

RANCHI BULLETIN



75/2

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

FEBRUARY 2016

Fr. Constant Lievens: Solemn Public Opening of *Acta*

On Thursday 21 January 2016, the canonization process of Fr. Lievens moved one more step forward with



the public opening of the *Acta of the Process* and the collection of evidences in the Aula Magna of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Mons. Giacomo Pappalardo of the Congregation opened the seals in the presence of P. Anton Witwer, Jesuit Postulator General, his Assistant P. Marc Lindeijer and the Canon Law students of Pontifical Gregorian University. Frs. Linus Kujur and Prem Xalxo, three St. Anne's Sisters Alma Xalxo, Anupa Kujur and Ranjita Minj represented not only the Archdiocese of Ranchi, but also the face of a vibrant and ever-growing

Church of Chotanagpur. In the beginning, Prem was asked to say a few words to introduce the historical dimension and missionary works of Fr. Constant Lievens. And then, Mons. Pappalardo opened the letter of H. Exc. Josef de Kesel, Archbishop of Bruges, which communicated the completion of the diocesan phase of Postulation; and then was broken the seal of the Box containing the documentation of the testimonies on the life and virtues of the Servant of God, which is called *Acta* (Acts). Each bound of documentation was carefully examined and explained to the students of the Canon Law. In summary, the next phase of the process is as follows:

"The *Acta* resulting from the documentary or informative phase of the process are committed by the Congregation to a Relator appointed from among the Congregation's College of Relators, whose task is to superintend the Cause through the rest of the process. Working with a theological commission established by the Congregation, the Relator ensures that the *Positio* summarizing the life and virtues of the Servant of God is properly prepared. When the *Positio* is finished, the theological commission votes affirmatively or negatively on the Cause. This recommendation is then passed to the cardinal, archbishop and bishop members of the Congregation who in turn vote. Their vote determines whether the Cause lives or dies. If the vote is affirmative, the recommendation of a Decree of Heroic Virtues is sent to the Holy Father, whose judgment is final". (cfr. *Global Catholic Network Website*).

Fr. Prem

Ordination of Fr. Ashok Kandulna, SJ

Deacon Ashok Kandulna, SJ, was ordained priest on 14 January 2016 at Gangutoli Parish by Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, of Gumla Diocese and with him concelebrated some 80 priests. Among the participants were some 30 religious Sisters, 5 Coadjutor Brothers, Manresa Scholastics, Minor Seminary College students, St. John's senior students and about 2 thousand faithful of Gangutoli and from around the place.



Deacon Ashok was led flanked by his brother and sister-in-law to the altar. Three-hour long ceremony was captivating. Bishop Paul Lakra, in his message mentioned that it takes many years to become a priest, and deacon Ashok has gone through all these which is as inspiration to the modern youth to follow.

The felicitation programme after the Holy Eucharist was long with varieties of tribal dances and songs. A moving eulogy of Fr. Ashok was read out highlighting some of his struggles because of financial constraints and untimely loss of his parents. Brave and courageous Ashok did not look back in despair on his journey for this day of ordination. We congratulate him and wish him God's blessings for his priestly ministry ahead.

Fr. Ajay

INFORMATION

- ❑ All the Superiors/ Directors of Works/ Treasurers are requested to submit their Budgets (FY 2016-17) to **Fr. Vijay Manohar Tirkey SJ** in Sadbhavna by **20th February 2016** in **soft** and **hard** copies.
- ❑ **Budget Sessions – 2016 will be held at Manresa House Ranchi on 4th and 5th March 2016.**
4 March 2016 : Parishes and Communities [9.00 a.m – 12.00 noon; 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm]
5 March 2016 : Schools and Institutions [9.00 am – 12.00 noon; 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm]
- ❑ **Ranchi Province Days** will be held from Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th May 2016.

R.P. Provincial's Programme

February 2016		March 2016	
04	: Arrival from Rome	01	: Finance Policy Meeting at 3.00 PM
06	: Book Release at XISS at 3.00 – 5.00 PM	02	: Building Commission Meeting at 3.00 PM
11	: Gumla – Installation of the statue of Fr. Van Nuffel, SJ, at 9.00 AM	03	: Province Year Book meeting at 3.00 PM
	: XIPT Meeting at 4.00 PM	04-05	: Budget Session 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM – Parishes
12	: Annual Day St. Xavier's College, at 4.00 PM	06	: Input at U.C. Lohardaga – Health Commission
13	: Charles Boromeo Convent at 9.00 AM	07	: Meeting – Superiors and Treasurers at 9.00 AM
14-18	: Delhi	08	: Province Days Preparation Meeting
19	: Consult at 4.00 PM	09-11	: SAP -Jharna
20	: Meeting - Jharna	13	: Noatoli Parish – input to Gumla Diocese laity
21-28	: JCSA Meeting – Hyderabad	16	: Meeting with Porticus
29	: Budget – Sadbhavna	17-23	: Assam
		24	: Doranda Parish – Maundy Thursday

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS**Bagaicha**

LOK MANCH (Peoples Forum) has been initiated by Jesuit Social Action (JESA), ISIs (Bangalore and Delhi), Province Social Action Centers and the Peoples Organizations. The need for such a body was felt taking into consideration the national social, economic and political scenario vis-à-vis the socially, economically and politically marginalized communities. It took time for this concept to take concrete shape and finally it was born as a result of the collective thinking of JESA, two ISIs and the Province Coordinators for Social Action.

A workshop was organized for the heads of the organization aspiring to be members of the Lok Manch at Bagaicha from 18-19 December 2015. It was for the organizations from the Central Zone Provinces and meant to clarify its concepts, goals and objectives, peoples' issues on which to work, values and strategies and mechanisms for its planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. 28 organizations have been identified for the purpose in the Central Zone Provinces: Dumka – Raiganj – 8, Jamshedpur & Odisha – 8, Hazaribag – 4, Madhya Pradesh – 4 and Ranchi – 4. In all 56 members participated in the workshop. Joseph Xavier, the consultant of Lok Manch and Sannybhai

and Ruby Mary Kujur from the Lok Manch Secretariat, New Delhi were present for the meeting as facilitators. Lok Manch also had its Core Group meeting in Mumbai from 7-9 January 2016 to streamline its process of implementation and its official launching in ISI Delhi during its national convention from 5-8 April, 2016. Bagaicha is a member of the Core Group.

Lok Manch aims at ensuring the dignity and rights of the marginalized through policy interventions on socio-political and economic and religious issues at the national level in partnership with 100 Organizations (50 Jesuits and 50 Lay Organizations) by enhancing access to ENTITLEMENTS such as NFSA (National Food Security Act), SCSP (Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan)/STSP (Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plan) and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health) and related government schemes. It has a plan to mobilize 3,00,000 households in 13 States / 15 Jesuit Provinces in India.

It is expected to benefit people spread over 13 States of India: (1) Bihar, (2) Chhatisgarh, (3) Gujrat, (4) Jharkhand, (5) Delhi, (6) Odisha, (7) Maharashtra, (8) Tamil Nadu, (9) Karnataka, (10) Kerala, (11) Uttarakhand, (12) West Bengal and (13) Goa. The above mentioned States comprise substantial percentage of Dalits (Scheduled Castes), Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes),

and other marginalized communities like minorities and fisher-folk. Most of them are daily wage earners, small farmers, shepherds and agricultural workers. The education, health and sanitation facilities are minimal in rural areas. The economic status of ST and SC continues to lag behind other communities.

Further, it seeks to identify gaps in policies and implementation and lobby with decision makers to further improve the law by (a) building State level partners; (b) mass awareness creation through information dissemination at the village levels; (c) an assessment study to identify the gaps in accessing entitlements; (d) capacity building programs for 3680 key persons on NFSA, SCSP/STSP/WASH and related govt. schemes, and basic legal knowledge; (e) Capacity building of the Vigilance Committee members – complaint mechanisms and follow up strategies; and (f) Networking and alliance building – sharing Lok Manch with like-minded organizations.

Lok Manch has already begun from 1st November 2015 and will formally come to completion on 31st October 2018. However, it will officially be launched in April 2016 at ISI, Delhi in a National Workshop from 5th to 8th April, 2016 in which the heads of all 100 partner organizations will participate. The programme is targeted and time-bound, but it seeks to initiate a process to build up Lok Manch as a movement. It is for a period of three years. During these three years, it is expected that each organization makes efforts to devise mechanisms and mobilize resources to sustain the programme. It is envisaged that the respective Provinces and other organizations as partners will take it forward until the priority people access fully their entitlements and become part of Society socially, economically and politically.

Each organization will be responsible for 3,000 households; 40 community leaders, 20 monitoring committee members who will be capacitated by various trainings. They will offer voluntary service to the local communities. Each organization is supported by one coordinator and two animators to reach out to the beneficiaries. So, Central Zone Provinces will be responsible for 74,000 Households, 1120 Community Leaders and 560 monitoring persons.

Meanwhile, as Lok Manch begins its journey, it seeks your blessings, accompaniment, support and encouragement, so that its dreams are realized and with it our people's access to their entitlements are enhanced.

Fr Xavier

Manresa House Ranchi

The New Year began with merry-making and picnics. The community began the New Year with a picnic in Dolda parish; two scholastics joined the Kharia Association's picnic on 10th January; Xavier Religious Association (XAR) had its picnic at Latratu Dam on 23rd. Some community members went to Talesera for the priestly ordination of Deacon Pradeep Tirkey on 3rd January. Again on 14th January the community members attended the priestly ordination of Deacon Ashok Kandulna at Gangutoli. Two days later the ceremony of the final vows of Frs. Jaywant Soreng and Alexander Tirkey was held in the evening at St. John's High School. MH collegians, with the staff of St. John's High School and Ursuline Novices, led the choir to make the liturgy more solemn and devotional.

In the evening of 15th January, a sharing session was arranged in the Manresa Hall. The bishop of Cambodia, lovingly known as Kike, was the chief guest. Our missionaries Fr. Elias Surin, Fr. Rajat Hassapurty and Br. Vincent Soreng shared their missionary-experiences. Fr. Elias shared his life and works in Guyana; Fr Rajat Hassapurty about Cambodia and Br. Vincent about Africa. Many Jesuits and other religious women (e.g., St. Anne's and Ursuline) were present on this occasion.

The Year of Consecrated Life was concluded on 31st January with a Thanksgiving Mass in the premises of St. John's H.S. Ranchi. Frs. Cyprian Ekka, Fredrick Kujur, Justin Tirkey and Bimal Lakra led the combined choir of MH Scholastics and religious sisters of different congregations. The singing made the liturgy grand and devotional. Indeed the leadership of the Fathers was inspiring for the youngsters.

The annual visitation of the PCF, Fr. Michael Kerketta, began on 25th January and concluded on 27th evening with a fellowship dinner. He was happy to meet each scholastic personally. Unfortunately the severe winter of January affected the health of some community members. Scholastics Suresh John and Sunil Lakra were admitted to Seva Nilaya Health Centre on 9th January. Thereafter, Sch. Johny Savio followed them on 17th.

Schs. Nelson & Ajay Paulus.

St. Xavier's College Ranchi

The New Year 2016 was welcomed by our community through various apostolic ministries apart from our regular educational ones. Many of our community

members joined the faithful in different parishes for Thanksgiving Vigil Mass of 31st December 2015 and the New Year. By 3rd January all the community members returned to the community after Christmas and New Year vacation refreshed and energized. However, Fr. Henry returned on 11th January from Delhi where he had gone to give a retreat to a group of would-be Deacons of Vidyajyoti scholastics. Some of the community members joined the priestly ordination of Deacon Pradeep on 3rd January at Talesera. The College re-opened on 4th January and the silent campus buzzed again with blossoming faces of students and staff. The students and different faculty members of the College welcomed the New Year with picnics.

Mr. Amar Kr. Bawari, the Hon'ble Minister of Jharkhand graced and encouraged the College on 25th January, the College annual sports day. Our Fr. Rector was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations, on 26th January. From here he moved on to St. John's School for the same honour where he reviewed the Guard of Honour from an e-rickshaw!

Fr. Anup

St. Ignatius' Gumla

The month of January was the season of picnics, ordinations, feasting and many other merry making times. To begin with the New Year Day, most of our community members joined the Bishop's House Fathers for picnic at Datli Dam. Frs. John Lakra and Solomon Barwa visited their families in Datra (Tongo) where Fr. John usually says Mass for his aged and bedridden sister. AROUSE Staff went to the Koel River at Nagpheni on 6th January; Gumla diocese religious to Shankh Donga Ghat on 14th plus ordination at Gangutoli; Hostel Block C to Panch Ghagh on 17th; the Apostolics to Sakeya Dam on 3rd combining it with the ordination of Pradeep Tirkey at Talesera. Manohar attended ordination at Dighiya Parish. Our community was well represented everywhere.

The schools reopened on 4th January after the winter vacation. The Annual Sports Day in the schools and inter-college was held on 8th - 9th January with much simplicity this time. The Pre-Board Exams for the tenth Class students started on 18th. They were keen on making it for the Final by all means. Let us hope for the best.

The General Body Meeting of AROUSE was held on 13th January where the Annual Book was released by the Chairman, Fr. J. Marianus Kujur, SJ.

The long-awaited life-size statue of the pioneer of AROUSE late Fr. PP Van Nuffel arrived here on 23rd January and there was a sigh of relief for safe transport. It has been installed on the platform in AROUSE premises which was unveiled on 11th February on his 87th Jayanti.

On the Republic Day there were two tableaux (AROUSE & School) prepared for the parade in the court ground. These were greatly acclaimed by the crowd but were not selected for reward.

27th January was a day of double feasting: the feast of the Ursuline and the Marriage Party. We had invitation for both but most went for the latter in the house of our retired teacher Camile Dungdung whose son got married. The Ursuline sisters were black and blue with anger as if we boycotted them. So after the party we went to wish them all the same. The next day we had the sad news broken to us about the passing away of Fr. Florent Jonckheere SJ. Some of us went for the funeral the next day in Ranchi.

Fr. Christopher

St. Mary's Samtoli

There was a two-day seminar for the teachers of minority schools of Simdega on 5th and 6th January. There were 180 participants in it. The teachers of St. Mary's, Ursuline Girls' School, St. Anne's, Holy Spirit, St. Mary's English Medium, Sogra, Jharain and Rengarih schools took part in this seminar. Fr. Sunny Jacob, SJ, the JEA secretary was the resource person who effectively conducted it. It was inspiring and insightful for the participants who were highly appreciative of the event. They felt the need for having such seminars regularly for refreshing and updating themselves.

Frs. Linus, Albert, Sikander and Br. Elias represented the community for the ordination of Deacon Pradeep Tirkey at Talesera on 3rd January and all, except Frs. Ireneus, Isaac, Sikander and Br. Elias, went to Gangutoli for the ordination of Deacon Ashok Kandulna on 14th. On the same day Apostolic and hostel had their annual picnic to Dangadi. They had hired a bus. The Jesuit community, including all the house-workers also had a picnic at Raja Dera on 10th January. All enjoyed it.

Fr. Linus

Ashirvad-Jharna Namkum

The New Year day brought all of us Jesuits from three communities in the campus, ATC, Bagaicha

and Jharna-Ashirvad together at the near-by river bank for an outing. We had enough time to be together. However, a few of us had to miss it for some unavoidable reasons. Fr. Binod had been assigned to Bundu and Kanke vote-counting centres as a presiding officer sometime in the middle of January. He expressed his happiness as everything went well and peacefully.

Renovation work of the Jharna-Ashirvad building is in full swing; it is a major undertaking after its existence back in 2008. The Superior Fr. K.C. Philip has been closely monitoring the work so that things are done well. However, there had been a few groups made their retreats in spite of some inconveniences, the 2nd year novices of the Daughters of the Cross (Odisha) being the last ones. Now no programme will take place here until the renovation work is complete. Our retreat guides have some time to go out for their spiritual ministry – Fr. Deepak went to Lucknow for an annual retreat of the M.C. Sisters and Fr. Sylvanus to SSC, Sitagarha to guide a group of the Ursuline tertians during their long retreat.

Thanks to the Prabhat Tara community for providing us with a school bus on 14th January. All of us, the staff and the novices, could participate in the priestly ordination of Fr. Ashok Kandulna in Gangutoli parish. It was an inspiring event for our novices. Ashok has been our community member since last December. He rejoined the community on 3rd February to continue his assignment as the House Minister and Treasurer of Jharna-Ashirvad community.

Our novices are soon leaving for their village experiment during the Lenten season to 14 different parishes in Assam and Jharkhand. They will be back to Ashirvad Novitiate for the Holy Week. At the outset, *we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our parish priests and their communities.* They have been carefully planning the programmes for the novices for effective pastoral ministries.

Fr Raymond

RTC Tarunoday

The New Year began with spiritual renewal and fresh orientation. We began our triduum guided by three Jesuits. On the first day, Fr Justin Tirkey gave his input on “Communication in Life” while on the second day, Fr. Ignatius Minj invited us to reflect on the “Law of Life,” and on the third day, Fr Ignatius Tete helped us to delve deep into the “Constitutions in our Jesuit Life

and Renewal of Vows” – all were well appreciated. Sch. Pradeep had his triduum earlier with the Regents. He went home on 2nd January to attend his brother’s wedding. He was back to Tarunoday on 7th to join the intensive preparation for the Annual Seminar that began soon after our triduum.

Tarunoday had its Annual Seminar on Adivasi *Parampara mein Samarpit Jeevan* (Consecrated Life in the Adivasi Tradition) on 9th January. Bishop Charles Soreng SJ, as chief guest, exhorted the religious and the lay participants to strengthen the community life and *Adivasi* values. Among the guests, Sr. Sosan Bara, DSA and Rev. Suman Kumar Ekka, also actively chipped in.

Regular classes resumed from 11th January with Pauline Theology by Fr. Ignatius Tete. The same day the new office bearers took charge of their offices; Sch. Fuldeo Soreng serves as the new beadle of the community. Community activities and celebration of life continued along with the serious academic work. The whole community attended the final vows ceremony of Frs. Jaywant Soreng and Alexander Tirkey at St. John’s School on 16th January. The next day, the *Choti Kalisiya* had its picnic in our campus in order to ensure the full participation of members of the local Catholic community and also invited us to join them. But something special awaited us on 23rd January: a combined picnic with the DSA Sisters, Montfort Brothers and our own brothers in the Parish to Jonha Fall and the Getalsud reservoir. Fr. Mahendra took initiative to bring together all the collaborating religious communities together, a work much appreciated by all. When all festivities and picnicking were over Fr. Ajit Xess from SXD invited us to be part of the Annual Carnival. The Taruns worked and learned much from the mega event, the only one of its kind in the city. It left us tired but worth learning.

On the Republic Day Sch. Deonis Ekka mesmerized the audiences with his mind-blowing speech after the flag hoisting. We concluded the month by participating in the ordination ceremony of Basant Samir Minj (HAZ) at Nawatanr Parish.

Sch. Roshan

St. Paul’s Church Tongo

We had the thanksgiving midnight mass to bid farewell to the old year 2015 and welcome the new. A good number of parishioners took part in the Eucharist. On the first day of the New Year we had a traditional picnic

together with the Ursuline Sisters in the Convent. It was a joyous occasion for us all.

The Middle and High Schools reopened on 4th January. The Combined Annual Sports Day of St. Peter's, Ursuline H. School, St. Paul's and Ursuline Middle Schools took place on 20th January. The C.O. of the CRPF Jasbir Singh was the chief guest of the day while Fr. Vital was the guest of honour. The march past of all the four schools about 3,000 students was grand and worth seeing. At the end of the day the winning teams were given the trophy and sweets. It was a bad luck for Fr. Philemon that he was bitten by a mad dog while lighting the *Mashaal* (torch). He had to take 3 anti-rabies injections which he did on the prescribed dates.

The parish council had its picnic at Hira Dah on 31st January. There were 23 members present for it. All enjoyed to the full.

Fr. Philemon

Patrachauli

We welcomed the New Year with a lot of hope and aspiration. It was noticed that the number of parishioners attending the New Year Mass was more than usual. The most important event for us was the Priestly Ordination on 3rd January of Deacon Pradeep Turkey, SJ who had been in Patrachauli for the Diaconate Ministry since June 2015. Two busloads of students and another one of parishioners, together with Fr Alphonse Kullu, went to Talesera for the ordination. Fr. Ignatius Kujur came all the way from Jharain to join the Patrachauli contingent. All were happy to be in Talesera and were greatly inspired not only by the ceremony but also by the enthusiasm and cooperation of the Talesera parishioners. The next day Fr. Manu, three hostel boys and our cook went to the village of Pradeep for his first Mass there with his near and dear ones.

In spite of the biting cold, the school reopened on 4th January. During the first half of the month Fr. Manu was busy with blessing of marriages. 16th January was a memorable day for Patrachauli since two SCJM Sisters - Asha Kachhap and Usha Minj - hailing from the parish, committed themselves perpetually to the Lord. A good number of their relatives and well-wishers joined them in their self-offering in Nirmala College, Hinoo. The next day Sr. Asha was felicitated at home. Her sick mother was extremely happy. Sr. Usha will have her turn of celebration at home in the month of May.

Fr. Manu

De Nobili College Pune

We began the New Year with our Triduum. Fr. Selva Rathinam, SJ inspired us by his reflective and enriching talk on 'Consecrated Life.' DNC community was happy to welcome Fr. George Pattery, POSA and Fr. I. Raj, ADF, who were here from 10th to 15th January for the Annual Visitation. Both of them had meaningful interaction with the philosophers, the theologians and the staff members separately. They shared about the state of the Assistency, the process of renewal and restructuring of the Society and of the Assistency, some major challenges and important concerns, etc.

On the Republic Day, Chotanagpur Cultural Association had organized a one-day hockey tournament for which 21 teams turned up. Its objective was to bring together our Chotanagpur Adivasis working in and around Pune. It was a successful event. On 31st January, many came for the Annual Gathering at DNC campus. Fr. Patras Kujur presided over the Mass. Fr. Michael Kerketta was the chief guest of the day. He was in DNC for his Annual Visitation from 31st January to 2nd February. Thus January ended on a happy note!

Sch. Anil

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Balipara

The academic year began on 18th January. The first half of the month was the time for admission and re-admission. The strength of the students is approximately 1,000 whereas hostellers crossed 70. This year onwards the fee collection started in Bank.

Srs. Mary and Magdalene joined the school replacing Sr. Matilda, who is transferred. Fr. Florence and Sr. Magdalene conducted a short orientation programme for the teachers on 16th January. Fr. Xavier

Lakra was the chief guest for the School Sports Day in the absence of Dr. Druwa Jyoti Hazarika S.D.C., Chariduar on 30th January.

Marriage-preparation and marriage-rectification instructions took place for a week in two batches from 10th to 17th and 24th to 30th January respectively followed by marriage blessing in the parish. The celebration of the feast of harvest continued in different village chapels. These programmes kept Fr. Benjamin busy.

Fr. Ranjit

St Xavier's College Sonabheel

Fr. Bene and Sch. Samir came back from Ranchi on 6th January whereas Fr. Florence arrived two days later. We had a holiday of *Magh Bihu*, the agricultural festival of Assam, from 14th – 17th January after the exam. During the holiday Fr. Ranjit along with Schs. Samir and Claber visited the Jesuit schools in Kathalguri, Manas Bansbari and Mushalpur to animate the teaching staff. Fr. Ravi had gone to Jorhat along with a college staff and his family to celebrate Bihu. The two-day *Band* had disrupted the reopening of the college on 18th January. Even the celebration of the Republic Day was affected. Nevertheless we had the flag hoisting after the Mass with the hostel boys and a few neighbours. On 30th afternoon Frs. Bene, Florence and Ravi had availed themselves to hear confession in Rangapara parish. On the next day, Fr. Ranjit had accompanied the choir in Tezpur Cathedral as there was a Parish Annual Sabha.

The second years are busy with their final exams which began on 15th February. The Degree College is gradually gearing up the momentum with its normal schedule. Two of our Junior College staff namely Miss. Jasmoni Sanga and Mr. Mukhtang Basumatary got married this month. We wish them A Happy New Life!

Fr Ravi

Gana Chetana Samaj

Gana Chetana Samaj (GCS) reopened after the Christmas and New Year holidays on 4th January. Seventeen instructors of different Study Centres had a meeting on 6th in the Conference Hall of GCS Tezpur. Its purpose was to review and assess the performance of different centres so as to chalk out future plans for improvement. In the meeting it was decided that regular monitoring by the Director and the Staff of GCS would enable to achieve the desired goal. The evaluation of all the existing projects was conducted on 19th and 20th by all the staff and Director of GCS. All the problems, obstacles and concerns were identified and accordingly strategic planning was made for solution. After serious reflections and discussions on the projects were over, a one-day staff-picnic together with the Jesuit community, was organized on 22nd at Bhalukpung River (in between Assam and Arunachal Border). The interesting part of the picnic was the surprise Christmas gifts by the Director Fr. Thomas Barla and Christmas Papa Fr. Xavier Lakra. Fr. Anupchand Minj made all the staff dance in different styles. As a whole it was an enjoyable picnic.

The All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam had organized the 13th Adivasi Mahasabha at Dhekiajuli from 28th to 31st. The staff of GCS actively involved itself in moderating the meetings, documenting and photographing of the whole programme. The Chief Minister of Assam Mr. Tarun Gogoi was the chief guest on the concluding day.

Fr. Thomas

Prothrapur

Fr Alexander Tirkey prepared himself spiritually for his final vows under the guidance of Fr Edward Kerketta. He left for Ranchi on 13th January where the ceremony of the final vows took place at St. John's Ranchi on 16th.

The diocesan Youth Coordinator Fr Mahipal Balmuch visited Prothrapur parish from 10th to 19th. He toured different village units for animation programme for the youth. In each *basti* after the Holy Eucharist, meeting with the local youth was held. In his interaction, he challenged the youth to be more disciplined and encouraged them to be highly-motivated to achieve their goals. Fr. David and Sr. Nirmala accompanied him to different *bastis*.

The Pongal festival was celebrated with gaiety and enthusiasm at Prothrapur parish on 17th. Fr. Jayaraj SDB presided over the solemn festive Eucharist. It began with the entrance dance, *Kumba Aarathi* and *thilak* with sandal paste to the celebrants. In his homily Fr. Jayaraj highlighted the cultural and religious significance of the feast. The Tamil community of Prothrapur parish made the feast very solemn and meaningful. It had decorated the Church and its premises with colourful *rangolies*, plantain trees, coconut flowers, palm leaves, etc. It had prepared the liturgy and choir well that made the celebration really grand. Fr David thanked Fr. Jayaraj and the Tamil community for making the day truly enjoyable. On behalf of the Tamil community Dr. Ashirvadam, the president of Tamil Community thanked all for their presence and active participation. With the festive slogan *Pongalo Pongal* the celebration came to conclusion. Thereafter the Sweet Pongal was distributed to all. Every one enjoyed the Pongal and thanked the Lord of Harvest for His Goodness.

We were glad to welcome our guests Aurel Goeminne, Claudinne Leroux, Marriane Vancoillie and Martine Dewitte from Belgium, and Fr. George Kerketta from Ranchi at the airport of Port Blair on 21st January. Guests had very limited time in

Andamans. However, they could visit Baratang, Adajig, Havelock within a short time. They left Port Blair for Chennai on 25th. Fr. George went back to Ranchi after his work was over.

St. Paul of the Desert Church at new Wimblitan mainly the Tamil speaking community celebrated its feast on 31st. The faithful had novena as spiritual preparation. Many from Prothrapur parish and some from Port Blair attended the Mass. At the end all were served delicious lunch.

Fr David

Ramnagar

The Anthropological Survey of India had organized *Health Awareness cum Screening Camp* in Ramnagar for the Ranchi community on 9th and 10th January. It conducted screening for Thalassemia, Sickle cells Anaemia and GGD deficiency. There were 221 people who benefited from it. A short cultural programme was held to conclude it. Children performed a prayer dance. The Ward Nos. 3 and 4 presented traditional folk dances. At the end the parish priest thanked the Anthropological Survey of India for the initiative and service.

Bishop Alex Dias with Fr. Selvaraj came to Ramnagar for the annual visitation on 11th. In the evening Bishop addressed a very small group of 5 men and 25 women and girls followed by the Holy Mass. The following day, Bishop Alex and Selvaraj, accompanied by Fr. Benedict went to visit the houses of Fr. Gabriel Toppo and Pancracius Turkey. In the evening, they visited the sick and old people of Kalighat. They could visit only 8 families. They came back to Kalighat church for the Holy Mass around 7.00 pm. The Bishop's talk lasted for more than an hour which was followed by preparation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At the end, there was Holy Eucharist which got over at 9.25 pm. The next day, Bishop Alex and Fr. Selvaraj left for Diglipur around 9.25 am.

On 16th January a youth seminar was organized in Ramnagar. Mr. Nirmal Soreng delivered a talk on family and prayer life. Fr. Benedict in his address challenged them to change their outlook and attitude to face the present challenges. 17th was a day for a picnic for which 50+ youth were present.

The North Zone Mahila Sangh Convention was held at Rangat parish on 24th. 72 Mahila Sangh members from Ramnagar participated in it. They left for Rangat early morning at 3.00 am and came back to Ramnagar at 9.00 pm. Fr. Benedict and Sr. Mary George had accompanied them.

Fr Anil

Diglipur

Bishop Alex Dias arrived in Diglipur for the Annual Visitation on 13th January. The parish priest, together with DSA and MC sisters, went to Klara Junction to receive the Bishop. Being the Year of Mercy, he wished to visit the sick and the old. Hence, he began his visit them from Klara junction itself. In the evening he had interaction with the faithful of Diglipur followed by confession and Holy Eucharist. The next day he went to Keralapuram, where he offered mass for the people of that locality. He left Diglipur on 15th morning.

Fr Alexander left for Prothrapur on 3rd where he made his retreat. Later he set off for Kolkata on 13th and reached Ranchi on 14th early morning. On 16th, in the evening Fr. Jaywant Soreng and Fr. Alexander Turkey pronounced their final vows at St. John's Ranchi. On 23rd he was back to Diglipur and resumed his ministry.

On the Republic Day flag hoisting was done soon after the Mass. The parish priest hoisted the national flag. Thereafter people moved towards the stadium to witness the flag-hoisting by the Assistant Commissioner, and march past by the students of different schools and police personnel.

Fr Alexander

DIASPORA

Jerusalem

The enthusiasm of the New Year 2016 celebration could be seen only among the Christian communities while it was an ordinary day for the people of other faiths. Our PBI community had fairly good and memorable celebration. Most of our students went for a Midnight Mass at Rosary Church followed by a party organized by the Philippine community. The celebration went

on till late midnight. The New Year brought stormy weather accompanied by an incessant rain and biting cold wind blowing. The showers continued few times in later weeks. This was a real blessing for us because only with this rain we got our water tanks filled in. The students from St Xavier, Cincinnati, USA who stayed with us and did their study tour in Israel, left for their country on 4th January. All seemed very happy

with the experiences. Meanwhile the students, who came from Biblicum, Rome for one semester, finished their studies by the end of January. They had all their examinations done by 28th. On 25th, they had a diploma day in the Hebrew University. Fr Abrego was there to witness to this ceremony. By the end of January all the students left for Rome to pursue their studies.

The health of Fr Doan is quite good after his heart operation. He is still under observation and is expected to be back home only by the end of February. The house superior Fr Patrick Lee had a fall on the Jaffa Gate of the old city of Jerusalem. The knee cap got shifted with a serious damage to cartilages. He was taken to the Hadassa hospital immediately. The operation was successful and now he is back home. He is still in plaster. After the removal of his plaster he will have to follow a physio-therapy for some weeks.

Last week of January was dedicated to the prayers for unity which started on 25th. According to the tradition the prayers are organized in different churches on different days of the week. Each Christian denomination hosted the prayer group in its own Church. It was a wonderful experience of praying in different Church locations.

Fr. Camil

Rome

The Gregorian University reopened on 7th January for the final days of the First Semester. Under the leadership of Kulwant, Ranchi group in Rome (namely, Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant, Prem, Linus, Dilip Sanjay and Biju Sebastian [DUM]) had a wonderful refreshing outing to Terracina on 10th, Sunday. Edwin Dang could not join because of the heavy workload of assignments. Terracina, a city situated in the southwest of Rome, is best known for the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter, Roman Forum and pavements and the long-stretched beautiful sea-beach with clear blue water. On our way back home, we enjoyed the hospitality of Palotine Sisters in their Convent. After reaching home, Biju Sebastian presided over the Holy Mass to thank the Lord for accompanying us in such a refreshing outing. An apt ending of being together!

From 25th January to 03rd February, R.P. Provincial Marianus Kujur was in Rome to participate in the GC preparatory meeting of the Commission on Governance. During and after the meeting, he took extra care to meet personally and to listen to each Ranchi Jesuit in Rome. On 30th, we had get-together in Collegio Bellarmino in the evening for mutual sharing of

sukham-dukham, experiences in Rome and some recent Ranchi news. At the end we shared tasty delicious meal. On 31st, he had a long meeting with P. Marc Lindeijer, the Assistant Postulator of the Society of Jesus for Causa Sanctis. It was a meeting of mutual enrichment on the beatification process of our great Belgian Missionaries, namely Fr. Constant Lievens and Fr. Herman Rasschaert. While R.P. Provincial shared some valuable information regarding the life, history and works of the missionaries, Fr. Lindeijer explained to him in detail the necessary elements that could speed up the beatification process of Fr. Constant Lievens.

Sig. Paolo Mennini, brother of late Giorgio Mennini invited R.P. Provincial for lunch on 1st February which he did accept willingly. In the evening, he moved to the Gregorian University. 'Despite their exams, our students – Edwin Dang, Ravi, Kulwant and Edwin Ritesh – made it a point to meet him personally. On 2nd February, he met all of us together in the evening. He encouraged all of us by appreciating each one's hard work and dedication, and exhorted us to dedicate our full time and energy with the spirit of *magis*. We missed Linus as he had to leave for Ranchi for the funeral of his mother who died on 2nd Feb. Biju Sebastian was always present to listen to R.P. Provincial. We presented him a souvenir which represented the works being realized in Belgium to publicize and to speed up the beatification process of Fr. Constant Lievens. Indeed, we were greatly encouraged by the presence of R.P. Provincial amidst us and our spirit was rejuvenated to work hard for *magis*. Leaving us happy and content, he left for Ranchi on 3rd February. As our Ranchi Jesuits were not able to accompany him to the airport because of the exams, Sr. Ranjita DSA gladly availed herself to see him off.

Fr. Prem

Cairo (Egypt)

In the first week of December, the Christian Life Community (CLC) of Cairo Unit had arranged Oriental and Home-made craft Exhibition like Meena Bazaar in India. The novitiate community was fully involved in this as our Superior is the Director of CLC in Egypt. The main purpose of this exhibition was to collect funds for the needy people of Upper Egypt so that they could celebrate Christmas meaningfully. This trend is being carried on for more than twenty years. People were generous and a substantial amount was collected. On

11th December, the Dominicans in Egypt celebrated the anniversary of their founder completing 800 years. I had a special purpose to attend the ceremony as there is a newly ordained Dominican priest, Fr. Sunil Tirkey from Chattisgarh. He's the first one in their congregation from India to learn classical Arabic and Islamic studies in Egypt. They have one of the best libraries in the Middle East on Christian-Muslim dialogue. That very evening, a newly built Cathedral of the Maronite rite was solemnly blessed by their Patriarch from Lebanon. Showing an extraordinary gesture of ecumenism, the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church was present with some of his Bishops and priests for the whole ceremony. In Lebanon, the majority of the Christians and our Jesuits as well belong to this rite so we had our special presence there. It was enriching to witness Bishops of various rites present in their unique robes.

Our novitiate is located in the area called Choubra. There are fourteen religious Congregations of women and men around. On 16th December, there was prayer and reflection in a nearby parish for religious and faithful in the Year of Mercy. On 20th, an Indo – Chinese family hosted in their house a pre-Christmas dinner for the faithful who attend regular English mass in a convent chapel of the Franciscan Sisters. Whenever time permits, I go to celebrate holy mass there. It was a gathering of various nationalities coming together.

25th December was not an easy day for the Jesuits in Egypt. The novitiate of the Near East Province, Cairo was shifted temporarily to Lebanon. The novice director had to leave early to arrange things. The first year novices followed him afterwards. In the recent years, to obtain stay visa for the Syrians has been a daunting task. Though I'm Socius to the novice director, I stay back in Cairo as I'm already involved full time in one of our French medium schools.

From 22nd January to 12th February, the majority of the schools began their mid-term holidays. The College de la Sainte Famille which has three branches, arranged a three days' outing to a beach resort in the Red Seas for the teachers and their family members. Most of the Jesuits working in the school joined the group. It was a good occasion to know one another as the schools are situated in three different places. Fr. Cedric Prakash, SJ (GUJ) has joined JRS to work in the Middle East. He stays in St. Joseph's Community, Beirut - the capital of Lebanon.

Fr. Bimal

Guyana

Fr. Mark Mukul safely reached Guyana where Fr. Anil Tirkey received him at the airport. He had a warm welcome in the Jesuit community too. He already joined the community of two Jesuits: Fr. Joaquim and Fr. Ramesh. He has been appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at Berbice in the East Coast where Indians are in big number.

The Novena-Christmas and Old & New Year celebrations made us to reach out to all the communities. Fr Anil enjoyed visiting six parish-communities very regularly whereas Fr Amar tried to complete 30 communities in all to share the Eucharist with the faithful. Fr Anil said, "These days were inspiring & very spiritual". In the absence of Fr Elias who is at present visiting his family members and friends in India Fr Paul the Regional Superior visited some communities in Fr Elias' mission area and shared the joy of Christmas with the people in Pakaraimas.

The role of the Eucharistic ministers is very important in the diocese. They are much needed in the diocese to assist the priests. Therefore one of the most demanding ministries for the priest in-charge is to train the ministers of the Eucharist. Fr Anil spends many sessions for lay leaders to prepare them.

On 31st January, Bishop Francis Alleyne OSB after the Holy Mass, handed over the keys to Fr Anil of four more parishes in the east coast and announced to the people saying, "From today Fr. Anil SJ is the Parish Priest of 10 parishes with one priest as assistant." With this Fr Anil is given the bigger responsibility in this New Year. So he told the faithful immediately: 'Let us pray for vocations'...They all laughed...but prayed with sincere hearts.

We had the annual regional meeting in January this year. We 23 Jesuit-missionaries met together and had meaningful reflections on: 'Laudato-Si', 'Year of Mercy', 'Apostleship of prayer' and 'Jesuit ministries'. The coming of 2 new Indian Jesuits, Fr Packiaraj SJ (AND) & Mukul SJ (RAN) to the Guyana Region has brought joy to us.

Fr. Anil Kishore

Paris, France

The Centre-Sèvres community had invited the Jesuits residing in Paris for the Eucharistic celebration on the eve of the Epiphany. During the mass special prayers were offered for God's blessing in the New Year. Thereafter we had fellowship dinner and mutual greetings of the New Year.

I have started my last semester with 6 courses and one seminar. At the end of the semester I need to write a paper as to evaluate the whole academic year and submit it to the faculty.

Fr. Samir

Salamanca (Spain)

The advent season brought lots of spiritual activities in the community. The Christmas celebration was a unique experience. On the Christmas Eve we had a community gathering (Nochebuena) followed by a prayer service and the Vigil Mass with approximately eight hundred local congregation.

Both of us have cleared A2 level of Spanish. Now we are one step away from the University requirement.

We resumed our language classes from 11th January. The New Year brought us many opportunities to mingle with other new students in the Language Academy. Besides, it also provides opportunities to visit nearby historical places to make us familiar with the local history.

Our Jesuit community has taken some concrete steps to live the spirit of *The Year of Mercy*. At the personal level all are called upon to assimilate and practice the spirit of the GC 35 - 'Community life itself is a Mission'. For example, we have taken a simple step of visiting and listening to the elderly Jesuits. They cheerfully share their own life-stories which are interesting and inspiring. They also correct our Spanish Grammar.

Sch. James

GONE BEFORE US : LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Fr. Jonckheere Florent SJ (91/72), expired on 28 January 2016.

Mr. Yujin Xalxo (82), elder brother of Br. Yacub Xalxo SJ, died on 12 January 2016.

Mary Tarcilla Dungdung (62), young sister of Fr. Joachim Dungdung SJ died on 15 January 2016.

Mr. Ignace Tirkey (68), maternal uncle of Fr. John Ekka SJ died on 22 January 2016.

Mrs. Cecilia Barla, paternal auntie of Fr. Emmanuel Barla SJ died on 25 January 2016.

Mrs. Scholastica (73), elder sister of Br. Santosh Kullu SJ died on 01 February 2016.

Mrs. Josephine Bara (94), mother of Fr. Linus Kujur SJ died on 02 February 2016.

Fr. Albert Kullu, SJ (1957-2015)

Fr. Vinod Kumar Bilung

"Silently he lived and silently he went to his heavenly abode." Fr. Albert Kullu lived his Jesuit life very silently and faithfully and died with many health complications without complaining about his condition.

Fr. Albert Kullu was born on 12th January 1957 in a humble tribal family in Bongram, a village in Barwadih Parish of Simdega diocese (which belonged to the then Ranchi Archdiocese). After his primary education in the village school he joined Apostolic School Samtoli in the year 1970. He passed his matric with a very good result and went to St. Xavier's College for his intermediate and then proceeded to Sitagarha and joined the Jesuit Novitiate there in the year 1977. There he began his journey as a Jesuit.

He was ordained a priest on 5th April 1991 and professed his final vows on 16th September 2000. Fr. Albert lived his life with great simplicity. He was given the responsibility to teach the students of theology in

the Regional Theologate-Tarunoday, Boreya, Ranchi, which he shouldered with humility and simplicity. He was also appointed the Superior of the institute. At times his soft-spoken nature was taken as his weakness, but he was firm and quite balanced, as a Jesuit, in his opinions and decisions. He was intellectually sound and objective.

Later as a parish priest of Kanke he did justice to his dual responsibility of looking after the parish work and his teaching job in Regional Theologate as well. He did both his works quite happily.

When he was made the treasurer of St. Ignatius School Gumla he tried to streamline the finances of the school, community and other endeavours in which the community was involved – such as AROUSE, Apostolic School, Jivan Pravesh, etc. As Rector of St. Ignatius' School Gumla he looked after the Jesuit community quite well in terms of spiritual and

temporal well-being of the community. But there he lost his health and suffered from high blood sugar. Because of his diabetes his eye-sight was affected very badly and he was compelled to step down from his office and forfeit his responsibilities. He came to the Agriculture Training Centre Namkom Ranchi where he lived a silent retired life.

Paying floral tributes to Fr. Albert, Very Rev. Sister Linda M. Vaughan, the Superior General of the congregation of the Daughters of St. Anne, shared the contribution of Fr. Albert Kullu to their congregation and disclosed that he helped them ascertain their charism and write their Constitution and bring out the book in its present form which they are following today. She was very grateful for the spiritual and intellectual contribution of Fr. Albert to the congregation, of which his fellow-Jesuits were probably not even aware. That was his silent nature and his way of working.

His simplicity and silent personality took a toll on his health but he took it in his stride. He was a person who would hardly complain and share his personal problems with others, rather he would suffer silently. When his diabetes was detected for the first time by the doctors of Urmi, Gumla hospital, they remarked – ‘How on earth are you able to carry on with your work when your blood sugar level is so high?’ It was 512. Since then the treatment for his diabetes was initiated but by then it was too late; his sugar level had become very obstinate and it could not be controlled. He became weaker and weaker and almost lost his eye-sight.

After suffering silently Fr. Albert Kullu was called by the Lord for rest in his true eternal home on 15th May 2015. May the Father of mercies welcome him in His eternal Kingdom in the company of saints and blessed, and give solace to his bereaved loved ones.

BIRTHDAY BABIES OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY

03	Tigga Blacius
05	Beck John Anuranjan Kerketta Cherobin
06	Ekka Anup Arvind
09	Kujur Ranjit
10	Kujur Robert Pradeep
11	Minj Anuj
12	Kujur Ignatius
13	Dungdung Paulus
14	Kujur Johny
15	Ekka Sameer
16	Toppo Deepak Lakra Amit Juel
21	Tirkey Suresh John
22	Kerketta Bimal
23	Tete Isaac Ekka Alok
24	Horo Emmanuel Kerketta Edward Kullu Pradeep
29	Dungdung James W.

MARCH

05	Kujur Frederick Xess Ravi Bhushan
06	Lakra Ranjit Walter Beng Albert
07	Kindo Alexius
10	Kujur Habil
11	Kullu Anil
14	K.C. Philip
16	Bara Leo Dungdung Christopher Tirkey John
17	Barla Henry
19	Horo Sibil Joseph Soreng Jaywant
21	Lakra Benedict Beck Anand Amar
23	Bilung Brice
25	Soreng George
27	Tete Nicholas
29	Kiro Benedict
30	Toppo Ranjit P.