

RANCHI BULLETIN



73/10 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand **OCTOBER 2014**

Fr. Provincial's Programme and Canonical Visitation

October - November 2014

25 Oct – 1 Nov.: Phesama JCSA meeting
 02 Meeting with Bp Joseph Aind SDB.
 03 Pengaree
 04 To Tezpur
 05 Balipara
 06 St. Xavier's College Sonabheel.

07 Jesuit Curia & Gana Chetna Samaj
 Visit to Bp Michael Akasius Toppo
 8 -9 Mushalpur
 10 Manas Bansbari.
 Meeting with Bp Thomas, Bongaigaon
 11 Kathalguri
 14 Leaves for Ranchi

Pope Francis has appointed members of the Pontifical International Theological Commission

Father Peter Dubovský (SVK), professor at the *Pontificio Instituto Biblico* of Rome.

Father Bernard Pottier (BML), professor of dogmatic theology and philosophy at the *Institute d'Études Théologiques* of Brussels.

Father Gabino Uribarri Bilbao (ESP), dean and professor at the Faculty of Theology of the *Pontificia Universidad de Comillas*.

Jesuits attending the Synod of Bishops on the Family

Msgr Ján Babiak (SVK), Archbishop of Prešov for Catholics of Byzantine rite. President of the Council of the Slovak Church (Slovak).

Fr. Adolfo Nicolás Pachón, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) on behalf of the Union of General Superiors General.

Fr. François-Xavier Dumortier (BSE), Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Fr. Antonio Spadaro (ITA), Editor of *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

Fr. George Henri Ruysen (BSE), of the Pontifical Oriental Institute of Rome.

Fr. Federico Lombardi (ITA), Director of the Holy See Press Office (Vatican City).

Fr. Bernd Hagenkord of the Vatican Radio.

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
 5:00-6:00 p.m. : Presentations
 6:00-6:30 P.M. : Interactions

22 November 2014 (Saturday)

6:30 A.M. : Holy Mass in the College Chapel
 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.: Public Function & Cultural
 Integration

INFORMATION

- **Fr. POSA** has extended the term of **Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai** (GUJ), as the Secretary of JESA, for another three years.
- **Address of Fr. Camil Kerketta SJ:** Pontifical Biblical Institute, Paul Emile Botta – 3, Post Box 497; 91004 Jerusalem, Israel. E-mail Add: ckerketta@yahoo.co.uk; Mobile: (972)-5229 04501

HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS**Jharna-Ashirvad Namkum**

I have heard many religious say Pooja Vacation is a time for retreat! Yeah, it's true. There were four different groups making their annual retreat in Jharna. SJA tertians made their 30 days long retreat under the guidance of Fr. Deepak Toppo SJ. Fr. KC Philip SJ guided SCN sisters in their retreat. Fr. Binod Toppo SJ accompanied Oblate Sisters in their six days retreat; Fr. Sylvanus Kiro SJ helped St. Anne's Sisters in their spiritual journey with the Lord. Fr. Thomas Barla SJ and Fr Emmanuel Barla SJ also made their annual retreat.

Br. Prakash Kullu SJ was admitted to Seva Nilaya Health Centre Aragate for a couple of days. He was suffering from Jaundice. Now he is back to Jharna and is recuperating. Novices are all hale and hearty. They enjoyed the course on Human Formation by Fr. Vincent Toppo SJ who made his classes quite interesting. The second year novices went to Longa for a pilgrimage on 3 October.

Deepak Toppo SJ

Khunti St. Michael

Pre-Novices had their first semester exam from 3-5 September. It was an apt occasion to assess the growth and progress made by the pre-novices as well as their formators. At present the number of pre-novices has gone down from 39 to 34.

To make the Teachers' Day more meaningful, all minority schools of Khunti proper came together for the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Amrit was the main celebrant while Fr. Augustine broke the word of God stressing on the relationship between students and teachers. Thereafter colourful cultural program was organized at their own respective schools. Our school had also made a special arrangement for the *must watch PM's program* on the eve of Teachers' Day. Most of the students responded positively and benefitted a lot from it.

This year's Inter Jesuit High Schools and Inter Colleges Meet 2014 was held in Gumla. Loyolites also took part in it. Though no trophies but certainly bagged a lot of learning experiences from this exposure. Girls of Loyola Inter College participated in the Naweem Smarak Football Tournament organized in the college ground,

Khunti. They lost in the final and had to be satisfied with rather a small goat. However, the pre-novices grabbed the first prize (a big goat) in the Inter Unit Football Tournament, organized in the eve of parish day 2014.

After the reopening of Pre-Novitiate, it seems that God is more favorable to our community. Just a week after Fr. Sylverius stepped in; Sch. Fuldeo Soreng joined us on 8 September. He was accompanied by the entire St. Xavier's community, Doranda and a few St. Anne sisters. He will be the in charge of hostel and an assistant teacher in the school. Br. Basil attended Assitancy Jesuit Brothers' Convention held at XLRI Jamshedpur from 11 – 15 Sept.

Sch. Jyoti Paul

Loghardaga St Stanislaus

Clean India Campaign seems to have its impact in our area as it encompassed not only on 'clean hands' but also head, hair, nose, nail...whole body and also to ensure clean rooms, homes and neighbourhood. Our school and hostel followed the spirit of this campaign. One of the hostellers, named Peter, has devoted his game time and expertise in pruning grass to keep the ground and courtyard neat and clean. Fr. Albinus has been always eco-friendly by tending plants and trees. After coming back from the Ursula Hospital, Br. Nico cleaned his field for planting vegetables. Frs. Ranjit and Ignatius toiled with students to clean and beautify the school and hostel garden. Fr. Ignas also has shaken the dust off from his shirt. Chiseled and smooth wooden tools for acupressure are being processed in the workshop before they are supplied to meet the demand. Fr. Sushil kept on talking and counting the number of shoots of paddy planted according to the method of SRI (System of Rice Intensification).

After the result of first terminal exam, the *munna* and senior football teams, accompanied with a dance troop, participated in Jesuit School Football jamboree at St. Ignatius High School Gumla. The morale of our students was so high that they could cheer up, 'hip hip hurrah' even though they lost all the matches. The eye sores and itching could not stop the hostellers from joining the football teams.

AROUSE team organized one day of workshop on *Tolong Siki* (Kurukh Script) on 20 September. Dr. Narayan

Oraon voiced out the importance of Kurukh language and its script. It also organized base level orientation and training programme for the farmers in the villages where the District Development Manager (DDM) from NABARD and the Block Technical Managers (BTMs) from Agriculture Technical Management addressed the villagers. Fr. Sushil reports that the endeavour to facilitate in procuring Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) to 500 farmers seems to end with without positive outcome because the banks are reluctant with JLG mode of financial inclusion. Therefore, they started 'thrift and credit' among the members of farmer clubs so as to build up their own capital.

Sushil Tirkey, S.J.

Tongo

CLC boys and girls of St Peter's High School and Ursuline Girls' High School had an opportunity of a 3-day retreat from 10 – 13 Sept, under the direction of Fr. Nirajan SJ (Jam) who through Power Point and documentary films kept them enthralled. Boys and girls were rather forced to reflect on their lives. On the last day there was confession for them. It took more than two hours for 6 priests sitting for confession. The retreat ended with Holy Mass during which all took oath to remain faithful to the ideals of CLC.

Fr Alex, Chandradeep Bara (Youth Leader), Prabodh and Arvind, electricians from Chainpur, bought a sound system for the Church. It was the felt-need of the parishioners for which teachers, institutions and some faithful generously contributed. Since contribution was not sufficient, loan is taken in order to purchase it. On Sunday, 21 Sept, the set was kept on the corridor of the bungalow so that people could see it after the Mass.

St Peter's High School bagged the first prize in the Football Tournament at Barway High School. Boys were happy to bring a goat. Again on Monday, 29 Sept, St Peter's team managed to get second prize in the Inter Jesuit High School and Inter College Meet at St Ignatius Gumla. Final was played against St Ignatius in which St Peter's lost in the tie-break.

Fr Tej went to Ranchi for health-check up and rest. He came back on 25 Sept to celebrate his birthday in the community. Jesuits from Noadih and Ursuline sisters joined to share in his joy during dinner. Fr John Tirkey, former headmaster of St Peter's High School, came to refresh his old memories.

Fr Linus Dungdung

Christ the King Church, Kanke

The construction work of the Church building, mainly basement and hall in the first floor, is going on and likely to be over by the third week of November. The casting of the roof which is about 110x80ft square on the first floor

has been completed successfully. Frs. James and Patrick who are overseeing this work are quite satisfied. The construction committee members as well as some parishioners do visit the site now and then with appreciative words for the good work. We plan to get it blessed by Bp Telesphore Bilung SVD on 23 November 2014, the feast-day of our church and the parish.

We thank Tarunoday scholastics who actively help us in conducting Sunday catechism classes for our parish children. We also appreciate their help in distributing Holy Communion to old and sick parishioners. We have started the remedial class in Maths particularly for 10th class Christian students. At present some 16 of them are getting help from Sch Jacob Chinnappan, a second year student of RTC. The new *Krusvir* children had an enrollment on 15th Sept. with a solemn Mass for both the schools namely St Joseph's Boys Middle school and St Mary's Middle School.

Fr James V Dungdung SJ

Muri Catholic Ashram

Due to ill health Fr. Ignatius Kujur was taken to RIHAA Mandar on 1 Sept. for treatment. Teachers' Day was anticipated on 3 Sept due to some reasons. Thereafter on 8 Sept interviews were conducted for the recruitment of 3 new teachers.

We are aware of the atmosphere of our hostel. We plan to revamp it by providing basic facilities and conducive atmosphere for studies. Keeping this aim in our mind we had called guardians' meeting on 21 Sept but due to bad weather it was a failure. However, we have not given up our hope. We hope to call the meeting of the parents soon in the month of October. Meanwhile Schools were closed for Durga Puja from 29 Sept. to 7 October. It was to our great surprise that on 29 Sept without our knowledge, a truck loaded with new desks and benches reached our school campus. When enquired we found out that these were sent by the local *Mukhia* (local headman) for our school. Thanks to the *Mukhia* for his kind thoughtfulness.

Deacon Swresh

Loyola College, Chennai

Chotanagpur Association celebrated the feast of Karam on 7 Sept in the Loyola Campus. 450 members turned up for the celebration. Scholastics from the Northern Jesuit Provinces at Berchmans Illam played important role in organizing this festive gathering.

Schs. Sameer and Alok were hospitalized in St Thomas Hospital for viral fever and physical exertion respectively. Fr. Erenius went to Punjab to present his research paper in an International Symposium held at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Mohali. Fr. Henry Jerom, S.J Superior,

Berchman's Illam, organized a blood donation camp for Jesuits. Many Jesuit priests and scholastics of the campus donated their precious blood for the poorest cancer patients. Jesuit Forum at Loyola College organized a talk on *Intellectual Apostolate*. Fr. M. Amaladoss, SJ highlighted some important aspects of this apostolate.

Fr. Erenius & Sch. Sameer

DNC Pune

September was the month of cheers and tears. JDV organized the Teachers' Day cum Deacons' Farewell Day function on 5 September. JDV thanked and appreciated its professors for their selfless service and dedication for all round development of the students. Deacons were given farewell in the same function.

Community Days' were the time of celebration of the richness of community life. During these days the expression of 'Ha Ha Ha... Hi Hi Hi... Wow! Wow!' ruled the DNC campus from 11-14 Sept. Members were filled with the spirit of zeal, fun and frolic. The Organizing Committee arranged varieties of games for fun and enjoyment. Marathon was the centre of attraction. Cultural evening was full of mesmerizing dances and songs. Finally

it was concluded with the farewell programme to our Deacons.

JDV Social Wing organized extension lecture on Cyber Crime on 26 Sept. The talk by Dr. Herold D'Costa was informative and thought-provoking one. He said that we all are victims of Cyber Crime. Photos and materials uploaded on Facebook and other social networking sites can remain for next 200 years. No one is safe in social networking sites. The evening of 27 turned emotional. DNC bid Farewell to noted Jesuit Scientist and JDV professor Fr. Job. He served JDV in different capacities for 42 years. DNC acknowledged his contributions to the Community and JDV. His life is an inspiration for young Jesuits. Fr. Job gave moving farewell message to DNC Community. DNC witnessed the sudden changes on the faces of the Scholastics on the fourth week of the month. PCFs from the Assistency visited their Scholastics. Fr. Michael Kerketta, PCF, arrived here on 28 September for his annual visitation. He met us personally on 28 and 29 of September. He left for Loyola School Pashan to attend ACF Annual Meet 2014 on 30 September.

Sch. Vally SJ

ASSAM & ANDAMAN

Pengaree

This year the Teachers' Day was celebrated in a simple way. In the morning all the teachers and students participated in the thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Fr Telesphore. After the Mass a short felicitation program was held. All teachers were given token gifts as a sign of gratitude for their selfless service to the students. After that all teachers and school captains gathered in the staff room where cake was cut. Celebration continued in each class room between their own teachers and students. Programme ended with the refreshment for everybody.

Bishop Joseph Aind SDB was in Pengaree on 7 Sept. for the Confirmation. 150 faithful received the sacrament of Confirmation. The Daughters of St. Anne's prepared them well. In spite of heavy rain good number of faithful participated in the Holy Eucharist.

13 September was a memorable day when St Xavier's School Pengaree celebrated the anniversary of 200th year of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus. During the programme, Sir Kaldius and Miss Madhuri of Class IX narrated the history of the Suppression and Restoration of the Society. Later Fr. Mukul, the Parish priest, also related the history, life and works of the Jesuits. Mr. John Tigga, Indian Bank Senior Manager, and Mr. Singh, the Army Chief Pengaree, were Chief Guests who gave inspiring talks to the school family. All the teachers of the

other three feeder schools also participated in the celebration with one good programme each. At the end Fr. Telesphore expressed sentiments of gratitude and appreciation for the well-arranged programme under the guidance of St. Anne's Sisters.

Telesphore Lakra, S.J.

Jesuit Curia, Tezpur

Frs. John Ekka and Xavier Lakra had an emergency trip to Kathalguri on 17-18 September to settle the land demarcation of the Loyola School property. For this meeting Fr. Mukul had also come from Pengaree. The matter is solved now. Later, in the evening deliberation about unfinished constructions of Loyola School took place with the community members. On their way back to Tezpur, Frs. Xavier and John made flying visit to Manas Bansbari and Mushalpur centres. They were glad to see Sisters' Convent at Mushalpur coming up well under the supervision of Fr Vital Ekka.

On 14 September, Jesuits of 3 communities working in Tezpur Diocese, along with the parishioners of Balipara celebrated the feast of the Holy Cross very meaningfully. Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo DD presided over the Eucharist. After the Eucharist Holy Cross Sisters, both of Balipara and Bokola, were felicitated with a short colourful programme by the parishioners, Hostel boys and girls. For

this occasion some nearby parishes Priests and Sisters were also present. The feast ended with the agape meal prepared by the Holy Cross Sisters for the guests and parishioners were served snacks.

Karam feast was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Sunday 21 Sept. It began with Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. John Ekka in Nirmala school premises. In spite of rain quite many people took part in the Eucharist. Fr. Xavier Lakra gave the homily linking Karam with the Cross as a sign of the redemption of our people. Then the branches of Karam were cut and brought in to the courtyard of the government school play ground. Due to rain the Karam dance competition started one hour late. When the rain stopped, the group welcomed the chief guest, Mr. Stanislaus Soreng, the education officer, and then the competition started. 14 teams took part in the competition. The prizes were given according to Munda, Oraon and Kharia Karam dances. This kind of event for last 3 years has gradually improved the quality of singing and dancing. The credit for the success goes to Fr. George Soreng and his Gana Chetna Samaj team. This is a small effort by the Jesuits for the preservation and promotion of Adivasi Culture of the migrated Adivasis of Chotanagpur settled in Assam.

On 26 Sept. Frs. John and Xavier visited Uriamghat parish, 193 km away from Tezpur. It is situated at the border of Assam and Nagaland where recently incidents of ethnic clashes took place. They visited Raja Pokhuri Camp, where 80 houses of the Adivasis were burnt by the Naga underground extremists. 730 houses of the Adivasis of 13 villages have been burnt by the Boro militants. Adivasis had to flee from these places to save their lives. They ran away without taking anything except what they had put on. Their houses were set on fire, all their food-grains were turned into ashes, their bulk of straws for cows were burnt. Animals were chased and taken away by the Nagas. People ran to 11-15 km to reach to Uriamghat and Sarupathar parishes to get the shelter. Their life is in a pathetic condition. However some 'good Samaritans' came forward to help these homeless poor Adivasis. School children of Dibrugarh Diocese and some people of goodwill came forward to help them by providing clothes, soaps, utensils and other necessary things to restart. People are still afraid to go back to their old places even after one month and half. But in their fields very promising paddy crops are standing so they want to go back. They have to be provided with tin roofs, warm clothes like shawls and blankets for the coming winter and other minimum necessities of lives to begin anew in a smaller way.

For the Bicentenary celebration, Jesuits working in Tezpur diocese along with Holy Cross Sisters as the collaborators gathered at Jesuit Curia Bhavan Tezpur on

Saturday 27 Sept. evening. Fr. Benedict Lakra highlighted the context and causes for suppression of the Society and its restoration. Thereafter 5 points from the Letter of Fr General were placed before the gathering for the reflection and deliberation. It ended with a solemn Eucharist followed by fellowship meal.

Assam Jesuits launched Assam Mission web-site: www.ajmission.org on day on 27 Sept. Thanks to Fr Anup for his initiative and hard work in launching this web-site. Fr. Xavier Lakra gave retreat to 95 Minor Seminarians of St. Joseph Seminary Dibrugarh from 30 Sept. evening to 4 October morning. Fr. John Ekka made his annual retreat at Jesuit House Balipara.

Xavier Lakra, S.J.

Prothrapur (Andaman)

Fr. David was happy to welcome Fr. Augustine Kerketta, a diocesan priest from Ranchi on 8 Sept 2014. He was very helpful to Fr David in different ways. He was the main celebrant of the festive Karam Eucharistic celebration on 14 Sept. Just after the Holy Mass, village-wise Karam dance competition was held in which Barud Godam, Kamrajnagar and Carbynscove won the first, second and third prize respectively. Fr Augustine graced the occasion as the chief guest. Mr. Sanjay Meshack, President Catholic Association Prothrapur, Mr. Arul Swamy, President Tamil Community, Mr. Arockia Swamy, Catechist Tamil Community, A. Ouseph and Mr. S. Alexander were other special guests for the occasion.

On 16 and 17 Sept. Priests' senate meeting was held, followed by joint meeting of priests and religious on 18th in which reports on SCC and Sunday Catechism were specially reported by all the 14 parishes. Fr David also attended the program followed by annual retreat from 25 Sept to 3 October.

Fr David

Ramnagar (Andaman)

Ramnagar had three celebrations: 'Abba Diwas', 'Amma Diwas' and Karam feast of the Adivasis. Abba Diwas (Fathers' Day) and Amma Diwas (Mothers' Day) were on 17 and 24 August respectively. These two days were special days as children showed their gratitude and honour towards their parents. Children offered special prayers and masses for the well-being of their parents.

On 7 Sept., the feast of Karam was celebrated with great joy and fervour. Karam branches were brought to the church with singing traditional songs. There was a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Benedict. Thereafter traditional Karam story was narrated. Just after the Holy Mass, Karam dance competition was held. Five groups participated in it. The participation of Krusvir

children was much appreciated. All the participants were given prizes.

On 15 Sept., both the fathers - Benedict and Anil - left for Port Blair in order to take part in the Annual Diocesan Programme. This programme consisted of meetings, seminar and annual retreat.

Anil Kandulna, S.J.

Diglipur (Andaman)

On 8 October, around 7:00 a.m., after imploring God's blessing, we began our *Padyatra* (pilgrimage) from Diglipur Church to Keralapuram. Around two hundred faithful participated. All along the way we recited rosary. We reached Keralapuram Velankanni Church by 10:15 a.m. After ten minutes refreshment break, we began the Holy Mass. Soon after the Holy Mass all were served with the sumptuous food.

On 14th we celebrated Karam feast. For the Karam dance competition 6 teams participated. Klara Junction stood First, whereas St. Anne's Hostel Magarnallah and Navin Nagar stood Second and Third respectively. On 15th Frs. Edward and Alexander left for Port Blair to attend the Annual meetings, seminar and retreat. On 16-17 Sept. we had senate meeting. 18th we had joint meeting of fathers and sisters of Port-Blair Diocese. 19th we had C.R.I. meeting and outing. 20th was the Catholic Association meeting of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Catholic Mahasabha meeting was held on 21st. From 22nd to 25th evening we had seminar on 'The Scripture: The Word of God', given by the newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, S.F.X. The same evening he continued preaching us the annual retreat which ended on 3 October.

Fr. Alexander Turkey.

DIASPORA

Rome

Edwin successfully completed the first cycle of Italian language course in Verona. He came back to Rome to begin yet another cycle of language learning in Gregorian University, which began on 1 September and will continue until 3 October. He was glad to get Biju Sebastian (DUM) as a new companion in Collegio Bellarmino. Biju has come to pursue his doctorate in Biblical Theology from Gregorian. Before coming to Rome, he was teaching Scripture at Regional Theology Centre, Ranchi. Both Edwin and Biju seem to have built a good rapport with each other, which will help them as students here in terms of mutual help, support and encouragement.

Kulwant had gone to Loyola for the Arrupe Month, popularly known as Pre-Ordination Program (POP) in India. Along with his companions, he devoted one month in intense prayers and serious reflections on Jesuit vocation, spiritual life and religious vows and the objective was to grow more in personal familiarity with God. To enhance the original Ignatian spirit, they went on a pilgrimage to all important Ignatian places in Spain – Manresa, Barcelona, Montserrat, Xavier and Pamplona. Their group also went to Lourdes to offer their grateful hearts to Our Lady for their vocation in the Society. The Arrupe Month has instill in him and his companions to seek and find God's will in their life by integrating the three Ignatian questions into their theological studies: What have I done for Christ; What am I doing for Christ; What will I do for Christ?

Kulwant and his companions returned to Rome on 26 Sept., just on time to animate the Thanksgiving Liturgical Celebration on 27 Sept to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus. The celebration

was presided over by His Holiness Pope Francis. The Jesuits, either working or studying in Rome, along with the friends, well-wishers and benefactors of the Society of Jesus filled the Church of Gesù for the Vespers with the Holy Father. The Letter of Giovanni Roothaan was read as the introduction to the Vespers and seven lamps, as the symbols of the Universal Society, were placed in front of the beautifully decorated image of Our Lady of the Way. The seven lamps represented the Jesuit Curia and six Conferences – Africa and Madagascar, Latin America, South Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe and United States. The homily for the occasion was touching, inspiring, thought-provoking and challenging. Holy Father began his homily by noting the difficult times of persecution faced by the Society of Jesus. Quoting the message of John Paul II to Fr. Kolvenbach delivered on 31 July 1990, he underlined that during the leadership of Fr. Lorenzo Ricci, "enemies of the Church succeeded in obtaining the suppression of the Society" by his predecessor Clement XIV. He emphasized that by remembering restoration of the Society, "we are called to recover our memory, calling to mind the benefits received and the particular gifts". Indeed, the Vespers was a propitious occasion to introspect and to reflect on the past, present and future mission of the Society of Jesus amidst trials, tribulations and various challenges. Kulwant was easily noticeable in front of the Holy Father as he held the Prayer Book during the celebration.

Justin went to Ranchi for his annual holidays on 28 August, much later than his usual time in May-June. Although he missed the Province Get-together in May, he had the satisfaction of attending the Episcopal Ordination of the Auxiliary Bishops of Ranchi Archdiocese on 30

August. Later, on the request of the Rector of Manresa House, he wrote a brief report of the event for Nishkalanka. Despite his tight schedule, he managed to visit two Dioceses of Chhattisgarh – Ambikapur and Jashpur – and talked to the Bishops to popularize the messages of Pope Francis and to connect people with Vatican Radio. Before leaving for Rome, he submitted the draft of Hindi Sunday Reflections to Emmanuel Baxla for editing. He hopes to publish the reflections for all three liturgical cycles by May-June 2015.

After his return from India on 21 Sept., Linus dedicated his time to prepare his classes for the new Academic Year. As an effort to enter into the world of research, he is trying to understand the common elements of the *Rites of Initiation in different Religions and Cultures* and thus, to unearth the possibility of dialogue with them. In his second course, he is attempting to bridge the divisive spirit between the sacred and the secular through the celebration of feasts. According to him, Missiology is basically an effort to open new doors of faith, hope and charity for different peoples.

I had gone to Paris to participate in a Conference organized by CERAS (*Centre de Recherche et Action Sociales*) from 10 to 12 Sept. The theme of the Conference was *A Fair Energy Transition: A Challenge for Europe*.

CERAS is the social analysis centre run by the Jesuits in France. There were more than 200 participants, and over 50 experts from different fields, civil authorities and government officials intervened in Plenary Sessions and Workshops. Such Conferences are organized from time to time under the umbrella of *Scribani Network*, a European Jesuit network which tries to connect various organizations run by Jesuits for peace, equity, solidarity and justice. The mission of the *Scribani Network* is “to contribute to a peaceful and just European society inspired by Christian values and Ignatian spirituality” and its objective is “operate as a ‘think tank’, to give voice to its ideas on European social issues of strategic importance”. To realize its mission and objective, *Scribani Network* organizes conferences, elaborates joint European research proposals and supports initiatives which contribute to its mission and goals. The underlined mission and objective of *Scribani Network* could inspire our own various social action groups – Jesuits and non-Jesuits – to come together and collaborate because the goal after all remains always the same.

After the conclusion of the Conference, I was also invited to participate in the meeting of *Scribani* General Council to evaluate the sessions, workshops, general participation and the final outcome of the Conference. Fr Samir Dungdung, our Ranchi man, is in Paris to pursue his Licentiate in Ignatian Spirituality. From the first day onwards, I tried to meet him; but amidst his classes and

our own tight schedule, we could meet only on the last day. He lives in a community close to the Eiffel Tower. For the moment, he takes two Metros to reach the University; but he is seriously thinking to use the bicycle once he is accustomed to the routes and the road rules. Although, he has arrived in Paris only in July, he seems to be enthusiastic and determined to learn the fundamentals of French language before the start of the regular classes in October. While sharing the Indian supper before my departure, we also shared our *dukham-sukham*, hopes and aspirations. Samir is determined to dedicate his full time and energy to realize fully and faithfully the mission entrusted to him in Paris by the Province. Good Luck, Samir!

Before I left for Paris, Don Valentine Kerketta, Parish Priest of Locarno (Switzerland), invited me to be his guest for almost one week. He has been a blessing to our Priests and Religious from India, especially from Chotanagpur, because without him, it would have been impossible, even out of curiosity, to spend a few days in Switzerland on their own! Many of our own Ranchi Jesuits, who pass by Rome, enjoy his hospitality. He welcomes everyone with open arms and with a magnanimous heart – a perfect example of hospitality and generosity to be learnt from Don Valentine!

Fr Prem

Jerusalem

The months of August and September were the time to get myself introduced into the community and the country. The job of a Minister here is not a big burden. The main task is to take care of the members and the guests. To this end I need to be attentive to the things necessary either in terms of house maintenance or the kitchen management. There are very generous workers in the house; therefore I do not need to be after them. Depending on the number of people residing, the workload varies. The house is filled with the students from September to February. The other months are occupied by some small groups of students or some visitors. Marketing is one of the important factors of management. Often I accompany the driver (who is also the manager of the house) in marketing which happens to be two or three days a week. Hebrew and Arabic are languages spoken in these places but English also is spoken by vast majority of them. I have absolutely no sense of the Hebrew and the Arabic so far but I am trying to learn them for better understanding of the people and the culture.

The Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem in practice is the centre for Biblical studies directed by the faculty of Biblical Institute, Gregorian University, Rome. The courses are basically the Biblical Geography and archaeology. In the month of September there were 33 students from all over the world. Along with the classroom

lectures they had tours to various archaeological sites concerned with the Bible. I had the opportunity to join with them. Some of those interesting places of the excavation sites I visited were Mount Gerizim in Samaria, the city of David in Jerusalem, Qumran in Masada, Mount Herodian (Palace and the burial place of King Herod). The important pilgrimage places in Jerusalem and around it are quite near. The Calvary and the Holy sepulcher churches are hardly fifteen minutes far from my community. Similarly Gethsemane church and surroundings are about half an hour walking distance. I have been visiting them occasionally to spend some time in prayer including the Birth place of the Lord, Bethlehem which is about ten kilometers away from my place.

We are eight Jesuits working in Jerusalem. Four of us stay in this community whereas four others remain outside due to the apostolate they are involved in. One is a Vicar of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and three are residing in Bethlehem and teaching at the University of Bethlehem. Every Monday we come together for sharing and fellowship meal. So far my experience has been very positive in the community and visiting the holy places of the Lord has strengthened my life as a Jesuit. Overall it gives me a great sense of courage and confidence to carry the mission entrusted to me here in Jerusalem, the Holy Land.

Fr Camil Kerketta SJ

Guyana

In the history of the Guyanese Catholic Church, 14 and 16 September 2014 were significant dates as two magnificent new churches in Kanapang and in Waipa respectively in North Pakaraimas were blessed by Bishop Francis Alleyne. In his message he said, "We are the living church, God blesses us." On those auspicious moments of grace and joy a large number of faithful gathered together to witness the occasions. We, the members of the team of interior mission, met in St. Ignatius Mission Lethem to share our mission and life. The Ursuline Sisters in Guyana were highly appreciated for their marvelous contribution in the pastoral field, at the same time they were challenged to be more qualitative and efficient in their mission of love and service. It was also a beautiful occasion to thank and wish Fr. Amar Bage for his wonderful contribution in Pakaraimas as he is transferred to the new mission area in North-West Region and installed as the Superior, the parish priest and the director of the work of his community.

Our Regional Day was held on 28 of September in Arrupe House Georgetown to evaluate the mission work. We need to enter into the life of our people by understanding their culture and traditions. On 28 September, Sunday there was an Amerindian cultural Holy Eucharist in Wapishana

Language to conclude the heritage month to promote their incredible culture and tradition. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Varghese Puthusseri and Fr. Anil K. Tirkey, Fr. Amar Bage, Fr. Elias Surin, Fr. Ronald Fernandes and Fr. James Conway were concelebrants. The annual Clergy Conference 2014 was held from 29 September to 4 October in St. Paul's Retreat Centre Georgetown which provided us an opportunity to come together as the clergy of the diocese and share our success, failures, challenges, struggles and dreams in our mission.

Fr. Elias Surin

Cairo (Egypt)

The month of August is the time of transfers/new appointments in the Near East Province. On 9 September, I joined the Novitiate community in Cairo – a big change for me. I moved out from the Arabic medium co-ed School, Minia (Upper Egypt). Now, I've been appointed Socius to the Novice Master and Spiritual Guide in a Jesuit French medium boys' middle school.

We've four novices in the 2nd year. On 22 September, two novices joined for the 1st year. Bassem is from Alexandria who has completed the five years' bachelor degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts (Dept. of Architecture). The other one from Jordan named Moayad has done his five years' bachelor degree in Industrial Engineering. For the last eight years, he was employed in the gulf as management consultant.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta

Cambodia

Frs. Manoj and Rajat attended National Catechists' Synod organized for all the priests, religious and catechists in Phnom Penh from 7-10 September. They also attended Youth Synod of Battambang diocese from 3 – 5 September in Battambang. Both programmes were helpful for them to deepen their commitment as religious leaders in their respective work areas. Fr. Rajat organized six weeks remedial classes for 400 primary schools boys and girls in two nearby government primary schools with the help of his staff members, volunteers and high school boys and girls from De Nobili students' center of his parish. The programme was useful for both the students as well as the teachers.

Fr. Manoj organized one day recollection on 25 September for all the boys and girls whom he helps before they start their new academic year. Sch. Rakesh has successfully recruited new students in the hostel. He is surprised to see water level coming up little by little in his parish campus. "Pcumben" the feast of ancestors was celebrated with joy in all over Cambodia. Fr. Rajat helped the faithful by offering Holy Mass everyday in a special

way for the ancestors for 15 days. Fr. Manoj and Sch. Rakesh also joyfully celebrated the feast in their respective places with the people. Fr. Rajat was invited to take part and give a talk to 350 members of St. Vincent De Paul Society all over Cambodia on the occasion of 10th Anniversary of its arrival in the year 2004. Fr. Rajat is energized and enthused with the return of hostel boys and girls on 30 September after a long summer holiday.

Fr Rajat

Paris

As the month of September approached, scholastics as well as priests who have been staying in my community: Communauté Saint Louis de Gonzague, and studying at Centre Sèvres, Facultés jésuites (University) started coming back from their summer holiday. The community consists of 17 members among whom 4 are from Africa, 2 from India (MDU & RAN), 1 from the Near East, 1 from Italy, 1

from Spain and the rest are of France province. In order to know each other and thus start building up better community of friends in the Lord, all of us left for a lonely place to spend our week-end there in sharing of ourselves and meditating on GC 35, D2. 10 Sept. was the day of inauguration of the second Cycle in Centre Sevres. It was a whole-day programme. Surprisingly everything was in French and among 52 students only Stanly (Sri Lankan Jesuit) and I were the ones who did not understand French. One evening I had the chance to meet Prem Xalxo who came to Centre Sevres for his meeting. Meeting him was really a blessing for me. I felt being encouraged and supported. I continue my French classes together with reading books in English given by my professor as to prepare myself for the course "The Spiritual Exercises" which began in October.

Fr Samir

RIP: Let us Remember in Our Prayers

Br Juel Ekka SJ (78) passed away on 22 September 2014

Fr. Vijay Kamath A. SJ (79) died on 20 October 2014.

Mr Julius Ekka (60+), father of Sch. Deonis Ekka died on 20 October 2014

BABIES OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October

04 Tirkey Anil Kishore
08 Lakra Ignatius
09 Beck Walter
11 Toppo James Ignatius
Minj Anthres
Beck Suman
12 Surin Victor
Minj Billianus
Kerketta Pradeep
14 Tete Callixtus
15 Baxla Suman J.
16 Dungdung Albert
Lakra Xavier
20 Bilung Francis Xavier
Minj Abraham
21 Barwa Solomon
22 Ekka Anselm
26 Soy Raphael
Kujur Florence
27 Guria Florence
Tigga Mahendra Peter

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
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
28 Kandulna Justin

Father Shailendra Bara, S.J.

(June 25, 1953 – July 6, 2014)



“As for me, I am already poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and

not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing” (2 Tim.4: 6-8).

Fr. Shailendra Bara was entrusted with the task of coordinating on the Province level 200th Jubilee celebration of the restoration of the Society, a responsibility which he carried out diligently till the time of his departure had come (Cf. 2 Tim.4: 6b). While waiting for all the members of the committee to be present for the meeting at XISS on June 30, 2014 at 4.00 p.m., he suffered a massive stroke. Fr. Shailendra was rushed to the I.C.U. department at the Guru Nanak hospital where he succumbed to the fatal cardiac arrest on July 6, 2014. After the funeral Mass held in the Cathedral on July 7, 2014, and well attended by a big number of priests, religious and the lay faithful, Fr. Shailendra’s remains were laid to eternal rest at the Kantatoli cemetery.

During his 61 years of a short span of life, Fr. Shailendra had fought the good fight; he had finished the race; he had kept the faith (Cf. 2 Tim.4: 7). St. Paul’s words characterize Fr. Shailendra as a fervent Christian and a zealous Jesuit priest. Born in a traditional practicing Catholic family of 12 children to Mr. Elias and Mrs. Ignatia, at Fatimanagar, Ranchi on June 25, 1953, Shailendra was well initiated into Christian faith from his early life, which, in the course of time, inspired him to join the Society, and serve the Lord and his people as a Jesuit priest.

After his initial school education at St. Aloysius, Ranchi, and later at St. John’s, Ranchi as an apostolic boy, young Shailendra proved his candidacy to the Society of Jesus. He entered the Novitiate at St. Stanislaus’ College, Sitagarha in 1972, and took his first vows in 1974. Thereafter Sch. Shailendra followed the normal studies and training programmes, a requirement for him, as for any Jesuit Scholastic, in order to become a priest: Bachelor’s

degree at St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi, Regency in the Apostolic School, Ranchi, Philosophy at Shembaganur and Theology at De Nobili College, Pune. Shailendra was ordained a priest at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ranchi on May 4, 1985. And barely after a month, Father Shailendra enrolled himself at the Biblicum, Rome for the licentiate programme, and obtained the degree in Scripture in 1989; and the same year he joined the staff at Regional Theologate, Arsanday, as a Scripture professor. He served the young Scholastics and Seminarians in various capacities as a professor, dean of studies, and Province Coordinator for formation. Fr. Shailendra edited “Tarang Bharati”, a diocesan news paper, for a couple of years, and then switched over to “Nishkalanka”, a monthly regional Hindi journal, as its chief editor, a post which he held till his final departure.

If these sketchy biographical data speak of Fr. Shailendra as a scholar and as an academician, his committed life of faith and spirituality as well as human approach to people make him a person who was greatly sought after by many religious congregations of both men and women in and around Ranchi for spiritual directions, instructions, seminars and retreats. He generously shared with them not only his knowledge of Scripture, but most importantly, his Christ-experience. His long years of Jesuit formation and study of the Bible enabled Fr. Shailendra to cultivate a genuine taste for the Word of God, as well as an earnest desire to comprehend and experience its mystery and share it with others in a language and manner comprehensible to the common man and woman.

Fr. Shailendra was soft spoken, a man of a few words, but action-oriented. He meant business and demanded a great deal from himself, but towards others he was gentle, kind and loving. And as such, he enjoyed the company and friendship of many good souls, both old and young from every walk of life. It leaves no room for any doubt why a large crowd of well-wishers, no matter to which tenet of religion they followed, flocked into the Cathedral for the funeral Mass as well as in the graveyard of Kantatoli for the last rites on July 7, 2014.

Truly, Fr. Shailendra fought a good fight all through, finished the race, and kept the faith. May the Righteous Judge give the departed soul the crown of righteousness! (Cf. 2 Tim.4: 6-8).

Fr. Sudhir Kujur, S.J.

Fr. Piergiorgio Mennini, S.J.

(24 Sept. 1938 – 16 August 2014)



A tragic incident took place in the life of Fr. Giorgio on 7 July 2014. In Ranchi Cathedral there was a funeral Mass at 10.00 a.m. for Fr. Shailendra Bara, S.J. who had died the previous day. Fr. Giorgio went to concelebrate this Mass. With other concelebrants he took his vestments and was going to vest himself and all of a sudden he fell down. He did not support himself with his hands; he must have become unconscious before falling; and in this process he hit a bench and got two cuts, one on his right eye-brow and the second one a little above it slightly towards the right. He was rushed to Orchid hospital nearby. Doctors there told that Fr. Giorgio had a stroke. He was unconscious for many days, paralyzed on right side and his mouth was twisted towards the left and so was not able to speak. After many days he partially gained consciousness. When he was better he used to be shifted from the ICU to ordinary room and when it was needed he was back to ICU again.

He was consoled and encouraged by visits, first of his three brothers. They smiled and talked to him in his own mother tongue – Italian. Till this time he was able hear and understand his language better. Fr. Giorgio opened his eyes and tried to say something but was not audible. The second visit was by his another brother Antonio who is an Archbishop and the Papal Nuncio in U.K. and was accompanied by his youngest sister Elena.

After some time he was shifted to the Holy Family hospital, Mandar, a hospital and personnel there more familiar to him. It was thought that he would get better care and service there, though Ranchi hospital would have better medical service. In Mandar he was more relaxed and cheerful. He had just spent a few days there. On 16 August towards the evening a change took place for the worse and as the sun was setting Fr. Giorgio died of cardiac arrest at 6.30 P.M. of that day at Holy Family hospital, Mandar, Ranchi.

Fr. Piergiorgio Mennini, S. J, commonly addressed Giorgio or Mennini or ‘Mompere’ by those who had spent

some years with him during their formation was an Italian from Rome and was born on September 24, 1938. He came from a traditionally devout Christian family. He was the second of the fourteen children. His brothers and sisters loved him very much and four of his brothers and a sister visited him in his critical condition. A brother, with his wife came for the second time to see him but Fr. Giorgio had already gone to his eternal reward before they arrived at Ranchi. They took part in his funeral Mass and burial ceremony.

He was brought up and educated in his native city, Rome. From early in his life Giorgio had a desire for priesthood and to work preferably in one of the mission countries. He had his spiritual director with whom he had already discussed about his desire. He entered the novitiate on December 2, 1960 in Lonigo, Italy and after his first vows he was sent for his studies of philosophy in Gallarate. During his studies one year his spiritual director informed Fr. Giorgio that Fr. Francis Crick, S.J. the then provincial of Ranchi province was in Jesuit Generalate, Rome. He suggested him to meet Fr. Crick. During that meeting of Fr. Crick, S.J. and Fr. Giorgio discussed everything and finalized about his future as a Jesuit. Fr. Giorgio would come to Ranchi province in view of teaching physics in St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi. He completed his higher studies after his philosophy in 1970 and that same year he came to Ranchi. He studied Hindi for sometimes before going for theology in Kurseong in 1970.

He was ordained priest in Ranchi Cathedral on 27 April, 1973. After finishing the fourth year of theology Fr. Giorgio was appointed an assistant parish priest of Doranda in 1974. He was then assigned to teach in St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi in 1975-’76. He did his tertianship in St. Stanislaus’ College, Sitagarha from Oct. 1976 to March 1977 and that same year on 31 July he pronounced his final vows. He was back to the College for teaching purpose residing in Manresa House as spiritual director of scholastics studying in the same college. He was highly appreciated as spiritual director and POSA became aware of it. And so he took Fr. Giorgio and appointed him a spiritual director of scholastics who were studying philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Satya Nilyam, Chennai. His service as spiritual director was considered

more important for Jesuit scholastics who were studying philosophy and who needed better guidance in their spiritual, emotional and intellectual life. Fr. Giorgio could help them to integrate their studies with their Jesuit spirituality. His effectiveness as a spiritual director can be appraised by the fact that he continued to be the spiritual director there for fourteen long years. Apart from this main assignment he also shouldered the responsibility of the registrar's office at Satya Nilayam. He was director of tertians for ten years from 1996; for two years he managed alone and the next eight years he collaborated with a colleague.

With long years of his experience in spiritual guidance and counseling he became competent and skilful in these fields. He was able to handle difficulties of those in formation and others comfortably. He also developed and became efficient in directing 6-day, 8-day and 30-day retreats of young and not so young men and women. During his summer holidays he occupied himself in these spiritual ministries. He brought encouragement, comfort and consolation, healing and hope to many who came into his life. He was a real doctor of souls.

In the north sometimes in December an ordination retreat is organized for ordinands; for this generally four or five directors are required depending upon the number of candidates. For many years Fr. Giorgio was suggested to be in this group of retreat directors. When the names of directors were put up on the board under his name the list of retreatants was first getting filled up. A director would have ten retreatants for guiding. He was well appreciated by the group and it would be passed on to others.

Fr. Giorgio was trained in NLP – Neuro Linguistic Programming by Fr. Richard P. McHugh, S.J., a Jesuit from Jamshedpur province, now he is back to USA his original country but still he comes back every year to give seminars on NLP. Fr. Giorgio used to join him in this programme. According to them this could be applied to spirituality, prayer and especially to the Ignatian retreat; so did Fr. Giorgio.

He was appointed Superior in Sadhana Institute, Lonavala and Ashirvad/Jharna. I think being a superior of a particular community was not the cup of his tea. He did not feel at ease as a superior especially in the latter place. He was a person oriented man. When any one approached

him for counseling help or for a clarification of some problem he would be fully for him or her. He was not so comfortable in a group. In the same way if he had not met certain groups of people he would not go out to them.

He did not like to talk about himself especially about his ailments. Many of the community members did not know, for example for what purpose he used to visit Dr. S. Mukhejee at Circular Road, Ranchi. Some of us vaguely knew he had high blood pressure and Parkinson's disease and this knowledge was as a result of seeing the symptoms. He used to get medicines straightway from his brother Mr. Paolo in Rome but only he knew for what illness.

He had a very soft corner for the poor and children. Through his brothers and sisters he used to help them. He helped some poor students also in their studies especially those coming from poor background and rural areas.

Fr. Giorgio himself lived as a poor man. Simplicity was his life-style. It could be seen in his clothing, food habit and also in his travelling. Since his hip-bone operation, when he was a Superior at Sadhana Institute, Lonavala he could not ride cycle or motor cycle. But he did not take an advantage of it asking for a jeep when he had to go to Ranchi from Jharna or when he had to go to the railway station. Wherever he could, he would go on foot. He often had to go to the police station for reporting whenever he went out from Jharna for a longer time and also after he came back. He walked most of the time from Jharna to Namkum Chowk to take an auto-rickshaw and he would walk back from Namkum Chowk to Jharna and he would do this in summer, winter and in rainy season. Giorgio was a good reader. After reading a certain book he would speak about it. He would even suggest to read it if one had not read. He would read news papers meticulously especially English ones and discuss or at least mention the news items at table when he found them interesting and important. He watched also TV regularly mainly BBC to get world news. He was a cricket fan and this was one of the favourite topics of his conversation.

He celebrated the Eucharist devoutly, many times alone; he would not rush through the Eucharistic prayer. He also read the breviary regularly. Giorgio, Rest in eternal peace!

Fr. Sylvanus Kiro, S.J