

# RANCHI BULLETIN



77/5-6 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand MAY-JUNE 2018

## Fr. Provincial's Programme

### June

- June 5-12 : Annual Retreat  
 June 21 : Jharna-Ashiwad : First Vows of the Novices  
 June 22-25 : Bangalore-Preparatory meeting of the celebration of 200 years of Br. Alphonsus Rodriguez  
 June 27-29 : Kolkata

### STATUS-1 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Institution &amp; Residence</u>
<b><u>Houses &amp; Institutions</u></b>		
1. P Ba'a Theodore	Treasurer, assists Principal in office work, in charge properties	Degree College, Sonabheel
2. Dcn Ba'a Roshan	Treasurer & Ministry in Catholic Church Kanke	St. Xavier's Comm. & College, Ranchi
3. P Barla Henry	Teaching in the Novitiate & giving retreats	Jharna-Ashirvad, Namkum
4. P Barwa Solomon	Director & Hostel In charge	ATC, Namkum
5. P Dang Edwin	Socius to Novice Master	Ashirvad Novitiate, Namkum W.E.F 1 July 2018
6. P D'Souza Gilbert	Spiritual Guide of the Scholastics	Manresa House, Ranchi
7. PDungdung Albert	Prays for the Church and the Society	Manresa House, Ranchi
8. P. Dungdung Samir	Superior (Additional charge)	Jesuit Residence & Parish, Tongo
9. Dcn Dungdung Edwin Ritesh	Lectures & ministry in Catholic Church Patrachauli	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
10. P Ekka Deonis	Treasurer, Asst. teacher & prepares for B.Ed.	Inigo High School, Saporom
11. P Guria Cyril	Treasurer	Assam Mission, Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur (Assam)

12. P Horo Sibil	In charge of Studio, Library & Museum	AROUSE, Gumla
13. P Kerketta Camil	Director LTC & RB Editor	Sadbhavna, Provincial Curia, Ranchi
14. F Kerketta Stephen	In charge Garden, Coll. Chapel	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
15. P Kiro Laurentus	Superior & Principal	Manas Bansbari (Assam)
16. P Kujur Ernest	Treasurer	Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa
17. Dcn Kujur Ravi Hemant	Treasurer SXC Simdega & ministry in Cath. Ch. Rengarih	St. Xavier's College, Simdega
18. P Kujur John Jyoti	DTP/Designing	Catholic Press/Manresa House, Ranchi
19. P Kujur Sudhir	Professor	RTC, Tarunoday, Borea
20. P Kullu Ferdinand	Superior & teacher	ATC & Jivan Deep, Pre-Novitiate, Namkum w.e.f. 1 July 2018
21. P Kullu Rajesh	Treasurer & Parish Priest	Manas Bansbari (Assam)
22. P Lakra Ranjit	Acting Superior & Asst. Science teacher	St. Stanislaus' High School, Lohardaga
23. P Lugun Bipin	Asst. Dir., Satya Bharati & M.A. Mass Com (IGNOU)	Manresa House, Ranchi
24. P Minj Ajay Prakash	Treasurer/ Internal Revisor &+ Asst. Treasurer XISS, Ranchi	St. Ignatius School & AROUSE, Gumla
25. P Minj Erentius	CZEB & PCE	Manresa House, Ranchi
27. P Soreng Pradeep	Asst. Treasurer & Asst. teacher & M.A. (IGNOU)	St. Xavier's School, Doranda
27. P Soreng Ajay	Superior (Additional charge)	Sadbhavna, Provincial Curia Ranchi
26. P Tete Nicholas	Sabbatical (for six months)	
27. P Turkey Vijay Manohar	Acting Province Treasurer	Sadbhavna, Provincial Curia, Ranchi
28. P Kujur Florence	Deputy Secretary, PCE (Add)	St. John's HS, Ranchi
29. F Kandir Stephen	Acting In charge, Infirmary	Manresa House, Ranchi
30. P Dungdung John	Headmaster, Middle School	Catholic Church, Dolda

### **Schools & College**

1. P Ba'a Ephrem	Acting Principal	St. Xavier's College, Simdega
2. P Barla Emmanuel	Principal	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
3. P Bilung Vinod	Registrar	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
4. P Ekka Anthony	Headmaster, Middle School & Asst. Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Dolda
5. P Ekka Philemon	Principal	St. Mary's HS & Inter-College, Samtoli
5. P Kerketta Anand	B.A. Section & assists in Administration	St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel
6. P Kujur Augustine	Acting Principal	St. Xavier's Inter-College, Bundu
7. P Kujur Robert Pradeep	Vice-Principal, Commerce Dept., Vocational Courses & in charge of SXC Properties	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

8.	P Lakra Nabor	Acting Rector & Vice-Principal, Arts & Science Depts. & Evening College	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi
9.	P Linda Tej Kumar	Asst. Teacher	Loyola High School, Khunti
10.	P Minj Damian Cosmos	Asst. Teacher in +2	St. Mary's High School, Samtoli
11.	P Purty Zacharias	Headmaster, Middle School	Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa
12.	P Saras Ajit	Director, Apostolic School & Asst. Teacher	St. Mary's High School, Samtoli
13.	P Sandil Rajesh	Vice-Principal & Asst. Hostel Prefect	St. Xavier's Inter-College, Ranchi
14.	P Tete Isaac	Acting Principal	St. John's High School, Dorea
16.	P Tirkey John	Headmaster	St. Peter's High School, Tongo
15.	P Toppo Suman	Asst. Teacher, St. Xavier's HS & Asst. Parish Priest	Catholic Church Sarwada
16.	P Sandil Ashok	Lecturer, Degree College(Add)	St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel
17.	P Toppo Erenius	Vice-Principal	St. Xavier's College, Simdega
16.	P Xalxo Isaac	Acting Principal	Loyola HS/Inter College, Khunti

### **Parishes**

1.	P Kindo Robert	Asst. Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Sogra
2.	P Kullu Clement	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Noadhi
	Sadbhavna, Ranchi		Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, S.J.
	Date: 25.5.2018		Provincial Superior

Note: 1) Unless otherwise indicated, all transfers should take place latest by 15 June 2018.

2) Kindly make sure that a list of inventories is given at the time of handing over and any project or matter that needs to be followed up, is properly indicated and signed by two witnesses.

3) Kindly make sure that all the Accounts & Records are up-to-date at the time of handing over.

### **REMINDER & INFORMATION BY FR. SOCIUS:**

#### **1. EDUCATION DATA :**

All the Headmasters/Principals/Parish Priests of our schools, including Primary Schools, are kindly requested to send the Education Data to Fr. Socius, Sadbhavna, Provincial Curia as early as possible in the soft copy.

Contact Email: [ransjsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ransjsoc@gmail.com)

#### **2. ANNUAL RETREAT FOR OUR PASTORS:**

**Annual retreat for our Pastors has been arranged from September 8 eve to 16 morning 2018** at Jharna- Spirituality Centre, Namkum. Others too are welcome. Kindly book your seat ahead of time. Contact persons:

**1. Fr. Lalit John Tigga, S.J, Coordinator of Pastoral Commission – Mobile No. 9905108903**

**2. Fr. Raymond Kerketta, SJ, Socius – Mobile No. 7549133149**

#### **3. Matric Board and Intermediate results:**

Principals and Headmasters are requested to send their school and Intermediate results in the soft copy to Fr. Socius without delay:

Contact Email: [ransjsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ransjsoc@gmail.com)

## PROVINCE DAYS 2018

Ranchi Province Days 2018 was held from 21 May evening to 24 noon and the theme was “Our Mission today: Challenges and Response.” The first day started with Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, placing **the state of the Province**, followed by the presentation of Fr. Roland S. Coelho, SJ, Provincial of Goa on “Universal Apostolic Preferences.” In the afternoon Fr. Savarimuthu, SJ and Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ, spoke on “Walking with the struggling people: current situation in Jharkhand.”

The next day was the turn of Fr. Lancy Lobo, SJ, Director, Centre for Culture & Development, Vadodara, Gujarat, on “Idea of India from Nehru to the present Day India.” “REGAE – Restructuring for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness” was taken up by Fr. Francis Minj. There were group discussions on the current issues of Jharkhand, first Holy Mass by the newly ordained priests of the Province and dinners to lighten the gathering. There were 282 members of the Province who took part in the gathering.

### Manresa House

In March the Manresa Juniors participating in a hockey tournament hosted by Loyola Hostel, Ranchi. Of the Manresa-Collegiate Apostolic School combined team secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place. On the same evening re-energized Fr. Mathias Dungdung was brought back from CLHRC, Mandar. The Scholastics took on the Collegiate Apostolic School and St. Xavier’s College Hostel in a friendly volleyball match. The monthly recollection for the Juniors was suitably guided by Fr. Fabian Bhuian on 3 March. The Manresa Community welcomed Fr. Vincent Toppo as her new member on 5 March. The Scholastics had their Mid-semester Exams between 7-12 March. The Manresa Community fathers helped out with the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ranchi.

On 13 March, all the members of Manresa House and the Collegiate Apostolic School students welcomed the mortal remains of Baba Camile Bulcke at Manresa House. It may be recalled that the great Hindi-Sanskrit scholar had spent most of his literary life here. A small prayer service attended by over 200 people was held in his honour. On 14 March Baba’s remains were taken to St. Xavier’s College where Fr. Rector and Fr. Principal of SXC ceremonially received them and in reverence reposed them in a shrine especially prepared for it at the entrance.

On the same evening Fr. Pius Xalxo, Fr. Xavier Lakra and Fr. Anupchand from the Assam Mission arrived

at Manresa House with the body of late Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ. The body was kept at Manresa House for the last respect. The funeral Holy Mass was held at St. Mary’s Cathedral on 15 March and he was buried at Tumtum Kantatoli cemetery.

15 March was a notable date for yet another reason that Rev. Fr. Vernon D’Cunha, the new Regional Assistant for South Asia shared with us the Vision-2030 of Rev. Fr. General. He emphasized upon the community life. The Province expresses sincere gratitude to Fr. Vernon for his inspiring words. A Community Mass for the common birthday celebration on 19 March was held in the community.

The Community stands in prayerful solidarity with Sch. Pradeep Bara, who lost his mother on 12<sup>th</sup> March at G.B Pant Hospital, New Delhi. Her body was brought to her native place Tumdegi, Simdega. Sch. Suman and Sch. Benjamin went to attend the funeral Mass. Sch. Ajay Roshan Barla also lost his younger brother, Alok Barla, in a road accident on 20 March. On 21 March Frs. Rector, Ephrem, Sibil and some Scholastics went for the funeral mass. May the Good Lord grant these dear departed eternal peace and console the respective family members. On 22<sup>nd</sup> a few Manresa Scholastics went to attend the Field Firing Range protest event in Netarhat.

On 26 March a talk by Fr. Sudhir Kumar Minj suitably prepared the Community for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Ahead of the Easter celebration the Community took part in the customary morning prayers at

the Cathedral to mark the intense days. The Community joined in the Holy Week Liturgy at Loyola Ground, some went to Nirmal Hriday and Hindpuri for the Easter Mass, on Easter Sunday itself, a Community Mass in the morning, a Solemn Benediction in the evening and we were treated with an appetizing festive meal. Thanks to Bro. Blacius' team for the culinary flavour served. Our sincere gratitude goes also to Bro. Polycarp for the *Banda* (pork) he had so thoughtfully set aside for the Feast. May the Easter Joy continue to radiate all of us!

Sch. Sagar Xalxo & Sch. Robin Minj

## St. Ignatius' Gumla

The month started with Fr. Ravi Bhushan organizing a three-day retreat for the Gumla Parishioners with a team of preachers. Gumla Zonal Budget meeting was held on 1 March with all the PPs, Treasurers and Superiors. The birth day of Fr. Ravi on 5 March was significant in the English Medium School as the children came in fancies dress and besides sweets a baby monkey was presented to amuse them and teach them about nature and love for animals. It was baptized "*preeti/pretty*."

The Board Exams for classes X & XII were held in March. 231 students appeared in the Matriculation Exams, while 430 in three streams for Inter Exams from St. Ignatius', Gumla. Some 30 candidates came for teachers' interview for the English Medium School. The sudden death of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka saddened us beyond imagination. We went to Ranchi for the Samadhi Samaroh of Fr. Camil Bulcke, SJ, at St. Xavier's College on 14 March and to bury Fr. Peter Paul on 15 March. On the same evening while coming back from home, Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta had a mishap knocking down a drunkard near Pojenga, before Palkot. Some acquainted people negotiated with the agitated crowd that saved the situation. Nothing serious happened!

In the morning on 16 March one of our English Medium School Children was knocked down near our school gate by some speeding young boys and escaped. Some good Samaritans picked up the child, took him to the nearby Ursula Dispensary for the first aid. The parents were informed and they took the child for further treatment.

The AROUSE was looking for a Project coordinator and an accountant. Both are recruited and they have joined office from 19 March. The colourful *Sarhul shobha yatra* was led out in Gumla Town on 20 March. Our Sarva-Dharma Sadbhavna Manch put up a *samiyana* to welcome the participants by distributing flowers to them. It was great indeed and the ROUSE also participated in the *julus!* The AROUSE received a visitor from the CHILDLINE India Foundation, Head office, Kolkata, on 21-24 March. She visited the field and interacted with the team as well. 25 March was the day of the CRI Gumla Zonal meeting held at St Ignatius' Hall. Even the Diocesan PPs were invited on this occasion for a greater participation and planning. On 27 March one of our students, Arpit Toppo, died in a motor cycle accident near Chainpur.

On 28 March the School gave a big and tearful farewell to our retiring teachers, Mrs. Ajita Lakra and Mr. Ram Vinay Mishra. It was the Annual exams result day as well.

Fr. Christopher Lakra S.J.

## Pengaree

All three of us left for Pengaree on 2 March to attend the school Annual Day on 3 March. As we were passing through the Pengaree jungle, we encountered a wild elephant which was really a giant in size. Since it was marching towards us on the road, we in precaution reversed our vehicle to avoid any casualty. To our great surprise, it changed its direction and left the main road and took a side mud road and vanished in the jungle. It was a great sigh of relief and we resumed our journey reaching Pengaree around 4.15 pm.

3 March was a great day for St. Xavier's School, Pengaree. It celebrated its school annual day starting at 10.15 am amidst an incessant rain. The Chief Guest, Mr. Bhaskar Sharma, MLA, Margherita Assembly Constituency who due to an unavoidable circumstances could not be present. In his absence Mr. Utpal Sharma, Manager, Tea Estate, Pengaree and Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, were the guests of honour who set the ball rolling. The children exhibited their talents through a variety of dances, singing, skits, etc. Despite the incessant rain, the audience

did not desert the place and remained glued to their chairs enjoying the items. Meritorious students were given prizes. Sincere congratulations to Fr. Roshan Bage, the Principal of the school, other Jesuit staff, Sisters collaborators, teachers and students for their hard labour, meticulous planning and execution.

On March 4, 2018 Fr. Roshan, Fr. Thomas and Fr. Pius went to visit two feeder schools at Kathalguri and Konapathar. Being a Sunday we could not meet the teachers and students, but met some hostellers staying in the campus. On the following day, we visited another school at Bogapani being looked after by Fr. Telesphore Lakra staying there alone and imparting knowledge to the children. There is a great scope and hope for the school to flourish.

On 6 March Fr. Pius went to a Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur, for his routine health checkup which revealed the sugar level high. The Doctor advised him to take the medicine regularly, follow the diet and maintain the exercises.

On the "Women's Day" Gana Chetana Samaj, Fr. Thomas Barla organized a celebration for the SHG centres, run by the Gana Chetana Samaj at the Ghoramari Gaon Panchayat Hall. The Celebration was blessed by the presence of the chief guest ADC, Sonitpur, the AGM, NABARD as the guest of honour, the Branch Manager, AGVP and other distinguished guests. The SHG centres welcomed them with singings, tribal dances and their reports. The Guests of honour and the chief guest encouraged the SHGs in their success and achievements and assured them of their help as well. The Branch Manager, AGVB was very pleased, and so assured them of very help in availing them the loans from the Bank for the employment programme. As many as 7 SHGs were given letters of sanctioned loan by the chief guest and other distinguished guests present there.

All the participants were served with refreshment packets in the end. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Thomas Barla and his team for organizing such a meaningful programme on the Women's Day.

On March 9 Fr. Pius and Fr. Xavier as the invitees went to attend the School Sports Day of the Holy Cross

School, Bokola. The chief guest delivered a good message to the students that the study and sport should go hand in hand without neglecting the either one. In the end all the guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal served by the Sisters.

On March 10 Fr. Pius, Fr. Benedict and Fr. Xavier attended a recollection organized for the CRI, Tezpur Unit at the SVD Seminary, Solabasti, Tezpur. Fr. Xavier Lakra, the resource person, who spoke on the Lenten theme 'penitence' and helped the participants to come back to the Lord. It was followed by the individual confession and holy Mass. Fr. Pius Xalxo was the main celebrant at the Holy Mass. After the Mass a good meal was provided by Fr. Joby Joseph, SVD, Rector and his community. Fr. Pius proposed a vote of thanks to Fr. Joby Joseph and his community for accepting the request to have their place as a venue for the recollection and making all the good arrangements.

March 12 came as a big blow to all of us working in Assam Mission. We were shocked and saddened to know the sudden and untimely death of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka near the Jagi road on the way to Guwahati airport. As it was reported, Fr. Peter Paul collapsed in the house vehicle in which he was travelling along with Fr. Xavier Lakra and Fr. Ashok Sandil. He was rushed to a nearby government hospital for treatment where he was declared brought dead around at 10.30 am. At such a difficult time, decision was made to take his body to Ranchi for burial as he had given his youth and the best of his life in Ranchi as a Professor of Chemistry at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. He had spent just eight months at St. Xavier's college, Sonabheel, Tezpur, Assam and was known to a very few people still. We are extremely thankful to KHM Jesuits belonging to the communities of Jagriti and Jesuit House, Guwahati, who through their presence, consoling words and timely service helped us to get the coffin and ambulance ready to transport the body to Ranchi. We are also very thankful to St. John's Hospital, Guwahati for preparing the body of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka and also to all other Fathers, Sisters and well wishers who stood by us at the time of great sorrow and pain. Fr. Pius, Fr. Xavier and Fr. Anup accompanied Fr. Peter Paul in his last journey to Ranchi by road which was a long and tedious one. After 28 hours

of journey we reached Ranchi at 8.00 pm on March 13, 2018. His body was received by Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, other Jesuits, Sisters, family members, relatives and acquaintances on the Manresa House courtyard in sorrow. On March 14, the mortal remains of Fr. Camil Bulcke, SJ, the renowned Hindi scholar which had been brought from Delhi to Ranchi the previous day, so the burial of Fr. Peter Paul was done on March 15 with a burial Mass at 1.30 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi. Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur was the main celebrant and Fr. Vinod Bilung delivered a homily highlighting the life and works of him. Soon after the Mass, his body was taken to Tumtum, Kantatoli, Ranchi for burial. Fr. Marianus Kujur, Provincial offered the final prayer at the graveyard and mortal remain was laid to rest. A tearful farewell was given to him by family members, relatives, Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, staff, students and well wishers. May the good Lord give him eternal rest!

On March 17, 2018, along with Fr. Marianus Kujur, Provincial, Fr. Pius, Fr. Xavier and Fr. Anup took their journey to Assam by air. Since it was the last flight for Guwahati from Kolkata, we managed to reach Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur at midnight. Fr. Thomas sacrificed his night sleep and received us with joy at that odd hour of the midnight. Fr. Provincial began his visitation on the following day which was a hectic one. Our Jesuit friends working in different parts of Assam gathered at Jesuit Bhavan on March, 19 to meet Fr. Provincial and to take part in the Budget session for the Financial Year 2018-19. In the evening Fr. Pradeep Kujur, Finance Commission Coordinator and Fr. Ajay Minj, Province Treasure, reached from Ranchi to Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur. Before Supper Fr. Provincial, Fr. Pradeep, Fr. Ajay and four Jesuit Novices were welcomed with the Assamese Gamosa which is the highest form of welcome given to any guest. On March 19 our budget session began around 9.15 am chaired by Fr. Pradeep Kujur, Finance Commission Coordinator. Hectic though it was but was a session of learning for all of us. The presentation of the budget by each community and its units was followed by questions, clarifications and supplements. It got over in the afternoon by tea time. Fr. Provincial, Fr. Pradeep, Fr. Ajay, Fr. Kiran

and Fr. Pius gave their observations, suggestions and compliments on the presentation of the budget and wished them all the best for the proper execution. Fr. Pius thanked Fr. Provincial, Fr. Pradeep and Fr. Ajay for offering help to the Jesuits of Assam Mission in financial planning and management. In the evening Fr. Provincial presented the memoriale before the Mass at 6.30 pm. During the homily he gave the gist of the message of Fr. General which was shared by Fr. Vernon D'Cunha, Asst. to Fr. General in Ranchi on March 15. Today we came to know about the critical health condition of the father of Scholastic James Ekka who had been hospitalized with serious illness in Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur. We pray to God for his improved health and well being.

On March 21 Fr. Provincial went to Balipara community for visitation. After lunch he came back to Jesuit Bhavan and had a meeting at 3.00 pm with Fr. Pradeep, Fr. Ajay, Fr. Anup and Fr. Pius to approve the Budget that was presented and discussed in the Budget session. On this day Fr. Roshan Bage from Pengaree community was struck down by high BP and could not join his community members in their return journey to Pengaree. He went to the hospital and got treated to control the B.P. Fr. Thomas was also forced to take rest following the bout of cold, sneezing, body pain, etc. In the evening we went to Balipara to celebrate the birthday of Fr. Benedict Lakra. However, Fr. Benedict Lakra missed the celebration due to his illness. Fr. Provincial left by road for Guwahati airport at 10.30 pm and preferred to stay and wait at the airport because of his early flight the next morning.

Fr. Pradeep Kujur, Fr. Ajay Minj and Fr. Anup left for Guwahati airport on March 22, for their flights. Fr. Pradeep and Fr. Ajay left for Ranchi whereas Fr. Anup left for Vadodara for the lawyers' meet.

On March 24 Fr. Thomas went to 'Pajhra', an NGO to attend a meeting of the tribal intellectuals who are much concerned about the deplorable conditions of the tribals. There is a talk in the air among the Assamese people that the year 1826 will be the cutoff mark to be a resident of Assam State. If this year is taken as the cutoff date to be the resident of Assam, our tribal people will be homeless without any identity. There was also

a discussion as to how to help our people in income generation.

On March 25 in the absence of Bishop of Tezpur, Fr. Pius Xalxo was the main celebrant on the occasion of the Palm Sunday in the Cathedral. Liturgy of Palm Sunday began at 8.30am followed by a short procession which got concluded in the Cathedral. The Cathedral proved to be small to contain the faithful on this occasion but devotion of them was quite exemplary. On March 26 there was a CRI meeting in which two points, namely, Easter Mass in jail and workers' programme on May 1 were discussed. Regarding the Easter Mass it was told that the jail authorities are not open to give permission and thus the Holy Mass for the inmates of jail was cancelled. Programmes for the workers of religious communities will take place on May 1 in the school campus of MSMHC Sisters of Teen mile, Tezpur. There will be a talk, confession, Holy Mass and some competitions consisting of games, Singing and Quiz followed by a meal. In the evening there was a recollection in the Bishop's House for all the Priests, Religious and Brothers working in Tezpur Diocese. Rt. Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, was the resource person for the recollection, followed by confession and adoration and supper.

For the Holy week service, Fr. Thomas Barla went to Thrizno, Arunachal on March 28 to assist the KHM Jesuits while Fr. Pius and Fr. Anup stayed back in Tezpur and attended the Paschal Triduum services in the Tezpur Cathedral. His Lordship Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, officiated at all the services. Fr. Anup sang the exultet on the Easter Vigil and added solemnity to the liturgical service.

Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ

### **St. Mary's High School, Samtoli**

The month of March had been the time of meetings at the zonal level. On March 3 there was a budget meeting and the Superiors and the Directors of work presented their budget of 2018-19. From Ranchi Fr. Provincial, Fr. Pradeep Kujur (Revisor) and Fr. Ajay Minj (Province Treasurer) came to assess the budget of St. Mary's, Jharain, Rengarih and Sogra.

On March 4 the Commission on Protocol came to discuss on the protection of the minors. Fr. Amrit Tirkey (Co-ordinator), Frs. Deepak Toppo, Ignatius Minj, Sudhir Kujur and Xavier Soreng presented the meaning and implications of the protection of minors. They presented some of the case studies and made us know of the subject. Fathers from Jharain, Rengarih and Sogra too were present. We started the session at 4.30 pm and ended at 7.00 pm. After the meal the members of the Protocol Commission left for Ranchi.

March 12 was a historical day as General Assistant Fr. only welcomed him by washing hands and offering a bouquet to both Fr. Vernon and Fr. Raymond Kerketta (Socius). After the coffee he supervised the High School, the hostel and St. Xavier's College. A warm welcome was accorded in the college with a short swagat by the students. He went round the class rooms and a short meeting with the Jesuit staff. He went to the Apostolic School where only a few boys were there who welcomed him with a short swagat whom he encouraged them to study well. Finally, he met the staff and shared with them about the importance and necessity of English in our country today. In the afternoon we proceeded to see the site of St. Xavier's College in Konmenjara and from there straight left for Khunti.

On March 15 Frs Bruno, Erentius, Isaac and Br. Basil went to Ranchi for the burial of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka.

On March 18 Fr Sikander went to Lachragarh to give a recollection to the Sisters of St. Anne of Lachragarh zone and Fr. Isaac gave in Samtoli of Simdega zone.

The Matric exams got over while of inter college and of classes VI and VII are continuing.

March 22 was the saddest day for the college. A student of Part I from Tumdegi Parish and another student of Part II from Simdega town expired. Fr. Emmanuel Barla, some staff members and students went to Tumdegi for the burial. Another group of professors and students went to Simdega town for the cremation. Last year also one student of Part I of the college had expired during the exams. The nephew of Fr. Isaac had expired and he went for the burial. Fr. John went to Nanesera for the burial of the brother of Fr. Alois Beck.



On March 24, the 53<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary of Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, was commemorated at Kutungia parish. The programme began at 8.30 am from the parish campus with the rosary and proceeded to the grave of Fr. Rasschaert. At the grave Bishop Vincent Barwa offered the prayers and paid homage to him. Thereafter Bishop Anand Jojo, D.D. Bishop of Hazaribag, offered the wreath and other guests and religious too offered wreath. Then the Holy Eucharist began with Bishop Vincent Barwa, the main celebrant accompanied by Bishop Anand Jojo and around 20 priests. Fr. Aurel Brys, the representative of Fr. Provincial and Fr. Sudhir Minj from Ranchi and Fr. Linus Dungdung represented St. Mary's community. During the Mass before the offertory the public presented a cause in writing to begin of the process of canonization of Fr. Rasschaert.

During the Holy Week some of our community members went to different places for the services. Frs. Isaac and Sikander went to Tamra for Maundy Thursday, Frs Bruno and Anup to Sogra, on Good Friday Frs. Bruno, Sikander and Anup to Jharain, for Easter Frs. Anup, Bruno, Erentius, Sikander and Sch. Nirmal Minj went to Dumki. This year there was abig crowd. Fr. Emmanuel and Sch. Anil Kullu went to Jharain. Fr. John went to the Jail for Easter Sunday with some Sisters.

On Easter Monday there was a blessing of the foundation of St. Xavier's College, Simdega, at 10.00 am by Fr. Provincial and attended by Fr. Nicholas Tete, Fr. Pradeep Kujur, Fr. George Kerketta, Fr. Ajay Minj, Fr. Ajay Soreng from Ranchi and Frs. Linus Dungdung, Bruno Toppo and Emmanuel Barla, SJT Sisters, the contractor and his team and workers were present. After the blessing and meal there was the G.B. meeting of SXC, Simdega from 1.30 pm continued till 5 pm.

Mr Anugrah Tete and Rahman from Delhi started the seminar on cutting and sewing in AROUSE, Simdega. They started with how to prepare a tie. As the trainees were picking up the trainer Rahman had to go back to Delhi after two days because of the serious illness in the family.

Schs. Henry Kullu and Prakash Ekka joined the English Medium School. They were here for about two

weeks and then Schs. Saban and Wilson replaced them. Sch. Nelson has joined the community as a regent.

There was an annual prize distribution ceremony in the English Medium School. Mr. Benjamin Lakra was the chief guest. Varieties of cultural programmes were presented by the students.

Fr. Patrick Kerketta came to St. Mary's on his way to Samsera for the ordination. Fr. Raymond Kerketta (Socius), Fr. Clement Ekka and Br. Telesphore Horo came for the Mass at the house of late Fr. Peter Paul Ekka on April 29. In the afternoon Frs Rector, Emmanuel, Bruno and Anup went to attend the programme in the house of one of the college employees.

Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ

## Tezpur

Easter vigil started at 10.45 pm at the Cathedral, Tezpur. His Lordship Michael Akasius Toppo, Fr. Pius and Fr. Anup celebrated it with a big Christian community. Fr. Pius left for Kathalguri around 7.50 am on April 4 and reached there at 3.00 pm received by Fr. Pradeep Kullu. The Next morning Fr. Pius offered Holy Mass for the community, Sisters and hostellers. In the school after addressing the students he went to St. Joseph's School, Jacobpur, a feeder school and then to Rongsopur, a catholic village to see the new piece of land donated by the two faithful for the construction of the village chapel. He met the catechist of that village who briefed him about the generosity of the donors who are ready to offer even more land if needed.

Around 2.00 pm Fr. Pius left Kathalguri for Manas Bansbari. There was a heavy rain accompanied by strong wind. It uprooted a Jackfruit tree in the campus and blew off thatched roofs of the houses of the neighbours. On March 6 Fr. Pius offered Holy Mass attended by the community and Sisters. Fr. Pius Met the Sistrs also who spoke about their life, work, challenges and struggles. He wished them all the best for their mission at Manas Bansbari. He left Manas Bansbari for Mushalpur at 10.00 am and reached there at 11.15 am received by Fr. Elvius Kerketta. He met Fr. Rozario who had just come from his duty in the school. Fr. Pius left for Tezpur and reached there by 7.15 pm.

Fr. Thomas is conducting computer class at GCS for the students who have recently appeared in Matric and Plus two exams. He gives English grammar classes to them. On April 8 he started a career guidance course for the college going students at GCS. On the inaugural day 25 candidates appeared for the course which was below his expectation. He wanted to see more Adivasis for the course but the response was very poor. This kind of poor response disheartens, but the commitment is high. In the evening, along with Fr. Anup I went to the Holy Cross convent, Balipara for the farewell of Sr. Maggie and Sr. Mary who are transferred to Patna. Prayer service, farewell songs and a dinner were the highlights of the evening given by the Novices and hostellers. A tearful adieu by one of the transferees was but natural.

On April 9 Scholastic James Ekka after attending to his ailing father in the Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur, for a couple of weeks, started his journey back to Ranchi to resume his college studies. Most likely his father will be discharged in a day or so and will be taken home.

On April 14 Fr. Xavier and Fr. Pius attended a ceremony of inauguration and blessing of the 'Divine Mercy Retreat Centre' which started around 9.00 am at Rangapara in Tezpur Diocese. Rt. Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, was the main celebrant assisted by Bishop Robert Kerketta, emeritus amidst a sizeable number of representatives of Vincencian Congregation, namely, Superior General, Provincial and Council members and priests belonging to different Congregations of priests. The Superior General of Vincencian Congregation cut the ribbon followed by the blessing by Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, as well as the incomplete residential building also inaugurated and blessed.

On April 15 Fr. Pius, Fr. Xavier and Fr. Ashok Sandil attended the inaugural and blessing ceremony of yet a newly constructed church of Batasipur. His Lordship Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, hoisted the flag and Bishop Robert Kerketta said the prayers of blessing. For such an occasion the church proved too small as the faithful stood outside the church building too. This Parish is composed of the Boro and Santhal ethnic groups. Both the ethnic groups

as good Christians showed the Christian unity by taking part in all the activities collectively.

There was an important meeting at St. Xavier's college, Sonabheel. This meeting was convened in St. Xavier's college to sort out some of the problems that are disturbing the Jesuits there in the smooth functioning of the college. It was attended by Jesuits from college community, Jesuit Bhavan and Balipara, material suppliers and a few well wishers. Fr. Thomas chaired the meeting and invited the members as to how to help the Jesuits to run the college efficiently. He first invited Fr. Xavier to give the historical background to the establishment of the college. He narrated that at the invitation of Bishop Robert Kerketta, the then Bishop of Tezpur, KHM Jesuits responded for the higher education for the Adivasi children of the locality. He also invited Fr. Ranjit to share about the present situation of the college who informed about the interference by the local material suppliers who want to maintain monopoly in material supply. On account of their monopoly materials are supplied at a high rate and of substandard quality. The local material suppliers tried to defend their position by saying that they have to give contribution to the association of unemployed youth. Without consulting the association they are not in a position to give any definite answer. In the meeting it was emphasized that the college authorities should have the freedom to take decision with regard to the selection of the suppliers and materials, and that the materials should be supplied at the market rate and quality maintained, no matter who the supplier is.

On April 17 Fr. Pius and Fr. Xavier left for Pengaree. Before landing in Pengaree, they went to see the Dholi Sadiya bridge, Assam, which is 9.15km long connecting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. After half an hour of sightseeing, they resumed their journey and reached Pengaree at 5.30 pm. Fr. Patrick received them.

, Fr. Xavier, Fr. Pius, Fr. Alois, Fr. Patrick, Mr. Silas and others went to take stock of the hall which is still incomplete. They are advised to complete it by May 7, 2018. In the evening, we went to a convent of Carmelite Sisters of Charity in Galenja, Burdumsa, Arunachal who are running a flourishing dispensary in collaboration with

the Salesians. They have shown their interest for collaboration with us in Pengaree area, so we had an informal discussion with them. Knowing their desire to collaborate with us we extended our welcome to them and asked them to have a deeper discernment with the higher authorities of their congregation and write a letter of request to the concerned authority of Ranchi Province and Debrugarh diocese. Twice our vehicle got stuck in a drainage and the mud. With the help of the people we overcame both of them and pushed ahead to our destination. Our journey to the convent was an adventurous and memorable one.

On April 19, 2018, we were served early breakfast by the community and by 6.30 am we left Pengaree for Tezpur. On the way, we went to see 'Bhogibeel' bridge which is still under construction. After having long hours of journey we reached Jesuit Bhavan at 5.30pm. I got down at the gate whereas Fr. Xavier proceeded to his community. On April 20, 2018, all three of us from Jesuit Bhavan were invited to take part in the community meeting of St. Xavier's college, Sonabheel to discuss issues pertaining to Junior college. It was chaired by Fr. Xavier Lakra which took off at 6.00pm. Issues discussed in the meeting were - Provident Fund for both teaching and non teaching staff, pay scale with increment, opening salary account for the Jesuits working in the Junior college, collaboration with Ursuline Sisters for teaching and hostel and construction of open hall. Discussion was fruitful and thus we were served a good dinner.

On April 24 the three veteran missionaries of Palizi, Arunachal, namely, Fr. Vital Ekka, Fr. Birendra(MAP) and Fr. William(MAP) paid a short visit to the Jesuit Bhavan as they were journeying to the blessing of a newly constructed church in Palizi. For Fr. William it was a bad day as he lost his mobile set and remained disconnected with the world. They had a short halt in Jesuit Bhavan and proceeded to destination. Fr. Thomas helped Fr. William to register the complaint to the telephone office and get the SIM blocked.

On April 25 along with Fr. Xavier, Fr. Benedict and Fr. Vital Ekka, Fr. Pius left for Palizi, KHM Jesuit centre, Arunachal to attend the inauguration and blessing of the

newly constructed church. After the meal they all went to Bana, another centre of KHM Jesuits and enjoyed walking over the hanging bridge. Fr. Thomas Barla went to Dhekiajuli, Tezpur, to attend a meeting of the Adivasis. Many eminent speakers came with serious issues pertaining to the Adivasis. Anti Adivasis groups made every effort to disturb them so they were unable to address the Adivasis. Despite the disruptions they managed to put forward the crucial issues before the audience. Looking at the volatile situation, Fr. Thomas was not allowed to address the audience from the podium but his message was conveyed by one of the organizers. Last part of the meeting was disrupted by a heavy rain accompanied by a strong storm. It was so forceful the sign board of GCS was broken and stood tilted. On April 26 around 10.30 am, a new church was inaugurated by Fr. Arul Raj, the Mission Superior of KHM and was blessed by Rt. Rev. John Thomas, DD, Bishop of Itanagar. He presided over the Holy Mass and was assisted by Rev. Bishop Gabriel Kujur, emeritus. Rev. Bishop Gabriel Kujur impressed upon the people with his homily.

The main guests and other leading men and women were honoured with the traditional items such as bundis, gamosas and daw. 'Mithun' was the special item in the meal enjoyed by all.

On April 28 Fr. Anup went to CKP, Jharkhand to meet and offer Holy Mass for the relatives and benefactors who have done a lot for him in his religious life. On April 29 Fr. Pius went to attend the Silver Jubilee celebration of the church of Missamariin Tezpur Diocese. It is a historical place for the Jesuits because the first Jesuit mission started from here in Tezpur Diocese. The Bishop Emeritus Robert Kerketta who hails from this Parish was the main celebrant assisted by Bishop Michael Akasius.

Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ

### **St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel**

In the month of March the students of the Junior College were busy with their internal exams from 9 to 24 March 2018. This was in view of the preparation for the first year final secondary Board exams to be held from 3 April

2018. The students of the Degree College also were busy with their internal exams from 26 to 28 March 2018.

For the Easter ministry Fr. Florence Purty went to Bana and Trizino in Arunachal Pradesh, Fr. Ashok Sandil to Ambagaon, Fr. Rajesh Kullu to Missamari, Fr. Ranjit Kujur to Halem and Fr. Xavier Lakra to Gohpur.

The Sudden death of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka from the massive heart attack on 12 March 2018 on the way to Guwahati airport was a great shock for the Jesuits of Assam Mission, Staff and students of St. Xavier's Junior cum Degree College. Frs. Pius Xalxo, Anupchand Minj and Xavier Lakra took the body of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka to Ranchi by road in an ambulance. They reached the dead body after 29 hours of continuous journey to Ranchi on Tuesday 13 March at 8.00 p.m.

Meanwhile Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo in consultation with the Jesuits of Tezpur had organized the Holy Mass for the repose of the soul of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka on Tuesday at 6.00 p.m. at St. Xavier's College Chapel. Many religious and priests of the diocese together with the students participated in the Mass. We are very grateful to Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, DD, for his gesture of love.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, S.J.

## Prothrapur

The faithful of Prothrapur parish had an opportunity to prepare themselves spiritually through a day of Charismatic retreat for Easter and Parish day on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 when our nation and its people were busy celebrating the feast of Holi. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed initially for adoration and the parish charismatic team conducted the prayer of praise and worship. The three main resource persons for preaching were Fr. David, the parish priest, Mrs. Mary Meshack and Binita Bage, the president of Maha Mahila Sangh, Port Blair Diocese. Fr. David spoke on the "Love of God" while Mary Meshack on "Forgiveness and Mercy of God" and Binita on "God's Providence". Parish Charismatic team played a great role and created the atmosphere well by their melodious singing and creative performance. Frs. David and Edward availed

themselves for confession. After confession there was tea break followed by way of the Cross and celebration of Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Dharampal Turkey, the treasurer of the diocese and also the spiritual guide of the diocesan charismatic team, a vibrant personality known for his creativity and loud speaker who during his sermon attracted the people by inspiring sermon. Just after Mass there was a special prayer for sick and suffering. Around three hundred faithful profited spiritually. Thanks to one and all for their support and cooperation. From 9<sup>th</sup> March onwards Novena to St. Joseph the Patron saint of Prothrapur parish started. Prior to Novena the statue of St. Joseph was garlanded and Arti was performed followed by flag hoisting by Fr. David.

All the priests and sisters working in diocese flocked to Port Blair for Chrism Mass which held on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Jesuits too from Diglipur and Ramnagar reached to Prothrapur for the same and at the same time provided an opportunity to come together to share our joys and happiness by celebrating the birthdays collectively as there will be no chance to come again and have to experience the same. We missed Fr. Anthony Andrade as he found himself busy in some important jobs to be completed and recollection for diocesan priests. Very next day on 16<sup>th</sup> March fathers went back to their respective places to continue their works. Both the fathers David and Edward completed Lenten Tour programme successfully.

March 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 was a day of celebration to Prothrapur parishioners, it was a day which compels us to extend our sincere thanks to God for the numerous blessings, graces, support, protection and gifts we experience in our lives, and much more than we all celebrate the feast of St. Joseph our parish patron saint. The spirituality of St. Joseph had been intensified during Novena days, when we recalled his features and virtuous life he has set before us as an example to be followed.

We started our celebration by imploring Mother Mary's blessing by praying Holy Rosary followed by 45 minutes of Adoration conducted by Charismatic team who with great devotion and emotionally led the people in praise and worship. Centre of celebration was Holy

Eucharist at 9.00 a.m. and Rev. Fr. Charles Xalxo, SDB the parish priest of Ferrargunj parish presided over whereas Fr. David and Fr. Edward concelebrated with him.

Liturgy was well planned and duties were distributed to the different communities. In the introduction Mr. William Ekka highlighted the virtuous life of St. Joseph. Bible procession was remarkable which was very prayerfully done by the children. Fr. Charles enlightened and inspired the people through his well prepared homily specially he stressed on his simplicity, dedication, God fearing man, obedient and care taker. He also added that go to St. Joseph in every situation of our life; he will not send you back with empty hands. Mothers, Abbas, youth and crusveer all together sang meaningfully and melodious hymns which helped all the faithful to take part in the Eucharist and pray well.

Fr. David parish priest wished and thanked all those who present, specially our guests Fr. Charles, sisters and faithful those who involved in small and big activities of the parish feast celebration. After the Mass people rushed towards St. Joseph's Statue to express their gratitude and seek his blessings. On this occasion Florian Pinto and Jerom Tigga were awarded for their dedication and selfless service to the Church and its people. Finally celebration came to an end with fellowship meal. The programme and activities done on this occasion were highly appreciated.

Fr. Anil kandulna came back refreshed on 27<sup>th</sup> March from mainland after two months of holidays after visiting his family members, relatives, friends and near and dear ones. Yes he deserves some rest after hard work. Fr. Edward received the sad news that his elder sister Christina Kerketta expired at Konbir Noatoli hospital. The burial took place on 28<sup>th</sup> march at village Jhitchirma at her residence. Condolence Fr. Edward! The ceremony of the Eucharist began at 5.00 P.M. on Holy Thursday. Fr. David was the main celebrant. After homily Fr. David washed the feet of twelve people of the parish as a token of love and service followed by the adoration of Blessed Eucharist turn by turn by different bastis and communities which ended at midnight.

Good Friday is the climax of Jesus' love who sacrificed his life on the cross for the redemption of the human being. To participate actively in the passion of Jesus there was way of the cross conducted by various communities and sanghs in different times and place. The Mahila Sangh was allotted time at 6.00 A.M. in the parish, Youth at Carbynscove at 7.30 A.M., Tamil Community at 8.30 A.M. Malayaly communitiey at 10.00 A.M. and Catholic Sabha at 1.30 P.M. The ceremony of Good Friday commenced at Prothrapur parish at 3.00 P.M. People in big number participated actively and devotionally in this ceremony and they dispersed in silence and peace maintaining the atmosphere of sorrow and sadness.

FR. David Bara, SJ.

## Prothrapur

The tradition of Easter House Blessing in Andamans offers ample opportunities to come in contact with the faithful by visiting each house, blessing of people and houses, to know their situation better, besides house visits throughout the year.

Frs. David and Edward were busy and still busy with the house blessing turn by turn and is going on and on.

15 April 2007 is a memorable day in the history of Prothrapur as the Prothrapur parish was created as a separate independent parish carved out of Port Blair parish. On 15 April 2018 a new Wimblitan Church, the sub centre and Tamil populated area, was inaugurated and blessed by Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias, DD. Initially Fr. David Bara welcomed the congregation and in a special way to Most Rev. Bishop and Rev. Father V. Selvaraj, Vicar General of the diocese. Liturgy was well prepared by the Tamil Community of Prothrapur and Port Blair parishes. The Bishop exhorted the faithful to be holy and be the fitting instruments of the Church to spread the Good News. 18 priests and some religious sisters of various congregations were present. They all were honoured by a shawl. Finally, Mr. Arulandhu expressed his gratefulness to the Bishop for his financial support. Each Tamil family from Andamans and Nicobar islands has contributed

for this Chapel financially or by goods, therefore, this chapel is not only for the faithful of New Wimbilitan but for all.

Fr. Peter D'cruz, SJ, Pune province, landed at the airport of Port Blair on 17 April with his brothers and sisters. It was really a very pleasant chance for them all to recall and cherish their past life in Andamans as practically all of them were born and brought up in these islands except his elder brother who was born in Burma.

Fr. Anthony Andrade and Fr. David received them at the airport. As their father was a ranger in the forest department a very familiar, well known and helpful figure to Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias, they were happily accommodated in Bishop's house campus at the Jubilee Sadan. The Prothrapur Jesuit Community invited them all to a dinner on 19 April.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

## Cambodia Mission

The month of April was a very busy one for Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ. He attended many rounds of Universal Apostolic Preferences meetings. He was a group leader of one group. He submitted the report on time despite his busy programme. He was very busy celebrating the Holy Eucharist and blessing the houses in his two parishes, namely, Assumption Parish, Battambang and St. Andrew parish, Nikum on the occasion of Khmer New Year celebration from 14-16 April. Fr. Manoj managed to buy a piece of rice field for rice cultivation to feed his hostel boys and girls on April 6, 2018. He attended a workshop on Child care and protection on 30 April 2018. He also rushed to the Ministry of Health to prepare the needed documents for a group of doctors from Spain to give medical service to the poor and bring medicines and medical equipment.

Fr. Rajat and Sch. Sandeep tried hard to visit the families of the old students as a part of the follow up programme. Their plan is to complete the follow up programme by the end of May and start a next step to decide whom, what and how to help very specially those who are poor and are in need of our help. Sch. Sandeep went to Thailand from 19-23 April to see some projects

of the Jesuits in Thailand and some important historical places. He came back to his regency place Banteay Prieb, "Centre of Dove" on 24 April where a big farewell party was waiting for him arranged by the staff and the students. In his farewell programme many thanked him for his love and selfless service to the students and the staff. During his farewell speech Sandeep spoke not only in words but also in overflowing tears and emotions. He expressed his profound gratitude to all the students, staff and community members. Banteay Prieb will miss you Sandeep always! As you go back to India please take all your good memories and experiences with you. Banteay Prieb wishes you safe trip and best of luck for your theological studies.

Sch. Sandeep Kujur, SJ, went back to India after completing his two years of regency in a very fruitful manner on 4 May 2018. His regency helped him to be close to the handicapped and the poor. He saw the presence of God in them. Fr. Manoj Ekka was very busy preparing the children and the youth for the first Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 21 and 28 respectively. He also successfully arranged a medical camp for the poor people from May 5 to 15 2018. Many patients came for the treatment. He also got a donation of a new Toyota car from the Church in Need, Austria and Singapore for his apostolates on 7 May 2018.

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty with his out-reach team visited more than 150 graduates of Banteay Prieb, Technical School, for persons with Disabilities. He has to visit some more old students to assess their performance and their different needs. Fr. Rajat feels very happy to see that the most of the old students are confident to reintegrate themselves with others in the society. They realized their preciousness and their dignity. Most of them already started their business in their own villages. Now they are no longer the dependent persons but they became the earning members of the families. Fr. Rajat attended the silver jubilee celebration of two tribal MC Brothers working in Cambodia, namely, Br. Herman Soren, MC, and Jyoti Minj, MC on 19 May.

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ

## Guyana

Guyana, 'The Land of many waters,' well known for its virgin rainforests. Roughly about 60% of which is classified as primary forest and 36% is rainforest. Guyana has an area of 2, 15, 000 sq kms and its population is 7, 65,000. Despite being in the South America, Guyana is considered a Caribbean Nation. The culture particularly in the coastal areas is quite similar to that of the West Indies.

So now Guyana is in a process of joining other Caribbean Nations for the formation of a new Caribbean Jesuit Province. In the process of formation we the thirty two Jesuits, after having deep prayerful reflection, serious discussions and discernment in a regular basis moving forward in the process of the formation of the Caribbean Jesuit Province comprising of Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica. Fr. Paul Martin, SJ, the Regional Superior of Guyana and Fr. Christopher Llonos, SJ, the Superior of Jamaica are leading us in this process.

From 15 to 18 January, 2018, the Caribbean Jesuits' Seminar on the theme, 'Shared Caribbean Concerns' was held in Arrupe House, Georgetown, Guyana, where fifty Jesuits from Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Venezuela actively participated in it. We discussed on immigration, ecology, inequality and apostolic challenges in the Caribbean Region. It was organized by Fr. Mario Serrano, SJ, Fr. Christopher Llonos, SJ, Fr. Paul Martin, SJ and Scholastic Joel Thompson, SJ.

In our own cluster of parishes we are mostly engaged in the socio-pastoral works: administering the sacraments, faith formation and evangelization work. Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey, SJ, is the Superior and Parish Priest in East Coast Demerara, Georgetown for last six years. Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, is the Superior and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Hosororo, in the North – West region of Guyana for the last four years. Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, SJ, is the assistant Parish Priest in Berbice-Coryntine. Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, is the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Mission, Kurukabaru, Pakaraima Mountains in Potaro-Siparuni.

The Quality Bilingual Wapichan – English medium Education is started in the principle of 'faith and joy' in Rupununi in two villages. Verbally it is already approved by the Government of Guyana. Fr. Varghes Puthuserry, SJ, in Rupununi and Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, in Pakaraimas celebrating the Holy Eucharist in Amerindians languages: Wapichan and Patamuna respectively.

The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, from Jharkhand, Sr. Nishi Susanna Kujur, OSU, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU, Sr. Helena Soreng, OSU and Sr. Sosan Anima Kujur, OSU are collaborating with us in the mission work. They are basically engaged in faith formation and evangelization work. In deep sense of gratitude and love, Sr. Divya Gulab, OSU, Sr. Seraphina Kerketta, OSU, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU and Sr. Nishi Susanna Kujur, OSU, are acknowledged by the faithful of South Pakaraimas for the great contribution in building up the Christian faith Communities and of course the magnificent church building in Karasabai.

Missionaries from Ranchi India have given wonderful service and are continuing giving service to the people in Guyana. They worked in Savannah in Rupununi and South pakaraimas, on the mountains in North pakaraimas, forest and rivers in North West region and in Goerge town in the city. We pray for more missionaries to serve the world and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 28:19)

Fr. Amar Bage, SJ

## Rome

Edwin RiteshDungdung and Ravi Hemant Kujur were ordained Deacons on Tuesday 3 May 2018 along with 16 other Jesuit Companions from different corners of the world by His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper in Gesù Church, Rome. One more companion was already ordained Deacon before Easter in Byzantine Rite. There were 5 Scholastics from South Asian Assistancy: Edwin Ritesh (RNC), Ravi Hemant (RNC), James Kulvi (KHM), Arun John Panackal (DEL) and Noel Ajanthan Jayanathan (SRI). Apart from the family

members, friends and well-wishers of the Deacons, a large number of Jesuits from different communities were present to participate in the solemn Ordination Ceremony, which was meticulously planned and executed by the International College of Gesù. The community is blessed with some very good musicians, and hence, the Ordination ceremony became all the more solemn with the melodious singing by the Scholastics.

After the liturgical celebration, the new Deacons were accorded a warm Swagat. Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant were greeted in traditional tribal way with garlands and SwagatGaans. An exceptionally large number of Adivasi Brothers and Sisters had come to participate in the joy of Edwin and Ravi. Heartfelt **Congratulations!**

As part of the preparations for the Diaconate Ordination, the would-be Deacons had gone to a Camaldoli Monastery called *Oasi Divin Maestro* in a picturesque Italian city of Arezzo. From 20 to 29 March, they were guided in their Diaconate Retreat by P. Mariano Ballester, who is also the Spiritual Director of International College of Gesù. For the Easter, both Edwin and Ravi stayed back in the community to assist in the Liturgical celebrations of the Holy Week as well as to prepare themselves for the Diaconate Ordination.

For the Holy Week Kulwant Minj had gone to a sanctuary of the Mother of Splendour in Giulianova to assist the Capuchin Fathers. His main work was to hear the confessions and preside over the Holy Mass on Easter Sunday. He was very happy with the hospitality and generosity of the Capuchin Fathers. After sitting long hours for Confessions of different age groups he feels profoundly enriched in his own spirituality. Edwin Dang had gone to Valcanneto, a Parish close to Rome, for Easter Celebrations. He helped the Parish Priest in hearing confession and in assisting him in the liturgical celebrations. He too feels greatly enriched by the Easter ministry. Both of them came back to Rome on Easter Monday so as to be able to participate in the Diaconate ordination of Edwin Riteshand Ravi Hemant.

Anselm has successfully integrated himself with the life and mission of the Curia. On 14 March, a day of prayer,

reflection and sharing was kept for the personal and communal preparation for Easter. P. John Dardis gave a talk to the Curia community on the theme "Our Closeness to God". This year too, Anselm had the opportunity to attend the Holy Weeks' liturgical celebrations presided over by the Holy Father. Participation in the entire Holy Week ceremonies enabled him to deeply contemplate on the salvific act of our Lord, the Servant, anointed and sent among his people, close to the poor, the sick, the prisoners, as the Holy Father accentuated in his sermon. The punch line of the Easter message of the Holy Father was the triumph of Jesus over the craven of fear that assails humans and tries to bury every kind of hope. On 6 April the Curia Fathers and Lay collaborators assembled in the Aula to share the Easter experiences. P. Rico Herminio, firstly shared his Easter experience, and then all the community members shared their personal resurrection experiences with one another in small groups. The programme was concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided over by R.P. General. From 17-20 April the Curia Office of Communication convened a meeting for the six Jesuit Conferences of Communication Directors to make a concrete plan for the website development and to ensure the collaboration between Conferences and the Curia Generalate. Further from 23-27 April, *Secretarius pro Iustitia Sociali et Oecologia* called a meeting for the Conference Social Delegates and Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) leaders, firstly, to discern Universal Apostolic Preferences within the Social Apostolate, and secondly, to review GIAN and to plan for the effective networking and advocacy in an Ignatian way.

After almost 5 months of being confined to the Infirmary, Fr. Linus Kujur joined the community for the Palm Sunday celebrations. The community members accorded a cordial welcome amongst them and wished them speedy and full recovery. After the Easter, he joined the community even for meals, even though he was advised by the Infirmary Sisters to limit his movements within the community premise. He utilized his time in preparing for the classes as well as conducting online classes.



After the promulgation of *Laudato Si'* on 15 May 2015, there has been a significant surge in the interest on ecological issues. *Laudatosi'* of Pope Francis also happens to be the longest of all Encyclicals so far and the most "sold" in terms of number of copies (words of H. E. Cardinal Peter Turkson). Even after three years of its promulgation, *Laudatosi'* continues to stimulate reflections and praxis around the globe both within the Church and within the civil society and in the academia. The Pontifical Universities of Rome are jointly conducting a Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology to spread the message of *Laudatosi'*, which is going on in full swing with 77 students. In collaboration with the Ambassadors to the Holy See of Georgia, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Netherlands, Gregorian University organized a two-day Conference on *Creatures: Radical Ecological Conversion after Laudatosi'*. The scientists, researchers and experts on the ecological questions from all over the world shared their vision, hopes and aspirations for future of *Our Common Home*. The participants were profoundly enriched by diversity of ideas, opinions and perspectives on the care for the Mother Earth, "What kind of world do we want to leave for those who come after us, to children who are now growing up" (LS 160)

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

## IRELAND

Br. Allan Harrison, SJ, (BRI) shared with us his knowledge and experiences on the theme: 'The Role of the Brothers in the Life and the Mission of the Society of Jesus', on 9 April in Cardoner House, Dublin. He emphasized on the brothers' vocation. It is special and unique. They are wise, committed and humble, the wisdom and sapiential quality that comes from being a brother. Mrs. Pat Coyle, the coordinator of the Jesuit Communication Apostolate in Ireland gave us one day workshop on the importance of the communication. The 'hook or peg' are very helpful to make our homilies more effective. We must always be prepared to face the media.

The Irish Jesuit Province Conference was held on 13 April on the theme, 'The Society's Mission of Reconciliation and Liberation,' in the Jesuit Provincialate,



Milltown Park, Dublin where a 100 Jesuits actively participated in it. Fr. Leonard Moloney, SJ, the Provincial of the Irish Province presented the Status of the Province and Fr. John Dardis, SJ, the consultor of Fr. General, presented, 'Our Universal Mission and the Status of the Society.' It is in the process of restructuring the provinces, Ireland and Britain will join together in the near future. Fr. Jim Culliton, SJ, coordinated all the activities of the day. Fr. Bruce Bradley, SJ, the Socius to the Provincial, presided over the Holy Eucharist followed by dinner.

The European and Middle East Provinces of Jesuit Formation delegates meeting was held at Manresa House, Dublin from 16-19 April on the issue of Jesuit vocation promotion and their formation in the common houses where 21 Jesuits participated. Fr. Frank Janin, SJ, the President of Europe and the Near East Provinces and Fr. Jose Cecilio Magadia, the Consultor of Fr. General took the leadership role in it. We the tertians: Zong Jiangu, Jean Claude and Elias Surin, along with our two instructors- Fr. Jan Van De Poll and Fr. Paul Pace joined the Archdiocese of Dublin in pilgrimage to the Shrine Basilica, Our Lady Queen of Ireland in Knock, Mayo on 21 April. His Eminence Diarmund Martin, DD, the Archbishop of Dublin presided over the solemn Holy Eucharist with three thousand pilgrims in the magnificent Basilica.

On 27 April Fr. Nick Austin, SJ the British Jesuit took two sessions on The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus Part IX: The Society's Superior General. He highlighted on the qualities and virtues of the General which all of us are expected to acquire and imbibed in it. On 28

April we - Andrew Downing, Elias Surin, Jean Claude, Niccolo Steiner, Oleksii Bredeliev and Nick Austin and Zong Jiangu, visited the megalithic passage tombs of Tara Hill, Knowth and Newgrange in the Boyne Valley, Meath, Ireland. The splendour and magnificence of Newgrange and Knowth is likely that these temples of the ancestors were places of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance, much as the present day cathedrals are places of worship where dignitaries may be laid to rest. On 30 April Fr. Ignacio Bone, SJ, the Spanish Jesuit through his lectures helped us to recognize our psychological growth in our Jesuit formation.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

## München

Till the first of Week of April we had the holidays. On 9 April we began our Summer Semester. Like every year three novices from Nürnberg Novitiate came for their study experiments to both the Scholasticates, one to the Gonzaga and second to the Hurtado Community. On 13-15 April the Gonzaga community had its Community weekends in a Jesuit Willa House, Lindau.

The month of May was a blessed one. We had many visitors from India. On 1 May we received Fr. Ashok Kandulna, who was on his way to Rome. We celebrated his presence with some specialties from Ranchi, namely, with the *Banda*, *Rice*, *Chatni* and of course German Beer. We took him round and showed him the worth visiting

Places in Munich. He left on 3 May. Sameer had the short outing with his community from 10-11 at St. Ottilian, a Benedictine Monastery in Oberbayern. The purpose of this outing was to share one's life experiences in the Community. This sharing helped them to get to know one another deeply. On 11 May we had a very special guest from the Curia, namely, Pablo, the PCF of Spanish Province and Damian, Provincial of England. They are the Delegates for the Roman Curia, with regard to the deliberations about closing some of the Scholasticates in Europe. We all the Scholastics had an informal meeting with both of them. In this meeting we shared about our experiences in Munich Scholasticates, namely, in Gonzaga and Hurtado Community. On 20 May we visited Fr. Ajay A. Minj in Berlin. He was there in Berlin for his conference regarding his doctoral studies. This was a very unique and wonderful moment to visit and spend some very meaningful time with our former Minor Seminary Regent. On 23 we received Fr. Xavier Lakra and Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo of Tezpur Diocese. We visited together with both of them, Albert and his family, who was in Assam for a few months. These kind of visits fill us with strength and motivation to face the challenges and difficulties, which we confront in our daily life as philosophy students in Munich. The Summer Semester consists only of three months. The exams for Summer-Semester await us in the first Week of July. Now we are very busy preparing for our exams.

Schs. Sameer & Ajay

### Please remember them in your prayers:

1. Br. Romuald Misquitta, SJ, (BOM) 80/ 52 died on Tues. 17 April 2018.
2. Mr. Prakash Kerketta (40) died on 15 March 2018, nephew of Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ
3. Fr. Emil D'Cruz, SJ, (80/ 64) (BOM) passed away at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.
4. Fr. Raphael Chakkumpidy, SJ, (GUJ ) 81/ 60 passed away on 06 May, 2018
5. Fr. Topan Gomes, SJ, (Cal) 76/50 passed away on Tuesday 22 May 2018.
6. Fr. William Pius Makwan, SJ, (Guj) 80/58 passed away on 3 June 2018.
7. Mrs. Celestina Minj, Mother of Fr. Bruno Toppo, SJ, passed away 17 May 2018.
8. Mr. Charles Ekka & Miss Alka Ekka, father and sister of Sch. Alok Ekka, died in a road accident.

**A HAPPY BIRTH DAY!****JUNE**

- 01 Kerketta Stephen  
 02 Dungdung James V.  
 Jojo Joachim  
 03 Kerketta Ajit  
 06 Kerketta Sylvanus  
 07 Xaxa Anil  
 12 Tete Patrick  
 15 Tirkey Amol  
 16 Minj Elias  
 17 Dungdung Jerome  
 Xalxo Medard  
 19 Tirkey Sushil  
 20 Ekka Isidore  
 Minj Ignatius  
 Ekka Nitish  
 21 Lakra John  
 Beck Alois  
 Toppo Manohar  
 22 Burh George  
 Barla Gilbert  
 23 Kujur Sandeep  
 28 Minj Akshay  
 29 Basumatary Lazarus  
 30 Dungdung John  
 Kullu Henry

**JULY**

- 01 Ekka Sanjay Dilip  
 Tirkey Anup  
 04 Dungdung Joachim  
 Lakra Mark Mukul  
 Tigga Mathew

- 05 Barla Arvind  
 07 Tirkey Basil  
 Tirkey Ajay Anil  
 08 Toppo Pratap S.  
 Ekka Sebastian  
 09 Bage Anugrah Amar  
 Kerketta Libin  
 11 Tirkey Sikander  
 13 Minj Anupchand K.  
 15 Kandulna Joseph  
 Topno Dominic  
 Tirkey Amrit  
 17 Kerketta Ajit  
 Hassapurty Rajat  
 Kandulna Anil  
 Kujur Vinay  
 19 Ekka Alexius  
 Kullu Alphonse  
 20 D'Souza Gilbert  
 21 Kerketta Sunil  
 22 Sandil Ashok Roshan  
 24 Kullu Rohit  
 Baxla Alfred  
 25 Xalxo Isaac  
 26 Purti Zacharias  
 Horo Ranjit Kr.  
 Minj Vijay Kr.  
 Kujur Ignatius  
 Minj Nirmal  
 27 Bilung Vinod  
 Dadul Ritesh  
 28 Francken Louis  
 29 De Brouwer Marc  
 30 Lakra Benjamin  
 31 Ba'a Theodore Ignatius

## FR. VINCENT TOPPO, SJ, (1935-2018)

Vincent was born in Katkahi Parish in a true Christian family as the last but one of the seven children on 28.10.1935. His primary schooling was in Katkahi and then went to Chainpur. He came to Ranchi at St. John's for his High School and did his I.Sc. at St. Xavier's College. He joined the Society of Jesus in Sitagarha on 16.07.1958. Since he was considered of weak health he was not sent for College Studies after the novitiate, but to Mt. St. Joseph's, Bangalore for his Juniorate. He did his philosophical studies in De Nobili College, Pune and for regency he was sent to St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. He did his theology in Kurseong and was ordained on 18.03.1970.

After his ordination he was sent to Rome to the Gregorian University where he gained a doctorate in philosophy. He came back home in 1977 and completed his training with his tertianship in Dindigul and in 1978 he joined the staff of St. Albert's College as professor of philosophy. There he took his final vows on 02.02.1979. He remained at St. Albert's till March 2018. His was clearly a life with minimal changes of residence. However, in the seminary he got several other responsibilities. He was twice acting Rector. He was also a long time Vice-President of the Faculty of Theology, which meant that he was in charge of the philosophy programme. Fr. Vincent was an accomplished metaphysician, who tried in many ways to make our young students aware of the importance of philosophy for life and for thinking and reflecting on one's faith and activity in a proper way. I am not so sure that he always succeeded in his efforts. At the same time he was a fine religious example for the seminarians. His regularity in prayer alone or with the brothers impressed them.

It happened in 1979 that a Spanish or American Jesuit passed through and introduced Marriage Encounter in the Indian dioceses. The then Rector of St. Albert's, late Fr. Missiaen encouraged Vincent to take it up. Vincent went for an introductory contact in Patna where he learned the spirit and the ways of Marriage Encounter. Then Vincent took it up enthusiastically and started in Ranchi the Marriage Encounter Group. He loved the spirituality of Marriage Encounter and helped the couples to grow into fervent Christian families. So we saw Fr. Vincent catch his cycle in the evenings to visit the several families to help them enter more deeply in this Christian spirituality. He also went to several other dioceses to start there the Marriage Encounter groups, especially in Hindi speaking areas. He kept this up until he left the seminary. Once he was master of this spirituality he broadened his approach and with his couples he organized preparation courses for

people ready to get married. In this he was very successful as one can gather from the reactions of the participants. He also developed a course on human development for the youth from the same spirituality. He also offered that course in several novitiates of religious congregations. He attempted to make the youth and the young religious aware of the sacredness of the human body and of human sexuality. His closeness to the families of his Marriage Encounter group also brought him close to his family with whom he shared their joy and pain.

We had seen our Fr. Vincent regularly going out on cycle to visit families and people, when he was told by the doctor not to cycle; he got a TVS with which he continued his visits.

Vincent never felt he was doing enough. Later in life, when health problems began to affect him he got acquainted with acupressure. He studied and practiced it and then he went to all religious communities who were willing to listen to teach them the benefit of acupressure for one's health.

A final diversion in his routine work in the Seminary was the Hindutva movement in our country. He studied this thoroughly and looked for books that would help to see the dangers of this movement. He brought this kind of books to all who could influence people, priests, religious and especially politicians from any party and offered them these low priced books to buy. I was amazed at the courage and the tenacity with which our Fr. Vincent went to work.

Unfortunately, towards the end of his life our Fr. Vincent got troubled with many health problems. He several times was in the hospital and his trouble with high sugar in his blood did not help for quick healing. That is why when he stopped teaching in St. Albert's [mind you at the age of 80 or 81] our Provincial took him to the Infirmary of Manresa House. He did not like it much. It indicated the end of his activities and he did not consider himself ill. However, his stay there was not long. A bad fall hurt him severely and made him unconscious. He was taken to the hospital, but he never regained consciousness. The Ranchi Jesuits lost a very devoted and active member.

The writer of this piece came first into contact with Vincent in the holidays [qainzaine] of the Ranchi regents in 1966. We had some memorable cycle trips together. Then afterwards we lived for almost 40 years together in the same community. In many ways he shaped my life for which I am very grateful to the Lord. May he now receive the fullness of life for which he prepared so many people?

Fr. Erik Breye, SJ