

RANCHI BULLETIN



76/2

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

FEBRUARY 2017

Congratulations to our Newly Ordained Priests



Fr. Rozario Mosahari was ordained on 15 January at Udalguri parish by Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, Bishop of Tezpur. Bishop Robert Kerketta SDB (Emeritus) was also present on this auspicious day. 74 concelebrating priests, many religious men and women with 5000 faithful came together to pray to for Fr. Rozario. Fr. Rozario is the first Jesuit priest from Bodo tribe and first priest from Assam Mission of Ranchi Jesuit Province.



Fr Mukul Ranjan Kerketta, SJ was ordained on 18 January 2017 at Banari Parish by Bishop Anand Jojo, DD, Bishop of Hazaribag Diocese. Some 70 concelebrating Priests and about 30 Religious sisters with 3000 faithful were present for the ordination ceremony. At his young age, Fr Mukul lost his parents. So, his maternal aunt and uncle took care of Mukul and his brothers and sisters..



Fr. Justin Kandula, SJ was ordained priest on 21 January by Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, Bishop of Simdega diocese at Gangutoli parish. The parish priest's generosity was clearly visible in the presence of faithful numbering over 4000 who were all served with meal. Jesuit priests and Brothers present in about 80 in all and the Religious Sisters about 40.



Fr Bipin Tirkey, SJ was ordained on 29 January by Bishop Vincent Barwa, D.D. Bishop of Simdega diocese at Kuruskela, a new parish run by the T.O.R. Franciscans. There were more than one hundred concelebrating priests mostly Jesuits, many religious men and women and a good number of the faithful witnessed the ordination ceremony.

Ranchi Jesuit Province welcomes and congratulates the newly ordained priests. Our prayers and best wishes to them for the fruitful and grace-filled priestly ministry.

CBCI Society has appointed :

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ as a member of the Governing Board of the CBCI Society for Medical Education.

Fr. General has appointed:

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ Chairman of the Central Zone and Consultor to POSA
Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ New Province Consultor
Fr. Francis Minj, SJ New Province Consultor

* *Fr. Provincial sincerely thanks Fr. Florence Kujur SJ and Fr. Pius Xalxo SJ for their assistance in governance of the Province as Province Consultors.*

Fr. Arun de Souza, SJ (BOM) Provincial of Bombay
Fr. Juan A. G. Alves, SJ (ESP) Delegate for the Interprovincial Roman Houses and Works.
Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe Orobator, SJ (AOR) President of Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JESAM).
Fr. Franck Janin, SJ (BML) President of the European Jesuit Conference (CEP).
Fr. Roberto Jaramillo Bernal, SJ (COL) President of the Latin American Jesuit Conference (CPAL).

Fr. Provincial has appointed:

Fr. Bipin Tirkey, SJ Acting Principal, Loyola English Medium School, Khunti
Fr. Mukul Ranjan Kerketta, SJ Acting Headmaster, R.C. Middle School, Bingaon

Announcements:

Ranchi Scholastics Get Together: Sunday, 14 May to Saturday, 20 May 2017 in Sonabheel, Assam
Ranchi Province Days-2017: Monday, 22 May [evening] to Thursday 25 May 2017 [noon]

Fr. Provincial's Programme: February, March, April 2017**February**

02	: Meeting with LNN	06	: Visitation – Morning - Rumtukel
03	: Tribal Lawyers Workshop		: Visitation – Afternoon - Maranghada
	: Jharna – meeting with Vocation Ppromoters and Directors	07	: Visitation – Kochang
		08	: Visitation – Sarwada
04	: Tribal Lawyers Workshop	09	: Visitation – Dolda
05	: Holy Mass & Meeting at Bardih	10	: Visitation – Khunti
10	: Preparatory meeting for Province Days 2017	11	: Budget Session 2017-18: Gumla Zone at St. Ignatius Gumla (1.30 pm) onwards
11-12	: Novitiate Batch meeting		
14	: Morning – meeting with Porticus	13	: Budget Session 2017-18: Simdega Zone at St. Mary's Samtoli (10.00 am onwards)
	: Evening – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at XISS		
15	: Province Consult	15	: Cambodia
17	: GC 36 dissemination – Ranchi Zone	20	: South Korea
18-Mar. 2:	JCSA Meeting in Jabalpur	25	: Back to Ranchi
		29	: Budget Session 2017-18: Khunti Zone at St. Michael's Khunti (10.00 am onwards)
March - April			
03	: GB Meeting of CBCI for Medical Education	30	: Budget session 2017-18: Ranchi Zone at Manresa House (9.00 am onwards)
04	: Visitation – Kishor Nagar		
05	: Visitation – Morning - Bingaon	5 April	: Budget Session 2017-18: Assam Mission at Tezpur (9.00 am onwards)
	: Visitation – Afternoon - Patrachauli		

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

January was a month of priestly ordinations, celebrations, picnics, etc. Frs. Nabor and Vinod had been to Karondabera for the high voltage ordination of Dn. Kulwant; Fr. Anand to Kereng; Bishop Charles and Fr. Anand to Banari for Mukul's and a diocesan Dn's for Hazaribag diocese and Fr. Henry to Kurdeg for one for Delhi Province; and finally, Frs. Kennedy, Pradeep and Vinod to Kuruskela for Dn. Bipin's. Br. Santosh had been to Rourkela for a close relative's wedding, and Fr. Peter Paul to Muri to participate in the Golden Jubilee of his elder Sister in the Ursulines of Tildonk. On 6 January, Fr. John went to Konbir Noatoli for the funeral of his cousin Brother Martin Toppo, S.G.

On Sunday, 15 January, under the leadership of Frs. Ashok Ohol and Nabor, the Sunday English-Mass group had been to Ulhatu for a pilgrimage. Frs. John Ekka and Henry also accompanied them. The initial number was fixed for about 50; but the initiative circulated so fast that about 150 pilgrims were there. It was made clear to the participants that all of them were on a pilgrimage and not a picnic. There were rosary prayers, Mass, fun games and community meal. The generosity of the pilgrims was praiseworthy. One of them had sponsored the lunch and even brought his kitchen personnel there! Almost all had gone in their family or shared vehicles. Going there did much good to all; they still cherish their experiences of having been at Mother Mary's feet.

Fr. Ajay Anil had gone to Assam to appear at the Nalbari court on 12 January, Fr. Vital Ekka being his witness, for a hearing on a very unfortunate case at Mushalpur nearly two years back, an episode that had traumatised Fr. Ajay. From the report we hear Fr. Ajay has been acquitted and the case closed. He also underwent a surgery on his right temple/ear in a Guwahati hospital, and after paying a brief visit to our missionaries in Tezpur, flew back to Ranchi, on 17 January with Fr. Vital. Fr. Ajay has very soon recovered from the excruciating surgery of the wounds he had received in the Mushalpur attack by some unidentified men.

Frs. Nabor, Pradeep and Vinod had been to SXC, Simdega, for a GB Meeting and returned the same day. On 23 January, members of our College Faculty had gone for a picnic to a beautiful dam beyond the Taurian School. It is really an exotic place, almost virgin! Except Fr. P. Kennedy who had joined some of the hostellers for their picnic to Baghmunda, all of us from the Community had joined the Professors. It was wonderful to see some of the Professors busy collecting firewood, tending the fire, cooking, etc.

For 68th Republic Day we had our ex-Xaverian, Dr. Kashyap as the chief guest. He unfurled the national

tri-colour and gave a pep-speech to the assembly gathered in the College quadrangle. He was much impressed by the changes in the College since his days here. The next day, we celebrated the Birthday of Fr. Bimal. In his reflections during the Eucharist, he read out to the community very inspiring poems that extolled gratitude to God for life that we all have received.

Frs. Nabor and Nicholas were very busy with the jamboree of the Jesuit Alumni Association India (JAAI), from 27-29 January at SXS Doranda. Eight Jesuits stayed in our residence. All together there were 170 participants. Fr. Nabor, who is the JAAI Province Coordinator, was all praise for the gathering, proceedings, sociable atmosphere and the bonhomie. To wind up the month, H.L. Bishop Charles left for Bhopal, on 29 January for a meeting of the Bishops on the Papal document *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love).

Fr Henry Barla

Manresa House

We started 2017 with a picnic to Kochang, the Switzerland of Jharkhand. Next day on 2 January was the handing over ceremony of Rectorship during the evening Eucharist. The outgoing Rector Fr. Justine Tirkey, SJ handed over this responsibility to Fr. Alex Toppo, SJ. Fr. Provincial and other members of the nearby communities were the witnesses. On 4 January Fr. Justin left for the U.S.A. for his doctoral studies. We were glad to listen to Fr. Amar Bage, SJ on 9 January sharing his missionary-life experiences of Guyana mission. Jesuit Fathers and Brothers from nearby communities were present on this occasion. On 11 January, Manresa community bid farewell to Martha and Clement, our infirmary co-workers. We had a special thanksgiving prayer in their name. On 12 January we had three special occasions to celebrate and thank God. The occasions were the birthday of Fr. Mathias Ddung SJ (94 years), inauguration of Badminton court, and Holy Eucharistic celebration led by newly ordained priest Fr. Kulwant, followed by felicitation programme. Fr. Provincial and nearby communities came and shared their joy with us. On 22 January the Manresa Scholastics went to Jhapla to attend the first Holy Mass of the newly ordained priest Fr. Justin Kandulna SJ. On 24th the community celebrated the birthday of Fr. Chonhas Lakra SJ, who is our community member rendering his services in Mander as a Chaplain. The community had special evening prayer for him. On the Republic Day Fr. Ajit Kalyan celebrated the solemn Mass for India and its citizens. Sch. Kamaldeep delivered a short and sweet speech to show our spirit of patriotism.

Schs. Ruben & Priyatam

St. Ignatius' School, Gumla

The New Year brought great joy among people. All the men congregations plus the Bishop's House here in Gumla faithfully kept the tradition of going for a picnic at Datli Dam (Tapkara Dam) and enjoyed thoroughly. The schools and inter college reopened on 4th Jan. and once more the rumination of usual life in the campus returned. A team of the *Adhyayan* Group was here in St Ignatius from 5-10 January doing the internal review of our school and Inter-college with the selected staff. The exercise was rigorous as the participants reported. The GB and General Body Meetings were held on 6 January in AROUSE in which two GB members were given farewell and two new ones - Mrs. Flora Minj and Mr. Punai Oraon (the former DDC of Gumla)-were inducted. Outgoing members were Mr. Lotem Dungdung and Mr. Francis Minj. The School Sports Day was held on 11 January a bit in a hurry with little preparations. It was so because the participants for *Chakravyuh* had to leave for Samtoli on 13th evening.

The *makrasankranti*, the local festival, was on 14 January the day of Picnic for all the religious of Gumla. This time the group went again to Datli Dam to enjoy themselves to the full. Lots of singing and dancing marked the occasion and amused the group thoroughly. The Headmaster Fr. Erentius missed the occasion because he was at St. Xavier's, Doranda as an external in the *Adhyayan* Team. Five candidates appeared for interview of teachers for our Eng. Med. School: two from TTI Lohardaga and one from SJT in Urmai, Gumla. Just the day before Fr. Ravi Bhushan suffered from his waist sprain. He experienced excruciating pain for some days. He had to see the local doctor and got relief. On 30th again he got the repeat so he went to Ranchi to consult the Doctor on 31st. The two Loreto sisters gave us a Tea Party on 23rd which happened to be the Birth anniversary of Mary Ward, the Foundress of the Congregation. Five sisters with Marione also came to Gumla for the occasion which doubled our joy. Our sincere thanks to them!

The government took measurements of our buildings and structures for imposing a revised Holding Tax. The team came here for mapping the buildings in the campus and calculated the new tax. It was found quite high. On Republic Day, Fr. Vijay as the Chief Guest at the Flag Hoisting in the School delivered a brilliant speech and all liked it. Congratulations Vijay! There were 2 *jhankies* (floats), one from AROUSE and the other from the School to take part in the stadium. The School cultural team went also in the evening for the show in the town hall.

Most of us went to Kruskela Parish for the ordination of Dn. Bipin Tirkey, SJ; two remained at home to guard the House. The Apostolics and the Hostel Block "A" combined

their picnic at Kobang dam with the ordination. Some Fathers also joined them later. It was a wonderful outing and celebrations including Gandhi Mela in Simdega.

Fr Christopher Lakra

St Mary's School, Samtoli

St Xavier's College Simdega had a two-day orientation programme for the students given by the teaching staff. On the second day, Frs. Nabor Lakra and Vinod Bilung from St. Xavier's College Ranchi guided the orientation programme for the teaching staff and the students. Students, quite happy, eager and receptive, benefitted from this event. The Assessment Team conducted the evaluation of the High School. On the first day Ms Poonam from Mumbai met the students and the staff, and some parents to get some relevant information and feedback. Thereafter, overall assessment was done by a committee of three, namely Ms Poonam, Ms Imrana and Fr. Philemon Ekka SJ. They had serious reflections and analysis on the findings from the interactions and interviews.

Chakravyuh- a mega athletic event for the school boys and girls- was held for three days at St Mary's Samtoli. The local MLA Mrs Bimla Pradhan graced the occasion as the chief guest who inaugurated it on 14 January. The students of St. Mary's High School, Inter College, Ursuline Convent, St. Mary's English Medium School, Holy Spirit School and St. John's School, Pharsabera performed colourful opening ceremony. On the final day Mr. Kisku, the husband of Mrs Louise Marandi [The Minister of Sports] was present as the chief guest. Many Headmasters and Principals along with their staff members were present to encourage their students. On the basis of overall performance, St Mary's Samtoli became the champion while Kishor Nagar got the second prize. Thus the three-day programme concluded successfully.

St Mary's English Medium School had its Annual Sports Day on 27 January. Students were very enthusiastic in taking part in all the events. Fr. Shailesh Kerketta, the Principal of Holy Spirit English Medium, was the chief guest for the day.

Frs. Rector, Gilbert and John Crus went to Gangutoli for the priestly ordination of Dn Justin Kandulna, SJ on 21 January. Later on 29 January all the community members except Sch. Samir Bhawnra went to Kuruskela parish for the ordination of Dn Bipin Tirkey, SJ. Sch. Sujit and 6 Apostolic boys helped the choir with musical instruments. After the ordination the Apostolic boys went to Kobang dam for their picnic. The Apostolic boys of Gumla too went to the same place. It was a sort of get-together for the Apostolics as last year they could not come together.

Fr Linus Dungdung

St Michael's Residence, Khunti

The New Year came with a bang. Two of our community members left us. Fr. William Surin breathed his last at Mandar and Fr. Ashok was given a new responsibility of the Assistant Treasurer in the Province Curia. As the schools re-opened on 5 January, the outgoing Principal Fr. Ashok SJ was given a farewell and the new Acting Principal Fr. Sylverius SJ was welcomed.

The pre-novices came back on 4 January after their Christmas holidays. On 7 January, along with the staff, they went for the priestly ordination of Fr. Kulwant Minj SJ at Karondabera. It was a rare opportunity for many pre-novices to witness the ordination of a Jesuit. They participated in the All Churches Unity Prayer service at Martin Bungalow on 29 January. It was indeed a learning experience for them. They also took part on 30 January in a one-day seminar at SSPC, Kunjla on *Laudato Si'*. It was an insightful and enriching experience indeed! Meanwhile Sch. Alok was away for three days to Nagpur where his mother had heart operation. Besides the responsibility of the Director of the Pre-Novitiate and additional charge of the Principal of Loyola English Medium School, Fr. Sylverius spared some time to give seminars to MC Sisters at Radha Rani and Ursuline Convent Khunti.

The High School and Inter College were busy in the internal as well as external evaluation from 7-10 January. The School was awarded the Bronze. On the Republic Day our students stole the show at the Court Ground with their band display. In the Cathedral too we had special Mass for the country and our fellow citizens. A pre-novice delivered an inspiring Republic Day speech.

The whole St. Michael's community and the hostel boys went to Gangutoli on 21 January for the priestly ordination of Fr. Justin Kandulna, SJ. On our way back we visited the family of late Fr. Willy. Again some members of the community went to Kuruskela on 29 January for the ordination of Fr. Bipin Tirkey, SJ.

Sch Alok Ekka

Tarunoday

Taruns, after their triduum, earnestly prepared themselves for the Annual Seminar, held on 7 January. Four groups presented their papers related to the theme *Glimpses of Mercy and Challenges in Adivasi Community*. The audience, though small in number, sought clarifications and raised some relevant questions. Different groups responded those questions with confidence, clarity and conviction. Fr. Lawrence SJ (HAZ), as the chief guest, appreciated the efforts of the students for their theological reflection on the theme of Mercy in the tribal context. He highlighted how tribals of Chotanagpur

experience Mercy and express it in different ways in their community living.

The course on Islam by Fr. Victor Edwin SJ from Delhi was insightful and educative. In the afternoon of 16 January students visited a mosque in Bariatu locality. Imam Misbahi, an Islamic scholar and open-minded person, explained the core tenets of Islam and cleared many doubts and prejudices. Students were impressed by this kind of cordial and respectful dialogue. The following day the student and staff had a session of theological reflection on the experiences of interaction with the Imam. Taruns were quite appreciative of the exposure to the mosque.

Fr. Francis Minj went to Assam on 14 January for sharing the experiences and dynamics of the GC36. He had the opportunity to meet all the Jesuits working in Assam as well as to witness the grand ordination of Rozario Mosahari SJ in Udalguri parish on 15 January. He was back to Tarunoday on 16 January with enriching experiences. On 22 January he gave a talk to the Ecumenical Prayer Gathering held at St Paul's Cathedral, Church of North India, premises. His address to this prayer gathering for unity was quite meaningful and inspiring. Congratulations to Fr. Francis. Thereafter he proceeded to Hazaribag with Fr. Ajit Xess SJ for sharing on the GC 36 to the Jesuits of Hazaribag Province.

On 28 January, 10 Taruns (Frs. Francis, Michael and 8 Scholastics) went to Simdega on their way to Kruskela for the ordination Bipin Tirkey on 29 January. All of us are grateful to St. Mary's community for warm hospitality and accommodation. Next day we attended the grand ordination ceremony and came back via Gumla.

Fr Michael

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

We welcomed the New Year with a thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Father Rector. On 7 January, the whole community divided into 9 living groups, went to 9 different parishes for faith sharing. Each group was accompanied by a staff member. It was an enriching experience for us as we shared with and listened to one another. On 9 January, there was a meeting of the executive members of Satya Nilayam Research Institute attended by all the teaching faculty members. A better plan for more publications, a better infrastructure for more doctoral students and promotion of the research programmer were on the agenda for discussion.

Pongal – the Tamil harvest festival- was celebrated with great joy and fervour on 14 January. The day began with a meaningful Eucharist prepared by the Tamil brothers of different provinces. There were various competitions organized in the morning including the Rangoli competition,

pot-breaking and slow cycle race etc which added the festive joy.

The meeting of Jesuit Faculty Formators of South Asia (JFFSA) took place in Satya Nilayam on 15 January. The Deans and Rectors of the faculties of philosophy and theology from Vidya Jyoti Delhi, JDV Pune and Satya Nilayam Chennai along with POSA and ADF were present. In our academic front, we had the First Continuous Assessment Exams (23-28 January) for II and IV Semesters. Thereafter classes for the last term have already resumed and we hope to do well in our studies and co-curricular activities.

Sch. Suresh Tirkey

Sanjeevan Niwas, Vijaywada

Together with the Regents of Andhra Province, we, the Scholastics of Sanjeevan Niwas, had the Spiritual Animation Programme (SAP) cum Triduum under the guidance of Fr Michael Alosanaya, SJ (MDU), at Ananda Jyoti. It was an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the spirit of our Founding Fathers as well as some important documents of the Society and writings of the former Generals especially of Fr. Pedro Arrupe, Fr. P.H. Kolvenbach and Fr. Nicolás Adolfo. We also had spiritual conversations and faith sharing in groups which strengthened our bond as 'friends in the Lord'. We renewed our vows on the last day.

Sch. Wilson had the opportunity to join the Department of Commerce for the Industrial Exposure [25-30 January]. During the Annual College Day on 28 January. Sch. Wilson, though absent, was given three awards: Silver Medal from the Department, The Best Sanjeevan Award from the Third Year and Merit Scholarship for ranking First in the first fifth semesters. Congratulations to Wilson!

Sch. Henry Kullu

Gyanoday Khaspur, Patna

With joy and zeal we welcomed the New Year. We had Eucharistic celebration at St Stephen's Church Danapur. The course on Psycho-Sexual Spirituality given by Fr. Antony Andrade SJ and Sr. Theresa was insightful and eye-opening for us. It enabled us to understand our own

feelings and emotions as well as those of others better. The combined Spiritual Animation Programme [SAP] with Sitagarha Juniors in Sitagarha was another learning experience for us all. Fr. R.C. Chacko, SJ guided us to re-live and cherish the Ignatian root, spirit and charism. Certainly it has inspired us to live our Jesuit life with joy and generosity.

We proudly celebrated the 68th Republic Day in Gyanoday with the neighbouring children. Sch. Alok delivered a patriotic speech eloquently on this occasion. We also celebrated the Parish Day on 29 January with the parishioners. We played active role in making the day enjoyable and successful one.

Sch. Anand Minj

Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum

It was a golden opportunity for all of us to attend the Ecology Course in Kodaikanal, also known as 'princess of hill stations'. Fr Britto Bonaventure, the Rector of St Joseph Trichy, was the resource person. We had a delightful stay at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur amidst the scenic beauty of nature.

On 5 February, we Juniors of Vidyaniketan, conducted 'Balamela'. Around 250 children from five parishes took part in this programme with full gusto. It was a good learning experience to work as a group with team spirit.

Sch. Kanchan Minj

Clive's House, Trichy

All the scholastics were back on 2 January from ministry places. As the college reopened on 3 January, a series of celebrations began in the college. We had Jubilee celebration of our spiritual guide, Fr. Paul C., in our community on 7 January. We had grand INDEP programme in the college for two days. Many scholastics participated and won prizes. Fr. Provincial of Madurai province added the joy of Pongal celebration and inauguration of the new basketball court. We had wonderful tour to Pondicherry, where we enjoyed the sea beach and the city. Our college was closed for sometimes due to the Jallikattu protest.

Sch. Anup Tirkey.

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Jesuit Curia, Tezpur

Fr Xavier Lakra went to Ahmedabad via Ranchi to take part in the Assistancy level meeting of Province Development Directors from 6-8 January. He was back here on 10 January. Fr Anup had met with an accident in December 2016 while coming back from Guwahati to

Tezpur. In spite of his fractured ribs and dislocated arm he wrote 5th Semester Exams [27 Dec. 2016 - 20 Jan. 2017]. Thereafter, he went to Ranchi on 21st for further cross examination of his ribs and arms by the specialist doctors. Fr. Thomas Barla gave Triduum to Sch. Gabriel Tigga in Jesuit Bhavan. After the Triduum, he went to his native place Rengarih to see his sick and ailing mother who had

stopped eating solid food for months. He returned to Tezpur on 10 January. Just after five days he received the sad news of the death of his mother at the age of 94. May God grant her eternal peace and joy!

All the Jesuits working in Assam Mission gathered on 13 January at Jesuit Bhavan for the sharing session on GC36. The following day, Fr. Provincial Marianus Kujur and two delegates Frs. Francis Minj and Ajit Xess shared their experiences and presented some highlights of the GC. In the afternoon, a meeting concerning the Assam Mission was held.

Sunday, 15 January was a historic day for Assam Mission as the first Jesuit - Deacon Rozario Mosahari was ordained priest by Bp. Michael Akasius Toppo, in Udalguri Parish. Fr. Provincial Marianus Kujur was also present for the auspicious event. There were 33 Jesuits from Ranchi, Assam Mission and Kohima region. In the first Mass on 16 January in his village South Shantipur, the Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati diocese and many Jesuit Fathers, other Fathers, Sisters and about 2000 faithful participated.

We had two guests from abroad in January. Mr. Norbert Eckart, one of the staff members in Nuremberg mission Office [Germany] arrived in Tezpur on 21 January. From 21 to 28, he was taken to different villages and institutions to see the project works going on. He was quite impressed by the works done. Mr. Valdek from Poland arrived on 26 January. He was interested in tribal life and culture. Hence he recorded some of the interesting and unique cultural aspects of different tribes of Assam.

On 23 January, 8 Christian Brothers arrived in Jesuit Bhavan for their immersion programme. Fr. Thomas and his team placed them for a month in different villages and tea gardens for exposure. The staff of Gana Chetana Samaj (GCS) was busy with the people in completing the project activities. GCS also organized a seminar [6-7 January] for the All Adivasi Women Association of Assam (AAWAA). A new project, 'Piggery and Tea Garden as the Sustainable Source of Income for the Education of Children' has been launched in two villages.

The Jesuit Curia members together with all the Gana Chetana Samaj staff and co-workers had their Annual Picnic at Bhairakund. The following day on 29 January the Jesuit Curia members participated in the blessing of the newly built Presbytery and Convent in Mushalpur.

Fr. Thomas Barla

Kathalguri

In the education front, our effort has been to provide quality education to the poor children by adding some more infra-

structural facilities. In the New Year we have constructed a new refectory and purchased new beds for the hostellers. The basketball court is under construction. St. Xavier's School is upgraded up to Class VI and two additional classrooms are constructed. It is also providing vehicle facilities to the students. A new toilet is also coming up for the boys and girls. Such small new facilities are attracting the parents to send their children in our schools.

In the pastoral field, the Parish Annual Sabha was held for two days [10-11 Jan]. Fr. Ranjit Xalxo prepared the parishioners for the meeting. Bishop Thomas of Bongaigaon diocese presided over the Eucharist on 11 January. The next day Fr. Provincial came for the visitation. The following day all of us proceeded to Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur for the sharing sessions on GC36.

Fr. Pradeep Kullu

Prothrapur, Andaman

The feast of Pongal was celebrated on 15 January at Prothrapur with zeal and excitement. Tamil community had decorated the Church and its premises with colourful rangolies, with plantain trees, coconut and palm leaves etc. Fr. Satya Sheelan, SDB, presided over the solemn Eucharist. In his homily he highlighted that God is the giver of life and prosperity. Therefore the sense of gratitude to God and spirit of joy are the overwhelming sentiments. Fr. David expressed his gratitude to Fr. Satya for availing himself for the faithful. At the end, Dr. Ashirvadam, the president of Tamil Community, invited all to share the joy of Pongal.

Just after the Pongal celebration, Fr. David, Mr. B. Banick, Srs. Rosa and Nirmala left for Chidiyatapu, one of the sub-stations of the parish, for a gathering of the faithful from Chidiyatapu, Burmanala and Kodyyaghat. The programme started with the Eucharistic celebration followed by entertaining games for children, youth, men and women. They were all given some prizes. Later everyone was served lunch which was sponsored by some generous parishioners. We appreciate their generosity.

The Annual Youth Programme [27-30 Jan.] was held at Pastoral Centre Lambaline, Port Blair. 19 youth from Prothrapur parish, accompanied by Sr. Nirmala, took part in this programme. St. Paul of the Desert Church at New Wimblitan celebrated its feast day. The faithful had Triduum as spiritual preparation for which several priests rendered their helping hands. The Tamil Community of Prothrapur and Port Blair parishes participated in the Eucharist. At the end all were served festive fellowship meal.

Fr David Bara

DIASPORA

Rome (Italy)

With the dawn of the New Year, Ranchi Jesuits in Rome waited eagerly for the arrival of Anselm Ekka and Kulwant Minj. On 6 January, Anselm arrived in Rome by Air India almost ahead of the scheduled time. Thomas McClain, General Treasurer of the Society, along with Agnelo Mascarenhas received him warmly at the airport. Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant too were present to extend a cordial welcome on behalf of Ranchi men; however, they missed the opportunity by a fraction of seconds as Anselm was quick to exit as his luggage arrived without delay on the conveyer belt. On 7 January, Anselm was very happy to meet his Province men in the Curia during the customary New Year Tea Party organized by R.P. General for all the Jesuits in Rome. Despite being his second day in Rome, he seemed to be fresh, happy and relaxed. During the Tea Party, R.P. General was very courteous in posing for a group photo with Ranchi men. From the next day onward, Anselm devoted his full time and energy to learn the tricks and intricacies of the treasurer's office before the departure of his predecessor on 25 January. Along with his work, he also spent enough time to learn the basics of Italian language to be able to acclimatize himself fully to Roman life and culture. His colleagues are very happy and content with his spirit of dedication, collaboration and hard-work. Best wishes to Anselm for his new mission in the Curia as the Assistant General Treasurer of the Society!

On 14 January, Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant and Biju Sebastian were present at the airport with flowers and garlands to receive Kulwant Minj, the newly ordained Priest. He was fortunate to have the company of two St. Anne's Sisters, and hence, he was extended a very cordial welcome not only by Ranchi men, but also by Rev. Mata Alma, Superior of St. Anne's houses in Rome. As per the traditional hospitality of St. Anne's Sisters, he was offered a warm delicious Indian meal in their house before he could reach his own community, which fortunately helped him to fight the chilled windy weather of Rome. Edwin Dang was waiting for him to welcome him at the gate of Collegio Bellarmino, the new community of Kulwant. From the next day onward, he started attending the *Studium*, the course organized by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Pontifical Urbaniana University. He hopes to prepare himself fully to make some concrete contributions towards

the beatification process of Fr. Constant Lievens as well as that of Fr. Herman Rasschaert.

20 January was the last day of the First Semester classes. Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant and Edwin Dang had already begun some of their First Semester exams, which continued until the mid-February. Edwin Dang was glad to complete the mandatory psychiatric diagnosis and treatment service at Rome's San Giovanni Hospital, which consisted of meetings, personal interviews with individual patients and counseling service. Apart from completing his assignments on time, he also participated in a Seminar on *Prevention of Sexual Abuse: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, organized by the Centre for Child Protection. At the end of the exam period, Ranchi men plan to come together to celebrate the presence of Anselm Ekka and Kulwant Minj amidst them. The presence of 8 Ranchi men in Rome seems to be a formidable presence! So shall it be!

Fr Prem Xalxo

Jerusalem (Israel)

The house had a few guests this month. Craig Bartholomew, an Anglican pastor and Biblical scholar spent the whole month of January with us. As a scholar he kept himself busy in proof-reading of his book he is going to publish soon. He had also occasions to meet Jewish scholars in Jerusalem. Fr. Louis Caruana SJ, the Dean of the faculty of Philosophy at the Gregorian University, Rome came to give lecture in a seminar held for three days at Hebrew University.

The eleven students, who stayed with us for three months (Oct-Jan), have just finished their classes and now they are preparing for examinations. Graduation Day ceremony was held on 26 January. The ceremony consisted of a short speech by the Vice Provost in the beginning, and the final talk was given by Fr. Peter Dubovsky SJ, the Dean of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. The students sang two songs which were well appreciated. Fr. Meisl Konrad, representing the student group, gave vote of thanks. Besides the guest speakers, Professor Passberg, and three administrative staff members i.e. the person In-charge of the course, and two lady secretaries also were present. For the second semester (February to May), only two students, Fr. Eric Rodrigues from Canada and Fr. Josip Sandoru SJ from Spain will stay with us.

Prayer for *Unity among Christians* was one of the important events in Jerusalem. The prayer days were set from 21-29 January. The first day was held at the Holy

Sepulcher. The second day at the Anglican Cathedral, St. George, the third day at Armenian Cathedral, St. James, the fourth day at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, the fifth day at St. Saviour's Church of the Latin Parish, the sixth day at the Upper Room (Last Supper room), the seventh day at the Church of St. Anthony, the Coptic Orthodox Church, eighth day at Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the last day was at the Greek Catholic Church of Annunciation. All prayer services were done in the evening at 5.00 p.m. and fairly good number of people participated in this event. The last week of January brought us good bit of rain. There was also a little snow-fall one night. One could see in the morning a thin layer of it everywhere.

Fr Camil Kerketta

Cairo (Egypt)

The New Year Day [1 January] is celebrated privately as Muslims have their own New Year Calendar and Coptic Christians were in abstinence waiting for their Christmas on 7 January. The first terminal exams [2-16 Jan] were held together all over Egypt. The exams for class VI is conducted and supervised by the Government Board. Keeping the annual custom, the families of Jesuits were invited on 15 January for the Eucharistic celebration followed by grand agape meal. This occasion gives an ideal time to know them and to be known to a wider family circle. We had the Regional Days [24 – 25 Jan.] focusing on the topic "Continuous price rise and solidarity with the less privileged". Presentations and open discussions were thought provoking. Without exception all the Jesuits residing in Egypt were present for the meeting. We've two elderly Jesuits in Egypt who are above 90 years old. One of them, in spite of ill health came all the way to attend travelling more than 200 kms. 26 January was the general working day yet a good number of Indians were present for the flag hoisting and Republic Day celebration at the Indian Embassy in Cairo. It helps me to meet new faces every year. At the end of January, a five day trip was arranged for the teachers and their families to Hurghada beach resorts of Red sea. It is 365 kms away from Cairo. Five Jesuits involved in the school had accompanied them.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Guyana

The Guyana Jesuits Regional Days [3-6 Jan] were held in Arrupe House, with its theme 'Restructuring the Province-Caribbean Province.' It comprises of Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana, the English Speaking Caribbean countries. On

10 January, two second year Jesuit Novices- Br. Ian Peoples and Br. Peter Bell from Union Central-Southern Province (UCS) from the United States, were accorded warm welcome by Fr. Paul Martin, SJ the Regional Superior of the Region in Arrupe House, Georgetown. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, the Parish Priest of Pakaraimas, was delighted to know that these novices will be with him for three months. It was the preference of Fr. Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ, the Novice Director, to send them to Pakaraima Mountains among the Amerindian people for their immersion. They were never tired of admiring the natural beauty of this country, especially, the rolling hills, and pristine rain forests, clean and cool life giving creeks, the vast savannahs and the warm hospitality of the indigenous people. Fr. Amar Bage, SJ was welcomed warmly by Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey in Chhedi Jagan International Airport Timehri, Georgetown as he returned from India on 14 January with renewed vigor and zeal to continue his mission in North-West Region. Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, SJ, the assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis Xavier's Catholic Church Port Mourant, Berbice was making his regular visits to his communities to encourage the young people. He went to Barbados for his Annual Retreat under the guidance of Fr. Michael Barrow, SJ in the second week of February. Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey, SJ continues his classes for the Extra-ordinary Holy Eucharist Ministers. The diocese of Georgetown was blessed with two young deacons, Br. Berchmans and Br. Juel from India who were ordained Deacons by Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB, on 15 January.

St. Angela Merici Day [27 Jan.] was celebrated with the solemn Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. James Conway, SJ, the Superior of the Interior Mission. On that auspicious occasion, the parishioners of Karasabai expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Ursuline Sisters- Sr. Divya Gulab, Sr. Seraphina Kerketta, Sr. Nishi Susana Kujur and Sr. Crecencia Toppo with their broad smile and big hug.

Fr. Elias Surin

Madrid (Spain)

Our Christmas and New Year outing to Asturias (North Spain) was wonderful. A place unchanged by time and unaffected by the world outside. There lies a unique and rich history that goes back to the 9th century. What attracted us most was the Technical Institute of Gigón which used to be the most important architectural work built in the 20th century in Spain. It was once handed over to the Jesuits. There used to be more than fifty Jesuits priests and nearly twenty scholastics. The history of this place mesmerized

us. After this wonderful tour we came back to Madrid. We soon engaged ourselves with our studies for one paper was still awaited.

After appearing for this last exam of the semester, on 12 January we (Anuj, two Spanish scholastics, and myself) went to Javier (the birth place of St. Francis Xavier). We also visited Pamplona to see the very place where St. Ignatius was wounded in the year 1521. We came back to Madrid on 15 January.

Our classes for the second semester began from 16 January. From 19 to 22 January we all theologians together with some other Jesuit priests started our Triduum in Collado Villalba, a retreat house situated in North-West of Madrid. Fr. Juan José Etxeberria SJ our retreat preacher guided and exhorted us with some of the inspiring discourses of our Holy Father Pope Francis on consecrated life. On the last day Fr. Pablo Alonso SJ (The Formation Delegate) presided over the Holy Mass in which we all renewed our vows. We came back to our respective communities on 22 January.

Sch. James

Munich (Germany)

During Christmas Holidays Sameer and I visited the Jesuit Community in Hamburg. It was a 12 hours long journey by Bus, which we enjoyed a lot. In Hamburg I (Ajay) visited my Cousin, Sr. Rose Punita, a Missionaries of Charity Nun. The return journey was by train, which lasted 6 hours. It was really an enriching experience. On 9 January we resumed our language classes. The language classes are going well. There are many words and grammatical rules which match English and Hindi grammar, so I am not finding it very difficult. Every week we have two tests, one is about Grammatik and the other is listening comprehension. Last year we had classes in the afternoon. Now we have shifted to morning hours [9.00 am -12:30 pm]. On 24 February we had an exam for B1 Course.

In my community, *Gonzaga*, we are 8 members: three Jesuits from Germany, one from Czech Republic, one from Vietnam, one from Hungary and one from Burkina Faso. In general all the community members are very cordial and helpful. On Mondays and Thursdays we have community Mass. Rest of the week we can join Mass in the city Churches or in the Berchmans College Community. Monday evening is set apart for community evenings. Fr. Martin Stark is the Superior of the community. He is also the Socius to the Provincial. I have the advantage of practicing my German in the community. Now I am able to understand

and talk in German and it feels really good to be able to talk in a new language.

Weather in Munich is really good, except sometimes it goes down to minus 17 to 20 degrees. We were fortunate to have a lot of snowfall in the New Year. It was really exciting experience. Slowly we are adapting ourselves well.

Schs. Ajay Paulus

Marquette University, USA

I departed for New Delhi on 5 January along with Fr. Anselm Ekka. Staying for a couple of hours in Indian Social Institute (ISI) I proceeded the same midnight to Indira Gandhi International Airport to fly for Chicago for 14 hours and then less than an hour flight to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I was warmly received by Fr. Fred, the Minister of Jesuit Residence, in the Milwaukee airport with an American enthusiasm. It was so exciting to hear my name in the crowd with such a fraternal familiarity with an unfamiliar person. Yes. It was a typical Jesuit welcome - a brother meeting another brother- a friend in the Lord. Fr. Fred drove some 20 minutes to reach the Jesuit Residence at Marquette University, my community for a couple of years till I finish my Inter disciplinary doctoral program in Mass Communication. Fr. Nicolas Santosh, SJ, professor of Business Ethics from Pune and Fr. Sunil Macwan, SJ, pursuing a doctoral program in Literature from Gujarat are part of the community. Both have been very kind and generous guardian angels for my community, apostolic and academic life.

O'Brien Jesuit Residence at Marquette University could accommodate 32 Jesuits, who are engaged in university and various pastoral activities. Community is vibrant and welcoming. The Jesuit community has moved only last year to this residence which has accommodation capacity of 60, well furnished- very conducive for health, prayer, and academic works.

Having finished one week of orientation in the university for the international students, I started my classes on 17 January. I have enrolled for three courses, the full load for a doctoral student in the graduate school of mass communication. As expected the academic life is different from the Indian system, keeps me busy with lots of reading, online submission of assignments, class presentation and active participation in the three-hour classes at a stretch. Indeed, a wonderful learning experience in Marquette University, where the students are expected to "Be the Difference" and that is their life time commitment.

Fr. Justin Tirkey

GONE BEFORE US: LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Smt. Serophina Tirkey (94), mother of Fr. Thomas Barla SJ, died on 17.1.2017

Sri Emil Minj (76), father of Fr. Gyan Prakash Minj SJ, died on 27.1.2016

Sri Innocent Aind (64), uncle of Fr. Alphonse Aind SJ, died on 31.1.2017

Fr. William Surin, SJ (1933-2016)



‘Never grow tired of doing what is right.’ (2 Thes. 3:13) Fr. William Surin embodied the essence of Jesuit charism in resonance with being men and women of depth for others and with others. He did not count the cost of giving.

Fr. William was the third child of John and Mariam, born on 10th August 1933 at Konbir Noatoli. His grandfather Boas Surin who lived at Salegutu, 10 km away from Konbir Noatoli, wanted his grandchildren to be educated under the caring and able hands of the missionaries. So two of his sons John Surin and Suleman Surin moved to Noatoli and settled there. Young, growing William attended the primary and middle school at Noatoli and came to St. John’s High School for further studies. He completed Intermediate of Arts from St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi. He did his Novitiate as well as Juniorate at Sitagarha. After his philosophy at JDV, Pune he was sent to St. Ignatius High School, Gumla for regency in 1960. He went to Pune again for theology and was ordained on 25th March 1965. For the pastoral experience Fr. William went to Ginabhar and Pathalgaon and was also sent to Chakradharpur and Chipadohar in 1970 for the same.

Fr. William joined various universities for further studies. He was in Aligarh University in 1957, Pandit Ravishanker University, Raipur in 1969, Ranchi University in 1972. He joined St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi in the capacity of the Hostel Superintendent cum Professor in 1970. But seeing the need for higher education in the province, he was sent to Fordham University, USA in 1980. Fr. William came back to St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi

and took the responsibility as the Vice-Principal and Registrar from 1983 to 1986. Later on he was appointed the Principal of the College and served the students till 1993.

During his tenure as the Principal, Fr. William took initiative for National Assessment and Accreditation of the College. There were financial constraints yet he started the construction of the College Auditorium. He had an inclusive approach for any work. He had great love for the poor and underprivileged students. He admitted them and took care of them. He also rendered his service as the Superintendent of Loyola Hostel, Ranchi since 1994. In 2002 he went to Jivan Deep, Khunti as the Asst. Director of the Pre-Novices. He also served the Diocese of Khunti as the Coordinator of Education from 2007 to 2012. Because of his vast experience in the field of education he was appointed the Principal of Loyola Inter College, Khunti in 2010.

As time was passing by and Fr. William marched ahead with time, his physical energy was being dissipated and he grew weak. He stayed at Khunti but time to time brought to Mandar and Ranchi for medical consultation and treatment. His last days were at Holy Family Hospital, Mandar. His Master and Lord called him for heavenly abode on 24th December 2016. The burial Holy Mass was held at St. Xavier’s College Chapel on 26th December 2016 which was presided over by His Grace Binay Kandulna, Bishop of Khunti Diocese. Many faithful and friends prayed and paid their last tribute to the departed soul. Fr. William led a life which was guided by Ignatian world-view and values. ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ (Mt. 25:21).

Fr Nabor Lakra

BABIES OF THE MONTH : MARCH, APRIL, MAY
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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 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

APRIL

02 Lakra Polycarp
Ekka Britius

04 Dungdung Anthres

06 Barla James

07 Doongdoong Anthony
Ekka Vital
Ekka Anthony
Kerketta Anand

08 Tete Felix Prakash
Orea Sudhir

09 Guria Cyril
Bara Pradeep

11 Toppo Alexius

12 Xess Angelus
Topno Nicholas

13 Tete James Pascal

14 Kiro Sylvanus
Xalxo Pius
Tirkey Justin
Toppo Binod

16 Mathias Joseph B.

18 Lakra Placidius

20 Kerketta Sikander

24 Bara Pramod
Kandulna Wilson

25 Kullu Santosh Vinay

26 Minj Francis
Toppo Amrit

29 Surin Zacharias

30 Baxla Emmanuel

MAY

01 Soreng Xavier

02 Minj Ajay Prakash

03 Minj Erentius

04 Toppo Erenius
Dungdung Samir
Lakra Shailesh

05 To'ppo Ireneus

07 Minj Gyan Prakash

08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen

09 Xess Gabriel

11 Minj Anand

12 Khoya Manohar

14 Soreng Alok

15 Kerketta Xavier

16 Kerketta Benjamin

19 Dungdung Alexius
Ba'a Kuldeep

20 Ekka Praful

24 Ba'a Ephrem

29 Tigga Lalit John

30 Kullu Francis David