

# RANCHI BULLETIN



74/3

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

MARCH 2015

## FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMMES : MARCH – MAY 2015

01-03	March	Visitation -De Nobili College Pune
05-07	March	Visit of different Houses with Fr. John Dardis S.J, President of the European Conference
07	March	XIPT – GB meeting at 4.00 p.m
13	March	Meeting – Province Year Book 2015; <b>Province Consult</b>
17-21	March	Province Congregation
29	March	Palm Sunday
02-05	April	Holy Week
05	April	Easter
07	April	Gumla
08	April	Malom Noatoli – Ordination – Dn Ajit Kalyan Kujur SJ
09	April	Departure for Rome via Delhi, Colloquium till 25 April 2015 Visit – Loyola – Barcelona – Belgium till May 13, 2015.
15	May	Flight to Ranchi
21-23	May	Province Days 2015

## INFORMATION

- **Budget Session for 2015-16** : All the Superiors, Treasurers and Directors of works are kindly requested to the present along with one copy of the Proposed Budget submitted to the Provincial Curia.  
**27th March 2015, Friday** : Communities and Parishes  
**28th March 2015, Saturday** : Institutions  
**Venue** : Manresa House, Ranchi  
**Time** : 9.00 A.M.
- **Father Joe Mathias S.J** has been appointed Rector of St Peter's Seminary Bangalore.  
His mobile number: 09620522139; Fr Rector's office: (080) 23311899 / 22658500.
- **Scholastics Get-Together 2015** will be held in Rengarih Parish from May 16-20, 2015.
- **Province Days** will be held from May 20 – 23, 2015.

**Ignatian Immersion Programme 2015** to be held at **Dhyana Ashram Chennai** from April 8 – May 12, 2015  
Participants : Fr. Jerome Xalxo, Fr. Solomon Barwa, Fr. Benjamin Kerketta, Fr. Beatus Kindo.

**Transformational Leadership Programme 2015** to be held at **XLRI Jamshedpur** from April 21-26, 2015.  
Participants: Fr Ranjit W. Lakra, Fr Lalit J. Tigga, Fr. Patrick Kerketta, Fr Pradeep Kullu, Fr Laurentus Kiro, Fr. Telephore Lakra.

### Transfers/Appointments by Fr. Provincial

Fr. Aind Alphonse	: Parish Priest, Kochang [w.e.f. 31/01/2015]
Fr. Bage Roshan	: Principal, St Xavier's Mushalpur [w.e.f. 1/1/2015]
Fr. Horo Ranjit	: Acting Principal, St. Xavier's Degree College Sonabheel
Fr. Beck Suman	: Noadih Parish, Pastoral Ministry (Post Tertianship)
Fr. Ekka Sanjay	: Acting Parish Priest, Tongo [w.e.f. 18/01/2015]
Fr. Dungdung Alexius	: Principal, St. Stanislaus' HS Lohardaga [w.e.f. 16/01/2015]
Fr. Dungdung Christopher	: Parish Priest, Sogra [w.e.f. 1/2/2015]
Fr. Dungdung Linus	: Rector, St. Mary's Samtoli [w.e.f. 18/01/2015]
Fr. Guria Cyril	: Asst. PP, Asst. Treasurer & Minister PTS Dhurwa [w.e.f. 29/01/2015]
Fr. Kerketta Sylvanus	: Acting Superior, ATC Namkum [w.e.f. 29/01/2015]
Fr. Kindo Alexius	: <i>ad tempus</i> , Asst. PP Tongo [w.e.f. 01.03.2015]
Fr. Lakra Benjamin	: Parish Priest & Superior, Balipara [w.e.f. 31/01/2015]
Fr. Lakra Ignatius	: Principal, Prabhat Tara HS Dhurwa [w.e.f. 17/01/2015]
Fr. Lakra Ranjit	: Acting Superior, St. Stanislaus' Lohardaga [w.e.f. 16/01/2015]
Fr. Saras Ajit	: Bardih Parish, Pastoral Ministry (Post Tertianship)
Fr. Tete Isaac	: Director, Apostolic School Samtoli [w.e.f. 01.03.2015]
Fr. Toppo Manohar	: Headmaster, R C Middle School Tongo [w.e.f. 03.03.2015]
Fr. Xalxo Patrick	: Pengree Parish, Pastoral Ministry (Post Tertianship) [w.e.f. 31/12/2014]
Fr. Xess Ravi	: Administrator, St. Xavier's College Sonabheel
Sch. Ekka Gabriel	: Bingaon Parish, <i>ad tempus</i> [w.e.f. 17.02.2015]

## HOUSES, INSTITUTIONS & PARISHES

### St Ignatius School, Gumla

At AROUSE there were some small but important projects coming up on the scene. The Government proposed for a Child-helpline project to protect child trafficking. Fr. Thomas submitted the application for this very crucial and helpful project, on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2015. Earlier the MILINDA group headquartered at Kolkata came to explore the possibilities of supplying solar lights to the non-electrified villages in Gumla District. Its objective is to save environment. In this connection Fr. Christopher went to Mamarla with the team, on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. There is no electricity there. The team met the villagers and was much impressed by the awareness the villagers exhibited.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Feb., the Community had its second session of the budget meeting for the year 2015 –16. All were completed and sent to the Provincial before 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. was a big day. The School and AROUSE jointly

celebrated the 86<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of late Fr. PP Van Nuffel. A souvenir on his life was released on this occasion by the Chief Guest, Fr. Marianus J. Kujur and our Provincial. Frs. Xavier Soreng, Sylvanus Kerketta and John B. Dungdung the former Executive Secretaries (AROUSE) and Br. Blasius Tigga graced the occasion among the invited.

On 12<sup>th</sup> Feb., the Gumla diocesan Catholic Sabha called for an emergency short meeting in connection with the attacks on Churches in Delhi. It was decided to hold a silent procession to protest against the incidents by some communal forces. Thomas, Manohar and Christo were present in the deliberative meeting. The silent procession is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

On 14<sup>th</sup> Feb., Fr. Thomas went to Ranchi for a seminar at Bagaicha while Anselm left for Assam with a team to help at the accounts of Assam Mission. He was back on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

On 16<sup>th</sup> Feb., the exams for the Matric and Inter College took off. Over 1,700 matric candidates appeared in our school in the morning hours while more than 1,600 Inter College candidates: *hutkas* here and *chutkas* there, everywhere *chutkas* and more *chutkas* in the school campus! “You are under camera’s surveillance” read one of the notices posted on the wall. So beware if you happen to visit St. Ignatius School!

19<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sarva Dharama Sadbhavna Manch: It is a new effort started under the aegis of AROUSE initiated by Fr. Rector with a view to work for communal harmony in and around the town of Gumla. This initiative is part of our Community witnessing and impacting on the neighbourhood. We got a good response from town’s people from different communities. The next event imminently coming up is the *holi milan*.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb., The Masihi Maitri Sangh Gumla met in our School Hall to plan for the Peace March in protest against the attacks on Churches in Delhi and now elsewhere as well. Community members are fully cooperating with this plan. Let us hope the march is a success and so its outcome.

Training of trainers at AROUSE was organized from 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. for three days by the JESA Secretary. Sannybhai himself was here all these three day to supervise the training. He went back to Delhi with great satisfaction.

*Christopher Lakra*

### St Mary’s Samtoli

On 13<sup>th</sup> Feb., our new Rector Fr. Linus Dungkung went to Gumla in connection with his court case. Before the beginning of Lent and the Matric and Intermediate exams the High School staff went for a picnic on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. All went well and everyone enjoyed the outing.

Brother of Fr Manohar, a newly ordained priest, was with us on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Following day Fr Manohar and the OFM Brother Superior of Nanesera accompanied him to Saubera parish in Lachragarh deanery. Fr. Provincial brought an American guest Mr. Mathew. Following day they visited Rengarih and Jharain by an ambulance due to ‘*Jharkhand Band*’. Fr Anuranjan attended a three-day seminar at Bagaicha on Legal Awareness organized for the Central Zone. He was back home on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb., the day when the community celebrated the birthday of Fr. Isaac Tete, who joined the group of sexagenarians. Fr. Vinod Bilung and our Jesuits friends from Sogra also joined us for the celebration. On 19<sup>th</sup> itself Fr. Bruno Toppo went to Assam via Ranchi along with Frs. Pradeep Kujur and Anselm Ekka. He was back to the community, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

A good news is that Fr. Sikander Kerketta has passed the Tippam Examination meant for the increase in the increment and salary. On the National Science Day competitions in three categories were held at St. Mary’s High School Samtoli. St. Mary’s bagged four prizes out of six. On the same day there were interviews of candidates to select five teachers for St. Mary’s English Medium School. Results are still awaited.

*Fr. Isaac Tete*

### St. Michael’s Jesuit Residence, Khunti

It was one of the rich moments for all of us to be part of the priestly ordination of Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb., held in Doranda, Ranchi. All community members including domestic workers shared the joy of this auspicious day of Fr. Ravi. We were glad to have Fr. Norbert Menezes, SJ, Patna Province, amidst us. He offered mass for pre-novices on the feast of St. John de Britto. He was here to conduct a two-day workshop on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on education for all priests and religious of Khunti Diocese. The participants benefitted a lot from this workshop and feedbacks received were encouraging. In the same line, Fr. Ashok Kujur, SDB, gave an orientation course to middle school teachers.

Fr. Ferdinand was away from house for a week from 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. to participate in Pre-Novitiate Directors and Vocation Promoters’ meeting held in Chennai. He came back on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb., enriched with lots of insights on methodology of teaching English to pre-novices. We had *Joint School Sports Day-2015* on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. on the parish ground. Mr. Ramesh Gorakh Gholap, the SDO of Khunti district, was the chief guest. After the inauguration of the programme, each one of the participant schools mesmerized the audience with its colorful and thrilling dance performance. Sincerely acknowledging the innate talents of children the chief guest boosted and encouraged the student body with his eloquent speech quoting the lines from Hariwanshray Bachan, ^yqjla l s Mjcdj uk&lk ikj ug° gkrhj dks00 djus okyla ch gjk ug° gkrhl\*

“For all that has been - THANKS, for all that will be -YES,” was the overriding sentiment of Frs. Gaudentius Kongari, SJ (Haz); Tom Keogh SJ (Haz); and William Surin, SJ, who celebrated their diamond jubilee and Sr. Bernard Kongari, who celebrated her golden jubilee on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. On this special occasion we had Holy Mass at 8.00 am, presided over by Rt. Rev. Bishop Binay Kandulan, DD. Pre-novices helped the congregation praying devotionally by their melodious singing. All of us were invited for the felicitation program followed by festive dinner at Kongari family.

On 17<sup>th</sup> Feb., Rt. Rev. Bishop Binay Kandulna hosted an annual Get-Together for priests and religious of entire Khunti diocese at newly built pastoral centre, Kunjla. The gathering began with the Eucharistic celebration which was followed by a few talks, power point presentation on human trafficking and ended with a fellowship lunch. The chief speaker Fr. J.P Pinto, the Rector of St. Albert's College, Ranchi, presented his reflections on our mission today. A good number of priests and nuns turned up for this get-to-know annual gathering.

*Sch. Jyoti P. Baxla*

## Tongo

In the month of February, St Peter's school conducted a mini- *chakrvuh* (sports-meet). Five hundred students took part in the track and field events from different schools. In a well arranged competition, participants showed their mental toughness besides physical fitness. The athletics won the best of the prizes and the host St. Peter's and Ursuline girls won the heart by the superb group dance. St. Peter's Tongo became the overall champion.

On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. parishioners gave farewell to Fr. Linus Dungdung along with our Munshi Gregory Lakra who rendered his valuable service for 28 years. On 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Jesuits from Noadhi and Bardih joined us to express their heartfelt gratitude to Linus for his services to Barway zone. On behalf of the entire Jesuit community acting superior Fr. Philemon Ekka proposed vote of thanks. Fr Linus was reached to St. Mary's Samtoli, Simdega on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

After a week of catechesis and instructions, marriage reparation of 22 couples took place on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. Fr Linus blessed them all. On the occasion many of our middle as well as high school students came with an application that they needed a day off to attend the marriage of their parents.

On 17<sup>th</sup> two novices, Ashish and Lalit, joined the community for their experiment. As the Lenten tour began they preached three days retreat to different villages. Both are preparing the parishioners spiritually for coming Easter. The acting Parish priest Fr. Sanjay goes to different village units for the Holy Eucharist.

*Fr. Sanju*

## Sogra

Fr. Tej Mati Bage attended the workshop on the *Legacy of Jesuit Education* conducted by Fr. Norbert Menezes from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. at Jharna Namkum. Meanwhile Fr. Sikander was invited to different villages to offer the

Thanksgiving Mass from the last week of Jan. to the first week of Feb.

On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb., the students of Saindih and Sogra School bade farewell to their dynamic and active parish priest Fr. Sikander Tirkey. On 4<sup>th</sup> Feb., the students and the staff of Sogra School enjoyed thoroughly their picnic on the banks of Palamara-Sankh rivers. On 5<sup>th</sup> Feb., Fr. Christopher Dungdung the new PP of Sogra arrived and the representatives of different 'Sanghs' gave him a grand welcome.

On 7<sup>th</sup> Feb., Sikander Tirkey left for his new mission as the Director of ATC Namkum. On 18<sup>th</sup> Feb., two Jesuit novices arrived in Sogra parish for their ministries and so far they have conducted the three-day retreats in Joretoli, Beritoli and Gothaintangar village chapels successfully.

On 21<sup>st</sup> Feb., the Annual School Sports Day was held in Sogra School successfully. Fr. Christopher Dungdung the new Secretary of the School doubled the joy of the students and the staff by his presence and message and gave away the prizes to the future promising athletes.

*Fr. Tej Mati Bage*

## Loyola College, Chennai

As the first Continuous Internal Assessment test was over, Loyola College organized a day's seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb., on the theme "Celebrating the Consecrated Life" for all the religious students studying in Loyola College. Fr. Jerry Rosario (MDU) as a resource person highlighted the history of the religious men and women. He also brought into notice the present and the disappearing congregations. It was a great moment for all of us to interact with Fr. Jerry.

Frs. Ferdinand and Praful Ekka came to Chennai to attend Pre-Novitiate directors' and vocation promoters' meeting held at Dhyana Ashram. On 13<sup>th</sup> before they left Chennai for Ranchi they came to Berchmans Illam and we shared a fellowship meal. Schs. Sameer Ekka and Alok Ekka celebrated their birthdays during this month.

Loyola College Jesuits' Forum organized a talk on "Consecrated Life" on 17<sup>th</sup>. Three lay persons were invited to deliver their reflections. All the speakers were very knowledgeable about the consecrated life, hence were quite motivating and inspiring. Loyola College celebrated the Annual Sports Day on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Feb., for Shift I and Shift II respectively. The Staff and the Students actively participated in march-past and sports events.

Jesuits of Loyola campus were much delighted to welcome back home Fr. Alexius Premkumar, SJ, (MDU),

on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. He was abducted by the Talibans and held incommunicado for eight months in Afghanistan. Fr. Alexius Premkumar presided over the thanksgiving mass with Loyola Jesuit community and shared his experiences. Loyola College celebrated the 87<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. Shri Vikram Sahay, IRS, additional commissioner of income tax, New Delhi graced the occasion as the chief guest. He delivered the graduation address and awarded the meritorious students.

*Fr. Erenius & Sch. Noel*

### **RTC, Tarunoday, Kanke**

“What does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” (Mt. 16: 26) was the motto of Deacon Ravi Bhushan Xess, SJ, who was ordained a priest, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Tarunoday community was present along with 3,000 faithful to witness the event at St. Xavier’s Doranda.

To make life of RTC community vibrant and alive, the whole RTC community went for the annual picnic to Sangrampur Jungle, on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. The picnic including TCL (Tarunoday Cricket League) made everyone relaxed and refreshed from the academic pursuits.

The theologians of both years got a chance to break the Word of God both in Hindi and English at the Eucharistic celebrations. While the First Year Theologians had their chance limited to the House chapel during the weekdays, the Second Year men could inspire by their insights in the Kanke Parish and the CIP (Central Institute of Psychiatry), on Sundays.

On 13<sup>th</sup> Feb., Frs. Francis Minj and John Mundu (JAM), and Sch. Pankaj Kujur (DUM) went to Vidyajyoti (VJ), Delhi for the Plenary Academic Council (PAC) meeting. They have returned since after a week with lot of insights for the coming academic years. Fr. Erik Breye, professor of St. Albert’s College, Ranchi helped conclude the month of February by enriching the RTC community with a recollection talk on ‘*Consecrated Life.*’

*Sch. Bipin Lugun*

### **Satya Nilayam, Chennai**

Along with our regular classes and the first continuous assessment exams for the second and fourth semester respectively, the month of February also gave us opportunities for a couple of very meaningful academic exposure outings. Our second year friends had been busy with their “Dissertation-Exposition” and the completion of their dissertation, the deadline of which was 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. We commend them for having successfully completed and submitted their dissertation. First years on the other

hand are getting initiated into writing their “Self-Study Paper” as a foreground for their dissertation research next year. On 5<sup>th</sup> Feb., all the second year students went to Madurai, Arulanandar College, Karumathur to take part in a two-day inter-faculty exchange programme, where they got the opportunity to interact with the seminarians doing their philosophical studies in Karumathur. They also had the opportunity to listen to and interact with two very prominent international scholars and guest lecturers, one from Germany and the other from the US. To celebrate and mark the year of Consecrated Life, Loyola College organized a one-day seminar for all religious students studying at Loyola, on 08<sup>th</sup> Feb. Fr. Joseph Antony Samy SJ, the principal of Loyola College, was glad to note that all the religious students in the college campus are doing very well. He appreciated our efforts and said that our presence in the campus has been an immense source of empowerment and inspiration for other students. Fr. Jerry Rosario SJ (MDU) underlined essence and characteristic features of consecrated life. He enthralled the gathering with his powerful speech acts and blazing words of wisdom.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we offered holy Mass in front of the Grotto with great devotion and a well prepared liturgy. The celebration instilled in us a great sense of devotion to mother Mary. In the evening we had a solemn rosary and a candle lit procession. We were joined by a good number of Jesuit Fathers and Brothers (Vocation Promoters & Pre-Novitiate directors) from different provinces, who had come to Chennai for a meeting of all vocation promoters, for rosary procession and a sumptuous dinner thereafter. We were delighted to see Frs. Praful Ekka and Ferdinand Kullu in the group of the vocation promoters from across the country.

On 26<sup>th</sup> Feb., the first years went to visit one of the several gypsy settlements based in Chennai city, as a part of Liberation Philosophy social exposure programme. We were deeply moved and affected by what we saw and experienced while visiting and interacting with the people and very especially the children of their community. Prior to our visit to the site we were briefed about the work that was being done for this particular community by the Madurai Jesuits. It was a moving experience to listen to one of the gypsy boys, who is doing his second year degree studies at Loyola narrate to us his experience of what it means to be a gypsy in India. It should be noted that this ministry was started by the Madurai Scholastics, doing their college studies at Loyola College in the year 2002.

*Fr. Vinod Soreng & Gabriel Tigga*

**DNC, Pune**

JDV had a one-day conference on *Science, Technology and Values* on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Fr. Stephen Jayraj, the professor of JDV was the convener of the conference. Students from 8 different colleges had participated in it. 21 papers were presented on the topic that enhanced our scientific knowledge. Since the month of February was the last month before our final exams, we were engaged in serious studies and class assignments. Our second years were tirelessly busy in preparing their seminar paper. Four Ranchians (Claver Minj, Ravindra Tigga, Bimal Minj and Valentine Sinduria) belonging to the second year presented and defended their seminar paper very well. DNC community bade farewell to the outgoing scholastics on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. In the morning we had farewell community mass and in the evening we had farewell felicitation programme followed by the fellowship meal. Fr Provincial Marianus Kujur made his annual visit to DNC on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Two days of his stay among us was the moment of joy and grace. He met us personally and in the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> March we had common province gathering. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction knowing our positive attitudes towards philosophical studies and overall performance in all the areas of life in DNC. He also encouraged us by his challenging words "Province counts on you" and "Province hopes on you." The very next morning Father Provincial left for Ranchi.

*Sch. Nirmal Minj*

**Sanjeevan Vijaywada**

The month of February went well with lots of activities. We render our generous services in and out of the community. From 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. we celebrated the feast of *Gunadala Mary Matha*. It was a spiritual experience to all to bless the devotees, those who came to the shrine from far and near. By witnessing their faith we felt that our faith was strengthened. The last day that is on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes the Archbishop of Vijayawada offered the Holy Mass for the faithful.

On 16<sup>th</sup> Fr. Sundar SJ gave us recollection. He shared his rich experiences to enrich and strengthen us spiritually. Loyola College celebrated the 61<sup>st</sup> College Day on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. On this occasion Honourable Vice-Chancellor of the Krishna University Prof. V. Venkaiah and Dr. P. V. Ramesh, Principal Finance Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, an illustrious Alumnus of our College were invited for the great event. They awarded the students who scored the highest marks in their respective subjects both Intermediate as well as Degree. On 22<sup>nd</sup> the College as well as the Sanjeevan family conducted the *Balmela* for the children of our ministry places and also ALANA children. The Principal of Andhra Loyola Fr. GSP. Kishore SJ inaugurated the ceremony. The prime theme of the event was *Let Children Smile*.

*Wilson Kandulna*

**ASSAM & ANDAMAN****Jesuit Curia, Tezpur**

On 31<sup>st</sup> Jan., Fr. Xavier Lakra accompanied Fr. Ajay Tirkey from Guwahati to Ranchi. Ajay is recuperating at Sadbhavna, Provincial House. He is receiving lots of TLCs from the Jesuits of the Province as well as from the family members who visit him regularly. His wounds are getting healed faster but it will take time to overcome the trauma. Fr. John Ekka was operated upon for the blood clotting in his head at Ranchi Orchid hospital. He is also recuperating fast at Manresa House infirmary. Kindly keep praying for them.

Xavier Lakra attended the priestly ordination of Deacon Ravi Bhushan Xess at St Xavier's School Doranda. As a sign of warm invitation to Assam, Ravi and his parents were honoured by Assamese *Gamocho* by Fr. Xavier.

Fr. Klaus Vathroder S.J., the Mission Procurator of German Jesuit Mission, was in Assam Mission from 5-8

Feb. He visited Manas Bansbari, St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, St. John's School, Balipara. He concelebrated the Sunday Eucharist with the people of Panipotta Tea Estates together with the new parish priest Fr. Benjamin Lakra. During his visit he met the students, teachers and village people of Barendgabri and Panipotta. He interacted with St. Xavier's College staff and pre-Novices of Assam Mission. He was very happy to have the first hand knowledge with the real life situation of our mission.

Xavier Lakra attended the fund-raising workshop at North East Social Forum Guwahati from 9-13 Feb. There were 46 participants including 4 Jesuits.

Fr. Raymond Kerketta S.J. accompanied 4 Novices to Assam on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. for the Lenten ministries in 2 different centres. Two novices are doing their ministries at Manas Bansbari and two are in Balipara Parish. Raymond had the plan to visit Shillong but he could not make it. Therefore he made use of his time by visiting

Mushalpur with Fr. Benjamin and some of the social centres of Tezpur along with Fr. George Soreng. He left for Ranchi on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

A team of four treasurers namely Frs. Pradeep Kujur, Bruno Toppo, Anselm Ekka and Ajay Minj arrived at Tezpur Jesuit Bhavan on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. by evening. The next day they proceeded to examine the accounts of St. Xavier's College Sonabheel. They did a thorough inquiry of the use of the money of different funds of different accounts. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb., they had an opportunity to visit Kaziranga Park together with Fr. Anupchand. In the afternoon the team visited Bhalugpong, at the boarder of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, where the new Jesuit centre of the Kohima Region is coming up. The team left for Ranchi, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

24-25 Feb. were the days of bi-annual gathering of the Jesuits working in Assam Mission at Jesuit Curia Bhavan Tezpur to share, reflect and plan for short and long term needs of different centres. Except Pengaree centre all were represented and took active part in the meeting. Scholastics Anuj Minj and Roshan Ba'a had their one day and half recollection on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. and 1<sup>st</sup> March under the guidance of Fr. Xavier at Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur.

*Xavier Lakra*

### Balipara Parish

The new parish priest, Fr. Benjamin Lakra, came to Balipara on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan., accompanied by Br. Blacius of ATC Namkum to take up his responsibility. Fr. Klaus Vathroder S.J. concelebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sunday, at Panipotta Tea Estate together with Fr. Benjamin. Fr Klaus was touched by the big number of participants in the Mass. He assured the people to provide a good church. He encouraged the faithful to make the church more vibrant and active. Fr. Roshan Bage was given farewell by the parishioners on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb., and on the same day Fr. Benjamin was welcomed as the new Parish Priest of Balipara.

Frs. Benjamin and Raymond Kerketta had been busy celebrating the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday in many centres. Later on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. Frs. Benjamin and Raymond reached Fr. Roshan Bage to Mushalpur. Five Holy Cross novices from Patna reached Balipara parish on 4<sup>th</sup> March for their Lenten cum Easter ministries. They will stay on till 20<sup>th</sup> April for their pastoral experience.

*Fr. Ranjit Kujur*

### Pengaree

On 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb., there was a big protest by a few students and their parents in support of one of the teachers who was served suspension notice at St. Xavier's School campus. On this occasion a Police force was present to maintain peace and harmony. By evening the commotion eased out. But again there was a meeting called by the Parish council and School managing committee and of the parents on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. In this meeting Fr. Mukul, the Superior cum the Parish priest, explained the reasons for suspension of that particular teacher. On 27<sup>th</sup> Feb., a team of three Jesuits namely Frs. Ranjit Horo, Theodore Ba'a and Jerome Dungdung, were delegated by the Mission Superior Fr. Xavier to find out the ground realities. They had been to Pengaree to meet the Jesuits, as well as the members of Managing committee and Parish Council, and the Daughters of St. Anne to find out the reasons for this commotion. After accomplishing their task they went back to Tezpur on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Charismatic retreat for the youth of Pengaree Parish was held for three days from 1-3 March. Four Holy Cross novices arrived in Pengaree centre on 4<sup>th</sup> March for their pastoral ministry till 20 April. Construction works of the Community Hall and Church, and the convent of the Daughters of St. Anne are in full swing.

*Fr. Mukul Lakra*

### Manas Bansbari

Fr. Klaus Vathroder S.J and Fr. Xavier Lakra visited Manas Bansbari centre on 4-5 Feb. and interacted with the students as well as the staff of St. Xavier's School. They managed to go to Barengabari, a Boro village, where Fr. Klaus has financed to build a village Church; he met some of the people of that village and interacted with them.

On 14<sup>th</sup> Feb., a marathon race was arranged, for which the SSB personnel were very much supportive who gave the assurance of safety of the runners. In this marathon among the boys Mr. Ratul Minj and among the girls Arjima Tuti got the first places. An annual sport day was held from 18-20 Feb. for this, on the opening day, Army Lt. Surjit Bannerji was the chief guest while on the closing day Mr. Kalyan Baruwa, the Manager of Fatemabad Tea Estate, was the chief guest. He gave the token gifts of Rs. 1,000/- each to Deep Jyoti Boro, Soynika Kujur and Karan Swansi for their best performance. Two Jesuit novices Rohit Kullu and Anup Turkey are in Manas Bansbari parish for their Lenten ministry.

*Laurentus Kiro*

## St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel

Fr. Klaus Vathroder, S.J and Fr. Xavier Lakra visited St. Xavier's College Sonabheel on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. Students received them wearing their tribal traditional dresses. Fr Klaus encouraged them to keep up their traditions. The guest was honoured during the Assembly with Assamese *Gamocha*. Thereafter Fr. Klaus met the staff and the students. The students of Class XII of St. Xavier's Junior college finished their final exams while the first years students had also their internal exams from 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Road construction in the college campus, two staircases at Junior College and filling up of the courtyard to make it a stage are also going on non-stop.

*Sch. Roshan Ba'a*

## Mans Bansbari

Fr. Ajay Tirkey was attacked by an unknown person on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. in the evening in the priests' residence. He was rushed to Nalbari Government hospital and from there to Guwahati Medical College and finally he was transferred to International Hospital Guwahati for better medical care under the care of Sisters Rosita and Lourd and Fr. Xavier Lakra.

On 19<sup>th</sup> Jan., the school reopened and on 22<sup>th</sup> Jan. a silent protest rally against the attack by the unknown person to the headmaster of the school, was taken up by the students, staff, Fathers and Sisters and parents of the students up to the Govt. school Mushalpur town under the protection of the police force. Students were carrying the placards demanding arrest of the real culprit soon, not to disturb the peace of the school, etc. But so far the real culprit is not yet caught.

29<sup>th</sup> Jan. was the annual Sabha of Mushalpur Parish. This time the laity themselves managed the meeting well. The Annual Sabha was a success due to full cooperation of the laity of Mushalpur.

Fr. Roshan Bage took up the responsibility of the headmaster of Mushalpur St. Xavier's School on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. Next day there was annual sports day in which S.P. Mr. Nath was the chief guest. The sports day was also successfully concluded.

*Fr. Vital Ekka*

## Prothrapur

The Month of February provided various occasions of celebrations and festive mood in the parish and sub-stations. New Wimblitan, one of the sub stations of

Prothrapur parish, celebrated the feast of its Patron St. Paul of the Desert on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. with pomp and gaiety. Prior to feast there held the novena, and besides Fr. David, Salesians Fathers Alphonse Patrick, Rector of the Salesians fathers in Andamans, Jayaraj and Dev Anbu availed themselves of celebration of Holy Mass during Novena. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Benziger, the Tamil Community chaplain was the main celebrant for the feast day Holy Mass. Srs. Anu and Priya of the Chennai St. Anne's Congregation helped the faithful to prepare the liturgy and choir well. Everyone was served with sumptuous meal.

In the evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb., parish priest went to Daudnagar for the celebration of SCC day as it was named after St. Don Bosco. Next day, St. John De Britto SCC celebrated the feast of its patron saint at Pathargudda Church. The day was marked with meaningful Eucharist celebration presided over Rev. Fr. Jayaraj, SDB. As this SCC comprised Tamil speaking people, the whole Tamil Community was invited to participate in the celebration. On the occasion of World Day of Peace, input against human trafficking was organized in the Church on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. The programme began with adoration for 45 minutes prior to the Eucharist celebration. Fr. David threw light on the issue of human trafficking. He challenged the faithful to fight against this menace. After a meaningful Eucharist there was an awareness programme held for youth about human trafficking. Mr. Premjit Pappachan the social worker was the resource person who shared his experiences.

Prothrapur parish celebrated youth Day on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. meaningfully. Liturgy was very well prepared by the youth. Mr. Arulanand Swamy was a resource person who highlighted on the topic "responsibility of youth towards their parents". Action songs and skit "Do you want to save the earth?" also added flavour and enthusiasm. Around 11.45 a.m., youth went to Chiriyatapu for picnic and enjoyed thoroughly.

On Ash Wednesday, Fr David had to go several centres for the Holy Mass. He has begun his Lenten Tour from 22<sup>nd</sup> onwards so that he could cover all the centres of the parish before Easter.

*Fr. David*

## Ramnagar

On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb., we celebrated the feast of Holy Childhood as well as the day of prayer, reflection and awareness against human trafficking. After the mass, programmes for children started with the lighting of the lamp.



Children were honoured by their parents and their elder brothers and sisters with flowers and garlands. Fr. Anil delivered a talk on the issue of human trafficking. After the talk, drawing and group singing competitions were held for the children. Winners were given prizes. There were 55 children who participated in the programme.

A two-day programme was organized by the youth of Ramnagar. On 14<sup>th</sup> Feb., we had a youth seminar. There were 41 youth who attended the seminar. It began with the Holy Eucharist. The seminar began with the lighting of the lamp which was followed by the talk of Fr. Anil. He highlighted on the educational, religious, social and moral life of the youth. 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. was the day for a picnic. The picnic spot was the Ramnagar beach. After lunch, the youth were divided into four groups. They had group-wise quiz competition based on the general knowledge of the Bible and Bible role play programme. They were 55 youth for a picnic.

Fr. Benedict reached Ramnagar on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. from the Main Land, after a month of holidays. He has come back refreshed. On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb., Bishop Alex Dias SFX made a visit to Ramnagar along with three priests and some other guests.

*Fr. Anil Kandulna*

### **Diglipur**

On 30<sup>th</sup> Jan., 10 youth of the Parish were accompanied by Fr. Alexander and Sr. Pratima Tirkey, DSA to Port

Blair for the Annual Youth Day and Seminar that was held on 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Various awareness programmes were organized for the youth, i.e. Human Trafficking, moral life of the youth today, career guidance, etc. Besides, the annual report and plans from the Parishes and Zones were presented. The youth feel energized after attending the youth day and seminar. The feast of Holy Childhood day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. The liturgy and choir was taken care of by the children themselves under the guidance of Srs. Alice and Pratima. It was observed also as the day of prayer, reflection and awareness against human trafficking. After the mass, drawing competition was arranged for the children.

Soon after the Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten Tour. Meanwhile we were busy preparing for the Opening and Blessing of the Radhanagar Church which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias SFX blessed the Church. Together with him there were 3 Austrian guests, Mrs. Elizabeth, who is also one of the benefactors, Mr. Stanley and Mr. Norbert. Besides, 8 priests, 2 brothers, 12 sisters, some dignitaries, the contractor Mr. Durai and about 1,100 people witnessed the event. The choir was taken care of jointly by the people of Radhanagar and Diglipur. Soon after the mass, the guests were welcomed by various sanghs and villages through songs and dance. All were served with sumptuous meal. From 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb., we resumed our Lenten Tour.

*Fr. Alexander Tirkey*

## **DIASPORA**

### **Rome**

The first half of February was the time of First Semester exams for Gregorian University. Edwin had to write some assignments as part of the evaluation, which he did diligently and submitted on time. Kulwant had already finished half of his exams by the end of January. He had already worked hard to prepare himself well ahead of time for the exams and that is why despite having as many as nine Papers, he seemed to be calm and relaxed during the exam period when others were overwhelmed by the exam fever. After the exams, he went to Venice for four days along with his Living Group to reenergize himself for the Second Semester, which began on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Justin came back from Manila after completing his much needed research on Media Literacy. He has

been trying hard to submit on time a Paper Proposal on Media Literacy required for his higher studies. With the renovated face of Radio Vatican Web page, he seems to be extremely content because it has facilitated the faster uploading of new items with immense possibilities of creativity and easy access.

Linus and myself have been busy as usual in various academic activities during and after the exams. I have concentrated my full time and energy in serious study and research on ecological issues. I was invited by the US Embassy to the Holy See to participate in a discussion on Energy Need and Ecological Questions organized by the energy giant Exxon Mobil. The discussion was very enriching and eye opening in view of the EXPO2015 in Milan (May-October), whose theme is *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*. My paper on *Social Media and Violence Against Women* has been

accepted for the Asian Conference on Ethics to be held in Bangalore from 17 to 20 July 2015. We also prepare ourselves for a Round Table Conference on various ecological issues. The forthcoming encyclical of Pope Francis on Ecology would be a guiding force towards the end envisaged by us.

*Fr Prem*

## Jerusalem

The month of Feb. remained fairly calm and peaceful because of the less number of guests and the students. Fr. Joseph Nguyen SJ (USA) stayed with us for about a week while he engaged himself in guiding the Vietnamese pilgrims to different holy places of Israel. For the present semester (Feb. till June), we have only three students residing with us. Among these three, Fr. Michael Rapp (USA) alone occupies himself in doing purely scriptural studies under the direction of the Biblicum, Rome. He is following some courses at École Biblique run by the Dominicans. The other two, Fr. Vincezo Anselmo SJ (Italy) and Sch. Joan Morera SJ (Spain) belong to the faculty of Biblical Theology at the Gregorian University, Rome. Besides their studies they have lot of programmes for visiting the holy places and many archeological sites.

The former superior, Fr. Joseph Doan, kept himself very much busy in giving talks and retreats to various religious communities in and around Jerusalem. The present Superior, Fr. Patrick Lee also gave a recollection talk to the Community of the Salesian Seminary. As the house is almost empty, we planned for white-washing and painting especially the ground floor. The painting in the chapel and the corridor is over. The chapel has a new shining look now.

With the beginning of Lent, we experienced a fairly heavy snow-fall between 17 to 21 Feb. There was a continuous snowfall on Feb. 19 and 20. The whole mountainous zones of Israel like Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Galilee was covered with snow. The traffics came to a standstill till roads were cleared or the snow started melting away.

*Fr Camil*

## Guyana

Education is the key to human development and empowerment. Unfortunately we do not have a single Catholic School in Guyana. All the schools are

nationalized by the Government. We invited Fr. Alvaro Negromonte, SJ, the National Director of the *Fe y Alegria* - Faith and Joy, the community based education system in Brazil and Carolina Uehaha, National Coordinator of Public in order to discuss the possibilities of setting up *Fe y Alegria* in the country. Fr. Alvaro and Ms. Carolina were touched by the vivid example of commitment and sincerity of the Jesuits and Ursuline Sisters engaged in the work with and for the indigenous people. Our hope is that the *Fe y Alegria* will flourish in Guyana, opening paths and creating opportunities for the social transformation.

We were privileged to welcome Br. Michael Mohr, the second year Jesuit Novice from USA who came to Guyana for three months for his experiment. He was a great help to Fr. Elias Surin in the preparation for the Confirmation of Candidates in North Pakaraimas. Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey and Fr. Ronald Fernandes went to Hosororo, North-West Mission to help out Fr. Amar Bage to conduct a week-long seminar on the Holy Eucharist. On 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb., the diocese of Georgetown launched the "Year of Consecrated Life" with a joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB and attended by representatives of all the religious congregations in Guyana. Sr. Suchita Jagrani Kujur, OSU was privileged to represent the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk. The Second National Catholic Stewardship Conference was held in Marian Academy, Carifesta Avenue, Georgetown under the theme- *Family Life* on 21-22 Feb. There were 150 representatives from all over the country.

*Fr. Elias Swin*

## Cairo (Egypt)

In the first week of Feb., a Syrian Jesuit Fr. Sami, working in Aleppo city landed in Cairo via Lebanon at the invitation of the Egyptian sisters for a conference. He came to the novitiate community since he is also the co-novice of our novice master. He shared in detail about the existing situation in Syria, and the Jesuits facing the daily challenges over there. To his shock that within a few days of his stay; he received the news of sudden death of his father in Syria.

From 5-8 February, Fr. Master was in Lebanon for Province Consultors' meeting and to meet the second year novices who are having there four months' experience in different communities. Under the guidance of Fr. Master, our two 1<sup>st</sup> year novices began their thirty

days' spiritual exercises on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mgr. Kurian from Kerala is the Secretary to the Vatican Embassy in Cairo for the last two years. At his place, we invited all the Indian Christians in Cairo for a first informal coming together. A lady in the Indian Embassy took the trouble to contact. In spite of inclement weather, twenty people had turned up. It was a good beginning. We hope to continue this as at present two of us are the only Indian priests working in Egypt. 19-20 Feb. was the regional meeting of all the Jesuits working in Egypt. It was a moment of listening, sharing and talking about our community and works and on various topics of Middle East which affect the people. We had a good sharing of two Jesuits; one who will be celebrating soon 50 yrs a religious and the other a scholastic who will be ordained a deacon in Coptic rite.

*Fr Bimal Kerketta*

### **Combodia**

From the middle of Dec. till 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jan., I had an opportunity to go to Singapore and East Timore Leste for the SBC meeting. The theme of SBC meeting was *Ignatian Tradition in the Service of the Youth Today*. The members of all provinces and regions of JCAP flock to this meeting from all over the world. We were 56 scholastics from 14 different countries who participated to this meeting.

The programme commenced in the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. and concluded in the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. The coordinators of this meeting were Jun-G. Noel, Andy and all regents from East Timore Leste. They hosted this meeting in a very professional way. As the days rolled by, many activities came along and kept us busy. We had

a day out to see some of the important places in East Timore. I could not believe that we would ever visit the parliament of East Timore without any objection. Likewise we visited many places without problems. It was the result of our fellow Jesuits who are on good terms with all the big officers. I did not realize how the days flew so quickly. What an interaction it was! It was really an eye opener meeting that made me more confident and aware of the world today. It would bring no harm if I said that it was an opportunity to have an international exposure. We could ever cherish the great experiences. Most of the guest speakers were from different countries. They could easily win our hearts by their thought provoking talks and reflections. Most of the talks were informative and motivated us to future mission in the Society of Jesus. Moreover, there were many workshops as well on youth ministry. Everybody was very active in taking part. This very thing could enable us to do better and try for *magis* in our ministries. Most of the activities and discussions took place in the new school, Colegio St. Ignacio de Loyola. During the days of Christmas, participants were lodged with various parishes and had nice opportunity to stay with host families. The warmth of welcoming heart could easily attract each one of us. Even though we were from different parts of the world yet we were highly honored by their beautiful smile and service. Since they could speak English it was very easy to relate with them. But the interesting thing was when I spoke some broken words in their own language, it brought a big laughter. And I was the center of attraction for a few days. I could see the beauty of being in a Christian country.

*Sch. Rakesh Kerketta*

## **GENERAL CURIA ROME**

### **The New Provincials Meet in the Curia**

The Colloquium for new Provincials (Spanish speaking) has begun on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 at the General Curia Rome. There are 12 Provincials participating in the meeting. The colloquium, will offer them a deeper understanding of the issues facing the universal Society, the opportunity to study more intensely the commitments and duties of a Provincial regarding *cura personalis*, *cura apostolica*, community and apostolic life, from legislative, financial and organizational perspectives. The meeting gives Father General the prospect of knowing better his closest collaborators and bringing them up to date on the projects he is carrying forward in accord with

the directives of the General Congregations. The new Provincials will also have the opportunity to understand, the General Curia, its many offices and secretariats, and have the occasion to visit the international Roman houses. The meeting will continue till 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday.

### **Fr. Alexis Premkumar, SJ (MDU) released after eight months in captivity in Afghanistan**

(22-Feb-2015)

After more than eight months in captivity, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is delighted by the announcement of the release of Fr Alexis Prem Kumar. JRS is immensely grateful to the Indian government for its role in achieving his release.

“The last eight months have been a long and difficult period of uncertainty for Fr Prem’s family, friends and colleagues. You cannot imagine our relief that he is now home, safe and sound. We are aware of the tireless efforts at many levels to achieve his release and we are grateful for the consolation we have received from the prayerful

support of countless friends - including those of the school children from the school where he was kidnapped,” said Fr Peter Balleis SJ, JRS International Director.

(Courtesy: [www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info))

### BIRTHDAY BABIES: MARCH & APRIL

#### MARCH

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

#### APRIL

01	Tete Albinus
02	Lakra Polycarp Ekka Britius
04	Dungdung Anthres
06	Barla James
07	Doongdoong Anthony Ekka Vital Ekka Anthony Kerketta Anand
08	Tete Felix Prakash
09	Guria Cyril
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
30	Baxla Emmanuel