

RANCHI BULLETIN



76/11 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand NOVEMBER 2017

Fr. Provincial's Programmes

November 2017

- Nov. 7-11 : Off to Delhi
- Nov. 11 : Back to Ranchi
- Nov. 18 : Consult 3.30 pm
- Nov. 21 : Visitation – Tongo 9.00 am
- Nov. 22 : To ONGC, Bokaro
- Nov. 24 : St. John's High School – Feast of St. John Berchmans
: Afternoon – visitation – Noadih – night halt
- Nov. 25 : AROUSE – GB Meeting
: Afternoon – visitation – Soso 2.00 pm
- Nov. 26 : Ranchi – Christ the King Procession
- Nov. 28-29: Joint Meeting of Major Superiors with Bishops, CRI and CDP Joint Meeting (GB Meeting of various Registered Societies in November-December)

December 2017

- Dec. 3 : Feast of St Francis Xavier
- Dec. 8 : Holy Mass at SMI Convent 6.00 am
: Ursuline Kanke Road
- Dec. 9 : Inauguration of Vision 2020 – at St. Xavier's, Doranda
- Dec. 11 : Strategic Planning – 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
– at Manresa House
: XISS - GB Meeting – 4.00 pm
- Dec. 12 : XIPT – GB Meeting – 4.00 pm
- Dec. 15 : Golden Jubilee of Br. Elias Minj, SJ & Blessing of Manresa House
New Infirmary-5.30 pm pm
- Dec. 16 : Christmas Gathering –
All Churches Committee

Appointments by Fr. General

Father John Wilfred Lobo, SJ, provincial of Darjeeling, dated 14 November 2017. He will take office on December 29, 2017.

Appointment by Fr. Provincial:

Fr. Ajay R. Soreng, S.J.	Acting Director	Loyola Training Centre, Ranchi
Fr. Ashok Kandulna, S.J.	Assistant Director	Loyola Training Centre, Ranchi
Fr. James Pascal Tete, SJ	Asst. Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Ramnagar
Fr. Robert Kindo, SJ	Ad Omnia	Catholic Church, Patrachauli
Br. Basil Tirkey, SJ	In-charge Kitchen, Farm & Garden	St. Mary's High School, Samtoli

Manresa House, Ranchi : gets a new Rector in the person of Fr. Amrit Lakra, SJ. In a Solemn Holy Mass at 6.00 pm on 13 November 2017, presided over by Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Fr. Amrit Lakra pronounced the fourth Vows and thereafter Fr. Provincial read out the letter from Rev. Fr. General Arturo Sosa, SJ, appointing Fr. Amrit as the new Rector of Manresa House from 13 November 2017. Congratulations Fr. Amrit and our prayers are with you throughout your term!

The Province men filled the Manresa Chapel to its capacity. Fr. Provincial in his homily stressed on the theme: Affirmative confirmation of the call and eagerness to remain ever faithful. This is found in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Stanislaus Costca. After the Holy Mass a rapturous greetings and felicitation followed in the refectory with songs, bouquets and gifts of shawls.

Announcement:

- ❖ **Province Jubilee Celebration:** All the members of the Province are invited to the Province Jubilee Celebration of our Jubilarians in 2017 on 15 December 2017 at Manresa House, Ranchi at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Blessing of the Extension of the Province Infirmary** after the jubilee Mass on 15 December 2017
- ❖ **Promotion to Holy Order:** Scholastics Edwin Ritesh Dungdung, Fuldeo Soreng, Rakesh Kerketta, Ravi Hemant Kujur, Roshan Ba'a and Sahilesh Lakra have been approved for the Holy Order.
- ❖ **Affiliation to CBSE:** St. John's English Medium School, Ranchi got affiliation (No. 3430362) from CBSE, Delhi on 1 November 2017. Congratulations to Fr. Alexander Tirkey, SJ, the Principal, St. John's Jesuit community and the School Staff!
- ❖ **Passed B. Ed.:** Fathers Ranjit W. Lakra and Ravi Bhushan Xess passed their B. Ed. Examination held in 2017 in the First Division.
- ❖ **Health News:** Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ, sends a message from Rome that Fr. Linus Kujur, SJ, was admitted to the Hospital Sparanzani, Rome, on Thursday 16 November. The Kidney Transplant took place in the afternoon after the completion of all the basic/required compatibility and check-ups during the first half. He seems to be responding well to the donated organ. Let us continue to pray for him.
- ❖ **National:** There will be a meeting of Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum on 24 and 25 February 2018 at St. Xavier's College Ahmedabad. Kindly contact Father Ignaci Muthu, S.J., <imuthus@hotmail.com>

St. Mary's High School, Samtoli

Frs. Ireneus, Sikander and 5 Scholastics who had come from Manresa House to give English course to the Apostolic School boys went to Kurdeg on 1 October to celebrate the NAYAKHANI in the house of Fr. Alex Toppo.

Fr. Sunny Bhai, the JESA secretary of South Asia visited the villages where the AROUSE is involved and had a meeting with them. Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta accompanied them.

Fr. John, the Principal left in the afternoon to attend the convention of Headmasters and Principals of the Jesuit schools at Bhubaneswar. The report said 240 members participated in this convention.

On 6 October, Fr. Renato, SJ, the donour of the English Medium School came to Samtoli with Fr. George Kerketta. The school building was blessed first by Fr. Rector followed by a short welcome programme. Fr. Amar Beck welcomed Fr. Renato and Fr. Rector thanked him for his generous support for the school.

The JSSC, (Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission) had arranged exams at St. Mary's School. There were three shifts of exams and the examinees had to appear for all the subjects. According to the list there were 936 candidates, but only 277 appeared for the exams. In the absence of Fr. John, Fr. Sikander had to work hard from A to Z. By the evening he was exhausted.

The health of Fr. Albert was going down. He was becoming weaker and weaker. On October 9 he was taken to Manresa House to be under the care of Br. Telesphore. Fr. Anup went to see a Doctor. at Debuka for his ankle. Fr. Bruno went for the accounts and Fr. Rector went to give the map of the property at Konmenjara to Fr. Nicholas Tete. Since Anup was not feeling comfortable with his ankle, he went to Ursula Hospital, Konbir Noatoli for physiotherapy. After spending three days in the hospital he came back with much relief.

Father of Miss Secunda, one of the teachers of Inter College expired. Many teachers including Fr. Sikander went to her house for the burial and to console the family.

There were fancy dress and declamation programmes in the English Medium School. The fancy dress was for STD I to STD II and the declamation for STDs V to VIII. It was pleasant to see the enthusiasm of small kids to come up to the platform in their fancy dress. The second part of the programme was the farewell of Fr. Amar Beck, the outgoing Principal.

On 22 October he was accompanied to Kishor Nagar by Frs. Rector, Gilbert, Sikander and two SJT Sisters teaching in the school. Fr. Albert Dungdung came back to Samtoli who was in Ranchi for his treatment. The weakness persists but he is recuperating and looking stronger.

Fr. Erentius Minj, the newly appointed Principal, arrived at Samtoli on October 9. The Fathers and teachers, about 30 in all, of St. Ignatius' had accompanied him. After tea they visited Kela Ghagh Dam, then lunch and left for Gumla. Fr. Rector, Staff and students welcomed him warmly with a short programme.

The High School and Inter College students went to Bhubaneswar, Puri and Sambalpur for an educational tour. They were supposed to leave at 8.00 p.m. but the buses hadn't arrived on time. Some problem trouble was there in the town. They had to board the train the next morning. However, 3 buses were not sufficient for 200 students. So the Principal had to arrange one more bus. They left joyfully and returned safely having enjoyed the most at the sea beach.

Sch. Anil Kullu accompanied students to Khunti to participate in the Jesuit Schools Speech, Quiz and Sadani (Damkach) Song Competition. St. Mary's bagged the second prize in Speech and the first in the Damkach.

Frs. Rector, Erentius, Gilbert and Sikander went to Besrajara Parish for the House Blessing of the Sacred Heart Sisters, Ranchi. as the vehicle. A vehicle puncture on the road reached them late for the blessing.

After the long Puja, Deepawali and Chhat holidays, SXC Simdega re-opened on 30 October. The silent and quiet compound changed into lively and brisk atmosphere. Fr. Emmanuel Barla, the Principal fresh from his retreat jumped into a hectic life again, while Fr. Bruno was concentrating in making platforms along the walls for the students to sit on.

Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ

St. Ignatius' HS, Gumla

Fr. Erentius Minj was given a warm farewell by the Community on 1 October in the presence of his family members, relatives and friends. There was a solemn High Mass in the Community Chapel presided over by Fr. Erentius himself. We had invited the family members and relatives to say a "thank you" to them for gifting Fr. Erentius to the Society of Jesus where he served for nearly 17 years as Headmaster/Principal in different Institutions. The invited guests were honoured with a symbolic gamacha each as a mark of gratitude. Fr. Erentius superannuated as Headmaster of St. Ignatius' High School on 30 September 2017 serving it for more than ten years.

The School reopened on 3 October 2017 after the Puja Vacation and at a specially convened assembly of the staff and students, Fr. Rector cum the Vice-Chairman of the school, Fr. Christopher Lakra, in the presence of Fr. Anuranjan Hassapurty, the Secretary of the school, the

breaking news was done that Fr. Manohar Kumar Khoya, SJ, had been appointed as the new Headmaster and Principal of St Ignatius' High School and Inter-College, Gumla, respectively. A thunderous applause was accorded to him followed by the second breaking news that Fr. Florence Guria would be the new Assistant Headmaster of Ignatius' High School and the Coordinator of the Inter College.

On 4 October the School and Inter-college gave a solemn and befitting farewell to Fr. Erentius Minj and a welcome to the New Headmaster and the Vice-Principal. The ceremony was so touching, as Fr. Erentius had served the Institute for ten years and had gone through many struggles and trials to bring it up to the top in the region. Fr. Erentius bid adieu to St. Ignatius' and Fr. Manohar Kr Khoya viewed the future of it. The Next day Frs. Manohar and Erentius left for Bhubaneswar for the Headmasters' meet.

On 19 October 2017 the community members and some 25 school staff escorted Fr. Erentius to St. Mary's High School, Samtoli, where he will be the new Principal of the English Medium School. The month of October was of festivities and holidays: The Diwali and Chhath! The students enjoyed the holidays more than the festivities. St. Ignatius' Junior Football Team became champion in the inter Jesuit football tournament and stood second in the cultural programme held during the Puja Holidays. Our dear teacher Mrs. Nemha lost her family member on 10th and was buried on the 11th. The AROUSE had two visiting teams: The Premji Team went to Lupungutu and the Lok Manch from Darjeeling went to Karangaguri for a field visit. Fr. Rector went on 22 October for his annual retreat to Soso. Our community members helped the Ursuline Sisters making their retreat here in Gumla.

Fr. Christopher Lakra, SJ

Jesuit Curia and Gana chetana samaj, Tezpur

The month of October was full of festivals and holidays. The Jesuit Bhavan members made a good use of the holidays. Frs. Pius Xalxo, Anup Chand kiran Minj and Thomas Barla had a special meeting on 6-7 October in Jorhat on Adivasi issues of the Adivasi Intellectuals comprising of a few selected Fathers and lay people of Tezpur and Dibrugarh Dioceses. The participants 11 in all decided to take up the following issues of the Adivasis all over Assam: the wage increase of the Tea Garden workers, promotion and membership drive of the Adivasi mazdoor Union, Education of the Adivasis and their Land settlement. The family members and relatives of Fr. Anup came for the North East Darshan from 11 to 14 October. Fr. Anup was their able guide who showed them many important places in a short time.

Fr. Pius and Anup witnessed the final profession of Fr. Laurentus Kiro on 15 October at St. Xavier's School, Manas Bansbari. Frs. Thomas Barla, Roshan Bage and Patrick Xalxo had gone to Lakhimpur to join the Karam Celebration organized in a village by the Parishioners. Fr. Thomas was the chief guest and speaker in the programme.

The Gana Chetana Samaj together with the Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Pengree organized a Karam celebration for the Parishioners on 22 October. Fr. Pius Xalxo was the Main Celebrant and Fr. Ashok Sandil, the Preacher. For the cultural programme, Fr. Alois Beck was the main organizer, Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, the Chief Guest and Fr. Thomas Barla, the speaker.

Fr. Thomas Barla and Fr. Pius Xalxo conducted an orientation Programme for the Matriculation students of Loyola School, Kathalguri Mornai on 27 October. The purpose was to motivate the students for the forthcoming board examination and was an occasion to inaugurate the coaching classes of a few selected subjects. The School had an Annual Day cum Parents' Day on 28 October. Fr. Pius Xalxo was the guest of honour.

The Gana Chetana Samaj organized a Social Media Training Programme for All Adivasi Student Association of Assam (AASAA) and All Adivasi Women Association of Assam (AAWAA) on 30-31 October. The resource persons hailing from Delhi and Tezpur, trained them on the use of Social Media for different purposes.

Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ

St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel

The co-curricular activities have got the priority in the College as the time is nearing for the final year students to fill their examination forms. Recently on Saturdays the extempore speech and volleyball inter-house tournaments were conducted view of the Annual Sports day.

Fr. Xavier Lakra along with Fr. Sebastian Manipadam, the CBCI secretary for the Prison ministry, went to Guwahati on 12 October 2017 for the Prison Ministry Consultation Meeting of the Coordinators of the North-Eastern States in preparation for a National Convention to be held in October 2018 at Guwahati. The Major and Local Superiors of different Congregations and Communities were the participants for the same. The various committees were formed to make the forthcoming programme successful.

Frs. Peter and Florence are going to the Guwahati University frequently and are putting their best to meet the officials concerning the inspection of the College for the examination center of the B. A. students.

Frs. Ranjit, Ashok and Florence are supervising the

road construction in the campus which is getting a new look with the cement blocks all around. A special team headed by Md. Hannan was invited from Nawagaon, a neighbouring town, to do the job.

The birthday of Fr. Xavier Lakra was celebrated on 16 October 2017 with great pomp and gaiety. It started with breakfast with the community members, coffee break with the staff and students, tea with the Sisters from the neighbouring convents and the climax, a dinner with the Jesuits from Tezpur and Balipara. All these followed by the birthday of Fr. Florence on 27 October 2017. The Jesuits from Tezpur and Balipara assembled together again for the second time.

Frs. Peter and Ashok joined Frs. Pius and Thomas on 21 October 2017 at Pengree for the *Karam* Celebration.

The parents-teachers meet was organized for the Junior College on 28 October 2017. About 50 parents came and had an optimistic interaction with the staff and the management. Some of them suggested to having such meetings twice a year so as to enhance the all-round development of their wards.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ

Kathalguri, Assam

On 3 October, the school resumed its classes after Puja holidays with the students and staff joining with renewed spirit. On 6 October Fr. Pradeep Kullu left for Bhubaneswar to attend the South Asian Educational Triennial Meet 2017. There were 249 delegates participating in the programme. Collaboration and Networking in education was the key theme. There were other topics like challenges in education, education policy, social responsibility, etc. Which Were also discussed.

On 11 October unit test results were given to the students. The students have improved their performance. The selection test for class X students was held from 6th to 20th October.

On 26 October Fr. Swarn Tigga came back to the Jesuit community, Kathalguri after his treatment. His health is improving speedily. A motivational orientation programme was conducted for class X by Fr. Thames Barla, Fr. Pius Xalxo and Fr. Swarn Tigga. A good response from the students was seen.

The next day, the school Annual Function cum Parents Day was celebrated in the school. An innovative day for the staff and students, and the parents and guardians attending it in a good number! The Chief Guest was Mr. Balraj Singh, SSB, 31st Commander Officer and Fr. Pius Xalxo, the Delegate to the Provincial was the guest of honour. Both of them encouraged and appreciated the effort and commitment of the staff and students. On 30 October

Fr. Jerome Dungdung lost his sister-in-law and on the same day he rushed to siliguri for the burial.

Fr. Pradeep Kullu.

Prothrapur, Andamans

Fr. Anthony Andrade, the Spiritual Director of the Diocese is fully engaged catering to the spiritual need of the people of the islands going to different parishes and convents. He thus reached to Prothrapur parish, the Jesuit community, to be with the Jesuit friends, and enjoyed visiting different villages where the faithful had many programmes.

Fr. Anil Kandulna from Diglipur came to Prothrapur accompanying Mr. Sunil, the cook of Diglipur parish, as he was not keeping well for sometime. Most probably he was mentally disturbed by the condition of the family and finally Fr. Anil was able to book the flight ticket for him to proceed to the mainland.

On 22 October after the Sunday Eucharistic celebration there was a solo singing competition. The Judge of the solo singing competition was Mr. Rajesh Hembrom. At the end Fr. David also sang a beautiful song expressing the meaning of real and good friendship to encourage the youth. The result of the winners was: Manoj Lakra, from Prothrapur secured the first position, Hemant Soreng from Kamrajngar and Alex Minj from Prothrapur were second jointly and Vinod Lakra from Daudnagar the third.

Following this we had a quiz competition. There were 8 groups from 8 different bastis and each group consisted of three youth. Fr. David conducted the quiz competition in collaboration with the youth committee. During the interval to keep fresh, alert and energetic all the participants and audience were served with samosas and tea. The youth of Bathubasti, Daudnagar and Chidiyatapu were declared winners securing first, second and third position respectively. At the end Miss Binita Lakra, the parish youth president proposed the vote of thanks, extending sincere thanks to Fr. David, the participants, audience, youth committee members and the Sisters.

“Go to the whole world and preach the Gospel to all mankind” (Mk. 16:15) was the theme as we celebrated the Mission Sunday on 29 October 2017 in our parish. This holy day gathered us around the person of Jesus, the greatest evangelizer who sends us to proclaim the good news. A well prepared Holy Eucharist was the climax of the day, participated by a good number of faithful. Fr. David in his sermon exhorted the faithful to be the disciples of Jesus and spread the good news. It is a challenge today to be a disciple of Jesus and be a missionary, to stand by the poor and for the truth. After the Mass all were found busy in front of different stalls, either helping themselves with food and snacks, or enjoying at the various games.

Fr. Benedict Kiro, the parish priest of Ramnagar, a very enthusiastic and courageous pastor found himself helpless as his one leg was fully swollen, suspected of a touch of the saliva of a kind of snake, called ANDHA in the Andamans. Fr. Suman Baxla, from the neighbouring parish, though alone in his parish, made it a point to render his service readily. Fr. Benedict is getting better by the day. We wish his speedy and complete recovery from this tragedy!

Fr. David Bara, SJ.

Rome

The regular classes for the new Academic Year 2017-2018 of Pontifical Gregorian University started on Monday 2 October with a solemn inaugural Eucharistic celebration presided over by R.P. Nuno da Silva Gonçalves, SJ, Rector of the University, which was attended by the students, staff members, Church and Diplomatic Officials. Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant have started their third and final year of theological studies. They will have to work hard in the areas of theological anthropology, bioethics, Psalms, and in synthesizing their theological studies through the final dissertation. Now, apart from their regular classes, they have started the Ad Audiendas inputs under the guidance of P. Ottavio De Bertolis in view of their Diaconate Ordination in 2018. The Ad Audiendas classes keep them busy every Saturday. Both of them have taken Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ, as their guide for the final Paper.

In the community the famous Slovenian Jesuit artist Marko Ivan Rupnik, Director of Arts of Aletti Centre, a well known for the mosaics of the Redemptoris Mater Chapel in the Vatican, Façade of the Shrine of Fatima and Lourdes, and San Giovanni Rotondo, was very enriching and inspiring. The entire community discussed some pertinent issues regarding liturgy and Arts in the context of the renovation of the House Chapel. The community was also enriched by the presentation of R.P. General's Letter to the whole Society, "Our life is the mission, the mission is our life" by Antoine Kerhuel. As a part of fostering interpersonal relationship, the entire community went to National Park of Sabaudia, a mountainous Jungle, close to the ocean for an outing.

Edwin Dang, after having a refreshing tour of Spain and France, resumed his classes on 27 October, already a week before the official inauguration of the new Academic Year of Gregorian University. While the number of seminars, compared to the last three years, has marginally reduced, so he finds himself busy with a good number of appointments in the centre of consultation. The task of supervising junior students in terms of interpreting and analyzing psychological tests not only gives him the

opportunity to assimilate and integrate the fruits of his studies of the last three years, but also brings him an occasion to learn from others. He is contented to have regular counseling sessions with various clients who give him more space for practicing psycho-therapeutic skills to be more efficient and competent in his task. Kulwant Minj has started the Licentiate in Canon Law with full enthusiasm and dedication. After a long time, and probably for the first time, there are 6 Jesuit students studying together the Canon Law in Gregorian University. That makes them all the more serious and attentive. Kulwant had already learnt the fundamentals of Latin as a student of theology; so now, he has to dedicate more time to Latin because of its utmost importance in understanding the canons of the Catholic Church.

Sanjay Dilip, Linus and Prem are busy as usual in their mission in Radio Vatican and Gregorian University respectively. Anselm Ekka has gradually succeeded in inserting himself fully into the life and mission of the Jesuit Curia. He is carrying out his mission with diligence and full dedication. On 10 October, R.P. General called a meeting of all the Curia members, wherein he invited all to continue to think, reflect and discuss some important aspects of the mission so as to render efficiently and effectively each one's service to the universal Society of Jesus. They were divided into small groups for sharing and discussion and the group reports were submitted to the Coordinator. Later again, R.P. General invited the community and asked each Department to evaluate its service towards the larger Society. The community members again came together on 17 October and discussed the matter in small groups. The report was submitted to the Superior. Fr. Anselm's Department of Economato went out on 22 October to discuss and evaluate its service to the universal Society. As a group, they were able to underline a few areas which need urgent attention and improvement. They agreed to meet every month to evaluate and improve their service. A commendable move indeed!

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ



Cairo, Egypt

The five novices of Second Year are getting ready to leave for their four months' Community experience to Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. We've four novices in the 1st year: Two from Egypt and one each from Syria and Lebanon, who began joining according to their availability.

One of the veterans of the Near East Province, Fr. Samir Khalil, an expert in Islamic studies, gave his services for more than forty years to common houses in Italy, has recently come back to the Province for good and Joined the Community in Cairo.

Even after the security threats, etc, Egypt is blessed with hundreds of Indian Holy Land Pilgrims who conclude their trips with Egypt. I was fortunate to meet some of the groups wherein personally known to me priests, religious nuns and lay people of Jharkhand were seen as tourists. In one of the groups, there was a companion of mine of the high school days with his family: Didi – Jija of Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, SJ and others. Such short meetings are a blessing to me!

Last week, I had to take a special injection in the surgical lab for the treatment of my frozen shoulder. Now, I'm having a continued physiotherapy.

Fr. Bimal Kerketta, SJ

DUBLIN

The first week of October, our visit to the ancient monastery, in the heart of the Wicklow Mountain, in Glendalough, in the interior of Ireland, enhanced us to have better understanding of the early history of Christianity in Ireland. The rolling hills, forests, lakes, waterfalls, magnificent church buildings, vast green pastures, fascinating natural beauty of nature and warm Irish hospitality attract the tourists. Fr. Lynch Finnbar, SJ, one of the senior members of the Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality Community inspired us with his open sharing of his life and mission as Jesuit. Fr. Paul Pace, SJ the Tertians' Director went to Germany for European Conference. Fr. Brian O'Leary, SJ, delivered his lectures on the Jesuits' Constitution, the path way to God, for two days. It was very interesting and informative. On 17 October, Fr. Pavol Trgo, SJ, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ and Fr. Niccolo Steiner, SJ, went to Milltown, the Irish Jesuit Provincialate to drop Fr. Brian O'Leary, SJ, and to thank Ms. Fiona Halpin, the receptionist in Jesuit's Curia Milltown who helped us a lot for our Irish Visa. On 18 October, Fr. Jerald Joseph Clarke, SJ, the Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church, Gardener Street, Dublin, shared with us his life and mission as Jesuit in Ireland. Fr. Vlastimil Dufka, (Slovakia) gave us classes on liturgy. Indeed well prepared liturgy brings life in the worship.

On 24 October all of us were invited to Xavier's Community in Gardener Street for a sumptuous supper. It was the gesture of their love and warm welcome. All of us enjoyed their hospitality. Prior to the supper, Fr. Furgason, Rector of the Community presided over the Holy Eucharist in the chapel and welcomed us with open arms. On 25 October, Fr. Patrick Green, SJ, inspired us with his talk on 'Laudato Si' connecting it with Ignatian Retreat. Fr. Leonard Anthony Maloney, SJ, the Irish Jesuit Provincial came to Cardoner House to share with us his mission, vision and challenges. He was very optimistic about the church in Ireland. On 29 October, the Celtic Night celebration in Arlington Hotel gave us some taste of the Irish Culture through the music and dance. St. Alphonsus Rodrigues feast was celebrated on 31 October, with the Solemn Holy Eucharist by Fr. Niccolo Steiner, SJ, in the House Chapel. We were blessed with the presence of his parents, two brothers and sister from Germany.

We, the eleven tertians: Andrew Downing, (USA), Elias Surin, (Ranchi), Gabriel Khairallah (Lebanon), Jean Claude, (Madagascar), Michel Lessard, (Canada), Niccolo Steiner, (Germany), Oleksii Bredeieva (Ukraine), Pavol Trgo (Slovakia), Peter Paul Musekiwa (Zimbabwe), Sanjeeva Fernando (Sri Lanka), and Zong Jiang (China), under the guidance of our directors: Fr. Jan Van de Poll, SJ, and Fr. Paul Pace, SJ, are going to begin our one month long retreat from 20 November till 20 December. We request your kind prayers.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

Israel

Nine students from Biblical Institute, Rome arrived on the 4 October 2017 to pursue their first Semester Courses (Oct-Jan) in the Hebrew University here in Jerusalem. They hail from different nations. Two are from Kenya and Zambia, two from South India, and from Vietnam, S. Korea, Portugal, Slovakia and Holland one each. The Hebrew University opened only after 15 October due to the week-long Jewish Feast of Sukkot, the Feast of the Tabernacle, which started in the beginning of October. The Hebrew word "Sukkot" means temporary dwelling during the harvest, but spiritually it is a reminiscence of their fragile living in the desert during the Exodus totally depending on the will of God. This desert experience is so powerfully imprinted in the Jewish religion and culture that on this occasion each family re-lives this very event by putting a small hut in the courtyard where a week long celebrations take place. Taking advantage of the holidays the students made a trip to Galilee for visiting pilgrimage places and various archaeological sites. This visit meant for them a timely help and guide for the course on Biblical archaeology and the New Testament.

Fr. Abrego, the house Superior started his classes in the theological faculty of the Franciscans in the Old City of Jerusalem. Fr. Doan left for the University of Berkeley, USA, to give courses on the Gospel of St John. He stays there till December keeping himself busy in giving talks to some Vietnamese groups as well. I myself had the opportunity to travel to Washington State, USA, visiting two Jesuit Universities: the Gonzaga and the Seattle University. Fr. Patrick Lee, SJ, who was the Superior of the PBI, Jerusalem, is currently the Vice President of the Gonzaga University. When he left Jerusalem last year, he, in a way insisted, that I make sure to find an occasion to visit him in the near future. Knowing about his slightly deteriorating health I left for USA west on 16 October 2017. The journey from Tel Aviv-Paris-Seattle-Spokane, consisted of 15 hours flight alone on the same day. The ten hours non-stop flight from Paris to Seattle was exciting since it was my first experience of a long trip. The experience of a time-zone difference was interesting too, namely, my day time became night and the night, day. I would take lunch at 12.00 noon in Seattle when it would be like having a dead sleep at midnight of Jerusalem. Thus the habit of meals and sleep happened to be totally in an opposite timing. Being a fall season, the weather was often bright and sunny with some rains and cloud occasionally. The entire region was filled with natural beauty due to the maple tree-leaves turning red before shedding them. I had a beautiful experience of a Jesuit hospitality and companionship while living in both the communities of Gonzaga and Seattle University.

Fr. Camil Kerketta, SJ

Madrid

On 5-6 October, the theological department of the Pontifical University, Madrid, organized a conference based on the reformation of Martin Luther. The conference was based on his religious ideology and some arguments and views of some of his contemporaries, who, at that time, were key figures in the Catholic Church. This conference was a total success, as besides the Religious, there turned up many lay people also. We Scholastics participated in it as our one credit optional course.

On 6th we, the second year theologians, went to Galapagar, a retreat house situated in the Northwest of Madrid, to begin our *Tiempo Arrupe*, POP. The Spanish Province has a custom to arrange this *Tiempo Arrupe* during the whole academic year. The meeting is divided into 3 different gatherings which are generally held in different places with different resource persons. In our first gathering, we were guided by Fr. Jaime Cerda, SJ, who insisted to have a desire to prepare ourselves for our theological ministries, to perceive the peculiarity of these

ministries in the Society of Jesus, and to cultivate the human, spiritual, and ecclesiastical attitudes towards them. Our next two gatherings will be in January and March.

On 29th we Jesuits from Madrid and from other parts, made it possible to go to Segovia, the birth place of St. Alfonso Rodriguez, SJ, to celebrate 400 years of his death

anniversary. The Mass was presided over by the bishop of Segovia, César Augusto Franco Martínez. To make it more festive, at the end of the Mass we all gathered together in a Jesuits villa house situated close by to raise the toast of this great saint of the Society of Jesus. Then we were back to our respective communities.

Sch. James Balmuchu, SJ

A Day to celebrate

NOVEMBER

- 04 Jaecques Raymond
- 05 Kerketta Camil
Minj Damian C.
- 06 Lakra Peter C.
- 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
- 14 Soreng Joseph Kennedy
- 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
Hemrom Mouris
- 10 Breya Erik
- 11 Kerketta Sanjay
- 12 Dungdung Rohit D
- 17 Baghwar Marius
- 18 Xalxo Ignatius
Bage Kamal Chandra
Toppo Bruno
- 19 Bilung Nitin
- 22 Bilung Gilbert
Kullu Ferdinand
- 23 Toppo Christopher
- 24 Lakra Christopher
- 25 Barla Emmanuel
Kujur Ernest
- 26 Beck Milianus
- 29 Dungdung John B.
Basumatary Lazarus
- 30 Dungdung Anand

Please send your articles with some photos by the Fifth of every month