

RANCHI BULLETIN



77/3

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

MARCH 2018

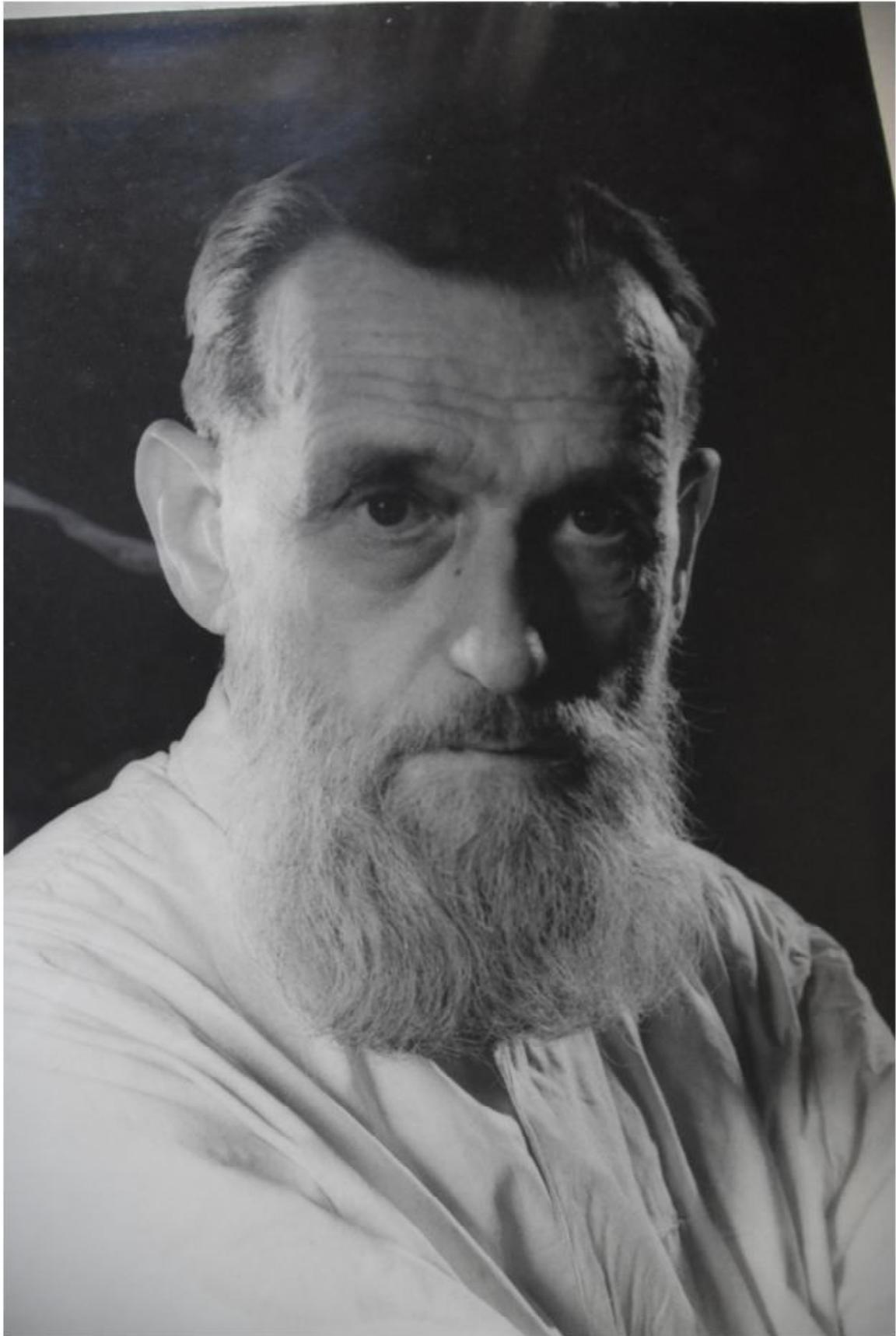
Province Events

1. The first visit of Rev. Father Vernon D’Cunha, SJ, to Ranchi Province as New Regional Assistant of South Asia took place from 7 March to 16 March 2018 arriving at 7.45 pm at Birsa Munda Airport, Ranchi, on Wednesday, 7 March and was accorded a warm welcome at the Airport by Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, and Fr. Raymond Kerketta, SJ, Socius.

He had a packed itinerary programme to visit and get to know practically 80% of our mainland communities. The first few days were given to visit the houses of Ranchi proper and the Ranchi Zone. Then the Father moved to Lohardaga and Gumla. The Gumla Zone was followed by Simdega and Khunti Zones consecutively. By then the Father suffered a bit from cold. 14 March was a historic day as the remains of Padma Bhashan Dr. Father Camil Bulcke were installed in the shrine made at St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi, in which Rev. Fr. Vernon was the guest of honour and spoke of the great contributions made by the Belgian Missionaries to the people of Jharkhand and India.

Rev. Fr. Vernon D’Cunha, SJ, Addressing the Ranchi Jesuits





Padma Bhushan Dr. Fr. Camil Bulcke, SJ

On the evening 15 March at Manresa House Rev. Fr. Vernon addressed the Fathers and Brothers of Ranchi Zone. He shared the mind of Rev. Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, as to what will be the Society of Jesus by 2030: a) our life should be inspiring rather than spacious, b) It is not what we do, but how we do it, c) Reach out to places where others do not reach or do not want to, d) Fidelity to creativity and a life of mission of reconciliation, and of course there was much more.

The next morning on 16 March the Father left by the morning flight to Kolkata. The Ranch Province thanks him for his cordial interaction and sharing.

2. Installation of the remains of Padma Bhushan Dr. Father Camil Bulcke, SJ

The mortal remains of Padma Bhushan Doctor Father Camil Bulcke, SJ, were solemnly installed at 10.30 am on 14 March 2018 at the shrine specially made at the entrance gate of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. On the previous day on 13 March 2018 the mortal remains were brought in great honour and respect from the Birsa Munda Airport to Manresa House where a grand reception ceremony took place and respectfully kept in the chapel of Manresa House for the night. Fr. Camil Bulcke had been buried in Delhi at the Nikolson Cemetery in 1982. Fr Ranjit Tigga, SJ, (MP), the director of the ISI, Delhi, Tribal Section, did all what was required to exhume them and ferry them to Ranchi.

The next day at 10.30 am on 14 March the Mortal remains of were solemnly and prayerfully reposed in the beautifully made shrine at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi in a function attended by the intelligentsia of Ranchi, his devoted students, College faculty, Fathers and Sisters of different institutions. Among the dignitaries were His eminence Cardinal Telephore P Toppo, DD, Fr Vernon D'Cunha, SJ, new Regional Assistant of South Asia, Rome, Professors from Delhi, Allahabad, and Ranchi Universities.

3. Ravi H. Kujur and Edwin Ritesh Dungdung will be ordained deacons at 4 pm, on Tuesday, on 3 April 2018, at the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus (Chiesa Del Gesu, Rome, by His Eminence Walter Cardinal Kasper, DD.

Manresa House

In the month of February, Manresa community was fortunate to have the two newly ordained priests; Fr. Rajesh Sandil, SJ and Fr. John Jyoti Kujur, SJ. They offered their first mass for the Manresa family and we felicitated them both. The Juniors lent a helping hand to St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, in the convocation ceremony and the Xavier Utsav, 2018. We thank Fr. Principal and his team for giving us the wonderful opportunity to take an active part as volunteers throughout the Xavier Utsav. A hearty congratulation to Sch. Francis Tirkey, who became the class topper in his class this year too!

On 10 February we welcomed Bro. Stephen Kandir as a new member in our community. On 11 February the Manresa family went to Rumutkel for the community picnic. Our thanks goes to Fr. Kamal Chandra Bage, SJ, Fr. Ignatius J. Tirkey, SJ, the Sacred Heart Sisters and the hostellers for their huge welcome accorded to us. On 12 February Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ was taken to Chennai for treatment accompanied by Br. Telesphore Horo and Fr.

John B. Dungdung. On 13 February we had a common birthday celebration in the community.

We entered into the Lenten Season with the Ash Wednesday. The community decided to abstain from meat and some other food as a part of penance throughout the Lenten Season. The old and sick members are exempted from this abstinence. Manresa House is taking an extra effort to store the rain water through the water harvesting system.

Schs. Sagar Xalxo, SJ & Robin Minj, SJ

St. Mary's High School, Samtoli

The month of February had been one of picnics. The Apostolic and hostel boys had their picnic in January and this month was for the community, the staff of both English Medium and Hindi Medium Schools. The staff of English Medium School went to Dobhaya Dam near Ram Rekha, the Hindi Medium staff went to the Sambalpur Dam and the community to the Arjun Dhoda, near the Thethaitangr Block.

It was a sad day for St. Xavier's College, Simdega as the husband of Mrs. Kanti, a Hindi Professor passed away in Gumla. Fr. Principal and four Professors went for the burial and the other professors went after the class.

The High School had a farewell programme for the students of classes X and XII. The students presented different programmes lasting two hours. The Principal, teachers and students wished them success in their exams.

Sr. Superior General and the Regional Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph's of Tarbes were in Simdega for 3 days on a visitation. During this time their school at Konmenjara was blessed. St. Mary's community thanked the Superiors for giving the Sisters to teach at the St. Mary's English Medium School.

The community was struggling to get a cook after she left for home in December. We got one but she could stay hardly 15 days and quietly disappeared. After more than a month finally we have gotten another one. Hope she will stay.

St. Xavier's Colleg, Simdega, organized a college fest, Xavier Utsav, on February 22–24. The fest was inaugurated on February 22 by the local MLA, Mrs. Bimla Pradhan and she presided over as the chief guest. The college fest provided an opportunity to students to develop their personality and their creative capacity. The college also organized the Academic and non-academic programmes, such as Essay writing, poem writing, collage Rangoli, T-shirt painting, face painting, chart paper painting and ex-tempore speeches, besides, the solo and group singing. The singing was both, modern and traditional. There were solo, folk and group dances. They were divided into modern and traditional dances. The students took active part in all the programmes. They overcame their hesitation and fear. On the last day there was the College Day. The chief guest was Dr. Amar Kr Choudhary, the Registrar of Ranchi University, Ranchi. In his message he said that St. Xavier's College is a blessing for the people of this area. It provides quality education to the youth. Then there was a Principal's report and prize distribution. At the end, there were a few cultural items. The programme was sponsored by the local benefactors. Fr. Bruno and the professors went round to get the benefactors. Congratulations to the staff and the students!

Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ

St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla

In the beginning of February, the salary revision meeting was held for AROUSE workers where they were also invited to participate. Fr. Xavier Soreng, SJ, guided us in the meeting. As all had conducted their Sports Day except the English Medium School, which had it on 3 February with a grand march past in which Manohar Khoya and Anuranjan Purty were the chief guests in relay. The Annual Governing Body Meeting of AROUSE and also the General Body Meeting took place on 5 February where Fr. Provincial, the President, was present. Fr. Leander Tirkey, SJ, (MAP) joined the Jivan Pravesh Team on 6 February. He will be staying in the community. February 9 was the World Volley Ball Day when a match was organized between the Apostolic School and the Hostel C. The local DSP was the Chief Guest. The former proved better. Just before the Lenten season began the staff of both Hindi and English Medium schools went on a picnic on 10th to the River Sankh on the way to Jokari Parish.

On 12 and 13 Fr. Ravi Bhushan and Fr. Rector went to Sitagarha, VTI (Holy Cross) and Ranchi Holy Cross Montessori looking for teachers for the English Medium School. They came back hopefully. Our Budget meeting took place on 19 February where all different units presented theirs and were discussed. They had to be submitted by 20th as per the schedule. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, penance and good works. In the same spirit the Apostolic Boys donated their old clothes to the orphanage, Khushmarna,, Dhundurua, Gumla and were reached there on 21 February. The inmates expressed their happiness and gratefulness.

In the herbal garden of AROUSE a statue is installed of a tribal girl carrying water pots. Fr. John and Fr. Rector tried to approach the Artist for some modifications to make it look like a truly tribal girl rather than as a fashion model. Since then he is untraceable. The AROUSE has got a big Project from PHIA Foundation for Chainpur Block. The head office in Chainpur town was inaugurated on 24th by the Director, Fr. Sylvanus and Fr. Rector. Sarvadharna Sadbhavna Manch of Gumla decided to celebrate the Holi Milan on 1st March. The Board exams of Class VIII were over and our final terms will be over on 5th March. The month end had two significant events in the

school: Mrs. Ajita lakra, an Asst. Teacher, retired from service and the Second was the Birthday of Sr. Swati, IBVM, on the 28th. We enjoyed the cake and ice-cream in her honour in spite of the lent.

Fr. Christopher Lakra, SJ

Loyola Chennai

Loyola College, College of Excellence completed the first continuous internal assessment and celebrated the Loyola Sports day on 16-17 February. The Loyola campus ministry organized the Candle Light Procession on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Loyola campus and the Annual Lenten Penitential Walk to St Thomas Mount for the staff and students. Our men at Loyola like Fr Francis David Kullu is always found occupied with his classes and assignments in LIBA. Sch. Valentine Sinduria completed his first continuous internal assessment and is busy with his regular classes. Fr. Ajay Minj is working very hard in “Fuzzy logy”, his mathematical Ph. D. research topic to establish his theory. Fr Erenius Toppo is almost finishing his Ph. D. research on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). He has submitted his Ph. D. synopsis to the University of Madras and is writing his thesis. He expects to submit it by the month of May before the “Ranchi Province Days 2018” and will return to the province.

Loyola College celebrated Loyola Research Day 2018 in commemoration of the National Science Day 2018 and the Padma Vibhushan Prof. M.S. Swaminathan graced the occasion as the chief guest. On this occasion the Ph. D. research supervisors and the Ph. D. research scholars were awarded for their excellent achievements and contributions to the larger human society. Fr. Aajyas, a Ph. D. research scholar, won the award by receiving the prestigious scholarship from the Government of India for the year 2017-2018. Fr. Erenius as a Ph. D. research scholar received the award for his research publications scoring above 10 impact factor. Frs. Ajay and Erenius were delighted to receive the awards from Padma Vibhushan Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.

Fr. Erenius accompanied Fr. John Berchmans and Br. Telesphore Horo for the treatment of Fr. Ignatius Xalxo for his compressive myelopathy OPLL, a spinal cord complex. He was air lifted from Ranchi to Chennai on

a wheel chair and was taken to CMC, Vellore by road. He was diagnosed on time, but the surgery date fixed by the hospital was 4 July 2018. This date seemed very long to wait. So he was brought back to Loyola College community and then was admitted to SIMS Hospital on 27 Feb 2018. Dr. Suresh Babua, a senior neurosurgeon performed a successful surgery on 28 February 2018. Fr Ignatius Xalxo has gone back now to Manresa House, Ranchi and seeks our prayers for his speedy recovery.

Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ

Guyana

The February 11 is an important day for Hosororo Catholic Church as it is dedicated to our lady of Lourdes. The Community had a good preparation with novena prayers. People from different communities came to join the celebration and had the Holy Mass having celebrated by all three priests together, Fr. Malcolm, Fr. Stephen and Fr. Amar Bage as the main celebrant. The good and beautiful thing of the people here is that they love to come together on such occasions for joint celebrations. We pray that the people continue with this spirit of unity to grow in the faith and love of Jesus our Lord to praise and worship together with one heart and mind.

However, this was the feast day and joyful celebration, but we, the people of this mission, were sad as well because two energetic, loving and caring priests - Fr Malcolm and Fr Stephen, who served the people of the North-West, were leaving us to be available to some other mission areas. The people were very grateful for their valuable and loving service. As a sign of appreciation after the Holy Mass they shared snacks and meals with each other which they had generously contributed. They also staged a programme and performed well enjoyed by all. At the end, both Fr. Malcolm and Fr. Stephen encouraged the congregation to keep up the faith alive and to work together as the loving children of God.

In January a seminar was organized in Guyanato to reflect on the Caribbean context for the formation of a new Caribbean Province. There were about 48 participants from different Caribbean Provinces. It was felt that the seminar was useful and successful.

Fr Mark Mukul will be soon assigned to a new mission and Fr Anil is busy with his paper work alone in his busy schedule of pastoral work to go to Spain to participate in the Ignatian Immersion Course starting from 22 April 2018 to 3 June 2018.

Fr. Amar Bage, SJ

Jesuit Bhavan (Curia) & Gana Chetana Samaj, Tezpur:

In February all the community members concentrated in their office works. Fr. Pius Xalxo came back from Ranchi on 1 February after completing the works related to the land issue of the Franciscan Fathers in Harmu. Then he was called to officiate in the Annual Parish Sabha of Manas Bansbari on 4 February. Therefore, he left on 3rd itself and stayed at Mushalpur Jesuit Community and together with them he went to Manas Bansbari for the programme.

The Gana Chetana Samaj launched a new project, Career Guidance, for the Adivasi and Tribal College Students on 2nd at Tezpur and on 3rd at St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel. Then the Curia Jesuit members, co-workers and the staff of Gana Chetan Samaj, were off to an Annual Picnic in Seajusa, Arunachal Pradesh on 10 February. Fr. Thomas Barla made a visit to Mushalpur, Manas Bansbari and Kathalguri to see the project works from 13th to 16th. He was quite satisfied to see the works progressing in all these places with the help and support of the Fathers. The people were happy to see Fr. Thomas in their villages and requested him to visit them often.

The relatives of Fr. Anupchand Kiran Minj visited North East States from 14th to 18th. He had gone to Guwahati to receive them and guide them. On 20th the disputed land measurement of St. John's School, Balipara, took place by the Mondals and the Gaon Burhas. Frs. Pius, Anup, Xavier, Ranjit and all the community members of Balipara were present to settle it, but the Mondals were unable to locate the disputed land exactly. So it remained unsettled. The Jesuit Fathers of three communities in Tezpur once again gathered to discuss about the settlement of this particular land. They have finalized some steps to go by in its settlement.

Fr. Thomas Barla, S.J.

Spain

On 3 February five Jesuit scholastics were ordained deacons. Among whom two were from the Spanish Province, two from Africa (Cameroon) and one from Italy. The next day various Masses were arranged for their first homilies which were held at different Jesuit Parishes. It was a great feeling hearing them from the Pulpit. This day was also dedicated to their families who were present to witness the great event.

On 11th Anuj celebrated his birthday in his community. James was invited to cook some Indian dishes. All came out well and the people enjoyed themselves.

The Lenten Season made its mark as in the Jesuit institutions and pastoral fields the emphasis was on Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving and these were introduced in a very practical way. The basis of the life of Jesus was touched upon who himself lived and shared these divine qualities with the people.

As per the request of Fr. Superior General Arturo Sosa, SJ, we, all Jesuits in formation, brought ourselves together into a process of discernment about the **Universal Apostolic Preferences**. The first step was initiated in our respective communities wherein with the reference to the letter of Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach (January 1, 2003, later ratified by CG 35) we, shared our personal views regarding the five preferences indicated in the letter. The second step of this process was held after one week where all the formation communities got together to prepare a response to the letter of Fr. General. After having gone through the individual and collective work each group came out with some selective preferences which were dominantly put forward by the individuals. The third and the final step will be among the members of the formation commission who would be presenting a report to the Provincial who later will incorporate it into the response to Fr. General.

Sch. Anuj Kr Minj, SJ

Prothrapur

None of us in the diocese of Port Blair can forget the date 31 January 2017, when we lost our most beloved friend Rev. Father Evans in an accident. Though it was a death anniversary, but due to the feast day of St. Don Bosco, it was shifted to 1 February 2018. The Holy Mass was

arranged at Stella Maris Cathedral, Port Blair and Fr. Dinesh, a diocesan priest very close to Fr. Evans and also from Mangalore was the main celebrant. Fr. Edward Kerketta represented the Prothrapur parish.

On 4 February Fr. David went to Chidiyatapu accompanied by the pastoral sisters, Srs. Rosa and Sudha and the parish Mahila Sangh committee members for the Holy Eucharist. They organized games for the children, youth, mothers and abbas as they did not have a chance during the Christmas Season. This also provided an opportunity for the committee members to hold a meeting with the mothers and discuss certain issues relating to Mahila Sangh, family life and children.

Fr. Antony Andarde, SJ, returned to Port Blair safely on 7 February after completing his missionary journey visiting Campell Bay, Katchal and Kamorta Islands. It was a 48 hour tedious sea voyage stopping at 5 islands. The longest sea journey so far he narrates. He halted one night at Car Nicobar Island and then proceeded to Port Blair. Thanks to God all went off well!

Usually, Fr. Tony likes to come to Prothrapur to be with the Jesuit friends to share his experiences and also to take rest a little after a hard work, but we regret our inability to give him a comfortable accommodation.

One day seminar was organized on 10 February for the Crusveer and the Bal Sangh in the parish with instructions, revision of prayers, action songs and group discussions and the Sisters, Rosa and Sudha, made them aware of their role in the Church. It was a preparation for the Holy childhood day on 11 February. The theme was "Children help Children". Fr. David explained to them the background of the Holy Childhood Day to be a part of it effectively. Finally, they went to Chidiyatapu for a picnic where they had group games and other activities enjoying them thoroughly.

The Dream of Port Blair Diocese is to bring transformation and renewal in the Church and the faithful through SCC (Small Christian Community). Consequently, it is mandatory that every member of the diocese has to be a member of SCC wherever anyone is. From time to time an evaluation is made and action plan is drawn. The Diocesan SCC team consisting of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition, SJA, visit them to assist and guide them.

Srs. Marita, Rajini and Secunda availed themselves to make a trip to Prothrapur from 12 February to 20

February 2017 for the same purpose and visited the houses of the SCCs during the day and in the evening gathered the people for evaluation, instruction, guidance and the Holy Eucharist each day. After a week of hard labour they sounded positive as it is an ideal parish because the people are interested and ready to face the challenges too. Finally, the Fathers and the pastoral sisters had an evaluation and sharing session with the SCC diocesan team on 20 February. We extend our sincere thanks for their great effort to bring the faithful together. Though we face various practical problems, there are occasions when we try to strengthen the SCC, such as by celebrating the feast of its patron saint and make continued efforts with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

De Nobili College, Pune

The month of February began with the continuation of the POSA visitation. We had study group Holy masses on 5 February in different groups. On 9 February we had a recollection which helped us to look into ourselves as to where we stand today as religious. We had the Diaconate Ordination on 18 February of fifteen deacons belonging to different provinces. From our central zone there were two deacons, Kuldeep Bara from MP Province and Sudhir Ekka from Dumka Raiganj Province. We had an Ignatiana talk with the theme "Today's education and its challenges" given by a Jesuit studying at JDV from Gujarat Province. 28 February was the last usual class day for us philosophers.

Sch. Ruben Xalxo, SJ

Munich, Germany

The month of February brought us a lot of snowfall and biting cold. We did not have classes, but were busy with our assignments. We call it "Proseminar Arbeit" where we have to write a paper on particular topic. Both of us were busy with it.

On 12 February from both our Formation Communities, Alberto Hurtado and Gonzaga, went for a Bowling. It was a memorable evening for both of us. We relished the companionship. Oh! What a fun we had together! That was one of the simplest games ever played. For us tribals "Any game is just a name."

On 17 February we attended a Diaconate ceremony of three Scholastics from German Province in Berlin. One of the Scholastics to be ordained was from Sameer's Community Hurtado. The ceremony was held at St. Canisius Church, Berlin. The Church was full. Everything went off smoothly.

Once in a semester we have a Formation Course here. This time towards the end of the month (26-28 Feb.) we had a two-day Course on "Time Management and Use of Media." It was arranged by Fr. Reudiger Funiok, SJ. He is a moderator for Scholastics in Formation in Munich. We were 7 Scholastics. This course was not so much about planning; rather it was more of a Self-Knowing. On the first evening we got a chance to share about our Land Jharkhand. The Scholastics enjoyed listening to our stories and our way of life. We also explained a bit about elephants, bears, monkeys and snakes. They were so surprised to hear such stories. We have tempted them to visit Jharkhand.

Sch. Sameer Ekka, SJ

IRELAND

Brigit is the second patron saint of Ireland whose feast we celebrated on 1 February. She is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. On 3 February, on the feast day of St. Blaise, Fr. Kevin Churchill presided over the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, concelebrating at the Morning Star, Dublin, when the blessing of the throat with the crossed candle was given.

Out of 11 Tertiaries 6 of us chose to remain in Ireland for ten weeks long pastoral experiments at different parishes, boarding Schools, homeless centres and old age homes. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, was accompanying the homeless people at Morning Star, Dublin. We paid a short visit to our companions Fr. Peter Paul, SJ and Fr. Oleksii Bredeleiv, SJ, who were rendering their service to the poor and homeless in Capuchin's Soup Kitchen in the Church Street Dublin where six hundred poor people were served food every day. Fr. Jean Claude, SJ, was rendering his service to the ageing and ailing Irish Jesuits in Cherry Field, Milltown, Dublin. Fr. Jan Van De Poll, SJ, the Tertian Instructor, was in Holland, his home country, for his holidays. Fr. Pavol Trgo, SJ, was serving the mentally and

physically Challenged people in Spitak, Armenia, with the Missionaries of Charity. Fr. Michel Lessard, SJ, was serving the homeless people in Marseille, France. Fr. Gabriel Khairallah, SJ, was accompanying the homeless people with the Sisters of Mercy in Edinburg, Scotland. Fr. Niccolo Steiner, SJ, was assisting the Parish Priest in St. Brigit's Parish Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK and Fr. Andrew Downing, SJ, was serving as Chaplain in the College in Jersey City, USA.

On 8 February on the memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita, the International Day of prayer and awareness against Human Trafficking was observed. Each year around 2.5 million people are victims of trafficking and slavery. Fr. Paul Pace, SJ, the Tertian Instructor was accompanying a group of Sisters who work with the trafficked women in Northern Greece. Then he proceeded to Albania, to preach a retreat. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, along with Mr. Brian, Mr. David and Mr. Donald from Morning Star visited the Tallaght Hospital, Cookstown and Mater Hospital, Dublin and administered the sacraments.

On 14 February the Ash Wednesday was conducted in a very meaningful and devotional way. Fifteen of us, from the Morning Star Hostel, the home for the homeless, went to Vartry Reservoir in Roundwood, Wicklow Mountain, as a pilgrimage and walked one round the lake which is 8 kilometres. Fr. Zong Jiang, SJ and Fr. Elias Surin, SJ participated in the Chinese New Year celebration at St. Patrick's Seminary, Maynooth, Kildare on 16 February. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Huang Lee, a Tibetan and Frs. Paul, Joseph, Andrew, Zong Jiang and Elias Surin concelebrated. Thanks to Ms. Gabriela and Fr. Paul for providing us sumptuous dinner with a Chinese Cuisine!

On 18-19 February 27th Divine Mercy Annual Conference was held on the theme "Courage, it is I. Be not afraid." (Mt. 14:27) in the Main Hall, RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, where 4000 faithful actively participated. The main Speakers were – Mr. Ralph Martin, Renewal Ministries, USA, Fr. Eunan Mc Donnell, SDB, Mrs. Caroline Simons, Pro-Life Speaker and Fr. Sean Kelly, OFM. On 18 February, in the evening, His Eminence Diarmund Martin, DD, the Archbishop of Dublin and Prelate of Ireland, presided over the Holy Eucharist.

On 28 February Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, along with Mr. John Bradley, the President of the Legion of Mary, visited the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity in 223 South Circular Road, Merchants Dublin. Thanks to Sr. Stella, MC, the Superior of the community and the four Sisters for their warm hospitality and also to Mr. John Bradley for inviting me to his home in Liexlip in Kildare, to have a scenic view of the heavy snow fall for a week and it engulfed the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

Rome

Ravi Hemant and Edwin Ritesh finished their Fifth Semester exams on 9 February. They had toiled hard during the exam period to do their best in as many as 7 Papers. As per the tradition of Gesù Community, both had to go out of Rome with their Living Groups to rest and relax before the start of the next Semester. Ravi went to Palermo (Sicily) and Edwin went to Ravenna. They spent their time fruitfully in sharing their experiences, joys, sorrows and plans as part of the community building. They also utilized their time in visiting some places noted for their religious, cultural and historical importance.

As far as the exams are concerned, Edwin Dang has already completed all the academic requirements. However, his counseling sessions and report writing keep him busy even during the weekends. He has helped his classmates to create a closely knit group to share and to evaluate their experiences from the ongoing sessions. He has already moved into the final semester of his psychological studies in the Institute of Psychology. Compared to his younger Jesuit companions Ravi and Edwin, Kulwant had less exams; but since all the First Semester courses were basics, he had to devote his full time and energy to go deeper into the fundamental concepts and precepts of Canon Laws. After a long time, six Jesuits from different Provinces are studying Canon Laws and hence, Kulwant has some good opportunities for group studies and discussions. After the exams, the Bellarmino Community members were blessed by the presence of R.P. Juan Antonio Guerrero, Delegate of R.P. General to the International Houses, amidst them. He was with them for the Canonical Visit. At the conclusion of the Canonical Visit, he expressed his satisfaction over the prevailing

communitarian spirit, the dedication of the students to the mission of study and serious research assigned to them in Rome and the collaboration among them. Thanking each and every one, he exhorted the community members to make improvement in some important areas, such as, assimilation of the Documents of GC36 in day-to-day life and activities, enhancement of interpersonal relationships, and integration of rich internationality and interculturality into their study and research. Both Edwin and Kulwant feel fortunate to be part of a community of around 70 Jesuits, who belong to almost 30 different Provinces, and that speaks a lot about the international and intercultural character of the community.

Linus is recovering fast within the premise of Gregorian Infirmary after the Kidney Transplant on 16 November 2017. The Sisters of the Infirmary are taking a very good care of him. During the third week of February, he had on-and-off high fever, and hence, he was readmitted to the hospital on 26 February for a better care and close medical observations. The visitors from outside the Gregorian Community are still discouraged to visit him. His spirit remains high and full of vigour. His next medical checkup is scheduled for 26 March. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

The busy and often hectic schedule of Ranchi Jesuits in Rome does not prevent them to come together. The student body comprising of Ravi Hemant, Edwin Dang, Kulwant Minj and Biju Sebastian (DUM) went to the Benedictine Monastery of Montecassino and the Split Mountain of Gaeta on 10 February to celebrate the successful conclusion of the First Semester of the current Academic Year. Edwin Ritesh could not join them because he had already left for Ravenna with his Living Group for the Semester break. On his return, all the Ranchi Jesuits came together in Collegio Gesù on 17 February to celebrate Ravi's birthday. During the Holy Mass in the Room of St. Ignatius special prayers were offered for the needs of the Province. The Agape meal followed by the Holy Mass set the tone for the Second Semester, which began on 19 February. Exactly after one week, all were excited to see the snowfall in Rome on 26 February after almost 6 years. The classes were cancelled due to the snowfall, and hence, all had enough time to play and enjoy on the terraces and in the pebbled streets of Rome.

Our two Ranchi Scholastics – Ravi Hemant and

Edwin Ritesh – will be ordained Deacon on Tuesday 3 April by His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper in Gesù Church. Hearty Congratulations and best wishes to Ravi and Edwin!

All Ranchi Jesuits in Rome wish all the Province men a very Happy and Blessed Easter! Let us move forward with the joy of the Risen Lord.

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

St. Stanislaus' High School, Lohardaga

Changes are unavoidable. So we are marching through a combination of rooting-uprooting, construction-destruction, health-ailment, love-hate and consolation-desolation towards the goal we have set for the greater glory of God.

We have destroyed and demolished the living trees and the old structures to plant and produce new creation and new creatures. Protruding atelier for wooden art, craft, painting cum research and squealing hustle-bustle of the kids in Bilingual School are their indicators in Lohardaga. Plans of infrastructures for plus 2/Intermediate and Social Work Centre will broaden the spirit to accommodate more and widen the scope to reach out to many villages and people.

Health status of the community members was comparatively low. Fr. Ignatius Xalxo was bitten by the biting cold in January that controlled his mobility. Now he is under the care and supervision of Br. Telesphore Horo who has taken him to Vellore, then to Chennai for an operation. Thanks to Br Telesphore and the Jesuit Community in Chennai! Fr. Tej Kumar Linda and Sch. Priyatam Lakra were down with typhoid, but the oral victuals and injections strengthened them both to take care of the hostellers and other concerns in the school. Br.

Nicolas due to a knee-trouble is unable to kick-start his bike and is suggested to avoid giving jerks to his knees. Fr. Alexius Dungdung is trying to avoid some of the intakes he likes to bring down his sugar count to the optimum. Fr. Sheel doubts his strength and stamina. A good number of hostellers also paid a visit to Ursula Hospital. However, the community's morale is high.

The parish day celebration on 11 February brought the faithful together to cherish togetherness. Sch. Priyatam and his team of students led the choir for the Eucharistic celebration. The 8th standard students of our school wrote their board exams for the first time and the 10th standard students and the teachers are preparing for the board exams next month.

Fr. Sushil and his team in AROUSE, Lohardaga are trying to reach out to villages and the villagers to inform and empower them to obtain their entitlements as per the National Food Security Act 2013. A number of Members of Women Self Help Groups come together under Soyang Mahila Federation to address their socio-economic issues. Members of the farmer clubs are also trying to tap the resources provided by Government agencies. At the same time AROUSE Lohardaga is waiting for the findings of the Impact Study of the activities of the Lok Manch and Jan Netritwa Pahal programmes that will help us to introspect efficiency and effectiveness.

Towards the end of the month Fr. Florence Kujur, SJ, the Principal of St. John's High School and Fr. George Kerketta, SJ, the Province Development Director paid a surprise visit to boost the morale of their brethren in Lohardaga and to assess the progress of the activities.

Fr Sushil Tirkey, SJ

Obituary of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ

Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, (17 June 1953 - 12 March 2018)

Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, was born on 17 June 1953 in a village close to Simdega town called Samtoli. His father was Mr. Antony Ekka and mother, Mrs. Julia Minj. He was the youngest child among three sisters and four brothers. His father being a respected teacher of his time and one of the first tribal graduates took special care and interest in educating young Peter Paul. He was sent to St. Anne's Primary School under Samtoli Parish in the year 1959 and then moved on to St. Mary's Middle School to successfully complete his studies up-to the seventh standard in the year 1966.

At this young age he heard Jesus calling him to become a priest which he had yet to understand. With this thought in his young mind he went to the Apostolic School, Gumla, for his high school education and got admission in the eighth

standard in the year 1967. He was very good in studies and also in football. He was a star player of the winning school team in his high school days. He passed his matric examinations in the year 1971 with Science as his main subject. Having an interest in Science he successfully completed his I. Sc. in the first division in the year 1973.

He decided to join Ranchi Jesuit Province and went to St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha, Hazaribag in 1973 to join the Jesuit Novitiate there. In those days St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha was a part of the Ranchi Province. After two years of rigorous training he pronounced his first vows in the Society of Jesus on 21 June 1975.

After completing his Juniorate in Sitagarha in 1976 he came to Ranchi to pursue his studies of B.Sc. Honours in Chemistry from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, which he successfully completed with flying colours in 1978.

His intelligence and capability in intellectual pursuits drew the attention of his superiors and so he was sent to **Loyola College, Madras** in 1979 to pursue his Masters degree in Chemistry. He completed his **M. Sc. in Chemistry** in the first class in 1981 and went to De Nobili College, Pune, for philosophy. He completed his philosophy in 1983 and was put at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi to teach Chemistry as a regent for a year 1983-84.

After his regency in the college, he was sent for theological studies to Vidya Jyoti, Delhi for four years from 1984 to 1987. He was ordained priest on 29 April 1987 at the Samtoli Church along with his three Jesuit companions and two diocesans. They were ordained by the Archbishop Telesphore P. Toppo, DD, later elevated to the office of the Cardinal. He was to be a lecturer in Chemistry at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi and so to make him intellectually more equipped the superiors sent him to Marquette University, Milwaukee, USA. After spending one year there he came back to his Alma Mater, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi in 1988 to be formally appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry.

Since 1988 he served the Department of Chemistry and St. Xavier's College, Ranchi in different capacities for twenty eight long years till his superannuation in 2017. During his long service at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, he took a break in 1994-95 in order to complete the last Jesuit training - tertianship, which he did at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha. He pronounced his final vows on 8 September 2000.

At St. Xavier's College, Ranchi he shouldered the responsibilities of *Registrar from 1995 to 2000*, then was elevated to the post of *Vice-Principal of the College in 2000*. He continued to be the *Vice-Principal till 2012*. He was freed from this responsibility and was allowed to devote his full time to the Department of Chemistry of which he was made the Head of the Department. He did justice to this last responsibility *from 2012 to June 2017*. In this span of his life he was *awarded Ph.D. in Chemistry in the year 201 by the Ranchi University*.

After his retirement from *St. Xavier's College* and seeing his qualification and experience in teaching he was sent to *St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Assam*, a new college started by the *Ranchi Province, Assam Mission*. He was entrusted the responsibility of **the Principal** there. He took it very responsibly and within a short period of time of his Principal's tenure he obtained the initial recognition for the college from the government and the concerned University Authorities in Assam. Now the students of the college can write their examinations in their home centre at St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Assam. Earlier they had to go to some other college to write their university examinations, which was very inconvenient for the students as well as the College itself. That was one of his achievements by him for the Ranchi Jesuit Society, Assam Mission. He shouldered the responsibility of the Principal of St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Assam till his last breath.

Dr. Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, was known for his Hindi stories and novels. He has a number of publications to his credit. There are a number of young Hindi research scholars who are doing research on the writings of Dr. Fr. Peter Paul. One of his stories has been included in the University curriculum of ***Mahatma Gandhi Antar Rashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Wardha***. Towards the end of his life he had written some stories which he wanted to publish but his wish remained unfulfilled. He also has received some awards for his writings and other contributions. All these are available in the internet-site of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ.

He also had a great interest in photography. He had been invited for some special photography programme of the international level in the coming month but before that, God called him to his heavenly reward.

Dr. Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, was a man of few words but was a good Jesuit, faithful in his prayers. He used to spend time for his personal prayers, rosary and mass. May the soul of this faithful servant find a place in the kingdom of Our Lord Jesus! May God bless each one of those who were close to Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, and left an empty space in their life by his sudden demise!

Fr. Vinod Kumar Bilung, S.J

Remember them in your prayers

1. Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ, 64/44, Ranchi Province, 12 March 2018
2. Fr. Valerian Vaz SJ, 65/42, (Bom) 5 March 2018
3. Fr. Joseph Pinto, SJ, (Goa), 87/66, 8 March 2018.

A HAPPY BIRTH DAY!

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 Dungdung Christopher
Tirkey John
- 17 Barla Henry
- 19 Horo Sibil Joseph
Soreng Jaywant
- 21 Lakra Benedict
Beck Anand Amar
- 23 Bilung Brice
- 24 Kullu Ranjit
- 25 Soreng George
- 27 Tete Nicholas
- 29 Kiro Benedict

APRIL

- 02 Lakra Polycarp
Ekka Britius
- 03 Minj Praveen
- 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
Kullu Praveen
- 12 Xess Angelus
Topno Nicholas
- 13 Tete James Pascal
- 14 Kiro Sylvanus
Xalxo Pius
Tirkey Justin
Toppo Binod
Tete Seberius
- 15 Ekka Ravindra
- 16 Mathias Joseph B.
Kerketta Ashok
- 18 Lakra Placidus
- 20 Kerketta Sikander
- 22 Kandulna Wilson
- 24 Bara Pramod
- 25 Kullu Santosh Vinay
- 26 Minj Francis
Toppo Amrit
- 29 Surin Zacharias
- 30 Baxla Emmanuel