of periodic showers of rain, lightening and thunder, cloudy weather and sunshine corresponding to their inner movements. However, in spite of their experiences of their hearts overflowing with God's blessings at the end they felt being deprived of the confirming sign of the pond overflowing. They were convinced that their in-depth experiences were genuine. So they were left wondering whether the assumption of the long standing sign was really authentic.

The question that keeps haunting is not so much regarding the authenticity of the traditional sign or the truth of the tertians' genuine experiences, but the meaning of the sign of the pond not overflowing. To decipher the meaning requires a brief survey of the beginning, the middle and the end of the Tertianship programme.

On 15 June, 2018 the Tertianship began at 9.00 a.m. in the Juniorate block with a simple yet meaningful inauguration programme in which Rev. Fr. Santosh Minj, Provincial, Hazaribag addressed the tertians in the presence of the SSC staff. He highlighted three points related to the theme of the year. The theme was stated: 'Re-discovering the Venice model of discernment: in poverty, companionship and joy'. The inauguration was followed by an orientation input in which no. 516 of the Constitutions was presented as a backbone number of Tertianship, explaining the significance of corporal and spiritual pursuits for the schooling of the heart. A practical SSC formula was recommended: 'slow down, settle down and calm down'. They were introduced to the golden custom of visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the main chapel after breakfast, lunch and supper. They were also told to say the prayer of petition in private as well as in common: 'St. Ignatius, pray for us! Mother Mary, place us with your Son'. The day of inauguration was concluded in the evening with the Holy Eucharist wherein all the 18 together with the Tertian Instructors offered themselves each one with a symbol. Well begun, half done!

After a preparatory period of 37 days by means of sapiential reading of the primary sources, they began with SSC community a novena to St. Ignatius in preparation of the feast. Many experienced the novena to be helpful for building up a good disposition for the long retreat. This was further confirmed by their pilgrimage to *Dhori Mata* at whose feet nearly all experienced a tangible

assurance of her intercession and accompaniment for the month long spiritual pilgrimage. On 2 August evening the tertians began the long retreat with great generosity, magnanimity and total self surrender resulting in their in-depth healing, mystical and transformative experiences. There were also moments of struggles like Jacob wrestling with a divine stranger. In order to remain fully focused and recollected they were discouraged to do any voluntary manual works. Apparently this lack of corporal pursuits to accompany spiritual pursuits is one of the lacunae that marked the retreat. After their long retreat they went for their retreat ministry and experiment. In their retreat ministries as a group they seemed to have excelled more than their predecessors as per feedback received from different retreat groups.

After their return they began the third phase of Tertianship known as the integration phase. Their experiences of the Spiritual Exercises, retreat ministry and experiments enabled them to discover the beauty, wisdom and spirit of the Constitutions. As farewell parties in the campus communities were reduced to a bare minimum they were relatively more focused in the study of the constitutions than the previous batches. However, their in-depth transformative experiences of the long retreat and retreat ministry as well as the spirit of the Constitutions were not that evident in their initiatives for corporal pursuits, their sensitivity to one another and collaborative companionship. This was subtly hinted by Fr. George Pattery, the Provincial of South Asia, during his visitation. In his 'memoriale' Fr. George Pattery has pointed out that the graces of the retreat are given to live community as a mission and that the challenge of the Tertianship is to sustain the graces received through spiritual direction and spiritual conversations.

In the final evaluation the Tertianship batch of 2018 was deemed as a golden batch. It was not because of the golden jubilee of the religious life of one of the Tertian Instructors, but because of the merits of the group in three areas. The batch had deep transformative experiences of the Spiritual Exercises, even touching the mystical depth, enabling several of them to celebrate the Eucharist with unction. Secondly, it witnessed also the tangible efficacy of the Spiritual Exercises in retreat ministries. Thirdly, it discovered the value of the Constitutions for one's life and ministry. On the other hand these valuable, wonderful and deep experiences or graces were not that visible in corporal pursuits, in mutual sensitivity and community living. Therefore the sign of the pond remains valid and challenging. There were golden rays falling on the pond and it was full but it did not overflow.



New Shepherds in the field

Ajay Soreng



Fr. Ravi Hemant Kujur, SJ

The ordination of Deacon Ravi Hemant Kujur, SJ, was solemnized on 30 December 2018 at St. Francis Church, Ara Gate, Mahilong, by His Lordship Telesphore Bilung, SVD. There were 60 priests who concelebrated with the bishop and attended by some 130 Jesuits of all stages of formation from Pre-Novitiate to the senior Fathers and Brothers. Some 30 Religious Sisters together with 2000 faithful devotionally participated in the programme. The newly ordained Ravi Hemant, in his message, shared his experience of God who never keeps his people alone, but follows them on their heels. Therefore, we have to experience God's closeness in all our difficulties, struggle, sorrows, joys and success.



Fr. Edwin Ritesh Dungdung, SJ

"By the grace of God I am what I am," was the motto of Deacon Edwin Ritesh Dungdung, SJ, whose priestly ordination took place at the Kanke Parish on 6 January 2019. He was ordained a priest by Rt. Rev. Bishop Felix Toppo, SJ, amidst the faithful numbering about 5000, with 90 priests, around 40 religious Sisters, 4 Deacons, and some Religious Brothers, with quite a number of Gabriel Brothers from Kanke, Bhittha and Ranchi. The scholastics of Tarunoday, Arsande, led the melodious choir.

The homily centred round the point that one ordained is to be a priest (dispenser of Sacraments), a teacher and a shepherd. God came down to earth to save the mankind. God chose not only the Israelites, but us, the tribals of Chotanagpur too, to spread the message of his salvation. The missionaries who came to Chotanagpur were the stars to show us the light and guide us like the Magi to the Lord. Fr. Edwin Ritesh's priestly vocation is one such star. On this feast of Epiphany we were invited to search and find the newly born Lord and offer Him precious gifts. His invitation through the rays of the same star reaches to the ends of the earth, to all peoples and nations. Let us pray for Fr. Edwin Ritesh and for each other!



Fr. Fuldeo Soreng, SJ

The ordination of Fr. Fuldev Soreng, SJ, took place at 7.30 am, on Wednesday, 16 January 2019, at the Catholic Church, Tamra. Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, ordained him amidst the congregation of 3000 people, some 50 priests, 30 religious Sisters and 10 Brothers. There were 2 couples from Switzerland to attend the ordination. Fr. Fuldeo hails from Sikariadanr village. A big contingent of the staff, teaching and non teachings of St. Xavier's School, Doranda, participated in the ordination ceremony and also presented a cultural item in the felicitation programme. His motto was "I belong to the Lord" (Is.44:5).



Fr. Rakesh Kerketta, SJ

The ordination of Deacon Rakesh Kerketta, SJ, took place at 8.00 am, on Sunday, 27 January 2019, at St. Ignatius' church, Salangapos in Simdega diocese. There were 90 priests who concelebrated with Rt. Rev. Vincent Barwa, DD, along with Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, some 30 religious Sisters and a dozen of religious Brothers participated in it. About 10,000 of the faithful participated in the programme. The motto of Fr. Rakesh Kerketta, SJ, was "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn. 15:5). Life can exist and grow when it is connected to its roots. In his homily Bishop Vincent Barwa, stressed that the ordination is a gift of God to the ordinandee to bring the message of salvation to God's people, to offer sacrifices and to preach God's message. The people of Israel could not worship in their own temple during the time of prophet Isaiah. The people were displaced and taken into captivity to Babylon. Nowhere could they worship Yahweh in peace. By the grace of Yahweh they were released from their captivity, returned to their country, built a temple and worshipped God in it. Therefore, every priest is to offer sacrifices to God in the church, just like the apostles who also preached after the ascension of Jesus Christ. The dimension of priesthood remains, namely, to teach, preach and be a shepherd of the people.



Fr. Roshan Ba'a, SJ

The ordination of Fr. Roshan Ba'a, SJ, took place at Barwadih Parish, at 8.00 am, on 10 February 2019. Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, ordained him as a priest with 96 priest concelebrating with him, about 200 Religious Sisters and some 30 brothers and about 8000 faithful took part in it. The other ordinandee was Fr. Joseph Samad of Simdega Diocese. In his homily Bishop Vincent Barwa spoke of the will of God the Father to speak to his people through a priest. So, He chooses priests and ordains them, gives them responsibilities so that they can speak about life, peace and justice, make the world good, holy and livable, bring the kingdom of God close to the people, to become the signs of God's love and through their life praise and honour God. A priest has to play the role specified by the Lord, namely, to become a teacher, minister and shepherd to God's people.



Fr. Shailesh Lakra, SJ

The ordination Fr. Shailesh Lakra, SJ, took place at 8.00 am, Saturday, on 2 February 2019, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Gumla. He was ordained by Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, in the congregation of about 3000 faithful, with 65 priests concelebrating, some 30 religious Sisters, 15 Religious Brothers being present. In his homily the bishop spoke of the baby Jesus being presented to the Lord in the temple as it was the Feast of Presentation. The text from Isaiah, 61:1-4 says that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Jesus because he has anointed him for His purpose. The Spirit of the Lord has called Deacon Shailesh also to spread his message of peace and justice, to look after his people and take care of them. Jesus was called and anointed to bring good tidings, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, comfort who mourn, build up the ancient ruins, raise up former devastations so that a new creation is dawn.

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Take and Receive

Ajay Soreng



Fr. Pradeep Kerketta SJ,

Pronounced Final Vows on 19 January 2019. Currently he is the Assistant Director, XISS, Ranchi.



Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ

Pronounced Final Vows on 30 April 2019. Currently he is the Director, Gana Chetana Samaj, Tezpur.

Centrality of Ignatian Spirituality for Effective Mission

Deepak Toppo



Some of the important aims and objectives the Ignatian Spirituality Commission wants to achieve are the following:

To help Jesuits to follow the Ignatian virtues

- » Generosity and initiative Whereby I will gladly offer myself for the apostolate.
- » Humility and obedience Knowing that I belong to God and act accordingly.
- » Prayerfulness Keeping the constant companionship of Christ.
- » Apostolic zeal Knowing that I have been sent by Christ to bring others to His truth and life.
- » Ability to integrate and adapt To apply Christ's principles to the ever changing conditions to the society; the practice of common sense, prudence, ability to use what I have and know.

Basically, the Commission is committed to help Jesuits get deeply rooted in Ignatian Spirituality, who are well disposed and integrated, available for any apostolate and are effective in mission. The Commission intends to ensure that every member of the Province is helped to follow Christ's way of life. They become full of interior enthusiasm for Christ, who is the motive behind their thinking, saying and doing.

The Commission achieves its aims and objectives in and through Jharna a Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Namkum, Ranchi. Jharna is committed to cater to the spiritual needs of the Jesuits as well as of others. In 2018, a number of retreats, recollections, triduums, talks, seminars and workshops were organized with a special emphasis on Ignatian vision of life, work and love. Special effort was

made so that all Jesuits and others, including the laity, go deeper in understanding the Ignatian vision of life, work and love. The Ignatian vision is contained in the Principle and Foundation of the Spiritual Exercises.

Vision of life

According to the first Principle, creation is a gift of God that leads us toward God. It is given to us so that we know God easily and that we respond to this love readily. God is in the creation and is not far away from us, but is involved in the details of our lives. The choices we make in our daily lives draw us closer to God or take us away from Him. The life vision presented in the first Principle asks the question what is life all about? It is this vision that directs us to God.

Vision of work

What is our work in this world all about? Why do we do what we do? What values should govern our choices? The reflection on these questions is presented in the Call of the King. Jesus is the King *par excellence* to whom we owe reverence and obedience. He is the leader with ambitious plans. “I want to overcome all diseases, all poverty, all ignorance, all oppression and slavery — in short all the evils which beset humankind”. He poses a challenge, “Whoever wishes to join me in this undertaking must be content with the same food, drink, clothing, and so on, that comes with following me.” (Sp. Ex. 93, The Contemporary Reading)



There are two points to be noted here: Firstly, the King is calling us to be with Him. The essence of the calling is not to do some specific work, but, above all, to be with the One who calls and live our daily lives as our King lives. We are to share Christ's life, to think like him, to do what he says. The second point is a call to work with Christ our King. He is not out there and commanding us through other people, but He himself is doing the work of evangelizing and healing. His call goes out to every person. He wants everyone to join him, and each one receives a personal invitation to the same effect. The initiative is Christ's; he asks us to work with him.

Vision of love

What does it mean to love? How do we show our love for God, for ourselves, for others, and for our world? We are invited to answer these questions by looking at how God loves. God loves and he invites us to love him in return. In the Contemplation to Attain Love, St. Ignatius says Love ought to show itself in deeds over and above words, love consists in sharing. Love always wants to give and share what it has got. Sharing is a form of communication. God gives everything, holding nothing back. The ultimate expression of his self-giving is His Son's death on the Cross. He shares his very life with us. He also shares with us the work He is doing in the world. Thus, the work we do is a way of loving God. It is not just work. By inviting us to share in his works God is showing his love for us. In our response of trying to work with God, we show our love.

Jharna believes that the clarity and in-depth knowledge with sound understanding of the Ignatian vision of life, work, and love will ensure spiritual maturity of a person. The effort is to instill in all a greater passion for Christ and His mission, help people be prayerful and generous, ready to gladly offer themselves for the mission. They be imbued with the spirit of collaboration and dialogue to further the coming of the Reign of God here on earth.

Initiatives taken by the Commission through Jharna

Purpose	No. of Groups	No. of participants
Recollection	11	64
Triduum	06	74
4-Day Retreat	01	02
5-Day Retreat	03	23
6-Day Retreat	07	65
7-Day Retreat	01	10
8-Day Retreat	12	96
15-Day Retreat	02	22
30-Day Ret.	02	13
Others (Meetings, seminars, workshops etc.)	14	542

Looking forward to 2019

The target group for the year 2019 is the youth. A team comprising four young Jesuits has been formed to accompany young people (especially of schools run by the Province) in the creation of a hope filled future. The team is working on ways and means of giving Spiritual Exercises so as to help young people advance in their following of Christ. By helping them to answer the four fundamental questions of life related to origin, meaning, morality, and destiny i.e. "Where did I come from? Why am I here? How should I live? How do I understand what is right or wrong? Where am I going? What happens to me when I die?" The commission wants to lead them to transformation a new and meaningful way of living their lives. The experience of encountering Jesus through Spiritual Exercises is to be their light for the new way of living. These persons are the ones going to be the bearers of newness to the entire community. This is the dream of the Commission.

Basically tribal groups, the so called least, last and the lost, include men, women, youth and children who are the addressed by AROUSE (Animation Rural Outreach Service Society) regarding their holistic growth, development and well being. The people's multi-dimensional growth would be marked by their freedom, unity, prosperity and development. AROUSE Society started with adult literacy programme under the National Literacy Mission (NLM). It rapidly moved



to starting *balwadi* centers, health care centers, empowering of women under TWAIN, cultural preservation and promotion programme entitled as PEACH, forming self help groups (SHGs) for women, cultivation of mulberry and its processing, weaving, advocating modern agriculture and its supplementary activities like poultry, farming, piggery, fishery and skill deployment. To all these was added *Jeevan Prawesh* (life orientation) programme for the growing youth. It focuses on character building pedagogy in the context of catechetical seminars. While marching ahead incessantly, AROUSE today includes training in computer, internet and communication revolution. Behind all societal changes are the people, particularly the young, who take decisions for creativity and innovations. We are surrounded by such innovative generation waiting to be spurred.





The age of information and communication technology, operative through mobile phones and the internet, has now reached even the remotest rural areas. Even as the youth are gripped by unprecedented technology, constructive and productive use of the same needs considerable scrutiny.

Recently two activists from the Bengaluru based Development Focus visited AROUSE. They address the problems of forced migration for livelihood and human trafficking. “Earn while you learn” is the principle they are working on. They address the age group between 14 to 20 regarding the latter’s skill development. Another Rome based agency called MAGIS shares the Bishops’ Lenten Campaign fund for the education of unorganized and jobless youth. The Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) projects on *Gram Swashasan* (Village Self-rule) have passed into the second phase. Consequent to the project, considerable awareness, creativity and motivation among the people in Chainpur Block, Gumla District, can be noted.

The Prime Minister’s campaign for digitally literacy is taking the countryside women into account. The women showing progress in this literacy programme have now moved to what is termed





as digital livelihood. It means promoting entrepreneurship through internet. The fourth phase of the project has been shortly launched. We look forward to empowering every section of the people, particularly the marginalized in the region.

CHILDLINE 1098 is yet another right-based project. It provides help and protection to children in distress. Closely linked with the problem of human trafficking in this region, this humanitarian

approach is showing encouraging results. Hence the agreement has been renewed for another three years. While strengthening the existing developmental infrastructure and governance, and self assertion, AROUSE needs to move into rights issues despite blockages. Our motto should be “marching on by rights against all odds”.

Jeevan Prawesh

The above indicated Jeevan Prawesh Seminar is one of the autonomous activities of AROUSE. Founded on the principles of Christian and Ignatian Pedagogy, the seminar leaves its impression on many growing souls. The programme addresses not only the class X Christian students, but also those of other castes, creeds and religions. It aims at total transformation of the students so as to brighten their future. Every year 16 to 24 such seminars are conducted at various locations with over 1550 young beneficiaries. While immediate result of such seminars may elude us, it may turn into a foundational building block of their life. Many boys and girls becoming priests and nuns and those rising to respectable civic offices refer to such seminars as motivating factors.

On account of the board examinations colliding with our schedule, many Jeevan Prawesh seminars had to be canceled in 2018. However, we covered 16 schools with the seminars. The participants from Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam numbered 598 boys and 996 girls, a total of 1594.

Activities held in 2018

Number of schools participated	16		16
Number of seminars conducted	16		16
Number of student participants	Boys	Girls	Total
	598	996	1594

Initially intended for Gumla district, it has now stretched to different parts of Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Assam.

A brain child of the late Jesuit Fr. Peter Paul Van Nuffel, AROUSE, a non-government organization, is working for emancipation of the weaker sections of society, especially the tribals, women, children, farmers and the youth. “By rights against all odds” is the AROUSE theme for 2019. We promote peace, justice, progress, unity, equality, fraternity and development. We help make the people aware so as to utilize opportunities of progress, development and rights against all odds.

50 Years and Beyond : A Journey of Justice and Reconciliation

Xavier Soreng

In 1969, at the invitation of Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, the Social Secretariat was born with the name JESEDES, an acronym for *Jesuit Secretariat for Socio-Economic Development*. The Secretariat, now called *Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES)* will commemorate 50 years of its existence and mission of promoting social justice and reconciliation in the Society of Jesus.

It is a **historic moment** not merely for the social secretariat but also for the entire Society of Jesus. Therefore, JESA (Jesuits in Social Action) has set in motion a process of commemorating the Social Justice Secretariat at Rome.



Sannybhai in one of the Santhal Villages of Sahibganj District before holding a meeting with the villagers



Public Hearing in Simdega under National Food Security Act, 2013 (7th May, 2018)

Objectives of the Celebration

- 1) To gratefully acknowledge, understand, reflect and highlight (a) the activities of the **PAST**; (b) the charisms, spirituality, principles and liberation strategies followed/lived out by the pioneers; and (c) understand and adopt them to the present and disseminate the good works done.
- 2) To create opportunities and strengthen the **PRESENT** networks (such as *Lok Manch* and other rights based initiatives) and collaboration strategies in our Social Institutes and Centres; and to revisit the Province/Conference evaluations, take ecology related activities and initiate inter-ministerial collaboration.
- 3) To make this jubilee an occasion to discern and strengthen social action ministry at various levels for the **FUTURE** by initiating formation programs for our scholastics and lay collaborators and discerning and planning the best possible ways of implementing the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) in and through our social action ministry.

Opportune Moments

- a) Declaration of UAP
- b) JCSA Statement on Communalism



Public Hearing on National Food Security Act, 2013 (7th May, 2018): Government officials responding to the complaints of the villagers.



Public Hearing in Simdega District on 7th May 2018 under National Food Security Act, 2013: Government officials listening to the complaints of the villagers.

- c) Declining number of Jesuits in Social Action
- d) Emergence of Far Right-wing Governments
- e) Further marginalization of the communities: Fundamentalism & Communalism, Anti-people and Discriminatory Policies of the Government, Displacement and Migration
- f) Strong Networking through Lok Manch
- g) Strong Ecological and Human Right Movements

Commemorations

Commemorations have been planned out at various levels:

- a) **Social Centre:** Individual Social Centres are free to plan out celebrations appropriate to their situations to mark the occasion. Every Social Centre is expected to seriously think about having a meaningful one day event with its collaborators and people.
- b) **Province:** The following could constitute part of Province planning for the occasion: a) Apostolic Planning, Assessment and Evaluations, b) Networks: Solidarity Clubs, Inter religious groups, Inter-sectoral involvement, Ecology, Save Democracy with the Displaced, etc. Ranchi Province has a plan to produce a short video film on the social action in the Province and publish a Profile of the pioneers / veterans of social action in the Province. Along with these, the Province Days to be held from 21 to 23 May, 2019 itself has an orientation of Justice, Reconciliation and Peace.
- c) **Zonal:** Dissemination of History, Publication on Nation Building and Pioneers, Exhibitions &



Public Hearing in Simdega District on 7th May 2018 under National Food Security Act, 2013: A village woman voicing her grievances before the government officials.



A Santhali woman speaks out her mind: An effort of the Lok Manch, Dumka to bring people together



Paharia children in Litipara: Pakur District



A meeting at Dumer (Hazaribag): Men and women participate in an evaluation meeting

Debates on Future of social works are the areas which have been suggested for the purpose. The Central Zone Provinces have planned out (a) retreat for the zonal social activists in Ka Arrupe Jesuit Novitiate - Shillong, from 2 to 9 July, 2019. Fr. Jerry Rosario of Madurai Province has consented to be the Director of the retreat; (b) an interaction with the Central Zone Jesuit Scholastics on 10th of May, 2019. The Scholastics will be gathering for REGAE at XISS (Xavier Institute of Social Service), Ranchi. This has already been concluded. Thanks to the REGAE Team; (c) Publication on the life and works/contributions of the veterans and pioneers is being worked out at the level of Central Zone Provinces. Fr. Agapit Tirkey has agreed to be the Editor of the zonal publication. He will also write on Tribal Culture and Identity for JIVAN (October Edition); (d) there will be a three-day convention from 5 to 7 September 2019 in SDC (Social Development Centre), Ranchi where all the Jesuit Social Activists, Collaborators and other Activists, representatives of Peoples Movements, thinkers, academicians, cultural activists, students and others will participate. Exhibition on Jesuits Social Action and Contribution in Nation Building will be part of this Convention.

- d) Conference:** What has been visualized is: Seminar with Vidya Jyothi and participants — sharing and seeking suggestions to do better; Publication on Nation Building and On Walking with the Poor; Exhibitions; Debates where Political, administrative Elites will be invited for seminar; and Articles in JIVAN (October Issue). Accordingly a Social Action Convention has been scheduled to be held on 26 and 27 of November at Navjeevan Renewal Centre (NRC), St. Xavier's Campus, Delhi.



A traditional welcome in a Santhal Village of Kodma (Sahibganj) in the beginning of a meeting



Sannybhai (JESA Secretary) addressing the villagers in Odisha



A woman speaks out her mind in a meeting of Lok Manch in Odisha



Sannybhai addresses Lok Manch partners of Hazaribagh

- e) **Whole Society:** To mark the occasion a Congress at Rome has been organized on 4th to 8th November 2019. It is a process of renewal and recommitment, which calls for a global re-orientation to justice and reconciliation in the universal Society of Jesus. The entire process of renewal and recommitment will be closely linked to the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP). It will be based on our context and will be guided by creativity and innovation with a universal vision. Thirty Six persons will participate in the said Congress from South Asia. One Jesuit from each Province in South Asia and one male and female Collaborator from each Zone will participate in the Congress. Besides these, two Jesuit Veterans Social Activists will be going for the Congress. At the request of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES), the Editorial Board of SJ Year Book 2020 in Rome has agreed to focus on the Social Apostolate of the Society of Jesus.

The events mentioned above have to be coordinated well. Therefore, a **TASK FORCE** has been constituted last October itself where most of the Coordinators of Social Action (CSA) or their representatives were present. The Task Force consists of: (a) North Zone Jothi, (b) Central Zone: Xavier Soreng, (b) West Zone : Tony Dias and (d) South Zone : Marianathan along with Denzil Fernandes, Executive Director, Indian Social Institute, Delhi, Selvaraj Arulnathan, Director, Indian Social Institute, Bangalore and Sannybhai, JESA Secretary, Delhi and Solomon David of Bagaicha. Solomon David of Bagaicha has been chosen to be the Convener of this Task Force.



A meeting of the Heads of the Lok Manch Partners in JOHAR, Dumka



Among the Paharias of Dumka Unit – II: A wake up call for issue based unity

Report of the Central Zone Educators' Meet 2018

Ajit Kumar Xess

The Central Zone Educators' Meet 2018 was organized from 13 July 2018 afternoon to 15 July 2018 afternoon by Central Zone Education Bureau (CZEB) in St. Xavier's School, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

All the 145 participants arrived in the afternoon of 13 July and were accommodated at Xavier's Institute of Social Service, Manresa House Ranchi, St. John's School, Ranchi, Jharna, Namkum and St. Xavier's School, Doranda. The participants comprised the Jesuit Principals and teachers and religious and lay collaborators partnering with Jesuit educators of the Central Zone Provinces (Dumka, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Madhya Pradesh and Ranchi Provinces.)



The Organizing Committee along with the entire staff of St. Xavier's School, Doranda facilitated the smooth functioning of the meet.

While the participants assembled at St. Xavier's School, Doranda at 4.30 PM on the first day to register themselves, the inauguration ceremony commenced at 5.30 PM in the school auditorium, with a prayer led by Deacon Fuldeo Soreng followed by the lighting of the Lamp and the thematic cultural program by the

students of St. Xavier's School Doranda and St. John's School, Ranchi, suiting the theme – GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: WORLD IS OUR HOME.

Keynote Address

The keynote address was delivered by **Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur**, SJ, Provincial, Ranchi Jesuits and the Chair of the Central Zone Provinces. He aptly struck the accurate note right at the outset speaking on the Human rights and dignity keeping in tune with the theme of the Meet. He stated that one cannot claim to have improvement of one's school without implementing the global citizenship – human rights being one of its key elements. He also blended into this



theme the ecological concerns of our times. Pointing out that human nature is primarily responsible for ecological disaster, he alluded to the philosophical worldview of the New Zealand tribes who believe that we must protect our Mother Earth because we have not inherited the mother earth but we have borrowed it. Therefore we must take care of it tenderly and pass on to the next generation as it ought to be. He also referred to the Christian philosophy that says that we are caretakers, not the masters of this universe to use the mother earth according to our whims and fancies. He cited that such worldviews are predominant in all religious traditions and mythologies. He also drew the attention of the house towards the call of Laudato Si and also the good practices like that of organic farming, role of Taru Mitra, LEAF and other such institutions.

Elaborating on the human rights he said that God has created us in His own image and has created us equal and so it is the need of the hour to restore the original image through the practices of human rights. He specifically mentioned the present context in which human rights violations are rampant and exclusivist approach prevailing and called for the exigent need to address the issues of social justice, human dignity, child rights, dalit rights, tribal rights, ecological justice etc.

In order to address these two key issues we require developing a deep eco-spirituality and a platform for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Finally he judiciously coalesced these two key issues and led the floor toward the third element of the Meet – School Improvement Programme. He endorsed that without addressing these issues school improvement program would be irrelevant in today's context. And he concluded with the call that educationists need to come out with something concrete to bring about change.

Dynamics of the Meet: Fr. Erentius Minj, SJ

Informing about the dynamics of the Meet, **Fr. Erentius**, the newly appointed CZEB Secretary informed the members that the two days Meet would be structured to suit the desired outcome. He also informed that the day would begin with the Eucharistic celebration based on the theme of the day which would be followed by the input sessions, Group Discussions, Plenary sessions and presentations of the report of the groups. These would be accompanied by the cultural presentations by the students again based on the themes.

School Improvement Program: Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ , Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ & Mr. Lourdes Baptista (ADO)

Fr. Ajit informed the house that under the School Improvement Programme, ten schools from each central zone provinces underwent the process of school evaluation carried out by the researched method of Adhyayan. He presented the report of this evaluation process and its outcomes elaborately and underlined that only Ranchi Province schools have treaded the next step carrying out the process in other 15 schools of the province.

Fr. Sunny Jacob continued with the School Improvement Program and invited the house to devise ways and means to resume the process of evaluation by Adhyayan/any other organizations in other provinces too.



Mr. Lourdes Baptista unraveled the theme of Global Citizenship which is to be launched by the JCSA which certainly include the themes of human rights and ecology. He emphasized the need of the Central Zone Province men to come together to make a strong body to affect the society and make a significant impact in bringing changes in the society at large.



Human Rights Education: Fr. Aloysius Irudayam SJ and Fr. Cyril SJ

Drawing from the Human Rights Declaration of the UN, 1948, **Fr. Cyril** endorsed the need of Human Rights Education. He reported to the house as to what has been happening in Madurai Province for 10 years or so. He informed that Mithra Foundation – Bangalore, IDEAS – Madurai and TN-PCRI have designed and prepared four modules for the Human Rights Education for classes 6, 7, 8 and 9 that consist of varied topics like environment, child rights, women, minority,

Dalit, indigenous, Migrant People's rights and protective and promoting mechanisms. These modules are well-structured and connected, children friendly, reflective and proactive.

He also informed about the exercises that the above mentioned modules include. In order that the Human Rights Education be disseminated at school level, training and assessment of the teachers is central which is also well planned out and facilitated. He further highlighted that there is a need of proper coordination required and responsibilities assigned to promote human rights education implement the process which includes the roles of different responsible persons and their responsibilities.

He also presented the challenges faced in the process of HRE but endorsed that the entire process brings about transformational changes both in all the stakeholders of education and children can become agents of change in the society. They have the potential to effect immediate as well as long run changes in the society. Thus they become channels of justice and peace.

Fr. Aloysius addressed the house on Global Citizenship with specific reference to Human Rights Syllabus to be started in class 6 with the purpose of introducing human rights education to all stakeholders.

Posing the question: What it means to be "Global Citizens"? He deliberated in detail the following points:

Historically, humans have developed their shared identity from the point of view of kinship, race, religion, nationality and culture. From the evolutionary point of view humans have evolved as being humans – human identity which has a global dimension and hence each one is a Global Citizen irrespective of differences. Therefore, our life journey is from one's unique birth point of being and becoming Indian citizens towards the landmark of being and becoming global citizens. This process of being and becoming Indian and global citizens a process:

1. By understanding Human rights as intrinsic, inalienable, indivisible and universal.
2. By recognizing, accepting and realizing the human rights of all humans irrespective of their various identities.

3. By making human rights become a culture.
4. By understanding and affirming the school as the starting point for cultivating human rights.

Then he continued elaborating different epistemologically as to what are human rights. He said that they are basic human needs, rational and moral convictions evolved through centuries. They have hence moral obligations.

In the second part of the presentation, he delineated on Human Rights Education: Perspective and Pedagogy. Today's context of Neo-liberalism, caste communalism, religious fundamentalism, patriarchy, eco-insensitiveness, human rights violations call for the dignity of persons and their rights which are at stake. Hence, the clarion call to assert, affirm, protect and promote child rights, gender rights, sustainable environment, rights of refugees and migrants, ethnic rights, minority rights and civil rights.

HRE is strategically designed to serve the same purpose. It has the potential to evoke feelings of responsibilities for all of these. Text books are such designed.

He further presented the pedagogical process of HRE which consists of six stages: Individual contextual experience, individual response, small group response, classroom response, teacher response and individual and social transformative response. Having undergone all these processes, one can expect the outcomes of self transformation, socio-cultural transformation and political transformation.

He concluded by stating that HRE would be an important Jesuit apostolate as it calls for today in the wake of steeping instances of human rights violations.

Group Discussion and Plenary Session

Ten questions were given for the group discussion based on the presentation. Eight groups deliberated upon the given questions and the reports were presented by the secretaries. At the end of the plenary session there was an overall feeling for the need of HRE in our schools in spite of a few obstacles which could be overcome by further reflections and strategies.



The world is our Home (Ecology): Fr. Lancy D'cruz and Mr. Jothi

Fr. Lancy, setting the ball roll on the theme, presented as to what Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission has been involved in two decades. He summarized as to how the organization has been spreading the constructive approach towards building awareness for the care of the earth by promoting its objectives stage by stage among the students with the collaboration of willing school Heads and teachers.

He said that the objectives of GJEM are to create network of networks in promoting environmental education as a way of life, rather than teaching it.

Further, **Mr. Jothi** presented extensively about the works of GJEM in schools. In order to create network of networks, the organization has devised a LEAF (Leaders in Environmental Action Force) Programme. Its objective is to inform, to inspire and to get involved.

He enlisted the different features of LEAF Programme:

1. Students are trained to lead campaign in the schools and outside on local environmental issues.
2. It is activity based, action oriented where learning is fun-filled and teaching is innovative and interactive.
3. The programme enables the children to learn about key environmental issues and develop solutions to mitigate them. Some of the sustainable practices they learn are put into use in the schools and at their houses.
4. Schools where LEAF program is introduced develop into institutions with green practices.
5. LEAF program deals with some of the important topics in environment.
6. LEAF students receive a certificate of participation upon completion of the Program

He informed the house that the programme does not focus on the environmental crises but promotes proactive participation in the activities based on environment which are pro-environment through innovative pedagogy.

Mr Jothi also enumerated the ecological themes of LEAF as Bio-diversity, Organic farming – kitchen garden, Alternative Energy, Global warming and climate change, Solid waste management, Eco-art program, Eco-spirituality, Environmental campaigns and Green School Adults.

The LEAF program also includes Solar exhibition, Teachers' Training, School Audit, film festival and environment awareness program campaign. He informed that it has documented several films and videos based on environment which are either created or edited for the environment based film festival.

Thus, he said that the program brings about enormous change in the perspective of the participants.



Group Discussion and Plenary Session

The group discussion was followed by the presentation. When the reports were presented by the secretaries it was felt that such a program was the felt need of the hour. Different groups opined that it is possible to implement such a program. It only requires the willingness, openness and enthusiasm of the school heads.

The End

The Meet was concluded with the evaluation session, vote of thanks and a meaningful dance drama and song by the students of St. Xavier's school, Doranda.

The way forward

A. School Improvement Program: -

1. Ranchi Province has already started the second phase of School Improvement Programme (SIP). They are on their half way and the experience is very positive.
2. The other Provinces (Haz, Dum, Jam and MP) will soon begin their second phase of SIP. An orientation of 2 days would be conducted for the Principals and the coordinators of the schools. A program schedule is to be drawn in the course of time so as to facilitate the SIP more smoothly and effectively.

B. Human Rights Education:-

1. The Central Zone Provinces will have a pilot project in conducting Human Rights Education in our schools starting with only 2 schools from each province.
2. The classes will be conducted for the students of class 6.
3. The title "Human Rights Education" needs to be re coined and made more acceptable by all. There was a feeling that the proposed title may cause some apprehensions and doubts by some sections of the society. The content of the chapters may also need to be reworked.
4. Hindi translation of the books will be made available for the next academic year.
5. Two days training program will be arranged for the teachers who will be teaching the Human Rights Education.
5. Frs. Aloysius and Cyril would continue to support Central Zone with their expertise and resource materials.

C. Ecology: -

1. The LEAF program includes Solar exhibition, Teachers' Training, School Audit, film festival and environment awareness program campaign.
2. The Central Zone Provinces would emphasized Environment awareness Program, Teachers' training, School audit and film festivals to begin in the first phase. Thereafter they will include other program.
3. Fr. Lancy and Mr. Jothi would facilitate to provide us the resource team for the orientation and training program of our school heads and the staff.

The process of creating a child-friendly environment at Kishor Nagar started in 2017. In the first stage, a comprehensive project had been drawn up for ensuring the physical safety of children in the campus and the same was submitted to the Funding Agency. Funds were released at the end of 2017. The works of constructing a boundary wall, fencing of the ponds and covering the wells were taken up and completed at the end of 2018.

The execution of construction activities is relatively easy if funds are available. The second part in which we are engaged now is more complex, as we are not dealing with the physical environment, but with the overall human environment of the institution. Thanks to the guidance of two resource persons we have completed the comprehensive policy document on Child Safeguarding. Right now Fr. Walter Beck and Fr. Anand Amar Beck are working on Hindi translation of the text. All provisions of the Policy will officially come into force from the 1 April this year. Several training sessions will be required to acquaint all members of the staff with the code of conduct. A mere theoretical knowledge and understanding will not be enough in motivating them to behave and deal with the boys in a responsible manner. The training will also include a process of inculcating in them greater sensitivity towards the needs of the boys, especially those who are more vulnerable. A major component of the Policy is what may be called the case management. At the time of admission, information has to be collected on the level of vulnerability of each child. At the end of April, the resource persons will come again for helping us in working out a systematic procedure for collecting the required information and recording the same in a proper information system.

The task ahead of us this year is not easy and will require extra manpower. This year, 2019, is for Kishor Nagar the 50th Anniversary of its foundation and, therefore, 2019 is the Golden Jubilee Year of Kishor Nagar. It is perhaps providential that the Jubilee Year coincides with the formulation and implementation of the Kishor Nagar's Child Safeguarding Policy. The Inauguration of the Jubilee Year took place on the 20 January 2019 and on that occasion the booklet entitled "A Short Biography of the late Fr. Victor Van Bortel" was released by Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, Provincial. The message of the life journey of Fr. Victor is clear: He has left us a legacy to be followed to keep Kishor Nagar alive and vibrant. Fr. Van Bortel started his work among the neglected youth by opening a hostel for them (also called a home). Over the years it became a full-fledged school with hostel facilities. Father lived for and with his boys and his way of life and dealing with the children show us the path to be followed.

The main Jubilee celebration will be held on the 3 of November 2019. The theme of the Jubilee Year is therefore: While we earnestly pursue the goal of creating a child-friendly environment in our institution, we also resolve to remain faithful to the legacy of Fr. Victor Van Bortel, who found inspiration and guidance in the central beliefs of Ignatian Pedagogy. The main tenets of this pedagogy are:

- » To **trust** the boys and to challenge them to take responsibility.
- » To take **care** of each and every child and to accompany them in their life journey.

- » To motivate the boys to strive continuously to **do better** in studies and other activities.
- » To lead them to discover the **inner dimension** of their lives and to see God's presence in their lives.
- » To inspire them to **live and work together** and respect one another.
- » To guide them to **take care of the earth**.

This legacy is a big challenge before us and we have to plan out a strategy for making it a reality. For each of these tenets we are looking for competent persons, who may motivate the boys to be open to these central beliefs and thereby grow into good human beings. The new school year will start with a full day programme on trust building by Fr. Deepak Toppo, Director of Jharna. Other training and motivational programmes will follow after summer vacation. The team of Jeevan Prawesh will also be invited to give their programme for the higher classes.

Another matter to be taken up is to complete the application for getting the High School recognized by the Government of Jharkhand. This matter has been pending for a long time. Now we intend to get ready with all required documents by the end of March 2019 and to submit an application to the JAC by the middle of April 2019. The motto of the school is "Learning for Life". In that perspective we intend to introduce trainings for life skills. We are also busy preparing Service Rules for the teachers and we would like to have training programmes for teachers so that they may improve their performance as teachers.

Steps are being taken to give guidelines to the Class Monitors and House Leaders on how to perform their duties and also discuss with them the problems they are facing. The boys have responded positively to this initiative. Such inputs and guidance cannot remain a one-time event. To be effective, a follow up action will be required for helping the students to acquire the necessary skills to guide their companions. Visitors are always welcome at Kishor Nagar.



St. Alphonsus Rodriguez: Epitome of Humility and Service

James Barla



This year the Society of Jesus is celebrating the 400th Death Anniversary of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, the patron saint of Jesuit Brothers. For the celebration an organizing committee has been formed at the Assistancy level. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Provincial of Ranchi, is the convener of the committee. At present there are 165 Brothers in South Asian Assistancy. In the Ranchi Jesuit Province now, we are 19 Brothers.

In order to celebrate the 400th death anniversary meaningfully, four programmes were held by the organizing committee. A consultation in this regard was held at Ashirvad, Bengaluru on 23-24 June, 2018. Our Province coordinator Br. James Barla and Br. Blacus Tigga, SJ, attended the meeting.

A seminar was also held from 23 to 26 August 2018 at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar. Fr. Thamburaj, SJ (MDU) and Br. Pravin, SJ (GUJ) were the resource persons. Fr. Thamburaj spoke on the life of Alphonsus Rodriguez as a model of integration of sanctity and apostolic availability. Br. Pravin commented on the life and mission of Brothers in the Society of Jesus. Twelve Brothers from our province participated in the seminar. It was enriching and meaningful.

In order to celebrate the 400th death anniversary of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez meaningfully at the assistancy level, a retreat was held at Satyodayam Retreat House, Secunderabad from 21 to 29

October, 2018. There were 46 Brothers participated in the retreat. Only six Brothers from Ranchi were present in it. The retreat preacher was Br. Siluvainathan, SJ, the South Asian Assistancy Coordinator for Bothers. However, Fr. Paul Dominic, SJ, not only availed himself generously for the Eucharist, but also followed the retreat.

On 31 October 2018, the feast was celebrated at St. Patrick's High School, Secunderabad. While welcoming the gathering, Br. Amal Xavier, S.J., explained its purpose. Then the Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Provincial of Ranchi and convener of the organizing committee. An inspiring homily was delivered by Br. Christuraj, SJ, highlighting the life of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez. The choir was directed by Sch. Asirvadham, SJ. After the communion Br. Felix Prakash Tete, SJ, gave a vote of thanks. After the Holy Mass a cultural programme was organized in honour of the Brothers. Fr. George Pattery, SJ, the Provincial of South Asian Assistancy, the Provincials of Ranchi, Madurai, Andhra Pradesh and delegates from Karnataka and Kerala were present for the programme. His Grace, Thumma Bala, the Archbishop of Hyderabad, also graced the occasion. Altogether 62 Brothers were present at the celebration. A good number of Religious men and women from the twin cities, friends, benefactors and well-wishers of the Andhra Pradesh Jesuits were also present at the mega event. The Jesuits of Andhra Pradesh worked hard to make the celebration historic, memorable and meaningful.

07 March 2019, was a historic day for the Jesuit Brothers of South Asian Assistancy. The superior General of the Jesuits, Very Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, met 72 Jesuit Brothers of the Assistancy at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune. From Ranchi 12 Brothers were present at the programme. The meeting began at 9 a.m. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, garlanded Father General and honoured him with a shawl. In his address Father General said that he was very eager to meet many Brothers in one place. He said that the Brothers share the same vocation with the priests and contribute to the mission of the Society of Jesus. They are integral part of the Society, as Pope Paul III while approving the founding of the Society noted in his Bull in 1546. The vocation of the Brothers is one with that of the Priests. The body cannot say to the members it does not need them. The GC36 affirmed that the vocation of all Jesuits is one. The Brothers need essence to imbibe their religious life. Brothers must integrate in every mission Lord Jesus gave us. Fr. General spoke for 40 minutes or so. He answered the questions of the four representatives before releasing the book entitled as 'The Pearls of South Asia', which carries the Profiles of the Jesuit Brothers.

The same evening the Brothers left for Goa on a pilgrimage to Basilica of Bom Jesus. On 08 March 2018 at 6.30 p.m. the Brothers gathered around the altar of Bom Jesus Church for the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, and Fr. Roland Coelho, SJ, the Jesuit provincials of Ranchi and Goa respectively. Before the final blessing Br. Siluvainathan, SJ, the coordinator thanked all those who helped and sponsored the whole year programmes. He also thanked the committee members and all Brothers for their availability and generosity in making the 400th Death Anniversary celebration of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, meaningful and successful.



Satya Bharati: The Communication Centre of Ranchi Province, Satya Bharati, was engaged this year in its routine tasks of printing, publishing and producing audio-visuals.

The following books have been published this calendar year:

1. “Jio Jee BharKe”, based on John 14:1 “Do not let your Hearts be troubled” by Fr. Robert Yesudeep Sandhu, IMS. Written chiefly for youngsters, the book emphasizes regular and disciplined struggle as conditions for success in life.
2. “Bhachonko Mere pass aane do” is on the Sacraments. The author, Fr. Abira Kochhupurakel provides guidance on how to prepare candidates for the Holy Communion.
3. “Heeranagpur Prantke Gathanki Tyaari” by Sri Bonifas Lakra, M.A., B.L., Member of the Indian Constituent Assembly and Founder of the Catholic Sabha, Ranchi.
4. “Pajhra 2019”, Annual Bible Diary prepared by the Jesuit Parish Priests of Ranchi Province.
5. “Sangeet Sagar” a revised liturgical hymnal, compiled and published.

SIGNIS India: (The Catholic Association for Communication) Fr. Alex Tirkey attended the SIGNIS India National Assembly held from 21 to 24 February 2018 at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. The participating 120 delegates were drawn from all over India to consider and deliberate upon “Media: Current Trends and Emerging Challenges”. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. R. S. Mooshahary, Former Governor of Meghalaya, who humoured the participants with anecdotes and life experiences. The preceding inaugural Mass was presided over by Most Rev. P. K. George, Bishop of Niao Diocese. Flanking him at the altar was Most Rev. Stephen Rotulanga, Bishop of Aizwal. In his homily, Bishop George invited the group “to move outward after the deep reflection inward.”

On the second and third day, Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, Most Rev. Domnic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong cum President of CBCNE respectively, led the Eucharist and gave

us their reflections. Four speakers and their topics were as follows Ms. Charu Soni (*Media Landscape in India Today: Truth, Secularism versus Political Patronage and Silencing Dissent*), Archbishop Thomas Menampampil (*Social & Political Responsibility & Quest for Truth*), Dr. J. Alexander, IAS, (*Has the political ideologies and vested*



interests hijacked media space? A review of current media scenario in India), Smt. Reshma N C Shah (*Media in India today: Commercialization, Political Allegiance vis-à-vis Public Service and RTI*) and Dr. Fr. George Plathottam, SDB, Former Secretary of CBCI Office of Social Communications, (*Challenges to Christian Communications in India today*). Additionally, the following panel of experts facilitated our discussion and opinion sharing Ms. Iban Mawrie, (Fake News), Fr. C. M. Paul (Social Media), Dr. Neha Gupta (Internet Trolling & Dark web) and Mr Michael Peria (Cyber Crimes). Four questions related to the day's topics were reflected upon and reported on. On the second day, after the above indicated talks, selected speakers from every region gave a perspective and present socio-political issues disturbing the region. New National Executives for a Four-year term (2018-2022) were elected. They are as follows: President, Fr. Stanley Kozhichira (Delhi), Vice- President, Dr. Fr. Norbert Herman, SVD (Rajasthan), Secretary and Treasurer, Fr. Victor Vijay Lobo (Karnataka). Screening committee members: 1. Mr. Nirmal Raj (Karnataka), 2. Sr. Joeyanna D'Souza, FSP (Bombay). The occasion also included a memorable visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan. Cleanliness mingled with the religious ethos left a lasting impression on all of us. Fr. M. C. George, SDB, took good care of the visitors at Shashipur sub-centre of Kumarikata parish at the border of Bhutan.

SMART: The School of Music, Art and Training, a lay collaboration, organized a summer camp for school children from 16 to 26 May 2018. The programme dealt with dance, art & craft, music/singing, and games on personality development and team work.

SMART's Annual Day: On 14 October, 2018, SMART celebrated the annual day. The students showcased a variety of programmes based on the arts and skills they learnt in the course of an year. The programme featured Bharatnatyam recital and western street group dance coordinated by the Dance Department. Official band of SMART provided the musical support. The kids also presented songs in Hindi, English and Sadri, while the students of Language Department presented songs in Kurukh, Mundari and Sadri. Audio Engineering students too presented songs and some original music created by them. Folk Instrument Department also presented an instrumental piece. A play on water preservation was also staged by the students.

Christmas Gathering: Christmas gathering was held on 16 December 2018 at Satya Bharati. The programme began with a Bharatnatyam dance by the students. The choir consisted of singers and



musicians aged 4 to 60. The students danced, sang Carols, and did live painting of the Nativity scene. A shadow dance was also performed on the ills of alcoholism and rash driving. Two staff members of Satya Bharati, Mrs. Gonzaga Ekka and Gulab Minj, were felicitated for their long association with Satya Bharati and their service at the book stall. The evening was crowned by carol singing with musical support provided by Salem Troupe of Ranchi.

With a cursory glance at power play today, it is easy to see why knowledge has become the most significant facet of social control. Violence, pre-eminent during feudal times has lost much of its function today, because it can only be used for punishment. Similarly, wealth may serve as a device both for reward and punishment in the industrial age, yet it is an exhaustible resource. However, knowledge remains an inexhaustible premium for granting reward and punishment. Hence all institutions in the Assam Mission are gearing towards their Mission-Vision that seeks to impart solid knowledge. In short, our education apostolate by its very nature is to be transformative accelerating change in human persons.



St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel

Integral development of students in addition to formal curriculum is the need of the hour. In October 2018, the College completed the construction of a new semi-covered auditorium with a big stage, two basketball courts and one badminton court. In addition to enhancing physical fitness of the students, such a platform aims at nurturing best talents in co-curricular activities games, sports, cultural events and so on. Next in the College's priority is to preserve and promote the cultures of various ethnic groups, to promote leadership from among the youth, and to create good will among the people of the locality. For a comprehensive result, we need to address people from all sectors.

We subscribe to education that transcends information sharing so as to comprehensively transform human persons. Therefore, new instructional avenues for career guidance, personality

development and spoken English have been opened for our students. These programmes are regularly conducted in various fields by experts from outside on Saturdays. The effort seeks to enrich and equip our students with good social thought. Both, St. Xavier's Junior and Degree Colleges, have obtained permission of the Higher Secondary Educational Board and Guwahati University to host the exams in our college.

St. John's School, Balipara

Accompanied by some of the school staff, the students of Classes IX and X went on a two-day educational tour (13-14 April 2018) to Shivsagar, a popular hub of Assamese traditions, culture and languages. The opportunity afforded to the students was to help them appreciate their rich tradition and promote it in their day-to-day living.



On 2 October 2018, an Inter-school quiz competition was held at Public Holy Kids School Balipara. St. John's School ranked first among 10 schools of the locality. Bravo! Well done!

Loyola School, Kathalguri

With two students scoring distinction, three star marks, 15 first class and 12 second class, our final year students brought laurels to the School. About 32 students had appeared for matriculation examinations in 2018. Congrats! Indeed, a good amount of water flown under the bridge accounts for such success. The staff and students deserve appreciation for their hard work and commitment. Significantly, many among these students belong to the Santhal and Tea-Tribe communities. The School extends sincere gratitude to Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, the Director of Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur, who generously extended financial help towards special coaching classes for these students.

Since the Assam Mission prioritizes education as a means for Gospel witness, it follows the policy of school buildings first and residence next. It is, therefore, not uncommon to see late addition of a Jesuit Residence to the sprawling educational construction already in place for some time in the premises. Thanks to Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, who begged financial assistance from various benefactors, the Mission has been gratefully provided with. May the Lord grant abundant favours to all of them!

St. Xavier's, Manas Bansbari

Our constant Gospel message to the public is: *Chhauwaman ke school bhejba!* (Send your children to school.) We add, education of the children is very central and it is only through education that future of the children will be bright. In view of creating awareness that education is a must now and that it is the need of the hour, a meeting was held with the parents in November 2018 wherein 400 of them participated. Consequent to this reflection, around 70 Adivasi children were admitted in the School in 2019.

New School Bus! Oh, how sweet! After a long discernment process, the School got a new school bus to transport 40 students from their locality. This new bus is carrying a splendid message to the people around St. Xavier's School is shining!

No doubt, the people of the place are gradually realizing that school, parish, convent and hostels belong to them, while the priests and sisters are transferrable *Aajyanha, kaalwanha!* Now they are all for making a vibrant church. Their active cooperation can be noted on special church functions.

St. Xavier's Mushalpur

The school won a number of prizes in various events, such as quiz, drawing, slogan writing, etc., conducted by the district administration. We also won the hearts of many people by organizing a beautiful Science Exhibition, where the DSP of Baksa District was the Chief Guest. Many students of the neighbouring government school participated in the Exhibition. The school has also been arranging various activities such as regular parents' meet, formation of the school managing committee and regular staff meetings for discussing the school's welfare throughout the year. The second issue of the Annual School Magazine was published effectively with commendable cooperation of the staff and students. We look forward to enhancing quality education in the coming days.

At the parish level, there has been hard toiling to bring about order and foster the practice of proper marriage rectification through instructions and relevant spiritual practices. Quite a few steps in this regard were taken both for adult and infant baptism in 2018. The parish youth won three prizes in various competitions at the Annual Diocesan Youth Meet organized by the Diocese of Bongaigaon. One such memorable event was the Parish Youth Meet on 15 August 2018, wherein about 150 youth from neighboring parishes also participated. Initiative also was taken by Mushalpur Parish to invite the Catholic youth of Baksa district for an open interaction in which the Mushalpur youth were lauded as role models in organizing the programme at diocese level.

St. Xavier's Pengaree

The Jesuit community is duly fulfilling its obligation in promoting awareness and welfare of the local people, especially children from the tea gardens. At the parish level, it was a felt-need that two new church units be formed, namely, St. Francis' Church Konapathar and St. John's Church Konapathar, for better pastoral care. The presence of St. Xavier's School is very robustly felt in Margherita Sub-division. Master Gaurav Gurung, a student of St. Xavier's, topped in the HSLC Board Examination 2018. The weight of this success is perceived in the new admissions wherein unprecedented 86 new students have enrolled this year.

Awareness regarding education is reflecting among parents in that Prabhat Tara School, Bogapani, is drawing increasing number of admissions. The trend is likely to persist. Rev. Fr. Albert Hemrom, the lone priest of Pengaree parish, has brought about the biggest blessing to the Local Church, as he has been recently appointed as the Coadjutor Bishop of Dibrugarh Diocese.

Gana Chetana Samaj Tezpur

Preservation and promotion of the Adivasi culture has been the priority of this Social Wing. It is actively promoting and documenting the rich culture of the Adivasis enshrined in traditional folk dance and music, social and cultural value systems and so on. Indeed, with rapid dilution into the Assamese culture, the rich Adivasi culture is almost on the verge of extinction. It is feared that, unless protected, very shortly the Adivasis will have no identity of their own.

To make the matters worse, the Government has strategically designated the Adivasis as the 'Tea Tribes', a nomenclature that practically obliterates their true constitutional identity. Needless to state, their constitutional right to be identified as Scheduled Tribes is thrown to the winds.



Restoration of their cultural identity and dignity, therefore, is a major concern of the Gana Chetana Samaj. It organizes seminars, meetings, exposures, training and workshops on seasonal folk dances, music, singing, dressing, rituals and celebrations. Albeit slowly yet steadily, the Adivasis are getting awareness regarding their rich culture and values. In 2018, the 'Karam Feast Celebration' was organized by the people themselves in almost all the developmental blocks of every district in Assam to assert the significance of their culture. Good sign! Let them be rightfully proud of their culture and identity.

Conclusion

Evidently, identity of the Adivasis is a crucial issue in Assam. They are systematically made to feel inferior in matters of their own life-style, art, customs, folklore and so on. Their culture and values stand ignored. Their beliefs, rites and symbols are ridiculed. An effort to eliminate the cultural diversity is on so as to keep them subservient to the local dominant groups. Touched by their way of life, however, we realize that we have a long way to go before their characteristic human values and dignity are revived. Presently, we confine to two questions: (1) How does our missionary project affect the people with whom we are involved? (2) Does our approach to these people make a difference at all?

May our quiet help shape up their life and broaden their world view!

In one way or the other, the Cambodia mission is blessed by God each day. A sense of loving and serving people permeates the Mission. Unique blessings and graces are poured upon the Mission both as human and financial resources. Some glimpses of the activities over a period of time in the Mission Land may be summed up, as follows:

Exploring the China Mission

The mother society gave me an opportunity to visit Taiwan for the SBC (Scholastics and Brothers Circles) meeting at which I met the brothers and scholastics from various countries. The Jesuits in the ASEAN countries are to organize such meetings on specific themes every year. The theme of this meeting was, “Indigenous People of Chinese Provinces”. The occasion proved to be an exposure to the China Province. I got acquainted with the China Jesuit Provinces and, very especially, the Indigenous people in Taiwan Mission. The participants included 38 scholastics and brothers from thirteen countries. Interaction with the fellow Jesuits fostered a sense of universality in our Society.

Rays of Hopes and Blessings

The Cambodia Mission has much to do with the poor and the marginalized. The Mission particularly works for the distraught families under the Khmer Rouge. According to Wikipedia, “the name, (Khmer Rouge), is popularly given to the followers of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) and by extension to the regime through which the CPK ruled in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. The name had originally been used in the 1950s by Norodom Sihanouk as a blanket term for the Cambodian left.” We extend support to poor families and lonely refugees by accompanying them in whatever way possible. The mission also includes the interior villages, namely, Prek Towal and Komponkilelang the two villages that float in the water the year through. As the JCS and JRS projects, we also provide education and relief materials to the families and children of Taom and Chomnam, the interior villages. Benefactors from across the world financially support these projects. Volunteers from various countries and organizations could as well be seen personally monitoring the work here.

Annual Retreat

An Annual Retreat this year was held in Sihanoukville at St. Michael’s Catholic Church, a sea side location. Most Jesuits and some lay people participated in it. Fr. Ian J Cribb, the brother of an Australian Jesuit, directed the retreat.

Religious Conference

The Battambang Prefecture every year arranges a religious gathering for the religious. This year on February 2, it was held at Meta Karuna Refection Centre in Siem Reap. As many as 34 religious were drawn to this gathering from all over the Battambang Prefecture. The theme of the gathering was, “To be a Religious in Cambodia Today: Witnessing to the Fullness of Life in Jesus Christ.” Fr.

Mark Lopez, a Jesuit from the Philippines, gave an inspiring reflection at this gathering to foster spiritual depth in our religious life.

Renovation of the oldest Church

One of the oldest churches located about 40 km away from Siem Reap city in Cambodia has been scheduled for renovation. Khmer Rouge is said to have attempted to destroy it. With many bullet marks still visible on the walls, the church has survived a bomb attack. While it elicits great devotion in the hearts the people of Cambodia, the Mission intends to make it a shrine for everyone.

Faith Sharing

Under the leadership of Fr. Gregorius Priyadi, Superior of Battambang Prefecture, the Jesuit communities come together every third month for Faith sharing. This time the meeting and sharing took place at the Jesuit Refugees Centre in Siem Reap. Not only does such a sharing foster joy and happiness among us, it also challenges us to confront our weaknesses, organizational and personal. An atmosphere of genuine concern among fellow Jesuits unmistakably emerges from such activities. That is what I cherish most in the Society of Jesus.



School Improvement Programme



Last year the Province News reporter visited our two Scholastics doing their Philosophy in Munich. He learnt about their studies and life in Munich. Here is a freewheeling interview of our two Province men:

Reporter: Hallo Sameer! How are you doing?

Sameer: Thank you, I am fine.

Reporter: Philosophy in itself is tough. It is even tougher, when you have to study it in German. What is your take on it?

Sameer: I would say it is indeed tough. Coming from a background where it was mostly about reproducing the stuff given by professors, now I am in an environment, where I have to be creative and innovative in dealing with the subject matter. Ready-made answers, however brilliant, are not appreciated here.

Reporter: When you came to Munich, as far as I know, you did not know German language. You had to begin from scratch. Was the language-learning process difficult? What do you feel about your grasp of language now?

Sameer: The process of learning German continues. Even after two years expressing philosophical concepts in German is quite challenging to me. Language, however, is just one aspect of the problem. Inadequate knowledge and experience of the culture and history of this place are even greater hurdles. The good news is, I am making progress.

Reporter: The Hurtado Community, where you stay, has lot to do with parish activities. What is your experience with the parishioners?

Sameer: Although not many people come to Church on Sundays, building a network with those who come here is not impossible. A few families do invite me every now and then for lunch and tea. I also cook albeit less spicy Indian dishes for them. They like our food. When I am not around, quite a few elderly ladies miss me. (The reporter and Sameer laugh).

Reporter: Evidently, you have had wonderful experiences in Germany. Would you mention an experience you will cherish, when you are back in your province Ranchi?

Sameer: Of course, I have quite many of them! But the one I really cherish is the experience of Summer Camp 2018, held for children of our Jesuit School in Berlin. I spent 12 days with them as a spiritual guide. Besides the spiritual activities, I played football, went hiking, went swimming, sang songs and even danced. I felt at home with them. What a lovely experience, indeed!



Reporter: Sameer, it was a pleasure talking with you. Thank you for your time! I wish you all the best for your coming Semesters!

Sameer: Dhanyavad! DankeSchön (in German)!

(Eager to know more about Munich, the reporter also queried Sch. Paulus)



Reporter: So Paulus, how are you doing?

Paulus: I am doing great. Thank you!

Reporter: Paulus, I see you are putting on some weight. That is a sign that you like the food here, don't you?

Paulus: Of course I like it and I am happy about it. But I also miss the Jharkhandi cuisine a lot. Putting on weight, however, is not just because of food, but also because I miss daily games I used to have at Manresa House, Ranchi. Here I have to content myself with jogging in the English Garden. That is not so exciting.

Reporter: I saw your FaceBook post showing you meet Pope Francis in Rome. What was your experience meeting him?

Paulus: It was an incredible experience! Actually I was part of EJIF (European Jesuits in Formation) program that took place in Rome. That gave me the chance to meet Holy Father. We, a group of 23 Scholastics from 19 Provinces, had a wonderful interaction with Holy Father for about 30 Minutes. He encouraged us to be more creative in our works and ministries. It was a big grace, fulfillment of an unimagined dream.

Reporter: Paulus, I see your paintings on wall. Aren't quite many of them still on their way? Anything new about art you experience in Europe?

Paulus: Yes, Europe has a special approach to art in that it is much appreciated in Europe. It plays a very important role in European society. For them painting is not just a decoration, but like other forms of art Prose, Poetry, Music, Sculpture etc. a medium of expressing one's ideas. That encourages me to take up painting for expressing my own ideas and understanding of a society. The secondary purpose is, of course, to decorate the house.

Reporter: What about punctuality? Do you struggle to be punctual or you are punctual enough? Any experience?

Paulus: Yes, I still struggle with punctuality. I have had some bitter experiences in this regard, but I would not like to share them here. Indeed, it is not the punctuality that is important here, but rather individual time-management. In academic life one has to take many individual decisions and that really requires time planning. Everybody has his time planned and that's where the punctuality comes into play. When I am not punctual for a scheduled meeting, I have destroyed the planned time of the other person. That is seen as disrespect to the person.

Reporter: Paulus, how do you see Formation here?

Paulus: A significant cultural dimension of Formation in Europe is that of listening and dialogue. On the level of discussions and decision making process, every opinion is taken into consideration, regardless if it comes from a Scholastic, a Brother or a Priest. Here I discovered a new sense of the word "Companions in the Lord". In this regard, a great cultural shock was calling every Jesuit by his name. Unlike in India, it is not considered as disrespect but a contrary.

Reporter: Do you miss your homeland?

Paulus: Indeed, every moment and every second! But I am grateful to the Jesuit companions who make Munich a second home to me. In this regard, cooking special 'Indian Food' helps a lot.

Reporter: Thank you Paulus for sharing with us your experiences in Europe. I wish you all the best for your studies in the next Semester!

Paulus: Welcome!



The year 2018 was filled with God's abundant blessings for all of us as missionaries here in Guyana, the land of many waters. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, went for his Tertianship at Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality, Dublin, Ireland for nine months. The school of heart deepened his faith, knowledge of himself better and it cultivated deep love in him for the Society of Jesus. Just after his tertianship, he participated in a 20-day on-going formation for a group of Jesuits at Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem. An eight-day retreat and twelve-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land enriched him with profound spiritual experience. Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey, SJ, went for three-month Ignatian Immersion Programme at Manresa, Spain, that helped him with better understanding of the Ignatian Spirituality.

Preparation of the Synod for Amazon: What is termed as 'The new paths for the church and an integral ecology', was organized for responding to the call of Pope Francis as in *Laudato Si'* that emphasizes the need to protect the "common home" and to promote life.

Pastoral Ministry: All of us Anil Kishore Tirkey, Anugrah Amar Bage, Mark Mukul Lakra, Elias Surin, and the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Sosan Anima Kujur, Nishi Susanna Kujur, Helen Soreng and Crecencia Toppo are occupied with pastoral ministry in our respective parishes. Throughout the year we have been conducting many seminars on the Sacraments, leadership workshops on social issues. We guide them at the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

Youth Formation: "Young Apostles" youth group is very active in North West district in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish under Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage. They are visiting various communities to conduct prayer sessions for the people. Music comes in handy at all such occasions. The purpose of their visit is to help the young people grow in their spiritual life and prepare themselves to provide leadership in the church.

Education Apostolate is in progress. Library facility has been provided both for the students and teachers. Regular student users of the library are numbered between 40-50. To the delight of the communities, many children and students have reportedly improved their school performance. We hope to further improve the facilities and give more opportunities to students, children and communities towards their intellectual growth.



Kairos Moment in Cairo

Bimal Kumar Kerketta

“Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely.” Roy T. Bennett.

The above lines keep ringing within me. The statement has helped me to see beyond. The past year has been a year of blessing. I have been made in-charge of work and maintenance of three schools. About seventy co-workers help me out. Besides, for the last three years I was mostly involved in one of our French Medium Middle Schools, “Petit College du Caire”. It is a branch of “Jesuite College de la Sainte Famille”. Interacting with the students of various levels i.e. from KG 1 to Class 6 has always been a new learning experience. Modern world has become so fast that often we are unable to catch-up with. Educators, parents and teachers are puzzled by the quick changes in and around a student. Through this, I am often able to retrospectively peep through the educational standard of ruralurban India. It helps me to get connected.

Every year the students of class 5 are taken to Minia, 250 km Away from Cairo, in Upper Egypt where one of our Jesuit schools is located. It’s an exposure programme away from families and the internet. Here, I had spent seven years as an Assistant Headmaster and later on as Headmaster of a co-ed Arabic Medium School. To take the city boys to a semi-rural set up is a challenge. It is tiring to be with them round the clock, yet it is so refreshing to see the students just back to Cairo effusively recounting the rich Minia experience to their families, friends and teachers. Indeed, Minia for them is altogether a window to another world. I would tell them, “Great to hear from you! Yet now you know that Minia is also in Egypt!

Meeting the Indian people here in Egypt is another blessing. I visit, meet, share, listen and encourage Sisters of three congregations from India who are commissioned to serve in Egypt. I also meet some families and individuals irrespective of their religions. Two SMA priests from South India consult me on strengthening such a bond. They are commissioned here for a few years. Together we form a team for rendering community service to wider Indian circles. Friendship in the Lord is moved forward, whenever and wherever needed.

Besides all this, I share in the ministry of adult CLC, Eucharistic Movement for the young, especially challenged groups.

If our faith is like that of Mary, our audacity can go even further and seek not just the improbable, but the impossible, because nothing is impossible for God.

[Arturo Sosa, 15 October 2016]



Prem Xalxo

We, the Ranchi Jesuits in Rome, are individually part of the whole seventeen communities, known as *Domorum Romanorum Societatis Iesu*, Houses of the Society of Jesus in Rome, without counting the newly erected Province members of the Euro-Mediterranean Province (EUM) consisting of Italy, Malta and Romania. At present, the number of Jesuits in these Roman houses is 424, of which Pope Francis and Archbishop Cyril Vasil are as ‘*extra delegationem*’ members. All these communities are directly under the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, who administers them through a Delegate.

Amidst the varieties of activities managed by the Jesuits of these common houses, Ranchi Jesuits are actively involved in diverse mission in Rome. Anselm Ekka is right in the hub of the ministry as Assistant Treasurer in the Generalate, Sanjay Ekka in Vatican Radio as the Director of Indian Section, Linus Kujur and Prem Xalxo in the Pontifical Gregorian University as Professors. Kulwant Minj is pursuing his Licentiate in Canon Law, whereas Johny Kujur with Nirmal Minj are in the First Year of their theological studies in Gregorian University.



Altogether it is a rich experience as we take part in the administration of the Society of Jesus in various capacities; both as co-administrators and as intellectual companions of students or as students in the same formation programme. Though these Roman houses are together not a Province, the unique way of collaboration among the Jesuits hailing from all parts of the world makes the universal nature of the Society of Jesus very real.

International College of Gesù (Johny Kujur & Nirmal Minj)

On 11 July 2018, both of us landed here in Rome and were warmly received by Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant, who were about to leave for India on the following day after completing their



theological studies. However, within a short span of time, they introduced us to the lifestyle of the community as well as that of Rome. Our first three months were occupied in learning Italian and it was a big challenge to learn a new language in the company of the European Scholastics. We began our normal life in the community from October. By that time, all the other senior Scholastics were back after their summer vacation.

For the current Academic Year, the community comprises of 60 members from 28 countries, out of which 10 are staff members. We are immensely

blessed to be the part of the International College of Gesù, which provides us with excellent opportunities for our spiritual as well as intellectual formation, by providing experiential knowledge of the universal Church and the personal acquaintance with the international dimension of the mission of the Society. We are exposed to the diversity of culture, language, tradition, lifestyle, and way of thinking. Despite all these diversities, the Italian language and the pursuit of common mission play a vital role in uniting all of us as one community. Taking care of the Room of St. Ignatius, where he lived, wrote the Constitutions and sent the first companions on different missions to the whole world, is an additional blessing to the community. It is the perennial source of spiritual strength and centre of attraction not only for us Jesuits but for the pilgrims and the tourists.

International College of Gesù was founded by R.P. Pedro Arrupe in 1968 for the formation of young Scholastics, who could eventually contribute in the intellectual mission of the Society in different parts of the world. We were fortunate to be part of the Scholastics' body, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of its existence. As part of the celebration, we had a Private Audience with the Holy Father. We all were received personally and blessed by Pope Francis.

All the Scholastics go to Pontifical Gregorian University for their theological studies. The academic pursuit in the Gregorian University in European context is a rare opportunity for us, which also gives us a sense of universality of the Church and of the Society. Along with the other Scholastics, both of us are guided by Prem Xalxo in our primary theological reflections through the books of Walter Kasper and Joseph Ratzinger. The apostolic formation also is an integral part of our life in Collegio Gesù. Each scholastic is committed to an apostolic service, mainly ministries of the Word, working in communications at Vatican Radio, educating the poor and migrants, serving at Mother Teresa's Centre and at Bambino Gesù Hospital. Johny has opted for the volunteering service in the University and Nirmal is engaged in the apostolate of educating the poor and migrants from Latin American countries.

The presence of R.P. Provincial, Joseph Marianus Kujur, George Kerketta and Vijay Manohar during different times of the year was a joyful moment for us. Their valuable presence amongst us, kind words of encouragement, some news from the Province, etc. were motivating factors for us. We are grateful to our fellow Ranchi Jesuits in Rome, who are the great source of encouragement and support for our mission in Rome.

Collegio Bellarmino (Kulwant Minj)

Kulwant Minj is the Second Year student of Canon Law in Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. The Faculty of Canon Law in Gregorian University specifically pursues the aim of cultivating canonical science within the mystery of the Church (Cf. *Optatam Totius*, n. 16) forming qualified canonists for the study, teaching and application of Ecclesial Law according to the living tradition of the Church, so that they may collaborate in its continuous renewal and adaptation to the needs of the times.

Keeping in mind that the Law of the Church must always tend to the supernatural good of the individual faithful and to the building up of Ecclesial Communion, an in-depth study, based on Ecclesiology, Tradition and on the *Magisterium* is imparted to the students with exegetical method. At the same time, the students are animated by a profound pastoral spirit, so that the service of Canon Law experts and other legal operators is aimed at *salus animarum* which according to can. 1752 is "*the supreme law of the Church*".

Therefore, necessary and right adaptations are imposed in front of the changes of the times.



For example, for the Second Year students of the Faculty of Canon Law consisting of 37 students from 19 countries, special attention is given on the Sacrament of Marriage. In fact, in our teaching and learning, there is a wisely harmonized coexistence of scientific and pastoral aspects. I am sure that to a great extent this will help the students to deal with the problems present in the various seasons of the life of the Church.

Lastly, in order to make the pastoral spirit more effective, we are taught to foster and strengthen the juridical culture within the Ecclesial Community as is mentioned in the New Decree issued by the Congregation for Catholic Education on 2 September 2002.

Jesuit Curia (Anselm Ekka)

The most significant event of the year 2019 was that the Curia Financial Department executed well the decisions made in the year 2018. The sole intention of our reflection, discussion and execution was to facilitate the missions of the Society of Jesus without hindrances. The introduction of a new accounting system was one of the major renewals of our mission.

Regular monthly sharing and evaluation of individual and communal work enabled each one of us to work in the spirit of communion and union. Our regular communication and collaboration made us efficient and effective to serve the goal of the Society of Jesus.

On personal level, the year 2019 was a moment to improve and reconsolidate the quality of my spiritual and intellectual integrity for the love and service of Jesus. I leaned to execute my work more efficiently and to renew my personal life based on the Spiritual Exercises.

Pontifical Gregorian University (Linus Kujur & Prem Xalxo)

The atmosphere of Gregorian University is always buzzing with various academic activities. Apart from the regular classes and seminars, University has witnessed over the years a surge in the number of national and international Conferences and Seminars. Both Linus and Prem are dedicating their full time and energy to do their best in the mission assigned to them in the University.



Linus is now able to do normal works as well as travel around in good health. He is grateful to the very efficient system of health care in Italy. He is convinced that it is one of the best services in the world. It is all cashless; services as well as medicines are provided once one has registered oneself in the National Health Insurance Scheme. The care is provided to all Residents, whether they are Italian or foreigner, provided one has the Resident Card. During the current Semester, he is giving three courses, one alone and the other two courses are shared with two Professors. This is one way of being 'interdisciplinary' with the intension of providing the subject matter to students of different faculties. He is actively involved in the weekly Monday Conferences organized by Gregorian Centre for Interreligious Studies, which are open to anyone who is interested on the topic. The participation of experts, researchers and government officials provide an ample exposure for Linus to the intellectual world in and around the University.

Prem has been successfully coordinating a new diploma course christened Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology, a joint venture of all 9 Pontifical Universities and Athenaeum in Rome. The course comprises of class room lectures, three workshops and an annual Conference. The first batch had 77 students, while 66 students have enrolled for the current Academic Year. On 8 November, the Second Edition of Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology was inaugurated by His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. In his inaugural address, he shared some profound insights into the vision and mission envisioned by



Pope Francis in *Laudatosi'*. He also noted the unpreparedness and even unwillingness on the part of some of the Bishops and clergy in implementing the teachings of *Laudatosi'* in personal as well as in communitarian life. R.P. Nuno Da Silva Conçalves, Rector of Gregorian University, lauded the collaboration of different Pontifical Universities in propagating the teachings of *Laudatosi'* in the form of Joint Diploma. The 73 students of the first edition were conferred Diploma by R.P. Mauro Mantovani, Rector of Salesian University and the current President of the Conference of Rectors of Pontifical Universities of Rome. A memorable occasion because for the first time in the history of Pontifical Universities, all have joined hands to initiate a joint venture to address a most pertinent and burning issue of the contemporary world. Prem, as the Coordinator of Joint Diploma, presented a Report of the First Edition on 12 November to the Conference of Rectors of Pontifical Universities and Athenaeum in Rome. Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology is determined to inspire and guide the students to have deeper awareness about the prevalent ecological questions and to take some personal as well as communitarian initiatives to care for *Our Common Home*.

In 1970s Jesuits were required to work in Africa as missionaries. From various countries Jesuits were sent at different times to Sudan, Kenya, Zambia and other African countries. In that similar call Ranchi Province, India, was also given a chance. Initially, 5 Jesuits were sent to Sudan in January 1971, namely Fr. Policarp Toppo, Fr. John Guria, Fr. Mathias Toppo, Br. Tarcitius Toppo, and Br. Vincent Soreng. Of these 5, four of them, namely Fr. Policarp Toppo and Br. Tarcitius Toppo, died in Africa itself; Fr. John Guria and Fr. Tarcitius Toppo died in Ranchi. Br. Vincent Soreng is still going strong and very much hale and hearty in his mission work in Tanzania. Last year he had come to the Province and visited his people in connection with the marriage of his nephew in Dibadih, Doranda, Ranchi.

A few years later came the turn of Fr. Emmanuel Kujur, SJ, who was sent to Zambia via Nairobi in January 1978. He has been a missionary there many long years till date, altogether 41 years. He has acclimatized himself with Zambia so well that he has no problem to work there even to this day in spite of his age.

All these years he has been engaged in pastoral ministry mainly serving and helping the people in their Christian life and living. He has been assigned to 5 big parishes for pastoral work in spite of language problems, cultural differences, unknown temperamental and character, yet he managed them all with the Jesuit motto of *Magis* and A.M.D.G. Fr. Emmanuel's other engagements were retreat preaching, catechizing the people, giving seminars, conducting marriage preparation courses and participating in leadership seminars.



Left to right: (1) Brother Vincent Soreng, SJ, (2) Late Brother Tarcitius Toppo, SJ, (3) Late Fr. Mathias Toppo, SJ, (4) Late Fr. John Guria, SJ, (5) Late Fr. Policarp Toppo, SJ.

When he was asked as to how he liked the life and mission over there, he replied in elation that the ministry of forming the young people there through marriage preparation instructions or guiding the youth gave him the greatest joy and satisfaction. It is through these means he could get in direct touch with the people. He found them vibrant and lively.

Maize is the staple food there. The maize grows taller than other crops so are the people. Later on they become stout.

During these missionary years Fr. Emmanuel went to Canada for 9 months and to the USA 4 months for holidays. To India, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, he made a visit of some 8 to 10 times in the course of 41 years to see his near and dear ones.

Regrettingly though he expresses that he could not see or meet any of the Ranchi Jesuits in those years because of the transportation difficulties and living in different countries at a great distance from each other.

What we come across with Fr. Emmanuel is that he is generous, hard working, pleasant in temperament and interaction with others. The Jesuit vocation and faith has kept him strong and unshakable. We are inspired by his missionary spirit. Congratulations Fr. Emmanuel and thank you very much for the gift of yourself to the Society of Jesus!

About the same time Fr. Theodore Toppo, SJ, hailing from Karanjtoli village, Katkahi Parish also made it for African Mission and is buried.

In the 70s 2 Scholastics were also sent for regency to Kenya and complied their term successfully, namely, Fr. Bimal Lakra and Herman Tigga (who later on left the Society from Ranchi)



*Fr. Emmanuel Kujur, SJ, who, as on 9.4.2019, is a 50 years priest, 63 years a religious and 85 years young!
Congratulations for these achievements!*

An appraisal of Father Joseph Rodrigues, SJ, on his Golden Jubilee

Fr. Joseph Rodrigues, SJ's hearth and home is Mangalore, Karnataka. He came to join the Society of Jesus, Ranchi Province, in 1965 and joined the Novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College Novitiate, Sitagarha, Hazaribag, in 1965.

He did his Juniorate at Mount St. Joseph's College, Bangalore (1967-68) and college studies at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (1968-71), B. Sc. Mathematics Honours. Before going for his philosophy he taught at St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla for 6 months. Thereafter, he did his Philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal (1972-75).

While waiting to go to Sudan he helped in the accounts of Loyola High School, Kunkuri, Chhattisgarh for 6 months and then moved on to St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla, again for accounting work. It was there in the month of May 1976, when the ill-famous dacoity took place in which Joe was severely injured.

From 1976 to 1979 he did his Theology at Vidya Jyoti, Delhi. After completing his fourth year of theology (1979) he moved on to Nairobi, Kenya, for his new mission in Sudan. Since 1979 he has been working in Africa in the Eastern African Province.

Currently, Fr. Joe Rodrigues is working in our Jesuit High School in Gulu, Uganda.

We appreciate and congratulate him, admire him for his courage and love him as he is one of our Ranchi man to have opted for an African mission.



**In all spiritual matters the more
one divests oneself of
SELF-LOVE
SELF-WILL
SELF-INTERESTS
the more progress one will make**

St. Ignatius Loyola
Spiritual Exercises No 189



Bishop Charles Soreng, SJ

(18 August 1934 - 11 January 2019)

Cyprian Ekka

The mortal remains of Bishop Charles Soreng were interred on January 15, 2019 at Hazaribag Cathedral. While revealing fundamental conviction of the Late Bishop, his successor Bishop Anand Jojo noted in his homily that regardless of God's preferred names and religious affiliation, all human beings have received divine life at their creation. They are destined to live with God and that faith in the merciful Creator is precondition to obtaining eternal life. Bishop Jojo further explained the foundational reality by citing John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." As for the operative principle enunciated by Lord Jesus Christ, the homilist cited Ephesians 4:3 that says, "... making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Little wonder, the Late Bishop Soreng founded "सर्वधर्म समभाव समन्वय" (Sarvadharm Sambhav Smanway), an inter-religious association for maintaining communal harmony. Office bearers of the association, Mohammed Islam Khan and Swarup Chandra Jain paid glowing tributes to him. While thanking God for having given Bishop Soreng as gift, Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Secretary General of CBCI said that while in office as CBCI Chairman of the Commission for Gospel Witness (1992-1994), CBCI Secretary General (1994-1998) and as Chairman, CBCI Commission for Education (1998-2000), the Late visionary Bishop's overriding concern had been to evolve an education policy for emancipation of the Tribals and Dalits. Incidentally, while recuperating at Manresa House, Bishop Soreng had confided to this reporter in what may now be considered his parting message that he would love to see young Tribals dream bigger than just office assistant's job. Other ecclesiastical offices held by Bishop Soreng were Member of the Governing Body of St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, Chairman of the CBCI's Tribal Welfare Commission and President of the Bihar-Jharkhand-Andamans Episcopal Council.

Rich tributes were also paid at the funeral Mass by a number of Major Superiors including Mother Linda Mary Vaughan, Superior General of the Daughters of St. Anne. Ever since the Late Bishop's body was placed in the Cathedral at Hazaribag, many Faithful of the Diocese had taken turns to keep round-the-clock vigil. The funeral Mass was officiated by His Grace, Felix Toppo,

SJ, Archbishop of Ranchi with 10 Bishops and 170 vested priests. The cathedral overflowed with mourning Faithful and people of good will.

Having suffered a heart attack on 24 December 2018, Bishop Charles Soreng was successively treated at Hazaribag and Ranchi. With some improvement, he was brought to Manresa House infirmary on 31 December. However, with his condition worsening, he was moved to Seva Nilaya, Aragate, on 7 January 2019, where he breathed his last on 11 January 2019 morning. His mortal remains were brought to the Manresa House Chapel and on the following day a solemn Mass was presided over therein by Bishop Anand Jojo, who had rushed in from a meeting left half-way of the Bishops at Bangalore. Hundreds of people filled the Manresa corridors to follow the Liturgy on the public address system. On account of previously made commitments, the Cathedral at Ranchi could not be utilized for the Mass. The body was later taken to Hazaribag.

Born in Chidratoli village of Rengarih parish, in Simdega Diocese, young Charles completed his primary education at Rengarih before moving to St. Aloysius' Apostolic School, Ranchi. Having been baptized as infant with the name, Carolus, he as a Jesuit had officially renamed himself as Charles for the convenience of all. He completed his secondary school education from St. John's High School. On 30 July 1957, he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Sitagarha. Later in 1962, he obtained a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College Ranchi with Honours in English Literature. Having completed philosophy studies in 1965 from JDV, Pune, he did a one-year regency at St. Xavier's School, Doranda. He then proceeded again to Pune for his theological studies and was ordained a priest on 24 March 1969. He rendered service as priest at Ranchi and Kunkuri (Chhattisgarh). A promising student, Charles obtained M.A. degree in English Literature from Sholapur University and a B.Ed. degree from Jabalpur. He rendered service as Principal of St. John's School, Ranchi, during 1974-77 before moving to Boston University, USA, for a Master's degree in Education. Back home from the studies, he served during 1979-85 as Lecturer cum Rector of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. Next, he served during 1985-90 as Rector of St. Albert's Seminary, Ranchi. Having been consecrated a Bishop on 7 February 1990, at Mahuadanr for Daltongunj Diocese, His Lordship served the sprawling ecclesiastical territory before moving to Hazaribag in 1995, when the same was erected as an independent Diocese.

Having served the Diocese of Hazaribag for 17 years, Bishop Charles had retired from office on 8 September 2012. While staying for a few years at the St. Xavier's College Community, he would go about giving Spiritual Exercises to various groups till his failing health would constrain him. Always forthwith to utilize his good offices for helping the needy, he had made numerous friends, admirers and well wishers particularly from among those who had benefited from his generosity as educator and Church official. May the Lord grant him eternal reward in heaven!





Fr. Raymond Jaecques, SJ

(4 November 1922-28 June 2018)

Fr. Johan Verschueren, SJ, Regional Superior

At the age of 95 years, Fr. Raymond Jaecques, SJ, a member of the Ranchi Jesuit Province, was a member of the Jesuit community in Heverlee. He was born in Alveringen, West Flanders on November 4, 1922. He died in the hospital in Leuven, on Thursday, 28 June, on the meeting day from the Regio ELC in Heverlee.

After a brief stay in a small seminary of Roeselaere, he went to Drongen on 7 September 1941 to join the Jesuits. He studied philosophy in Goddess and theology in Pune (India). He was ordained a priest in 1953 in Kurseong. In 1949 he left for India for the first time to start two years' study of the language. Ten years later he became the chief economist/treasurer in Ranchi and remained there for the next 32 years. He was for 20 years the chief ceremoniarian and chaplain of the Medical Mission Sisters in Mandar. After retiring as the chief economist, he was assistant to his successor for eight years. More than fifty years after his first intercontinental journey, he returned to Flanders for good in 2003 and moved to Dijlehof in Leuven. Last year he came to Heverlee with the other roommates from Dijlehof. All fellow brothers will remember him at the Eucharist. The farewell Eucharist for him was celebrated at 11:00 am, on Tuesday, 3 July 2018 at in the Jesuit church, Waversebaan 220 in 3001 Heverlee-Leuven. This was followed by the funeral in the cemetery of Heverlee "De Jacht".



Fr. Antoon Delporte, SJ

(1923-2018)

Fr. Erik Breye, SJ

Though Fr. Antoon Delporte returned to Belgium nine years ago, I believe many still remember the architect residing in the Apostolic School building and belonging to Manresa House community. After all, he made the plans of so many churches, schools and convents so that many people came into contact with him.

The eldest of 10 children in his family, Antoon Delporte was born at Harelbeke, close to Kortrijk in West Vlaanderen, the region of Fr. Constant Lievens. The family moved to Kortrijk, where his father had started his work as painter and house repairer. His father was a friendly and understanding man, while his mother was a strict disciplinarian, needed, of course, for rearing the 10 children grow up properly. As the eldest, Antoon had to see that everything went well when both parents were absent. That is how our Fr. Delporte had a critical eye on all that happened. One of his brothers became an Oblate Missionary in Japan. He kept good contact with him. Though younger than our Toon, he was ordained ahead of him and, on his way to Japan, he visited his elder brother who was then a theologian in Kurseong. He also humbled his elder brother by becoming a Japanese citizen, something Antoon failed to get, the Indian citizenship. Toon loved his family and frequently asked his confreres here visiting Europe, to go and see one or other of his sisters.

Antoon began his secondary education in the High School of Kortrijk, but thereafter his parents sent him to the Jesuit high school in Turnhout where he resided in the Apostolic School, probably because of his 9 siblings life was not easy at home. Our Fr. Delporte regretted this till his old age, because he believed — wrongly, according to me — that on that account his true personality was not quite appreciated in the Society and that he was somehow looked down upon. This, I think, was one of the reasons he could be very critical on others and that he had developed rather a negative view on the world of the Society and the Church.

On completing his secondary education in 1943 at Drongen, Anton joined the Society of Jesus having overcome his doubt of becoming an Oblate Missionary. After his novitiate he went to Wepion to the so called Indian juniorate. In India, he did philosophy in Shembaganur and for regency he was sent to Kunkuri. From there he went to Kurseong for theology and was ordained there in 1955. After his tertianship, Antoon worked in a couple of our schools. His most cherished memories were those about starting St. Xavier's School in Doranda. After this he was appointed the parish priest of Lohardaga. During his stay there, the idea of moving the parish from the town to Keimo Patratoli dawned upon him. He convinced the Archbishop and the archdiocese and bought some land at Keimo Patratoli. The idea of relocating the parish was, I believe, his desire to start an agricultural school along with it. This, however, was not to be. He built up the parish and drew plans for the church — his first architectural work. He loved it and managed to convince Fr. Provincial to let him study for becoming an architect. He moved to Manresa House (or better still, to the room in the Apostolic School), where he resided for the rest of his life in Ranchi. I guess, our Ranchi men remember him almost exclusively as the province architect. He drew the plans for many churches, close by and far away. He was a very conscientious man and went to inspect the work as it would be in progress. So he has driven miles and miles all around here. Not only churches, but also convents and Christian schools were designed by him. One of the buildings he was proud about was our Regional Theologate at Arsande and — especially one of his last works — the beautiful chapel there. Indeed, it is a fine instance of inculturation to our local culture.

The critical man did not have too many friends in the Society and outside of it. If it were at all, the friendship did not last too long. Yet he was a very conscientious and deeply believing person. He was also very helpful to people in need. Prayer was part and parcel of his life. He had deep devotion to St. Bernadette, the simple girl to whom Our Lady appeared in Lourdes. When he went to Belgium, he always tried to find time to visit Lourdes to encounter Our Lady and Bernadette.

Towards the end of his stay here, his health went from bad to worse and so he finally decided to go back to Belgium in 2009, where he got good care till the end of his life. May the Lord grant him eternal reward in heaven!



Fr. Albert Dungdung, SJ

(16 October 1934-07 August 2018)

Fr. Ireneus To'ppo, SJ

Fr. Albert Dungdung, SJ, was born in Takba village near Khanjaloya, a Catholic parish established by the Jesuits. A migrant from Jokari, his father, Joseph Dungdung, was an adopted son-in-law with Kharia traditional right to inherit the ancestral property of his wife, Mariam. Fr. Albert was the youngest of his siblings. His two sisters, Sr. Majela and Jacinta, were Religious Sisters in the Daughters of St. Anne, Ranchi. Albert started his initial education at St. Joseph's Primary School, Khanjaloya and matriculated from St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. Having completed his Pre-university course from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, he entered the Society of Jesus on 30 July 1957, at St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha. After his novitiate and Juniorate there, he graduated from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. He completed both philosophy and theology studies from JDV, Pune. As for his Regency after Philosophical studies, he was sent to St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. Ordained a priest on March 24, 1969, he completed his Tertianship from St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha, and pronounced his final vows on 2 February 1983.

Fr. Albert started his priestly ministry as assistant parish priest at Tongo. He was later made headmaster of the middle school therein. After his term as the Provincial's Socius, he was again sent to Tongo, this time as parish priest. He was also assistant parish priest at Khunti for a short time before being transferred to Sarwada as parish priest. He served to isolated terms as parish priest at Rangarih. Having also been in the governance as minister and rector at St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha, and also as minster at De Nobili College, Pune. Fr. Albert's personal preference for parish ministry can be seen in his reminiscent "Chaar Pallinyan: Ek Palli Purohit" (Four Parishes: One Parish Priest), an oeuvre in Hindi that gives a glimpse of his experience and perspective.

An embodiment of humility and simplicity, Fr. Albert was soft spoken and very understanding, kind, gentle and considerate. He was a good listener despite his hearing impairment towards the latter years. He was a very descent and cleanliness loving person. Meticulous in planning, his approach to people and matters was well considered and practical. That he always maintained his calm and composure, is certainly imitable to the Jesuits of today. Content with what he had, he would cheerfully accept and appreciate new changes in the world around. He loved and encouraged the young Jesuits, keeping touch with the current happenings in and outside the Society. He faithfully observed the daily normal time-table of the house and attended the community meetings with keen observation; a role he thought was his privilege.

As a Jesuit, Fr. Albert embodied the spirit of the Society of Jesus. Faithfulness to prayer, spiritual duties and the mission — big or small — was his distinctive feature. He was very regular and particular to daily Eucharist, Examen, Breviary and Rosary recital. His concern for the formation

of young boys was evident in helping them to master the English grammar and doing the Mass readings properly.

Doubtless, Fr. Albert was a holy priest, always available for the ministry of the Sacrament of the Reconciliation and he loved to be close to the apostolic school boys. As a pastor, he won many souls, touched many lives. His simplicity drew many hearts to him. When in good health, he was always on his toes for the care of his flock — visiting familiar places and people. His last wish was to be buried at Samtoli. Having loved life, lived it gracefully and gratefully, he had wished to live till the age of 90, but evidently the Lord had other plans for him. He called Fr. Albert Dungdung to eternal life on 7 August 2018.



Fr. Vincent Toppo, SJ

(28 October 1935- 2018)

Fr. Erik Breye, SJ

Born in Katkahi Parish in a dedicated Catholic family, Vincent was sixth of the seven children. With his primary education done in Katkahi, he moved on to Chainpur for his further schooling and subsequently to St. John's High School, Ranchi. With Intermediate Science successfully completed at St. Xavier's College, he joined the Society of Jesus in Sitagarha on 16 July 1958. Considering his weak health, he was not sent for college studies after the novitiate. Instead, he was sent to Mt. St. Joseph's, Bangalore for his Juniorate. He did his philosophical studies at De Nobili College, Pune, and subsequently he was sent to St. Mary's High School, Samtoli, for regency. Having then completed his theological studies in Kurseong, he was ordained a priest on 18 March 1970.

After his ordination Fr. Vincent was sent to Gregorian University, Rome, where he earned a doctorate in philosophy. Back home in 1977, he completed his tertianship at Dindigul and in 1978 he joined the staff of St. Albert's College as professor of philosophy. There he took his final vows on 2 February 1979. He remained at St. Albert's till March 2018. His was clearly a life with minimal changes of residence. However, in the seminary he was entrusted with several other responsibilities. Twice acting Rector, he was also a long time Vice-President of the Faculty of Theology as In-charge of the philosophy programme. Fr. Vincent was an accomplished metaphysician, who tried in many ways to make our young students aware of the importance of philosophy for life as well as for reflecting on one's faith and activity in a proper way. I am not so sure if he always succeeded in his efforts in this regard. That he remained a fine religious example for the seminarians is beyond dispute. His regularity in personal prayer and the same with the brothers impressed them.

In 1979, a visiting Spanish or American Jesuit introduced Marriage Encounter in the Indian dioceses. The then Rector of St. Albert's, late Fr. Missiaen encouraged Vincent to take it up. Vincent

went for an introductory contact in Patna, where he learned the spirit and the ways of Marriage Encounter. Then on, Vincent pursued it enthusiastically and started the Marriage Encounter Group in Ranchi. He loved the spirituality of Marriage Encounter and helped the couples to grow into fervent Christian families. One would notice Fr. Vincent ride his bicycle in the evenings to visit several families to help them enter more deeply in this Christian spirituality. He also went to several other Hindi speaking dioceses to start the Marriage Encounter groups there. He kept this up until he left the seminary. Once he mastered this spirituality, he broadened his approach and with his couples he organized preparatory courses for people ready to get married. He was very successful in this, as one can gather from the reactions of the participants. He also developed from the same spirituality a course on human development for the youth. He offered that course in several novitiates of religious congregations. He attempted to make the youth and the young religious aware of the sacredness of the human body and of human sexuality. His closeness to the families of his Marriage Encounter group also brought him closer to his own family with whom he shared the joy and pain.

Later, even as his doctor had discouraged Fr. Vincent to ride bicycle, he was seen going out regularly on the same for visiting families and people. Hence he was given a light motorbike, TVS, with which he would continue his visits. Vincent never felt he was doing enough. When health problems began to adversely affect him, he got acquainted with acupressure. He studied and practiced it and then he went to all religious communities, who would show willingness to learn about the benefits of acupressure.

The final diversion in his routine work in the Seminary was the phenomenon of *Hindutva* movement in our country. He studied this thoroughly and looked for books that would help to see the dangers of this movement. He brought this kind of books to all who he thought could influence people, priests, religious and especially politicians regardless of party. He offered them these low priced books for purchase. I was amazed at the courage and the tenacity with which our Fr. Vincent went about doing this work.

Unfortunately, towards the end of his life our Fr. Vincent was assailed by numerous health problems. Several times he was confined in the hospital with high blood sugar that seemed to defy remedy. Finally, when he stopped teaching at St. Albert's (mind you, at the age of 80 or 81), Fr. Provincial took him to the Infirmary of Manresa House. For the likes of Fr. Vincent who would hardly consider themselves ill, the infirmary was not a cherished setting by any means, for it indicated the end of his activities. However, his stay there was not long. A bad fall hurt him severely and made him unconscious. He was taken to the hospital, but he never regained consciousness. The Ranchi Jesuits lost a very devoted and active member.

The writer of this piece came first into contact with Vincent in the holidays (gainzaine) of the Ranchi regents in 1966. We had some memorable bicycle trips together. Afterwards we lived for almost 40 years together in the same community. In many ways he shaped my life for which I am very grateful to the Lord. May Fr. Vincent now receive the fullness of life for which he prepared so many people!



Fr. Sylvanus Kiro, SJ

(14 April 1937-2019)

Fr. Deepak Toppo, SJ

In the morning of 17 January 2019, at Gurunanak Hospital, Ranchi, the Merciful Father called Fr. Sylvanus Kiro to Himself. Born at Gangutoli parish in Simdega diocese, Fr. Sylvanus hailed from a family that was rich in faith and assiduous in practice of religion. He had two brothers and a sister. His younger brother Benedict is a Ranchi Jesuit working in Ramnagar parish, Port Blair, the Andamans.

After his primary education in the parish school, Fr. Sylvanus went to St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla, for his further studies. On completing his Intermediate from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, he joined the Jesuit novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarh, on 6 August 1960, and pronounced his first vows in August 1962. Then, he went through the regular formation stages, namely Juniorate, philosophy, regency and theology. He was ordained a priest on 23 March 1971 and pronounced final vows on 15 August 1977.

Though Fr. Sylvanus was engaged in diverse ministries in various capacities in and out of the Province, he was basically a formator. As a regent, he worked at St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. He took care of the people of Jampani as their parish priest, and for a few years he worked for AROUSE, Gumla. Over these few years, his Superiors seemed to have noticed in him the aptitude for moulding persons. Hence he was sent for formation work as Socius to the Novice Master, a ministry he was later to be entrusted with. When he was Superior at St. Xavier's, Doranda, he also served as PCF of the Scholastics for six long years. He handled these two jobs with care, readiness and concern. Travelling by trains to almost all corners of India to visit our scholastics in the universities was never irksome to him. Though physically of short stature, he was born for greater heights. Very soon his service was required at the Assistancy level. He was appointed Socius to the Provincial of India (POI). While in Jor Bagh, Delhi, he had a fall from scooty during one of the errands, but escaped with minor scratches. However, the faint black scars on his elbows reminded of the mishap all his life. For quite a few years, he served the Jesuit Tertiaries as their Instructor at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur and at SSC, Sitagarha. He was also at Vidya Jyoti, Delhi to provide spiritual guidance to the theologians.

To cater to the Spiritual needs of the province men and of the people of Chotanagpur, Ranchi Province erected 'Jharna', a Centre for Ignatian Spirituality in 2008. Now, in order to achieve its aims and objectives, Jharna needed somebody spiritually well matured. Fr. Sylvanus Kiro with his rich, solid experiences and in-depth knowledge in the field of Ignatian Spirituality was the right man. He came to Jharna as Assistant Director and soon became the Director of the Centre. He put all his energy and creativity in the new responsibility. He worked hard to ensure maturity of the

Centre and, with his colleagues, gave it a real Ignatian colour. He was always available for spiritual ministry both in and away from the Centre. The kind of tasks he had performed over the years, had fashioned him into a pliable, modest and deeply spiritual person. In fact, his personal holiness seemed to ooze at his interactions with others.

“There is a time for everything,” says Qoheleth. In the beginning of 2016, Fr. Sylvanus began to feel physically weak and his health began to gradually decline. He was under medical care for a year and frequently visited the hospital. With his knees refusing to cooperate, he had difficulty in walking and that his failing memory additionally encumbered him. He also had developed prostrate related problem. In view of his condition, it was decided in 2017 that Fr. Sylvanus be taken to the infirmary of Manresa House, Ranchi. He seemed to be doing somewhat okay with his health, though it was evident that he was getting gradually weaker physically, especially with his memory. He always cheerfully welcomed visitors and his joy knew no bounds when he met someone from Jharna. His memory would seem to bounce back and he would, though painfully, try to connect. Probably he realized his limitations. Regardless of his disabilities and sufferings, his angelic smiles kept him company all along. Well, all this finally came to a halt when in January, he suffered a stroke and his right side was completely paralyzed. He lost his speech and the body movement was badly affected. He was rushed to Gurunanak Hospital, Ranchi, where he breathed his last on 17 January 2019.

I cherish a few years of living and working with Fr. Sylvanus Kiro. I will ever remember him for the following two reasons: He was a man of prayer. I don't remember a day when I did not see him in the chapel for his personal prayer. His prayerfulness was well reflected in his relationship with all. Not only did he have in-depth knowledge of Spiritual Exercises, but also was a man of Spiritual Exercises. What made him special was that he loved and created occasions to share it with others.

Secondly, Fr. Sylvanus' love for the Society and for the Province was great. He loved to read and reflect the documents of the Society. He kept himself updated regarding the happenings of the Province and those of the Society. These two characteristics will make any Jesuit a special one and Fr. Sylvanus was thus, indeed! Having lived out his fidelity to the Lord for 82 years, I am convinced, he is now happy in the presence of the Lord in heaven. Dear Fr. Sylvanus, we thank you for your testimonies of life, filled with love and we offer you our prayers of suffrages. Please intercede for us that we may carry our faith in our mission.



Schools Promoting Nationalism Among the Students



Schools in Action





Glimpses of Province Days 2018



Glimpses of Province Days 2018



