

RANCHI BULLETIN



74/4

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

APRIL 2015

ORDINATION OF FR. AJIT KALYAN KUJUR, S.J.



“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to set at liberty those who are oppressed,” (Lk: 4.18) was the key spirit during the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Ajit Kalyan Kujur, SJ, at Malom Noatoli Parish in Chainpur Deanery, Barway, on 08 April 2015. The Holy Mass began at 8.25 AM, one hour behind the given time of 7.00 AM owing to the devastating wind and rain the previous evening pulling down all the tents and *shamianas* and spoiling the beautiful decorations made by the Parish Priest and parishioners. Such are common woes of the PPs the unseasonal rain causes. In spite of all that the Parish Priest, Fr. Fulgence Ekka, OFM, commented bravely, “The weather is disturbed not me.” The weather being clear in the morning the whole ordination ceremony went off smoothly and well in the newly built church.

After Fr. Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, had presented Deacon Ajit Kalyan Kujur for the Ordination, Rt. Rev. Bishop Charles Soreng, SJ (Emiritus) ordained him priest. In his homily in these words he stressed, “Fr. Ajit Kalyan Kujur, SJ, comes from a family of ours, from a family of God’s people to offer Christ’s sacrifice to God the Father. He is to be a teacher, priest and shepherd to the people. He has to meditate upon the word of God and deepen his own faith first and in turn has to deepen the faith of the people to make it a spiritual temple of God. As a shepherd he has to tend the sheep faithfully searching especially the lost and the sinners.”

There were 40 priests among whom 26 Jesuits concelebrating with the bishop among 1500 odd faithful and about 20 religious Sisters. The choir comprising of local High School students with 4 *mandars*, one *dholak* and a *nagada* sang devotional hymns beautifully.

From Rengarih Parish where Fr. Ajit Kalyan was doing his deaconate ministry two bus-load of school children – boys and girls made it for the ordination accompanied by Fr. Alois Beck, the Parish Priest, Fr. Alphonse Kullu, the Headmaster and two Ursuline Sisters.

All those present in the Ordination Ceremony and the felicitation programme were served with a delicious lunch prepared lovingly by Sr. Susanna Kutty, FSEH, the Superior and her team. The whole province congratulates Fr. Ajit Kalyan and wishes him fruitful priestly ministry.

Fr. Ajay R. Soreng

INFORMATION

- **All the treasurers** of different communities and institutions are kindly requested to update accounts and Bank passbooks of the Financial Year 2014-15 (April 2014-March 2015)
- **Scholastics Get-Together 2015** will be held in Rengarih Parish from May 16-20, 2015.
- **Scholastics' Retreat** will be held from **May 23 – June 01**, after Province Gathering
- **Province Days** will be held from **May 20 – 22, 2015**.
- Novice PAUL PETER MINJ, First Year novice left the Novitiate on 13/04/2015.

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS**St Ignatius Gumla**

Matric Exams ended peacefully in the first week of March. To promote harmony among different religions, Sarva Dharma Sadbhavna Manch Gumla, under the aegis of AROUSE, organized for a grand *holi milan* (Get-Together) celebration in AROUSE Campus on March 5. It was unlike other *milans* because the DC of Gumla was the Chief Guest who enjoyed dancing to the tune of *phagun* songs by professional singers. The Chief Guest admired it saying "In thirty years of my administrative service, I never had a *holi milan samaroh* of this sort. It is historic." People from different religions and sects participated.

John Dadriss S.J., the President of European Jesuit Conference, visited our community on March 6 with the Provincial, Fr Marianus Kujur. The former also addressed the community apprising us of the European Jesuit Conference and the Society of Jesus at large.

Silent Protest March by the Christian Community in Gumla on March 8 was held against the recent attacks on churches in different places. Some four to five thousand strong Christians from all denominations marched out in protest procession in the streets of Gumla. It was organized by the Masihi Maitri Sangh. A memorandum was given to the President and copies to the PM, Central Home minister, Governor of Jharkhand and Chief Minister as well. St Ignatius Gumla had a great contribution to make especially in preparation of the Memorandum.

Mahila Diwas celebrations were organized from March 9 -12 in different villages of AROUSE. The villages in order of dates are Baghma, Jamtoli, Punri Bardih, and Chirainyan in Dumri Block. The women were great in their performance.

Four of the community members: Frs Christopher, Erentius, Anselm and Thomas - attended the Province Congregation from March 17- 20 in Manresa House and also the Extended Consult

thereafter. They were back the same night. Fr John Lakra gave a week-long Seminar on Tribal Dance to the Apostolics from March 22 onward. The boys enjoyed the *mandartal* and the *steps*.

March 28 was the Ram Navami Festival in the town. Fr Rector was in one of the stalls with some Sadbhavna Manch members distributing drinking water and *chana* to the crowd as a show of good will gesture to the Hindu brethren. It was quite an experience! On March 30 three – day orientation seminar was arranged by Fr. Manohar for Class XI. It was liked much.

On March 30 there was a special meeting for the H. School, Inter-College and hostels religious staff. It was mainly to review our works and plan for the future on the eve of the New Academic Session from April 8. The ground draft plan for the English Medium School Building was also discussed.

Christopher Lakra

St Mary's Samtoli

Fr. Manohar Toppo left for Tongo on March 3 as the newly approved Headmaster of Boys' M/S Tongo. Frs. Linus, Sikander and Albert accompanied him and were back to the community in the evening. It was the last day of exams for the Matric students. After the exams the Hostel and Apostolic boys went home only to come back on March 9-12 for their practical exams. Annual exams in the English Medium began on the same day. On March 4 the Intermediate exams ended for Arts and Commerce students. The Science students had to come on March 13-14 for their practical exams.

On March 5 Fr. John Dardis S.J. visited our place with Fr. Provincial Marianus Kujur. They first visited the Apostolic School where they were accorded with a warm welcome. Then they came to the community. After lunch we had a short informal meeting. They visited the High School and the English Medium School. But as it was Holi holiday they could see only the school building. Then they proceeded to Gumla.

On March 9 we had a meeting for re-structuring our ministries. It was unanimously agreed that Holy Cross Katukona could be taken care of by Jesuits from Rengarih. On March 10 there was School Managing Committee meeting at 4.30 p.m. with regard to the appointment of new teachers in place of the teachers retiring on May 31.

Fr. Linus attended the Province Congregation held at Manresa House Ranchi. Later on March 20, Frs. John, Sikander and Bruno went to Ranchi to attend the Extended Consult after the Province Congregation. On March 22, Fr. Linus went to Lachragarh to give recollection to St. Anne's sisters while Fr. Isaac Tete gave recollection to St. Anne's sisters at Samtoli. Fr. Anuranjan Purty went to Khanjaloya to give a talk to the Biru vicariate Catholic Sabha. Fr. Rector along with Fr. Alois Beck the PP of Rengarih went to Kutungia to attend the 51st death anniversary of Fr. Herman Raschaert on March 24.

On 26th the results of High School and XIth class were declared in the presence of parents and guardians. On the same day Frs. Linus and Bruno went to Ranchi to attend the budget meeting.

For the ministries on Palm Sunday, Fr. Albert went to Sogra while Fr. Ireneus Toppo went to Simdega jail. The rest of us went to the parish church.

On March 30, 5 staff members of St. Ignatius High School Gumla left St. Mary's for Gumla. They stayed here for a week. They toured to different parishes and schools in search of hockey players for the Hockey Centre at St. Ignatius' H.S. Gumla.

On March 31 Chrism Mass was celebrated in the cathedral at 11.00 a.m. Prior to that there was a recollection for priests of the diocese. His Lordship Vincent Barwa D.D. gave a talk followed by reflection, confession and adoration. The Chrism Mass was followed by a good dinner at Bishop's House, Samtoli.

Fr. Isaac Tete

St. Michael's Residence, Khunti

The pre-novices had their annual triduum from March 1-5. Fr. Ferdinand guided them in their spiritual journey. Fr. Provincial along with Fr Dardis S.J paid a very short and surprise visit to pre-novices on March 5. With their brief but inspiring talk both of them enthused our pre-novices. They were impressed while interacting with pre-novices.

Entrance test for class IX, VIII and VII was conducted in H/S on March 15. Quite a big number of new-comers turned up for the test. Some of our pre-

novices assisted in invigilation and evaluation of answer papers. On this same day Fr. Ferdinand came back from Kolkata. He had gone there on March 13 for central zone pre-novitiate directors' meeting. Fr. Augustine participated in Province Congregation held in Ranchi from March 17-20. He organized a four-day CLC seminar at diocese level from March 21-24 at UC, Khunti. Around 740 students and animators from different schools took part in this seminar.

In view of Easter preparation, Charismatic prayer was held from March 23- 25 in the parish. Pre-novices participated in it. Congratulations to Fr. William on his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. *Ad multos annos!* He was ordained priest on March 25, 1965. On this auspicious occasion he presided over the Holy Eucharist for the community. During the Holy Week, community members were actively involved in the Holy Week services. Pre-Novices were in the choir. Priests helped the parish in multiple ways. The community had festive Easter dinner on Easter Sunday in the evening. The following day, the community went for an outing to Keondtanr.

Sch. Jyoti Paul

Vidya Jyoti, Delhi

The month of March was a time to say good bye to many of our brothers and sisters from Vidyajoyti family. On March 19, the College gave farewell to the Third year B.Th students and also the sisters who were doing one year certificate course in Theology. Frs Medard, Millianus and Dn. Ashok participated in the province congregation in Ranchi. The Third year students completed their exams early and immediately after the exam Dn. Ashok and Dn Pradeep left the community for Ranchi, on March 31.

Sch Rozario was busy carrying out his duties as a beadle to the best of his abilities. He is also guiding efficiently the *Choti Kalysia* girls (domestic workers) by conducting classes and organizing programs for them. Fr George Gisbert (BOM) who rendered his valuable service for many long years at VJ has gone back to his Province due to his ill health. The first and second year scholastics continued their exams. All the Scholastics left VJ for the summer vacation by April 18.

Sch Rozario Mosahari

Tarunoday

In the month of March, Second Year students started breaking the word of God on Sundays in the parish and Central Institute of Psychiatry while first

years did it for the community. On March 2-3 Fr Michael Kerketta was here for annual visitation. He encouraged us to do theology with zeal and renewed vigour.

The Staff members went to St. John's High School on March 4 evening to listen to the sharing of Fr. John Dardis S.J. Later, he came to Tarunoday to get acquainted with RTC set up as well as to interact with us. During his sharing he also made us aware of the state of the Society in Europe.

We were glad to welcome Rev. Bp. Telesphore Bilung, Auxiliary bishop of Ranchi who arrived in Tarunoday on March 10, for the pastoral visit. It was the first historical visit of a bishop as a pastor. It instilled in us a spirit of joy and a sense of fellowship and communion. In preparation of the forthcoming General Congregation, Frs. Henry Barla and Francis Minj participated in the province congregation held in Manresa House.

Fifteen students of theology along with Director Fr. Francis Minj set out for Netrahat early morning on March 22 to participate in the protest rally against Netrahat Field Firing Range. It is a long non-violent Peoples' Protest Movement. "*Jaan denge, zameen nahin denge!*" (We will lay down our lives, but not part with our land) is the energizing slogan resounding on the 3622-foot high Netarhat plateau, 144 km west

of the Jharkhand capital Ranchi. It is known that Tarunoday has always actively participated in this mass movement right from the beginning. Being with them, we felt one in their struggle and suffering. Tarun *Bhais*, as we are called, present *Nukkad* on various burning issues for awareness-building. This year *Nukkad* was based on Land Acquisition Ordinance 2014. This year a well-known social worker from Delhi Swami Agnivesh joined the protest rally to show his support and solidarity with the people. Memorandums were submitted to ministers at the Centre as well as state officials. He went to CM to discuss regarding this issue. Rahguwar Das, the CM of Jharkhand and Rajnath Singh, the Home minister of India assured to cancel the project.

We joined the Protest Rally on March 30 to condemn the gang rape of the septuagenarian nun in W. Bengal and various attacks on Christians. We marched from Gossner College Campus to Ranchi University Cricket ground. This march united all Christians and minority communities. It jointly organized by the Conference of Religious India (CRI) and All Churches Committee Ranchi (ACCR). Strongly condemning the incident, the Archbishop urged the Centre and West Bengal government to take stern action against the perpetrators.

Sch. Bipin Tirkey

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur

Frs. Xavier, Benedict, Ranjit Horo and Jerome participated in the Province Congregation from March 18-20. After coming back from Ranchi, Fr. Xavier took Miss Maria Angela Milan, a benefactress from Padua (Italy), to different centres of our Assam Mission from March 21-29. She had an opportunity to participate in the Sunday Eucharist in one of the tea gardens – Amaribari. On Palm Sunday she was with the Boro community at Mushalpur. For the Holy Week ministry, Fr. Xavier was in Lakhimpur. In spite of the rainy weather a good number of faithful attended the Holy Week services.

Fr. George was busy in setting up a Computer room in the ground floor for the beginners. Its inauguration was done on Sunday March 22. There are 10 new students learning the basics of Computer. Two groups of 30 people each had come for the exposure programme from Jorhat. They stayed for three

days at Gana Chetna Samaj. Fr. Anup had been busy closing the accounts of all the centres of the Assam Mission for this financial year together with his internal law exams which got over on Easter Monday.

Xavier Lakra

St. Xavier's College Sonabheel

The various construction works are in full swing. The Ground floor of the Boys' Hostel is getting furnished to welcome the hostellers in the month of June. The work on the first floor is in progress. The Junior College Courtyard is filled in which gives a better look. Two new iron staircases are fixed - one each on the Eastern and Western sides. A new cycle stand is coming up near the present canteen. The Assam Government has a project to tar the approach road to St. Xavier's College from the main road up to Solabasti. The work is going on. St. Xavier's College is connected with the broad roads all around the compound. St. Xavier's College

as well as the hostellers are enjoying the solar power plant facilities. There is no power cut in the compound and in the night the whole compound is lit up.

Students of Class 12 finished their final exams on 16 March whereas the Class 11 students finished their exams on March 30. During Easter the college was closed. It reopened only on April 8 for the class 12 students. Meanwhile Fr. Ranjit Horo along with Roshan Bage, regents Roshan Ba'a and Anuj Minj made a hectic trip to parts of Arunachal in search of new students for St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel. They visited Bomdilla, Dhirang and Tenga Valley. They are hopeful that quite many students will join St. Xavier's College Solabasti. Meanwhile Frs. Benedict and Ravi Bhushan had been to Rangapara parish to help the parish priest during the Holy Week and Easter.

Roshan Ba'a

Balipara Parish

Fr. Benjamine Lakra, the new Parish priest, is doing very well. In Balipara parish there were 2 Jesuit and 5 Holy Cross Novices involved in various villages and tea gardens during the Lenten time, preparing the people for the sacrament of reconciliation and for the forthcoming Easter celebration. Fr. Ranjit Kujur also helped the parish priest to celebrate the Eucharist in different centres and units.

In spite of the rainy weather, a good number of faithful participated in the liturgy and services of the Holy Triduum and Easter. On Easter vigil the generator failed due to which the entire liturgy was conducted in the candle light. The faithful meaningfully took part in the Eucharist. Thanks to the novices and nuns who prepared the faithful well. After Easter, 5 Holy Cross Novices prepared 100 children for their first confession and Holy Communion. The First communion took place on Sunday April 12. St. John's boys' hostel has got the new shed on top of the dormitory which will be used as multi-purpose hall for various activities. The refectory building for the hostel boys is coming up. Science lab is getting ready for St. John's School. The students as well as for the staff of Nirmala School, Bhaitabanga have been provided with good clean drinking water. Thanks to the generous benefactors.

Ranjit Kujur

Manas Bansbari

Two Jesuit Novices, Rohit Kullu and Anup Tirkey, from Ashirvad Namkum were in Manas Bansbari Assam for their Lenten ministry in different villages to help the

faithful for the meaningful Easter celebration. In all the 8 villages they had organized three-day retreat followed by confession and Holy Mass. The novices felt it was a very good exposure to be with the people of Assam. In Barengabari there was a three-day retreat for the Boro speaking faithful of Kahibari and Barengabari units from March 19-22, conducted by Fr. Francis Basumatary SDB and his team.

There was an interview for a vacant Assamese teacher's post. 10 candidates had applied for it. Fr. Pradeep Kullu from Kathalguri helped us in selecting the teacher. On March 27-28 Fr. Xavier along with Maria Angela visited our centre. They interacted with the staff as well as the students. Their presence amidst us was very encouraging.

Laurentus Kira

Kathalguri

Four Holy Cross novices were fully busy in their pastoral Lenten ministry in different villages, *Basties* and Mornai Tea Estate. Frs. Dominic and Pradeep also helped out the parish priest Fr. Jerome for the confession and Eucharistic celebration in these centres. Maundy Thursday was celebrated in Mornai Tea Estate as well as in the parish. The liturgy of Good Friday was held only in the parish. However, the celebration of Easter vigil was held in the parish as well as in Mornai Tea Estate. In spite of the rainy weather a big number of faithful devotionally attended the liturgy of the Holy week and Easter. Frs. Jerome and Pradeep participated in the pastoral planning of the Diocese on March 6 -7 at Bongaigaon.

A school speech competition was held from March 14-18. In Tipkai school building is renovated and clean drinking water facilities are being provided. Fr. Xavier along with Maria Angela visited Loyola School, St Joseph's school Jacobpur and St. Xavier's school Tipkai.

Pradeep Kullu

Mushalpur

Fr. Xavier and Miss Maria Angela visited Mushalpur on Palm Sunday. They participated in the procession and Eucharistic celebration. The first floor of the convent is coming up fast. The new Principal, Fr. Roshan Bage, is fully involved in the activities of the school. During the Holy Week he went out to Arunachal together with the team of Ranjit Horo to visit different centres to motivate the students to get admission at St. Xavier's College Sonabheel. Fr. Mahendra Peter,

besides his studies of Law, helps Fr. parish priest in house blessing and pastoral works.

Vital Ekka

Pengaree

Charismatic retreat was conducted from March 1-4 in which 900 parishioners participated actively. Mr. Theau and his friend Brice have come from France as the volunteers for three months. They are fully involved in the school. Theau is busy trying to improve the internet facilities for better networking. Four Holy Cross Novices rendered their valuable services to prepare the faithful spiritually for the feast of Easter. They preached retreat in different villages. Construction of the Convent of the Daughters of St. Anne is in progress. The multipurpose hall cum Church is also getting ready.

Telesphore Lakra

Prothrapur

A one-day recollection for the faithful was organized on March 6 as the spiritual preparation for Easter. Rev. Father Dharampal Tirkey the Vicar General of Port Blair Diocese availed himself for a talk on "Suffering" followed by the talk of Mr. Arulanand Swamy. A good number of faithful attended the programme. On March 7, night vigil was organized by Legion of Mary (Maria Sena) in the parish. Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Zacharias Barla who is the spiritual director of this lay association.

Jesuit companions from Ramnagar and Diglipur came to Prothrapur for Chrism Mass and DPC meeting which was held on March 14-15. Thereafter Fr. David made his journey to mainland for Province

Congregation. In his absence Fr. Anil Kandulna looked after the parish. Thanks to Anil for his availability and generosity.

Prothrapur parish celebrated "Parish Day" with pomp and gaiety on March 22. Fr. Anil presided over the Holy Eucharist, thereafter a short cultural programme was held. Fr. Anil Kandulna set out for Ramnagar on March 24 early morning. Fr. David was there to see him off.

Fr. Provincial Marianus Kujur and Fr. Xavier Soreng landed at Port Blair airport on March 28 afternoon. Being the Palm Sunday, the liturgical procession started from Pathargudda Church which ended at Prothrapur Church. Fr. Marianus was the main celebrant whereas Frs. Xavier and David concelebrated with him.

Fr. David

Ramnagar

In Ramnagar, Lenten tour began on March 9 and concluded on March 28. On March 14 both Fathers went to Port Blair to participate in the Chrism Mass. It was followed by the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting. Along with priests and the religious, the faithful from all fourteen parishes attended the meeting. Fr. Anil stayed back in the Prothrapur parish to look after the spiritual needs of the people as Fr. David went to Ranchi to participate in the Province Congregation. Fr. Benedict came back to Ramnagar and resumed the Lenten tour. Fr. David came back to Prothrapur on March 22, the day the parishioners were celebrating the Parish Day. On March 24 Fr. Anil returned to Ramnagar.

Fr. Anil Kandulna

DIASPORA

Jerusalem

March 27 turned out to be the most important day for all the Jesuits here as Most Reverend Fr General, Adolfo Nicolás and his team arrived in Jerusalem. Let it be noted that no Jesuit General had ever set his foot in Jerusalem till date. Our founder St. Ignatius came here as a pilgrim only to be rejected and thrown out of the Holy Land. Therefore it is a great historic moment indeed not only for the Jesuits in Jerusalem but also for all the Jesuits in the world. Fr. General's visit is very much non-formal and unofficial. He did not want his visit to be a high profile. He just wanted to be with

the Jesuits most of the time and visit the Holy places in a leisurely manner. To this end he had only few courtesy visits in the city, namely, the Latin Patriarch, the Custodian of Jerusalem (Franciscan) and other holy places in Israel, and the Nuncio. With the intention of giving him a warm welcome to the Holy Land, all nine of us Jesuits went to receive Fr. General at the Airport, Tel Aviv in the afternoon of March 27. Those accompanying Fr. General were Fr. Arturo Sosa, the Delegate for the Interprovincial Roman Houses, Fr. Antoine K. the Assistant to Fr. General for the Western Europe, Fr. Dany Y. the Provincial of the Near East

and Fr. Michael K. the Rector of the Biblicum, Rome. From the Airport we drove together in a brand new mini bus to a migrant centre. We had dinner and the Holy Mass at the centre with the Philipino migrant women numbering about a hundred of them. Another great event was the Passion (Palm) Sunday. Fr. General and all of us participated in the procession starting from Bethfage (the place Jesus started his solemn entry to Jerusalem riding on a donkey), and ending at St. Anne's Basilica. The streets were simply flooded with people. The procession lasted more than three hours. Fr. General spent the whole Monday in Bethlehem, visiting places especially the Basilica of the Birth of our Lord. For Easter Triduum, Fr. General preferred to spend time at Tabga (Peter's Primacy) by the Lake in Galilee. We kept Wednesday of the Holy Week a day of reflection and sharing about the presence and role of the mission of the Society in the Holy Land. For this gathering three Jesuits (Frs. Michael Linden, Alfred Hicks and Paul Shaughnessy) from Amman were present.

Camil Kerketta

Guyana

"Fire Must Burn," the motto of Fr. Constant Lievens, the apostle of Chhotanagpur, was the appropriate theme for our Annual Parish Lay Assistants' retreat cum training programme from March 1-8, under the able guidance of Fr. Elias Surin, in St. Joseph's Mission Kurukabaru, North Pakaraimas, from which fifty representatives from various village communities benefited.

The International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8 in a grand way. The delicious lunch was served for everyone in the community centre followed by the Volleyball match for women between the youth and the mothers.

We were blessed with our distinguished guests- Mr. Paul Chitnis, the director of Jesuit Mission London, Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ the novice Director of the South Central Province, USA and Fr. James Conway, SJ who visited us from March 11-17 in Pakaraimas. The hospitality and warm welcome of the Amerindian people was amazing. Mr. Paul Chitnis and Fr. Mark encouraged us by appreciating our marvellous missionary work here in Guyana.

A pilgrimage was organized by Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey in St. Anthony's Church Victoria, one of the East coast parishes in Georgetown. A sizable number of pilgrims participated in it. He is happy to have a new car for his community for the effective pastoral

ministry. Fr. Amar Bage and Fr. Marlon Innis are visiting different communities in Hosororo and Mabaruma respectively in the North-West Region of Guyana. Both of them were motivating their parishioners to be more active in the church activities.

As we entered into the Holy Week with the Palm Sunday on March 29, the church was packed to its capacity. In order to have many more people's active participation in the liturgical celebration, the church team meticulously planned out to share the different responsibilities by various families. The washing of the feet and the Stations of the Cross provided us a profound spiritual experience of love and service. The feast of Easter filled our hearts with Joy, Peace and Hope of the Risen Lord!

Fr. Elias Surin

Cairo (Egypt)

On March 14, two of our first year novices finished their thirty days' spiritual exercises under the guidance of the Novice master. On March 15, our four second their year novices came back after four months' experience. On the same day, I participated in the full one-day preparation programme for all those class VI students who will be going to France in the first week of June for an educational trip. They were divided into groups, were given separate topics of the places to be visited and were asked to make a report available with photographs of those places. Sch. Magued is our house minister and he's busy in various pastoral ministries.

On March 19, he got ordained as a deacon in a solemn Coptic rite Eucharistic celebration. March 20-21 was an outing cum sharing programme for the novices. We stayed in a place of cloistered Carmel Sisters. The city is known for huge natural lakes with a variety of fish. We also visited some old monasteries of Coptic Orthodox Church. From March 20-29, the Novice master was out in Rome for a meeting and then in Paris (France) to meet the Near East Province scholastics studying there as he's also the coordinator for studies.

With the collaboration of the Indian embassy in Cairo, Egypt hosted the third edition of "India by the Nile festival" from March 30 to April 16. There were a number of events in big cities of Egypt which included yoga and well-being sessions, Indian food, traditional music – Manipuri folk dance, Bollywood shows, etc. To make it memorable, Bollywood mega star Amitabh Bachchan was in Cairo to inaugurate the festival. I had the opportunity to attend a programme and listen to

him in a grand Opera house of Cairo followed by the screening of “Amar, Akbar, Anthony.” Many Egyptians are his diehard fans. It was amazing to see a huge crowd following him wherever he went for the various programmes.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Paris, France

On February 23, the Most Reverend André Armand XXIII, the Archbishop of Paris, received 400 catechumens in a meaningful prayer session. The respective parish priests of Paris brought their catechumens. And the catechumens presented themselves with their names (to be given on the Baptismal Day) together with their god-parents before the Bishop, who received them with a hug and placing the purple colour shawl on their shoulders. The catechumens were not only from France but also from different countries residing in Paris.

We had a “WE” week-end that was actually community week-end. We divided ourselves into two groups. After having Mass in the morning, we departed as per the groups to visit the historical places in Paris. We had lunch in an Arabian restaurant. My group visited Notre Dame des Otages- a church where in 1871, 52 people were imprisoned and killed including 6 Jesuits; Chapelle Saint Joseph des Carmes- a church where in September 1792, during the French Revolution, 191 among whom 6 Jesuits and the rest Franciscan Monks were killed; Chapelle des Missions Etrangères de Paris- a church but attached to which is a museum of martyrs of China, Korea and Vietnam; Chapelle du College Dormans-Beauvais where St. Francis Xavier studied and after his studies taught, and Église Saint Nicolas du Chardonnet, a Roman Catholic Church but its approach to prayer and worship is very traditional even today.

Samir Dungdung

BABIES OF THE MONTH: APRIL & MAY

April		May	
08	Tete Felix Prakash	01	Soreng Xavier
09	Guria Cyril	02	Minj Ajay Prakash
11	Toppo Alexius	03	Minj Erentius
12	Xess Angelus Topno Nicholas	04	Toppo Erenius Dungdung Samir
13	Tete James Pascal	05	To'ppo Ireneus
14	Kiro Sylvanus Xalxo Pius Tirkey Justin Toppo Binod	07	Minj Gyan Prakash
16	Mathias Joseph B.	08	Xalxo Jerome Stephen
18	Lakra Placidius	09	Xess Gabriel
20	Kerketta Sikander	12	Khoya Manohar
24	Bara Pramod Kandulna Wilson	15	Kerketta Xavier
25	Kullu Santosh Vinay	16	Kerketta Benjamin
26	Minj Francis	19	Dungdung Alexius Ba'a Kuldeep
30	Baxla Emmanuel	20	Ekka Praful
		24	Ba'a Ephrem
		28	Dhanwar John
		29	Tigga Lalit John
		30	Kullu Francis David