

RANCHI BULLETIN



73/1

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

JANUARY 2014

Congratulations to our Newly Ordained Priests



Fr Anup Arvind Ekka SJ ordained by Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo DD on January 12, 2014 at Noatanr Parish. Best Wishes for your Priestly life and ministry!



Fr Rajesh K. Kullu SJ ordained by Bishop Vincent Barwa DD on January 14, 2014 at Karangaguri proposed Parish under Simdega Diocese. Best Wishes for your Priestly life and ministry!

Father General has appointed

Father Rudolf Uher Provincial of the Slovakia Province (SVK).

Father José Frazão Correia Provincial of the Portuguese Province (POR).

Father Osvaldo Chirveches Provincial of the Province of Bolivia (BOL).

Appointments by Fr. Provincial

Fr. Nabor Lakra: Coordinator of Ranchi Jesuits Alumni Association

Fr. Alois Beck: Acting Parish Priest of Rengarih

Fr. John B. Dungdung: Acting superior of St. Xavier's College Sonabheel, Assam [additional responsibility].

Sch. Roshan Ba'a: Treasurer of St. Xavier's College Sonabheel, Assam [additional responsibility].

Fr. Deepak Toppo: Pastoral ministry in Keondtanr parish [post-tertianship].

Fr. Prabhat Kennedy Soreng: Pastoral ministry in Rengarih [post-tertianship].

Fr. Binod Toppo: Pastoral Ministry in Balipara, Assam [post-tertianship].

Fr. Manohar Toppo: Pastoral ministry in Bingaon [post-tertianship].

Fr. Pius Xalxo: Assistant Editor of *Nishkalanka* [since 30-08-2013].

Fr. Solomon Barwa: Acting Direction *Jeevan Pravesh* [since 04-09-2013].

Fr. Thomas Barla: Acting Director *AROUSE* Gumla [since 04-09-2013].

INFORMATION

- **Final Vows of Fr Anthres Minj SJ at Saparom Jesuit Community, on Feb. 4, 2014 at 9.00 a.m**
 - **Scholastics Marcus S. Aind, Ajit Kalyan Kujur and Ravi Bhushan Xess** have requested for Holy Order (diaconate). If someone has any information to give about the candidates, one may give it in writing to **Fr. Provincial**
 - Information by **Father Pradeep Kujur SJ, the Coordinator of Finance Commission** to all the **Treasurers/ Directors of works/ Parish Priests :**
 - In view of preparing budgets for the next financial year 2014-15, I would like that you keep your accounts up-to-date. Your **budgets** should reach the Provincial's Office by **15 February 2014**.
 - Your **contribution to FACSI, Common Expenses, Parish Fund and Province Fund** should be given by the **end of January 2014**.
 - **Information from the Novice Director:** Our Pastors are kindly informed that the novices are available for village ministry – catechism, retreat, etc., during the Lenten season beginning from March 5, 2014. His contact No. is: +917549133149.
- Congratulations to **Fr Joachim Dungdung SJ** for his two New Books: (1) *Chhotanagpur ke Delhi Kharia*, (2) *Chhotanagpur ke Pahari Sabar Kharia* published by Jharkhand Jharoka. These books will be released on January 24, 2014 on the occasion of the Jubilee Celebration after the Holy Eucharist at Manresa House Ranchi.

INSTITUTIONS & HOUSES

St. Ignatius Gumla

The school started its mid-term exams on December 5. Having finished the exams on 12 the Hostellers and day-scholars catholic students of class 6-9 participated in an arranged retreat generously led by Fr. Chonhas Lakra. After thirteen years this kind of retreat was arranged for the entire student body. Beginning with the students the whole of Ignatius campus got immersed into the spiritual preparation for Christmas. On 14 the community had its monthly recollection, Fr. Henry Barla proposed us points on "Community witnessing value of Christ." Fr. Elias Kullu illuminated the life of the apostolic boys by imparting points on Christmas for their reflection.

On 21st, the school had its Christmas gathering followed by declaration of mid-term results. With the Christmas holidays the whole of St. Ignatius campus came to a standstill. The community members also moved for the Christmas ministry. Frs. Thomas and Florence joined Keondtanr Parish, Praful and Manohar headed for Dumbarpath, Eren for Sundarpur and Sanjay for Sogra for the Christmas celebrations. On the 25th eve the dispersed community assembled together and sang carols in the newly inaugurated recreation room. On 26 onwards the community began the Christmas holidays and members moved to share the joy with their near and dear ones.

Meanwhile Frs. Manohar Khoya, Florence Guria and Sch. Bipin accompanied a group of fifty students to Kathmandu for the Winter Tour.

Sanjay D. Ekka

Loyola Khunti

Khunti Diocese concluded the Year of Faith on the first Sunday of Advent with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop Binay Kandulna. The representatives of all the parishes of Khunti diocese were present in the ceremony. On the same day Fr. Augustine was in Sarwada to attend the meeting of the Education Commission whereas Frs. Pradeep, Patrick and Br. Basil went to Prabhat Tara to witness the final vows of Fr. Anthony Ekka. On the feast day of St. Francis Xavier, Frs. Augustine, Amrit and Br Basil went to Lohardaga for the final vows of Fr. Sushil Turkey. Fr. Pradeep was in St. Xavier's High School Sarwada as the main celebrant in the Holy Eucharist and the chief guest of the Day. On December 11, he gave recollection to the college CLC boys and girls in order to prepare them for Christmas. The same day, the workers of local religious houses had recollection under the guidance of Sr. Roshni Baxla, OSU. Their recollection was concluded with the sacrament of reconciliation and the Holy Mass. The next day Fr. Pradeep conducted orientation programme for the junior sisters at St. Anne's Formation

House, Hulhundu. On December 13, Fr. Patrick went to Ranchi to write his PG exam. He stayed there for a week and then came back.

Fr. Pradeep was busy giving triduum to St. Anne sisters from December 18-23. First, he went to Hulhundu then to Sarwada. On 18th, Fr. Augustine took 140 High School CLC boys to Jharna for Christmas recollection. Before entering Jharna they visited Our Lady of Ulhatu. They stayed in Jharna for a day and half and came back spiritually renewed. On 19th, Fr. Ignatius Minj was here who gave his time generously to prepare the Christian boys of other denominations for Christmas celebration. The boys are very grateful to Fr. Ignatius. Fr. Amrit preached triduum to the sisters of St. Anne's convent, Khunti from December 19-21.

On 21st, the Loyola family had a grand Christmas Gathering. Carol singing, dance and skits by the students and staff brought out the Christmas spirit of joy and fellowship. Santa Claus was quite generous in distributing sweets. The results of the Second Terminal Exams were declared on 23 and school and college were closed for Christmas and the New Year. On the night of December 24, Frs. Augustine and Amrit were in Fudi village. Fr. Augustine was the main celebrant in the Vigil Mass, while Fr. Amrit preached the Homily. Frs. Walter Kongari and Pascal Burh from Jamshedpur were our guests during Christmas Octave.

Amrit Lakra

Jharna Ashirvad

The second year novices came back home from their Hospital Experiment and the first year novices concluded their month-long Ignatian Spiritual Journey on December 2, 2013. They shared their experiences with one another thereafter and thus they mutually enriched.

There was a community Christmas gathering followed by dinner on December 25. Then the community spent nearly an hour together in a joyful dance. It was delightful to see even Fr. K.C. Philip, the Superior and Fr. Mennini taking active part and encouraging the younger members. On 29th, the community had a farewell Mass for two of our outgoing co-workers - Miss Jacinta Kandulna and Miss Phushpa Lomga. Miss Sanjusha Soreng is one of the substitutes. The second one is yet to join. The novices with Br. Modestus, Br. Prakash and Fr. Raymond went to the Oblate Sisters, Plandu and the Sacred Heart, Sahera to wish the Sisters the Season's greetings. Our novices attended the late Br. Samuel Toppo

at Seva Nilay Hospital, Aragate and Fr. Patras Ekka in Orchid Hospital, near Lalpur in turn. Some of them had to sacrifice for the greater cause the moments of celebrations during Christmas and New Year in which their other novice companions were actively involved. However, they could experience the joy of helping their elder brothers in need. They were also privileged to play an active role in the burial ceremony of Br. Samuel on January 2.

Fr. Samir Dugdung

Kishor Nagar

Thanks to the support and encouragement of many friends we have been able to make good progress in the repair and maintenance of the buildings in the past year.

The repairs of the godowns and store rooms have been completed, while the renovation of the dispensary (our small hospital) is in progress. Two new constructions have come up, a small dining hall and one extra wing of WCs.

The Annual Sports Day has created a lot of interest in Athletics among the boys. In addition to football and cricket, the boys also play hockey and Net Ball. The hockey team took part in the Inter Jesuit Schools Championship in Simdega and 8 Kishor Nagar boys are in the Jharkhand teams (4 in the under 19 age group and 4 in the under 17) for the National Netball Championship. For more news and photos we invite you to visit our website www.kishornagar.com .

We have submitted the application for opening permission for the school to the Block office as required under the Right to Education Act. We fulfil all the criteria for recognition in terms of infrastructure, but we do not have sufficient teachers with the required qualifications. We hope to be able to do something about this in the future. The two Belgian visitors, who arrived here in the beginning of October 2013, left in December. Both of them, each in his own way, have made a difference to our life here. Uncle Pol managed, with the help of the boys, to complete the repair and painting of the oldest building on the campus (teachers quarters, room of the handicapped boys, library and guest room). Dirk, the nephew of the Director, put up the website, gave computer classes and took a lot of photos. He also arranged the books in the library and trained two senior boys to take computer classes for the other senior students.

Kishor Nagar was started 42 years ago and in the last 40 years major changes have come about in the world around us, even in the villages. We have plans to go through

a process of reflection and deliberations on the role of Kishor Nagar today. It is time to look back and reflect. In the month of January itself we shall have a two days workshop with our staff to reflect on the present environment in which we have to function and to deliberate on the mission of Kishor Nagar in today's fast changing society.

Louis Francken

Indian Social Institute, New Delhi

As of now, I am primarily engaged in two major projects—the first is a research project titled “Educational Status of Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh: Attainments and Challenges” supported by Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), and “Social Integration of Communities through Capacity Building for Harmony, Justice and Holistic Development” among the Tribals, Dalits, ethnic and religious minorities, unorganized labour, landless and displaced families, with special focus on women, youth and children.

Apart from the above projects, I have been involved in other intellectual and policy advocacy activities. On December 10, I gave inputs to the 22 Resettlement and Rehabilitation Officers of NTPC and other corporations from across the country on the theme “Displacement Effects of Globalization on Tribal People” during a Resettlement Workshop at India International Centre (IIC), organized by Council for Social Development (CSD).

I was invited by the office of Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, who is also the chairman of the Congress Manifesto for Lok Sabha Elections 2014, to participate in a consultation on socio-economic issues related to SCs, STs and OBCs at Jawahar Bhawan, on December 13. Chidambaram, Moily, Sailja, among others, were present for the same. Rahul Gandhi came in the last session which was devoted to discuss the issues of the tribals. I was given some space to make recommendations for tribals. I was at the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Shashtri Bhawan, New Delhi, on December 17, for a meeting on the issue of displacement, migration and land alienation. I participated as one of the nine-member Jury during the State-level People's Tribunal on Governance in Scheduled Areas in Odisha, organized by Indigenous People's Forum, Odisha (IPFO) on 21-22 December 2013. As a member of the nine-member Expert Committee on Tribal Health, I made a presentation on “Health Culture of Tribal Populations” at Nirman Bhawan, organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 23rd. I

participated in an international Conference on ‘Education, Diversity and Democracy’ jointly organized by Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) and Department of Economics, Calcutta University from December 28-30, and made a presentation on “Educational status of Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh”.

Joseph Marianus Kujur

Loyola College, Chennai

Loyola College celebrated the feast day of St. Francis Xavier on December 3. All catholic students participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration in the college church. On December 13-14, all the departments organized the department-festival. The students and staffs had lot of excitement in organizing the celebrations as the neighbouring colleges were invited to participate in various competitions. Sch. Nirmal Minj received sad news of his father's death on December 6 night on his way to Bangalore with the 3rd Year Brothers of Berchmans Illam for their faith sharing. Fr. Henry Jerome S.J. was very kind to book an air ticket and arranged for his journey. The next day at 7 a.m. Nirmal flew from Bangalore to Ranchi via Mumbai and he arrived at Ranchi at 1.30 p.m. Fr. Michael and Ajay Prakash received him at the Ranchi airport and accompanied him to Gumla. They were able to reach for the funeral. He stayed with his family members for a week and came back to Chennai on 15.

Chotanagpur Cultural Association organized a Christmas Gathering on December 15. The celebration began with Holy Eucharist. Fr. Erenius Toppo, S.J. as the main celebrant and six priests from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Odisha concelebrated with him. Berchmanites conducted the choir with melodious Christmas hymns in all tribal languages which added more meaning to the liturgy. After the Mass, Satya Nilayam Brothers conducted a few games for the children, youth and ladies. The paintings and craft works of children, youth and ladies were exhibited and the winners were given away the prizes. The association also gave away the Chhotanagpur Cultural Association Running Football Tournament Cup with cash prize to the winners and runners-up. ICF was the winner and Berckmans Blue was the runner-up. Fr. Erenius was awarded with Rs. 200/- as a best player of the tournament. All the participants enjoyed the festive meal and dance at the Loyola Campus.

Loyola College announced the semester examination results on December 16. Our Ranchi scholastics were happy and satisfied as all of them performed very well.

December 20 was a red letter day for Loyola College as Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India inaugurated a gigantic new building of the School of Commerce and Economics. There were a few guests of honour – Governor of Tamil Nadu, Union Minister for Shipping, State Minister for Higher Education.

We had Christmas holidays from December 22-January 2, 2014. As Christmas approached Berchmanites went for carol singing to the neighbouring families. The Christmas was celebrated with festive Holy Eucharist, dinner and dance. As the Christmas celebration was diminishing, the 1st and 2nd years brothers had a chance to visit Mahabalipuram and Pondichery on Dec 28. They relished and were enriched by a short visit to well-known places in Chennai. Sch. Edwin had Christmas outing to Bangalore.

Fr. Erenius participated in an intensive Hand-on Training National Workshop on “Techniques in Animal Cell Culture and In-Vitro Toxicology”, for Alternative Use of Animals in Life Science Education, at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, on 18-27. This hand-on workshop will enhance the molecular studies and toxicity analysis of phytochemicals in his doctoral research. He is back to his laboratory. He celebrated his Christmas at St. Joseph’s College, Trichy.

Fr. Erenius & Sch. Saban

DNC Pune

December was jam-packed with a series of program. Philosophers as well as theologians were busy with their assignments and comprehensive exams. On the feast of St. Francis Xavier we celebrated the holy mass in the renovated Philos chapel. To mark the day, a basketball match was played between philosophers and theologians. It was our joy to welcome Fr. Ranjit Kujur, who was on the way to Kolkata for the experiment. The preparation of our Lord’s birthday began with the carol singing from December 21-23. On 24th, we had Hindi Midnight Mass in DNC with a large number of our people. Time was given to show our intellectual caliber by appearing for eligibility for assistant professor and junior research fellowship (JRF); let’s watch and wait who cracks it. The second year philosophers are leaving no stone unturned to get their driving license for the next stage of their formation. This year BAL Mela was organized in the respective ministry places which was fruitful and well appreciated.

Sch Ravindra

North Bengal St. Xavier’s College, Rajganj

On December 3, we had a solemn Mass on the occasion of St. Xavier’s Feast. Fr. Paulose S.J, the superior of Xavier Niwas said the Mass in which mostly catholic students were in attendance. The Xavier hostel boys had a cricket match between the First Year and the Second year. The First year team won the match.

BBA students finished their selection exam in the beginning of the third week. December 23 was the last working day and on the same day the college had Christmas Carols. By 24th, all hostellers went for Christmas holidays. On January 1, the Xavier boys’ hostel reopened.

On December 26, five Darjeeling Jesuits [Frs. Pascal, Sandeep, Kevin, Pramod and Peter] took final vows. There was a seminar on **Restoration of the Society** on 27. It was conducted by Fr. George Francis S.J. and Fr. Sajumon S.J. Finally, 28th was the province day. The same day all the transfers of the Darjeeling Jesuits were announced by the Provincial.

Sch. John J. Kujur

Tongo

Months of November and December were busy months. All the priests were busy in advent tour. PP went to different village units while others went to local villages for the Holy Mass. On December 13, Babulal Marandi visited Tongo while returning from Chainpur. He was given a warm reception at the bungalow. A memorandum was presented for his approval which he did willingly.

On December 20, a combined Annual Sports Day of St. Peter’s High School and Ursuline Girls School was held at St. Peter’s ground. The B.D.O of Chainpur and Jari was the Chief Guest.

Christmas was celebrated with joy. In spite of severe cold good number of faithful participated in the Vigil Mass. There were two Masses in the morning in which the Church was full to its capacity. On the occasion of the New Year, a big number of the faithful attended the Mid-night Mass on Dec. 31.

Fr Linus Dungdung

ASSAM & ANDAMANS

Manas Bansbari

December was a very hectic time as it was the last month of the year. We concluded the annual examination. The teachers were busy in correcting the answer papers and preparing the results. The result for the students of LKG & UKG was distributed on December 13 and for classes I to VIII on 17. On December 13, there was a meeting for the members of School Managing Committee to evaluate the school activities of the present academic year and to prepare the action plan for the academic year 2014. The marriage class was held in the parish from December 14-21 for 15 pairs. Fr. Laurentus Kiro, the parish priest blessed their marriages on December 28. In order to celebrate Christmas with full joy Fr. Laurentus with two musicians went to Bongaigaon on December 19 to buy Drum sets and guitars. Thanks to St. Ignatius Community Gumla for accepting our request and donating generously two *Mandars* to Manas Bansbari. The nativity of the Lord, the vigil Mass was celebrated on December 24. On 25th, the faithful came for the Holy Mass bringing *Roti-pitta* along with them. These *roti-pittas* were offered at offertory. After the Holy Mass people shared their joy by dancing and then the *roti-pitta* was distributed among the people. The school office was closed from December 22-January 2, 2014. Admission for new students and re-admission for old students resumed on January 3. Meanwhile Fr. Laurentus is busy with ordering and collecting books for the new academic session 2014. He is also busy to get opening permission for class IX as in 2014 they are going to open Class IX. The school management is also looking for Science teachers for classes VIII and IX.

Laurentus Kiro

Kathalguri

December was a month of grace and joy and farewell for many of our parishioners who lost their near and dear ones. It was a hopeful and preparatory month to be with the Infant Baby Jesus. We had a Parish Mahila Sangh Meeting on December 1, in the parish, to finalise how to collect the annual contributions, and how to support the parish. They fixed the date for monthly meeting to be held on every last Sunday of the month. The Catechists' meeting was held on December 6, and planned and discussed about the Christmas programme for Zonal level Christmas confessions, Vigil Masses and celebrations. We too discussed about our parish *sabha* and retreat to be held

during the lent in 2014. An Executive Body was formed for the parish *sabha*. Fr. Jerome shared about the Restoration of the Society of Jesus and requested them to tell the faithful. The Executive members of the parish *sabha* had a meeting on December 13 and finalised many things for the parish *sabha*. The Parish Youth conducted the pre - Christmas programme in the parish successfully with a big number on 19th. I congratulate the youth. From December 18-23, all three Fathers were busy with Sacrament of Reconciliation in different zones. Christmas Vigil Mass and morning Mass in three different zones doubled our Christmas joys and happiness. Fr. Dominic Topno left for Ranchi on his health ground and Sr. Sosan Kerketta, SCJM left for Ranchi on 28 for her home visit. **School:** In spite of all huge bills pending, Fr. Pradeep Kullu has managed to get all books and School diary for all the three schools. He is busy with the school documents to be enrolled in the offices in Kokrajhar and Guwahati. From November 26-December 6, Annual Examinations were conducted in all three schools. And Classes IX and X Students of Loyola School continued their examinations and practical till 13th. Results were distributed on 18. Dates of re-admission were December 19-21. And 23rd Classes IX and X students were given results. Results were satisfactory.

New admission so far we had 60, 24 and 14 students in Loyola School, Kathalguri, St. Joseph's School, Jacobpur and St. Xaviers School, Tipkai respectively till December 2013.

Social Work: Westin Topno the SHG animator, of Gana Chetna Samaj is monitoring the different SHGs and trying to re-strengthen and reunite into one under the guidance of Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur, Assam.

Jerome Dungdung

Prothrapur

Youth of Prothrapur parish participated in joint Christmas Carol singing organized by Inter Denomination Gospel Ministry on December 1, at John Paul Auditorium, Catholic Church Prem Nagar, Port Blair. Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias, SFX Bishop of Port Blair, Andaman was the Chief Guest and delivered the Christmas Message to islanders and Rev. Jagarnathan Peter, District Superintendent, South Andaman, Holy Trinity Methodist Church, Haddo was the Guest of Honour. Many Churches and schools participated in Carol singing and colourful cultural programme which lasted almost for three hours. This programme was broadcast on December 25, in city T.V. for the islanders.

With the great help of youth of the parish people began Christmas Carol singing from 2nd onwards and covered practically all the villages of the parish though it was very hectic as quite many villages are situated on hill top but enthusiastically they were able to complete this programme by December 13, and engaged themselves in some other activities. Pastoral sisters and two men folk guided the youth.

Pathargudda which is one the sub-stations of Prothrapur parish celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier in grand manner on December 8. Prior to that as a spiritual preparation, there held the Novena conducted successfully by various SCCs. People were given different responsibilities which they performed very successfully. Liturgy was very well prepared. Rev. Father Dharampal Turkey, V.G. of the diocese was the main celebrant whereas parish priest Fr. David concelebrated with him. A felicitation programme was held in honour of the Vicar General as he came there for the first time after becoming V.G. Everyone was served sumptuous meal. Everything went on well with the cooperation of all the communities. Fr. Xavier Soreng, S.J. Provincial of Ranchi Jesuit Province arrived in Port Blair on December 15, and availed himself for a few days to meet the Jesuits working in the Andaman Mission. It was really a great pleasure for the Jesuits to have Father Provincial with us. He had a pleasant trip to Diglipur and Ramnagar parishes. For your kind information, all three Jesuit parishes are without cooks. We are glad to know the dreams and plans of Fr. Provincial for the holistic development of the faithful. After a fruitful and pleasant visitation of these parishes, Fr. Provincial left Andaman on December 20. Fr. David was there to see him off.

According to the tradition of the Port Blair Diocese, there was held a candle procession in the parish on December 21, participated in good number by both the Catholic and the CNI faithful. People imparted the message of the coming of our Savior and Redeemer by Christmas songs, Bible readings and slogans. It started from Catholic

Church Prothrapur just after Eucharistic celebration at 6.15 P.M. and lasted for one hour and half. The Choir consisted of three different communities namely Adivasi, Tamil and Malayali which took turn one after the other. Mr. William Ekka played a major role to give messages on the way and read the passages from the Bible. The day ended with a message of Christmas and final blessing by the parish priest.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church Prothrapur observed December 27-29 as Christmas *Mela*. On this occasion various competitions occurred. Group singing competition was organized on December 27, where 7 teams from different villages and communities presented their items wonderfully, Cluny sisters Rita and Nirmala and Lumina Paul MC availed themselves to be the judges for the occasion. Daudnagar, Malayali Community and Carbynscove secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. December 28 was dedicated to Biblical Role Play Competition. Unfortunately but effectively only 3 groups came up for the competition. Kamrajnagar, Tamil Community and Daudnagar bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. On the third day, Group Dance competition was organized where 8 groups participated enthusiastically. Each group presented the item in a unique way which people enjoyed thoroughly. St. Alphonsa SCC, Tamil Community and Kamrajnagar came first, second and third position respectively.

As it is the good tradition of Prothrapur parish to begin the New Year in a memorable way with a cultural programme, selected groups were assigned to present their items on January 1, just after the Thanksgiving Vigil Mass on December 31, in order to entertain all the faithful and it came up superbly. It lasted for one hour and half and finally, the parish priest Fr. David thanked all the participants, sisters and audience for their cooperation and encouragement. All the groups were given away the prizes by Mr. Carolus Bilung the head catechist of the parish.

Fr. David

DIASPORA

Rome

For the month of December, one of the notable events is the much-loved tradition of singing Christmas Carols in the Gregorian University for which almost the entire body of the University awaits joyfully and earnestly. The tradition has been followed faithfully in the history of the University

right from the early 1950s. The participation and the vitality of presentations keep growing each year with new linguistic and cultural groups who always come out with praiseworthy creativity and dynamism. This year a few students came together already on December 7 to make the crib in the beautiful quadrangle of the University under the careful guidance of the University Chaplain. On

Monday, December 9, the tradition of Carol Singing was given a solemn start by the students who volunteered to organize various events of the University. The Child Jesus was brought to the manger by four students, and the gifts to Child Jesus from five continents were brought in choreographed procession. Then, as the Chaplain of the University, I extended a warm and cordial welcome to all on behalf of the volunteers to participate joyfully in Carols singing. The address of the Chaplain also signals the official beginning of the Carol Singing. From then on, the quadrangle resounded with melodious Carols during each break presented by different groups creating the festive ambiance of Christmas. For the first time, the Jesuit Scholastics from Collegio Gesù participated in the event with three classical Christmas Carols and mesmerized everyone with their superb performance. On December 19, a group of Professors of the Gregorian University presented three well-rehearsed Carols to wish Merry Christmas to the entire University Community – students and the teaching and non-teaching staff. The Christmas message of R.P. Rector was received with great enthusiasm and loud cheers, which also signaled the end of the regular classes before Christmas.

Amidst the joyful ambiance of waiting for Christmas, the regular classes went on in full swing. Encouraged by his fellow companions, Kulwant seems to have gained more confidence in his quest for theological wisdom. He took the initiative to organize one of the Seminar sessions (*Jesus the Christ* – WALTER KASPER) in Collegio Gesù. Out of 18 students, there are six Scholastics in that Seminar group and the Seminar is moderated by me. Along with his companions, he did well by arranging a Eucharistic celebration in the Room of St. Ignatius, which was followed by the session. His other companions, who are from 8 nations, deeply appreciated his initiative. Although Suman and Sylverius participated in the Carols singing along with their Faculty of Spirituality, they had no repose during the month of December. Both are busy writing the outline of their dissertations for the final approval from their respective Directors. They hope to complete their Licentiate program in Spirituality by the end of June.

For the Christmas ministry, Justin had gone to one of the northern Parishes of Italy for confessions. Although away from his desk, he continued with utmost fidelity his responsibility of dispatching the E-Samachar regularly. People seem to wonder how he can manage to sit for confession for 8-9 hours and then, dispatch on time the news items. The mystery lies in his dedication to his mission! Linus had gone to Rodero, another northern Parish of Italy

to assist the Parish Priest in hearing confessions and celebrating festive Masses. After Christmas, he went to Locarno (Switzerland), where our friend Don George Valentine Kerketta is the Parish Priest. Don Valentine had to go to his Diocese of Simdega for some priestly ordinations and Linus is replacing him until January 19. Suman too joined him until December 28. Sylverius stayed at home to complete his work, but for Christmas he went to a Parish close to Rome for hearing confessions. On December 28, I left for Ranchi on my way to Bangalore for a Conference on the theme *Bounds of Ethics in a Globalized World* (January 6-9). I was happy and fortunate to spend the New Year Day with my parents after a long time. We – Kulwant, Suman, Sylverius, Justin, Linus and Prem – wish all our Province men and Well-Wishers a very Happy New Year!

Fr Prem

Guyana

The arrival of Advent, the spring season of heart, brought transformation in the life of Christians. The parishioners came together to their respective parishes and meticulously planned out their Christmas preparation and celebration. The Novena and the Sacrament of Reconciliation enhanced their spiritual preparation. Mr. Linous the Toshao of Kurukabaru village community and the primary school managing committee arranged Christmas get-together for all the students in the village. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated for all the students and teachers in St. Joseph's church. Before the Advent visitation to all the village churches, the community was blessed with the birthday baby as Fr. Elias Surin celebrated his birthday on December 1. In order to be more available to the parishioners the priests decided to be in three different centres. Fr. Poulouse went to Karasabai, in the South Pakaraimas where as Fr. Elias Surin stationed in Kopinang in North Pakaraimas. Fr. Amar stayed in Kurukabaru, the main centre in Pakaraimas. Fr. Poulouse along with Sr. Seraphina, osu visited all the village churches whereas Sr. Divya Gulab stayed in Karasabai and helped the parishioners in their spiritual preparation. Fr. Amar went to Itabac for the New Year celebration, the marriage blessing of two couples and the baptism of five children doubled their joy. Fr. Elias proceeded to Pena and Kanapang, in the Brazil border for his New Year celebration. A substantial number of Brazilians participated in the vigil mass. In South Rupununi, Fr. Varghese Puthuserry and Fr. Suman Prabhat Toppo along with Sr. Anima, osu and Sr. Bernardine, osu prepared the candidates for confirmation who were confirmed on

December 15 by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyen, OSB, the Bishop of Georgetown, Guyana. Fr. Anil Kishore Turkey, the parish priest of East Coast parishes in Georgetown seems to be happy and satisfied with his effort

to organize youth in their respective parishes. The youth's active participation in the liturgical celebration was highly appreciated by everyone.

Fr. Elias Surin

PIERRE FAVRE (1506-1546)

By Fr Henry Barla, S.J.

To write even a few lines about any one of the first seven Jesuit companions is but writing the origin of the Society of Jesus. Nevertheless in this brief write-up we will try to steer clear of several landmarks as far as possible. This means leaving out many significant events we would have loved to read and relish, for they are our heritage and remain rooted deep in our Jesuit psyche. It is also regrettable that, in the process, numerous valuable elements about Peter Faber himself will be lost.

Peter Faber was born on 13 April 1506, near a mountainous village at Le Villaret, in Savoy (France), close to Geneva. He had humble origins. His parents were pious Catholics and well-to-do peasants. As a young boy of seven, he began pasturing the sheep in the valleys and the mountains. But he very much longed to go to school. His yearning was so intense that he would shed tears of frustration almost every night. Finally, his parents yielded and he began to go to school, some six miles away from home. He was of a mild and suave nature that remained throughout his life. His paternal uncle and maternal cousin – both Carthusian monks and priors in turn in a monastery some seven miles away – had deep influence on him and the whole family.

He studied in the school till he was 19, and, following the advice of his cousin, he went to Paris and the Collège de Sainte-Barbe for further studies. His studies lasted eleven years in Sainte-Barbe, with one break of seven months (1525-1536). Now he was in his twentieth year, and older by four or five years than other students in the class. Besides, he was much more advanced than they in Latin and Greek. He was very passionate and industrious in his studies. Later, he termed this attitude of his as “a persistent and inordinate desire for the knowledge and study of letters.”

University of Paris in 16th century

The University of Paris was a renowned faculty of learning, very proud and authoritative since the Middle Ages. It even held theological positions independent of Rome. It had about fifty colleges. It specialised in theology, philosophy, and letters; but numerous students enrolled themselves to study Aristotle. The regime in the colleges was extremely harsh. One of the entrants at Montaigu college (founded in 1314), was Erasmus, who had a lot to complain because, it seems, he suffered much: “scurvy, fleas, hard beds, and harder blows (all the masters carried canes and used them frequently and mercilessly), putrid herrings, rotten eggs, and wine so sour that it tasted like vinegar.” Students were underfed, mercilessly bullied and overworked. The classes began at 5 a.m. followed by Mass at 6 a.m.! There was very little entertainment or extra-curricular activities.

Sainte-Barbe (founded in 1346), where Faber and Xavier had enrolled, was relatively new and enjoyed the patronage of the Portuguese kings. It had distinguished professors who stressed on humanism, Greek and Latin. It also meant studying NT in original Greek and also the Greek and the Latin Fathers. Erasmus, who was teaching there, advocated this.

Faber and his First Two Companions

Francis Xavier, the Basque from Navarre (1506-1552), only six days older than Faber was assigned the same room as the latter in 1525, and they quickly became friends. But they were very different in character: Faber was reserved, pious, studious, sensitive, and endowed with affable manners, but often suffering from some remorse and some constant scruples. Xavier was a robust and dashing personality, extremely ambitious, mostly associating with dubious companions probably for their nocturnal escapades, proud of his family ancestry and athletic skill, but less inclined to studies, nevertheless harbouring great dreams for a great name on earth, had a benefice ready for him at Pamplona.

In September 1529, the year Faber had passed his licentiate, another Basque like Xavier, 15 years older than Faber, arrived limping there as a student. His luminous status had preceded him: a gallant soldier, nobleman with

endless dreams, but now an itinerant and a beggar in tatters, always in trouble with the Inquisition: he was Ignatius of Loyola. All three shared the same room. Faber began to coach Ignatius in Latin and Aristotle. Both became close friends, and Ignatius helped Faber unburden himself of his spiritual problems which were almost similar to those he had gone through in Manresa. He also learnt the tricks of self-knowledge and ways to identify “spirits,” how to deal with temptations, diffidence and scruples, and to shake off his frequent bouts of depression. Xavier put up a stout resistance to Ignatius’ approaches even sneered at him, and did not want to befriend this Basque who was a vagrant and victim of the Inquisitors. But Ignatius had thrown his net on Xavier already, and after some four years he capitulated in the hands of the former. In his *Autobiography*, Ignatius the pilgrim has just one passing sentence to say rather laconically on this momentous event: “At this time he associated with Master Peter Faber and Master Francis Xavier, whom he later won for God’s service” (# 82).

After five years Faber made the Exercises under Ignatius in January-February of 1534, alone in a little room in another house. Ignatius visited him after six days: Faber had eaten nothing those six days, sleeping in his shirt on the timber given him for fire! He made his meditations out in a little snow-covered courtyard. Ignatius let him fast one day more and asked him to eat and make a fire. After his thirty-day retreat, he was ordained in May 1534. In the meantime Ignatius had attracted six other disciples, who followed his way of life and desired to serve Christ but did not yet know how.

At Montmartre (Paris) on 15 August 1534, they went together at dawn to a little unused chapel, “and there, unobserved except by God, burned their boats behind them during a Mass celebrated by Faber. It was the quietest ceremony, that laying of the foundation stone of the Society of Jesus, so quiet that not even the seven themselves, building better than they knew, had an inkling of its historic significance” (Brodrick). In the words of Simon Rodrigues this event became the principle and foundation of the future Society.

Ignatius trusted and knew his friend Faber well. When the doctors advised Ignatius to go to Spain – “the native air” – to be cured of his chronic stomach ailment, he appointed Faber at the head of the little group. Faber was the Superior for 18 months; he was to foster unity and interpret Ignatius’ mind. With the earlier experiences that his first two groups of companions had deserted him, Ignatius took some measures: vows at Montmartre (1534), Faber as in charge of the group, and to arrange for frequent group meetings and reception of sacraments. Ribadeneyra notes: They were united as one body, so much so that neither bodily absence nor physical distance between them, nor interval of time, could serve to dampen the love so strong and dear that they now had for each other in God. – In Ignatius’ absence, Faber – unequalled among the early Jesuits in the art of conducting the Spiritual Exercises – admitted three new recruits to the Society Claude Le Jay, Jean Codure, and Paschase Broët after guiding them through a month’s retreat. Claude Jay, already a priest, was a friend and former classmate of Faber. They all won their Master’s degree.

Ignatius’ confidence in Faber did not stop there. From Venice he sent Faber to Rome with a delegation to meet the Pope with their plan to go on pilgrimage and a request to remain and devote their lives in apostolic work in the Holy Land. Permissions were also to be sought for ordination of those who were yet to be ordained (*Autobiog.* # 93). The delegation returned with great success! However, their dream plan to go to the Holy Land came to a dead end and, as agreed, the group had recourse to the so-called “Roman proviso” – placing themselves at the disposal of the Pope, who would send them wherever the need was in the Church. So in late November 1537, they went to Rome in groups: Ignatius, Faber, and Laynez together. They briefly interrupted their journey at a chapel, in a little place nine miles away from the city, called La Storta where Ignatius had a mystical experience (# 96). The Pope appointed Faber and Laynez professors at the Sapienza, and invited them to fortnightly theological discussion during his meal. Thus began the life of ministry of the small enthusiastic band burning with vision and passion ready to face the challenges and onslaughts of Reformation. – And when the approbation of the Society of Jesus was to be obtained from the Pope, glowing testimonials came from the good senators in Parma, just as from other dignitaries of different places, because of the shining example and indefatigable labours of Faber and Laynez.

Faber’s life of Ministry

Note that ministries would eventually define the contours of the future Society. Faber would be constantly on the move either by the papal or Ignatius’ order. Already in 1539, Faber and Laynez were dispatched to Parma by the Pope. From then on, Pope or emperor, cardinal or nuncio, or his superior, Ignatius would move Faber around in endless pastoral activities. Against this backdrop drama of Faber’s inner life would be played out. He willingly embraced all

spiritual and physical troubles with equanimity. How did he travel? Mostly on foot, sometimes on a muleback. What was his luggage? Some books, his breviary and some personal items. From 1543, he also carried a portable altar with due permission. He spent the nights in the inns, hospitals, sometimes stayed with friends, or simply under the stars. He was almost always overworked and undernourished, suffered from recurring fever that gradually brought on his collapse. Since he was almost always on the move, he had to adapt himself to everything, like people, language, culture, customs, food habits, etc. When he moved to a new region, e.g., Germany, he knew absolutely no German. He tried to speak in Latin or broken Spanish. He hardly saw results of his ministries. These psychological sufferings, added to physical ones, affected his sensitive temperament to the core. But he accepted all these painful experiences with a magnanimous disposition that a Jesuit should. Five months before his death, Faber wrote to Ignatius: “For my part I should be glad never to be settled in a place but would rather set forth on a lifelong pilgrimage through one or other parts of the world.” He was convinced that this was the will of God for him.

In 1540, Pope Paul III ordered Faber to accompany Dr. Pedro Ortiz, Emperor Charles V’s personal representative to the Holy See, to Spain in the hope of opening a Jesuit community there. Since Faber was doing an excellent work at Parma, many prominent citizens applied their pressure to keep him back there. Faber wrote to Ignatius: “You may be certain, no matter what happens, that I had no part in it.” In the meantime news reached Dr. Ortiz from the emperor that he must go to Worms (Germany) taking along Faber the theologian for the colloquium between the Catholics and the Protestants. So, there was Faber almost pulled apart.

The Church’s situation was really bad. Faber identified the vantage points from where true reform should be done: he began pastoral work, engaged in spiritual direction and gave the Exercises to the household of the imperial ambassador. According to him, inner reform was the right reform. Then the emperor shifted the venue to Ratisbon, in south. So the whole band went there. But at one stop-over midway, Faber made the little time available to him in giving Exercises. He was in great demand among priests, prelates, and those in high offices. On arriving at Ratisbon, Faber heard daily confessions, again engaged in spiritual direction and gave Exercises. He had told Ignatius that he felt “great shoots of love and charity” penetrate his soul for the German people.

When the conference was aborted at Worms, Dr. Ortiz and Faber were on their way to Spain. And as they were passing through Faber’s place, spent some nine days at Savoy. As they went further, the French battalion imprisoned them for a week. On being released, they travelled towards Montserrat and on to Madrid. It took them three months to reach there. A few days after their arrival, Dr. Ortiz (himself not a priest) asked Faber to look after the spiritual needs of a parish. For two months Faber taught the children catechism, and gave Exercises to some priests. But this did not last long. In January 1542, the Pope called him to Germany to join Bobadilla and Claude Jay to advise Card. G. Morone in drawing up proposals for the Church Council. Faber could not meet Card. Morone as he had already left the place. However, the local bishop welcomed and gave him warm hospitality which was most appreciated as some Catholics were suspecting him as a papal spy sent to report on the faith and morals of priests and people there. But since he was nuncio’s assistant he was often received with absolute coldness and even open hostility.

Back in Rome

In 1545, he travelled back to Spain and there made several continual apostolic journeys. By now his health had deteriorated. His constitution was damaged by overwork, long travels, mortification, and recurrent bouts of serious illness. In April 1546, he was summoned to Rome to attend the Council of Trent. He arrived in Rome in mid-July 1546. Six months before he died he wrote to Laynez who had asked him how to deal with heretics. In this connection Faber also narrated an incident about a clergyman who held “some erroneous views concerning celibacy of the clergy. [Faber] dealt with him in such a way that he unburdened his conscience to him, on which lay the mortal sin of many years’ of concubinage. [Faber] persuaded him to abandon that life, . . . and no sooner had he done so and found himself by God’s grace able to live without a woman, than he also renounced his errors, without saying another word about them” Brodrick). Canisius notes: “[Faber] turned him from a *concupinari* into a Carthusian. . .” – This occurred in Mainz (Germany) where Faber stayed for some time and was greatly revered by all for his sanctity. – Since Faber left for Parma with Laynez (1539) till his return in Rome (1546), he had covered seven thousand miles; (his twists and turns are not counted). He had evangelised in the course of two years (1539-1541), places as far apart as Parma, Brescia, Worms, Speyer, Ratisbon, Saragossa, Alcalá and Madrid! The secret of his success in ministries was friendship

leading to conversion. He had irresistible charm that drew the people: they thronged to his confessional and complained when he was transferred.

Faber had been called to Rome to go with Laynez and Salmeron to the recently opened Council of Trent (1545); Le Jay was already there as a deputy. Ignatius chose the three at the Pope’s command to be special theologians of the Holy See. However, Faber died, exhausted, at the founder’s side in Rome on 1 August 1546; only the other two went to Trent. News of his death travelled fast in Europe. He was canonized by universal acclaim at his death; and since then no one in his native village or in the surrounding district has ever used his name without the prefix “blessed” or “saint.” Two years before his own death (1579), Simon Rodrigues had paid a moving tribute to Faber: “In his dealings with others he revealed such a rare and delightful sweetness and charm as I have never to this day, I must admit, found in anyone else. In some way or other, he used to make friends with people, and by the kindness of his manner and speech so won his way into all hearts that he set them on fire with the love of God” (*MHSI* vol. 24, p. 453).

Sources: James Brodrick, *The Origin of the Jesuits* (1996); John W. O’Malley, *The First Jesuits* (1993); William V. Bangert, *A History of the Society of Jesus* (1972); *The Spiritual Writings of Pierre Favre (The Memoriale)*, trans. by Edmond C. Murphy (1999); Jean Lacouture, *Jesuits: A Multibiography* (1995); Severin Leitner, “The Spirituality of Peter Faber,” *CIS* 109 (2005).

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS :

Br Samuel Toppo SJ (78/58) passed away on January 1, 2014.

Mrs. Xaveria, the eldest sister-in-law of Fr. Linus Dungdung expired on Dec. 28, 2013.

Mrs. Serophina Dungdung, sister-in-law of Fr. Patrick Tete died on Dec. 24, 2013.

BABIES OF THE MONTH: JANUARY & FEBRUARY

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
06	Minj Patras	03	Tigga Blacius
07	Ekka Philemon	05	Beck John Anuranjan
	Kujur Anselm	06	Ekka Anup Arvind
	Kiro Laurentius	09	Kujur Ranjit
09	Lakra Amrit	10	Kujur Robert Pradeep
11	Terrens Paul	11	Minj Anuj
	Kullu Clement	12	Kujur Ignatius
12	Dungdung Mathias	14	Kujur Johny
	Kullu Albert	15	Ekka Sameer
13	Kindo Robert	16	Toppo Deepak
15	Toppo Alok		Lakra Amit Juel
17	Bage Sandeep Birendra	21	Tirkey Suresh John
19	Kullu Rajesh Kuldeep	22	Kerketta Bimal
20	Tete Ignatius	23	Tete Isaac
22	Minj Nelson		Ekka Alok
24	Lakra Chonhas	24	Horo Emmanuel
26	Kerketta Raymond		Kerketta Edward
	Tigga Tej Kumar	25	Kujur Elvius
27	Lakra Bimal Elias	29	Dungdung James W.
28	Ekka Blacius		
	Lakra Nabor		
30	Ekka Manoj		