

RANCHI BULLETIN



73/11 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand NOVEMBER 2014

Appointments

In the ongoing process of changing membership of the Secretariat for Ecumenical Dialogue and Interreligious Relations, Father General has appointed:

Father **John B. Mundu** (JAM) as Advisor for the relations with indigenous religions in India. Fr. Mundu, professor of systematic theology at the Regional Theologate of Arsande (Ranchi), was born in 1952, entered the Society of Jesus in 1973 and was ordained a priest in 1987.

Father **Marc Rastoin** (GAL) as Advisor for the relations with Judaism. He is replacing Fr. Pierre Sonnet. Fr. Rastoin, professor of Sacred Scriptures at *Centre Sèvres* de Paris, was born in 1967, entered the Society of Jesus in 1988 and was ordained a priest in 1999.

Concluding Bicentenary Celebration 2014

The **Concluding External Celebrations** of the 200 Years of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus will take place on **21-22 November 2014**. Through the circular letter no.3/2014, all the Communities have been informed and once again through this communiqué the Province Curia invites all the members of the Province to take part in it. The Programmes are as follows:

21 November 2014 (Friday)

3:30-4:30 P.M. : Tea
5:00-6:30 P.M. : Presentations
6:30-7:00 P.M. : Interactions
: Release of Souvenir
7.30 P.M. : Supper (Manresa House)

22 November 2014 (Saturday)

6:30 A.M. : Holy Mass in the College Chapel

Communiqué from India Desk:

In December the yearly *Ranchi Calling* letter of Father Provincial to friends and benefactors of the Province will again be published through the India Desk. It will be published in Flemish for Belgian benefactors, in English, and also in Hindi for our friends and benefactors.

Could you please inform Fr Aurel Brys sj on tel 09934368213 or on brysaurelsj@yahoo.com, or inform Fr. Michael Kerketta sj how many copies in Hindi / in English you want to receive. It will be easy if Fr Rector/Superior asks their respective communities and let me know. *By Aurel Brys sj*

PARISHES, HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

Patrachauli

A seminar was held for the youth of Dighia Deanery from 2 to 5 October 2014. They were about 160. The auxiliary Bishop Telesphore Bilung celebrated Mass with the youth on 4 Oct. The seminar was concluded at noon on 5 Oct. Patrachauli school girls participated in the hockey tournament from 17-19 October, hosted by Sarwada. The team came up to the final but lost in the final against the girls' team of Rumtukel.

Parish Day was celebrated on 12 October with fervor and joy. Fortunately the cyclone Hudhud did not disturb us. A large number of parishioners had attended the Mass which was prepared well. Fr. Jerome Xalxo S.J. from Saporom was the main celebrant. The attraction of the day was the friendly hockey match between the girls of St. Joseph's Middle school Patrachauli and those of Inigo High school Saporom. Patrachauli girls, whom Fr Gabriel had trained well, won the match.

Fr. Gabriel and Mr. Simon Kachhap, Headmaster of the Janta High School, had been working hard to get a transformer for the campus. They had to run up and down a number of times to meet the local MLA. Finally they succeeded to get one on 13 October 2014 evening. We had to wait till 29 October to get it installed. Work began early that day and by 6.30 in the evening the new transformer began functioning. We hope to get a steady power supply henceforth.

Emmanuel Hora S.J.

Bingaon

Fr. Callixtus had been to Jharna Spirituality Centre from 28 August to 5 September to rejuvenate himself spiritually. On 20th afternoon Frs. Pradeep Kujur and Vijay Manohar Turkey paid an official visit. After lunch we had an enriching sharing in which we exchanged our views and opinions related to our holistic growth. On 22nd morning Fr. Callixtus admitted himself to St. Anne's Dispensary Karra as he realized that his health was deteriorating. After having thorough check up, he discovered that he had a mixed complaints i.e. cerebral malaria and typhoid. Later on he had little complication with regard to inhalation as his lungs were inflated with water. He also had pneumonia too and is under medication and complete rest and recuperating in Sewa Nilay Hospital, Aara Gate.

Fr. Provincial's visitation to Bingaon was an elevating event. The whole parish and school community gave a grand welcome from Chiur Morh. A procession of elders and students who were singing and dancing escorted and followed the tractor in which Fr. Provincial was being taken to the parish. There was also a short felicitation in the school. Fr. Provincial addressed the students, staff and parishioners separately. There was an Agape dinner at 1.00 pm. At 3.30 pm Fr. Provincial proceeded to Khunti via Karra where he met Fr. Callixtus in the dispensary.

On 13 October Fr. Provincial along with a Spanish guest named Carmina dropped in to see us in the afternoon. On 18th there was football match against RC Middle School Karra. We lost the match by 2-0 but not the spirit. The same

evening around 180 Krusveer children assembled in the parish for the next day rally. The school team had gone to St. John's School Ranchi for the football match. We could not qualify for quarter final nevertheless it was an enriching exposure for our students. From 24-26 October, Khunti Diocese had arranged a seminar on Minority Rights in which Fr. Raphael participated. Fr. P.D. Mathew, S.J. was the guest speaker. On 26th there was a One Day Youth Seminar for the parish youth in Bingaon on "Today's Youth and the Church". The running theme encapsulated them to imbibe their self-esteem as Dn. Ravi and Fr. Mahesh, SFX motivated them with their inspiring talks.

Deacon Ravi

St. Xavier's Doranda

The month of October started with holiday mood. The usual classes started on 7 October. The result for the first mid-semester was given on 14, 15 and 18 of this month. Parents came to see the performance of their children. Some of the parents were happy because their children had performed very well in their studies; and some of the parents were more concerned with for their children because they did not get satisfactory results from their children. Meanwhile there were different activities in the school. On 10th of October the Junior Boys Badminton went to Patna for ASISC Zonal Badminton Tournament. The other group went to Hyderabad for National ASISC Creative Writing, Drawing and Painting and Debate Competition. All of them bagged the prizes for themselves. ASISC Ranchi Zone organized the ASISC Zonal Athletic Meet 2014, where St. Xavier's Doranda was selected as the best team. In the last week of the month we had quite many interesting and creative activities: Science Exhibition, Information Technology Exhibition and IT Quiz. These events have brought out the hidden talents and creativity of the students. Many schools participated in IT Quiz in which St Xavier's bagged the first prize.

This is the season of new admission in the school. The selling of form for the Prep 2015-16 Session started on 25 October. A big number of parents flocked to buy forms for their children.

Sch. Samir Bhawnra, SJ

Khunti St Michael's Jesuit Residence

Pre-Novices actively participated in a three-day BCCs (Basic Christian Communities) program held in Ursuline Convent Khunti. There were around 200 participants from different parishes of Khunti diocese. Sr. Christy, the resource person, exhaustively talked on its meaning and aim. She emphasized on participatory prayer as the first and the foremost goal of BCCs. She also underlined the promotion of BCCs for it is an answer to the prevailing threats raised by individualism, consumerism, impersonal relationships, superficial religious practices etc. Highly enriched and enthused participants promised to introduce this new venture in their own respective places. On Dipawali, pre-novices managed to cut a half day out from their busy schedule and visited Maranghada.

CRI meeting was held in our community. Fr. Bishu Benjamin, the PP, St. Michael's Cathedral, Khunti, was the

chief speaker of the day. He gave his reflection on 'Family Life' based on his broad experience. On 24 October, a group of sixty-three students, accompanied by six teachers went for an educational tour to Delhi and Jaipur. As per scheduled, Frs. Charles Lasrado, SJ, the assistant general treasurer and Vijay Tirkey, SJ, the province treasurer were with us on 30 October to get to know our financial status. On the last day of the month, our pre-novices and St. Anne's postulants participated in a quiz competition specially arranged for them to assess their progress in English language. Congratulations to Fr. Ferdinand, the quiz master of the day, who made this outside class learning happen.

Sch. Jyoti Paul

Tarunoday

The month of October had the loudspeakers blaring all around heralding the holiday season, but the Taruns had no October-fest! Soon after their Trimester examinations, the Second Year Taruns went to Sahibganj in Dumka- Raiganj Province for a weeklong "Immersion in Mission" (IIM) programme. They visited many places, talked to many Jesuits and their collaborators, and came back on October 4, 2014, refreshed and enriched. Fr Henry Barla added spiced to their trip with his company as the Taruns received royal welcome wherever they went, not to forget the warm hospitality of His Lordship Angelus Kujur, SJ, the Bishop of Purnea, Bihar. They went, saw and returned to imbibe the sense of mission in their theological journey.

While the Second Year Taruns went to the eastern end of the Central Zone, the First Year Taruns went westward on 27 Sept to Pathalgaon in Chattisgarh for their Contextual Immersion Programme (CIP). Fr Francis Minj accompanied them to Pathalgaon. Frs. Agapit Tirkey, SJ and Yacub Kujur, SJ were ready with their open arms to welcome them. Both our hosts took the Taruns to 10 different *Sarna* villages in far flung areas on 28 Sept. But before that, Fr Agapit and Yacub briefed us about the situation, people and place. The Contextual Immersion programme has helped them to see and learn many things about the *Adivasis* worldview which our Taruns, hopefully, will employ in their doing theology.

On 16 October we had a community meeting in which we discussed the report of the Central Zone Provincials' *memoriale* after their visit on 23 August. Fr Amrit Tirkey, the Superior, told us about the financial health of the community. Two of the Taruns Mukul Kerketta and Rajesh Sandil also shared their experiences of the Immersion Programmes in Pathalgaon and Sahebganj areas. Due to unavailability of train tickets and their required presence in the community Fr Amrit Tirkey cancelled his trip to Bangalore for Moral Theologians' Meeting whereas Fr Francis did the same for Delhi. Fr John Mundu, however, found alternative arrangements for the trip and attended the meeting of Jesuit Theologians of the Assistency. Meanwhile Fr. Sudhir Kujur and Fr. Milianus Beck kept the theologians busy with the courses on Eucharist and Pentateuch respectively.

On 20 October Sch. Deonis Ekka, SJ lost his beloved father Mr. Julius Ekka who expired after suffering from a stroke and subsequent paralysis. He was brought to Ranchi

and was first treated at a hospital in Boreya and later kept at the rented-house of Deonis' brother at Hehal. Deonis accompanied the body along with the family to Girja Kutlu of Rajawal parish for burial and subsequent *Gami*. He thanks the RTC and the Mother House community of DSA Sisters for their service and the Jesuits of Noadih Parish. Deonis was back to RTC after celebrating *Gami*. 31 October, as usual, was a great day to wish Brother Isidore a Happy Feast of Alphonsus Rodriguez and an enjoyable basketball match between *Pilchu Haram* and *Darha*, the two RTC teams.

Sch. Deonis Ekka

DNC, Pune

Fr. Jose Magadia SJ, the General Assistant for formation at the Jesuit Curia in Rome was in the community for a couple of days. He met the JDV and the DNC staff members in person. On 7 October he addressed all the philosophers and theologians in common. Fr. Jose Magadia's thought provoking talk emphasized on our prayer life, freedom with responsibility, learning many languages etc.

Our semester exam started on 13 October which went up to 18th. 19th October onwards we began our semester holidays. Like other years this year also the educational tour was arranged for us during holidays. The first year philosophers went to Aurangabad on 20 October to see Ajanta and Elora caves. They were back on 22 October. The second years went for Goa tour on 23 October and came back to DNC on 27 October. All of us have grown in our knowledge by visiting these places of historical importance.

On 23 October, tribal Scholastics had organized a One Day Khassi Tournament for the Chotanagpur people residing in Pune. This was part of our ministry. People came with their own teams; and many came with their families to enjoy the day. We witnessed the fellowship and team spirit of our people. After a few days of holiday our classes resumed from 29 October and slowly we got into the rhythm of the academic life.

Sch. Nirmal Minj SJ

SSC, Sitagarha

Fr. Mike, our dean introduced a new programme called "new insight" a series of lectures on interesting topics. On 13-15 October we had three days of workshop on media and communication conducted by Fr. Sebastian. The input sessions were further enhanced by visiting the media center LIFE in Ranchi for two days whereby we had the broader understanding of media & communication in our life and society.

30 October was a joyous day as five of us including Fr. Samir Toppo, our English professor celebrated common birthday. We put up colourful entertainment programme and made it a real day of joy.

Meanwhile tertians who were out for their retreat ministry and experiment came back at the end of the month. Fr. Alfonse went to Patna, Fr. Patrick to Dhanbad and Sanjay to Rourkela for preaching retreat. They were back to SSC on 28 October as they had to preach retreat to TTC students. All the tertians came back by 31 October.

Sch. Marius

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Jesuit Bhavan Tezpur

During the monthly recollection of the Diocese of Tezpur on 7 October Fr. Xavier Lakra S.J. presented about the suppression and restoration of the Society of Jesus. There were 70 priests of the diocese present. Fr Xavier also gave points for prayer and reflection. Later, on 11 October Frs. Benedict and Fr. Xavier presented in a more simplified form about the suppression and restoration of the Society of Jesus through power point presentation to all our teachers of Jesuit Schools as well as the Professors of St. Xavier's College. There were 80 participants. At the end there was interaction between the Jesuits and teachers how to be more effective in education and thus to impart Jesuit spirit and values to the students.

On 16 October Fr. Xavier donated a truck load of blankets and shawls for 730 families who were affected by ethnic clash on 12-13 August at the boarder of Assam and Nagaland. At present they are living in different camps in Uriamghat and Lachitgaon areas. It took 7 hours to travel 209 km by truck while another 7 hours to come back. He handed over the materials to Fr. Leander Kerketta, the Parish priest of Uriamghat Parish. He had one hour of interaction with the affected people before he could begin his return-journey to Tezpur by the same truck. In the evening the Jesuits working in Tezpur diocese were waiting for his return so that they could celebrate Xavier's birthday. He reached at 9.00 p.m. There was a simple but meaningful birthday celebration.

16-23 October Frs. Robert Pradeep Kujur and Ajay Minj, as the revisors of the Ranchi Province visited all the communities of Assam mission. Fr. John Ekka accompanied them. We are very grateful to these revisors who helped our different communities to know their financial status.

19 October with a team of 3 volunteers of Tezpur Diocese Xavier left for Delhi to attend the 11th National Seminar on Prison Ministry India which was organized at Bathola Divine Retreat on the boarder of Haryana. The Seminar started on 22 October and ended on 25 October by 1.00 p.m. We had an opportunity to listen to the former DIG Mrs. Kiran Bedi who did reform the Tihar Jail into Tihar Ashram. There were 430 volunteers from different states of the country.

After the Seminar, Xavier rushed to Kolkata where he met many provincials on their way to Phesama for JCSA meeting. They went to Dimapur by flight. Fr John Ekka was in Dimapur with the jeep to take Fr. Marianus Kujur and Xavier to Phesama. Fr. George Pattery, the new POSA, also travelled with the same Bolero to Phesama. The next day, while coming back from Phesama at Dimapur Xavier and John Ekka were held up by 1000 hours bandh called by Karbi Anglong people. Duo waited nearly 2 hours before

the police escort was provided to reach Garam Pani, the border of Karbi Anglong. They reached Tezpur safely on 27 October. The next day Xavier left for Matigarha to meet one of the Pre-Novices, Amit Barjo. Fr. Anup went to Ranchi to see his mother who was burnt and undergoing the treatment. Gana Chetna Samaj team conducted the Accountancy course for the Self Help Groups of 30 Along ladies of Arunachal Pradesh from 28 to 30 October.

Xavier Lakra, S.J.

Pengaree Centre

During Puja vacation, Fr Telesphore went to Tezpur to submit the accounts. He stayed there for three days. On 10 Oct. he participated in a Seminar on "All India Catholic Education Policy, 2007", at Dibrugarh, proposed by CBCI. Fr. Joseph Manipadam, Secretary for Education & culture of CBCI, Delhi was the resource person. He spoke on CBCI's education policy and the right of Minority Institutions. For the formation of the Managing Committee of Prabhat Tara School Bogapani, a meeting was called on 11 October. Unfortunately very few people turned up due to which the work was postponed. Later on 30 October a managing committee of nine members and four advisors was formed. In the meeting it was also proposed to upgrade up to Class IV.

On 13th of Oct. there was the staff meeting in St. Xavier's School Pengaree where the evaluation of half yearly exams was done. A concern was expressed by the teachers about the disinterestedness of the students in studies. Class – X Pre- test exams result also was evaluated. A plan was made for the final Unit Test for them from Oct. 27.

Bible Diwas in the parish was arranged on 18-19 October under the leadership of parish youth. There were 163 youth participants who came from different village units. After the Bible procession there were Quiz, Bible Drama and Dance competitions. Mohong and Konapathar villagers participated in good number. Morning at 9.00 am there was the Solemn Holy Eucharist and people from different villages came in good number. Fr. Mukul, the Parish Priest, was the main celebrant. Thereafter a meeting was held to discuss the different aspects of faith and Parish life.

On 21- 22 October financial revisors Frs. Pradeep and Ajay Prakash of the Province were at Pengaree. Fr, John Ekka accompanied them. There was a meeting to evaluate the financial status of Pengaree under the guidance of Frs. Pradeep, Ajay and John. A short report was prepared to present to Fr. Provincial.

Fr. Telesphore

Prothrapur

Retreats of priests and religious concluded on 3 October. Jesuits came to Prothrapur to complete some important

works. They were very serviceable in celebrating Eucharist at different sub-stations. Fr. Alexander Tirkey and Anil Kandulna offered Mass at Prothrapur parish. Fr. Benedict Kiro went to Pathargudda while Fr. David to Carbynscove for the same. Fr. Anil stayed a little longer for medical check-up and treatment. Fr David accompanied him to G.B. Panth Hospital Port Blair. Fr Anil set out for Ramnagar on 11 October.

Bible quiz was held for the Crusveer children on 19 Oct in collaboration with the sisters who take Sunday catechism. It was organized as the preparation for the Children's Day which will be celebrated sometime later. Maha Mahila Sangh Committee Members of Port Blair Diocese came to Prothrapur on 23 October. They met the committee members of Prothrapur Mahila Sangh and parish priest to discuss some important matters concerning the forthcoming Zonal Mahila Sangh convention in the month of January 2015.

Prothrapur parish observed 26 October as Mission Sunday. Eucharist was offered for the missionary intentions and evangelization. On this occasion, different stalls for breakfast, food, lunch, housie, auction and lottery-draw and other games were made in order to collect some contribution for the mission works. Marriage preparation course started on 27 October for 15 days as set by the diocese.

Fr David.

Ramnagar

Fr. Benedict came back to Ramnagar on 6 October after attending the annual programme of the diocese at Port Blair. Fr. Anil stayed back at Prothrapur in order to have medical

checkup and treatment as he was frequently suffering from eye-pain and headache. He returned to Ramnagar on 12 October.

During Diwali vacation on 23-24 October seminar cum picnic was arranged for the children. Fr. Anil gave the introductory talk on Bible and creation story. Sr. Mary George spoke on health and hygiene and Sr. Gracy Lakra explained about human beings and their relationship to God. Action songs were helpful to keep children active and agile. The next day children were taken to Ramnagar beach for a picnic. They enjoyed the day having various games and delicious meal. There were 51 children who participated in the two days gathering.

On 27 October, Bishop Alex Dias, SFX, reached Ramnagar on his two days annual Pastoral visitation. He was accompanied by Fr. Selvaraj. Bishop Alex Dias addressed to the faithful, catechizing them on various topics such as responsibility of parents towards their children, family life and prayer, extraordinary Synod on family called by the Pope Francis in the context of evangelization, etc. Thereafter penitential rite followed by individual sacrament of reconciliation. It concluded with the Eucharist presided over by the bishop. Following day in the joint meeting of priests and religious sisters he appreciated our efforts. He encouraged us to continue our mission faithfully despite struggles and failures. In the evening, the faithful of Ramnagar gathered in the church to listen to the bishop, to participate in the penitential rite, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to take part in the Eucharist.

Anil Kandulna, sj

DIASPORA

Rome

The new academic year of Gregorian University was inaugurated on 6 October with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by R.P. Rector in the Church of St. Ignatius. The Inaugural Mass has traditionally been a primary event in the University calendar in which a good number of Ambassadors, Church and government officials participate apart from the students and the teaching and non-teaching staff of the University. Every detail of the celebration is meticulously planned in detail well ahead of time in which the University Chaplain plays a pivotal role. Probably, this was my last chance to coordinate everything as the Chaplain. The active participation of the new students made all the difference in the preparations of the liturgy. Our own five new students from Jharkhand Edwin Dang (Psychology), Biju Sebastian (Doctorate in Biblical Theology) and three St. Anne's Sisters Anupa Kujur (Canon Law), Mary Kusum (Moral Theology) and Ranjita Minj (Spirituality) extended their helping hands in the proceedings of the celebration.

Edwin had already started his classes on 30 September. He seems to have acclimatized himself with the norms and requirements of the Institute of Psychology and of the community. He has started undergoing Vocational Growth Session under the guidance of Hans Zollner, President of the Institute. As part of the course, each psychology student is accompanied by a Professor in his/her personal therapy. He now has got a companion in the person of Biju Sebastian (DUM), who was teaching Scripture at Regional Theology Centre, Ranchi before coming to Rome for his doctoral studies. The other new students from Jharkhand are three St. Anne's Nuns, who have created history by being part of a prestigious Jesuit institution which was started by St. Ignatius himself in 1551. No doubt, R.P. Rector was very glad and impressed to meet the three Sari-clad Indian Nuns – probably, they are the only ones in Sari in the Campus. We are sure that these five students from Jharkhand – Edwin, Biju, Anupa, Kusum and Ranjita – will dedicate their full time and energy and make their superiors proud, who have entrusted them with

great hope and trust such an important mission of serious research and study here in Rome.

With the start of the new Academic year, Kulwant falls under the category of senior students. He is now a second year student of Theology. To be a guide and example for the new students, he has started his classes with full vigor, dedication and enthusiasm, which was immediately noted by the newcomers. Apart from the regular courses of Theology, he has decided to learn the fundamentals of Latin and he seems to enjoy learning a new language. Apart from his studies, he has opted to work with the Sisters of Charity in Rome as part of his pastoral activities.

The Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on Family kept Justin busy at his desk. Under his guidance, Hindi Section took special endeavor to report and to disseminate the Synod news through bulletins and social media. The other important event for Vatican Radio was the annual evaluation of the mission of the Radio in the context of the current economic crisis. Each language group submitted a brief evaluation of the work, programs, its relationship with the Episcopal conferences and listeners, readers and consumers of social media. On 26 October, there was yet another meeting of some 20 Jesuits working in Vatican Radio convened by Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J., and Pope's Spokesperson. The meeting was held at Villa Palazzola near Rome. It was an annual evaluation of Jesuits' mission in Vatican Radio. As ever, Fr. Lombardi encouraged different language groups to make available the message of Pope and the teachings of the Church to the people by using all possible means of communications.

On 25 October, Linus joined the other Gregorian Jesuits for a community outing to the Sacred Park of Bomarzo, popularly known as the Park of the Monsters. In reality, the park is an open museum of myths and history depicted or carved on stones amidst a forest with a natural stream, which makes the atmosphere sacred. A professional guide explained its historical and cultural importance almost for two hours, which kept the community members together, enchanted and marveled. As usual, the community outing ended with a sumptuous lunch in a nearby Restaurant.

During the month of October, we were pleased to welcome three Ranchi men in Rome. Aurel Brys and Walter Beck arrived in Rome as Ignatian pilgrims on 13 October. In three days, they tried their best to visit all the important Ignatian places. They also visited the family of Sig. Paolo Mennini, one of the younger brothers of Late Fr. Piergiorgio Mennini S.J. Their visit brought great solace to Mennini family. After a sojourn of three days, Aurel and Walter left for Brussels on 16 October. On the same day, George Kerketta arrived in Rome for the Province Project Mission. Kulwant accorded him a cordial welcome to the International Gesù College, where he was accommodated until 22 October. As usual, George put himself immediately

into the work to make maximum use of the time available. We noticed that apart from his tremendous capacity to present the Plans and Projects of the Province in a convincing manner to the Funding Agencies, he also dedicated his full time and energy in giving them final touches, even though he had every possibility of visiting some places of religious, cultural and historical importance. Something precious to be learnt from him!

I had gone to Bangalore to participate in the 26th Annual Conference of the Association of Moral Theologians of India (AMTI) from 24 to 26 October. The theme of the Conference was *Indian Family: Crisis and Opportunities*. On the first day, a book entitled *New Horizons in Christian Ethics: Reflections from India* was released. 33 Indian Moral Theologians have contributed articles on different fields of Moral Theology. Amrit Tirkey has written an article on the theme *Tribal Morality: Its Relevance in the Contemporary World*. My article is entitled *Responses to Ecological Challenges: An Indian Perspective*. The second day's proceedings began with the presentation of my paper entitled *Family and Children: Two Pillars of the Future of Humanity*. The presentation was followed by thought provoking questions, clarifications and a lively debate. The Conference has challenged the Indian Moral Theologians to find the adequate answers to some of the intriguing questions pertaining to family, children, family planning and responsible parenting according to the changing times and circumstances. A challenge that would not be easy to ignore in the near future! On my way to Bangalore, I made a flying visit to Ranchi. Ajit Xess was very kind to receive me at the Airport. As usual, the XISS community of Alex Ekka, Ranjit Toppo and John B. Dungdung welcomed me with great warmth. I spent one night with my parents, who have gone weak with the advancing age. I was back to Rome on 26 October to begin my normal days at Gregorian.

Fr Prem

Jerusalem

Soon after the departure of the students of September batch, another group arrived here in the first week of October. They are fourteen altogether. The twelve are residing in our community whereas two are in some other place in the city. The students residing with us come from Africa (3), Mexico (2), Belarus (1), Slovakia (1), Sri Lanka (1) and India (4). Among these there are only two Jesuits, those of Belarus and Slovakia. These students have been sent by the faculty of the Biblical Institute Rome and are here to strictly fulfill the credits required for their licentiate. All the lessons are conducted at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. This year the academic year started much later due to the Jewish feasts which fell one after another and only by 15 October all the festivities got over. Thus the lessons were started on 20 October 2014.

Besides students there are three Jesuits on their sabbatical year. Fr Jose' Maria Abrego (Spain) who came here just after finishing his office as Rector of the Biblical institute, Rome; Fr Doan Hoang (California) and Fr James Tan (Singapore). These three have joined our community to deepen their Jesus' experience here in the Holy Land. Fr Henri Raison SJ (France) stayed here for about two weeks as he had to preach retreat to some congregation in Bethlehem. Four trappist monks stayed with us and had the experience of the Holy City for about ten days.

In the beginning of the month the community members (8 Jesuits) went for a monthly recollection to Notre Dame Convent, Abu Ghosh. It is about 20 kilometers west of Jerusalem and is situated on the hill top. It is a beautiful place. The campus is blessed with trees, plants, lawns and varieties of flowers. We had our moment of togetherness in prayer, Holy Mass and a good fellowship meal. Another special moment for the community was to be with our co-workers together with their family members. Actually it is a custom of the house to take the employees for an outing once a year. This time we planned to go to the north of Galilee but we could not make it. So we went to Bethlehem, in a restaurant nearby the Shepherds' Fields and had a lunch together. Everybody felt happy and rewarded, much more so the workers' families.

With the Feast of St Alfonsus Rodriguez we were blessed by a continuous drizzling rain here. As we are badly in need of water, this was a real blessing for all. More rains are expected in the coming months. Meanwhile the cold weather is slowly advancing. In fact it has made its presence felt already.

Fr Camil Kerketta SJ

Cambodia

The month of October was a month of resuming all our activities and ministries with a renewed spirit after a long summer holiday. Schools and Universities are once again full of new life with both old and new students. Fr. Rajat admitted 15 new energetic and promising high school boys and girls in De Nobili Hostel of the parish. He also finished the selection of the new students for school assistance for the new academic year 2014-15. Fr. Rajat helped 21 poor families, evicted by the construction of a new road in Pongro, in getting electricity connection. Later he attended an 8-day workshop arranged for all the local superiors of East Asia Pacific Conference from 3 – 10 October in Seoul.

Fr. Manoj finished taking admission of new students in his parish kindergarten. He also successfully finished the selection of the new students for scholarship for new academic year 2013-14. He was fortunate to attend a special Mass and dinner on the occasion of the commemoration of 20th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between the Vatican and the Kingdom of Cambodia. He also effectively looked after the works of the Cathedral in the absence of the parish priest for 5 months.

Sch. Rakesh is a man of action in the rice field for rice plantation. He is very proud to tell others that the entire plantation has been completed on time. He is a bit worried about the sufficiency of water for irrigation. He is also giving his full time and energy to give motivation and guidance to the old and newly admitted students in the hostel in the Church Campus.

Despite their busy schedule, Fr. Manoj, Sch. Rakesh and Fr. Rajat took out time for personal renewal from 28 October to 5 November in Kampongsaom. It was for the first time their annual retreat was guided by a woman retreat preacher.

Rajat Hassa Puri SJ

Guyana

St. John the Baptist Jesuit Community Plaisance in Georgetown was blessed on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. On the same day Fr Anil celebrated his birthday. The presence of Frs. Amar and Elias on the occasion doubled his joy and happiness. Both of them were there for the Guyana Clergy Conference 2014.

The Catholic Community of Karasabai celebrated the feast of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus as the parish feast on Sunday 5 October, although it was on 1st. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Paul Martin, S.J., the Guyana Jesuit Regional Superior, Fr. Alfredo Ferro S.J., the co-coordinator of Panama Project from Brazil and Fr. James Conway, S.J. were concelebrants. The Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Sr. Divya Gulab, Sr. Seraphina Kerketta, Sr. Bernardine Kiro and Sr. Anima Soreng spiritually prepared the parishioners as they conducted three days of prayer services on these topics - family life and prayer, youth and vocation, reconciliation and forgiveness. Mrs. Shelley Rodrigues and Mrs. Marline Jovins were installed as the new president and vice president of St. Teresa Catholic Church respectively during the solemn Holy Eucharist. The parishioners extended their heartfelt thanks to Sr. Michel, the outgoing president for her seven precious years of selfless and generous service to the community.

Fr. Amar visited some of his communities by motor boat as most of the communities are situated on the bank of the rivers in the North-West Region of Guyana. He enjoys their love and hospitality. He is trying to be more familiar with the communities as he is new to this mission. From 11-12 October, Marriage Preparation Seminar in Shulinab, the central Rupununi was conducted by Fr. James Conway and Fr. Elias Surin where 100 young people participated. The next day, on Sunday Fr. Elias Surin was privileged to be in Potaranao village among the Macushi community for the Holy Eucharist.

From 16 - 19 October, Fr. Elias Surin, and Br. Ansbert Pablo, the Parish Lay Assistant Karasabai, conducted the Seminars on Baptism, the Holy Eucharist, Confirmation

and Marriage in Pai Pang and Tiger Pond communities in South Pakaraimas.

On 21 October, the feast of St. Ursula the patroness of Ursuline Sisters, was a historical day for the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk as Rev. Sr. Bimla Minj, the first Indian Tribal was installed as the Superior General of the Order of St. Ursula in Brussels, Belgium. On this festive

occasion Fr. Elias Surin offered the Holy Eucharist with the parishioners of Karasabai. There was short and sweet felicitation programme for Sr. Divya and Sr. Seraphina and sweets were distributed among the parishioners.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

Obituary

Brother Juel Terese Ekka S.J.

[5 August 1936 - 22 Sept 2014]

Br. Juel Terese Ekka, S.J. was born on August 05, 1936 in a village in Rajawal Parish on the western part of the border of Jharkhand with Chhattisgarh under the then Ranchi Archdiocese, now in Gumla Diocese. His parents, late Mr. Paulus and Celina, were illiterate and poor but formed a small and very happy family. The family was deeply religious and catholic who regularly went for the Holy Mass in the Parish. Br. Juel had two brothers and one sister in the family, but his only sister died as a child. Br. Juel and Simon his brother were twins and Br Juel was elder to him, so he was the eldest of the family.

He did his Primary and Middle School studies in R.C. Middle School, Rajawal and went to St. Ignatius' High School Gumla for his High School studies. Owing to the financial constraints in the family his father wanted him to leave the school and help him in his farming so that he could educate the other two sons. To carry out this purpose his father had arranged for his marriage. But God had other plans for him. At the age of 20 leaving home and ditching the plans of his father he set off to Sitagarha, Hazaribagh and joined the Novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College on July 15, 1955 as a Coadjutor Brother. After completing his Novitiate and Juniorate he developed his skill in carpentry and later on became a recognized builder. Most of our houses have been adorned with strong and beautiful buildings by his tireless effort and stamina. He had been in many houses and institutions in the Province and common houses of the Society under different capacities as Minister, builder, In-charge of carpentry, fields and Farms and kitchen. During his long period of Jesuit life he rendered his services at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha from 1960 to 1969 as in charge of the big farm land with a gap of one year when he was sent to Dumarpath Parish to help the Parish Priest there in 1964. Then he came to Manresa House, Ranchi to help out in the Provincial's Office from 1969-73. He was made Minister in 1973-1979 at Agricultural Training Centre, Namkum. He then was sent to the Papal Seminary, Pune as a Sub Minister from 1979-1985. It was at this time that his heart turned towards his fellow tribals from Jharkhand very strikingly that he asked

the DNC Theologians to bring some faithful workers for the Papal Seminary kitchen staff. There was one taken there from Samsara Parish who proved to be an excellent worker. Thereafter followed a good number of them who were absorbed in most Institutions of JDV premises and some remnants of them are still found around there. Those boys are deeply grateful to Br. Juel for getting them the much needed jobs and because of which some of them have climbed up the ladder of financial well being.

In 1985 he was called back to the Province and joined the staff of St. Albert's college, Ranchi as a Minister. After serving one year there he moved to the Regional Theologate, Boreya, Kanke, for two years from 1986-1987. He was still strong and able, so he was sent to the Catholic church, Gayaganga as an in charge of the kitchen from 1987-1997. Back to the Province again he was given the responsibility of looking after the big property and garden at Catholic church, Noadih from 1997-2000. By this time his diabetes problem aggravated. He requested Fr. Provincial to be close to a town so that his ailment could be attended to quickly when needed. So he was transferred to Catholic Church, soso (2000-2003). The final appointment he received was at St. Mary's High School, Samtoli from 2003-2014 looking after the fields and garden. Ten long years that he served the St. Mary's community but at the same time his diabetes and blood pressure disturbed him so very much, yet he carried on his work with usual humour and zest.

On August 29, 2014 he joined the annual retreat for the Parish Priests at the Spirituality Centre, Jharna, Namkum. The next very day he fell ill and was taken to hospital for treatment. He did not improve. The St. Mary's community members came to Orchid Medical Centre, Ranchi to see him on September 21, 2014. They could not talk to him neither could he do, they just saw each other. It was the last visit. The next day on Sept. 22, 2014 in the afternoon at 2.30 P.M. he breathed his last. He was buried on Sept. 23, 2014 at the new cemetery of St. Mary's High School, Samtoli after a Holy Mass at the school hall at 11.00 A.M.

Br. Juel was an enterprising and able person. He could complete the task undertaken well and on time. He personified many qualities and virtues as he was humble, simple and sincere, approachable, Cheerful, obedient and prayerful. He had great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. After completing his rosary he used to place a fresh flower at the feet of the Virgin Mary every day. He never skipped

the Holy Mass. On Sundays he used to go to distribute the Holy Communion to the elderly people around St. Mary's and in this work the scorching heat or the biting cold were not a hindrance. Whichever community he lived in he tried to make it happy and good. May his departed soul rest in peace!

Fr. Alois Beck S.J.

Let us Remember in Our Prayers:

Brother Jozef De Bock SJ expired on Sunday 26 October 2014 in the hospital in Leuven.

Mr. Nawal Minj (42), the nephew of Fr. Xavier Lakra, died on 23 October 2014.

Mr. Julius Ekka, Father of Sch. Deonis Ekka died on 20 October 2014

BABIES OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

November

- 04 Jaecques Raymond
- 05 Kerketta Camil
Minj Damian C.
- 06 Lakra Peter C.
- 07 Lakra Amit
- 09 Kerketta Ranjan M.
Minj Sudhir Kr.
- 10 Kujur Augustine
Soreng Ajay R.
Toppo Alok
Lakra Sunil
- 12 Soreng Vinod S.
Tirkey Alexander
- 13 Bage Roshan
- 15 Kujur Marianus J.
Soreng Fuldeo
- 16 Minj Walter Xavier
Barla Thomas
- 17 Brys Aurel
- 21 Tigga Swarn
- 23 Ekka Clement
- 24 Topno Patras
- 27 Soreng Gabriel
- 28 Kandulna Justin

December

- 01 Surin Elias
- 07 Tirkey Vijay Manohar
- 04 Kujur Ashish
- 10 Breye Erik
- 11 Kerketta Sanjay
- 17 Baghwar Marius
- 18 Xalxo Ignatius
Bage Kamal Chandra
Toppo Bruno
- 22 Bilung Gilbert
Kullu Ferdinand
- 23 Toppo Christopher
- 24 Lakra Christopher
- 25 Barla Emmanuel
Kujur Ernest
- 26 Beck Milianus
- 29 Dungdung John B.