

# RANCHI BULLETIN



75/1

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

JANUARY 2016

***Wishing you all A Happy & Prosperous New Year 2016***

## **Ordination of Deacon Pradeep Tirkey, SJ**



Congratulations to Fr Pradeep Tirkey, SJ who was ordained a priest on 3rd January 2016 at Talesera Parish in Gumla Diocese. It was the first ordination in this new parish of three years old. Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, officiated at the Holy Eucharist. The provincial Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ presented the candidate before the ordaining Bishop who conferred the Sacrament. More than 80 priests concelebrated with his Lordship and about 20 Religious Sisters, two Deacons, 6 Coadjutor Brothers as well as more than 3000 faithful participated in it. It is interesting to know that among the people who witnessed the ceremony, many were from other religious communities. They enthusiastically and actively participated in the celebration.

Father Patrick Minj, the parish priest, was brisk and active supervising and directing all movements of the ceremony. Many innovative items were displayed in the ceremony such as the stick dance in the entrance tribal dance and the Bible procession dance with a 'Manjusha'.

The faithful from surrounding parishes Noatoli, Loakera, Gumla, St. Ignatius' School, Gumla, Keondtanr and Mamarla made it to witness this great occasion. Some of them actively and joyfully took part in the felicitation programme of the newly ordained priest which was held soon after the Holy Mass.

*Fr Ajay Soreng*

## **INFORMATION**

- o All the superiors and treasurers of the Houses and Institutions are requested to send their contribution for the following: (i) **FACSI Contribution** for the Year 2016 by **10th Jan. 2016**; (ii) **Common Expenses and Parish Fund** of the Province by **31st Jan. 2016**.
- o Kindly Submit the **Annual Budget for the FY 2016-17** by **15th Feb. 2016** to Fr Pradeep R. Kujur (the Coordinator of the Finance Commission) or to Fr Vijay M. Tirkey, (Province Treasurer).
- o **Mobile Nos.:**

Fr. Vital Ekka	09006255605
Fr. Tej Kr Baxla	09973038998
Fr. Manohar Toppo	09661276978
Fr. Ajit Saras	07781876992
Fr Philemon Ekka -	09199868508;
Email: ekka_philemon@rediffmail.com, philemonekka07@gmail.com	

**Fr. Geoger Pattery SJ, POSA, through his Circular 01/2016 dated 6th Jan, 2016 has appointed Two more Sub-Commissions on Re-structuring:**

***Sub-commission on formation under Restructuring Commission.***

Raj Irudaya (ADF) - *Convener*  
Fr Joe Thadavanal (PAT)  
Fr.Frazer Mascarenhas (BOM)  
Fr Boniface Panna (MAP)

***Sub-commission for Governance under Restructuring Commission.***

Fernando Franco (GUJ) *Convener*  
Abraham Enthemkuzhy (JAM)  
Anthony Da Silva (GOA)

## HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

### St. Ignatius' Gumla

On the first and second of December one couple from England paid a visit to AROUSE and Gram Utthan. The couple made a trip to Dokapath for the site inspection in view of irrigation project for the people over there. Marc also contacted them with requests for funds.

On 3rd Dec. the town of Gumla was bedecked with Welcome Arches, flags and festoon along the road to receive the sacred soil of Parambir Albert Ekka. Our students among all other students of different schools, lined up along the road to welcome the sacred *kalas*. It arrived an hour later but got the rousing welcome in Gumla Town at cross roads.

Fr. Linus Dungdung, the Rector of Samtoli, gave us very reflective talks in our recollection on 5th - 6th Dec. as a preparation for Christmas. Thanks to him for his kindness. Fr. Anuranja Hassapurty, on 11th Dec. in the capacity of Director, AROUSE, ably and impressively, represented the NGOs of Gumla District in the public meeting with CM for discussing the forthcoming Annual Budget. The CM remarked about the audience here, "This is the most disciplined group I found so far".

Fr. Christopher, Mr. Vivek Roy, Coordinator Arouse and Sunil Kesaria, staff AROUSE, went to Krishnagar (WB) from 14th to 16th Dec. to inspect the life size statue of late Fr. PP Van Nuffel under sculpturing, and to give the final approval. They came back satisfied with the statue and the progress of the work. It will arrive in AROUSE latest by 15th Jan. 2016. The site has been already selected for the installation of the statue in the Arouse campus.

The meeting of the Governing Body of AROUSE was held on 20th Dec. All members were present. The most important agendum was the making of personnel rules for the staff of AROUSE.

Christmas Milan was organized in the AROUSE Hall on 21st Dec at 3.00 pm by the Sadbhavna Manch. The Gumla SP, Mr. Bhimsen Tuti was the chief guest who delivered a very important and challenging message for the audience. All shared the Christmas Cake and wished Happy Christmas to one another. The school also had Christmas Milan in the Hall in the morning. In the evening the Apostolic School had its Christmas Get-together for which all community members were invited. The next day AROUSE

celebrated its Christmas Tree for the staff. All were glad to get their Christmas gifts. With that the Christmas cum winter holidays began. Our house-workers had their share of Christmas Day celebration on 23rd Dec. They got warm blankets one each from Christmas Papa and enjoyed the eats and drinks anticipating the Feast.

Happy B'Day to Fr. Christopher on 24th Dec. the Mid Night Baby! The community wished him hearty congratulations on being the forerunner of the Lord. On Christmas day we as the community went out in the evening with drums and sound system to share the Christmas joy with our neighbouring communities - drumming and dancing! They liked it immensely and invited us again the next year!

*Christopher Lakra*

### St. Mary's Samtoli

St Mary's community was glad to welcome Fr. José Magadia, the General Counselor for Formation with PCF Michael on 2nd December. He went round to see the campus of the school. Since there were exams, he could not interact much with the students. However, Apostolic boys of Classes VII and VIII warmly welcomed him. After lunch they left for Gumla. Frs. Xavier Soreng and Ignatius Minj came to Konmenjara on 19th Dec. for the measurement of the land. It took more than two hours. Thereafter, we had lunch in the house of Mr. Arvind (the land owner). Both of them went back to Ranchi after work was done.

Frs. Linus and Gilbert D'Souza went to Ranchi for the Province level Jubilee Celebration of the Jubilarians on 18th Dec. Fr. Gilbert was one of the Jubilarians who gave an inspiring and insightful homily.

St Mary's and Ursuline had combined Sports Day. Fr. Prakash, Redemptorist Father, was the chief guest. The staff members of both the schools had their lunch after the sports. On the same day there was a Christmas gathering of the house-workers who were given gifts and delicious dinner.

During Advent community members had taken up different spiritual ministries. Fr. Linus gave recollections to different groups: St. Ignatius Gumla, Ursuline Rengarih, FCC Sisters at Purnapani, St. Anne's of Lachragarh zone

at Lachragarh and also to the Diocesan clergy of Simdega. Likewise, Fr. Isaac gave at Samtoli for the St. Anne's (Simdega Zone); Fr John went to Nanesera and Fr. Ireneus to SRA Sisters at Bindhaintoli. In the house we too had recollection. Fr. Albert Dungdung gave us the talk on 21st Dec. evening. We ended our recollection on 22nd Dec. noon by Mass.

For Christmas ministry we went to different places. Frs. Linus, Sikander, Bruno and Isaac went to Dumki, a mass centre of Salgaposh on 24th Dec. We had confession and midnight mass and then again confession and mass in the morning. A big number of faithful joined the Christmas liturgy even many from Odisha. Frs. Alois Beck, Albert Dungdung and Sch. Arvind Kerketta went to Sogra. Fr. Albert and Sch. Arvind came back after the midnight Mass whereas Fr. Alois remained there for the morning mass. Fr. IreneusToppo went to Beritoli for the morning mass and John went to Simdega jail on 25th Dec. morning.

*Fr. Linus*

## Manresa House

Fr. José Magadia SJ, the present General Counselor for Formation, from Rome interacted with the collegians on 3rd Dec. On 4th morning he offered mass for them in Manresa House Chapel. He also addressed the Jesuits gathered from nearby communities in Manresa House conference hall on 9th evening. His sharing was very enlightening and insightful.

Manresa collegians took part in some Christmas gatherings. They played active role in the Christmas gathering of CLC college unit. Fr. Justin Tirkey gave a beautiful Christmas message for the CLC members. Some scholastics joined the Hira Barway Christmas gathering held on 13th Dec. at St John's School. They delivered a meaningful Christmas message by a beautiful skit.

18th Dec. was a special day when the province men gathered in Manresa House for the Jubilee celebration of 7 veteran Jesuits: Fr. Anthony Delporte, Fr. Paul Terrens, Fr. William Surin, Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, Fr. Vital Ekka, Fr. Benjamin Lakra and Fr. Dominic Topno. Among these two could not be present. At the beginning of the Jubilee mass Fr. Provincial gave an inspiring brief life-sketch of each Jubilarian. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Vital while Fr. Gilbert gave a thought-provoking homily. Thereafter all of them were felicitated in the dining hall followed by sumptuous dinner.

Manresa community had recollection talk and penitential service on 22nd Dec. in the evening. Fr. Deepak Toppo gave a talk, challenging all to lead a good religious life. The talk was followed by a penitential service.

After finishing their exams on 18th Dec. collegians began decorating the house and making cribs. They creatively made a crib at the entrance of Manresa House in the shape of a Bullock-cart which drew many spectators. Many people came to see it. Collegians also went to different places like Patrachauli, Prabhat Tara Dhurwa, Hindpirhi,

Nirmal Hriday and St. Xavier's College for their Christmas ministries. This year they remained in Manresa House during Christmas holidays.

Sch. Peter Paul Horo was admitted to Seva Nilaya, Ara Gate on 15th Dec. He was diagnosed with Malaria, Typhoid and Jaundice. He came to write his exams on 17th and 18th but after the exams he again went back to the hospital to complete the treatment. The province had a sad news of losing Br. Blacius Ekka on 9th Dec. morning. The next day his burial took place at ATC graveyard.

*Schs. Nelson & Ajay P. Minj*

## St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

The feast of the patron saint of the College was celebrated as Xavier Day on 3rd Dec. with great joy and gratitude to God. In the morning, the solemn Eucharist was presided over by Bp. Telesphore Bilung, SVD. In the afternoon many well-wishers and especially religious sisters came to share the joy of the day. The day ended with a festive dinner for all the men religious - fathers and brothers of different congregations, including the diocesan priests.

The installation of the new Rector took place on 12th Dec. 2015 during the Holy Eucharist in the evening in the college chapel. After successfully completing his term the outgoing Rector Fr. Vinod Kumar Bilung handed over the charge to Fr. Henry Barla, the new Rector. The nearby Jesuit communities - Sadbhavna, St. John's School, XISS, Tarunoday, Manresa House, St Xavier's School - were present as witnesses of the change of leadership. The event concluded with the fellowship farewell and welcome dinner.

From the beginning of Dec. the UG and PG students including B.Ed students had their semester exams due to which the College campus seemed to be very quiet.

The Intermediate Section organized a grace-filled Christmas gathering on 19th Dec. 2015 which began at 10.00 a.m. in which they presented well-rehearsed carol songs with dances and a one-act-play which were well appreciated by all who were present there. The new Rector- Fr. Henry Barla, SJ was the chief guest for the function.

The management of St Xavier's College hosted a dinner for all the teaching and non-teaching staff on 22nd Dec. 2015. This was arranged to express management's gratitude and appreciation towards the collaborators for their committed service. The non-teaching staff had it at noon while the teaching staff had it in the evening. From Ranchi University, Pro-Vice Chancellor and some other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Prof. (Dr.) G. Jha was presented a bouquet by Fr. Principal - Dr. Fr. Nicholas Tete, SJ as a sign of gratitude for his long service to the College. He retired from his teaching job on 31st Dec. 2015. In the beginning the Jesuits Fathers sang some popular carol songs such as *Silent Night, O come all ye faithful*, शान्ति धरा पर जाए।

For the Christmas the College campus and especially the College Chapel was decorated with lights and cribs which attracted many people from the neighbourhood for

prayers and photography. Dr. Ramesh Pandey-the Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University - was a surprise visitor in the evening on 25th Dec., while the community was at dinner after the celebration of the day.

*Fr Vinod Bilung*

## **RTC Tarunoday**

The month of December reminded us that the days are on the decline. But the flurry of programmes and activities at Tarunoday proved otherwise. From day one to the end of the month, Tarunoday community was engaged in various activities. On 1st Dec. Fr. José Magadia SJ, the General Counselor for Formation from Rome, accompanied by Fr. Michael Kerketta, visited us to have first hand information about the state of the formation in Ranchi. He reached Tarunoday for tea and had personal chats with the members of the staff and then the whole community had had fruitful interaction with him in which he shared his concerns for formation of the young Jesuits.

On the 3rd, Fr. Henry took Br. Isidore and Sch. John to St. Xavier's College for the feast day Eucharist. After the Mass, Fr. Provincial broke the news of Fr. Henry's appointment as the new Rector of St. Xavier's College. That was an unexpected surprising news for all of us since none of us knew till Fr Provincial announced his name. Hence 11th Dec. was dedicated to Fr. Henry for his farewell from Tarunoday. We had a thanksgiving Eucharist and a farewell dinner for which Frs. Vinod Bilung, Nicholas Tete, Sudhir Kujur and Michael Kerketta also joined us. Fr. Henry left Tarunoday on 12th Dec. and took charge as the new Rector the same evening during the installation liturgy in the college chapel. Some Taruns were present for the installation ceremony and the fellowship dinner thereafter.

Congratulations and Best wishes Fr. Henry for your new responsibility. We certainly miss your companionship!

While others celebrated the Xavier feast, Fr. Francis left for Kolkata on the 3rd Dec. to attend the Spiritual Animation Process (SAP) at Dhyana Ashram, Kolkata. He was back to community on 7th to resume his daily activities.

Kanke parish had a Christmas gathering on 13th Dec. As usual, Taruns took active part in the programme but were back to Tarunoday quite meditatively. Was it because of the Christmas get-together or the exams the next day? Whatever be the case, the Tarunoday atmosphere was serene until the second trimester exams got over on 18th Dec. On 18th Dec. we joined in the common jubilee celebration at Manresa House. The Jubilarians inspired us youngsters to offer long years of service in the Lord's vineyard. The next day, our preparation for Christmas began with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then other preparations and carols continued. On 22nd evening the community gathered together for pre-Christmas celebration. To mark the event we had solemn Eucharist followed by agape, exchange of Christmas gifts and the common dance at the rhythmic drum beat.

Unlike other years, the PP of Kanke introduced the blessing of the cribs in each house after Christmas. Taruns devoted their 2 full days to help him out in blessing the cribs in different units. Br. Isidore also took some time out and travelled to Anandpur parish on 27th Dec. to attend the priestly ordination of Dn Ranjit Minj (Jam) the next day. He was back to the community on 30th. Fr. Francis too had a quick home visit to see his ailing father. The next day he was in the community.

*Bipin Lugun*

## **St. Paul's Church Tongo**

It is a good news in the New Year for the people of the area to get Airtel tower operational for the mobile network and internet connectivity. The month of December was really a busy month for us. We had Advent tours to 26 villages. All of us generously helped the Parish Priest Ajit to complete the programme by 10th Dec. In the winter cold also Fr. Vital was ever ready to volunteer for difficult interior places. As the Advent tour got over, Marriage Preparation School began which lasted for 10 days. There were just 15 couples. All of them went home happily along with their marriage certificates.

Fr. Ajit took time out for his P.G. IGNOU exams despite his busy schedule. He frequented to Simdega for his exams. Fr. Manohar was assigned for panchayat election duty for three successive time. He was able to adapt in all circumstances and came back safely. Fr. Philemon managed to get relief from election duty but could not escape from the duty of panchayat election ballot counting. Counting was done on 19th and 20th Dec. from 7.30 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Long hours of sitting adversely affected his health. He is under treatment for his ailment. It has improved a lot but due to cold it comes and goes.

Christmas gathering in the parish was held on 20th Dec. under the leadership of the parish youth. Unfortunately both the youth animators Fr. Philemon and Fr. Tej could not give much time for the programme due to their urgent engagements. However, Fr. Tej rushed back from Ranchi for the gathering. All the village units joyfully and enthusiastically participated with latest carols, skits etc. Christmas vigil mass was celebrated in kurukh by Fr. Manohar which lasted for three hours. His inspiring homily kept the faithful awake at night. It was liked by the faithful. Kudos to Fr Manohar! Morning mass was presided over by Fr. Ajit while others concelebrated. The next day Fr Ajit rushed to Daltonganj for the marriage blessing of his niece. Fr. Manohar and Fr. Philemon also went to their native parish for the marriage blessings of their relatives. Fr. Vital stayed back in the parish to bless 6 pairs of marriages. Fr. Tej rushed to Bhopal along with his parents to see his ailing aunty in her old age.

*Fr. Philemon*

## **Loyola College, Chennai**

The semester exams started on 3rd Nov. was interrupted by the torrential rains due to which exams were postponed.

On 18th Nov. Berchmanites went to Kodaikanal to make their triduum. As they came back after their triduum they remained composed for their remaining semester exams.

Fr. Erenius arranged accommodation in AICUF House for eight Ursuline pilgrim sisters from Gumla province. They flew to Holy Land on 11th Nov. from Chennai International Airport and also returned to Chennai on 20th Nov. All of them enjoyed Chennai idly and sambar and went back to their province before Chennai was under water.

On 29th Nov. the Berchmanites took part in a football tournament in Loyola College football ground organized by Chhotanagpur Cultural Association in Chennai. Sixteen teams of Tribals working in and around Chennai took part in the tourney. The final match was played between Berchmanites and Jollarpetai FC. Both the teams equally exhibited their skills but could score any winning goals. Seven penalty shoot outs also remained equal and finally the organizing committee had to declare the first and the second prize by tossing the coin. Berchmanites won second prize by losing the toss. Sch. Sameer Ekka was awarded as the highest scorer.

The Met Office of Tamil Nadu kept alarming the citizens regarding the heavy rains. The heavy downpour on 2nd and 3rd Dec. inundated whole Chennai Metropolitan city and a couple of districts. It was spoken to be the 2nd heaviest rain fall after 100 years. Tamil Nadu Government declared schools, colleges and all educational institutions remain closed. The excess water released from a number of reservoirs also worsened the situation. Whole Chennai remained in the floods. The electricity supply and communication network remained shut. The Chennai Central, the domestic and international airport and all kind of transport services remained closed for five days. Relief work also began promptly on 3rd Dec. Loyola College opened the School of Commerce building for about 2000 people. The college administration, teaching and non-teaching staff and students volunteered generously to give their solicitous hands for the needy. Thousands of generous people supplied food, clothing and other essential commodities for the affected people. Loyola College received and distributed the relief materials in a well-organized way within and outside Chennai. During floods, all Berchmanites were involved in flood relief works. On 3rd Dec. they went to a blind school run by the Sisters of Little Flower to help them in shifting the important documents and other essential things of the school from one building to another. They also led the blind, deaf and dumb children to the safer building. All the Berchmanites were also involved in the college relief camp in different groups in different shifts. As the water receded, Loyola College sent camped people back to their homes with a domestic kit worth six thousand rupees. One thousand

registered families from the relief camp benefited. Loyola College was highly recognized and appreciated by the citizens of Chennai for its remarkable relief and rehabilitation work. In the academic front, once again semester exams were rescheduled which got over on 18th December.

*Fr. Erenius & Sch. Noel*

### **St Stanislaus' Lohardaga**

The arrival of Christmas season kept Br. Minister and the community members worrying for the cooks and collaborators to free and strengthen the community members for their ministries. Fr. Alexius Dungdung chose to be with the people of Kuru Parish, Frs. Ranjit Lakra and Ignas Xalxo were deputed to be in the City Church, Lohardaga and Fr. Sushil Turkey, together with Sch. Bimal Nag, Fr. Anand, Sr. Vandana and Sr. Sushanti, opted to celebrate Christmas in Talsa village chapel situated in the forest and hilly tract of Kisko block.

The headmaster and the secretary of the school reported that the 'unit test' has helped the students to improve in their performance. To foster it further, the headmaster called for a School Managing Committee Meeting on 10th Dec. and the guardians meeting on 22nd Dec. 2015 when the students received their progress reports. Three Basketball teams had their exposure trips on 19th -20th Dec. 2015 to Prabhat Tara High School and St. Xavier's Doranda where they had to exhibit their strength and skill. At the same time, the staff and students began the preparation for Annual Inter Catholic School Sports Day scheduled in the month of Jan. 2016.

The hostellers stole time for Christmas Get-together on 22nd Dec. and on the following day they left for Christmas Holiday.

After the exposure trip by 160 farmers from different Farmer Clubs, to Kotari village, where they had inputs on Organic Cultivation, AROUSE, Lohardaga is trying to instill the value of productivity and sustainability in the mind of the farmers who have rampantly been using the chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The farmers of Sukmar village in Kuru block had a discussion with Mr. D.S. Negi, National Coordinator of Navdanya Earth University, Deharadun, Uttarakhand.

Before the Panchayat and by-assembly polls the mobility of AROUSE team was curtailed because of the *aachaar sanhita* (code of conduct) when some of the government officials did not want to go to the villages for any public meeting. However, the supervision and monitoring of SHGs, Farmer Clubs, *Yuva Jhankar* and the household survey to trace out TB cases, continued uninterrupted. AROUSE team also participated in the Christmas Get-together in Gumla, on 22nd Dec. and dispersed for Christmas vacation.

*Sushil Turkey*

## ASSAM & ANDAMAN

### Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur

Fr. George Soreng handed over the accounts and reports of various activities of Gana Chetna Samaj on 8th Dec. to Fr. Thomas Barla in the presence of Frs. Xavier Lakra and Anupchand Minj. We had a short farewell programme for Fr. George on behalf of the Jesuits of Assam Mission on Saturday 12th Dec. We had a short half an hour thanksgiving prayer followed by agape meal. On 15th Dec. Fr. George left Tezpur for Rengarih with 3 members of the Gana Chetna Samaj who went along till Rengarih Parish.

Frs. Thomas Barla and Xavier Lakra visited the Jesuit centres of Manas Bansbari, Kathalguri, Mushalpur and Pengaree before Christmas to see the construction works of these centres. Fr. Thomas Barla stayed back at Pengaree from 21st Dec., 2015 to 2nd Jan. 2016 to help Fr. Telesphore during advent and Christmas season in Pengaree centre. On Christmas Day Fr. Xavier had been to Tezpur Jail along with 28 CRI members of Tezpur Unit. As Christmas gift 550 blankets were given for the prisoners inside the jail. Fr. Anup has been busy writing his semester exams.

Fr. Xavier gave triduum for our 3 Regents at Balipara parish from 28th Dec. (evening) till 1st Jan. 2016 (morning) and soon after the triduum he left for Ranchi to attend the priestly ordination of Deacon Pradeep Tirkey which took place in Talesera Parish on 3rd Jan. 2016. On his ordination day 4 Jesuits from Assam mission were present to thank and praise the Lord for the gift of Fr. Pradeep Tirkey.

*Xavier Lakra*

### Balipara

The academic year ended with the final exam which warmed the school atmosphere in spite of chill weather. The fruit of the whole year was harvested on 14th Dec. with the declaration of the final exam's result. Sowing of the seeds for the new session 2016 started on 15 Dec. onwards. After the hard work of sowing and harvesting the school staff had leisure time with picnic on 18th Dec. In preparation of Christmas, there was a high demand for confession in various villages. Huge crowd came to celebrate Christmas Vigil Mass. The parishioners were engaged in preparing for the ordination of Deacon Robert Lakra hailing from New Addabarie. Amidst lots of joy and gratefulness, the great day of ordination was celebrated on 27th Dec. The main celebrant Bishop Michael Akasius graced the occasion with his presence.

Frs. Benjamin and Ranjit went to Ranchi on 28th Dec. whereas Fr. Xavier and three regents of Assam Mission ended the year with triduum at Balipara. Fr. Thomas also came to say mass in their absence. The year 2015 was sent off with thankfulness and year 2016 is welcomed with much joy and hope.

*Ranjit Kujur*

### Gana Chetana Samaj

The review meeting of the tuition centers was held on 4th Dec. to improve the education quality of the children of the villages and tea gardens in the conference hall of GCS. In this monthly review meeting it was emphasized to keep update of each center and share new information to the other centers. Instructors shared their own experiences of helping these children in many creative ways for better learning.

GCS had organized two-day training programme for the leaders of SHGs in the community Hall of Bandarhagi Patha on 7th and 8th Dec. 46 Presidents and Secretaries of the SHGs of Missamari area benefitted from it. It focused on Book and Account Keeping and Maintenance of Register etc. The participants gained good knowledge which made them more confident. A meeting of Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) of AGM NABARD, Bank Managers and the Director and Staff of GCS was held on 8th Dec. at Gorubandha to evaluate and prepare a road map for the effective implementation of the projects Joint Liability Groups (JLG) and Self Help Groups (SHG).

There was a formal handing over of the Directorship of GCS by Fr. George Soreng to Fr. Thomas Barla on 10th Dec. 2015 at 10.30 a.m in the presence of Fr. Xavier Lakra, Mission Superior and Fr. Anupchand Kiran Minj in the office of the Director. On 12th Dec. a short farewell programme was organized for Fr. George Soreng SJ by the staff of GCS to show their gratitude and best wishes for the new ministry in Ranchi Province. Three staff of GCS reached Fr. George Soreng to Rengarih Parish on 15th Dec. Fr. Thomas Barla visited Kathalguri, Manas Bansbari and Mashalpur from 17th to 19th Dec. and Pengaree from 21st to 2nd Jan. 2016 to familiarize himself with the people and place.

*Fr. Thomas Barla*

### Prothrapur

Feast of St. Francis Xavier was celebrated joyously on 6th Dec. at Pathargudda Church, one of the sub-stations under Prothrapur parish. Fr David hoisted the flag of St. Francis Xavier. Fr George Beck, SJ presided over the Eucharist while Frs. David Bara, Edward Ddungdung, Gabriel Benziger, Jayaraj concelebrated. The faithful had novena as spiritual preparation. Entire liturgy was well arranged which created an ambience of piety and devotion. After the Eucharist all shared the fellowship dinner.

Light procession was held on 22nd Dec. to announce the coming of the Messiah. It started from Prothrapur parish and went via Prothrapur junction, Pathargudda junction, Bathubasti junction, Pathargudda no. 4 and finally reached to Prothrapur parish. People walked all the way with colourful light of candle, paper globe and electrical light. Choir in two groups in two different vehicles sang Christmas hymns melodiously and shouted slogans. Mr. William Ekka

read the passages from the Holy Scripture and proclaimed the message time to time.

The parishioners had Christmas Tree celebration on 27th Dec. in the Church premises. Old, young and children participated in various sportive games. Pastoral sisters and some volunteers assisted in a special way to Fr. David. Fr. Edward Kerketta went to Cudlegunj under Ferrargunj parish for Christmas Tree celebration organized by South Zone CRI. Everything went on smoothly and finally everyone went back to their homes with packets of prizes.

The Year of Mercy was inaugurated on 20th Dec. in the parish. In the outset, Fr. David introduced the purpose of the year followed by the opening of the main door of the Church. Thereafter recitation of Rosary followed by the Holy Eucharist. On 31st Dec. parishioners gathered at 10.30 p.m. for thanksgiving adoration followed by the Holy Mass. Charismatic team of the parish conducted the adoration meaningfully.

*Fr David*

### Ramnagar

Marriage Preparation School began on 30th Nov. and concluded on 16th Dec. There were only five couples who attended the marriage school. On 1st Dec., Fr. David Bara from Prothrapur and Fr. George Kerketta from Ranchi arrived Ramnagar at 5 p.m. While having supper they talked about the future plan.

As preparation for Christmas we had Christmas Carol singing from 7th-10th Dec. Singing practice for the Christmas Vigil Mass began on 14th Dec. We had Prakash Yatra on 22nd Dec. The procession began at 6.15 pm. There were five groups. Each group gave Christmas message and sang a Christmas hymn. We had solemn Christmas

vigil mass and celebration as well. On 27th Dec., we had combined celebration of Holy Family, *Nawa Khani* and Christmas Tree. During the mass, the family members sat together. There was also blessing of paddy and other edible things. Games were arranged for all.

*Anil Kandulna*

### Diglipur

Advent tour to different parish units got over by 3rd Dec. Fr. Alexander came back to the parish from Burmachar after having spent four days in far away four different sub-stations. We began our singing practice from 7th Dec. onwards. Meanwhile a lot of small repair-works were going on, which got over before Christmas. The Christmas Vigil Mass began at 11:00 p.m. Fr. Suman Baxla presided over the vigil mass. This time the most encouraging thing was that the boys were in a big number compared to girls. The choir was excellent, singing was melodious for the first time. Parishioners liked and appreciated it. It made the liturgy more devotional. We thank the parents who sent their children in such a big number for the singing practice. As the mass got over the whole group went down to the auditorium and began dancing tribal dance. Soon after Christmas, on 27th, Sunday we had Christmas Tree. We had a variety of competitions and games for children, youth, mahila sangh and catholic sabha. The winners were given away prizes for different competitions and games. On 31st night, we had one hour of adoration followed by thanksgiving vigil mass. In this way the New Year was welcomed and after the mass we wished one another *Happy New Year* 2016.

*Alexander Firkey*

## DIASPORA

### Jerusalem

With the beginning of Advent season, Jerusalem wore a new look particularly in the walled city of Jerusalem and in Bethlehem. All the Churches, shops and houses were filled with colorful decorations bringing the mood of Christmas. I had to organize some of the important programs in the wake of Christmas. Most important of all was to book tickets for ourselves in order to attend the Midnight Mass at Bethlehem. I manage to get twelve tickets for the concelebrants and two for the ordinary participants. I had also to book an altar for the morning Mass of the Christmas Day. It was the first time after many years that St Jerome's Chapel (our regular place for Holy Mass) was not available for us. So I had to book a chapel in the Shepherds Field. St Jerome's Chapel is a place (a room) where Jerome wrote the Bible commentary and therefore to have Mass there has been a meaningful tradition for the community of the Biblical students like ours. St Jerome's chapel is an underground cellar below the main Basilica, the Nativity Church in Bethlehem.

We, altogether fifteen of us, went to Bethlehem by bus for the Midnight Mass. Thinking of the traffic on the

road, we started already at 08.00 p.m. We were standing at the gate of the Manger Square already by 9.00 p.m. Every road and street was flooded with people and all were slowly moving towards the Nativity church of Bethlehem. We were allowed to enter the Church by 10.00 p.m. The Celebration began at 11.00 p.m. The concelebrants numbered about 400. Before the Holy Mass, there was the ceremony of the Opening the Holy Door of the Basilica signifying the opening of the door to mercy as the Pope announced to the Universal Church. The Vespers began once the Bishops and Priests reached the altar and sat down. The solemn Eucharist was in Latin while homily was in Arabic and the singing was multilingual and melodious. Before the final blessings, the Bishop holding the statue of the child Jesus went in procession together with all the concelebrants, to the grotto of the Birth of the Lord. We had about half hour special moment of prayer and adoration in the small cellar attached to the Grotto. We went back to the main altar once again in procession and final blessing was done. It was 2.00 a.m. when the Eucharist was over. Our group came back to Jerusalem. After few hours of sleep again we proceeded to Shepherds' Field which is about three kilometers east of the Nativity church, Bethlehem.

We started our Christmas Day Mass at 9.00 a.m. and it was over by 10.00 a.m. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr Pat Lee SJ, the house Superior while the singing was done by Nigerian priests. Everyone of us felt the prayerful and homely atmosphere in celebrating the Eucharist in a simple cave representing the shelter of the shepherds.

Fr Joseph Doan had to consult the doctors regarding his heart problems since he experienced difficulty in breathing on and off. Finally he had to fly to Hamburg in Germany to have final check up. He left for Hamburg on 20th Dec. 2015. The doctor found his health so bad that he had to operate upon him in an emergency situation. The operation was successful and now he is resting in the hospital. So far he is responding well. Twenty two students from St Xavier University, Cincinnati (USA), arrived on 27th Dec. and have been moving about Jerusalem for their study and experience. All of them are quite happy being with us. Wish you a Very Happy New Year 2016!

*Camil Kerketta*

**Paris, France**

Fr. Jean-Yves Grenet, the Provincial of France was in our community for the visitation from 2nd-4th Dec. He came back once again on 9th to give us his memorial. He celebrated the Mass with us. We gave him thanks with delicious Indian dinner.

We, the scholastics of the community had one-day recollection reminding ourselves of our commitment to the Society by reciting formula of the vows the following morning.

As a preparation of the Christmas, we had a series of confessions for the children in our schools. We had general cleaning day and decoration for our community for two days. For the Christmas Mass we divided ourselves into four groups. My group went to nearby convent to celebrate the vigil Mass which was arranged for aged group by an association. After the Mass, we had dinner with them with some entertainment activities.

The next morning I went to Louven, Belgium. As a pilgrim I visited Moorslede, the native village of Fr. Constant Lievens where I was truly moved by the deep sentiment of gratitude. Sincerely I prayed that the fire that Lievens has lighted may continue to burn vigorously in our hearts. I had a good opportunity to meet Frs. Raymond Jaecques and Antoon Delporte. They were delighted to share their rich personal experiences as missionaries to Chotanagpur. It was very thrilling and inspiring to listen to their stories and histories. We visited also the Generalate of Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk. This pilgrimage to the land of the missionaries namely Louven, Moorslede, Brugge and Brussels was possible because of the proper planning of Fr. Vally Mendonca (JAM).

*Fr. Samir*

***RIP: Let us Remember in our Prayers:***

**Mr. Charles Kandulna** (78), Elder brother of Fr Joseph Kandulna, died on 19 December 2015

**Mrs. Ebon Juliana Lakra** (80+), Mother of Fr Fredrick Kujur died on 18 December 2015.

**Mr. Pascal Lakra**, (79+), father of Fr. Ranjit Walter Lakra, expired on 05 January 2016.

**BABIES OF THE MONTH :JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

**JANUARY**

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

**FEBRUARY**

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