

# RANCHI BULLETIN



73/5

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

MAY 2014

## APPOINTMENTS

### Father General has appointed:

Fr George Fernandes

Fr Kalyanus Minj

Fr Dany Younès

Fr Javier Vidal González

Provincial of the Jamshedpur Province (JAM).

Provincial of the Province of Madhya Pradesh (MAP).

Provincial of the Middle East Province (PRO).

Provincial of the Province of Antilles (ANT).

### VATICAN: Audience for the Educational Institutions in Rome

On 10 April, Pope Francis received the faculty, students and non-teaching staff of the three institutions of the Gregorian Consortium - the Pontifical Gregorian University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and the Pontifical Oriental Institute - in the Paul VI Auditorium. The invitation was also extended to other Jesuits, and to collaborators in the General Curia. The tone of the audience was most cordial and fraternal. In his address, the Pope emphasized two particular issues. “The first aspect that I want to emphasize is that of *appreciating the very place* in which you find yourselves working and studying, that is, *the city and above all the Church of Rome*. Here is a past and here is a present. Here are the roots of faith: the memories of the Apostles, of the Martyrs, and here is your ecclesial “today”. Here is the actual Church which leads in charity, and which is at the service of unity and universality. All of this should not be taken for granted! It must be lived and appreciated with a commitment that is partly institutional and partly personal, the latter of which is left to the initiative of each person... The other aspect that I want to share concerns the *relationship between study and the spiritual life*. Your spiritual commitment to teaching and research, to study and deeper formation, will be more fertile and efficacious if it is fully animated by the love of Christ and of the Church, if the relationship between study and prayer is solid and harmonious... The theologian who does not pray and who does not worship God ends up in a distressing narcissism.”

### Status of the Scholastics : Theology

Ekka Deonis	Tarunoday, RTC, Kanke
Kujur John Jyoti	Tarunoday, RTC, Kanke
Lugun Bipin	Tarunoday, RTC, Kanke
Sandil Rajesh	Tarunoday, RTC, Kanke
Soreng Pradeep	Tarunoday, RTC, Kanke
Soreng Fuldeo	Heythrop College, London.

## **Fr Raymond SJ [Novice Director] THANKS TO ALL OUR PARISH PRIESTS:**

Our Novices had been under the paternal care of our parish priests the whole of Lent during their village experiment. All returned after Easter Sunday from ten different parishes under the Ranchi Archdiocese and Bongaigaon diocese (Assam). Sharing of their faith experiences sufficiently indicate that this exposure programme provided them opportunities to grow in their vocational life. Thank you and your communities for accompanying them all through. Our prayers for you are assured.

## **HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS**

### **Tarunoday Regional Theology Centre**

Towards the end of the academic year Tarunoday witnessed a flurry of activities. The Annual Integration Papers kept both the students and the staff busy. For some the task seemed gruelling but in the end all felt rewarded. We advanced the dates of our exams to mark the fiftieth year of the martyrdom of Fr Herman Rasschaert, SJ on 10 April 2014. As planned, Dr Ram Puniyani, a noted speaker and champion of communal harmony addressed the Taruns and our Kanke parishioners. Using the historico-critical method, Dr Puniyani analysed the geopolitical context of India today and espoused unity in diversity through communal harmony. He also pointed out how fanatic forces make the tribals as conduits of Hindutva. He called upon the audience to attenuate the forces that create wedge on ethnic, communal, religious, linguistic and political lines. Enthused with the intellectual incentives the audience went to the field to live in communal harmony.

Our academic year closed with a thanksgiving service on Saturday, 12 April 2014. While other students went back to their Provinces after Palm Sunday, our own Bipin, Justin and Mukul stayed back at Tarunoday to help out in the parish during the Holy Week liturgy. When they left for their POP ten fourth year students came back from VJ to prepare for their comprehensive exams.

April began with physical renewals. Fr Ignatius Tete had his wounded leg healed at Ara Gate. Fr Henry Barla chose the hospital bed for his physical renewal after the Ranchi Zone workshop purportedly drained his energy. Francis Minj rushed to Pithra, a village under Kochedega parish for the funeral of his cousin who died of tetanus. Francis suffered sunstroke but he chose his own bed that took him a full week for his physical renewal.

*Fr Francis*

### **St. Ignatius' Gumla**

The new academic session began in April. Fr. Praful began recruiting new boys to the Apostolic School for class VII on 4 April. Fr. Florence took admissions of the new-comers in the hostel on 5 April onwards after admission process was over in the school.

Frs. Ajit Xess, Florence Kujur and Paul Vijay visited St. Ignatius' to collect the report of their questionnaire circulated to different communities with regard to restructuring and renewal of institutions and apostolates. Fr. Sanjay conducted a two-day seminar for the ninth and tenth apostolic boys on motivation. On 4 and on 11, he also availed himself for a one-day recollection for the Mahila Sangh and Catholic Sabha of Bardih parish in view of preparation for Easter.

This year, Frs. Eren, Manohar and Florence were given election duties in Lohardaga parliamentary constituency. Fr. Eren managed the entire crowd that thronged in our school campus. Fr. Manohar headed to Rahay [Bishunpur] and Florence to Ghaghra. We were worried as Manohar and Florence were assigned to one of the most sensitive areas. Their safe return was a great relief for all.

The Community members moved to different places for the Holy week and Easter services. Fr. Thomas along with the regents went to Keondtanr; Frs. Manohar and Praful to Bimarla; Fr. Eren to Lawakera and Florence to Dolda. On 21 April, Fr. Solomon with his team moved to Lachragarh followed by Kurdeg for Jiveen Prawesh seminar. On the same day Fr. Sanjay left for Bangalore to attend SIGNIS meeting along with Cyprian Kullu - the Vicar General of Gumla diocese.

*Fr Sanjay Ekka*

### **St. Mary's Samtoli**

The English Medium began its new academic session on 1 April 2014. This year, 130 children got admission

in Nursery. In fact, many more want to get their children admitted but there is no place. This year, we have 52 new Apostolic boys.

St. Mary's High School being the centre for the evaluation of JAC Board Exam of class X, our new academic session began on 5 April. It was followed by the training program for the General Election. 19 of our staff members attended it. Fr. Sikander went to Jaldega for the election duty and Fr. Ireneus To'ppo to Thethaitanger. They say that it was quite an enriching experience.

On 5 April, the Fathers, Brothers and Scholastics of Manresa House and St. Xavier's Doranda came here and stayed overnight. The following day they proceeded to Kutungia-Gerda, the place of martyrdom of Fr. Herman Rasschaert, for the commemoration of his 50<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. From our community Frs. Vijay, Sikander, Ajit, Anuranjan and Sch. James went to Kutungia-Gerda for the same.

For the Easter Vigil and Morning Mass Frs. Vijay, Sikander, Ajit and Anuranjan went to Dumki. Frs. Albert, Ireneus To'ppo and Schs James Peter and Pradeep went to Sogra for the Easter Vigil. Fr. Isaac went to Joretoli Pakartanr (village chapel). Fr Philemon went to the jail for the Easter morning Mass which was presided over by Bp. Vincent Barwa.

St. Mary's community went to Jharain, on 21 April, to share the Easter joy with Frs. Pingal Kujur and Isayas Xess and the two novices who were there for their experiment. Since they have no cook the catechist with the two novices prepared the festive meal. In fact it was an occasion to celebrate Fr. Isaias appointment as approved headmaster of the school at Jharain also.

On White Sunday, Frs. Patrick Kerketta and Jaywant Soreng from St. John's Ranchi and Fr. Vinod Bilung from St. Xavier's College Ranchi were here for the First Communion of their relatives. We had a good time with them. In the afternoon they went back to Ranchi.

*Fr. Isaac Tete*

### **Ashirvad-Jharna**

From 5 March to 21 April, Ashirvad Novitiate wing was vacant as novices were out in different parishes in Jharkhand and Assam for their village experiments. Frs. Novice Director and Socius also found some time

to visit them. Both had the opportunity to make their annual retreat too. Brothers Modestus and Prakash took care of the house while others were out for their ministries. Fr. Deepak, with a group of the Sacred Heart Tertians on long retreat, made their meaningful presence felt in the house. Fr. Socius came back from Assam on 30 March. The next day, he left for Vivek Sadan, Daltonganj for the four-sheet interviews of the pre-novices. Thereafter he went to Kutungia-Gerda to participate in the Golden Jubilee celebration of the martyrdom of Fr. Herman Rasschaert S.J.

Fr. Raymond came back on 13 April from his visitation and annual retreat in Rumtukel. Novices returned after Easter Monday from their pastoral ministries. After a couple of days' rest, they made a pilgrimage to Kutungia-Gerda, on 26-27 April, to commemorate the Jubilee year of Martyr Fr. Herman Rasschaert and the Restoration of the Society of Jesus. Frs. Novice Director and Socius joined them. The train journey till Kutungia itself was a new experience for some of them. Fr. Ajit Kerketta accompanied the pilgrims and arranged everything well for them. Fr. Jailas Kullu, parish priest, returned from Simdega late in the evening. He was happy to share some useful information with the novices after supper. The following day, we had the Holy Mass with the parishioners; Fr. Raymond was the main celebrant. We are grateful to the priests of Kutungia and their colleagues for their hospitality. After their return from the pilgrimage, novices shared with one another their rich experiences of village experiment, on 29-30 April. Now, they have begun their regular life of the novitiate.

*Fr. Samir Dungkung*

### **St. Xavier's School, Doranda,**

March was the month of examinations both internal and Board. On the one hand we commenced the New Academic year 2014-15 for classes X and XII from the 1 March; on the other hand we closed the previous one for the other classes with the results.

During the session break the school organized Inter-Class Basketball, Football, Badminton and Cricket tournaments in which one team from each class participated with full vigour soon after the End Term exam with the aim to becoming champion.

Series of educational tours - both National and International - are being organized for the students for

their all-round development. For the first time the school organized an educational tour for 58 girls from 23 to 30 March to Darjeeling, Mrik, and Gangtok led by Fr. Ajit himself with few other teachers. Apart from sight-seeing, students had an interaction with the boys of St. Joseph's North-point Darjeeling. On their way to Gangtok they visited NHPC at Singhtom wherein they could understand how electricity is generated.

The students of standards I-IX started their New Academic Year 2014-15 from 1 April 2014. They came to attend the new classes with great enthusiasm from the very first day having their vision and dreams for the year.

A new phase began in the lives of new batches of K.G. and Prep students who were welcomed in the school on 12 April with a very meaningful programme. These buds along with their parents were quite excited to enter into this phase of their lives in the campus of St. Xavier's School Doranda.

Christian boys of Std. X had three days' retreat at Jharna from 12 to 14 April. Frs. Deepak and Sanjay accompanied them. This programme made them aware of their real selves.

School organized 'Anurag Singh Master Mind Annual Quiz Competition' in the school auditorium on 26 April in which 18 schools from Ranchi city participated. The Third Inter-Jesuit Schools' Basketball Tournament was hosted by us on 26 and 27 April in which only four teams participated. St. Xavier's School Doranda outplayed and won the championship this year too.

Students of St. Xavier's School, Doranda, won almost all categories of prizes in ICSE Zonal Competitions such as Drawing and Painting, Declamation, and Creative writing. Competitors, Anurag Ekka, Ronit Joseph, Aditya Bhattacharjee, Neha Sinha, Anant Maheshwari and Shaini Gloria Kullu were the winners and champions in the said competitions brought glory and laurel to the institution.

St. Xavier's School is networking with Belgium at present. Thirteen of our students put their heart, mind and body to prepare eight beautiful Indian dances for their International Cultural Exchange Programme in Belgium. Several religious communities of Ranchi witnessed these on 1 May and helped the students build their confidence level better. This band of Xaverians left for Belgium on 3 May.

William Shakespeare returned to the theatre again with the enactment of 'Merchant of Venice' by our students on 2, 3 and 4 May in the School auditorium at different times for different audience. The human feelings like love and friendship were underlined through this drama. Students of Loreto Convent, St. Xavier's School, Doranda, St. Francis' Harmu, St. Francis' Banhora, St. Anthony's Doranda, Bishop Westcott Namkum, Sacred Heart Hulhundu, a group of students from Torpa and various religious communities appreciated it very much.

### **Community (SXD)**

Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, being the coordinator of the committee for the Renewal of Province Structures, went to different Jesuit Communities to conduct meetings in March and April. The fruit of the labour will come out during province days. We were happy to welcome the new regent, Sch. Samir Xavier Bhanwra, in the community on 27 March. He was officially welcomed on 31 March.

The Community members spent the Holy Week and Easter in a meaningful way. Fr. Ajit presided over the Holy Eucharist at All Saints' Church, Doranda on Palm Sunday. The whole community went to Doranda parish for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services and assisted the parish priest. Fr. Ajit and Sch. Fuldeo went to Patrachauli parish for the Easter Vigil. Fr. Ajit presided over the Vigil Mass. Fr. Alexander went to Jharain for the Easter Vigil. Sch. Samir X. Bhanwra and Br. Gilbert Bilung went their homes for Easter to share the joy of the risen Lord with their family members.

Fr Britius left for Spain on 23 April to attend the Ignatian Immersion programme for one month and a half in Manresa. In his absence Fr. Ajit takes care of the community as acting superior. Fr. Anand Amar went to his village in Nanesera Parish on 24 April to give three days' retreat to his villagers. Br. Gilbert went to Saporom to be with his fellow Jesuit Brothers for an Easter Get-together on 26 April.

*Sch Fuldeo Soreng*

### **St Xavier's Bundu**

1 April marked the beginning of St. Xavier's Primary School with classes one and two at 8.00 a.m., in the presence of Fr Clement Kullu [Superior and the First Headmaster of this Primary school], Fr. John Beck [High School Headmaster], Fr. Ashok Sandil [Principal,

Intermediate College], Ms Usha Tirkey [teacher], Mrs Jayanti Lakra [Non-teaching staff] and twelve kids of both the classes. The opening ceremony took place with the cutting of the ribbon and lighting the lamp of knowledge by the chief guest of the occasion, Fr. George Burh SJ, Zonal Superior of Khunti Zone-I. In his prophetic speech he said, "We are opening our new Primary School with twelve historic students today which will scale up to class twelve tomorrow." Thus St. Xavier's Primary school made its small beginning. On 5 April, Fr. Ajay Soreng arrived in Bundu from Rengarih with his four parishioners and two Ursuline nuns. On the same afternoon Fr. Clement and Fr. Benjamin left for Kutungia to take part in the memorial service of the 50th year of the martyrdom of Fr. Herman Rasschaert. Fr. Ashok Sandil went to XLRI Jamshedpur for a six days' managerial course on the next day.

On 9 April Fr. Ajay was formally introduced to St. Xavier's English Medium with a welcome song and a bouquet. Fr. Ajay has swung in teaching English, Science and GK in classes two, three and four. The school is only up to class four with 168 students.

Frs Ajit Xess, Florence Kujur and Paul Vijay Minj, members of the Renewal of Province Structures Committee arrived in the evening, on 10 April. All the data, information and apostolic activities were shared and briefed to them by the three communities of Vijaygiri, Dorea and Bundu. Plenty of opportunities and challenges are there in educational and evangelical ministries.

From 17 to 21 April General Election and Easter holidays were given. On Holy Thursday Fr. Clement, the Parish Priest celebrated the Holy Eucharist with the washing of the feet of 12 of the parishioners and preaching on love and rendering humble service to the modest congregation of about 150 faithful. The Good Friday service was taken up by Fr. Benjamin, and the Night Vigil Mass by Fr. Ashok. Fr. John extended his helping hand in Muri Community for Easter Service.

On 21 April Br. Yacub Xalxo headed for Manresa House for some medical checkup and more importantly for the Easter gathering of the Brothers at Inigo Bhawan Saparom. These days Brother Yacub, who is 77, says that he can see everything but is becoming hard of hearing.

On 23 April Frs. Ashok and Benjamin were off to Garu Parish, Latehar for the marriage blessing of Fr. Ashok's Nephew. They journeyed five hours one

way and back the same way on a not so good road. But they had no choice either.

On 25 April, Fr. John left for Dewantoli, his native village in Nanesera Parish, to give talks and recollection to the villagers who solemnly celebrated the "Family year." All the four priests of the *Tola* were together for the occasion. Bishop Vincent Barwa brightened their spirit by offering Holy Mass for them. Fr. Clement also went to attend the ordination on 26 April of his nephew Deacon Abhay Rajan Kullu IMS. The long awaited matric result was declared on 29 April. St. Xavier's had sent up 182 students. All passed with good Marks. Scoring percentage is better than last year. The highest score is 88.8%. The Headmaster, staff and students all deserve congratulations and to celebrate it with a holiday.

Bundu Jesuits are managing an array of institutions. – (1) St. Xavier's Primary School up to class II- 46 students; (2) St. Xavier's English school up to class VI- 168 students; (3) St. Xavier's High school – 804 students; (4) Intermediate section – 388 students; (5) Boys hostel -128 students; (6) Residential Hockey centre.

*Fr John Beck*

### **St. Michael's Residence Khunti**

The new academic session 2014-15 for Loyola High School commenced on 1 April, with orientation programme. Fr. Headmaster gave inputs for reflection for both the staff and students. On 2 April the fellow Jesuit companions from Maranghada, Rumtukel, Bongaon and St. Michael's Residence, Khunti gathered here to reflect and share their life and work in the process of the Renewal of Province Structures in the service of the Universal Mission 2014. Frs. Ajit Xess, Florence Kujur and Vijay Paul Minj from Ranchi were the facilitators. It was an inspiring and enriching sharing indeed.

On 6 April, Fr. Patrick went to Kutungia to participate in the celebration of the 50th death anniversary of Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ. Fr. Amrit gave recollection to the daughters of St. Anne of Khunti zone. Fr. Augustine went for Lenten tour and offered Holy Mass in Birhu village.

9 April opened a new chapter in the history of Loyola campus. It was the blessing of Loyola English Medium School and the inauguration of the academic session 2014-15. In his welcome note Fr. Augustine

expressed the purpose of opening English Medium School and the Jesuit thrust in regard to education. Fr. Provincial, Xavier Soreng, S.J. was the chief guest of the day. He highlighted the history of Loyola High School and its growth. He also laid emphasis on the need for English Medium School to make our boys and girls competent and fit to take up challenges in this competitive world.

From 4-17 April, Loyola High School and Inter College premises were occupied by the District

Administration to conduct training programme for polling officers. All the same admissions and classes went on in the first half of the day.

29 April was another important day for the Loyola family. JAC declared the matric result and all the students passed. 103 students passed in the first division, 86 students in the second division and one in third. Hearty congratulations to all the students and staff.

*Fr. Amrit*

## ASSAM & ANDAMANS

### **Kathalguri**

The first week of April, Unit test was conducted for all three schools. The response was very good from the students. There was a hundred percent attendance during the unit test. It shows that parents and students are aware of the importance of education. There is improvement in the result of the students too. After a hard struggle, Fr. Pradeep Kullu had received Provisional Number of Loyola School Kathalguri from Kokrajahar and School Code Number from the Board of Secondary Education, Assam,-Guwahati. Now our students will fill the class X forms and write the examination from the Loyola School Kathalgrui. Sch. John Jyoti Kujur joined the Kathalguri Jesuit community for Holy Week. He is assigned to look after the hostel boys and girls and teach in the school. It is a great help to Loyola school.

Two Jesuits novices and two Holy Cross novices were of great help to the Parish Priest, Fr. Jerome Dungdung. Novices stayed in the villages. Their main works were to visit the families and in the evening catechise the people. They helped the Parish Priest for the Holy week preparation. Fr. Jerome Dungdung arranged the Holy Week services in different villages; therefore many faithful got chance to participate in the services. Fr. Bruno Toppo S.J. was very busy in pastoral work; he was especially taking classes for rectification of marriages in different villages. After Easter Frs. Jerome and Bruno were occupied with house blessing and rectification of marriages. This is a small and concrete step taken by the Parish Priest with the consent of the parish council to rectify all the couples. Faithful were very happy and appreciated this renewal marriage programme.

*Fr Pradeep*

### **Pengaree**

Lenten Ministry: In the months of March-April under the leadership of Srs. Elizabeth and Catherine and four 2nd year St. Anne's Novices, started the long Lenten pastoral ministries in Pengaree parish by touring villages of the parish and preparing the faithful spiritually for Easter and together with that they prepared 118 couples for the rectification of their marriages and some 140 children were prepared for the first Holy Communion. They received the First Holy Communion on White Sunday. The Holy Week celebrations, beginning from the Palm Sunday, were celebrated in the Parish. Many people came for the service. On Palm Sunday, after the Mass, there were Baptisms of a good number of children and adults. The Holy Triduum helped the faithful to participate meaningfully in the Easter celebrations. On 12 April, the half of the Church building was cast. The Convent building pillars have also taken shape before Bihu Holidays. For Bihu and Easter Holidays all our schools were closed for a week.

Fr. Telesphore is very happy to have Solar light System installed now in the school. The solar system will certainly curtail the electricity bills and save us from continuous load shedding.

*Fr. Telesphore Lakra*

### **Manas Bansbari**

April was a very hectic month as we were busy in preparing ourselves as well as the faithful spiritually to celebrate the Easter mysteries. Two Jesuit Novices from Ashirvad (Namkom) went from village to village to catechise the children and prepared them for the sacraments of confession and first communion. On the last days of their stay in the village the priests went to

hear the confessions and offer the Holy Eucharist. The Women's Day was celebrated in Manas on 6 April. Fr. Marcus Lakra SDB was the resource person and the main celebrant for the Eucharist. He appreciated the works done by the women. He also motivated and inspired them through his in-put session to bring greater transformation in their families, locality and in the society at large. The theme of the day was, "Inspiring Change." The women development Coordinator of Bongaigaon Diocese, Sr. Carmela Lugun MSMHC, the president and secretary also encouraged the women to become the agents of social change.

Marriage classes were held from 10-14 April. Frs. Florence Purty S.J. and William Kujur SDB, Sch. Rosario and Roshan and the two Jesuit Novices and one candidate prepared the people for the good confession and also they gave singing practices which helped them to prepare themselves and to participate in the Easter Triduum meaningfully. The parish is very grateful for their selfless services.

The Palm Sunday services were held in the parish and for the faithful of Kahibari, Palchiguri and Barengabari at Kahibari village Church. In both the places churches were packed. Sch. Rosario gave two days of recollection, on 15-16 April, to two Boro village people in preparation for Easter. The services on Maundy Thursday were held in the Parish and Barengabari. On Good Friday the Way of the Cross was conducted by the youth in a dramatic way in the open ground at 2 pm in spite of scourging heat. Fr. Florence was the main celebrant for the Easter Vigil and Fr. Laurentus Kiro for the Easter Sunday. There were three adult baptisms during the Easter Vigil Mass. On 1 May 2014 there was the village Church blessing by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil of Bongaigaon Diocese. Fr. Xavier Lakra S.J., the Delegate of the Provincial of Ranchi in Assam Mission cut the ribbon and the Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil blessed the Church. For the blessing of the Church the whole parish as well as some Priests and Sisters from neighbouring parishes were also invited: Mushalpur and Barpeta Road. There were 1,250 people present for the occasion who participated in the thanksgiving Eucharist and cultural programme.

The village church is big enough to accommodate all the 35 families' 550 faithful people. It is spacious and airy. Since there were many invited guests, the celebration was held outside. A big platform was

prepared by the people themselves. There was a solemn Eucharistic celebration followed by the multi-cultural programme by the parishioners.

In the homily Bishop Thomas said that Church is the place of prayer, Christian unity and cooperation. Therefore all of you should live a life which will inspire others to support one another and cooperate with each other. Through your good Christian lives others will be drawn to know Christ.

Fr. Xavier Lakra expressed sentiments of gratitude to the benefactors of Germany who sacrificed a lot and contributed the money to make this beautiful church. He also encouraged the parents to send all their children to school and, if possible, to send one child to St. Xavier's English medium school. After the programme delicious meal was served to all who were present for the occasion. All of them enjoyed the hospitality of Barengabari village people.

*Fr. Laurentus Kiro*

#### **Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur**

Fr. John Ekka together with Miss Annie Chirakal came to Assam for the audit on Good Friday. They stayed for a week and checked all the accounts of different communities and Institutions. We are very grateful to them for their services.

For Easter Triduum Ministry Fr. Xavier had been to Lakhimpur parish, whereas Frs. Anup and George Soreng together with Fr. John Ekka went to Balipara parish.

Fr. George Soreng has been busy with the preparation of another CD for the preservation of Munda folk dance and songs together with the people of Missamari Parish. The release of the CD was fixed for Saturday 10 May.

Fr. Xavier had been to Mushalpur, Manas Bansbari and Kathalguri of Bongaigaon diocese just to see how much progress is made with regard to the construction of the buildings. The Convent of Mushalpur is coming up fast under the supervision of Fr. Vital Ekka. There was a blessing of Barengabari village Church of Manas Bansbari parish on 1 May. Fr. Xavier participated in this blessing ceremony and enjoyed the hospitality of the Boro brethren. At Kathalguri the basketball court is getting ready with much care under the supervision of Fr. Pradeep Kullu. Solar power plants are installed at Kathalguri Loyola School and S.C.J.M. girls' hostel. As a result, they are enjoying the continuous supply of the solar energy for

their computers and general consumption. In both the places they have removed the one-phase electricity connection which was given by the government. The solar power plant will soon be installed in Manas Bansbari St. Xavier's school as well. The installation of this solar plant is held up due to the ethnic clash which occurred on 1 May in Baksa, Kokrajhar and Dhurbri districts between the Boros and the Bengla-speaking Muslims.

*Fr Xavier Lakra*

### **Balipara**

The month of April marked some significant events in Balipara community. 3 April, Frs Xavier Lakra and Anupchand came to our community for a short visit. The visit was followed by a short meeting. On the 4th, there was an orientation programme for the students of class X, based on the Ignatian spirituality and career building. The resource persons were Frs Binod Toppo and Ranjit Horo. Fr. Binod focused on Jesuit Values and personality development whereas Fr Ranjit addressed them on career building. This was a small attempt to motivate our students think about their future while they are towards the end of their school life. Fr Theodore left for Jamshedpur for leadership programme followed by Spirituality Course in Chennai on 3 April. In the absence of Fr. Superior, Fr Roshan is the acting superior and the Parish Priest of Balipara Community. Frs Binod and Roshan were fully busy with Lenten tour in this month. Four Holy Cross novices came to Balipara to help the villagers prepare themselves for Easter celebrations. To double our joy during Easter celebration, Fr. Medard Xalxo came to Balipara community on the 16th and accepted to be the main celebrant. There were altogether six priests including Frs. John Ekka, George Soreng and Anupchand. It was said that this year we had a huge number of faithful in the Vigil Mass. Sch Anuj rendered his very valuable service during the Holy Week by giving very effective commentary during the Holy Hour. After Easter our hostel entered into "Passion week" as both our cooks decided not to come back for their duty. This gave good opportunity to Anuj to show his culinary talent and to prove to be a good mother of 60 children.

There was a science exhibition on 27-28 in our school. This was the first attempt to do something new in the school with the great help of our school teachers. The students came up with many innovative ideas.

Fr. Medard, Fr. Ranjit Horo and Mr. Titu the teacher of St. Xavier's College Sonabheel were the Judges of this Exhibition. Fr. Medard left for Ranchi on 28 April. On the same day, a new chapter was added in the history of St. John's School, Balipara: Our school got the Administrative Recognition and final registration letter from SEBA. Thanks to all the Fathers who worked hard for this.

*Sch. Anuj Minj*

### **Ramnagar Andamans**

On 1 April evening, Fr. Benedict and Fr. Ranjit started their journey to Port Blair for the Chrism Mass which was on 3 April. It was a nice time to meet not only Jesuits but all priests working in Port Blair Diocese also. The religious of North Zone had a one-day recollection at St. Anne's Convent, Magar Nala, Diglipur on 8 April. Fr. Ranjit gave points on challenges of Religious Life today. They were happy to share the experiences of encouragement and support. On 17 April, Bishop Alex Dias and Fr. Tarsious Kujur, diocesan treasurer came to Ramnagar to celebrate Holy Thursday. Bishop was disappointed seeing the small number of the faithful.

Being the main celebrant he explained the relevance of the Maundy Thursday. He was happy to perform the ceremony of washing of the feet. He emphasized on the responsibilities of faithful and the importance of service in day-to-day life. Good Friday was full of spiritual activities from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two talks and Penitential rites were conducted. Parishioners were happy to have confession. Under the leadership and direction of Fr. Benedict, the live Way of the Cross was conducted in a very devout and traditional way. Ramnagar Parish celebrated the Youth Festival at Kalighat on 27 April. The theme was "Let Your Light Shine". Fr. Ranjit had the privilege to be the chief guest. He focused on Positive Thinking in his message. Conducting SWOT Analysis, he helped them recognize their strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. On 29 April, Fr. Evans, Project Director of ACANI paid a flying visit to Ramnagar. He inspected the running projects and informed about the coming projects. Parishioners had a candle procession on 30 April to welcome the month of May. They came to parish reciting rosary and singing the hymns in honour of Mother Mary. It was concluded with the Holy Mass.

*Fr Ranjit Kujur*

## DIASPORA

### Rome

For the Holy Week, all of us chose different ministries according to the needs of various places and also our availability. While Kulwant, Suman and myself stayed at home, Sylverius, Linus and Justin went to the regular places of their ministries. Kulwant extended his helping hands in Gesù Church as one of the altar boys. He seems to be touched by the presence and participation of a large crowd, especially the youth, in the liturgical celebrations. The polyphonic singing during the Easter Vigil made the midnight Mass more vibrant and meaningful. The Gesù community of Scholastics was happy to receive many guests and family members for the Diaconate Ordination of eight Deacons from 6 countries. The Ordination was held in the Gesù Church on 22 April. Two weeks' Easter vacation was refreshing and enriching. The University reopened on 08 May for the regular classes.

Suman and Sylverius are gradually reaching toward the end of their Licentiate in spirituality. Suman is happy, content and relieved to have finished on time and submit the dissertation for the Licentiate degree. Now he is busy preparing himself for the Semester as well as comprehensive exams to be held in June.

Linus had gone to Rodero, a Parish in north Italy to assist the Parish Priest as a minister of sacraments. He had a beautiful experience of witnessing the faithful how they organize themselves to animation of the liturgy and to pray together. The various parts of the liturgy; such as commentary, readings, prayers of the faithful, singing and serving the Mass, which are shared with as many as possible under the leadership of the Parish Priest. The management of the faithful becomes easy because there is an Oratory and Community Hall, where the faithful gather regularly for catechesis, indoor games, meetings and community celebrations. Thus the life of the Christian community is centered around the Church with a specific way of life, which has also inspired the faithful to take care of the sick, especially of those children who cannot be looked after either in ordinary hospitals or in families. Professional nurses as well as volunteers render their service in taking care of those sick and needy children. He seems to be impressed by such a Christian community.

The month of April has become a special month for Justin as he celebrates his birthday as well as his

ordination anniversary on the same day, that is, 14 April. This year, April became still more special because of the canonization of two great popes and powerful world leaders on 27 April. Along with other collaborators, Justin devoted extra time and energy in covering the historical event and updating the listeners, viewers and readers with the essential information regarding John XXIII and John Paul II. Their canonization ceremony will be remembered as a unique historic event in the history of the Church when two of the recent Popes were canonized by the reigning Pope Francis in the presence of the retired Pope Benedict XVI. Despite hectic time preparing for the transmission of such an important and historic event, he squeezed time for annual Easter ministry in Legnano, a Parish close to Milan. He has noted that each time he steps in the Parish premise, the elderly Parish Priest feels a great sigh of relief because there is always a long queue of faithful for confession. The Parish has a wonderful tradition of a weeklong preparation for Easter with facility of Sacrament of reconciliations. According to Justin, the "Pope Francis effect" in the Parish seems to be evident as more and more young and old narrate the story of their turning to "*Chiesa, Casa e Cuore*" (Church, Home and Heart) because of the words of Pope Francis.

The Gregorian Consortium (Biblical Institute, Oriental Institute and Gregorian University) had its moment of grace when the Holy Father invited the students, teachers and non-teaching staff for an audience with him on 10 April. Every detail of the Audience was meticulously planned. I was actively involved in setting the tone of the Audience by arranging various groups of the students for singing prior to the arrival of the Holy Father. His simplicity and cordiality mesmerized everyone present in Aula Paolo VI. His message was simple, clear and challenging, "It is important that collaboration and synergy develop among you, strong in the historic memory and at the same time informed of the present and looking to the future [...] to the horizon – looking to the future with creativity and imagination, seeking to form a global vision of the situations and present challenges and a shared manner of confronting them, finding new paths without fear". As the Chaplain of the University, I too got the chance to greet him in

person (*baciamano* or kissing of his hand). Encounter with him and his powerful words will continue to challenge both the students and the teaching as well as non-teaching staff in the future.

*Fr Prem*

### **Guyana**

Easter was celebrated with immense joy all over the country. Our faith is renewed with Easter joy, peace and hope. The washing of the feet, the Stations of the Cross, the melodious singing of the congregation, altar servers, the camp fire and the sung Mass made it more devotional.

On 26 April, Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas, along with Fr. Antoine Kerhuel (EOC) and Fr. Gabriel Ignacio Rodriquez (ALS) arrived in Georgetown Guyana for a short visitation. Fr. General and his regional assistances were cordially welcomed by all the priests, religious and laity in Arrupe House, 293 Oronoque Street, Queenstown. In the evening, all of us participated in the Holy Eucharist, presided over by His Lordship Francis Alleyne, OSB the bishop of Georgetown and followed by a sumptuous dinner.

On 27 April, White Sunday, the historic moment of blessing and joy as the whole world witnessed the canonization of two popes – John XXIII and John Paul II, saints in the presence of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, by Pope Francis in the basilica of St. Peter's Rome, Fr. General was with us; listening to us, sharing his views, encouraging and inspiring us through his life. During the exhortation, Fr. General highlighted the following important topics. This is the time of change, the moment we stop learning, we become outdated. We are not able to touch the hearts of people, unable to attract them towards God. We have failed to implant the sense of God and the sense of service. We have ignored the wisdom tradition of the people. With regards to religion, sacraments and other practices, our understanding is very limited. We have to fusion our horizon. In spite of everything, with all our limitations, brokenness, blunders, betrayals, failures and weakness, God has put his trust on us, like treasure in the earthen pot. We are frontier- thinkers, writers, managers, administrators, courageous men to push the world forward. In order to be more effective in our apostolates, we need to have the depth in reality by serious studies, reflections, research and prayer. A person, who is convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince everybody. Secondly, we need to

be more creative in our mission with our sufficient knowledge, talents and skills. And thirdly, we need to be the men of Spirit-filled, full of fervor, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction.

Fr. Antoine Kerhuel, SJ, guided the team of interior mission for recollection in St. Paul's Retreat Centre for two days. It was enriching and inspiring for all of us.

The Ranchi Jesuits and Ursuline Missionaries in Guyana, South America send the season's greetings to all Jesuit Friends and well-wishers and best wishes for the Scholastics meet and the Province Days 2014!

*Fr. Elias Surin*

### **Cambodia**

The month of April was quite a busy one for Frs. Manoj, Rajat and Sch. Rakesh. Fr. Manoj welcomed many groups of doctors from Spain, Singapore and Australia and arranged medical camps in several parishes and villages successfully. Fr. Manoj started planting some vegetables in front of St. Elizabeth Health Centre. He also successfully finished filling up the land for the new Church in his parish Nikum and just started building boundary wall. "My next plan is to build a new Church," says Fr. Manoj. He had a very good Holy Week and Easter celebration.

Fr. Rajat shared Easter peace, joy and hope with the prisoners, the sick in the hospital and the poor families along the old unused railway track by providing them with food packets and gift packs on Easter Sunday. He was happy to baptize 12 young boys and girls on Easter Sunday this year. He also did house blessing of all the families of the faithful in his 2 parishes namely Svay Sisophon and Poipet on the occasion of Khmer New Year. He is happy and satisfied with the construction work of the new Church in his parish. He also completed planting groundnuts in the farm and sowing rice in the paddy field.

Sch. Rakesh was quite busy during the last couple of weeks visiting different Education projects of the diocese. He was also very busy with preparation for the Khmer New Year and Easter. He shared his tactics of football and flute with the youth of Battambang parish. He came to celebrate Easter with Fr. Rajat and also to say goodbye to Sch. Amalan of Gujarat Province who went back to India on 21 April after completing his two years of regency.

*Rajat Hassa Puri*

### Minia (Egypt)

7 April was a very shocking day for the Jesuits of the Near East Province. A Dutch Jesuit priest, Frans van der Lugt was shot dead at around 8 a.m in the Syrian city of Homs. He had spent almost 50 years in Syria and had been in Homs since the siege began more than two years ago. On 10 April, he was to celebrate his 76th birth day.

He had been the spokesperson for the trapped and starving civilian population over there. He was clear in saying, "I've learned about the generosity of the Syrian people. If these are suffering now, I want to be in solidarity with them. As I was with these people in their good times, I am with them in their pain." To

the end, he used to say, "I do not see Muslims or Christians; I see above all human beings."

I had been to Syria twice before the war began. I had stayed in Homs visiting the work place of the late Fr. Frans. He was loved by Christians and Muslims, Druze and Alawites. May peace prevail soon all over Syria!

In April, Minia has been the place of two court verdicts where so far more than 100 were given death sentence. Luckily, in retaliation against the verdict the place escaped another riot, attack, bombing, etc. Due to continued uncertain situation, academic life of students has been badly affected.

*Fr. Bimal Kerketta*

### **LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Mrs Regina Lakra** (71), auntie of Fr. Xavier Lakra, died on 17 April 2014 at Kartick Tea Estate.

**Mrs Mariana**, Sister-in-law of Fr Linus Dungdung expired on 28 April 2014.

### **BABIES OF THE MONTH: MAY & JUNE**

#### **May**

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

#### **June**

01 Kerketta Stephen  
02 Dungdung James V.  
Jojo Joachim  
Kerketta Sylvanus  
12 Tete Patrick  
16 Minj Elias  
17 Ekka Peter Paul  
Dungdung Jerome  
Xalxo Medard  
19 Tirkey Sushil  
20 Ekka Isidore  
Minj Ignatius  
21 Lakra John  
Beck Alois  
Toppo Manohar  
22 Burh George  
Barla Gilbert  
23 Kujur Sandeep  
25 Bara Shailendra  
29 Basumatary Lazarus  
30 Dungdung John

*This Homily was given by the Holy Father POPE FRANCIS on the occasion of the canonization of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II held at St. Peter's Square on Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday), 27 April 2014.*

At the heart of this Sunday, which concludes the Octave of Easter and which Saint John Paul II wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, are *the glorious wounds of the risen Jesus*.

He had already shown those wounds when he first appeared to the Apostles on the very evening of that day following the Sabbath, the day of the resurrection. But, as we have heard, *Thomas* was not there that evening, and when the others told him that they had seen the Lord, he replied that unless he himself saw and touched those wounds, he would not believe. A week later, Jesus appeared once more to the disciples gathered in the Upper Room. Thomas was also present; Jesus turned to him and told him to touch his wounds. Whereupon that man, so straightforward and accustomed to testing everything personally, knelt before Jesus with the words: "My Lord and my God!" (*Jn 20:28*).

The wounds of Jesus are *a scandal, a stumbling block for faith*, yet they are also *the test of faith*. That is why on the body of the risen Christ the wounds never pass away: they remain, for those wounds are the enduring sign of God's love for us. They are *essential for believing in God*. Not for believing that God exists, but for believing that *God is love, mercy and faithfulness*. Saint Peter, quoting Isaiah, writes to Christians: "by his wounds you have been healed" (*1 Pet 2:24*, cf. *Is 53:5*).

Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II *were not afraid to look upon the wounds of Jesus, to touch his torn hands and his pierced side*. They were not ashamed of the flesh of Christ, they were not scandalized by him, by his cross; they did not despise the flesh of their brother (cf. *Is 58:7*), because they saw Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles. These were two men of courage, filled with the *parrhesia* of the Holy Spirit, and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God's goodness and mercy.

They were priests, and bishops and popes of the twentieth century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful – faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history; the mercy of God, shown

by those five wounds, was more powerful; and more powerful too was the closeness of Mary our Mother.

In these two men, who looked upon the wounds of Christ and bore witness to his mercy, there dwelt *a living hope* and an *indescribable and glorious joy* (*1 Pet 1:3,8*). The hope and the joy which the risen Christ bestows on his disciples, the hope and the joy which nothing and no one can take from them. The *hope and joy of Easter*, forged in the crucible of self-denial, self-emptying, utter identification with sinners, even to the point of disgust at the bitterness of that chalice. Such were the hope and the joy which these two holy popes had received as a gift from the risen Lord and which they in turn bestowed in abundance upon the People of God, meriting our eternal gratitude.

This hope and this joy were palpable in the *earliest community of believers*, in Jerusalem, as we have heard in the Acts of the Apostles (cf. *2:42-47*). It was a community which *lived the heart of the Gospel*, love and mercy, in simplicity and fraternity.

This is also the image of the Church which the Second Vatican Council set before us. John XXIII and John Paul II cooperated with the Holy Spirit in *renewing and updating the Church in keeping with her pristine features*, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries. Let us not forget that it is the saints who give direction and growth to the Church. In convening the Council, Saint John XXIII showed an exquisite *openness to the Holy Spirit*. He let himself be led and he was for the Church a pastor, a servant-leader, guided by the Holy Spirit. This was his great service to the Church; for this reason I like to think of him as *the pope of openness to the Holy Spirit*.

In his own service to the People of God, Saint John Paul II was *the pope of the family*. He himself once said that he wanted to be remembered as the pope of the family. I am particularly happy to point this out as we are in the process of *journeying with families towards the Synod on the family*. It is surely a journey which, from his place in heaven, he guides and sustains. May these two new saints and shepherds of God's people intercede for the Church, so that during this two-year journey toward the Synod she may be open to the Holy Spirit in pastoral service to the family. May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves.

*Courtesy: www.vatican.va*