

RANCHI BULLETIN



75/3

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

MARCH 2016



“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” (1 Cor. 15:54)
The Lord is truly Risen, Alleluia!

Wish You All A Very Happy Easter!

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.

Sch. Albert Kispotta left the Society on 13 February 2016.

Summer Course – 2016 will be held from **Friday 1 April to Sunday 1 May 2016** at **Minor Seminary Ranchi**.

The Candidates willing to join Ranchi Jesuit Province should meet the Director or Asst. Director personally after the Matriculation or Intermediate Examination. Candidates are kindly requested to bring along the Application Form duly filled and signed by the Parish Priest / Principal. This does not apply to the Candidates from Apostolic School Gumla and Samtoli.

The candidates have to bring the following things along with them:

1. Rupees 2,000=00 (Two Thousand) for Board and Lodging.
2. Mosquito Net
3. Toiletries
4. Plate & tumbler (glass)
5. English Bible (New Testament)
6. Baptism Certificate and Confirmation Certificate
7. English Dictionary (Dr. Camil Bulcke or Oxford Dictionary) or Rs. 500

Note: Candidates should arrive by 6:30 p.m., on 1 April 2016.

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

February was so much packed with activities that it was bursting at the seams. However, it began with a mixed note of joy and sadness. Br. Santosh completed his fifty golden years in the Society on 1st February, but that same day he landed at the Seva Nilaya Clinic. In the afternoon,

he received the news that his elder sister Scholastica expired in Rourkela. On 5th we offered Mass for her, for Fr. John Ekka's uncle Ignace and Fr. Emmanuel's aunty, who also had gone to the Lord.

The Maths Department had organized the “C. De Brouwer Memorial Interdisciplinary Lectures,” on 6th Feb.

Dr. Ramesh Kr. Pandey, the V.C. of the Ranchi University was the Chief Guest. Among the two speakers, one was an NRI from the Illinois University, and the other hailed from the Sidho-Kanhu University. Fr. Mark De Brouwer was also present. That same evening, Fr. Ranjit P. Toppo gave us a conference on “Intellectual Leadership.”

The customary “XAVIER UTSAV” was inaugurated with a big bang by Mr. M.S. Bhatia (I.G. Operation, Ranchi) on 9th and ended on 11th. In his brilliant English he exhorted the students to do their best in everything and always aim at higher goals in life. After the daylong programme, we had an enthralling *Sham-e-Ghazal*. On 12th came the College Annual Day when certificates were awarded to the winners in items during the UTSAV/ College Fest. Shri Abhijit Ghosh (Chairman-cum-Managing Director, HEC Ltd., Ranchi) was the chief guest, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus SJ was the Guest of Honour. Fr. Nicholas Tete, Principal, presented the Annual Report of the College highlighting many achievements of SXC. Fr. Provincial addressed the gathering, praising the College and encouraging and motivating the students to scale still higher. Shri A. Ghosh, an alumnus of St. John’s, recalled he entered the premises after more than twenty-six years. He also addressed the gathering with very inspiring thoughts. At the end of these events our hostellers were so moved that they hosted a dinner party on the basketball court for all the Professors, student volunteers, several students and some guests. Fr. Principal, our Jesuit Professors and the staff deserve our praises for planning everything minutely and overseeing the completion of all events!

On 15th February, the 6th Graduation Ceremony was held in the 70 years of our College’s existence. Dr. Ramesh Kr. Pandey, V.C., was the Chief Guest, accompanied by Dr. M. Raziuddin, Pro-V.C. of the Ranchi University. Fr. Alex Ekka, Director of XISS, was the Guest of Honour. The V.C. awarded gold medals to 25 girls and seven boys; many other received certificates. Though the ceremony continued, the two dignitaries had lunch with us in the community and departed.

The Inter exams began, on 17th February. While our Inter students’ centres were Women’s College and Gossner School, students from Ram Lakhan Yadav College and Gossner College came to SXC. But due to Bank closure and Ranchi *bundh*, the exams were irregular.

His Lordship Bishop Charles had been to Jamshedpur and Samtoli to celebrate his Golden Episcopal Jubilee. He also went to SXD for the farewell function of the Class XII students. He had a unique occasion to visit on invitation the Brahmakumari Vishva Vidyalaya for the B’Day celebration of the Abbess, who is from Pithoria. Inaugurating and blessing a prayer House of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Mahuadanr, was a happy moment again for him. He made himself available to give us a recollection talk on 25th. Then, as he was somewhat indisposed, he paid to visit to the Lohardaga Ursuline Hospital for a thorough check up.

On 12th February, Fr Nabor Lakra boarded the train for Pune to participate in the meeting of Coordinators of the Jesuit Alumni Association. Fr. Swarn Tigga also made a trip to the Albert Ekka College, Chainpur, to meet the AICUF students there.

Fr. Emmanuel Barla is quite on demand from time to time. On 9th February, he was invited to give a lecture to the research scholars at the Central University, Brambey, on “Indigenous Culture and Folklore.” Then again, on 13th, he was called to the Gossner Theological Centre, Ranchi, for the 150 years of Jubilee celebrations of the late Rev. Alfred Nottrott and Ferdinand. Fr. Emmanuel gave the inaugural address there. Congratulations!

Before the Holy Season of Lent could start, our community went for a picnic, on 7th February, to Kochang-Burudi via Bandaon. Frs. from Rumtukel, Dolda and Sarwada were also invited; but only Frs. Gilbert and Xavier could come from Sarwada. We were welcomed by Fr. Damien, children and the Daughters of St. Anne. Kochang-Burudi evoked memories of A. Stockman, J. Müllinder and J. Moens. We enjoyed roaming on the hilltop and relaxing in the residence. Fr. Alphonse Aind dashed back from meetings at Khunti. After having a hassle-free day, unlike the Magi, we returned home the same way.

Fr. Henry

St Mary’s Samtoli

There was a meeting of Headmasters and Headmistresses of all the minority schools in Simdega. The clerks too joined the meeting. There were 34 members who participated in the meeting. They discussed about the problem of pending appointments in different schools.

Rt. Rev. Bp. Charles Soreng S.J. (Emeritus) had 25 years of his Episcopal Jubilee at the house of Mr. James

and Clara Dungdung at Phanueltole (Chhota Town) Simdega. Bp. Vincent Barwa, D.D. the Bp. of Simdega too was present for the jubilee. Frs. Linus, Albert and Gilbert represented the community. Other community members could not attend as there was a farewell programme of the students of Classes X and XII. Mr. Sushil Tete, the former teacher, was the chief guest on this occasion.

On Ash Wednesday Mass was held at the hostel chapel for the hostellers and the apostolics in the morning at 5.30 am. Fr. Rector was the main celebrant and Frs. John and Alois Beck joined him. For the day-scholars there was Mass at 1.00 pm. Fr. Sikander was the main celebrant and Fr. Isaac Tete concelebrated. In both the Masses the boys and girls received ashes with great devotion.

On 13th February, the parents' meeting was called in High School. Mr. Benjamin Lakra was the main speaker. He delivered a powerful message for the teachers, parents and the students. He said that "achar, vichar and ahar" have to be balanced for the full development of the person.

Fr John Tirkey (Principal) and Fr. Sikander (Vice Principal) felt a sigh of relief after successfully conducting the Board exams of Matric and Intermediate. Frs. Isaac and Ireneus also helped them in going to the office for the official work before and after the exam each day. Fr. Albert Dungdung visited the doctor in Ranchi for routine medical check-up. He stayed in Ranchi for a few days for better monitoring.

After many days of running up and down to the secretariat for leasing of the land in the name of St. Xavier's College, Simdega finally the work was done. The Registrar signed the document at 4.30 pm, on Monday, 29th February 2016. Fr. Provincial was here for it. Fr. Rector is feeling relaxed now. But again he will have to go to the same office for the registration of the other plot adjacent to the property given in lease for the College.

Fr. Linus

Vidya Jyoti Delhi

We have experienced enormous grace in the month of February in and through various activities, persons and celebrations. At the very beginning of the month we had intense preparation for the Ad Auds Examination. Group studies helped us immensely. With the successful completion of the Ad Auds exmas, hope we will be compassionate confessors in days to come. It is a good

news that the study ambience in the community has improved. Scholastics have submitted their personal timetable to Fr. Rector.

The friendly yet profound interaction with POSA and ADF was another occasion for us to revisit our Jesuit commitment and purpose of our vocation. By his challenging words and suggestions during his annual visit, the POSA has affirmed us that Society counts on us.

On 14th Frs. Francis Minj, John Mundu and Sch Fuldeo Soreng joined us for the Plenary Academic Council meeting; they too brought lots of joy to us by their gracious presence. It was also a time to share with our beloved provincial who made his lightening official visit. We thank Fr. Marianus, our provincial and others for being with us.

The most memorable event of the month was the diaconate ordination on 20th February. Mukul, Justin Rozario and Bipin were ordained Deacons along with 38 companions. We thank everyone for supporting and praying for us in our long journey to reach this stage of our Jesuit life. We also very specially thank Fr. Medard for assisting us cheerfully, preparing us for the diaconate.

The community also made a pilgrimage to Sardhana at Merut praying to our Lady of Graces, thanking God for all the favors we received during the month. Besides these many wonderful initiatives are on the way. Therefore, one would certainly agree with us that VJ is gradually marching towards greater heights.

Sch. Bipin

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

The month of February began on a very positive note. On 4th February, the feast day of St. John De Britto and also the memorial day of Fr. Constantine Joseph Beschi SJ, who is duly recognized as the patron of Tamil literature by the Tamil Nadu government; the community decided to go on a very short pilgrimage. Late in the evening at 4.00, we went to Marina Beach, where the statue of the great Tamil poet and a literary genius, Fr. C. J. Beschi has been installed, and paid a special tribute to him. After a short prayer service we headed for San Thom Cathedral, where we joined the other faithfuls in a special Mass in honour of St. John De Britto. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Albert Muthumalai, the Rector of Satya Nilayam and concelebrated by all the teaching staff members.

On 14th February Fr. Ephrem Baa paid us a flying visit. It was unfortunate that the programme he came to

take part in at *Dhyan Ashram* got cancelled. However, we were very glad to meet him and got to know the news of Ranchi.

20th February was a super exciting day for us the students of Philosophy. CHIPS (Chennai Inter-Philosophy Society) organized a one-day Students' Symposium on the theme, "Search for Justice" for the students of 9 different colleges of the city including Loyola B.ED College, that have faculties of philosophy. The symposium was organized by the students and the papers were presented by the students. As many as 16 papers were presented, dealing with different aspects of Justice, simultaneously in four parallel halls, divided into four different sessions and managed by 16 panels consisting of the teaching faculties of all the above mentioned institutes. Sch. Pramod Bara presented a powerful paper on "Justice and Tribal Women". His paper was very well received and appreciated. He was awarded with a certificate and a memento for his great effort. Meanwhile, Fr. Vinod moderated the session on "Justice and North East Women", a very good paper presented by one of the North East students from Loyola College; and was also a respondent to another paper on "Justice and Bonded Labour," presented by International Justice Mission, an active NGO in Chennai. It was a very new and learning experience for all of us and very especially for Sch. Pramod who worked really hard for his paper.

On 22nd another seminar was organized by SNRI (Satya Nilayam Research Institute). Prof. Dr. William Sweet from St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, gave us a thought-provoking talk on *Intercultural Philosophy and Forgotten Philosophies*. In his talk, Dr. Sweet called for a concerted interaction and a study of all philosophical traditions across the globe.

Soon after the seminar, the first year students went to LICET (Loyola- ICAM College of Engineering and Technology) for the exposure programme on Innovative ways of learning and teaching. This was only meant for the students who had opted for Philosophy of Education as their optional paper. The special attractions at LICET were, the Language lab and the Sound Engineering Studio, where our students got a chance to exercise their communication skills and the voice and music recording techniques. Dr. Fr. Francis Xavier SJ, the Principal of LICET, gave us a very well researched talk on "Contemporary Trends in Higher Education." Fr. Vinod had accompanied us.

27th February was another momentous occasion for many of us. Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, paid us a very short visit. He was here for just an hour but he charmed us all with his warmth, simplicity and enthusiasm. While addressing both the students and staff, he encouraged us to acquire intellectual habits; the habits of reading and writing or else, the contemporary world of information technology will leave us far behind and outdated. It was indeed a moment to remember when he was fielding our questions with aplomb, with a great sense of humour and spontaneity. He looked very impressed, when Satya Nilayam choir sang a Spanish song for him. How we wish, he had stayed with us a little longer than he did. However, his presence was immense and very powerful to say the least.

Sch. Alok

Tarunoday

The month of February was filled with many activities that enhanced our integral growth. On 2nd February we celebrated the feast of presentation of the Lord. Fortunately, two of our scholastics namely Rakesh and Sameer celebrated their birthday. On 4th we had a meeting in preparation for PAC meeting at VJ Delhi. It helped us to relive those exciting and enjoyable moments of last year 2015. On 5th we had budget session for the next financial year. On 7th the whole community set out for a Cycle picnic to Patratu Jungle. It was indeed a wonderful, enjoyable and fun-filled time. As usual, on 9th we had a community meeting followed by coffee recreation. We had lots of fun and frolics with all the community members. This could strengthen and refresh our community life. On 20th Fr. Michael, PCF gave a great surprise visit to our Tarunoday Scholastics. He encouraged us to dream big and asked us to use the opportunities that come our way to the fullest. The month of February also marked the commencing of the Lenten season. Solemnly, we embarked upon the Lenten journey on 10th February with a meaningful Ash Wednesday service. It helped us to imbibe the true spirit of Lenten season. Professors have been initiating us into the world of scripture. On 14th of February we attended a seminar on 'PESA ACT' at Kanke parish, organized by Ranchi Jesuit social apostolate. Eminent personalities from different walks of life were present at the seminar. On 12th February Fr. Francis, Fr. John Mundu and Sch. Fuldeo Soreng set out for the PAC meeting at Vidya Jyoti, Delhi. They stayed in VJ for a week. It was an opportunity to attend the national meeting for first two days. They had

very rich and unique experience which they shared with us after coming back from VJ. On 27th - 28th we had monthly recollection guided by Fr. Lijo P. Joseph, SDS. He enraptured us with his eloquence enthusing in us a new and meaningful life in Lenten season. Further, the Way of the Cross and other pious activities are helping us to delve deep into the paschal mysteries of our Lord.

Sch. Rakesh

St. Stanislaus' Lohardaga

When Indian Government promulgated 'Food Security Act 2013' to assure food for all, our community launched the 'Wood Security Drive' by chopping down the old and the trees at the inappropriate places and also the disproportionate branches and being collected to be given some artistic shape or to be thrown into fire. Fr. Alexius Dungdung has entrusted the hostellers to dig pits for planting trees of various kinds. Br. Nico has already dried up the only well to keep his garden green.

Fr. Sudhir Minj and Fr. Vijay Tirkey from Sadbhavana paid a visit to their brethrens to know their '*haal samachar*' and also suggested to keep their campus and house *swachhh*.

Our school campus hosted a series of programmes, namely, Annual School Sports on 1st February, Inter

Catholic School Sport on 4th, Block Level *Baal Samagam* and the District Level *Baal Samagam* on 9th February. School also successfully accommodated 541 students for their Matric exam. Hostellers also assisted the staffs and students by guarding the gate and supplying water to the thirsty.

Fr. Sushil was a member of a small group which went to Thakurain dera on Ash Wednesday to celebrate Mass. The members were Bishop Telesphore Bilung, SVD, Parish Priest of Lohardaga, Fr. Thomas Pawathil, Fr. Rajendra and some members of Catholic Sabha and Mahila Sangh. The group had to assess the possibility and feasibility of starting a new mission station for the well-being of the faithful.

NABARD has approved 7 new farmer clubs promoted by AROUSE in seven villages and 23 farmer clubs went through base level orientation and training programme (BLOTP) and 77 SHGs are on the process of federating themselves for empowerment and sustainability. Yuva Jhankars (youth clubs) of four villages conducted sports programme for the young and old of the own villages.

Fr. Sushil

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur

On 2nd February, the Jesuits and the Holy Cross Sisters had a meaningful conclusion of the "Year of the Consecrated Life" at Bokola Holy Cross convent with the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Xavier summed up the relevance of the consecrated life in the world of today.

Frs. Xavier Lakra and Thomas Barla had been to St. John's school Balipara for the feast day cum Annual day celebration on 5th. Fr. Xavier presided over the Eucharist whereas Fr. Thomas delivered the homily on the life of St. John de Britto, the patron of the school. After the Eucharist a multi-cultural programme was presented by the students and prizes were distributed to the students for their good performance in the last academic year 2015. The programme ended with the agape meal with the staff.

Fr. Anupchand Minj had made a round trip to Manas Bansbari, Kathalguri and Mushalpur, St. Xavier's College

Sonabheel and Balipara communities to help our Jesuits make their accounts up-to-date till February 2016 and also make the proper budget for the year 2016-17. He came back from his hectic trip on 6th February in the evening.

CRI Tezpur Unit had a Lenten Recollection on Saturday 13th Feb at St. Xavier's College Sonabheel for 70 Religious working in different centres. Jesuit Community of the college was the host. Fr. Maxim SVD gave the input on the theme "the Year of Mercy and Compassion." Fr. Xavier Lakra was the main celebrant.

Jesuits of Assam Mission have installed "Nuga Best" therapeutic machine at Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur. Mr. Bimal Panday from Ranchi had come for the installation as well as the demonstration of the machine on 26th. Fr. Thomas Barla and Frs. Ranjit Horo and Florence Purty had been to Mushalpur to give moral support to Frs. Elvius and Roshan Bage on 27th -28th February.

Fr. Xavier

Pengaree

In the beginning of February Fr. Telesphore had to take rest for two weeks as he was operated upon for Appendix on 30th January, in a Private Borthakur Nursing home, Tinsukia. He was suffering from appendicitis for a long time. The SMI Sisters took good care of him in the hospital as well as in their convent as they gave shelter to Fr. Telesphore for three days after being discharged from the hospital. Even after coming home his movement was restricted. Fr. Patrick had to run in and out during this time.

Fr. Thomas and Fr. Benedict from Balipara came to visit Pengaree as Fr. Thomas and his team was to supervise the livelihood programme of Petty Tea Plantation in Pengaree area for the poor people. Fr. Benedict was happy to have his first visit to upper Assam. Also it was a joy for Pengaree as Sr. Novice Mistress of the Daughters of St. Anne, Ranchi brought two of her Novices to Pengaree for the Lenten mission experience. Sr. Elizabeth, Sr. Sorlina and two novices are catechizing the villagers in different villages and preparing them for Easter. In this programme they are also rectifying the “gondogols’ (Illegal marriage–rectification) so that all may have the full Easter joy. Fr. Patrick is animating this programme. He is going from village to village saying Masses and rectifying and blessing the marriages. Towards the end of the month Sr. Catherine and Sr. Adrina left Pengaree to start a new convent in Khetri (in Guwahati Diocese). Pengaree Parish and School thanked them for their contribution as they were the pioneers of St. Anne’s Sisters in upper Assam. Fr. Patrick and two sisters accompanied them safely to the new place, KHETRI.

Fr. Telesphore

Kathalguri

School: Loyola school, Kathalguri has got many new students as well as a few new teachers, which has made a lot of changes in the school environment. School Bus is a new addition to Loyola school, Kathalguri. Parents and students are happy with the school management. School had organized a one- day orientation programme for all the teachers of our three schools. Fr. Ranjit Horo SJ was the resource person, who had given some guidelines to prepare the lesson plan and given practice to the teachers. It was a learning experience for the teachers. Now our teachers have started to prepare their lesson plans. Hope, there will be some improvement in our academic

performance. All three school buildings were painted and now they are more attractive to the parents and students. Loyola school has added some new computers in the computer lab. For safety purpose, Loyola school corridor was grilled. Now the students are safer in the corridor. Loyola school has organized Annual School Sports Day on 6th February. Mr. Manoj Kumar Borwa, SDO Civil, Gossaigaon was the Chief Guest. He encouraged the staff and the students to grow in the field of games and sports. On 8th February Loyola staff had gone for picnic to the Bhutan Border. All enjoyed and were happy.

St. Joseph’s school, Jacobpur had the Annual Sports Day on 12th February. Sr. Sarika Soren SND was the Chief Guest. Parents and students were very happy and enjoyed themselves. The Chief Guest spoke in English and Santhali to the parents and students. They liked her message very much. She requested the parents to send their children to school and challenged the students to be regular for class and to take part in all the co-curricular activities. The School managing committee also witnessed this memorable day. On 18th February, our third batch of class X students have started their Matric Examination under the State Board.

Pastoral Ministry: Our Jesuit novices Joseph Kennedy Soreng and Sushil Kindo have arrived in Loyola Kathalguri on 11th February for their village experiment. Fr. Jerome Dungdung SJ has prepared village programme for our novices and Pastoral Sisters. They are staying in the villages to prepare the faithful for Easter. Frs. Jerome and Dominic are also making Lenten tour and celebrating mass for the faithful.

Social Ministry: Fr. Thomas Barla SJ, the Director of Gana Chetna Samaj had come to Kathalguri to see our social ministry. For certain reasons, in our place social ministry was stopped. But now the New Director of Gana Chetna Samaj is showing his interest to do something in our centre. The members of our SHGs are happy with this initiative. Fr. Thomas Barla has assured to send his staff to help our people. Social ministry is a very good means to reach out to the people and to make a good impact on pastoral and education ministries too.

Fr. Pradeep

Balipara

St. John’s School, Balipara celebrated the Feast Day of St. John de Britto on 5th Feb. Fr. Xavier, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Benjamin came to celebrate Holy Mass followed by a

colourful cultural programme. St. John De Britto was the man of enculturation. So it was the cultural day for the school. All students and staff came to school in their cultural dress. They had the experience of unity in diversity, love and respect for one another's culture.

23 Students, who got 1st division and 28 students, who scored more than 51% in H S L C Exam in 2015 received laptops and mini laptops respectively from the Assam government on 9th February. Along with the increase of the number of students, the number of teachers also increased. Four new teachers joined the school on 16th February.

Our novices from Ashirvad Namkum namely, Alok and Anand came on 13th February and the Holy Cross Novices from Patna arrived on 26th along with their Novice Mistress, Sr, Pratima. They are assigned to different villages in group of two to prepare children for the first communion and confirmation. They are also preaching retreat to elders in different units.

Fr. Ranjit

Gana Chetana Samaj (GCS)

The month of February was helpful for proper implementation of the various activities. On 4th February there was a monthly meeting for the instructors of the Study Centers for Balipara area. Another meeting was conducted on 12th February at Missamari area for the instructors of that area. Altogether 39 instructors were present for the meeting and shared their experiences. Fr. Xavier Lakra and Fr. Thomas Barla also attended the meeting and infused the innovative qualities of teachers to the instructors. Fr. Xavier suggested the instructors to be regular in the class and to give the correct guidance to the children.

On 6th February, demonstration unit was filled with 13 new piglets bought from the market. Unfortunately after three days two piglets died due to unsuitable food habits. Fr. Thomas Barla and Mr. Lalit Lakra, Project Coordinator for the project 'Capacity building of Adivasi Youth', had gone to start this project in Pengaree from 10th – 12th February.

On 12th February Mr. Anand (Accountant) and Ms. Mary Paul (Project coordinator) went to Missamari to review the Training cum production with the instructors. After review many changes were brought in monthly fee, time table of working hours and disciplinary matters. Mr.

Rajesh Kerketta and Mrs. Amarlata Topno are made in charge of the training centre. A motivational village meeting was organized on 15th February at Solabasti where 45 people participated. On 16th February, Fr. Thomas Barla went to Kathalguri for monitoring and supervising the work of that area. He had meeting with the SHGs members of that area. He also discussed with the Jesuit fathers for starting a new project 'Capacity Building of the Adivasi Youths.' On 20th February, Gana Chetana Samaj welcomed two students from Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai who are here to practice project proposal writing. The Governing Body Meeting of Gana Chetana Samaj was held on 20th February in the reading room of Jesuit Bhavan. Fr. Xavier Lakra SJ, vice president, chaired the meeting. Altogether six members were present - Frs. Xavier Lakra vice president, Thomas Barla Director cum Sectary, Ranjit Horo, Ranjit Kujur, Ravi Bhushan Xess and Anup Chand Kiran Minj.

In February seven new Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed in Balipara area. Three village meetings were conducted on 24th February at Durung Tea Estate, Sessa T.E. and Khoru Pathgoan. The meetings were for the proper functioning and management of the study centers.

Fr. Thomas

Ramnagar

On 16th January a youth seminar was organized in Ramnagar. Mr. Nirmal Soreng came to give talk based on family and prayer life. The parish priest also addressed the youth and giving them a message he invited them to bring change in their thought and attitude and to take up the present challenges in their lives. After the talk they had discussions on various topics pertaining to them. 17th January was a day for a picnic. All the youth went to the Ramnagar beach. They had games and entertainment programmes over there. There were 50 plus youth who came for this picnic.

A 3-day seminar for the youth of the diocese was held at Port Blair from 12th-14th February. Sr. Anita along with eight youth from Ramnagar went to take part. The theme was "Be merciful as our heavenly Father." Besides, talks were given on family, business, and prayer life by different persons.

On the occasion of the feast of Holy Childhood, on 13th and 14th February programme for the children was arranged. On 13th February, it started with the Holy

Eucharist. Just after the mass, there was lighting of the lamp followed by inaugural address by the parish priest, Fr. Benedict. Drawing competition and other entertainment programmes were arranged by them. There were 57 children who participated in this programme. The following day, they went to Ramnagar beach for a picnic. They had Holy Eucharist there which gave a different type of feeling and experience. They had also different entertainment games and thus enjoyed themselves. There were 70 children who joined this picnic.

Fr Anil

Prothrapur

Port Diocese has the dream to transform the Church and the Society by and large through SCC; therefore, it is highly recommended that every member of the parish would be the member of SCC. Although we face various practical problems but there are different occasions when we try to strengthen the SCC and one of them is celebrating the feast of its patron saints. Consequently on 4th February the feast of St. John De Britto was celebrated at Pathargudda Church basically consisted of Tamil speaking people. Rev. Father Gabriel Benziger, the parish priest of Stella Maris Cathedral was the main celebrant whereas Fr. David concelebrated with him. Liturgy was well prepared. Don Bosco SCC Daudnagar celebrated the feast of its patron saint on 6th, whereas on 11th the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at Austinabad.

Youth Day was celebrated in a unique manner on 7th February. The day began with celebration of Eucharist which was presided over by Rev. Father Mahipal Balmuch, the diocesan youth coordinator of Port Blair Diocese followed by talks. The first talk was on "Responsibilities of Youth towards their Parents" by Mr. Arulanand Swamy who explained the matter very well. The Second was "Year of Mercy" by Fr. Mahipal who shared his personal experiences as he made his trips to various parishes and villages of the diocese.

Diocesan SCC team headed by Rev. Fr. Zacharius Barla visited Prothrapur parish from 8th- 13th February. Fr. Edward Kerketta and pastoral Sisters of the parish assisted them to visit the houses and village smoothly. Besides visiting the families they also had special meetings and celebration of Eucharist in each and every *basti*.

A half-day seminar was organized on 13th February for Krusveer and Balsangh in the parish which consisted of instruction, revision of prayers and action songs. In his

instruction Fr. David made the children aware of having a goal in their lives. This seminar was the preparation for the celebration of Holy childhood day which was celebrated on 14th February 2016. Day began with the celebration of the Eucharist. Fr. David was the main celebrant whereas Fr. Edward concelebrated with him. In his sermon Fr. David stressed on holistic development of the children and the responsibilities of the parents and the role of the children to be obedient to their parents. Children led the liturgy very effectively and meaningfully. A colourful cultural programme was organized to encourage the children and one could see the talents and appreciate them much for their wonderful performance. At the end of this programme Asmita Tani, one of the Krusveer, thanked parents and all others who were present there their support and encouragement. Thereafter all the children went to Chidiyatapu for picnic and enjoyed thoroughly. Sisters were a great help to make the programme successful. Thanks to one and all.

Seminar and Awareness programme were held for youth at Church premises on 28th February just after the celebration of Eucharist. Around 98 youth participated in it. The topic was "Life Changing Session." Resource person was Mr. V. Gopalakrishna, Programme Manager of Steps-Aid India. He also introduced career guidance and future prospects about the employment opportunities in A & N Islands. Mr. Sebastian Turkey, who is associated with Real Estate, network marketing and also the General Secretary of Youth Congress, gave an input session; later youth were given various topics for discussions in their respective groups. Topics were decision, goal, success, actions, dreams, choice, courage, belief, etc. After serious discussion youth came up with very creative answers and presented their reports. Each group worked very hard. During presentation of reports Mr. Sebastian also complimented his feedback with solid and appropriate examples in order to make them understand well. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr. David.

Fr David.

Diglipur

On 6th we had a combined picnic of Youth and Krusveer at Ramnagar Beach. We were about 81 Youth 34 Krusveer and 7 Catholic Sabha and 6 Mahila Sangh Members 2 D.S.A. Sisters and 2 M.C. Sisters. We began our picnic with the Holy Eucharist at the Picnic Spot. As the Mass got over we had breakfast. At the same time certain

instructions were given and then varieties of Games were conducted by the Catholic Sabha and Mahila Sangh. The Main event was the tug-of-war, where all were divided into 4 groups. The P.P. also joined the picnic after having finished the Holy Eucharist for the faithful in the parish, being Sunday. After Lunch we had cultural dance and then the youth and children enjoyed swimming in the sea. At 3:30 P.M. we had tea and then we thanked the Lord for the success of the picnic and by 4:00 pm packed off and then proceeded towards Diglipur.

This year, on 11th we decided to have two Masses on Ash Wednesday: one Mass in the morning, and one in the evening, as requested by the people, who go for the duties at different times. The response was satisfactory, as they came in good numbers for the Holy Eucharist in the morning as well as in the evening. On 12th the youth of Diglipur went for the Annual Youth day held in Port-Blair, accompanied by Fr. Alexander. The theme was "Be merciful as the heavenly Father is merciful." Around 270 youth from all the parishes gathered for this occasion. Many speakers put forth their views on different Topics. There were variety of activities and entertainment programmes as well. The youth expressed their satisfaction with this

Annual event and are confident to put into practice in their life whatever they have learnt. The youth came back to Diglipur on 15th. Fr. Alex stayed back for one day to meet Fr. George Kerketta and discuss and plan for ATYCSA. Fr. George gave some idea to run the project smoothly and successfully.

We began our Lenten Tour Mass from 15th February onwards and haven't yet completed. Both of us are going to different villages far and near. Fr. P.P. is happy to go to the farthest places where he stays overnight and is having completely different and new experiences by meeting the people of the places. Some new initiatives, activities and creativities are introduced in our parish by the P.P. which is appreciated by the parishioners. Hopefully, we will be able to bring about some changes in the lives of our parishioners. Meanwhile, from December onwards we had no cook and so we both were cooking and doing the needed extra works. Praise the Lord, now we have got a cook who has come and started working from 27th onwards. Within these two days we are happy and satisfied with his work as he seems to be sincerely doing his work and taking interest and enjoying his work.

Fr. Alexander

DIASPORA

Jerusalem

The number of tourists and pilgrims to the Holy Land seemed to be much less in the winter time. However the Year of mercy and Lenten season brought many Christians to prayer and reflection on various pilgrimage sites. Seminars and talks were organized in various religious institutions such as in the Salesian theological Faculty, Ratisbonne, Franciscan theological Centre and the Ecumenical Centre, Tantur.

Our Biblical Institute has been empty since very few visitors were able to come in this month. Deacon Paolo from Biblicum Rome, is the only student doing his second Semester here. He is following the courses in the École Biblique of the Dominicans. Apart from the classes he is visiting various archaeological sites in Israel. Fr John Endres SJ, a Biblical Scholar from the University of Berkely, USA is with us for a few months on sabbatical. He is fully engaged in writing commentaries on the Book of Psalms. He is working for a new Bible commentary to be published in the near future. There are other Biblical scholars who

have been asked to write commentaries on other books of the Bible and contribute to this publication. Two groups of pilgrims- one Italian and the other Vietnamese- came to visit our place after they had finished their pilgrimage in the country.

Fr Joseph Doan came back to the community after his successful heart surgery in Hamburg, Germany. He had to stay for two months there for a complete recovery and now he finds himself quite healthy. He soon took up all the spiritual ministries in various religious communities.

Fr Patrick, the house superior already saw his doctor for his knee problem. His plaster was removed and now he has a brace to help regulate his muscle movements. He is helped by a physiotherapist once a week. Everything seems to be going well. Fr Hans recently experienced a bit of exhaustion and fatigue caused by low blood pressure. He needed immediately to be checked by a cardiologist. The doctor advised him to put a pace-maker immediately. Within a day the work was done. Now Hans seems to be

quite all right and is actively moving about visiting various places giving retreats and recollection, etc.

Fr Camil

Rome

During the first half of February, the atmosphere of the Gregorian University campus seemed to be extraordinarily quiet because of the ongoing First Semester exams. Our four Ranchi Jesuits – Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant, Kulwant and Edwin Dang – dedicated their full time and energy in preparing themselves for the exams. After the conclusion of the Semester exams on 10th February, the Scholastics of International College of Gesù had to go for a 3-day outing in their respective Living Groups to any place outside Rome. Such compulsory outing forms parts of their formation in view of having some time apart to rest, relax, and also to learn to live in a group outside the community atmosphere. Edwin Ritesh had gone to Sardegna, Ravi Hemant to Florence and Kulwant to Sicily. Brimming with rich experiences and rejuvenated spirits, all came back to Rome on 14th February to begin the Second Semester classes from 15th February. Apart from other regular courses, both Edwin Ritesh and Ravi have opted to follow Seminar on *Introduction to Christianity* guided by Prem Xalxo. For Kulwant, this is the last Semester and hence, he has to concentrate on writing the final dissertation, which he has already started under the guidance of Prem. Unlike his younger brothers, Edwin Dang does not have free time to rest and relax because of the Personality Assessment Sessions. Apart from the regular classes and Seminars, the therapy sessions followed by the presentations of the written report of those sessions to the Guide have kept him so busy that sometimes he seems to be almost invisible from the public domain. However, Edwin, Ravi, Kulwant and Biju Sebastian (DUM) take extra care to cajole him to come out of his room for tea breaks and for some surprise dinners. In reply, he happily takes care of the scullery.

Biju Sebastian, our RTC Ranchi Professor, has already submitted the argument of his Doctoral Thesis – *Midrashim by Jesus on the Decalogue in the Gospel according to Matthew*. With his determination, hard work and clear vision of the doctoral project, he hopes to complete his doctoral studies within the time allotted to him. All the best, Biju!

On 7th February, Sanjay Dilip, along with other Jesuits working in Vatican Radio, had gone for the Annual Sharing

to Palazzola, situated on the periphery of Rome. The group had a fruitful sharing on Jesuit involvement in the vision-mission of Vatican Radio. The Annual meeting was also an opportunity to bid farewell to the outgoing members and to welcome the new faces. Hindi Section had already given farewell to Ms. Juliet Christopher who retired on 29th December 2015 after rendering her valuable service to Vatican Radio for 28 years. She still continues to collaborate in various ways; Hindi Section will definitely miss her vast experience, punctuality, dedication and creativity. Meanwhile, Sr. Anugarh Minj, one of the Holy Cross nuns, has replaced her from 2 January. From the beginning, she has shown keen interest and enthusiasm in picking up the basics of composing, editing and recording news. Now, Vatican Radio is being restructured. On 29th February, P. Federico Lombardi stepped down from his post as Director General of Vatican Radio. He will continue to serve as the Director of the Vatican Press Office. However, since Vatican Radio is being merged with the Vatican Television Centre as part of the larger restructuring of all Vatican communications agencies, he will not be replaced by anyone.

Linus strongly feels that February was a month of abundant graces for him. As the news of the death of his mother Josphine Bara spread on 2 February, many wishes of condolences and prayerful support convinced him that the parents were gifts from God. He was already in Delhi when he received the sad news. On his arrival in Ranchi, he could experience the beauty of the tribal culture, when many generous people came forward to extend their helping hands, all free of cost. He could take part in the funeral of his mother in Noadih because of the support of the Jesuit communities, to which he belongs. From 11 February, he is able to eat and work normally, in spite of the dialysis, which in fact has become a new way of life for him. The Italian health care system has provided him all the facilities because of the health insurance. Although, he has to go twice a week for dialysis, he hopes to continue his mission with renewed strength and enthusiasm.

Fr Prem

Cambodia

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purti came back to Cambodia on 11th February after his tertianship in Sitagarh and home visit. Thanks to the members of Ranchi Jesuit curia Sadbhavna, members of the Immaculate Conception Parish Sarwada and Manresa house for making his stay in the province a

very happy and enriching one. He feels happy, energized and motivated to be back to his mission. He is given three months to polish his Khmer language and very specially to learn the language of the Buddhist monks and Khmer folk stories before taking up new assignment in June.

Fr. Manoj Ekka was very busy last month with many activities and events. He successfully arranged many medical camps in remote villages for medical assistance to the poor people of Cambodia. He is busy with the final and last touch of the construction works of the new Church and a house for the priest in his parish Nikum. The blessing of the new Church and the residence for priests is scheduled on 31st March. Fr. Manoj also prepared 7 catechumens for the second step to baptism on the occasion of Easter in March. Kudos Manoj. In spite of his busy schedule he found sometime to visit his benefactors and friends in Singapore from 25th February to 3rd March.

Fr. Rajat

Paris, France

As a community, we observed our community week-end. It included three activities: going out in groups, celebration of consecrated life with invitees and a one-day recollection. My group went out to be in the places of Ignatian importance in the city. Our superior himself was a tour guide. In the evening, we had Eucharistic celebration and fellowship dinner with invitees around 40 in number in order to celebrate our consecrated life with God and people. Some of the invitees also came along with some edibles. Thus, there was joy of sharing too. The next day, we began our one-day recollection with a short talk presented by one of us. The rest of the day we were in silence. Finally, we ended our community week-end with the Eucharist.

Fr. Samir

Salamanca

The month of February kept us busy with our regular Spanish classes. We were busy with B1 level of Spanish course, one step away from the requirement to start our theology in next academic year. On the 2nd February, Fr. Provincial of the Spanish Province came to the Juniorate community for his annual visitation. He was with us till 4th. Both of us got a chance to share our struggles with the new culture and atmosphere as well as our hardships to pick up new language. We somehow tried to express ourselves with our broken Spanish. At the end of our sharing we felt a little confident because we were able to

put our feelings in Spanish. On the 2nd, in the evening in the parish of San Jose, Sch. James received Ministerios Laicales in the presence of Fr. Provincial together with two other Scholastics of Spain.

On 11th we went to Villagarcia de Campos to make our triduum. This is the place which once upon a time was a novitiate, but now is converted into infirmary and retreat house. The house is occupied throughout the year for retreat by religious as well as laity. We finished our triduum on the 14th with renewal of our vows. On the 21st we had a short outing to Bejar with tertians. The main purpose of this outing was to see snowfall but unfortunately there was no snowfall on that day. On the 26th we had an exam in the language academy to clear B1 level which both of us cleared successfully and started our classes of B2 level from 29th.

Nowadays we are enjoying different dishes prepared by each scholastic because we don't have a cook. Our cook was operated upon in December and is still recovering. Each scholastic is getting a chance to prepare supper practically every week because we are just 8 scholastics in the juniorate community. Both of us too are trying to give an Indian taste to the community. We have lunch in another community.

Sch Anuj

Guyana

I, Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, have acclimatized myself to the new place and people. After two months of my stay over here, I have mixed feelings of happiness and anxiety. For the first time in life I felt home sick, longing to communicate with my family members, relatives and friends. The experience of North-East made me feel comfortable in the new mission. At the same time I have some apprehension with regard to the new mission since it is a new country, new people and new culture. The place, Berbice where I am assigned to as assistant Parish Priest is in a semi-urban area. In my Parish Christian population constitutes of Indo-Guyanese, Afro-Guyanese and Amerindians. The people are good and hospitable. They need to be strengthened in their faith life.

In the Region of North-West, Fr. Amar Bage had organized PLAs Training Programme and Commitment Day where 47 of them participated and 40 of them made their commitment to the church as Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and church helpers. It was a graceful moment for the lay leaders. Now the main focus is to

strengthen the structure as personnel (Parish Lay Assistants) and material (Church buildings) in the mission. In Georgetown, Fr. Anil Kishore, completed his Eucharistic Training courses in two parishes namely in B. V. Plaisance and St. Anthony’s Church Buxton. Indeed they will be a great help in his pastoral ministry. Fr. Elias Surin has just arrived from India refreshed and already involved in Easter

preparation in Pakaraima Mountains.

On February 29, the Diocese of Georgetown, celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Brickdam, Georgetown. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, DD.

Fr. Mark Mukul,

BIRTH DAY BABIES: MARCH & APRIL

MARCH

- 05 Kujur Frederick
Xess Ravi Bhushan
- 06 Lakra Ranjit Walter
Beng Albert
- 07 Kindo Alexius
- 10 Kujur Habil
- 11 Kullu Anil
- 14 K.C. Philip
- 16 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

- 02 Lakra Polycarp
Ekka Britius
- 04 Dungdung Anthres

- 06 Barla James
- 07 Doongdoong Anthony
Ekka Vital
Ekka Anthony
Kerketta Anand
- 08 Tete Felix Prakash
Orea Sudhir
- 09 Guria Cyril
Bara Pradeep
- 11 Toppo Alexius
- 12 Xess Angelus
Topno Nicholas
- 13 Tete James Pascal
- 14 Kiro Sylvanus
Xalxo Pius
Tirkey Justin
Toppo Binod
- 16 Mathias Joseph B.
Kerketta Ashok
- 18 Lakra Placidius
- 20 Kerketta Sikander
- 24 Bara Pramod
Kandulna Wilson
- 25 Kullu Santosh Vinay
- 26 Minj Francis
Toppo Amrit
- 29 Surin Zacharias
- 30 Baxla Emmanuel

**WISHING YOU ALL
MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY**