

RANCHI BULLETIN



74/12 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand DECEMBER 2015

Fr. Provincial's Message...

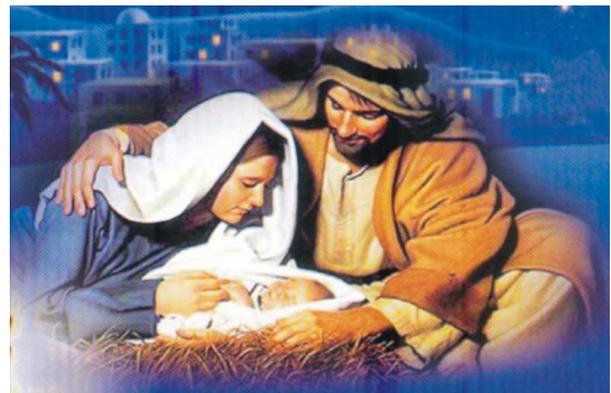
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells....Go tell it on the Mountains, are the joyous hymns heralding the Joy and Peace of Christmas. Every faithful is captivated by the Joyous mood of the Season. The whole world is awaiting the advent of the Lord Messiah with his message of Love, Peace, Joy, Justice, Brotherhood and Humanity. The shops and markets the world over are overloaded with inviting multi-coloured decoratives and gifts. These are but a show external. 2015 Christmas' message and gifts to humanity are beyond all these. The world of today is full of wars, violence, hatred, enmity, discrimination and the absence of 'Joy to the world and Peace to the men of good will' which was heralded by the Holy Angels.

Christmas is to be born anew for everyone. Jesus asked Nicodemus, 'Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.' (Jn: 3, 3). How can one see the Kingdom of God or the Baby Jesus when there is so much filth in the human life? The Advent time can remind us of the words of St. John the Baptist, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,' (Mt, 3, 2). These eternal message have the same force and vibration today as when they were sung by the Angels in Bethlehem.

Let this Christmas be double dimensional – for oneself and for each other. The conversion and transformation is the call of the season and each one of us should welcome it. In any case without the long and arduous journey of Joseph and Mary, the Child Jesus did not bring us the Christmas.

Pope Francis is giving us this Christmas the gift – The Extraordinary Holy Year – Jubilee of Mercy. In the context of the world today mercy is the virtue most needed for whole humanity to practice and live. Even in the closest unit of human living – the family, mercy appears to be disappearing. Therefore, let the bright shining star guide us all to where the font of life, the Baby Jesus is silently beaconing. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You All!

WISHING YOU JOY AND PEACE OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2016



*'The People who walked in darkness
have seen a great Light;
Those who lived in a land of darkness
On them light has shined.'* (Is. 9:2b)

Lord be my light that in you I may see the Son of God.
Lord be my light that in you I may see that I am,
like you, a son of God.
Lord be my light that I may see that everyone is,
like you, a son, a daughter of God.
Lord be my light that I may see that we are all
your brothers and sisters!
Lord send us your light and your truth
that gives us joy and peace!

Information

- The Province Treasurer's Office will remain closed from 23rd Dec. 2015 to 3rd Jan. 2016.
- The **common Jubilee Celebration** of all the Jubilarians will be held on **18th December** at **Manresa House, Ranchi**.
- **Triduum for the Regents** will be held at **Jharna** from **27th** (Eve.) to **30th December** (Eve.), 2015.
- All the superiors and treasurers of the Houses and Institutions are requested to send their contributions to the Province Treasurer's Office for the following: (i) **FACSI** Contribution for the Year **2016** by 10th Jan. 2016; (ii) **Common Expenses** and **Parish Fund** of the Province by 31st Jan. 2016.
- Kindly Submit the **Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2016-17** by **15th Feb. 2016** to Fr. Pradeep R. Kujur (the Coordinator of the Finance Commission) or to Fr. Vijay M. Tirkey, (Province Treasurer).

Fr. Provincial's Programme: December 2015

- | | |
|---|--|
| 09 : Sharing & Interaction with Fr. José Magadia, SJ, at 6.00 PM at MH. | 18 : Jubilee celebrations of the Ranchi Province Jubilarians |
| 10 : GB Meeting of RJS | 19 : Holy Mass at Loreto Convent |
| 14 : CRI Meeting | 21 : GB Meeting AROUSE Gumla |
| 15 : Education Commission Meeting | 22 : Christmas Gathering, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi |
| 16 : GB Meeting of St. Xavier's College | 24 : Christmas Mid-Night Holy Mass at Doranda Parish |
| 17 : To Jamshedpur Diocese for the input to the Clergy | 29 : Visit to Gumla and Rengarih |

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS**St. Ignatius', Gumla**

Fr. Christopher Lakra, as the former Director, was invited to join the great Diamond Jubilee of XISS on 6th and 7th Nov. The celebration and programmes were worth "Diamond" as he reported. He also combined his stay there with treatment for his cervical spondylitis. Children's Day was celebrated on 14th Nov. in the school premises. That was the day chosen as the awareness campaign for the CHILDLINE service in AROUSE. The staff members were going about to different audiences in the district giving information about this project of the Ministry of Women and Children Welfare. The school had its own *Bal Diwas* celebration in the Hall.

Frs. Manohar Khoya and Praful Ekka left for the trip leading a group of 50 students and staff from the school. They enjoyed the Baga Beach scenes and boat rides among other things. In Mumbai the trip to Elephanta was memorable. They brought T-Shirts for each member of the community and we all are sporting around wearing these T-Shirts printed with Sea Beach sceneries!

Fr. Marc De Brouwer returned to Gumla on 17th Nov. from Belgium. As he entered the house he said, "I am back home". Indeed, Gumla is a 'home' for him more than Belgium! He has still to regularize his residential permit, but that will be done soon. Welcome back, Fr. Marc!

The Panchayat Elections were held in the state. Fr. Manohar was deputed in Palkot Block as Booth Supervisor on 22nd Nov. for the first phase, and on 28th, both Manohar and Florence Guria were deputed in Kamdara and Bharno Blocks respectively for the second phase. "It was such a high turn out that even the blind, deaf and dumb came up for voting", said Fr. Florence after his return!

"Forever to be Yours" – The Final Vows on 25th Nov. 2015 = CONGRATULATIONS! Fr. Manohar Khoya and Fr. Praful Ekka pronounced their final Vows in the Society on this day during the Holy Mass that started at 9.00 a.m. with Fr. Provincial as the main celebrant. Some 80 priests concelebrated with him. The relatives of both the Fathers had come in good number and were very happy. Everything went off smoothly

with the active cooperation of every member of the community and school students and staff. The whole thing was so prayerful and devotional. Thanks be to God!

Christ the King Procession was held in Gumla on 29th Nov. Due to the Panchayat Election on 22nd Nov., the real feast day, the procession was postponed. St Ignatius with hostellers led the whole army of devotees this year. Our hostellers (Class VI) with Regent David Minj, put up an attractive Tableau near the gate, depicting the apostles fishing in the sea.

This month also brought some sad news for Fr. Anuranjan Hassaputy. He lost his aunty on 16th in a road accident and his grandmother on 28th due to old age. Fr. Erentius lost his niece on 27th in Sakeya village. Your prayers are requested!

Fr Christopher Lakra

St Mary's, Samtoli

'All Souls Day' was a day to remember all the departed souls. Fr. Sikander presided over the Mass in the chapel followed by the blessing of the graves. Fr. Rector went to the cemetery of Mariampur for Mass which was scheduled at 7.00 a.m. Many faithful attended the liturgy; even the paralyzed were brought on rickshaws.

Fr. John accompanied his sister-in-law to Vellore on 5th Nov.; she is suffering from cancer. His nieces went with him to look after her. After the check up Fr. John came back to Samtoli on 11th Nov.

To mark the Year of Consecrated Life, Bp. Vincent Barwa had called all the priests and religious for a day of prayer and reflection on "Consecrated Life" at Kutungia. Priests and religious gathered there to pay special homage to Fr. Herman Rasschaert. They went in procession reciting the rosary and prayed at the tomb. After the adoration all of us went to the hall where Bp. Vincent Barwa highlighted some vital aspects of consecrated life. Thereafter all were invited to share experiences based on their different works and ministries. After the sharing, we had Holy Eucharist at 12.30 p.m. followed by meal at 2.00 p.m. After the meal some visited Gerda where Fr. Rasschaert was assassinated.

To mark the foundation day of the state of Jharkhand, there were colourful programmes in the court ground for three days. Several schools and villages of Simdega district presented some cultural items during those days. St. Mary's school also took

part in it. Prizes were given to those who merited first, second and third position. St. Mary's too bagged a prize in one of the items.

The feast of Christ the King was celebrated meaningfully. The hostellers had decorated the stage under the supervision of Fr. Ireneus and Sch. Arvind. The SJT girls' hostel had beautifully decorated the altar. The procession started at 6.30 a.m. from the parish campus and proceeded to St. Mary's campus. Adoration was conducted by the Apostolic boys under the guidance of Sch. Sujit. Fr. Bruno gave an inspiring homily. Thereafter all the faithful went round the playground and came back to the parish in procession. Bp. Vincent presided over the solemn Eucharist in the courtyard of the Cathedral. The Mass ended at 10.45 a.m. Good number of faithful turned up for the celebration. The next Sunday (29th Nov.), Fr Ajay Prakash and Fr. Bruno went to Sogra for the celebration of the feast of Christ the King.

Fr. Ajay Minj and Fr. Alois Beck are busy day and night in clearing the account of AROUSE. They had to steal time for their meals. Often they also went to the bank and office.

The construction of the building in the Apostolic School campus is in progress. Because of the lack of material for casting it got delayed but now the materials have come from Chainpur and I hope now the casting will go faster.

It was our joy to meet our missionary Brother Vincent Soreng who is working in Kenya. He paid a short visit to us. He talked and showed video clips to the Apostolic boys.

Fr Linus

Manresa House, Ranchi

Nov. began with the preparation for the All Souls Day. Br. Minister had the tombs ready by 30th Oct.. Manresa Collegians helped in getting the tombs ready by white-washing the cross and writing names on them. Thus we were ready for the feast, which we celebrated in the Kantatoli graveyard on 2nd Nov. His eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo officiated the Mass along with the Auxiliary Bp. Telesphore Bilung, SVD.

Manresa Collegians had their Triduum in Jharna from 3rd Nov., guided by Fr. K. C. Philip. They were spiritually renewed to resume their classes after the Puja vacation. While the Collegians were in Triduum, the community went through a sorrowful experience.

The disappearance and death of novice Jugal Naresh was really a shattering experience for the entire province. His burial took place on 7th November at ATC graveyard. The bereaved family members too were present for the funeral mass, which was presided over by Fr. Sudhir Minj. On this sorrowful occasion Fr. Ferdinand Kullu, who had been the director of the deceased in Khunti Pre-novitiate, gave a heart touching homily on the life of novice Jugal Naresh Kujur.

Manresa Community had *Community Days-2015* from 9th to 12th Nov. Young and old members of the community took part in various games and activities happily. Certainly the event brought joy and has strengthened our companionship. On 14th Nov., we were glad to interact with Mr. Jacques De Ceunynck in an informal gathering. It was very inspiring and enriching for the Collegians.

On 17th Nov., Fr. Emmanuel Baxla suddenly felt very weak and was admitted in Seva Nilaya Aragate Health Centre. He was brought back after three days. On 23rd Fr. Clement Ekka, the spiritual father of collegians celebrated his birthday. Collegians felicitated him with a beautiful birthday song in the morning which made him very happy.

The community members attended the final vows of Fr. Kamal Chandra Bage in Rumtukel Parish on 21st Nov., and later on 25th the final vows of Fr. Praful Ekka and Fr. Manohar Khoya in St. Ignatius, Gumla. Fr. Elias Surin, our young missionary in Guyana arrived in Manresa House on 28th Nov. He is on his holidays.

Community Mass was held on 28th Nov. in the evening to thank God for the services rendered by Fr. Fredrick to Apostolic School Ranchi as its Director. Prayers were also offered for the new Director Fr. Justin. The Vice-Principal of St. Xavier's College, Fr. Nabor Lakra inspired the collegians by his motivational talk on 29th Nov. He encouraged the collegians to inculcate healthy ambition, curiosity, imagination and a boundless desire for achieving success in life. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016.

Schs. Nelson & Ajay Paulus Minj

St. Xavier's School, Doranda

Children's Day on 14th Nov. was celebrated with lot of zeal and affection. Students had installed delicious and fun-centered food and games stalls. On that occasion the school also conducted the Voice of Xavier (VOX-

a singing contest) Season -2 in which Master Manya Shukla of Standard IX 'B' was declared the winner. Finally, the Children's Day celebration was concluded with the melodious and thrilling rhythm of 'GRAVITY' the Best Band of Jharkhand along with the Band from Ranchi School of Music.

This year the school began Online Registration for the Prep Admission. There were 1,031 applicants competing just for 120 seats. The school had organized Interactive Sessions for the parents as well as for the little masters for Prep from 14th Nov. to 4th Dec. No tests were conducted but rather a one-to-one dialogue with the parents in order to know their outlook and mindset. Every day parents with their little wards came in a group of 40 to attend the interactive sessions. This process has indeed motivated a number of parents to provide their children value-based quality education.

On 28th Nov., the Bharti Bhawan organized a Mathematics Workshop for the Senior Secondary Teachers of various schools of the city at St. Xavier's School, Doranda. There were 50 Mathematics teachers from different schools of the state.

The feast of our patron, St Francis Xavier was celebrated on 3rd Dec. Bp. Theodore Mascarenhas presided over the Holy Mass. Sharing his feelings during the homily truly touched our hearts and affected our feelings. A good number of parents and religious attended the Mass. Thereafter, Bp. Mascarenhas released 'ECHO' - the Annual Newsletter of the school. He also inaugurated the 'Exhibition' on the life of St. Francis Xavier in the conference room. In the afternoon many teachers of the school and well-wishers came together to wish the Jesuits and shared their joy with us. In the evening many religious came in small and big groups to wish us all. On the same day, Fr. Superior accompanied a group of students of Junior Section to Puri for an Educational Tour. The group came back home on 6th Dec.

Navin Tigga

A.T.C., Namkum

Br. Blacius Tigga and Br. Patras Minj left for Missouri, Dehradun on 1st Nov. along with other Brothers of the province to make their annual retreat. They enjoyed their spiritual journey with the Lord in such lovely natural surroundings. They are spiritually renewed and transformed. They have very high appreciation for the warm hospitality of the monks of the place.

Fr. Sikander Tirkey was very busy in harvesting paddy. He built a good rapport with some of the staff members in the Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, as a result of his request they gave their paddy reaper with self-binder machine for harvesting, Zero Drilling sower machine to sow wheat and paddy thresher machine for threshing paddy. To use such a modern technology for harvesting, sowing wheat and threshing was a real demonstration for our co-workers as well as students and farmers in the neighbourhood. They came in crowds to watch and learn. The ATC is grateful to Fr. Master, Raymond and Novices who extended their helping hand in harvesting. Our Matric Coaching students, the ATC inmates and the *dera* people also helped in finishing the harvest.

Br. Blacius Tigga is busy with cultivating vegetables and fodder for cows. Along with his normal works Br. Patras Minj is busy with house maintenance, repairs and construction of shed for the security guard. Besides attending his classes, Br. Stephen Kandir took care of the sick and senior members in the Manresa House infirmary when Br. Tele was away for his retreat. Br. Stephen and Fr. Sylvanus are busy beautifying the front rose garden of the ATC. Br. Angelus Xess is our experienced guide in vegetable garden as well as in flower garden. Br. Felix Prakash Tete was very busy in preparing a model nursery where one can find varieties of fruit and other plants.

Fr. Ephrem Baa made his annual retreat in the middle of Nov. and found it a suitable place and atmosphere and was enriched very much. Our province men, religious and others are most welcome to the ATC for individual and small group retreats.

Br. Stephen Kandir

SSC Juniorate, Sitagarha

Juniors were pleased to display Hindi play “*Yesu Samaj par Sankat ki Janjir*” on 7th Nov., written by Fr Joachim Dungdung. It is based on suppression and restoration of the Society of Jesus. Around 57 religious communities and the local parishioners were given invitation. A good number of spectators turned up for the show. The Ursuline Postulants also played important roles in making the drama more interesting and effective. The play has 83 characters for which each actor got 3 to 4 roles. All the actors tried their level best to perform well; consequently it was an excellent show. It gave us a good opportunity to polish

our language as well as boosted our self-confidence. The viewers were full of appreciation for the play and performance. The play lasted three hours. Congratulations to Fr Joachim and all the juniors. Months of hard work culminated in a very positive experience of success and achievement. The Tertians missed our drama since they were out for their ministries and experiments.

Fr. Joachim

Vidya Jyoti, Delhi

On 2nd Nov., Ranchi Scholastics were glad to welcome 20 Ranchi Jesuit Brothers and Fr. Sibil Horo on their way to Missouri for their annual retreat. It was wonderful to be with them!

Scholastics of VJ joyfully accepted the request from Nepal Jesuit Social Institute for the relief work there. The third year students got the opportunity to live and work among the earthquake victims. They went in two groups: the first group of 22 students along with Fr Jerome Kerketta, the staff guide, conducted relief works from 12th to 28th Nov. They lived among the people and spent their time meeting and listening to them, teaching children in the schools, supervising the semi-permanent Govt. school construction work done by the Nepal Jesuit Social Institute, etc. All of them experienced generosity and good hospitality of the people who are living in difficult places and hilly regions. Schs. Bipin and Mukul were in the first group. On 30th Nov, scholastics came back home safely though in Kathmandu, there was a lot of anti-India slogans and protests. They were escorted by the Police of Nepal and made sure that they crossed the border safely. The second group of 23 students rendered its services from 26th Nov. to 14th Dec. Schs Justin and Rozario were part of the group. Thus the third years are pleased and satisfied to do something for the needy brethren of Nepal. The first and second years had normal classes and ministries.

Fr. Elias Surin paid a quick visit to the province men in VJ on his way back to Ranchi from Guyana. All were delighted to see him after a long time.

Sch. Mukul

RTC, Tarunoday, Kanke

Like the wintry cold, Nov. brought a flurry of activities – academic and otherwise. Besides their usual classes, the Taruns divided into eight groups to do research,

analysis and presentations in preparation for their forthcoming Annual Seminar on *Consecrated Life* as Committed Life. The members of the faculty are guiding them in theologizing.

November has been a time of travel. At the beginning of the month Br Isidore Ekka joined the Brothers of Ranchi for their Annual Retreat on the verdant hills of Missouri in Uttarakhand. After his retreat and a few refreshing trips around the place, Br. Isidore was back to the RTC on 17th Nov. He finds himself busy trapping the rats that seem to have found novel methods of reacting to the “meat ban” by eating up the cables of the house vehicle! But Br. Isidore outsmarts them by luring them to the trap and lets them loose for the dogs but the latter also respect the “meat ban!” *Jal Samadhi* (water burial) seems the likely option for Brother!

On 2nd Nov., Fr. Francis travelled to Pune to participate in the preparatory meeting of the delegates of GC 36. The meeting helped the members to enter into a spiritual discernment process to discover in what way the Lord was inviting the delegates representing the 4,028 Jesuits of the Conference, for a renewal of their life and mission. It was also a remote preparation for GC 36: familiarizing themselves with the *Relatio Praevia* prepared by the *Coetus Praevius*; learning the dynamics and practical aspects of working in a General Congregation; getting to know fellow delegates at a deeper level; and finally electing four among them for the commissions of GC 36. Among them, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, was elected to be a member of the Commission on Governance.

Fr. Francis came back to Tarunoday on 10th Nov. in time to take a course on Christology. During his absence Frs. Erik Breye and Sudhir Kujur occupied the classrooms. Seasoned teacher as he is, Fr. Erik taught the First Year brothers how to understand Faith

and Revelation while Fr. Sudhir helped the Second Year students in understanding the relevance of the *Eucharist* in daily life. Later, Fr. Amrit led the First Years to understand the nuances of Moral Theology.

Our Kanke children and youth find different programmes spaced out. Realizing the vast potentialities, the youth organized ‘*Pratibha Khoj*’ (talent hunt) on 15th Nov. at Kanke Parish. Sch. Rakesh helped them to organize the programme successfully. On 20th Nov. in the evening, Fr. Peter Mahender Tigga challenged the community to be deeply committed as Jesuits.

The Panchayat Elections on 22nd Nov. forced us to shelve the feast of Christ the King to 29th Nov. However, our joy doubled when Bishop Charles Soreng led the faithful at the Eucharist and also the procession that started from the CIP and concluded at the Parish. Different *Jhankis* prepared by the parishioners were so very inspiring and meaningful that the judges found it difficult to grade them. In the end, the Kadma unit was awarded with the first prize for its creativity.

Sch. John J. Kujur

Sanjeevan Vijaywada

Scholastics had a recollection on 14th-15th Nov. One of the JMJ religious sisters gave an inspiring talk. Loyola College had *SPHOORTI* – a cultural fest for the degree students on 19th and 20th Nov. During the fest different events like quiz, debate, singing, dancing, etc., were held. Many eminent personalities inspired and challenged the students by their insights and creative ideas. The feast of John Berchmans gave the scholastics an opportunity to celebrate religious life. We had a meaningful Eucharist and evening prayer with the ALC community members. We ended our celebration with dinner and community games in which all the fathers and brothers took active part.

Sch. Gabriel Soreng

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Balipara

There is a good custom to commemorate the deceased members of one’s family in Nov. In keeping up this custom the faithful of Balipara parish also requested for holy Masses in different places throughout the month. The parish priest Fr. Benjamin availed himself always for the faithful.

For the Feast of Christ the King, parishioners had solemn procession after the Mass from the parish to St. John’s School where it was concluded with adoration. They took part in good number.

On the occasion of Children’s Day teachers actively participated with their mesmerizing performance. The same day, the school paid adieu to the class X students. They are 92 in number. The annual examination began

on 23rd Nov. for which students were really serious to do well. The Entrance Test for the new session 2016 was held on 29th November. More than 100 candidates appeared in the test. The same day the new Church of Phuluguri, (Garo Community) was blessed by Fr. Benjamin.

The long awaited dream of having a proper dining hall for the hostellers was fulfilled. Many hands and hearts were put together successfully to complete this project. The kitchen has got a special cooking steam gas oven, which cooks faster with less firewood. Sch. Marius was a great help to bring it to the completion. The blessing was done by Fr Xavier Lakra.

Fr Ranjit Kujur

St Xavier's, Sonabheel

The first two weeks had engaged all the students and teachers in exam. The Degree students had their viva voce as well as project submission. Learning never ends with exams alone. In order to crystallize the aforementioned idea St. Xavier's Junior College organized a multiple competitions like Drawing, Extempore and Debate to mark a memory on Children's Day. In view of preparation the students were divided into seven houses and each house was mentored by two teaching staff members. Soon after the assembly at 9.15 a.m the participants for drawing competition began expressing their artistic thoughts on "Natural Calamity" which was their theme. There were 20 participants. The next event was debate in which there were two participants from each house who spoke for and against the motion. The topic for the debate was "India is not ready for Digitalization". The speakers performed brilliantly in putting forth their logical reasoning and convincing capacities. No doubt, all the students profited a lot. The extempore as the last event was not only entertaining but also worth learning. This event succeeded in imparting the message of self-confidence in all the students. At the end of all the events the acting principal Fr. Ravi thanked all the staff members and students for making this day a big success. On 9th Nov., Fr. Ranjit had gone to North Point Darjeeling to attend PCE meeting and was back on 15th Nov.

On 17th Nov., three eminent guests from Porticus namely Mr. Nathan, Mr. Alfonse and his wife Mrs. Marie visited us. Their interaction with the students and management was worth inspiring. On 22nd Nov.,

there was a Maha Sabha held in our premises for the indigenous people of Assam with regard to foster fraternity among different schedule tribes through a forthcoming cultural celebration in our college campus. With effectual impact Frs. Ranjit Horo and Thomas Barla moderated this Sabha in which more than 200 people from far and near had come to take part.

For the first time in its history, St. Xavier's College had organized "Annual Sports Meet 2015" from 26th to 30th Nov. to infuse true sportsmanship in the students. Schs. Sameer and Claber meticulously chalked out each and every needful requirement in the stamina of excellence for its accomplishment. Fr. Maxi Rodrigues, SVD, was the chief guest on the opening day whereas Mr. Omar Farooq, the Sub-Inspector of our locality was the chief guest on the final day. Apart from athletics, the opening dance and March past displayed quintessence of team spirit. This event has brought a higher sense of co-operation and unity among the students, staff and management.

Fr. Ravi

Manas Bansbari

On 2nd Nov., Masses and blessings of the graveyards were held in every village. We were busy till late in the night attending the needs of the parishioners. The feasts of Diwali and Soharai were celebrated together with great sense of gratitude and joy.

The School celebrated the Children's Day on 14th Nov. Staff and students actively took part in the cultural programme. It was wonderful to see the talents of the students. The school gave warm farewell to its first batch of matric students on 17th Nov. It was a very emotional moment for all the outgoing students as tears rolled down their eyes.

The annual exams began on 18th Nov. We could feel the quiet ambience of the school campus. The construction work of multi-purpose hall and residence is going on in full swing. Fr. Lawrence is busy collecting the books and copies for the next academic year. The admission for the new academic year has already begun. We hope to get many students this year.

Fr. Thomas Barla and Fr. Anup visited Manas Bansbari. Fr. George paid his last visit to Manas Bansbari before going back to Ranchi. Fr. Xavier also paid a short visit to get some information about the school.

Bongaigaon Diocese had organized Eucharistic procession on 21st Nov. on the occasion of the Feast of Christ the King. For the first time it was organized on this day; other years it is held in the respective parishes. About 200 faithful went to Bongaigaon from our parish. It was a great occasion to show the faith to others.

Bimal Minj

Prothrapur (Andaman)

“Children are the greatest blessings” said Holy Father Francis during his recent general audience. Yes, they are indeed! To celebrate this truth, parishioners had Children’s Day on 15th Nov. As preparation for the day, children had competitions like solo singing, solo dance, sports, and essay writing on different topics. On 15th morning during the Holy Eucharist, the faithful sought special blessings upon children. Children took active part in the liturgy: proclamation of the Word, Bible-procession, singing, prayers of the faithful, offertory procession, etc. Parents were delighted to see their little ones doing well. After the Mass, a short felicitation programme was held. At the end, Fr. David gave away prizes for everyone for their active participation and better performance.

The feast of Christ the King brought the parishioners together on 22nd Nov. The liturgy began

with adoration at 7 a.m. followed by Eucharistic procession up to Birdline junction and back to the Church. The faithful had Benediction and solemn Eucharist in the Church. A good number of the faithful turned up for the feast.

Fr. Joseph Minj Memorial Football Tournament was held at Birdline ground after two years of break on 22nd Nov. Fr Joseph Minj SJ was the Spiritual Director of Port Blair Diocese; he expired on 6th April 2007 at Carbynscove Church on Good Friday during the Way of the Cross. The purpose of this tourney is to remember the late Fr Joseph as well as to promote young budding talents of the youth. Number of teams was restricted. The final match was played between Daudnagar and Kodyyaghat. The result was decided by tie-breaker in which the latter team became the champion. Mr. Sanjay Meshack, the councilor was the chief guest.

Fr. George Kerketta, Province Development Director and province coordinator of building commission reached Prothrapur on 27th Nov. for a special purpose. He also visited Diglipur and Ramnagar on 30th to meet our Jesuit brothers. He flew back to Ranchi on 3rd Dec.

Fr David

DIASPORA

Jerusalem

During the month of November various programs were organized to mark the celebrations of *Nostra Aetate* in the Latin Church of Jerusalem. Our community hosted two groups of people who engaged themselves in mutual dialogue and discussions. The first was a Rainbow Group and the second was that of the Jewish Christian dialogue. Both groups engaged a fairly good exchange of views within the sessions. Various youth groups from different parts of Israel gathered at the Auditorium of Notre Dame in Jerusalem and presented many and varied programs of entertainments. Beautiful pieces of music and dances, gymnastics by children, sharing of individuals about their social service promoting the Gospel values of peace and harmony were some of the most interesting items of the evening.

Fr Pat Lee, the house superior and myself went for the solemn Eucharistic celebration at École Biblique (the Dominican University) in Jerusalem. It was the

opening day of the academic year and the Holy Mass was presided over by the Latin Bishop in French language. The French victims of the recent violence in Paris were specially remembered at the Holy Mass. We as a community had a day of prayer and recollection based on the Call of the King, the theme proposed by Fr General in preparation for the GC 36. Fr Superior and Fr Stefano had to accompany the students in their educational tours to various archeological sites in Israel. They visited Veersheba, Arad, Mamsit which fall under the Negeb desert.

Fr Peter De Bruhl and Fr Hans had to be hospitalized for a few days. The former had a minor operation for hernia while the latter had more serious examination for his heart problem. He had a sudden collapse leading him to unconsciousness. He was rushed to a nearby hospital for an Intensive care till he regained his normal heart beat and blood pressure. Besides this, the doctor has also discovered that his knees require to be replaced. Fr Hans is looking for all

possibilities for having the operation in Palestine. Fr Doan too, went for his heart check-up in St Joseph's Hospital. To all RB readers Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016 from Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Camil Kerketta

Rome

Our two theology students Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant passed the Italian language test with very good grades. Passing the language test has been made compulsory to be a regular student of the University. Immediately after passing the test, both of them wished to give the credit of their success to Br. Santosh Kullu who taught them the basic Italian grammar before they left Ranchi for Rome. They are now determined to dedicate their full time and energy to complete successfully the mission assigned to them in Rome. Their seniors Kulwant and Edwin have been their constant source of inspiration and guidance in their academic, community and spiritual life. Now, Kulwant is in the final year of Theology and apart from his hard work and dedication to his studies, he is carrying out faithfully the responsibility of one of the House Coordinators.

Edwin Dang had a rewarding experience of one-day community recollection in Rocca di Papa, about 25 kilometers southeast of Rome. For the first time, the members of the Bellarmino community had the opportunity to dedicate a day of silence and group prayers completely detaching themselves from their daily activities – away from the study desks, Internet, phones, computers and indoor games. Everyone seemed to appreciate the initiative of R.P. Rector Mario Lopéz-Barrio to provide them with such an excellent opportunity to grow together as one community in spiritual love as well as in God's love. On 7th Nov., the community was shocked to receive the sad news of the demise of P. Michael Paul Gallagher, who served the community as its Rector until April 2015. He will be remembered as an authentic scholar who dedicated his life to accompany students in their intellectual pursuit in two houses for the Scholastics in Rome – International College of Gesù and Collegio Bellarmino.

Being four in the same house, Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant, Kulwant and Edwin have created an exemplary rapport with one another, which is essential in their intellectual as well as in spiritual growth. All four of them make it a point to recreate together by playing regularly Table Tennis and Billiards. They were

extremely glad to organize a dinner for Sudhir Minj, who was here in Rome to attend the ASM Socii Meet. They were sweetly surprised when H.E. Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo graced the occasion with his benevolent presence. To encourage the Scholastics in their mission, a few talks were organized on a regular basis. On 6th Nov., P. Echarte Onâte Ignacio SJ, the Secretary of the Society of Jesus introduced them to the functions of the Curia Generalizia. On 13th Nov., P. Alvarez de los Mozos SJ enlightened them with the current burning theme, that the care of the Mother Earth, Our Common Home in the light of *Laudato Si'*. He also guided them in prayers and reflections on *Laudato Si'* for two days. On 4th Dec., P. François Xavier Dumortier SJ, Rector of Gregorian University shared with them his experiences of being a part of the Synod on Family. His talk was quite fascinating and at the same time challenging to know the difficulties and problems in the families in the contemporary world.

Dilip Sanjay has now fully 'installed' himself in the socio-cultural web of Radio Vatican. Towards the end of the month, he had to dedicate extra time and energy to keep pace with the continuous flow of news from the Holy Father's apostolic visit to Africa. As one of the young members of his community, he receives extra care and attention from the elders, which is helping him to insert himself fully into the life and mission in Rome. Linus kept himself busy in taking care of various Speakers who came to address a series of Inter-religious Conferences organized by the Centre for Inter-Religious Studies. The presence and participation of the intellectuals and religious leaders in the Conferences demonstrated the rising interest of people in inter-religious dialogue. Long before the promulgation of *Laudato Si'*, our Department of Moral Theology had been planning to organize a Round Table Conference on Ecology under my guidance and coordination. Finally, on 30th Nov., the Round Table Conference was held in which seven Professors shared their ideas and reflections according to their expertise in a particular field. I presented my reflections on the urgency of the change of life-style to resolve the ecological questions. In his inaugural address, R.P. Rector proposed some practical ways and means to combat the ecological challenges. After so many Seminars and Conference on *Laudato Si'*, it is ardently hoped and expected that the interest and enthusiasm of people on the Encyclical of Pope Francis is translated into some concrete initiatives – personal as well as communitarian! We the Ranchi men in Rome wish all

our Province men, Benefactors, and Friends *A very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2016.*

Fr. Prem

Guyana

After spending three years on the Pakaraima Mountains and serving nineteen communities I came down to Georgetown on 5th Nov., as I had to face the interview for my transit visa to New York for my home visit. I was with Fr. Anil Tirkey in East Coast Jesuit Community Plaisance helping him out in his pastoral ministries. On Monday, 9th November, we, thirty four priests and brothers working in Georgetown Diocese, began our Clergy Conference 2015 in St. Paul's Retreat Centre, with the Holy Eucharist followed by the welcome note. The main theme was Environment. Fr. Michael Trashar, the parish priest of New Amsterdam, gave us a one-day Recollection based on Ecology. Dr. Raquel Thomas Caesar, the director of Iwokrama International Centre, Fair View, highlighted the importance of the forest said that it is a Super Market for the indigenous people. It is like a loving mother, provides all the basic needs of the indigenous people. The Clergy Conference was concluded on Friday, 13th November with the Holy Eucharist in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Brickdam, Georgetown presided over by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB and followed by sumptuous dinner. On 11th Nov., the festival of light, Deepawali, was celebrated with full gusto. We, the team of interior mission, extend our heartfelt thanks to Sr. Suchita Jagrani Kujur, OSU for her generous and dedicated service to the people of Guyana for one year as she returns to Ranchi on 10th Dec. We wish her all the success in her new mission in Ranchi. Fr. Amar Bage went to Matthew's Ridge and Arakaka communities to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to supervise the church building work. There were some generous souls, ready to render their time and energy in the construction of the new church building as most of the churches were old and collapsing. Gradually, the Catholics are coming back to their church. It gives him joy and happiness that his tireless effort is not in vain but just started bearing some fruits. Fr. Anil Tirkey was offering regular classes for the extraordinary Holy Eucharist Ministers in Buxton and Enmore. On Sunday, 15th Nov., nine boys and girls received the First Holy Communion in BV Church, East Coast Demerara. Thanks a lot and hearty congratulations to the catechists who made their best effort to catechize them.

I, Fr. Elias Surin left Chhedi Jagan International Airport Timehri, Georgetown, Guyana for Ranchi on Saturday, 21st Nov., Via Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, JFK New York, Dubai and Delhi- for my long holidays. Heartfelt thanks to St. Xavier High School Jesuits' Community, Down Town Manhattan, New York for their warm and hearty welcome. It was a wonderful experience with my Jesuit friends in New York as I spent two days over there. I feel proud to be a member of the universal Society of Jesus. The World Trade Centre, 11 Sept. Memorial, Statue of Liberty, Empire Building, Rock Feller Centre, and Cathedral which I visited, were awesome. On Monday, 24th Nov., the longest journey I travelled from JFK New York to Dubai (12 hrs 40m), it was a thrilling experience. I was excited to have a glimpse of Burj Khalifa (2,722ft) the world's tallest building in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. On Friday, 27th Nov., it was my privilege to celebrate Holy Eucharist in Vidyajyoti Delhi for my theology professors to thank God for the wonderful gifts as my instructors and guides in my priestly formation. Thanks to VJ community for warm and hearty welcome. On Saturday, 28th Nov., it was a very touching experience for me as I arrived in Birsa Munda International Airport Ranchi from Indira Gandhi International Airport Delhi after three years; I was accorded a warm and hearty welcome by Fr. Pius Xalxo, the Rector of Manresa House and Scholastic Priyatam Lakra. It was the perfect gesture of brotherly love and hospitality. Sincere thanks to Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng, the Secretary of the Provincial, for making all the arrangements for me.

Fr. Elias Surin

Cairo (Egypt)

On 1st Nov., I was privileged to participate with one of the Egyptian Jesuits in the final vows ceremony of one of the Comboni nuns in the down south of Egypt called Aswan, 1,400 kms from Cairo. After my very 1st arrival in Egypt I had shared with others in guiding her to join a religious life and continue. It was a unique experience to meet Comboni Fathers and Sisters there. On 4th Nov., an Egyptian Jesuit Brother, Latif, aged 68, passed away in Cairo due to heart attack. The next day, there began a cyclonic rain in Alexandria, the coastal city at the Mediterranean Sea. Most of the low lying areas were submerged in deep waters. As a result, Jesuits from there couldn't participate for the burial ceremony.

On 5th Nov., one of the former Provincials of Near East, Fr. Fadel, celebrated fifty years as a Jesuit. A good

number of religious and lay people were present in the evening Holy Mass to share his joy. In the Mid–Nov., Fr. Victor Edwin, SJ (Professor of Vidya Jyoti) was our guest in Cairo. He’s one of the teachers of Christian–Muslim dialogue in India. It was enriching for him to have a firsthand experience of Sunni Islam in Egypt.

On 19th–20th Nov., six Ursuline Sisters from Jharkhand were here in Egypt with the group of Holy Land Pilgrimage. It was a moment of great joy for me as I was able to meet them in Cairo.

The Indians residing in Cairo had arranged a Deepavali gathering in a five star hotel. It was very well arranged and reserved for 370 persons only. Due to special favour from one of the benefactors, I was able to participate with two newly ordained priests Frs. Sunil Tirkey (Dominican) and Wilson (SMA) from A.P. They are here in Cairo for their classical Arabic language studies. There was a week–end inter novitiate gathering. Along with Franciscan and Jesuit novices, forty women novices from ten Religious Congregations had gathered. I had the opportunity to offer Holy Mass for them in Arabic language in Coptic rite. Two of our second year novices are already out for their four months’ community and pastoral experience in Lebanon and Upper Egypt. They hope to be back by Mid–March 2016.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Paris, France

The Indian priests and religious had a gathering on 17th October at Jesuit community (117 rue de Blomet, Vaugirard). Around 60 of us came together to share our experiences in Paris. Fr. Deepak George (KER) presided over the Holy Mass while 7 others concelebrated. After the Holy Mass and short break, Fr. Marc Rastoin, (France) Faculty member of Theology at Centre Sevres delivered a talk on *Laudato Si’* – from an Indian perspective followed by questions and clarifications. The input was quite relevant and insightful. It was followed by self-introduction and ice-breaking session conducted by Schs. Sathya (MDU) and Anand Paul (AND). The gathering concluded with sumptuous Indian dishes.

One of my community members Fr. Manuel Grandin (France) took his final vows on 31st Oct. The ceremony was held at Saint Denis Parish Church in the north of Paris where he did his pastoral ministry during the last few years. Bishop Pascal Delanoy of Saint Denis diocese was the main celebrant. Nearly

70 priests concelebrated the solemn Mass. Fr. Manuel’s family members and friends from Martinique graced the occasion. Soon after the Mass he was felicitated by songs, dances, and a role play. We, as a community felicitated him with an action song which was surprising and amazing for every one present there. It was a joyful occasion for all of us.

Fr. Xavier Nucci (France), Delegate of Provincial for formation called a scholastic meet on 1st Nov. He addressed us at first on integral formation and asked us to discuss it in the groups. There were three scholastics from different stages chosen to share their experiences on the topic. The gathering was concluded by a fellowship meal.

Friday night, 13th Nov. became a black night for Paris. The terrorists killed at least 128 people in seven simultaneous attacks in Paris, 180 seriously wounded, and 80 people were in critical stage (French authorities). Bataclan (a theatre) where more people, especially young people were killed (around 80). The theatre is just 7 Km away from our community. Now, life goes on as usual with the hope that nothing will reoccur like that.

We were very happy to welcome three Socii - Fr. Sudhir Minj (RAN), Fr. Alphonse Tirkey (MAP) and Fr. Sushil Tirkey (HAZ). We took them to some important places, streets and boulevards in Paris especially where 500 years ago St Ignatius walked, studied, prayed and did his ministries. We also visited Martyrium where the first 7 companions pronounced their first vows in front of Peter Fabre, the only priest among them. They seemed to be quite happy and satisfied after their visit to those important places.

Fr. Samir

Salamanca, Spain

Both of us are still busy with our language classes. The winter has set in. After the initial struggles and hardships in learning language and adapting to new culture, now life seems to be settled. We are very happy to be able to adjust ourselves in a new culture. We perceive huge process of change in terms of the culture, the spirituality, the ideology and the Jesuit Identity. Every day we have language classes as usual from 9.00 a.m to 1.00 p.m. The rest of the day is utilized with assignments and community activities.

On 21st Nov. evening, Fr. Xavier Soreng came to Salamanca after his meeting in Loyola. We were overwhelmed to receive him amongst us. He was with us for almost two days. Being weekend, we had enough

time to be with him. One evening we went around visiting the city as it is one of the significant places in the history of the Society of Jesus.

On 27th Nov., Fr. Pablo Alonso (the Formation delegate of Spain) came to our community for his annual visitation. Since now we are directly under him, he gave his valuable time to listen to us. We shared ups and downs of our life with him. He was very happy with our genuine sharing and commented in a humorous way, ‘Now Ranchi and Spanish provinces are going to work together in collaboration with each other.’ It’s likely to be true in the near future as the

vocation of Spanish province has gone down over the years. We are altogether 8 scholastics in the community. On 30th Nov., we had sharing among ourselves based on our life in the community. Both of us got a chance to express ourselves in our broken Spanish. Now we are busy preparing ourselves for the upcoming language test for the level A2 to move on to the next. The test is likely to take place sometime in the second week of Dec. Wish you all a very Happy Christmas. May baby Jesus bless us all and our mission.

Sch. Anuj Minj

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Br. Blacius Ekka SJ (61/88) passed away on 09 Dec. 2015.

Mrs. Saroj Tiru (52+), auntie of Fr. Anuranjan Purty, who died on 16 Nov. 2015.

Mrs. Philomina Barla (83+), grandmother of Fr. Anuranjan Purty, who died on 28 Nov. 2015.

BABIES OF THE MONTH : December & January

DECEMBER

- 01 Surin Elias
- 07 Tirkey Vijay Manohar
- 04 Kujur Ashish
- 10 Breye Erik
- 11 Kerketta Sanjay
- 17 Baghwar Marius
- 18 Xalxo Ignatius
Bage Kamal Chandra
Toppo Bruno
- 19 Bilung Nitin
- 22 Bilung Gilbert
Kullu Ferdinand
- 23 Toppo Christopher
- 24 Lakra Christopher
- 25 Barla Emmanuel
Kujur Ernest
- 26 Beck Milianus
- 29 Dungdung John B.
Basumatary Lazarus

JANUARY

- 03 Xalxo Sagar
- 06 Minj Patras
- 07 Ekka Philemon
Kujur Anselm
Kiro Laurentius
- 10 Guria Benjamin
- 09 Lakra Amrit
- 11 Terrens Paul
Kullu Clement
- 12 Dungdung Mathias
- 13 Kindo Robert
- 15 Toppo Alok
- 17 Bage Sandeep Birendra
- 19 Kullu Rajesh Kuldeep
- 20 Tete Ignatius
- 21 Nag Anil
- 22 Minj Nelson
- 24 Lakra Chonhas
- 26 Baxla Jyoti Paul
- 26 Kerketta Raymond
Tigga Tej Kumar
- 27 Lakra Bimal Elias
- 28 Lakra Nabor
- 30 Ekka Manoj