

RANCHI BULLETIN



76/4

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

APRIL 2017

Announcements:

Ranchi Scholastics Get Together: Sunday, 14 May to Saturday, 20 May 2017 in Sonabheel, Assam

Ranchi Province Days-2017: Monday, 22 May [evening] to Thursday, 25 May 2017 [noon]

Annual Meeting cum Seminar for All Jesuit Brothers of South Asia Assistency at Atamdarshan, Patna, will be held from **Monday, 19th (eve.) to Saturday 24th June (eve.) 2017**. Brothers of Ranchi Province are kindly requested to send their names to Br. James Barla SJ as soon as possible. **Theme:** *Gracefully Entering into Your Wisdom Age*. Board & Lodge: Rs. 3500/- per person

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

Manresa House, Ranchi

The month of March began with the solemn Eucharist of the Ash Wednesday celebrated by Fr. Rector. The inauguration of the tiled road of Manresa House was done by Mr. Glen Joseph, a nominated representative from the Anglo-Indian community in the Jharkhand Assembly. In fact it was he who sponsored from his MLA's fund. Besides Manresa family, Fr. Provincial, Fr. Ajit Xess, Fr. Henry, St. John's hostellers, Minor Seminarians were also present for the program.

Fr. Patras Ekka went to the heavenly abode on 10th March. He breathed his last in the Orchid Hospital. The burial mass, held at St Mary's Cathedral, was presided over by Fr. Provincial, The Spiritual Animation Program [12th – 14th March] was held at Manresa House for the scholastics. It was indeed an inspiring and insightful one. Manresa scholastics, regents, theologians happily and enthusiastically took part in it. Even Br. Policarp, Br. Francis, Fr. Suman Beck (PCF) and Fr. Alex Toppo (Fr. Rector) were actively present. On 19th March

there was a solemn thanksgiving Mass celebrated in the Cathedral in memory of Fr. Lievens, a great missionary of Chotanagpur. Soon after the Mass the Manresa scholastics had a chance to watch cricket match in the JSCA stadium Ranchi. It was totally a new experience for us to be in the stadium where we could hardly recognize the players. We realized that it is better to watch cricket match in the TV than to see at the stadium. On 22nd March twenty scholastics went to Tutwapani, Netarhat to participate in the protest rally against *Netarhat Field Firing Range*. It was an eye-opening and touching experience for all the scholastics.

Sch. Priyatam and Ruben

St. Ignatius' Gumla

On 3rd March, Fr. Paul Martin, Regional Superior of Guyana, and Fr. Manoj from Calcutta Province were our guests. Fr. Ajay Soreng accompanied them. They also visited the families of Fr. Anil Kr Turkey in Soso and Mukul Lakra in Gumla.

Sadbhavna Manch had an important meeting in Ghaghra on 5th March. Later on 12th, it had Holi Milan in Rowniyar Bhavan, Gumla. It was great to see the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Sarnas and Christians playing colourful *abeer* together!

We heard the sad news of Fr. Patras Ekka's passing away on 9th March; Fr. Ravi and Rector went for burial at Ranchi – Tumtum cemetery.

The H/S final terminal exams were concluded on 10th March. Students went on holidays except Class IX which had its last exam on 29th. Fr. Headmaster went to Manoharpur for the wedding of Mr. Sumit, our teacher. The results of the High School were given on 27th March while the English Medium School had it on 25th. Sr. Priyanka left for Ranchi on 31st March on her transfer, while Sister Swati Lakra joined in her place in the Eng. Med School. Farewell and welcome to each, respectively! 112 new admissions recorded in the Eng. Med. School till 31st March. Congrats Fr. Ravi!

A group of Belgian guests visited our Museum on 18th March; they were extremely taken up by the show and proceeded to Ranchi after lunch in AROUSE Canteen. Frs. Praful, Vijay, Manohar, Florence and Anuranjan went to Germana to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph in the village of Fr. Praful the next day. It was a great event for the villagers to find so many priests at the altar! Fr. Rector celebrated the Feast Day Mass for the SJT Sisters in the morning with some religious and the local faithful. In the evening all community members were invited there for dinner.

Frs. Praful, Florence and Manohar went to Pandra Bazaar Ranchi with Mr. Anand, for their annual shopping on 21st March. They were back late at night. Schs. Saban Xalxo and Libin Kerketta represented our community at Neterhat Field Firing Range on 22nd - 23rd March to commemorate the 25th year of the *Netarhat Movement*. They had good experience of what it means to be in solidarity with the victims of displacement. The annual feast of Sarhul of the Adivasis on 30th March was a day of joy. AROUSE and Sadbhavna Manch took part in the festive procession (*julus*). The sea of faces turned up on the streets of Gumla bedecked in traditional attires, with drumming, singing and dancing together.

Fr. Christopher Lakra

St Xavier's College Ranchi

The Dept. of Education (B.Ed.) welcomed an Inspecting Team at a short notice. The Principal and the Professor

in-charge took care of that. The Feast of colours (Holi) brought some respite when the staff and the students of the Degree section had a break (Mar. 11-15), while the Intermediate section had the break for only two days. The Dept. of Mass Communications conducted two days of *CYNOSURE* successfully. The College also had a weeklong volleyball tourney which drew crowds of viewers daily. For the finals, Dr. Amitabh Kumar, Director of Sports (Govt. of Jharkhand), graced as chief guest. B. Com clinched the first place, B.A. History the second, and Pol. Sc. the third.

The Dept. of Botany hosted the *Third International Conference on Environment and Ecology* (ICEE 2017) in association with International Foundation for Environment and Ecology (Kolkata) and Confederation of Indian Universities (N. Delhi) from 27th to 29th March. Participants came from every state of India and from abroad. Her Excellency D. Murmu, Governor of Jharkhand, and Prof. Ramesh Kr. Pandey, the V.C. of the Ranchi University, were present for the inaugural session. Both addressed the gathering after Fr. Principal's words of welcome. More than 500 presentations were made, and for lack of time, over 200 presentations were displayed on charts. For the valedictory session, Prof. Kamini Kumar, the Pro-V.C. arrived about an hour before time! - Congratulations to all! The success was beyond expectation. The next year, the conference is scheduled to be in Jaipur.

Fr. Nicholas Tete had been to Bhubaneswar for the GB Meetings of XUB and XIMB. Fr. Vinod Bilung was in Simdega for AICUF seminar during Holi break. Fr. Pradeep Kujur (Revisor) went to different zones for the annual budget meetings. Fr. Sudhir Kr. Kujur gave us a dynamic recollection. Fr. Nicholas was down for some days due to viral fever. After a fortnight of his flying visits to Sitagarha and Konbir Noatoli, Bishop Charles landed in Orchid due to high blood sugar, high BP, and stone in gallbladder. The Pune-returned scholastics Ignatius Tete and Kuldeep Linda took turns to be with him day and night for six days. Thanks to them for their dedicated help in many ways. Fr. Socius and Br. Telesphore were a great help. From 29th March he was recuperating in Constant Lievens' Hospital, Mandar.

Fr. Henry

Tarunoday, Boreya

March began with the Ash Wednesday – indeed a time of fasting and penance! Students had to do penance by working day and night to fulfill the academic demands. In

a light mood one of the students expressed his anxieties, 'Oh my God! Integration Paper is on my head and I have to Break the Word of God in Hindi and English as well. Moodkharab yaar!' Hearing this another asked him, 'Hello, brother! Have you finished Wachan Sudha reflection on daily reading? Tomorrow is the date of submission.' The former replied, 'O my God! Lent aa gaya, kaam karte karte sabkuch dhila ho gaya... There is no salvation till the Easter!' And then all broke into laughter for some time.

It was praiseworthy to see Fr. Francis Minj taking classes for both, 1st B.Th. and 2nd B.Th. one after another till 11th March. He lectured the students of the second year on the *Church History* for first two hours and rushed to do the same for another two hours for the first year on the *Theological Anthropology*. This rhythm continued for two weeks. The students of the first years shared that they became theological being more, whereas the second year students felt enriched studying the history of the Church. They wished to have been born during the time of the Church Fathers to have the same experiences like them. The professor followed the presentation method followed by a short discussion to make it more lively and participative.

Fr. Francis Minj and Fr. John Mundu shared their comprehensive knowledge and understanding on *Sociology of Religion* with the 2nd B.Th. undergraduates for another two weeks from 13th to 25th March following the method of PPT. They helped the students to understand the role of religion in shaping the human society. The students felt enriched having done this course.

Fr. Amrit Tirkey with all his experiences and vast knowledge, engaged himself with the 1st B.Th. students in teaching *Social Teaching of the Church* for two weeks. He taught all three of them with full gusto. They shared that the subject was very interesting and full of insights. It would help them very much in their future ministries. The students appreciated Fr. Amrit for encouraging them to study some portion in detail and present before the class followed by some discussion. It gave them self confidence and the good grasp of the subject.

Fr. Savari visited Tarunoday on 18th March to brief about the forthcoming protest rally against Netarhat Field Firing Range. He gave the information and some facts about the plan of the government which would completely displace the Adivasis of Netarhat and neighbouring places. Based on these Sch. Roshan Ba'a prepared a *Nukkad* with its title *Dosar Ker Bhaloo*.

On the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Protest Rally against *Netarhat Field Firing Range*, the Adivasi spirit led us to participate in the Protest Rally on 22nd and 23rd March. Fr. Michael Kerketta and Fr. Francis accompanied the students. Tarun brothers staged this *Nukkad* very powerfully. The audience watched it with their eyes wide open. The participation of the staff encouraged the students. While going Noadih and on our way back Lohardaga Jesuit communities served us lunch and tea respectively. Thank you brothers for your warm hospitality.

Fr. Amrit Tirkey left for Pune on 24th March to attend a meeting. He returned on 3rd March and took the exam for the first year students who had not finished their two exams. The final semester exams were held from 25th to 29th. Having finished all our semester exams all of us put our heart, mind and body in writing our *Integration Paper*. Under the guidance of professors, students worked hard to complete their papers.

The feast of *Sarhul* [30 March] gave us an occasion to go back to our root as Adivasis. In the morning we had a very meaningful and devotional Eucharist. In the afternoon some of us went to Ranchi to participate in the *Sarhul Procession*. Sch. Sandeep Tigga (MAP) and Sch. Shishir Bimal Kerketta (DUM) joined the procession and danced very enthusiastically.

Sch. Fuldea Soreng

SSC Juniorate, Sitagarha

We had an educational tour to Pawapuri, Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodh Gaya on 25th Feb. This pilgrimage was insightful. It inculcated in us the spirit of respect to other religions. We were lodged in one of the Patna Jesuit communities in Bodh Gaya. We were simply taken up by their hospitality. Fr. Lawrence SJ shared with us some of the important facts about Buddhism.

We had our common Assistancy exam on 13th March in which all did well. On 20th we attended a media Course by Fr. Arvind Hans SJ. We learnt how to "pan and tilt" the camera. We were enlightened about the advantages and disadvantages of media and its proper use. These days we are busy practicing the drama "Inigo", which will be staged on 27th April.

Sch. Nitish Ekka

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

The beginning of March saw the change of guards. The new office bearers assumed their responsibilities for the period of next three months until the beginning of new academic year in June. Students of Philosophy of Education

got the opportunity to visit Loyola College of Education (LCE) as part of the exposure program on 7th March. There we had two sessions of interaction. First, we had interaction with 45 student representatives, doing two years of B. Ed program; secondly, with the teaching faculty. Both the sessions centered on the current trends in education in our country, its challenges and opportunities. We were fortunate to have a very meaningful dialogue on the latest and the current methods of teaching and learning. We had the Second Continuous Assessment [16-21 March] followed by the Comprehensive exams [24-25 March] for the second years. All 3 of our Ranchi men have cleared their comprehensive exams with flying colors. Our heartiest congratulations to them!

On 27th March, grand farewell was given to the second years and to 3 staff members, namely - Fr. Valentine Ekka (MAP), who has retired and is going back to his province; Fr. V. S. George (Andhra), who decided to terminate his teaching assignment here and is going back to his province, and Fr. Paul Raj (Kohima), who is getting transferred to DNC, Pune as a spiritual guide. The community and academic faculty expressed sentiments of gratitude to these three Fathers for their generous services to the college and community. We had a cultural program in the evening, bidding farewell to all the second year brothers. Finally the academic year concluded on 10th April, and on the same evening we began our journey back to the province.

Sch. Sudhir Lakra

Clive's House, Trichy

All the Scholastics of Clive's House joined the Ash Wednesday Holy Mass, together with students and professors in the College chapel. March was the busiest month than the other months. Students and professors were busy in completing their syllabi.

St. Joseph's College celebrated the 173rd College Day in Lawley Hall. On this occasion meritorious students were awarded prizes and medals. The Principal and House Superior were extremely happy with the performance of the scholastics who received most of the prizes and medals.

Sch. Anup Tirkey

Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur (Assam)

Fr. Xavier kept himself busy in report writing of different projects and also preparing new project proposals in preparation for his annual tour to Europe. In the beginning of the month on 3rd he went to Pengaree for

the Annual Day celebration of St. Xavier's School Pengaree as a special guest. He also visited the newly constructed Kinder Garten School in Bogapani Tea Estate of Prabhat Tara School, Bogapani. He also visited Kathalguri and Mohong villages to see the activities of Gana Chetana Samaj.

Mr. Ramon and Antono from Manos Unidas came to see the field reality of the projects for which they have funded. Fr. Xavier took them to different sites for their visit. On 5th March they visited Teachers' quarters and Hostel building of St. Xavier's School, Pengaree and the School building of Konapathar. On 14th, they visited the hostel building and solar system of St. John's School and Parish, Balipara. Then they visited the newly built toilets in Baithabhanga and in the evening the Solar system installed in Gana Chetana Samaj, Tezpur. They were quite happy to see the field reality of the projects. Thereafter, Fr. Xavier went to Kolkata for processing his VISA Application for his annual trip to Europe. When he came back two Marianist sisters visited him from Ranchi. And as he was busy taking them round Mrs. Eva from Austria and Jerry from Jorhat came to stay with us for some days.

Fr. Anup Kiran Minj was quite busy in completing the accounts of different units of Assam Mission. Two Auditors arrived on 16th March for the internal audit of Assam Mission. They tried to complete auditing of some units but could not do so in eight days due to lack of some necessary documents.

Fr. Thomas Barla

Prothrapur (Andaman)

The parishioners had a day of prayer on 13th March in preparation for the Parish Day and Easter. Fr. George Beck SJ, was one of the resource persons who shared his reflection on *Mercy of God* based on the Holy Scripture. Sr. Ignatia Panna, DSA, Mr. Tony, Mrs. Annamma Alexander and Arnold Minj were other speakers. Frs. George and Edward Kerketta availed themselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. David went to Burmanala for prayer and Holy Mass in the house of Mr. John Joy who died of cancer previous week. On 19th March, the parishioners in a special way remembered St. Joseph as the Patron of the parish. The Eucharist was presided over by the Vicar General, Fr. Dharampal Tirkey. In the liturgy, St Joseph was remembered as a just man, a teacher of inner life, a silent listener and a model of all workers. The liturgy was well arranged to inspire the faithful. Finally celebration concluded with fellowship meal.

All the priests and religious working in the diocese flocked to Port Blair for Chrism Mass on 23rd March. Our Jesuit companions from Diglipur and Ramnagar also

came here. It was an opportunity for us to have a meeting and sharing of our experiences.

Fr. David.

DIASPORA

Rome (Italy)

After the semester break, regular classes in Gregorian University have picked up their full momentum; and hence, Edwin Ritesh, Ravi and Edwin Dang are fully busy to be up-to-date with the academic requirements. Nonetheless, they strive hard to keep themselves fit and healthy by regular physical exercises either through outdoor games or through cycling. Sometimes, they are invited to Collegio Bellarmino by Biju Sebastian and Kulwant to refresh themselves by playing Billiards after the supper. Apart from the regular classes, both Edwin and Ravi are following the homiletics lessons offered by two Professors so as to become the effective preachers in the future. On 17-18 March, their community spent time in prayer and recollection on *Spiritual Conversation based on the Spirit of GC 36*. This was guided by P. Rigobert Kyungu, Secretary of African Assistancy.

Kulwant seems to be content with *Studium*, course on the Cause of Saints. Before coming back to Rome, he visited Gerda and the neighboring places where Fr. Herman Rasschaert had lived, worked and was martyred. By studying the fundamental procedures required for beatification, he is equipping himself to make some valuable contributions toward the causes of both Fr. Constant Lievens and Fr. Rasschaert. The heavy academic assignments of Third Year in the Institute of Psychology have forced Edwin Dang to confine himself to his desk. Apart from the regular classes, he has to conduct interviews and to write their analytical reports. Biju Sebastian seems to play an exemplary role of an elder brother by constantly supporting, encouraging and cheering them up. As part of the Easter preparations, Fr. Francesco Ochetta from *Civiltà Cattolica*, helped them on 10-11 March to reflect on the limitations of effective freedom and the basic dialectics between the ideal and the actual self.

Anselm has fully acclimatized himself to the life and work of the Curia. Assisted by a private teacher, he is learning fast the basics of the Italian language. He fondly remembers two significant events of March. The first was the bidding farewell to Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, former Superior

General. Pope Francis paid the Curia community a surprise visit and graced the occasion by taking part in the farewell dinner. All had a chance to meet the Pope individually after the dinner and receive his blessings. The second event was the Lenten Recollection guided by Fr. Federico Lombardi, who elaborated some of the important dimensions of GC 36 as points for reflection. Listening to the elderly and experience Jesuits during the faith sharing session was deeply enriching and enlightening.

On 10 March, Sanjay Dilip was appointed as the Director of Indian Section of Vatican Radio. His appointment came at a turbulent time when the 85 years of Jesuit service to the Church through Vatican Radio is under renewal process. This process began in 2016, under which the Jesuits handed over the mission to the Secretariat for Communication (SPC), which comprises all other communication units of the Holy See. Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Dario Vignor as the Secretary of Vatican communications. However, lots of uncertainties remain regarding the Jesuit involvement in the mission of Vatican Radio. Right now, Jesuits are collaborating as usual with the new communication units and waiting patiently for further communication. The transmission in many small language groups has already been stopped, and even the Indian Section is not sure of its future. The working contracts with others too are not being renewed for the moment. As the Director of the Section, Sanjay has already been informed that the new management will not bear the expenses of printing the monthly brochure brought out by the Regional Centers. Unfortunately, there was neither any discussion nor any consultation on that matter with the Indian Section. At such critical juncture, Sanjay has courageously taken charge of the Section, and expects to dedicate his full time and energy to the Radio mission despite uncertainties.

Linus and Prem are trying their best to live up to the expectations from their teaching mission in Gregorian. Linus is coordinating well the conferences organized by the Centre for Interreligious Studies to study the different religions of the world. The conferences aim to promote the in-depth study and analysis of history, philosophy, theology and spirituality of different religions; and thus to

create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and collaboration. Inspired and enthused by a series of Conferences being organized and number of books coming out on various themes of *Laudato si'*, a team of Professors from different Pontifical Universities had started drafting a project of Joint Diploma course to promote the teachings of Pope Francis on the care of "Our Common Home". From Gregorian University, Prem is the member of the Inter-Pontifical University scientific team, which started exploring various possibilities from November 2016 onward. After a series of meetings in different universities, the final draft of the Project is ready to be presented to different entities of the pontifical universities for their approval during the first half of May. If the proposal is approved and the Course begins from the next Academic Year, it will signal a historical moment for the inter-university collaboration. As part of the process, the scientific committee participated in an International Conference on *Watershed: Replenishing Water Values for a Thirsty World* organized and co-hosted by the Holy See and the Club of Rome. Experts from all over the world from different socio-cultural and religious background shared their opinions to find a common ground to resolve environmental issues. Most fascinating was the sharing of Kathryn D. Sullivan, NASA astronaut, who flew on three space shuttle missions and was the first American woman to walk in the space. A highly thought-provoking Conference, which inspired the participant to some concrete actions!

Apart from the usual academic activities, a group of 19 Adivasi brothers and sisters under the umbrella of ABHAS went on a pilgrimage to Nettuno under the guidance of Linus. Kulwant presided over the Eucharistic celebration in the Chapel where the relics of St. Maria Goretti is preserved. The other Ranchi men could not join the group because of their prior appointments. In April and May, the company of Ajay Prakash Minj and Xavier Lakra will enlighten the Ranchi men with news and views from Province as well as from Assam Mission.

Fr. Prem

Jerusalem (Israel)

The cold winter slowly passed by while the bright and the pleasant sun announced not only the spring season but also the season of Lent. The Ash of the Wednesday liturgy reminded every Christian of making a personal journey to Calvary. The City of Jerusalem was often crowded with pilgrims and tourists.

The members of our community were involved in the spiritual ministry in different parts of the region. Fr. Doan had the recollections for the Carmelite sisters in Haifa in Galilee and to the Trappists at Latroun some 30 km away from Jerusalem. Fr. Hicham went to Mount Tabor to give triduum to the parishioners. I myself had the opportunity to give three day recollection to the Novices of the Sisters of Zion in Ein Karem, right in the beginning of Lent. The Sisters' residence is situated just on the mountain slope facing the hill where the Visitation Church stands. The valley separates these two mountains. Ein Karem is the birth place of St. John the Baptist better known as the Basilica of Visitation built in memory of Mary visiting Elizabeth. This region is full of hills and valleys covered with ever green trees everywhere.

The Shrine of the Holy Sepulcher was under repair for about a year. This month the solemn inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of all the dignitaries (Patriarchs and Bishops) of different Churches and good number of faithful. Now it has a new look drawing the attention of believers and non believers alike. A good number of pilgrims and tourist are arriving everyday to venerate the Holy place of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Fr. Michael Holman from Britain and Fr. Eckhart Frick from Germany were the only two Jesuits who came to stay with us and experience the Holy Land. The former spent more than a month at Tantur, an ecumenical centre run by the Holy Cross fathers. Fr. Camillo Galafassi, a diocesan priest from Milan, Italy who spent last fifteen years in the mission in Zambia, also spent his days with as part of his holidays. Fr. Hans Putman, one of our community members had a knee replacement surgery in Lebanon and has come back safely. Walking on the rough and smooth stony streets of Jerusalem will be the sure test to the strength of his knee.

Fr. Camil Kerketta

Guyana

February was the Carnival month [*Mashramany*] as the Republic of Guyana celebrated its 47th Republic Day on 23rd February with great joy and enthusiasm. All the celebrations had the motto: 'One People, One Nation and One Destiny'. In the North-West Region, the Missionaries of Charity Sisters extended their valuable service to prepare the First Holy Communion children in Our Lady of Lourdes' Church, Hosororo. Fr. Amar Bage, SJ was more involved in the building of the Christian Communities through the regular exhortation

and administering of Sacraments. In Port Mourant, Berbice, Fr. Mukul Lakra, SJ has been enthusiastically visiting families to encourage them to be regular for church activities. He visited Black Bush Poldar, Siparuta and Springland during his Lenten tour. Fr. Anil Tirkey, SJ, the Parish Priest of East Coast Demerara, extended his services to Mahaica and Unity besides his six regular communities. Srs. Divya Gulab, Seraphina, Crecencia and Nishi Susana have been conducting seminars on *The Role of Parish Lay Assistants* for the smooth running of the Church in St. John De Britto Yurongparu, St. Francis of Assisi Rukumuta, St. Aloysius Tipuru, Tiger Pond, Pi Pong and St. Teresa Karasabai in South Pakaraimas.

The Annual Retreat cum Training Program [26 Feb-5 March] for the Parish Lay Assistants was held at St. Joseph's Mission Kurukabaru, North Pakaraimas, where 65 of them from fourteen village communities participated and benefited from it. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, the Parish Priest, accompanied them in their spiritual journey with the Lord. All of them were happy and content. Br. Ian Peoples and Br. Peter Bell were very helpful in this training program. On 10th March, Fr. Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ the Novice Director from the U.S.A, came to visit his novices, Br. Ian Peoples and Br. Peter Bell in Karasabai. He was quite satisfied with their rich and profound immersion experiences under the guidance of Fr. Elias Surin, SJ. Fr. Paul Martin, SJ the Regional Superior of Guyana Jesuits, went to attend the JCSA Meeting in Jabalpur, Chhattisgarh. He visited Ranchi and Gumla including Fr. Anil Kishore and Fr. Mark Mukul's families in Soso and in Gumla respectively. He is glad to meet many priests and religious men and women in Jharkhand.

Fr. Elias Surin

Madrid (Spain)

Now we are experiencing drastic fluctuation of weather, sometimes temperature goes too high and suddenly too low. It is very unusual to have snowfall in Madrid now but we had this experience in the last month. Due to climatic change Sch. Anuj fell sick in the last week of February. There was nothing serious but he needed to take rest. He missed one week of classes due to this.

On the 4th March five Jesuits from different provinces of Europe and California and two diocesans were ordained deacons by the Archbishop of Madrid. On this occasion both of us were busy in our own respective communities.

Here in Spain there is tradition of having evening prayer the previous evening where all are invited. During the prayer hour people write down their expectations from a priest in a small piece of paper which is pasted later on in one diary and is given to each would be deacons. This was very moving experience where people genuinely participate in the prayer and express their thought so that it could be a help in future to practice priestly ministry effectively.

In one academic year we have two community-outing, one in the first semester and the other one in the second semester. On the 11th March Sch. James' community went to Cordoba and Sch. Anuj's community went to Aranjueza. On 24th -25th March, James was in Barcelona for a meeting of his ministry Fe y Luz, a group of differently able persons.

Sch. Anuj Minij

Cairo (Egypt)

Five novices of the first year finished their 30 days' spiritual journey under the guidance of their novice director on 8th March. It was arranged for the first time in Upper Egypt at the place of Franciscan Sisters. Among five, three are from Upper Egypt, one from Syria and the other is from Lebanon. After their spiritual labour, they enriched themselves by visiting the ancient pharonic temples of Luxor beside the river Nile where hundreds of tourists throng.

On 19th March, I joined an English speaking group of different nationalities who spent a Day of Recollection based on Lent on the way to Alexandria desert road. It is a huge place called Anafora – retreat farm. The charge is voluntary and free vegetarian meals are served during Lenten season to everyone who enters there. It is run by Orthodox Church but is open to other denominations as well for meditation, silence, reflections, Holy Mass etc.

In the 4th week of March, for the first time, Fr. Jose Cecilio Magadia (General Assistant for Formation, Rome) was here in Cairo to meet the novices. He was very happy to meet one of his young Jesuits from the Philippines who is doing his classical Arabic studies. He then left for Lebanon to attend a meeting of Jesuits from Europe who are in-charge of formation in their respective provinces.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Let us Remember in Our Prayers:

Fr Patras Ekka SJ (63/43) died on 9th March 2017.

BIRTH DAYS: MAY, JUNE & JULY

MAY

- 01 Soreng Xavier
 02 Minj Ajay Prakash
 03 Minj Erentius
 04 Toppo Erenius
 Dungdung Samir
 Lakra Shailesh
 05 To'ppo Ireneus
 07 Minj Gyan Prakash
 08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen
 09 Xess Gabriel
 11 Minj Anand
 12 Khoya Manohar
 14 Soreng Alok
 15 Kerketta Xavier
 16 Kerketta Benjamin
 19 Dungdung Alexius
 Ba'a Kuldeep
 20 Ekka Praful
 24 Ba'a Ephrem
 29 Tigga Lalit John
 30 Kullu Francis David

JUNE

- 01 Kerketta Stephen
 02 Dungdung James V.
 Jojo Joachim
 Kerketta Sylvanus
 03 Kerketta Ajit
 12 Tete Patrick
 16 Minj Elias
 17 Ekka Peter Paul
 Dungdung Jerome
 Xalxo Medard
 19 Tirkey Sushil
 20 Ekka Isidore
 Minj Ignatius
 Ekka Nitish
 21 Lakra John
 Beck Alois
 Toppo Manohar
 22 Burh George
 Barla Gilbert

- 23 Kujur Sandeep
 29 Basumatary Lazarus
 30 Dungdung John
 Kullu Henry

JULY

- 01 Ekka Sanjay Dilip
 Tirkey Anup
 04 Dungdung Joachim
 Lakra Mark Mukul
 07 Tirkey Basil
 Tirkey Ajay Anil
 08 Toppo Pratap S.
 Ekka Sebastian
 09 Bage Anugrah Amar
 Kerketta Libin
 11 Tirkey Sikander
 13 Minj Anupchand K.
 15 Kandulna Joseph
 Topno Dominic
 Tirkey Amrit
 17 Kerketta Ajit
 Hassapurty Rajat
 Kandulna Anil
 Kujur Vinay
 19 Ekka Alexius
 Kullu Alphonse
 20 D'Souza Gilbert
 21 Kerketta Sunil
 22 Sandil Ashok Roshan
 24 Kullu Rohit
 25 Xalxo Isaac
 26 Purti Zacharias
 Horo Ranjit Kr.
 Minj Vijay Kr.
 Kujur Ignatius
 Minj Nirmal
 27 Bilung Vinod
 Dadul Ritesh
 28 Francken Louis
 29 De Brouwer Marc
 30 Lakra Benjamin
 31 Ba'a Theodore Ignatius