

# RANCHI BULLETIN



75/4

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

APRIL 2016

## Information

Scholastics' Annual Get-Together will be held from **Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 May 2016.**

Ranchi Province Days -2016 will be held from **Monday 23 (eve) to 25 May 2016.**

## Year Dedicated to Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ

Ranchi Archdiocese declared a special year – “A Year Dedicated to Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens SJ” on 19 March 2016 at Jamgain village. This year began on 19 March 2016 and will conclude on 19 March 2017. This will be a Jubilee Year for Ranchi Archdiocese. On this occasion at Jamgain R.C. Primary School premises the solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Telephore P. Toppo, DD and eight other bishops: Bp. Emeritus Charles Soreng, SJ, Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, John Barwa, DD, Auxiliary Bps. Theodore Mascarenhas, DD, and Telephore Bilung, DD, Bp. Felix Toppo, DD, Bp. Paul Lakra, DD, Bp. Binay Kandulna, DD. Bp. Anand Jojo, DD. There were 101 priests concelebrating at the Holy Eucharist, about 200 Religious Sisters present and more than 4000 faithful men, women and children participated. In his homily the Cardinal pointed out from history of the time and experience of Fr. Constant Lievens. Fr. Lievens wrote to his family in Belgium in this way – “The country is full of



hills, only one road and the rest small footpaths all around. People are not exactly black like the Negroes, but a little fairer, nose flat, round face and black hair...”

It is to be noted that 19 March 1885 was the historical date Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, landed at Jamgain village, a small mission centre where Fr. De Cock SJ, had already stationed from 1882 onward. He arrived there from Doranda for the first time with a purpose of helping out Fr. De Cock SJ, in the mission work and exploring the conversion possibilities among the Adivasis of Chotanagpur. After six months being there he left Jamgain and went to Torpa and made his centre there. Fr. De Cock SJ, also left Jamgain after one or two years later and went to Dighia to start a new mission there which became successful. Since then Jamgain was abandoned. Only a primary school remained there and a small village chapel to this day as a small unit of Hulhundu Parish. Ever since from 1869, the arrival of the first Jesuit Missionary to Chotanagpur, Fr.

Augustus Stockmann, SJ, to this day 19 March 2016 altogether 529 missionaries from Belgium and Europe came to Chotanagpur, that means at the ratio of 5 per year. At the moment only 5 Belgian Missionaries are remaining in Chotanagpur – Fr. Paul Terrens SJ, (92), Fr. Marc De Brouwer SJ, (91), Fr. Louis Francken SJ, (78), Fr. Aurel Brys SJ, (76) and Fr. Erik Breye SJ, (76).

A hundred and thirty five years have passed since Fr. Lievens set foot in Chotanagpur, then known as Lohardaga Mission as it was the Headquarter, not yet Ranchi, of the British Government in Chotanagpur. During this present Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens stands out as the instrument of God's Mercy to the Catholic Church of Chotanagpur. He proclaimed to the people that "the fire must burn." This special year is expected to promote the Cause of Beatification of Fr. Lievens. Let there be the deepening of faith among the people and spread of the Gospel and emancipation from the evil in human life.

For the commemoration of Fr. Lieven's arrival at Jamgain, the laity and Religious Fathers and Sisters of Hulhundu Parish had taken up the responsibility of all the arrangements – the decorations, choir, *Shamiyana*, chairs, drinking water etc. In the end all present were served with well-prepared lunch.

*Fr. Ajay Soreng*

## Scholastics: Status – I

### Philosophy – I

#### JDV Pune ( Residence: DNC)

Bage Sandeep Birendra  
Ekka Noel  
Horo Peter Paul  
Linda Kuldeep  
Minj Celestine  
Turkey Suresh

#### Satya Nilayam Chennai

Marius Baghwar  
Lakra Amit Juel  
Lakra Sudhir  
Minj Nelson  
Surin Remis  
Tete Ignatius  
Tigga Sanjay

### Regency –I

Kerketta Libin  
Minj Nirmal  
Kujur Sandeep  
Tigga Gabriel  
Kujur Johny  
Ekka Alok  
Xalxo Saban Binod

St Ignatius' HS Gumla & Hostel  
St Mary's HS Samtoli & Hostel  
Cambodia  
St John's HS Balipara  
St Aloysius' Apostolic School Ranchi  
Jivan Deep Pre-Novitiate Khunti  
St Ignatius' HS Gumla & Apostolic School

### College Studies:

Ekka James	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Guria Benjamine	St Joseph's College Trichy
Orea Sudhir	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Soreng Jyoti Bhushan	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Surin Zacharias	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Turkey Anup	St Joseph's College Trichy
Toppo Amrit	St Joseph's College Trichy
Xalxo Sagar	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Bara Pradeep	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Bilung Nitin Paul	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Beng Albert	St Xavier's College Ranchi
Dungdung Paulus	St Xavier's College Ranchi

## Houses & Institutions

### St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

The first week of March started with the Mid-Semester Exam. Students were serious and tried to gather the subject matter with all their writing skills. There were also other opportunities to learn outside the class rooms. The International Women's Day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Mrs Asha Lakra, Mayor, RMC, Ranchi was the Chief Guest. The day-long celebration started off in the Fr. C. De Brouwer Memorial Auditorium with a great zeal. *Udaan: Run For Her*, comprised 12 competitive events.

Fr. Emmanuel Barla was a guest lecturer in the Orientation Course for the professors at Academic Staff College, Ranchi on 12<sup>th</sup> March. On 16<sup>th</sup> March the Indian Air Force under the leadership of Squadron Leader Sandeep Saini organized an exhibition in the campus which was helpful for the students to know about the career opportunities. On 18<sup>th</sup> March the Department of Computer Science organized a workshop namely "Android Application Development." The resource persons were from an American company "Skillrex Technology." On the same day Dr. Laxmi Narayan Mishra, a post doctoral scholar from Rochester University Medicine Centre, New York shared his tips regarding "Career in Science" with the students. Mr Mayank Madhur, CEO, Galactica Info. delivered a lecture on "Computer Software and Career Enhancement" with the staff and students of Botany Department on the same day.

There were also celebrations. For the Holy Week Services we were in two groups. Enthusiastic and energetic members went to Ursuline Novitiate, Kanke Road, Ranchi. The second group was available to render their service in the college chapel. This year 13 seminarians from St. Albert's College were in the choir. They sang well and made the liturgy meaningful. A good number of faithful attended the Maundy Thursday and Easter Triduum actively and with devotion. We celebrated Fr Henry Barla's birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> March beginning with the Holy Eucharist. Fr Nicholas Tete celebrated his birthday on Easter Sunday. A few guests were invited and we sang Alleluia along with the Happy Birthday.

*Fr Nabor*

### St. Ignatius Gumla

Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess is the new member who joined the community towards the end of February. I took him to

MC and Notre Dame and other convents to introduce and show him the Mass centres during week days. The community had monthly recollection on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Pius Xalxo, Rector of Manresa House Ranchi was the resource person. A young man could inspire the elderly minds! His points were liked much.

Five of us: Frs. John Lakra, Christopher Lakra, Praful Ekka, Solomon Barwa and Florence Guria attended the three-day seminar on SAP at Jharna retreat House from 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March. All came back invigorated and blooming with the renewed spirit. They also planned to share the experience with the rest of the community members.

Fr. Christopher and Fr. Anselm attended the annual budget meeting held at Manresa House Ranchi on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> March. Later both of them also took part in the meeting of the Superiors and treasurers on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The Auditor Mr. Banka's sharing on financial policies was worth listening.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March there was the Holi cum Sarhul Milan organized by the Sarva Dharma Sadbhavana Manch in AROUSE Hall. It was a good gathering to show good will and a token of mutual respect and tolerance.

With the Chrism Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Holy Week began. This year it was the turn of St. Ignatius to take up Gospel and Exultet singing on Good Friday and Easter vigil at the parish. The singing of Friday was quite commendable. Fr. John Lakra sang the exulted the Hindi version of his kurukh text. The newness is that there is a lot involvement by the faithful in the whole singing.

The 9<sup>th</sup> of March was a red letter day in the history of St. Ignatius. The Loreto nuns visited St Ignatius with our invitation to collaborate with them in running the English Medium School. The team of four including their Provincial arrived here with our Provincial and went round in the campus. Later we had a meeting together with their team and ours (five of us). With this the two Provincials would enter into an agreement before joining. Let us hope for the best!

We as a community had an outing at Soso parish on 31<sup>st</sup> March to conclude the month and relax after the Board exams' constraints the whole month. It was a relaxing and joyful evening for us two communities. Praise the Lord!

*Fr Christopher*

## St. Mary's Samtoli

Frs. Linus, Bruno and Isaac attended the budget session of the province. Fr. Linus presented the budget of the community while Frs. Bruno and Isaac presented the budget of the schools and Apostolic school respectively. Again on 7<sup>th</sup> March Fr. Linus, Fr Bruno and Br Elias went to Ranchi for the meeting of the superiors and treasurers. On our way back, Fr Albert Dungdung also joined us.

On the Birthday of Fr. John we had community mass at 6.45 pm followed by dinner. On the same day Fr. Christopher Dungdung too celebrated his birthday. The neighbouring communities from Sogra, Jharain and Rengarh joined us for the dinner.

The Holy Week began with the liturgy of Palm Sunday. The procession began from St Mary's School campus at 6.30 am and concluded with the solemn mass in the premises of the Cathedral. Apostolic boys led the choir under the leadership of Sch. Sujit Toppo. The faithful turned up in a big number for the solemn liturgy.

Frs. Linus, Bruno, Gilbert and Sikander went to Kutungia for the 52<sup>nd</sup> death anniversary of Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ. People went in procession to Rasschaert's tomb and came back to the church reciting rosary. Thereafter Bp Vincent Barwa presided over the liturgy of the Maundy Thursday. 20 priests concelebrated the mass with a sizeable number of the faithful. Four of us also visited Gerda, the place of martyrdom, and came back home via Banki and Kolebira.

The Way of the Cross on Good Friday was quite appealing to the faithful. It was prepared well and acted out by the youth which lasted for one and half hour. For the Easter, Frs. Linus, Bruno, Isaac and Sikander went to Dumki village for confession, vigil and morning masses. Though we were four priests, the confession took more than three hours. Frs. John, Gilbert, Albert and Br. Elias attended the vigil mass at Samtoli Cathedral. Fr. John went to Jail on Easter Sunday while Fr. Ireneus went to Jodetoli village (Sogra Parish). On Easter Monday Frs. Linus, Bruno, John, Sikander and Br Elias had been to Jharain for sharing Easter joy with Frs. Pingal and Ignatius. We had festive fellowship lunch together.

*Fr. Linus*

## Manresa House Ranchi

The month of March was packed with many activities. The month began with the Mid-semester exams for the scholastics, which was scheduled from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March. After exams, Scholastics felt relaxed and busied themselves

with other academic and community programmes. On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March, an Inter- Hostel Hockey tournament was organized by St. Xavier's Hostel. In the final the combined team of Manresa-Minor Seminary came victorious and defeated the strong and formidable opponents of St. Albert's College, Ranchi. On 7<sup>th</sup> Sch. Sudhir Lakra secured first place in a race "Udaan: Run for Her" - a programme organized prior to the celebration of Women's Day by Rotary Club in association with AICUF and Women's Bank, Ranchi. On 19<sup>th</sup> many of the community members were part of the group, that witnessed the much lauded dance - drama "The Dreamer" which was performed by the First Year Theologians of St. Albert's college. The drama showed how the heavenly dream of St. Don Bosco came to be true.

On 19<sup>th</sup> many community Fathers and Brothers participated in the opening ceremony of the year dedicated to 'Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens', which took place in Jamgain village of Hulhundu parish. The celebration drew big number of faithful for the occasion.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> all the Scholastics travelled by bus to Netarhat, Jokipokhar-Tutwapani to fight hand in hand with the tribal brothers and sisters against the proposed 'Netarhat Pilot Project Field Firing Range' which would leave lakhs of adivasis landless and homeless. Frs. Pius Xalxo SJ and Peter Mahendra Tigga SJ were present on the occasion. Fr. Peter Mahendra Tigga SJ shouldered the responsibility of organizing it as one of the committee members. The Scholastics along with the 'Chatra Sangh, Ranchi' took active participation in it.

In view of the preparation for the Easter 'A Talk cum Penitential Service' was held in the community on Holy Saturday. The talk of Fr. Vincent Toppo SJ helped us to go deeper into the spirit of Easter. Three Scholastics were sent to Sarwada Parish for assisting in the Easter celebrations. Some scholastics went to Nirmal Hriday, Ranchi for the Easter Vigil Mass and morning Mass. On 30<sup>th</sup> some of our Fathers went to Maranghada parish to join in the Golden Jubilee celebration of both the Boys and Girls School Maranghada. By the end of the month all seemed quite overwhelmed by the activities that took place during the month.

*Sch. Ajay*

## Tarnoday

Br. Isidore was the first among the community members who attended the Spiritual Animation Programme (SAP) held at Hazaribag. He came back on 10<sup>th</sup> March with

renewed spirit and rich experiences. Frs. John and Francis followed the example of Br. Isidore. Both of them attended the SAP at Jharna from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Francis besides attending the programme played an important role in conducting it. After his return, he continued taking regularly three classes in the first and second weeks of March in spite of his bad health. Kudos! to the commitment of Fr. Francis Minj. What an inspiring example he set for the students.

To share the spirit of the Year of Mercy, Sch. Deonis Ekka and Sch. Pankaj Kujur (Dum) represented Tarunoday community by joining 60 Kanke parishioners to go to Radha Rani, the leprosy centre, on 13<sup>th</sup> March and attended the Eucharist presided over by Bishop Telesphore Bilung. They met the patients and expressed their kindness by serving them lunch. Sch. Deonis shared that he was extremely happy to refresh his hospital experiment memories from the Novitiate.

Fr. Amrit Tirkey supervised carefully the repair and maintenance work of the old building which lasted for a month. He is really satisfied with the work done. He also attended the Superiors and Treasurers meeting held at Manresa House. On his return he took classes for the first years in the evening. We appreciate his sincere commitment!

The Holy Week threw ample of opportunities for us to serve the church and its faithful by shouldering various responsibilities. Br. Isidore kindly arranged palm branches from the campus itself for all of us for the palm Sunday. On the next day the whole Tarunoday community went to Kanke parish for the Holy Mass. Sch. John Jyoti Kujur broke the word of God very meaningfully. Fr. Francis presided over the solemn Mass at Central Institute of Psychiatry on Palm Sunday and Sch. Deonis Ekka led the choir and added solemnity to the Eucharist.

The voice of the people for protest rally against the Netarhat Field Firing Range took 17 Taruns and Fr. Francis to Netarhat on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. On our way we experienced the hospitality of Tongo and Noadih Jesuit communities who served us tea and lunch respectively. Further we visited the family of Sch. Deonis at Kutlu where his beloved mother, youngest sister and nephew warmly welcomed us and quenched our thirst with *niramala thandha pani*. The whole band of Jesuits walked to the house of slain Sr. M. Anselm M.C (Cicilia Minj) who was killed in Yemen in a terrorist attack on 4<sup>th</sup> March. We met her eldest brother Mr. Vincent and prayed with the members of the family to show our solidarity.

On our arrival at Netarhat Fr. Savari welcomed us at ALERT. Having rested for half an hour or so, the whole Jesuit band moved to Tutuapani to be one with the people in the massive protest. On 23<sup>rd</sup> morning the Taruns staged an eye opening *Nukkad* titled *Dosar Ker Kukur Hamar Khaike Dekhe Tukurtukur!* Tarunoday band communicated a very powerful message for the protection of *Jal-Jangal-Jamin* to the 12000 gathered people. While returning we stopped at St. Stanislaus Lohardaga for some time and reached Tarunoday by 5 p.m. Our journey was safe and comfortable.

We had classes on Maundy Thursday in order to complete the syllabus. In the evening Fr. Francis concelebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Telesphore Bilung at Kanke parish; whereas Sch. Shailesh played a vital role in the Liturgy by doing the job of M.C. Schs. Deonis and Rakesh Kerketta supported the choir with their singing.

The Good Friday also didn't pass without the class. The Second Years had an hour of class because they needed to cover the syllabus. In the afternoon we went to the parish for the Way of the Cross. Later on during the Service Schs. Deonis, Roshan, Pradeep, Rajesh Sandil and Fuldeo sang the Passion Reading. Sch. Rakesh enhanced the devotion by narrating it with his melodious voice. Schs. Roshan and Pradeep assisted *Chhoti Kalisia* choir group with their harmonious singing. Fr. Amrit and Fr. Francis helped Fr. Vijay Manohar during the adoration.

Fr. Francis preached powerfully with vigor proclaiming the good news of Jesus Risen during the vigil mass. On Easter Sunday Schs. Pradeep and Roshan attended the Eucharist at Tarunoday. Sch. Deonis went to C.I.P. for the same; whereas the others went to the parish. All of us went for Holy Communion distribution soon after the Holy Mass. Fr. Amrit was waiting for all of us at Tarunoday entrance with fatherly smile to wish us Happy Easter at 12.30 p.m. Br. Isidore was still busy in the kitchen preparing delicious food for us. Easter brought us joy, peace and love of the risen Christ.

*Sch. Fuldeo*

### **Patrachauli**

During the Lenten Season our special effort was to prepare the parishioners spiritually for the Easter. Novice Master Fr. Raymond Kerketta sent two Novices – Lalit Xess and Bipin Ba'a who were great help for us. They arrived on 9<sup>th</sup> February, the day before the Ash Wednesday. They were missioned to give three-day retreat to villagers. They set out on the Ash Wednesday evening for the first village,

Pachdiha. By 12<sup>th</sup> March they had covered 9 villages. Generally they were happy with the way people received them and responded to message given. During the last week of their stay here they rendered valuable help to the parish by preparing the parishioners for the Holy Week Services. The newly ordained priest Fr. Pradeep Tirkey SJ managed the Lenten Tour alone. He was out practically every day to celebrate the Eucharist in villages – 26 villages to be exact.

The Holy Week began with the three-day Charismatic retreat, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The Mariadham Brambe team consisting of Fr. Vijay Herenj, Fr. Praful Toppo, Mrs. Francisca Lakra and Miss Manju Tirkey led the people in their spiritual journey. There were about 150 people who participated in this retreat. As usual a big number of parishioners came for the Holy Week Services. For Frs. Alphonse Kullu and Pradeep Tirkey this was the first occasion to celebrate the Holy Week Services in Patrachauli. Fr. Alphonse was the main celebrant on Good Friday; Fr. Brice Bilung from Saporom joined us. After a gap of some years, the Easter Vigil was held in the open. Fr. Pradeep smoothly and devoutly led the congregation in the Easter journey. On Easter Monday, the Ranchi Zone and two neighbouring Communities – Prabhat Tara and Saporom – had a short Gathering at Patrachauli.

*Fr Emmanuel*

## St. Paul's Church Tongo

During Lent, two Jesuit novices – Naveen and Praveen – from Namkum were here. Both of them preached three-day retreat to the faithful of different villages. The faithful were happy to get such opportunity to prepare themselves for Easter. Fathers were busy in their Lenten tour. Frs Ajit Saras and Vital Ekka took care of the far away villages for the masses while Frs Philemon Ekka, Manohar Toppo and Tej Kr. Baxla rendered their services to nearby village units. The services of the Holy Week were well distributed among ourselves. Fr. Vital presided over the ceremony on Palm Sunday; Fr Ajit Saras took care of the Maundy Thursday; Fr. Tej Baxla played the role of Jesus and Fr. Manohar took lead to the 'Passion Reading' on Good Friday. The Easter Vigil Mass was presided over by Fr. Manohar in kurukh which people found more devotional and appealing. The festive liturgy lasted for about three hours. The faithful took part in the Holy Week services in good number with great devotion.

The final-term exams began in St. Peter High School and St. Paul's Middle school. The results of classes VII and VIII were given on 22<sup>nd</sup> March while for Class IX it was given on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

*Fr Philemon*

## ASSAM & ANDAMAN

### Balipara

The Jesuit community was glad to welcome Ms Monique Bollaerts from Belgium on 9<sup>th</sup> March along with two Spaniard Jesuits working in Gujarat namely Joaquin Civiak and Joaquin Castiella. In spite of hectic budget session at Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur, Fr. Provincial paid a flying visit to Balipara on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

After their first unit test, students enjoyed a week of break on the occasion of Holi, Good Friday and Easter. On the day school re-opened, 30 students and 6 teachers from Belgium came here. Our students displayed colourful cultural programme to show some glimpses of the social-cultural life of people of the area.

Spiritual ministry by novices in villages continued throughout the month. Jesuit novices returned after the Psalm Sunday whereas Holy Cross novices started preparing children for the first communion at Balipara parish.

*Fr Ranjit*

### Gana Chetana Samaj

In the month of March Gana Chetna Samaj welcomed some guests: Mr. Vedi Raja from TISS, Mumbai, and Miss Saleeni Mishra from Lakhnow who stayed till 14<sup>th</sup> March for their exposure and experiences in the field of social work. Together with two Spaniard Jesuits of Gujarat Province, a benefactor from Belgium Miss Monique Bollaert visited Assam Mission from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March. From St. Joseph College, Aalst, 36 Belgian students and teachers visited us and our works from 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March. Fr. Marianus J. Kujur (provincial), Fr. Sudhir Minj (Socius) and Fr. Vijay M. Tirkey (Province Treasurer) arrived Tezpur on 17<sup>th</sup> evening for the budget session on 18<sup>th</sup> March from 8.00 am to 1.30 pm.

Miss Juspin Kerketta, a staff of GCS, was given farewell on 8<sup>th</sup> March as she got government job in Arunachal Pradesh. The Adivasi intellectuals of Assam from different groups such as Kurukh Sahitya Sabha, Munda Sahitya Sabha, Khariya Sahitya Sabha, All Adivasi

Students Association of Assam, All Adivasi Women Association of Assam, etc. were invited on 19<sup>th</sup> March by GCS to reflect together on Adivasi culture and its values. All felt the need of forming a coordination committee to facilitate future plans. The youth day celebration was organized on the theme “Yuva Shakti Gaon Ki Unnati” on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The participants were motivated to commit themselves for the development of their villages.

*Fr Thomas*

## Ramnagar

The Lenten tour got over on 7<sup>th</sup> March successfully. Fr Benedict and myself attended the Chrism Mass on 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Port Blair Cathedral. Both of us were back on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

A day of recollection for women was organized on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The attendance was very good. Fr Benedict gave a talk and a movie – ‘Jesus’ was screened. Thereafter Sr. Mary George prepared them for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Almost all of them received the sacrament. It concluded with the Eucharist. Again on 25<sup>th</sup> March, recollection for men, youth and crusvir children was arranged.

This year Holy Week services except Good Friday were in both the places – Ramnagar and Kalighat. Fr. Anil went to Kalighat for the Thursday services and Easter vigil mass. Fr. Benedict was in the parish. The faithful participated in both the places with devotion.

*Fr Anil*

## DIASPORA

### Rome

29<sup>th</sup> April was a joyous and memorable day for the Jesuits in Rome, especially for the Scholastics of the International College of Gesù, whose 11 companions were ordained Deacon by H.Exc. Luis Ladaria SJ, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The Ordination Ceremony was held in the Church of Gesù in the presence of 80 Concelebrants, family members, friends and benefactors of the Deacons. The meticulous planning of the entire celebration and the polyphonic singing made the liturgy very solemn and meaningful. Many Tribal Fathers, Brothers and Sisters either working or studying in Rome and in Italy came to participate in the Ordination Ceremony and to congratulate Kulwant. After Eucharistic celebration, all were invited to Collegio Bellarmino for the refreshment. In a real Adivasi style, Kulwant was felicitated by a garland and a well-known Sadri song “*Father Jivan re Kaisan sundar fuluvaari...*” by his friends and well-wishers from Chotanagpur. Brimming with joy and enthusiasm, Kulwant thanks everyone for accompanying, supporting and praying for him in his long journey. The very next day on 30<sup>th</sup> April, all the newly ordained Deacons had an opportunity to meet and interact with Pope Francis, and to receive his blessings. The meeting with the Holy Father was the perfect culmination of all the preparations and celebrations.

As spiritual preparation for the diaconate ordination, Kulwant and his companions spent 8 days in prayerful silence in Montecucco. Meantime, Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant kept themselves busy to keep pace with the increasing academic demands and to complete some of

the assignments. Together with the whole community, they participated in the Palm Sunday liturgy in the Church of Gesù. Both of them extended their helping hands in one way or the other in the liturgical celebrations of the Holy Week in the Church of Gesù. For them, it was the first opportunity to participate in the Holy Week liturgical celebrations in Italian; and hence, apart from participating enthusiastically in all celebrations, they learnt a few new Italian words too.

Edwin Dang chose to remain at home along with his other companions. As part of the spiritual preparations, his community had arranged a day of recollection and confession before the Holy Week. The Easter break gave ample time to rest, relax and work leisurely on his assignments, and to prepare himself for one exam that was scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> April. Like his younger Ranchi brethren, he too participated actively in the Liturgical celebrations in the Church of Gesù. The Easter break continued until 3<sup>rd</sup> April; but he confined himself to his desk to complete all the assignments. Biju Sebastian had gone to Sicily to help out in a parish from the Palm Sunday onwards. He could not be present to participate in the joy of Kulwant as his pastoral assignments made him to stay in the Parish until 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Linus too stayed at home for the Easter. He utilized the Easter break to complete his pending assignments. Prem left for Ranchi on Palm Sunday to be with his parents. He assisted Chonhas Lakra in the Holy Week celebrations in the Chapel of Holy Family Hospital, Mandar. He was invited to participate as the “Son of the Soil” in the Handing Over ceremony of the Hospital to CBCI on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The main

celebrant Bishop Felix Toppo, SJ offered him the opportunity to share his experiences and to bear witness to the great work done by the Medical Mission Sisters right from the inception of the Hospital. A historical moment indeed! He came back to Rome on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. On the same day, Dilip Sanjy left for Ranchi for the holidays. Gregorian University reopened on 4<sup>th</sup> April for the regular classes and now, all seem to be engrossed in their studies and assignments. The seriousness and dedication of Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant, Kulwant, Edwin Dang and Biju Sebastian are noteworthy; and they hope to continue their mission with renewed spirit till the end of the current Semester. A good sign!

*Fr Prem*

### **Cambodia**

Frs. Manoj Ekka SJ and Rajat Hassa Purti SJ were very busy in the month of March. Both of them attended the Lenten talk arranged for all the priests working in Cambodia followed by the Chrism Mass on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Fr. Manoj worked day and night to prepare for the Easter and the blessing of the newly built magnificent Church and presbytery in his parish Nikum. He arranged a special Lenten talk and sacrament of reconciliation for the parishioners. To his surprise the response of the parishioners was very good. Many turned up for the talk and the Sacrament of reconciliation. They participated actively in all the liturgical celebrations and the preparation for the blessing of the new Church and presbytery. Manoj also prepared 7 adults for baptism on the Easter day. He participated in the annual village blessing ceremony of Chamnaom parish. The village blessing ceremony is arranged every year for thanking God for the new harvest and all the blessings of the year and also asking God's blessing for the New Year. The most awaited day of Manoj came on 31<sup>st</sup> March when the newly built Church and the house for the priest in his parish Nikum were blessed. The Solemn Mass was presided over by the Bishop Enrique Figaredo SJ, of Battambang diocese. 20 Catholic priests, 4 Buddhist Monks, many religious brothers and sisters, Mr. Mark Ann the donor from South Korea, lay missionaries and volunteers and around 1000 faithful from all over Cambodia participated in the blessing ceremony. Congratulations Manoj.

Fr. Rajat SJ was busy with his Khmer studies. His main focus is on the studies of the language of the Buddhist Monks and the Khmer folk stories. During the Lenten season and Holy Week he made himself available for the sacrament of reconciliation and the Holy Mass in different institutions and parishes. He had very meaningful liturgical

celebrations during the Holy Week in two parishes namely Kampong Chanang and Chanaktru. Both the parishes have primarily Vietnamese Catholics staying in the floating villages in the Tunle Sap Lake. He had a unique experience of going to them by boat for hearing the confession and distributing communion for the old and the sick. He participated in the blessing ceremony of the new Church and the presbytery built by Fr. Manoj on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Manoj left for Ranchi on 4<sup>th</sup> April for a well-deserved holiday for 3 months.

*Fr Rajat*

### **Guyana**

We, Ranchiens- Anil, Amar, Elias and Mark Mukul never miss the opportunity to cherish our companionship spending our valuable time together in Georgetown sharing, listening and encouraging one another as we are missioned in four different corners of the country. Mark Mukul was fully involved in his pastoral work in his mission area in Berbice. He felt unbearable pain in his stomach. On 30<sup>th</sup> March he was admitted to Anamaya Memorial Hospital Berbice for his acute appendicitis. He went through the surgery and now he is recovering in Berbice.

In the Region of North-West, Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, along with Fr. Marlon Innis SJ and Fr. Malcolm Rodrigue SJ making their best effort to build the communities. There were 40 parish Lay Assistants, commissioned after their proper training in Hosororo.

Fr. Anil was focusing on the training of Parish Lay Assistants for his parishes. He already completed giving lessons to two parishes namely BV and Buxton churches. Now he is given extra responsibility to look after another four parishes.

I (Fr. Elias Surin) was in Georgetown for two weeks to get my Visa-extension and work permit. I had ample opportunities to celebrate Holy Eucharist in St. Pius X and St. Teresa. Thanks to Fr. Godfrey and Fr. Jerri Dias for their invitation to be with your parishioners. On 9<sup>th</sup> March, with Fr. James Conway SJ, I flew up to Kurukabaru. It was a great surprise for us as we were accorded warm and cordial welcome in their village community centre. On 16<sup>th</sup> March, long awaited I NET Internet is installed here in St. Joseph Church Kurukabaru. It will be a great help for us to communicate to the other mission stations. On Palm Sunday, I went along with Br. Bernard Banfus and Br. Sylvester to Chiungmouth to celebrate the Passion Sunday. For the Holy Week, the PLAs and the church team member of St. Joseph's Kurukabaru, meticulously planned out and executed. It made the liturgy very devotional. The ceremony of washing

of feet on Maundy Thursday was very touching experience for us. After a long gap there was a shower of rain on the Easter vigil night. In spite of rain the church was packed to its capacity. Twenty children were baptized during the vigil night and there was a wedding of Gervaise Michael and Jeswina Francise in the morning. On Easter Monday, there was another wedding of Francis Gomes and Elsa Robinson in St. Anthony of Padua Church Kato.

*Fr. Elias*

### Paris, France

I went different places to participate in the Holy Week Liturgy. I went to the Cathedral of Paris for Chrism Mass. Behold the Cathedral was full with thousands of priests, deacons, seminarians besides Nuns and laity more than 3000 of them. The big number of priests, deacons and seminarians in Paris was a surprise for me. There was tight security in and around the Cathedral. All of us were checked in. I went to our Jesuit school chapel on Thursday; to a nearby church, looked after by monks on Friday and to the famous church, Sacred Heart, Montmartre on Saturday for Vigil Mass. We had our community Mass on Sunday followed by festive meal. On Monday afternoon, the Indian Jesuits of Paris organised ourselves to spend time together. So, we met in a bowling game centre and spent two hours. We had good fun over there. A Jesuit from Zimbabwe joined our community on Easter Sunday. Our superior and another Jesuit from his province went to airport to fetch him. He has already started his French classes.

*Fr. Samir*

### Salamanca Spain

We were privileged to witness the diaconate ordination of four Jesuits in Madrid on 6<sup>th</sup> March. It was also an occasion to meet the other Jesuits from India who are pursuing their masters (Ignatian Spirituality) in Madrid. The holy Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Bishop of Madrid. The entrance dance by the African nuns and a jumping offertory song were the centre of attraction. After the celebration we had to rush back to our community. During the Novena to St. Francis Xavier the Jesuit parish here in Salamanca organized a nine days of special prayer sessions combined with the holy Mass. During the holy Mass, we both of us had the opportunity to share the life and works of St. Francis Xavier in India.

For the Holy Week and the Easter celebration we went to Sevilla, the fourth largest city in Spain. We witnessed a different style of celebration. It was strange to see a handful of people attending the Mass but the streets

fully packed during the processions. From Monday to Friday every evening the entire city used to be on the streets to get a glimpse of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Jesus. Those 'Pasos' (A movable flout of wood with the sculpted scene of the passion, an image of Jesus and of Virgin Mary) were carried by men with great devotion and reverence. During this time an unexpected rain is always a threat but even if the weather is not conducive, there is no lack of enthusiasm among the people. Apart from this highly cultural and spiritual event, we had much time to visit some historical places and monuments of the city.

After this rich experience we came back to Salamanca refreshed and recharged. We resumed our language classes from 29<sup>th</sup> March. Now being the last stage, our lessons seem to be tough and a bit complicated but we are working hard to get through it.

*Sch. James*

### Jerusalem

A group was expected for SJ Program in March but Fr Bernard Carroll a Canadian Jesuit alone could make his arrival. As a result the program had to be cancelled. Bernie is here for his three months sabbatical. He has been here already twice with a group of pilgrims and secondly he will join the April group coming for the same purpose. Fr John Endres who is a friend of the house Superior, gave a good help and an excellent company to the latter. Superior is recovering from his knee problem. Fr J. Peter Schineller, a Jesuit from New York came to stay with us during the Holy Week. He is actually working with JRS in Amman. Two supervisors for the French volunteers working in fifty different institutes and social organizations in Israel, came here to stay with us for two weeks.

The events of the Holy Week awakened the hearts of all Christians in the city of Jerusalem. The solemn Palm Sunday procession started at Bet Fage up on the Mount of Olives. Thousands of people participated waving olive and palm branches singing hymns in various groups. As the procession started moving slowly on the serpentine path of the slope, the chanting of "Hosanna" filled the air and the entire valley of the Mount of Olives down to Gethsemany. It looked as if every street, every little tree and every stone cried out singing "Hosanna". The procession entered into the Old City (walled city) of Jerusalem through the Lion's Gate and gathered at St Anne Basilica for the final prayers and blessing. The liturgical services in Triduum were held in many Churches in different times and languages. I went to the Basilica of Ecce Homo for all the three days Services. The washing of the feet on

the Holy Thursday was interesting. After the celebrant finished washing the feet, the others were invited to wash the feet of each other. Somebody washed also the Celebrant's feet in the process. Soon after the Service, all of us were invited for a light supper. Then the whole group proceeded to the Basilica of Gethsemany for a special Holy Hour organized by the Franciscans. The prayer was led by the Custos (Head of the Franciscans in Jerusalem) and it lasted for two hours. The entire atmosphere was very moving. Everyone there experienced the agony of Jesus in the Garden. His words- "Father if it is possible..." "Can you not stay awake, even an hour..." came alive to each and every single heart during prayer. The Good Friday got really packed with people inside the streets of Jerusalem, because many groups were making the Via Crucis and at the same time, the Muslims in huge number were coming for prayer. In fact it happens in all the Fridays of the year. In the place of the Holy Sepulcher, the Vigil Mass of the Holy Saturday was celebrated at seven in the morning. It looks strange but for God there is no difference.

*Fr Camil*

## Cairo

I was the first one to convey the message of brutal shooting of four MC nuns in Aden (Yamen) of Missionaries of Charity Sisters of Kolkata on 4<sup>th</sup> March. It was really a

shattering tragic event. Though Yamen comes under another Province, they were well known to the sisters who are working in Middle east countries. A conference was going on for them in Cairo and their representative sisters from Malta, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, North & South Sudan and Egypt were present. It was a chance for me to meet them all as I've known them well over the past years. A good number of them are our tribal sisters from India. On 15<sup>th</sup> March a Holy Mass was offered for them. The Latin rite Bishop was the main celebrant and very good number of men/women religious were present in solidarity with them.

17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March was the annual day of MEJ – Mouvement Eucharistique des jeunes (eucharist youth movement) in Cairo. It is for the boys and girls of Class III-V. From our school, forty-five children had participated. There were altogether 250 children. To help them out in various programmes, forty university youth were there as volunteers.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March our two novices completed their thirty-day spiritual exercises under their novice director. And the two who are in the second year completed their community and pastoral experience in Upper Egypt and Syria respectively.

*Fr Bimal*

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## FR. FLORENT JONCKHEERE SJ [1925-2016]

*Fr Erik Breye*

When during the holy Eucharist that we the whole St. Albert's community was celebrating for our two jubilarian former Rectors: Bishop Charles Soreng and Fr. C R Prabhu, we were informed that Fr. Flor had fallen at the staircase of the hall where we would felicitate the two jubilarians, we were all in shock. Obviously being in his 91<sup>st</sup> year we knew that some time or other the end would come. But there had been no indication that father was in any way less well than his usual self. The previous evening he had joined us in the Ursuline convent for the yearly festive dinner on the feast of St. Angela and the 28<sup>th</sup> passed totally normal.

Fr. Flor was born in Roeselare on 29/8/1925 in a very Christian family. His mother and his father belonged to the Lievens family. He had two sisters, one of them who became a religious and had a couple of brothers. Flor was the youngest and the last living member of his family. His schooling was in his home high school from primary till the end. This was the school where Constant Lievens had studied and is called Het Klein Seminarie. At

the end he joined the Society of Jesus on 4/8/1944 with the purpose to come to India. After his novitiate and Indian juniorate he studied philosophy and waiting to get his visa he studied sociology at the Katholiek University of Leuven and had regency in St. Jozef's College [high school] Turnhout. In 1952 he arrived in India, had some language study and a year regency in St. Ignatius, Gumla. Then he was sent for theology to Kurseong where he was ordained on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1958.

His first appointment was to be the prefect at St. Mary's High School Samtoli from 1959 to 1961. He remembered his stay there with great relish. However his tenure there was suddenly ended: after his tertianship in Hazaribagh in 1961-62 he was appointed in St. Albert's College, the seminary that at that time was a Jesuit Institution. He had no special preparation for that job. As most of the Jesuits at that time, he had in the ordinary course of studies a licentiate in both philosophy and in theology. He was appointed as probation master and professor of philosophy and spiritual father of the

philosophers. His teaching was philosophical ethics and anthropology. As he had a clear awareness of the social problems he also added the social doctrine of the church and Marxism. After a few years he was made the prefect of discipline of the philosophers. He saw sports as a very important reality to grow up healthy and so insisted on compulsory sports in St. Albert's. He played himself with the seminarians and prepared them for football matches with Ranchi teams. The great match was of course on 31 July SAC vs. SJ. His time and talent were not exhausted in the seminary. He joined the catechetical team of Ranchi diocese. From his benefactors he got money to keep it up and to have a car [MY CAR] to bring the team members to the several parishes. They also prepared text books for catechesis in the schools. In order to keep his friends and relatives alive for the mission here he began writing every year a New Years Letter, which was the way he received money for the work. He wrote his last letter in December 2015.

Florent remained in St Albert's, continuing his philosophy classes till 1999 although he had become emeritus. In that year to the surprise of all and also his own, Flor was taken out of St. Albert's to become the superior of St. Xavier's School in Doranda. It was a shock to him. The 35 years or so residing in St. Albert's had given him an attachment to the place and work. But soon enough he got accustomed to the new work. He at once tried to deepen the spiritual life of the community members. He got himself involved in the school: teaching and visiting the families of the pupils. With the principal he started OUTREACH to help the children of the poor families get a proper education. Here again his Belgian benefactors were the way to be able to fund this project. After six years he was freed from the superior's job and went to Manresa House as spiritual father of the scholastics there.

However his heart was in St. Albert's that the Society had given to the BIJHAN Board of Bishops. But when the then Rector of St. Albert's, Rev. C R Prabhu, asked for him as spiritual father for the seminarians, he returned to St. Albert's where to his happiness he would remain till his death, offering his services till the very end.

Flor Jonckheere was a really dedicated Jesuit Priest. He was totally committed to Christ and tried to bring the Love of Christ into the hearts of all who approached him. He loved the people he served. He was a truly humble person and very approachable. In his younger days he could be abrupt: no wasting time – we are here to work. He tried to bring that attitude also in the seminarians. Even in his old age, when age had slowed him down, he did not want to waste time. With much less to do he spent his time in prayer and in updating his scripture and theological knowledge by reading recent books. His heart was in India, but through his contacts with his family in Belgium, he had a deep love for them and encouraged them to teach and form their children into authentic Christians. He suffered the lack of commitment to faith and the church in Europe. One of his joys he received after coming out of Doranda was his appointment as vice-postulator of the cause of Lievens. He studied the technical ways to promote the cause and went a couple of times to Belgium to contact the people there who had to gather all news about him and gathered here what he could about the devotion to his 'saint'. To propagate the cause of Lievens and the devotion he had every year a Lievens Calendar printed, which with great difficulty –on account of his age- he got sold in all parishes. Only this year he felt he could not do it anymore. With his death the seminary has lost a devout presence and servant; the Ranchi Society has lost a dear and authentic Jesuit and the Church of Jharkhand a real evangelizer and I myself a dear friend.

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### **BR. BLACIUS EKKA SJ [1933-2015]**

*Frs. Walter Beck & Cyprian Ekka*

Br. Blacius went for his eternal reward on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1933 to his immigrant parents at Donkamokam in Dibrugarh, Assam. He was the third eldest of the eleven children of five sisters and six brothers in the family.

Blacius started his schooling only after his parents returned to his native place, Bhikhampur in Gumla District (Jharkhand). He was brought to Tongo under the care of Fr. Limpens for the 2<sup>nd</sup> standard and was sent to Gumla for the 3<sup>rd</sup> standard and again taken back to Bhikhampur

for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> standard. His formal education ended with the 10<sup>th</sup> standard.

Br. Blacius belonged to the generation of Brothers. A big number of youngsters were interested at that time in joining the Society for Brotherhood. There were eight Brother Candidates in his batch including late Brothers Livinus Xess and Solozbal. He completed Builders' Training Programme at Sitagarha and cleared the examination thereof at Madras. He also underwent training in carpentry under late Fr. Carey of Bombay Province.

The best active years of Br. Blacius were devoted to building constructions. By his own admission, he constructed a large number of constructions: the school hall in Banabira, the science wing and study hall at Samtoli, the clerk's office, store room and repair works at Rengarih, the bungalow and the church building at Dighia, one part of Barway High School and enclosure wall at Chainpur. He stayed for a year at Sitapahar to build the Bungalow. Back home he undertook the construction of the Chainpur College building which including the class rooms, Fathers' refectory, farm house and a well. Thereafter, he also was sent to construct the parish church building and living quarters at Pathalgaon.

For a few years Blacius looked after cows at Manresa House dairy and then sent to Rajawal parish for the construction of the church building. His next assignment took him again to St. Mary's Samtoli where he also looked after the vegetable garden.

Br. Blacius spent few years in Jamshedpur Province chiefly for construction works. He built the priests' residence at Bandgaon, a hall at Lupungutu, a convent and the high school building at Golmuri and sisters' convent at Mango. Thereafter, he was assigned to Bharat Mata Church Muri as the in-charge of boys' hostel in addition to the construction of a godown. He was made in-charge of the farm at ATC Namkum and of the garden in Bundu, Ranchi. While at Kishor Nagar, Namkum, he became ill and thus he was shifted to the Manresa House infirmary in 2013.

Br. Blacius was very fond of riding Bullet motor cycle so he was fondly called 'A Bullet Man' by his friends. He was a hard working, sturdy and tough man. He was very faithful to the community activities like, daily Eucharist, Rosary, community meals and community meetings etc. He ended up his earthly life due to congestion in his chest. Now he is resting in peace at ATC Namkum cemetery.

### BIRTHDAY BABIES OF THE MONTH: APRIL & MAY

#### April

- 02 Lakra Polycarp  
Ekka Britius  
Minj Ajay Arun  
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

#### May

- 01 Soreng Xavier  
02 Minj Ajay Prakash  
03 Minj Erentius  
04 Toppo Erenius  
Dungdung Samir  
Lakra Shailesh  
05 To'ppo Ireneus  
07 Minj Gyan Prakash  
08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen  
09 Xess Gabriel  
12 Khoya Manohar  
15 Kerketta Xavier  
16 Kerketta Benjamin  
19 Dungdung Alexius  
Ba'a Kuldeep  
20 Ekka Praful  
24 Ba'a Ephrem  
29 Tigga Lalit John  
30 Kullu Francis David