

RANCHI BULLETIN



74/2

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

FEBRUARY 2015

FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMMES,

- Feb. 15** : Holy Mass in the Cathedral– Marriage Encounter
Feb. 18-19 : *COETUS PRAEVIUS* at 8.30 AM
Feb.21-01 March : JCSA Meeting – Mumbai
March 01 : De Nobili College, Pune – Visitation

Congratulations to our Newly Ordained Priests: Fr. Suresh M. Aind SJ and Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess SJ.



“Abide in my love” (Jn 15, 9), is the motto of Fr. Suresh Marcus Aind, SJ, who was ordained priest by Rt. Rev. Vincent Barwa, DD, the bishop of Simdega Diocese, amidst great solemnity at the Catholic Church, Rengarih, on 18th January, the first one to be ordained in 2015 for the Ranchi Province.

Fr. Suresh Marcus Aind, SJ, s/o Mr. John Aind and Mrs. Salomi Barla, with his 4 brothers, hails from village Bheditoli, under Lathakhamhan village chapel (10 km) from Rengarih Parish. Mr. John Aind has been a catechist lifelong and is still serving as such in the Kharwagarha village chapel.

At 8.AM Sunday, in a pleasantly cool weather the faithful of Rengarih, school children, college students, religious and clergy converged on the widely spaced “Pokhra Ghar” stage which was beautifully decorated. The congregation numbered more than 2,500.

The solemnity began with an entrance dance leading the bishop and the concelebrating priests to the altar. The ceremony lasted 3 hours with plenty of devotional hymns, dances and discourses. There were 53 priests concelebrating. The Religious Sisters numbered about the same.

After the Gospel and a meaningful sermon by the bishop, Fr. Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, invited the Deacon Suresh Aind, SJ, to come forward and declare his consent to be ordained priest. With an initial enquiry of consent and fidelity to the church, bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, ordained him a priest forever. The choir was excellent with melodious hymns led by Fr. Alphonse Kullu, SJ and his team.

After the Holy Eucharist a flurry of felicitation items followed which went on beyond 3.00 PM. Fr. Alois Beck, SJ, the Parish Priest, saw to it that everything like the ordination ceremony, felicitation programmes and feeding the guests and parishioners went on well and came to a good finish.



The hopes and dreams of Mr. Prakash Xess and Mrs. Rahil, the parents of Deacon Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ came to be fulfilled. Deacon Ravi was ordained priest by His Eminence, the Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo of Ranchi Archdiocese on 1st February, at the spacious quadrangle of St. Xavier's School, Doranda. Fr. Ravi Bhushan has one younger brother, Abhishek Xess, who has settled down.

The faithful of Doranda Parish and the Fathers and Sisters of Ranchi city assembled at the colourfully and elegantly decorated *shamianah* in St. Xavier's High School compound. There were more than 100 priests who concelebrated, more than 100 religious Sisters participated and estimated 3,000 faithful attended the ceremony.

At 9.15 AM, the Cardinal and the concelebrating priests were led by the entrance dance from three different angles to the altar. Behind the altar on the screen was the motto of Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ, brightly and invitingly written,

“What does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” [Mt. 16, 26]

The whole ceremony took 3 hours with its melodious and devotional hymns led by the seasoned choir master Mr. Saims and Fr. Sanjay Kerketta, SJ. The atmosphere of rapt attention and a sense of inner fulfillment prevailed through the whole ceremony as this was the only ordination in 50 years the school has produced. But I must add that there is another son of the school, Br. Angel Bilung, MC, who has joined the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity, Kolkatta.

Fr. Ajit Xess, SJ, the Principal of the school was at the helm of the whole ceremony and steered it dexterously right from the beginning to its finish explaining every rubric of the ordination as a master of ceremony. For many it was the first time to witness the elaborate rituals of ordination.

The felicitation programmes presented by the school students depicted the life sketch of the school days of Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ, and how he got his vocation to religious life. After them came the Jesuits in their hordes filling the whole stage dancing away before the awestricken crowd and that they can do so with *dholaks* and the Adivasi alluring songs. The elderly, the young, the Juniors, the Novices and the Candidates, all were there. A good vocations promotion!

The food was served to more than 3,000 Religious and laity. St. Xavier's Community bore the burden of all this. They deserve our congrats. The St. Xavier's community Fathers and Brothers played a vital role in hosting this mega ceremony because without their shouldering it, it would not have been a big day for all us.

Fr. Ajay Soreng

INFORMATION

- **Ranchi Province Gathering 2015** will be held from Wed. May 20 (eve) – Friday, 22, 2015.
- **Fr Linus Dungdung SJ:** Mobile Numbers: 08002548961; 08987461003

HOUSES, PARISHES, INSTITUTIONS

St Xavier's Doranda

After the winter vacation school reopened on 8th January. In the New Year students began their classes with zeal and vigour. The eight B. Ed students from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi came for their teaching practice. At the end of their scheduled time they shared their teaching experiences with the principal and the teachers.

On 17th January, both the teaching and the non-teaching staff went for a picnic to Rukka Dam, Ormanjhi, on the outskirts of Ranchi. It was a good time to relax and enjoy for a while. Then, there was a series of different events in the school: two farewell programmes for the

class XII students on 20th January and later for Class X. The programmes were marked by prayer service, special blessing for the students by the chief guest, and the distribution of prizes to the outstanding students in different categories.

Further, the Inter-School Fiesta and School Carnival were held on 23rd and 25th January respectively with the combined effort of St. Xavier's School and Doranda Old Xaverians (Alumni of the school). Several schools participated in different activities of the Inter School Cultural Fiesta. This became one of the best platforms for the students to show their talents. On this occasion

there were food and games stalls which were fully managed by the students themselves. This was a good platform for the students to learn the managerial skills in different ways. On the day of Carnival there were thousands of footfalls. The youth flocked to be part of this unforgettable event.

The Republic Day was celebrated with zeal and fervor. On this occasion Fr Principal exhorted the students to have the true spirit of patriotism and pride of being Indian. He challenged them to contribute their share to nation-building. Later all the Jesuits went to Dibdih for the Republic Day cum Sports Day celebration among the students of Outreach Programme. It was a great pleasure to see the young boys and girls performing well.

Finally, there was a historic event in the school: the priestly ordination of Deacon Ravi Bhushan Xess SJ who was ordained on 1st February. Though he is the only priest from the school in 50 years of its existence, yet this ordination gives a hope for some more vocations from here. We hope to see the result of the challenging question posed by Fr. Provincial before the students.

Sch Samir Bhawnra

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

After Christmas holidays, as soon as the college reopened on 6th January, the End-Semester examinations of M.A First Year and Commerce Vocational Course First Year started. The other departments continued the regular classes. Fr. C. De Brouwer Memorial Interdisciplinary Lectures were organized by the Department of Physics on 21st January. The said date happens to be the Birthday of the late Fr. C. De Brouwer S.J. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. P.K. Barhai, Ex- VC, Birla Institute of Technology Mesra, and the two invited speakers were Prof. Narendra K. Jaggi, Prof. of Physics, Illinois University, USA and Dr. K. Prasad, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna.

All the eminent guests graced the event by imparting their valuable insights and knowledge to the benefit of the students and teachers present during the occasion. Dr. P.K. Barhai focused on the requirement of being versatile, to be multidisciplinary and to be versed with the upcoming technologies. Dr. Narendra K. Jaggi had close association with the late Fr. C. De Brouwer. He mentioned that in Illinois University he mentors the students not only in class but anywhere he meets them, a quality which he imbibed from Fr. De Brouwer, and advised all to practice the same. He suggested the students to gain deep insight from whatever they study, even if they are using or handling a scientific instrument and some fault occurs they should be capable of rectifying it.

Dr. K. Prasad delivered a talk on *Nano Science & Technology: A Technology of Future*. He explained what

Nano-science is and how this is applicable to almost every stream of science. He explained some of his works where Nano-science is exhibiting its impact on everyday life, related to medicinal value, food processing and many more.

The college had a very colourful & thrilling *Xavier-Utsav 2015* held on 13, 14 and 15th February. This year due to delay in Ranchi University Convocation, we could not hold convocation ceremony of the College.

Fr. N. Tete

St. Mary's, Samtali

The classes resumed on 7th January after the Christmas holidays. Having qualified at the district and state levels a team of our students went to Kolkata to participate in the Science Exhibition at the national level in the first week of January. Although the team couldn't win any trophy but our school became known to others.

On 13th January, Frs. Manohar and John attended the priestly ordination of Manohar's brother Roshan Toppo in Katkahi parish. Frs. Gilbert D'Souza and Benjamin Lakra were here on 9th January. Fr. Gilbert stayed here for a few days to assess the possibility of starting a degree college at Samtoli. On 16th January, Fr. Provincial and Frs. Ajay Soreng and Chonhas Lakra arrived here for the priestly ordination of Deacon Suresh Aind which took place at Rengarih on 18th January. All of us went to Rengarih for the ordination.

On 18th January, during the evening prayer Fr. Linus Dungdung was installed as the new Rector of St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. The following day, Fr. Albert Dungdung went to Bheritoli Lathakhamhan for the first Mass of Fr. Suresh Aind. In the evening Frs. John Turkey, Sikander Kerketta and Bruno Toppo went to Fr. Suresh's house for a festive dinner.

On 25th January, the entrance tests for classes VI and VII were conducted for the year 2015-16. The Apostolic school had it earlier for class VII only. On the Republic Day, T.R. (Teachers Representative) Shri Alphonse Dungdung hoisted the national flag in the High School. On 28th January, Frs. John, Sikander, Isaac, Bruno, Manohar and Ireneus went to Ranchi to attend a two-day workshop on *The Legacy of Jesuit Education* guided by Fr. Norbert Menezes S.J. All of us returned home on 30th January except Fr. Isaac who stayed in Ranchi for the priestly ordination of Deacon Ravi Bhushan Xess at St. Xavier's School Doranda on 1st February.

Fr. Isaac Tete

St. Michael's Jesuit Residence, Khunti

On the eve of bidding farewell to 2014 and welcoming the New Year 2015 we had a meaningful thanksgiving

adoration with the parishioners followed by a solemn Holy Mass. As per tradition, we had a picnic of the local religious communities at the Ursuline Convent to welcome the first day of the year. We enjoyed delicious food prepared by different communities. The very presence as well as singing and dancing of pre-novices spiced up the mood of picnic. On 3rd January, we went to Bingaon for our community picnic. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Raphael Soy and Ravi Bhushan for their warm welcome.

In the school a spectacular farewell programme was organized for the outgoing students of class X and class XII, on 23rd January. The juniors left no stone unturned to make this a special one for their seniors. Their creative and innovative songs, dances and speeches, centered on the theme, "Alvida" made the seniors feel loved, cared for and wanted by the Loyolites.

We got two deep bore wells; one in the residence campus and the other in the English medium school premise. So, now we feel confident of tackling the water scarcity in the summer season. We are grateful to the benefactors for their generosity. On 20th January, Fr. Ferdinand had gone to the Minor Seminary, Ranchi to interview candidates there for the 2015-16 pre-novitiate batch. Frs. Amrit, Augustine and Pradeep attended a two-day programme at Jharna organized for all the Jesuits engaged in educational apostolate.

We also had a couple of sad news. On 6th January, one of our pre-novices from Assam lost his father and on 21st January, another pre-novice from Tongo lost his elder brother. Both of them had gone home to be with their bereaved loved ones, and now are back with us safe and sound.

Sch. Jyoti

SSS, Lohardaga

Fr. Callixtus Tete stayed in Patratoli with his brand usual hale and hearty mood, except for regular complaint of breathlessness even in the airy atmosphere. As long as he stayed in Lohardaga his reminiscences of the place and people, jokes and talks with puns had become medicine for his ailment. But Fr. Albinus could not pretend to be healthy as his sputum with blood stain indicated something ominous. So he visited the Ursula Hospital and went through a series of tests. He is back to the community but the weakness continues. Br. Nico was worried about protecting his roosters from the wild cats but his dogs enjoyed two of them; so he gave the rest for the farewell dinner. Fr. Sushil was left in a sticky situation when two laptops with entire documents were stolen from the parlour of the house where he had made his temporary office of AROUSE. Fr. Ranjit Lakra and Fr. Ignatius Lakra tried their skill to trace the lost but found no clue whatsoever.

Fr. Ignatius Lakra and Fr. Alexius Dungkung replaced each other to shoulder the responsibilities of St. Stanislaus High School, Lohardaga and Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa. On this occasion Fr. Ajit Xess and Fr. Paul Vijay Minj were present for the process. The School family welcomed Fr. Alexius Dungkung, the new Principal of St. Stanislaus High School. He hoisted the National Flag and received guard of honour on the Republic Day. The crowd pulling performance by the students of St. Stanislaus, St. Anne's Girls' High and Middle schools and Catholic Primary School Patratoli marked the day of patriotic celebration.

AROUSE Lohadaga is grappling to keep the SHGs, under its monitoring and supervision, intact and steady because some of the groups are lured to the promises given by some agencies and ELOs of the blocks. Many of the SHG members are confused and scared of bank linkage as they had already been cheated. However, AROUSE has applied for small projects from NABARD, namely, Groups Leadership Training Programme, Farmer Clubs and Joint Liability Groups. NABARD sponsored *Nukkad Natak* is being enacted to spread financial literacy in 80 villages. It also started tailoring classes for the girls and boys who wish to take it as income generating activities. Fr. Stan and Fr. Xavier Soreng spared their time for the people of Lohardaga to awaken them to assert their rights and also the duties.

Fr. Sushil Tikrey

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

We had a meaningful pilgrimage trip to Goa. Our troupe consisted of 87 Scholastics from different parts of India, including Scholastics from Sri Lanka, East Timor and Africa and two staff members. We had this great opportunity to visit the sacred relic of St. Francis Xavier and experienced a great sense of devotion and reverence to the man who is truly regarded as the patron of mission in India. The tour itself gave us an opportunity to visit different places in Goa. We came back to Satya Nilayam on 1st January and celebrated the arrival of the New Year with great enthusiasm.

Fr. Vinod joined the community on 5th January after his Christmas holidays. We were delighted to have Fr. Michael, our PCF, with us for his visitation from 12-16 January. He was very well received by all men of ours and the community here at Satya Nilayam. His visitation has given us a great sense of comfort and support. The feast of Pongal was celebrated in the community on 15th January with great fanfare, camaraderie and warmth.

Johny Kujur

Loyola College, Chennai

In the New Year College reopened on 5th January but a week later it was closed for Pongal celebration from 14th

to 18th January. The community of Berchmans Illam celebrated Pongal with fun and frolic on 15th. Scholastics of Madurai Province prepared sweet Pongal and served the entire community. They also arranged some funny games for the living groups in which different groups took part enthusiastically. Fr Michael Kerketta was in Chennai for a week. During his visit, Ranchi Scholastics of Satya Nilayam and Berchmans Illam had a fellowship gathering in Satya Nilayam on 14th January. The presence of Frs. Vinod Soreng and Erenius Toppo doubled our joy. All enjoyed the companionship and fellowship. On 16th January, Fr Michael came to Berchmans Illam. We had a good time with him as he not only listened to us but also joined us for games especially Badminton. We concluded his visit with a

meaningful Eucharist. He left Chennai for Ranchi on 18th January. The First CIA test began on 2nd February.

Fr. Erenius & Sch. Sameer

Sanjeevan, Vijaywada

Classes resumed from 5th January onward. Fr Michael Kerketta visited us on 11th January. His visit brought us lot of joy and encouragement. From 13th to 17th January we had Triduum in Guntur at Anand Jyoti. Fr. Ravindra SJ gave the Triduum based on Eco-spirituality. It was God-filled experience for us. Triduum inspired us to be sensitive and closer to nature. We celebrated joyfully the birthdays of six brothers together on 23rd evening with a tribal dance.

Wilson Kandulna

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Manasbansbari, Assam

The New Year celebration brought new hope to the people here. A big number of parishioners came for the Holy Mass, since there was no Christmas celebration due to ethnic problem in some parts of Assam.

From 2nd till 17th January, catechism classes were conducted by two pastoral Sisters and two village catechists. Seventy children and adults attended the catechism classes for the first communion and confirmation. On 18th, twenty children received the first communion. On 26th January, there was supposed to be the Parish Annual Sabha but due to the fear of ethnic clash, the *Sabha* is postponed; so the confirmation also remains pending.

This year we started class X with 28 students. Ours has become now a full-fledged high school. The parish priest and Principal Fr. Laurentus Kiro was busy constructing a few more class rooms. The new academic year started from 19th January with 34 new admissions for LKG, much less than expected, due to fear of violence.

Fr. Theodore Ba'a

Prothrapur

Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias accompanied by Rev. Fr. Tarcitius Kujur and Fr. V. Selvaraj came to Prothrapur for canonical visitation on 4th January. Bishop presided over the Eucharist. Thereafter the meeting of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Council (PFC) was held with the Bishop and the representatives. Fr. Selvaraj briefed the functions and responsibilities of these different councils. Council members had the opportunity to put forward the problems and difficulties of the parish too.

Twenty First Catholic Maha Mahila Sangh Convention was held at Prothrapur on 18th January,

which was inaugurated by flag hoisting followed by the Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Dharampal Turkey, Vicar General of the Port Blair diocese was the main celebrant. A big number of faithful participated in it. "Holistic Development of Women" was the theme for this convention. These were some of the topics which helped the women to reflect over for their all round development: "Family, education and economic condition" by Ursela Minj, "Politics" by Rajni Jyoti Kindo, (Pradhan Gram Panchayat Wimberlygunj), "Spirituality, Health and hygiene" by Bibinta Bage, the President of Maha Mahila Sangh. The number of the participants was around 1,050 from nine different parishes of South Andaman and Nicobar.

Diocesan SCC team consisted of one priest and three Sisters of St. Joseph of Apparition, headed by Rev. Fr. Zacharias Barla arrived at Prothrapur on 19th January for the SCC programme in this parish. On 25th January, Catholic Tamil Community of Prothrapur parish celebrated the feast of Pongal with pomp and gaiety. The day was marked by meaningful Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Rev. Fr. Patrick Alphonse, SDB. Just after Holy Mass seminar for the SCC leaders and animators was held. The diocesan SCC team gave the input followed by group discussions and reporting session. This was really fruitful for the leaders.

Fr David.

Ramnagar

The New Year was joyfully welcomed by the vigil mass on 31st December 2014. A good number of the faithful were present for the thanksgiving mass. On 11th January, 21st Annual Gathering of North Zone Maha Mahila Sangh took place at Ramnagar. The programme began with flag hoisting at 7.30 a.m. which was followed by the holy

mass. All parish priests from north Andaman, namely, Fr. Arun from Rangat, Fr. Dinesh from Mayabunder, Fr. Johnson from Kalapahar and Fr. Edward from Diglipur were present for the event. Everything went well with

the support and cooperation of the parishioners. Fr. Benedict left for Ranchi on 19th January for his well-deserved official holidays.

Fr. Anil Kandulna

DIASPORA

Rome

After two weeks of Christmas vacation, the Gregorian University resumed its regular classes on 7th January. During the lunch break, the entire University community exchanged the traditional New Year best wishes with the sparkling wine offered by R.P. Rector. In a few words, he expressed his hope of seeing a more vibrant and active University community during the New Year. 22nd January was the last day of the First Semester classes. Edwin and Kulwant dedicated their time and energy to prepare themselves for the First Semester exams during the Christmas break. Edwin submitted the required written assignments on time and was relatively relaxed when the exam fever was running high for the others. To celebrate his first Ordination anniversary, he was glad to spend half a day as a pilgrim with Biju Sebastian (DUM) at Nettuno, the place of martyrdom of St. Maria Goretti. Kulwant had registered himself for 9 courses and so had to slog hard for 9 exams. By the end of January, he was content to have completed half of the exams with flying colours. After the exams, he will go along with other members of the community to Venice for a few days. He has managed very well to combine his studies with his new assignment as the Coordinator of the community life.

In addition to their seriousness in studies, Edwin and Kulwant have always some innovative and creative ideas and plans, which they bring out with sweet surprises. When Justin and Linus were out for the Christmas ministries in the Parishes of North Italy, they had organized a Christmas *Milan* for those staying back at home during Christmas on 26th December. For the New Year, they had a bright idea of inviting the Ranchi Jesuits in Rome on 4th January for a Holy Mass in the Room of St. Ignatius. Edwin, our youngest priest, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. The Holy Mass in Italian, homily in Hindi and hymns in Saadri gave a real international flavour to the celebration. Within six months, Edwin seems to have picked up very well the fundamentals of the Italian language.

Justin left for Manila on 11th January as one of the members of the Vatican Radio team to cover the proceedings of the Papal Visit to the Philippines. He shared some of the important news and views from

Manila through a special bulletin. He remained there until 2nd February to prepare the necessary papers for his further studies.

One of the important events during the past two months was our personal meeting with Pope Francis. Immediately after the publication of *Evangelii Gaudium*, there was a rush to read, interpret and interrogate the text to understand the ideas, thinking pattern and position of the Holy Father Pope Francis on diverse issues ranging from the Church, Evangelization, Life and Testimony of Faith, Interreligious Dialogue to the current Social issues. The Department of Moral Theology of the Gregorian University organized a Round Table Conference in January to analyze the text of the Papal Exhortation from theological, philosophical and social viewpoints. The public response to the Conference was overwhelming. Later, Professors from different Departments wrote articles on issues raised by the Holy Father in the Exhortation. I contributed on the theme *Ecological Imprints in Pope Francis' Thinking*. All the articles came out in a book form.

After the publication of the book, we were surprised to receive an invitation from the Holy Father for a Private Audience on Thursday 4th December. We had a profoundly touching, inspiring and enriching meeting with him in his residence Casa Santa Marta. What was most inspiring and touching was his simplicity and cordiality, which made us feel at home immediately. He just walked in without any *taam-jhaam*, greeted each one of us warmly and sat in a circle like one of us. He spent one full hour with us, listening to us and sharing his own ideas, reflections and vision of the Church, Sacraments, Formation of the Priests and Religious, Interreligious Dialogue, Fundamentalism and some of the burning current social issues.

During the First Semester, the Department of Moral Theology is offering an interdisciplinary course on *Evangelii Gaudium*, which also symbolizes our serious efforts to understand, interiorize and follow the teachings of a Pope, who seems to be prophetic, visionary and revolutionary. Now with the prospect of his Encyclical on Ecology coming out in June, our Department has already initiated the process of organizing another Round Table Conference to discuss the ecological questions

from the point of view of Pope Francis. Right from the first day of his Pontificate, he has been continuously and consistently expressing his views on ecological issues connecting them with faith, justice and peace. I am coordinating the group of 12 interdisciplinary Professors to organize the forthcoming Conference. We have already completed two rounds of fruitful discussions and reflections and the next meeting is scheduled for 13th March. We do hope that the group will present a profound and panoramic view of the “green and poor-oriented thinking” of Pope Francis based on serious discussions, studies and research.

Fr Prem

Cairo, Egypt

The New Year morning Solemn Holy Mass for the Jesuits in Cairo was blessed with the presence of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops of various rites (Coptic, Greek Catholic, Byzantine, Maronite, Chaldean, Armenian, Latin and others) followed by a festive dinner. This tradition is being followed since years. After being transferred to Cairo, this was a golden opportunity for me to meet them all personally.

On 3rd January, I received a Jesuit from Austria with his eight members' lay group working in Romania among street children and the less privileged. That very time, I had a friend from Malta. While taking them around Cairo for a full day visit I was able to share with them about my work in Egypt. The day was concluded with an evening Holy Mass in our Novitiate community. On 8th January I gave a second TV interview for half an hour in English. Copts have their Christmas on 7th January so the topic was about the “Joy of Christmas season”. On 11th January, families of the Jesuits were invited for a Holy Mass and an agape meal. The Near East Provincial was the main celebrant. It was a time of sharing with the family members who were present. The family of one of the scholastics' was present for the occasion travelling more than 450 kms one way. Kudos to them! On 17th January, there was the priestly ordination of one of our Egyptian Jesuits from Cairo. He was ordained by the Coptic Patriarch. To grace the occasion Jesuits from Ireland and representative Jesuits from Near East & Maghreb Province (Turkey, Algeria, Lebanon, Syria) were present. After the 1st term exams, on 23rd January began the 15 days' winter vacation for the students all over Egypt. All the educational institutes will reopen on 7th February. Away from the academic pressure, a four-day holiday programme was arranged for the teaching/non-teaching staff and their families in the Red Sea's beach resort. Altogether 115 participated; four Jesuits were also present with them. It was again a moment for

me to meet them all as our school is situated at three different places.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Paris, France

In Paris, people welcomed the New Year 2015 without much pomp except for some celebrations and noise here and there. On 5th January, the institutions and the offices reopened. I started my classes with new zeal and vigour, but the next day itself I started suffering from ‘pulled muscle’ which forced me to take complete rest at home for three weeks. Now, I have started walking normally that is without the help of crutches but yet to recover completely. The doctor has put me on medication, just a pill a day for another three months.

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of Fr. Pierre Gauffriau, S.J., one of our community members who completed his 60 years in the Society last year. To mark this day we had a solemn Holy Mass and sumptuous lunch with his invitees. We wished him with a song, a poem and a speech.

On 30th January, there was snow fall in Paris for some time. As it was for the first time for me, I enjoyed watching it. The next day was the day to celebrate our consecrated life as a community. In order to mark the day in the evening we had a solemn Holy Mass and fellowship dinner with our invitees mostly lay persons. It was also an occasion to let them know about Jesuits and their ministries.

Fr. Samir

Jerusalem

The New Year 2015 began with abundant blessings of God for the community of Pontifical Biblical Institute (PBI) as Fr. Patrick Lee SJ was installed as the House Superior. The outgoing Superior Fr. Doan stays in the community till the next mission is assigned to him. Soon there followed the visit of the Delegate (in-charge of the International common Houses of Rome or DIR). His visitation was from 10th to 17th January. The delegate spent one full day visiting three Jesuits staying at Bethlehem and the other remaining days he visited the members staying at Jerusalem. After listening to the individuals, office holders and directors of works and apostolates, he delivered his *memoriale* on the last day. The main focus of his talk centered on his appeal to bring fresh the spirit of the Jesuit presence and mission in the Holy Land because this is the mind of the universal mission of the Society and the need of the present time. This requires in the first place strengthening the bond and unity in the community. The diversity of apostolates has brought rather sharp separation between the Jesuits to the extent of being a great individual worker. So far

the community of PBI Jerusalem and the community of Bethlehem functioned independently. Now the emphasis is to create the PBI community as one and all the mission works proceed from the community. Thus the community itself upholds and carries out the universal mission of the Society of Jesus.

Students concluded the semester by holding a diploma day in our Institute on 28th January. Fr. Peter Dubovsky SJ, the present Dean of the Biblical Institute, Rome, and some professors and members of the administrative body from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem graced the occasion. The programme was short and sweet and a sumptuous lunch was served thereafter.

20th January was a memorable day. The members of our community went to Galilee for a visit. Driving along the eastern shore of the Lake of Galilee we went up close to Mount Hermon. The natural beauty was exciting as the Mt Hermon and the surrounding areas were covered with snow. Banyas Park was another interesting place. It is the site of the Biblical Caesarea Philippi, developed by Herod Antipas II, the king of Galilee, the great grandson of Herod the Great. Travelling close to the Lebanese border we came down to the Church of the Beatitudes, the traditional site of the Sermon on the Mount and St. Peter's Primacy (both are situated on the shore) and the synagogue at Capernaum.

Fr. Camil J

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Mr. Stephen Tete (75), Cousin Brother of Br Felix Tete SJ died on 15th January 2015.

BABIES OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY		MARCH	
03	Tigga Blacius	05	Kujur Frederick
05	Beck John Anuranjan		Xess Ravi Bhushan
	Kerketta Cherobin	06	Lakra Ranjit Walter
06	Ekka Anup Arvind	07	Kindo Alexius
09	Kujur Ranjit	10	Kujur Habil
10	Kujur Robert Pradeep	11	Kullu Anil
11	Minj Anuj	14	K.C. Philip
12	Kujur Ignatius	16	Bara Leo
14	Kujur Johny		Dungdung Christopher
15	Ekka Sameer		Tirkey John
16	Toppo Deepak	17	Barla Henry
	Lakra Amit Juel	19	Horo Sibil Joseph
19	Xalxo Ruben		Soreng Jaywant
21	Tirkey Suresh John	21	Lakra Benedict
22	Kerketta Bimal		Beck Anand Amar
23	Tete Isaac	23	Bilung Brice
	Ekka Alok	25	Soreng George
24	Horo Emmanuel	27	Tete Nicholas
	Kerketta Edward	29	Kiro Benedict
29	Dungdung James W.	30	Toppo Ranjit P.