

# RANCHI BULLETIN



72/12

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

December 2013

## Merry Christmas

WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A GRACE-FILLED NEW YEAR 2014



### Information

- ◆ **Father Provincial's** office will be closed from **22 December 2013 to 02 January 2014** hence, he will not be available for any official work or contact during this period. For any necessity, however, kindly contact **Fr. Socius**.
- ◆ **Scholastics Marcus S. Aind, Ajit Kalyan Kujur and Ravi Bhushan Xess** have requested for Holy Order (diaconate). If someone has any information to give about the candidates, one may give it in writing to Fr. Provincial.
- ◆ Ordination Dates: Deacon **Anup Arvind Ekka** January 12, 2014 at Nawatanr  
Deacon **Rajesh Kullu** January 14, 2014 at Karangaguri  
Deacon **Edwin Dang** January 19, 2014 at Lachragarh
- ◆ Information by **Father Pradeep Kujur, SJ**, the Coordinator of Finance Commission to all the Treasurers/ Directors of works/ Parish Priests:
  - In view of preparing budgets for the next financial year 2014-15, Kindly keep your accounts up-to-date. Your budgets should reach to the Provincial's Office by 15 February 2014.
  - Your contribution to **FACSI, Common Expenses, Parish Fund** and **Province Fund** should be given by the end of **January 2014**.
  - There is an important circular from the RBI (Reserve Bank of India): The **Currency** will **not be acceptable** on which something is written or marked. This is applicable from **1st of January 2014**.

- ◆ **PROVINCEE CELEBRATION** of our Jubilarians [2013] on **24-01-2014**
  - 70 YEARS A JESUIT** : Fr. Antoon Delporte, SJ (4/8/1943 - 4/8/ 2013)
  - 60 YEARS A PRIEST** : Fr. Leo Bara, SJ (2/11/1953 - 21/11/ 2013)  
Fr. Raymond Jaecques, SJ (21/11/1953 - 21/11/ 2013)
  - 50 YEARS A PRIEST** : Fr. Placidus Lakra, SJ (25/3-/1963 - 25/3/ 2013)
  - 50 YEARS A JESUIT** : Br. Jayprakash Kullu, SJ (1/2/1963 - 1/2/013)  
Fr. K. C. Philip, SJ (20/6/1963 - 20/6/ 2013)\
- ◆ **Final Vows** : **Fr. John Beck & Fr. George Burh** on **2/2/2014** in Bundu.  
**Fr. Anthres Minj** on **4/2/2014** in Saparom
- ◆ **Dates to remember** : Celebration of 50th Anniversary of Father **Hermann Rasschaert's** Martyrdom for peace and harmony in **Kutungia** on 6 April 2014, in **Gerda** on **7 April 2014** (place of his martyrdom) and in **Ranchi** on 10 April 2014.

### RANCHI CALLING

Like last year the **India Desk** will print the **RANCHI CALLING** Christmas and New Year's letter of Father Provincial for family, friends, benefactors and well wishers of the Ranchi Jesuits. It will be printed separately in Flemish, English and Hindi. This year the main information will be on the education apostolate of the province, besides other news.

Could you please let me know (through Fr. Rector/Superior to make things easy) how many copies you wish to receive: how many in **English** and how many in **Hindi**. There is no limit on the number provided they are being sent. The envelopes will also be provided.

Please let me know through e-mail on *brysaurelsj@yahoo.com* or **phone or SMS on 09934368213**.

Thanks. Aurel Brys, SJ

### Are you looking for a suitable place for Retreat or Recollection?

Welcome to RTC, Tarunoday, Boreya!

- ◆ Accommodation is available for Individuals and groups up to 10 persons.
- ◆ No Gender Bar.
- ◆ Single room: Per Diem Rs 200.00 only.
- ◆ Please Contact: Bro. Minister - 9835533538; Fr. Amrit Tirkey (Superior) - 9931130548.

### FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Decemeber 2013	
01	CZ Provincials' Meeting Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa: F. V. of Fr. Anthony Ekka at 5:00 p.m.
03	Lohardaga: Final Vows of Father Sushil Tirkey
13	<b>Consult</b>
14	To Kolkata SXC [afternoon]
15	To Port Blair: Visitation
16	To Diglipur: Visitation
18	To Ram Nagar: Visitation
19	To Prothrapur-Port Blair: Visitation
20	To Kolkata
21	Back to Ranchi

**Father General has appointed:**

**Fr. Scott R. Santarosa**, Provincial of Oregon Province (ORE).

**Fr. Francis Parmar**, Provincial of Gujarat Province (GUJ).

**Fr. Rolando López Alvarado**, Provincial of the Centroamerica Province (CAM).

**Novena of Prayers:** Under the direction of Father Mark Rotsaert, a group of Jesuits studying in Rome is preparing a novena of prayers for use from the vigil of St. Ignatius to the commemoration of the Re-establishment of the Society of Jesus on August 7. All the Society's communities, dispersed throughout the world but united in prayer, will be able to use the same simple format, whose content focuses on thanksgiving and Ignatian spirituality. As soon as the prayers are available in early 2014 they will be sent to the Province offices for translation and distribution

**Holy Father Meets the Superiors General**

Fr. General was busy organizing and attending the 82nd General Assembly of the Union Superiors General in the Salesianum in Rome from 27 to 29 November. Pope Francis has met with the members on 29th. During the three-hour meeting, which consisted of questions and answers, the Pope touched on a variety of themes, including: the identity and mission of consecrated life; the situation of vocations; the importance of formation; and the frontiers of the mission of consecrated persons.

Pope Francis announced that 2015 would be a year dedicated to consecrated life, adding: "Thank you for what you do and for your spirit of faith and your service. Thank you for your witness and also for the humiliations through which you have had to pass".

**INDIA: Saint Xavier Exposition**

Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao of Goa, Daman and Diu announced the dates of the decennial exposition of the sacred relics of Goa's patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier.

The exposition at Old Goa will be held from November 22, 2014, till January 4, 2015. The archbishop issued the decree confirming the holding of the solemn event, which was last held in November 2004-January-2005, in conformity with a long-standing practice followed by the archdiocese. The relics will be kept open for veneration of the faithful for 44 days. The sacred relics of the Spanish Saint are taken in a ceremonial procession from its resting place in the mausoleum in the Basilica of Bom Jesus across the church complex to the more spacious cathedral for veneration during the exposition. More than 2.25 million faithful, cutting across religious lines, venerated the relics during the last exposition. Saint Francis Xavier was born in Navarre, Spain, on April 7, 1506, and arrived in Goa on May 6, 1542. After missionary work in India and other countries of the Far East, he died on December 3, 1552, on

the Sancian Island on his way to China. Pope Paul V beatified him on October 25, 1619, and Pope Gregory XV canonized him in 1622.

**Fr. General's Letter to the whole Society:**

**Commemoration of the second centenary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus**

Almost two years ago, on 1 January 2012, I wrote to all Major Superiors, requesting them to begin preparing for the commemoration in 2014 of the second centenary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus. With this letter, I wish to invite every Jesuit, all our collaborators, every community, apostolic work, Region and Province of the Society to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Restoration of the Society in 2014 with humble and sincere gratitude to the Lord, with a desire to learn from our history, and as an occasion for spiritual and apostolic renewal.

2014 will be an important year for studying our history as a Society. In many parts of the world, scholarly studies, publications, meetings, and academic conferences have been planned in order to promote a deeper knowledge and understanding of the complex realities of the Suppression and the Restoration of the Society: the events, the causes, the important protagonists, and the consequences. I am grateful for all the work that has been done, and I hope that this important work of historical research and study will continue even after 2014. As we all know, memory and identity are profoundly linked: one who forgets his past does not know who he is. The better we remember our history and the more deeply we understand it, the better we will understand ourselves and our identity as an apostolic body in the Church.

At the same time, I ask that during 2014 historical study be deepened by personal and communal prayer, reflection, and discernment. I believe the best mode of entering spiritually into this special year -the 200th anniversary of the Papal Bull *Sollicitudo omnium ecclesiarum*, issued by Pope Pius VII on 7 August 1814 - is to seek the grace proposed by St. Ignatius in the *contemplatio ad amorem*: to ask the Lord for "an interior knowledge of all the good I have received, so that acknowledging this with gratitude, I may love and serve His Divine Majesty in everything." (SpEx 233) In other words, we do not wish our attention to be focused solely on the past. We wish to understand and appreciate our past better so that we may go forward into the future with "renewed fervor and zeal" (GC 35, Decree 1) for our life and mission today.

Let me propose some possible themes for your prayer, reflection, and discernment for the coming year.

**1. Creative fidelity:** What does it mean for us today that the Society, which outside the Russian empire lost

everything during the Suppression, was able to begin again without any resources? In addition, what might we learn from the attempts of the restored Society to be faithful to the Ignatian heritage in vastly changed circumstances?

**2. Love for our Institute:** According to an important letter entitled *On the Love of our Society and our Institute* (1830), written by one of the most significant figures of the restored Society, Fr. General Jan Roothaan, a temptation of some members of the newly reestablished Society was to love her, we might say, in an external or superficial way: to value the riches of having many institutions; the honor of being esteemed by others; the pride of being powerful and influential again. Instead, Fr. Roothaan sought to promote a love for the inner reality of the Society: her Institute, her spirit and values, her way of proceeding rooted in the Spiritual Exercises. What is the significance for us today of this call to focus above all on a knowledge and love of our Institute?

**3. Fraternal companionship:** Another important figure for this period was St. Joseph Pignatelli, who, during the difficult times of expulsion and homelessness, united, strengthened and encouraged his brothers. Even during the Suppression, he maintained communication, friendship, and hope among former companions. What does the witness of those who cared for their brothers during a time of crisis say to us today, who are called by GC 35 to live "community as mission"?

**4. Universal Mission:** One of the marks of the restored Society was a remarkable missionary spirit and activity. By the generalate of Fr. Roothaan, of the 5,209 members of the Society, 19% worked outside the Provinces they entered. Many Provinces in Asia, Africa, America and Australia trace their origins to this time of the restored Society. What might be the significance of this strong sense of universal mission in the newly reestablished Society for us today?

**5. Faith in Providence:** Our forefathers in the Society lived through challenging times: the Suppression; the precarious existence of the Society in the Russian empire; localized recognition of the Society until its universal Restoration in 1814; the fragile and difficult beginnings of the restored Society. What can we learn from the patient endurance, the fortitude, the faith and trust in God's providence and the Spirit's presence in the Church of our brothers during this tumultuous period?

I wish to confirm what I asked for in my previous letter on the year 2014: that our commemoration of the Restoration - which officially begins on January 3, the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and ends on September 27, the anniversary of the confirmation of the Society in 1540- avoid any suggestion of triumphalism or pride. Nevertheless, even in simple, modest ways, I hope that all communities, Regions and Provinces of the Society make efforts to commemorate this anniversary in a manner that is memorable as well as personally and communally significant.

As we look to this milestone in our history as a Society, let us humbly thank God that our least Society continues to exist today: that in the Society, we continue to find a path to God in the spirituality of St. Ignatius; that we continue to grow from the support and challenge of our brothers in community; that we still experience the privilege and joy of serving the Church and the world, especially those most in need, through our ministries. I pray that our grateful commemoration of this 200th anniversary of the Society's reestablishment might be blessed with a deeper appropriation of our way of life and a more creative, generous and joyful commitment to give our lives in service for the greater glory of God.

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## HOUSES AND INSTITUTIONS

### St. Ignatius' Gumla

Some community members were away from Gumla for meetings and retreat. On November 7 Fr. Erentius went to Pune to attend the JEA meeting; Fr. Sanjay attended JYMSA meeting at Surat. Frs Florence and Praful did their annual retreat at Dolda and Rumtukel respectively. On November 12, St. Ignatius school was delighted to welcome Fr. Jose Mesa, the education secretary of the Society of Jesus. In the evening he addressed the Jesuits of the Gumla zone. The next day he celebrated the Holy Mass with the apostolics and hostel boys. He addressed the entire school during the assembly. Thereafter the staff and selected student body of sixteen boys and girls met him separately for a short interaction. He was accompanied to visit Soso parish and school. In the afternoon members from St. Mary's school community came to fetch him for his further itinerary to Samtoli.

On 13, Frs. Thomas and Sanjay occupied with three-day leadership training programme of the youth

under South Asian Initiative Programme (SAIP) at Bagaicha. Including Darjeeling there were 90 participants from central zone provinces. From 23-28 once again both of them were busy with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) programme along with five Senegalese and a French representatives who visited Arouse, and had an exchange programme at St. Xavier's Doranda with staff and students of different ICSC schools.

Three Munna football teams of the school took part in the Munna Football Tournament organized by St. John's Ranchi. Teams performed well and emerged as runners-up in the tourney. On 16, our hostel boys won the second prize in cultural dance competition arranged by the parish Yuwa Manch.

On November 30 in the community monthly meeting we expressed our deep sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Fr. Marc De Brouwer who lost his elder brother, Fr. Christian De Brouwer, SJ. Fr. Christopher, the acting Rector, announced some good-news: firstly, our Inter

College got government's approval; secondly, we are receiving many inquiries regarding the opening of primary section English medium school for which advertisement is already issued in November; and thirdly, the house feels happy with the implementation of the community renewal action plan.

*Fr. Sanjay D. Ekka*

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

On the day of the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed we had the Holy Mass in St Mary's chapel, followed by the blessing of the graves of Frs. Mathias Toppo, Daud Kerketta, Telesphore Dang, Suleman Turkey, Br. Philip Kerketta and Mr. Cyprian Mahto (co-worker). Fr. Isaac Tete went to his village Bhelwadih for the Mass and blessing of the graves. On November 5 Fr. Philemon Ekka left for Pune for a meeting of the Principals of the Assistency. He was back to Ranchi on 12. On November 9 Fr. Vijay Turkey accompanied 3 SJT Sisters, who teach in our English Medium School, to Mayapur (Garu parish) and Pakripath. They were back to Samtoli on 11.

On November 13 evening Fr. Jose Mesa, S.J. arrived here. He was accorded a very warm welcome by the Apostolics and Hostel boys and the Jesuits of St. Mary's community. Earlier during the day Fr. Philemon had gone to Gumla to fetch him. Fr. Mesa met the Jesuits of St. Mary's community at 7.00 p.m. The following day he addressed the students of St. Mary's High School and Inter College during the school assembly. Thereafter he met a group of students and then the staff. Then he proceeded to Rengarh accompanied by Fr. Philemon. And then back to St. Mary's. In the meantime Fr. Amrit Lakra from Khunti had come here to take him to Khunti.

On November 14, boys and girls arrived here from all four zones of the province to participate in the Inter Jesuit Middle School Hockey Tournament. There were altogether 18 teams: 10 boys' and 8 girls'. The following day the matches in four grounds started sharp at 7.00 a.m. Among the girls Patrachauli and Rumtukel were the finalists. Patrachauli won the match by 3-1. Among the boys Jharain and Bardih fought for the title. Jharain kept up the 3-1 lead till the end to claim the winner's trophy. So Bardih had to be satisfied with the runners-up trophy. Something good about this tournament was that none of the teams returned empty handed. Moreover, an arranged trip to Kelaghagh dam for all the players and coaches added to their joy and friendship.

An Inter House Tribal Dance Competition was held on November 27 in the school premises. Hostel and Apostolic boys also participated in the competition. The Neta House was the winner and the hostel boys got the second position. The programme was well conducted by the Student Council guided by Fr. Ajit Saras.

*Fr. Isaac Tete*

### **Ashirvad-Jharna**

Fr. Sylvanus directed a group of five Ursuline sisters who made their eight-day retreat. At the same time he guided 39 Jesuit scholastics from Manresa House in their triduum. He also gave recollection talk to seven Brothers of Charity on November 14. Later in the month he accompanied Frs. Anthony Ekka and Sushil Turkey in their eight-day retreat for their final vows. Lastly he preached an eight-day retreat to 16 Jubilarian sisters of St Anne. Fr. Samir Dungdung guided nine Oblate Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary in their five-day retreat. He helped the CDF candidates from Kumhartoli by giving them points for reflection and prayer.

On November 29 in the evening 13 LNN men and women with their animators Fr. A. Brys and Mr. J. Kamal Bara came to Jharna for a renewal programme. They had their sharing and input till December 01.

Our Novices and their Director express their heartfelt thanks to you all for your prayerful support during their experiments. The second year novices have come back from their hospital experiment while the first years have just finished their one month of Ignatian spiritual journey. All novices are quite happy and satisfied.

*Frs. Sylvanus & Raymond*

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

Fr. Pradeep was in Pune for the Assistency meeting of school principals. Unfortunately Fr. Augustine Kujur, the PCE, could not attend due to his ill health: he was down with malaria, fever and cough for a week. However, on November 9 his birthday was celebrated joyfully in the community. Later on 11th, his birthday was celebrated in the school with the staff and students. A thanksgiving Eucharist was followed by a short felicitation.

Fr. Jose A. Mesa arrived on November 14 from Samtoli, and was warmly welcomed by the Jesuits of Khunti zone. Later he interacted with them. The following day he visited Loyola Inter College and High School. He also met the staff and the students separately. Thereafter Frs. Augustine and Amrit accompanied him to Sarwada. He stayed there for a couple of hours with the staff and the students.

On 17, Fr. Pradeep, with two more teachers, attended the alumni meeting at St. Xavier's Doranda. The same day, Inter St. Anne's School Hockey Tournament took place in the Loyola High School ground. Fr. Augustine was the chief guest. The following day Mrs. Chhipi Chutia Purty, a widow, a non Christian poor lady from Sarwada, filled with sentiment of gratitude, came to express her gratitude to the staff and students for the help she received for her son's treatment: our boys donated blood for her son. She was so grateful that she gave gifts to the generous boys and a tea party to the staff.

On November 23 more than 150 boys and girls from Loyola High School and Inter College participated in

marathon. A group of our boys presented a very entertaining 'Kavali' in the cultural programme organized by the District Administration. Our boys earned lots of accolade. On the same day we began our novena prayer to St. Francis Xavier.

*Fr. Amrit*

### **Vidyajyoti Delhi**

We welcomed the month of November with jackets and caps on as the chillness of Delhi touched our body. The feast of All Saints' Day was celebrated with meaningful Eucharist. Scholastics in various ministries continued their good services to the communities with great zeal. The classes continued with full swing keeping all the students of Vidyajyoti occupied with assignments and other class presentations. The first years went for pilgrimage to Haridwar and Rishikesh, Uttarakhand on November 3 and returned fully energized after their spiritual journey in the company of various Hindu Swamis in diverse ashrams. The community kept the monthly recollection on November 8. Another significant event in VJ was the 'Bal Mela' celebration on November 17. Both the staff and students gave their best to make the day a memorable one for the children who came in large number from the neighborhood.

*Rosario Mesahari*

### **Tarunoday**

The month of November was a blessing for us. On November 2 we had the morning prayer at the grave of the late Fr. Paulus Kullu. In the afternoon, we all went to the parish graveyard for the Holy Mass together with the faithful. On the same day, we celebrated the feast of Deepawali.

On November 9 the whole community went to the parish for *shramdaan* and contributed to building up the new church. We were edified to see the parishioners' spirit and enthusiasm for the project of building a new church. Their contribution is much appreciated. On November 16, we joined a seminar on the topic '*In Search for International Harmony*' at the S.D.C. Ranchi. We were enlightened by listening to six eminent speakers.

On November 23 Fr. Francis David Kullu gave us our monthly recollection. He shared his personal lessons which he learnt during his theological formation. The next day, he presided over the Holy Mass in *kharia* for the first time. The following day we celebrated the feast of Christ the King and Parish Day in St. Joseph's School ground. The newly ordained priest Fr. Philemon Turkey (HAZ) was the main celebrant along with the parish priest Fr. James Dungdung and Frs. Francis Minj, Amrit Turkey and Henry Barla. The melodious choir was led by the parish youth together with the Tarun Brothers. Soon after the Holy Mass, procession in honour of Christ the King was held from St. Joseph's School to the parish campus where it ended with benediction. On the same day, the Year of Faith was concluded with a Bible quiz competition conducted by Tarun Brothers under the leadership of Fr. Francis Minj, Bipin Turkey and Ashok Kandulna. In the competition,

Sunder Nagar, Prem Nagar and Boreya-Arsanday got the prizes. At the end we had fellowship meal with the parishioners. On November 29 the whole community joined the funeral service of the late Fr. Christian De Brouwer in St. Mary's Cathedral Ranchi.

*Sch. Mukul Kerketta*

### **Satya Nilayam Chennai**

After going through different courses, philosophizing sessions and other activities, we had the first and the third semester exams from October 22-30. Soon after the exams we celebrated 'Community Days' with a lot of fun and frolic. Sch. Navin Tigga and Satya Nilayam Cultural Committee (SNCC) team did wonderful job in leading the community. It concluded with a colourful cultural evening and fellowship meal. Certainly it has achieved its aim of bonding us together in companionship. As we strengthened our companionship among ourselves during Community Days, we needed to deepen our relationship with Jesus too. Thus, we began our Triduum cum Workshop (from November 7-9) under the guidance of Fr. Kevin O'Rourke SJ from Ireland. He made us aware that maturing oneself through self-knowledge is one of the skills for celibate living. He impressed us by explaining that the aim of Jesuit Formation is a process of personal integration of (i) Life in the Spirit, (ii) Human Maturity and Community Life, (iii) Studies and Ministry, and, (iv) Insertion into the apostolic body of the Society. His open sharing made us think and reflect on our human growth and maturity as religious. He made us aware of humanness by exploring different categories of sexuality. Thus we were enlightened to live a healthy celibate life. Thanks to Fr. Kevin SJ. After the Triduum cum Workshop we had one full day of rest before we resumed our normal routine.

*Scho. Sujit & Bimal*

### **Loyola College Chennai**

The mood of semester examination brought seriousness in the Loyola College campus. The semester examination was conducted from November 5-13 and 18-23. Schs. Saban and Noel finished their exams on 12, and made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. All the Berchmanites had a triduum at Dhayanashram under Fr. v.S. George S.J. from Satya Nilayam. After our triduum we began our classes with new spirit and zeal as usual for the even semester.

The Chotanagpur Cultural Association organized 4th Football Tournament at Loyola College football ground on Sunday, December 1 in which 18 teams of the Tribal migrants from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Odisha took part. The Berchmanites were the runners-up in the final. Sch. Edwin and Fr. Erenius also joined the Berchmanites and performed their soccer-skills scoring winning goals for the team. This tourney aims at promoting tribal unity and solidarity.

Fr. Erenius and Sch. Edwin were happy to welcome Fr. Nicholas Tete, SJ at Loyola College Chennai on November 24. He came here to attend the Principals'

Meeting of Jesuit Higher Education Autonomous A-Grade Colleges in India. All the Ranchians in Loyola Campus had an evening-outing with Fr. Nicholas and had a dinner with him. It was an enriching evening as Fr. Nicholas shared about some of the government's policies concerning higher education.

*Fr. Erenius and Sch. Noel*

### **DNC Pune**

The month of November began with the feast of All Saints. On November 2 there was a Holy Mass in the evening in the common cemetery of JDV, presided over by the President of JDV, George Pattery SJ. A hockey tournament was organized for tribals by Chotanagpur Cultural Association of DNC under the guidance of Fr. Augustine on November 3. From November 7-11, Assistancy meeting of headmasters was held at JDV. Twenty participants from Ranchi attended the meeting (Ranchi [17], Assam [3]).

There was an extended lecture on Food Security Bill on November 13 at JDV hall. The JDV day on 22 began with the Eucharist with its theme '*The Church of the Poor and for the Poor*'. The evening cultural show presented human predicament on this planet quite creatively. On 24 the Taru Mitra wing of JDV conducted awareness programme on environment for the school children. The feast of St. John Berchmans was celebrated with joy in DNC. To mark the day a Volleyball match between Philosophers and Theologians was played in which philosophers won the match by 3-1.

November 29 was observed as Cultural Day celebration in which members of central zone provinces presented some special cultural aspects (e.g. food-dishes, song & dances) of central India. In the evening a short documentary of all the five provinces was projected which was much appreciated. The office change took place with the celebration.

*Sch Rohit*

### **Patrachauli**

Fr. Elvius was feeling quite weak since the beginning of November. On November 14 he was admitted in Seva Nilaya, Ara Gate. Initially it was found that he had low BP. He had to undergo some tests on the following days. After

a week he was discharged. He is recuperating in the Community with a lot of medication. Fr. Gabriel left for Samtoli early morning on November 14 with a hockey team of girls to take part in the Jesuit schools' meet. On Sunday, November 17 the Patrachauli team returned with the victory shield. In the final it had a better score against the Rumtukel girls. Patrachauli girls were beaming with joy.

We began the 'Advent Tour' already on November 17. For me it was the first opportunity to make a round of the parish. I came to know not only the geographical map of the parish but also the living condition of the people. My programme was disrupted on November 21 since I had been called to court as a witness in the theft case of Kanke parish last May.

We celebrated the Feast of Christ the King in a modest way. The Eucharistic Procession in the campus began around 10.00 a.m. The parishioners, especially the children participated in it enthusiastically and in a creative way. Along the way there were some tableaux depicting scenes from the Bible. At the end the solemn Eucharist marked the end of the 'Year of Faith'.

*Fr. Emmanuel Koro, SJ*

### **Rumtukel**

To mark the Year of Faith, 12 boys and girls took part in the Youth Convention held in Dorma parish from November 8-10. They came back with renewed faith and zeal. On 14, two hockey teams of the Middle School - one of boys and other of girls headed for St. Mary's Samtoli to participate in the Inter-Jesuit Hockey Tournament. The team was led by Fr. Ignatius Tirkey and Mr. Sanjest Kandulna as manager and coach respectively. The girls' team performed well and reached the final. It became runner-up in the final. Congratulations to the team members!

Fr. Kamal Bage was lucky as one of the 20 pilgrims of Khunti diocese who went to Goa on November 14 for a pilgrimage cum Seminar on SCC. Each one was given a family to stay during the convention. He came back on 24 with lot of experiences. The Feast of Christ the King was celebrated with joy and pomp on November 24. A long procession was held for one full hour from Kumhardih village to Rumtukel.

*Fr Ignatius Tirkey*

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## **ASSAM & ANDAMANS**

### **Manas Bansbari**

On November 2, Fr. Laurentus went around different villages for blessing of graveyards. Fr. Severius returned from Ranchi after finishing his works in Ranchi and Samtoli. He is looking after discipline and cleanliness in the school enthusiastically. He is busy beautifying the campus. In order to make the Year of Faith more meaningful there was a two-day prayer service arranged in Kahibari village Chapel for the Bodo Catholics of Barendabari and Kahibari villages. Fr. Justine Narzary was the resource person for the programme.

Fr. Provincial's Annual Visitation on November 21 was encouraging for us. He addressed the students and interacted with the school staff. The Feast of Christ the King was celebrated meaningfully as this day was also the concluding day of the Year of Faith. On this occasion a procession in honour of Christ the King took place in which a good number of parishioners joined enthusiastically singing and praying, and raising slogans.

Students concluded their annual examination held from November 25-December 6. The construction work of the Barendabari village Chapel is going on smoothly.

*Laurentus Kiro.*

## **Kathalguri**

October and November were months of blessings for our community. Fr. Jerome and Sr. Carmel had a meaningful sharing on educational and pastoral issues on October 2. Looking at the socio-economic and political situation of the Santal Colony, Loyola Parish has taken a new initiative by forming *Loyola Co-operative Credit Society, Kathalguri* on October 20, 2013 in the General Body Meeting, held in Loyola School Hall. The aim and dream of this Society is to give economic empowerment to the members. We also foresee to link it with the SBI Srirampur.

Fr. Pradeep Kullu organized the School Sports Day for three schools on November 2 successfully. Mr. Christom Tudu, the Chief Guest, appreciated the efforts of Loyola School in imparting education to the children of Santal Colony. Mr. Prem Hasdak', the Treasurer of AASAA, was the Guest of Honour, who congratulated the staff and students for organizing the Annual Sports Day. Medals and certificates were distributed to the winners by different dignitaries on the victory stand.

Fr. Pradeep left for Pune to attend the JEA convention by Saraighat Express on November 3. Fr. Jerome had a meeting with the office-holders of Loyola Co-operative Credit Society to finalize the practical aspects of record-registers, seals, stamps, etc. The whole parish is divided into 5 different circles. Fr. Jerome and Mr. Rajshekhar Marandi (the Parish Secretary) attended the DPC meeting at Bongaigaon Diocesan center on November 9 to discuss the theme: "Mission and ministry in the North East" in our context. St. Joseph's and Loyola schools had a grand Children's Day celebration on November 14 in Loyola School. The colourful cultural programme was followed by a cricket match between the staff and the students. Unfortunately in spite of the highest score of Fr. Pradeep the staff lost the match. Frs. Dominic Topno, Jerome and Sr. Sosan inaugurated the Tungsi village church on November 17 with a solemn Holy Mass.

Fr. Provincial's visitation on November 22 to Kathalguri Mission Station was inspiring for us. He gave us his full time individually on the first day of his visit. The following day he was the main celebrant at the Mass. After the Mass he gave time for our collaborators also. We Jesuits had a meaningful and fruitful community meeting with Fr. Provincial for two and a half hours. He suggested to accommodate the hostellers in the old house after repair; to think of having a separate building or wings for the Higher Secondary, where classes 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th could be accommodated and taught together; and in the near future he has asked us to think, plan, and choose a fitting place for the degree college also. He suggested us to keep record - register of meetings and new initiatives. Finally he stressed on the Celebration of Restoration of Society of Jesus and to make it a historical event in the Assam Mission. Finally, to our plea he told us to contact the Mission Delegate to provide with a new four-wheeler for Mornai and Kathalguri. Thanks to the provincial for his moral support and encouragements.

We had a grand celebration of Christ the King on November 24. There was a long Eucharistic procession and Solemn Mass as to mark of the conclusion of the Year of Faith. Frs. Pradeep and Dominic went to Gauripur to meet

the officials and got the School Provisional Certificate for Loyola School. Fr. Jerome had called the PPC and CAB meeting in Loyola School on 29 to evaluate our apostolate in Kathalguri Parish. The members also planned programmes for the next year. Frs. Dominic and Jerome were busy in pastoral touring of different villages while Fr. Pradeep was busy with schoolworks in the month of November.

*Jerome Dumdung*

## **Pengaree**

Fr. Provincial Xavier Soreng had come to Pengaree for his canonical visitation from November 12-15. He met all the Fathers, Sisters and Staff. This was the moment of grace for all of us. His visit has boosted our morale. To continue the mission in Pengaree, however it is challenging. On November 17, two foreign volunteers, one from America and the other from France, left Pengaree after rendering their valuable services from the month of September to November. Both of them went for India-tour before leaving for their further destinations.

On November 14, the Children's day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. There was a variety entertainment programme by the teachers as well as the students. The best part of the Children's day celebration was that children had brought food from homes, which was shared with other students. Fr. Provincial Xavier Soreng also enjoyed the sharing of the meal with the students and staff. The final exams for all the students were conducted from November 18-30. The staff members are busy correcting the annual answer papers. Christ the King feast was celebrated by the parishioners of Pengaree at Kathalguri centre. The faithful from all the units came walking, singing and praying to Kathalguri and there was a solemn Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Mukul, the Parish priest presided over the Eucharist and Fr. Peter Mahendra preached a very meaningful homily on the theme Christ the King of our hearts. There was a training programme for the head catechists as well as for the Pastoral Sisters at Mankata from November 28-30.

*Telesphore Lakra*

## **Mushalpur**

On November 01, the School Annual Day cum Parents Day was celebrated with a variety entertainment programme. For this day Mr. Michael Ganlary, the Additional D.C, was the chief guest. Parents came to the school in big numbers for the programme and they enjoyed all the programmes. Teachers were served delicious meal whereas the students and parents were given tea and snacks at the end of the programme.

Frs. Vital and Ajay had been very busy on November 2 for the blessings of the graveyards of the parishioners both in Mushalpur as well as in Domini Parish. It was a hectic day but quite a fruitful ministry. Fr. Provincial visited us on November 20. His visit was a blessing and source of encouragement. Annual exams for the school started on November 25 and ended on December 6.

*Frs. Vital & Ajay*

## **Balipara**

Blessing of the village Church at Tarabari on November 3: In spite of rain nearly 1,000 people of Balipara parish and neighbouring parishes came for the blessing of the



new church of Tarabari on Sunday November 3. Due to rain the programme started only at 10.30 a.m. In the beginning Rt. Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo D.D. the Bishop of Tezpur cut the ribbon and blessed the newly built church. The church looks good and can accommodate at least 600 people. The painting is very attractive. There were three Boro priests namely Frs. Deben Kachari, Nathaniel Basumatary and Xavier Narzari, and Sr. Veronica Basumatary, present for the occasion. The Bishop was the main celebrant and Fr. Deben preached the homily and stressed the need for prayer and deeper faith in the Lord Jesus. The choir sang the liturgical songs in different languages. After the Holy Eucharist around noon time meal was served for the Bishop, Priests, Sisters and invited guests, and then the cultural programme started.

All the guests were felicitated by the Boro *gamochas*. The cultural programme was presented by different units of Balipara parish which lasted for 2 hours. The faithful were served delicious meal in turn in between the programme items. There was much cooperation from the side of Tarabari village people. Mr. Madan and Mr. Antony were anchoring the programme. A deep gratitude was expressed to the benefactors of Germany and Swiss Jesuit Mission Offices for their generous support in building the house of prayer.

*Xavier Lakra*

### **Gana Chetana Samaj**

On November 9, Fr. George Soreng, Director, took the dance team of Gana Chetana Samaj to Don Bosco School, Panbazar, Guwahati to participate in the culture programme organized by the Conference of Religious India (CRI) on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee.

In June 2013 Gana Chetana Samaj has launched a new project for Pengaree area. The Project staff headed by Fr. Peter Mahendra Tigga, organized the first Farmers' Club's Meeting on November 5 at Konapathar, Tinsukia.

On November 19, a Capacity Building programme for farmers on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) was organized by Gana Chetana Samaj in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Tezpur. Total number of participants were 40 farmers from Balipara, Dhekiajuli and Rangapara Development Blocks. Mr. Anup Kumar Guha, Assistant General Manager of NABARD, Dr. Bikram Borkotoki, SMS Soil Science, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), were the main speakers for the training programme. Fr. Provincial, Xavier Soreng, was present on the occasion; he encouraged the farmers in his address.

Fr. Xavier Lakra, in his short speech stressed on taking keen interest in the modern methods of Agriculture to increase the production.

Under the project, "Livelihood Development and Affirmation of Rights", the Farmers' Club's Meeting was held on November 25-26 at Mohong and Ritugaon, Tinsukia. The field staff of Pengaree project is trying its best to implement the project successfully in the area. One of the key components of the project is the promotion of tea and beetle nut cultivation for which the spade work is complete. The central staff of the organization is busy collecting data, analyzing it and discussing on the findings in order to write new project proposals for the coming years.

*Fr. George Soreng*

### **Prothrapur**

Fr. David went to four different cemeteries viz., Prothrapur, Burmanala, Chidiyatapu and Barud Godam for blessing and Holy Masses on November 2. The V. G. of Port Blair Diocese, Fr. Dharampal Tirkey, was kind enough to celebrate Mass in the parish at 5.15 p.m.

On the occasion of the Children's Day essay writing competition was held for children studying in Classes VIII, IX and X on October 20. The theme was 'Faith'. Quite many participated in it. Group dance and solo dance competitions, held on November 3, were open for all children. Singing Competition and Bible Quiz were also held. To the joy of all, children had prepared well. Sports Day was held at Birdline ground for all children of the parish on 9. Finally, November 17 was the day of climax and conclusion. There was a well-prepared liturgy by the children and a solemn Holy Mass was celebrated in which the parishioners sincerely prayed for their children.

A recollection for the parishioners on November 23 was arranged as a preparation for a meaningful conclusion of the Year of Faith. A good number of faithful participated in it and profited spiritually. Fr. Dharampal Tirkey availed himself for the talk whereas Fr. Mahipal Balmuch was available for confessions followed by celebration of the Eucharist. Due to unpredictable weather simple concluding ceremony was held on November 24. Strong wind and continual rain from 24 evening to 25 caused damages in various ways. Several places were flooded; and in some places boundary walls fell down; roofs of the houses were carried away, trees were uprooted. Falling of trees blocked the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) for some days.

*Fr. David*

## **DIASPORA**

### **Rome**

On November 3, Adivasis in Rome gathered in one of the Halls of the Jesuit Curia for their first Get-together of the Academic year under the umbrella of ABHAS (*Akhil Bhartiya Adivasi Samuday*). A cordial welcome was extended to the new members. The presence of Rev. Bart Geryl, Postulator for the Cause of Fr. Constant Lievens, brought immense joy to the ABHAS Family. He shared some of the salient features of the canonization process of Fr. Constant Lievens- a long and arduous process, indeed!

He concluded his sharing by requesting all to pray - pray earnestly - for the success of the canonization process of Fr. Lievens, because, in his own words, "without prayer, our efforts will be futile". On the following day, he visited the Gregorian University and met Fr. Mark Rotsaert, Superior of the Community, who hails from Belgium Province. Later during his meeting with the Ranchi Jesuits in Rome, he explained the fundamental requirements to initiate and advance the process of beatification. He also narrated some important aspects of the life of Fr. Lievens,

which could play a vital role in putting forward his case. Again, his final words were, "Pray, and pray earnestly, because only through prayers, our efforts to see him amidst the company of Saints will yield the desired fruits"! An important message with a great challenge passed on to our people back home in Chotanagpur! Keeping in mind his challenge and request for prayers, the Ranchi adivasi Jesuits in Rome came together to commemorate the death anniversary of Fr. Lievens on November 7 in the Room of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Fr. Christdhari Kujur (MAP) and Sr. Usha Manorama Tirkey, a St. Anne Sister too joined the group to witness the hard-earned fruits of the Apostle of Chotanagpur. The request of Rev. Bart resulted into a good beginning, which, we hope to maintain for the coming years! How wonderful would it be if the death anniversary of Fr. Lievens becomes the part of the liturgy of the Adivasi Church, the fruit of his labor, which is consolidating its roots and expanding very fast near and far! A day to remember and to reckon God's blessings to the tribal populace through Fr. Lievens!

On November 9, the students of the Roman Universities - State as well as Pontifical Universities - converged to Assisi, the City of Peace, for their Annual Pilgrimage, organized by the University Pastoral Department of the Vicariate of Rome with the help of the Chaplains of various Roman Universities. As the Chaplain of our University, I had to accompany and guide our students to Assisi. More than 3,000 students descended on Assisi in more than 60 buses, private cars and other smaller buses. Those who participated in the pilgrimage and those who witnessed the enthusiasm of the enthusiastic and youthful spirit of the students were thrilled by the scene of huge group going up the mountain and coming down with burning candles in their hands - a sign of their burning zeal and living faith!

Our three students - Kulwant, Suman and Sylverius - have inserted themselves fully into the academic life with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. They are determined to dedicate their full time and energy to complete the mission assigned to them here in Rome by the Province. Kulwant passed with good marks both Italian and Greek exams. Every week, I have a chance to witness his hard work, seriousness and dedication during the Seminar conducted by me on the theme *Jesus the Christ*. Unfortunately, Sylverius was on sick-bed for two weeks because of the abscess (*phoda*) on his right knee. Initially, he had hoped to recover in Bellarmino itself; but when the pain became unbearable with seven eruptions of abscess, Suman helped him to be transferred to the Infirmary of San Pietro Canisio for better treatment. He had to stay there until all the roots were extracted and the wounds were dried. Although, Linus seems to be ever-young and energetic, of late, he has to take extra care of his pressure.

Justin has always been faithful in his search for new and creative means to reach out to the readers and listeners of the Vatican Radio. Recently he launched the video news service for the Hindi world. It has to be noted that out of 46 languages working for Vatican radio, only 12 departments have started reaching their audience through video news; and so he became among the very few to respond promptly to the need of the hour. Now, the

Hindi section disseminates the news and views of the Holy Father through the daily bulletin, weekly bulletin, monthly magazine, Facebook, Podcast and Blog apart from the regular video news. He feels greatly satisfied with the responses he receives everyday through Facebook and E-mails predominantly from the youth. In the absence of Fr. Jerome, Director of Indian Section, Justin had to shoulder the responsibility of the Director for one month. He also participated in the Convention of ICRA (International Catholic Rural Association) held in Rome from November 12-15. During the Convention, he was glad to meet the Director, Secretary General and some 35 ICRA members from different parts of the world. Later, he invited the Secretary General of ICRA to the Vatican Radio for an interview, which he gladly accepted and shared about the mission of ICRA.

Finally, with the atmosphere of Rome already charged with the Christmas spirit, we wish all our Friends and Well Wishers back home a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2014!

*Fr Prem*

### **Minya (Egypt)**

November 17 was the day of annual evaluation of CLC, Egypt (Christian Life Community). It was held in Cairo. Fr. Bimal is In-Charge of Upper Egypt. Besides University youth, a big number of married couples join CLC. Many of them are not only active members but share in leading the various Christian groups and assisting guidance in spiritual retreats. On November 21, Jesuit Fathers' School Minya celebrated "Funny Day" in the evening (4.30 - 9.30 PM) for the Middle School section. It was similar to "Meena Bazaar" held in India. To be able to participate with their parents, every student was evaluated for three months for his/her over-all performance, i.e., academic, extra-curricular activities, manners, etc., and each one was given a token-point slip. This helped them participate in different games. Here in Egypt, marriages take place in the evening followed by reception and party. Adding to the colour, that very day, one of our teachers got married and he was warmly received with big fire-works on the "Funny Day" with his bride.

November 25-28 were the days for the annual visit of Near East Provincial Fr. Victor. He shared about various development and challenges of Jesuits working in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Algeria. The civil war of Syria has very badly affected the fleeing people and all the neighbouring countries. November 28-29, were the Regional Meet of all the Jesuits in Egypt. It was held in Minya, 260 kms away from Cairo. In spite of inconveniences, majority of them were present. The Coptic Catholic Bishop of Minya was the chief guest. The main topic was "Egypt's very recent Constitutional amendments". It was dealt by an expert lady lawyer from Cairo.

*Fr. Bimal Kerketta*

### **Guyana**

Frs. Amar, Elias and Poulouse, went for a community sharing to Karon Falls in South Pakarimas. They remained overnight there and refreshed themselves. They cherished Jesuit Companionship. A substantial number of Christians from Rukumuta village joined them. Fr. Elias Surin presided over the Holy Eucharist on the rock and reminded them of

the Sermon on the Mount. In the evening there was a camp fire where everyone enjoyed and appreciated the co-operation and unity of the village. On November 1, innumerable saints were remembered including their ancestors whose devotion and piety only God knows. On the All Souls' Day, the community gathered together at the cemetery to pray for their beloved departed. 'God be with you till we meet again', hymn made the entire atmosphere more emotional. On November 9 the priestly ordination of Ramesh Vanan, was conferred by the Most Rev. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore, in St. Joseph's Boys' High School Bangalore. For this auspicious occasion Fr. James Gonsalves, the Superior of Arrupe House, Georgetown, represented the Guyana Jesuit Region. Frs. Amar and Elias visited the most inaccessible village churches- Chinapao and Karisparu from November 6-15. While walking for two days in the rain forest, they experienced God's providence and the motherly care and concern of nature. On November 10, St. Teresa Church Karasabai celebrated the faith day with a great joy and

happiness. Fr. Paul Martin the Regional Superior of Guyana Jesuits presided over the Holy Eucharist. Sr. Divya, Sr. Seraphina and the church team did not leave a single stone unturned to make the day a successful one. At the end of the Year of Faith, the Catholics of the Georgetown Diocese were blessed by the Priestly Ordination of Godfrey Aloysius Veerasammy, SJ, the son of the soil, by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyen, OSB, in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Brickdam, Georgetown on November 23. The next day the newly ordained priest celebrated his First Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist in St. Thomas the Apostle's church Enmor with 16 Jesuit priests. There was a short and sweet felicitation programme followed by a sumptuous lunch. Fr. Anil Tirkey played a leading role in this great event. Fr. Varghese Puthuserry, SJ, has gone to Kerala to visit his ailing mother. Fr. Suman, Sr. Anima and Sr. Bernardine are preparing the youths for confirmation in Aishalton. Kindly find our E-mail IDs: **Fr. Suman Prabhat Toppo** - toppoprabhatsj@gmail.com; **Fr. Elias Surin** - eliasurinsj@gmail.com

*Fr. Elias Surin*

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### **FATHER BERNARD TOPPO, S.J.** **(1933 - 2013)**

"Father Rector, please allow me to go to Chainpur" was a frequent request of Fr. Bernard Toppo which he used to make with Fr. Rector during his last one and half year he spent in the infirmary at Manresa House, Ranchi and ask for only five rupees to go there. Father Rector would politely convince and satisfy him with his words and send him back each time he would come with such request.

Bernard lived in St. John's School Community almost till the end of 2011, where it had been noticed that he had been gradually losing his memory. It became more obvious once he was admitted at Seva Nilaya Health Centre towards the end of 2012 for treatment for typhoid and some other digestive problems. After he came back from the Health Centre Father was still very weak and needed special care and so, it was decided to keep him at Holy Family Hospital Mander for some time till he would regain sufficient strength and become again capable of managing things by himself. He improved remarkably well and returned to the Infirmary at Manresa House Ranchi which became his last home till he went to rest for his eternal reward.

Although he was gradually losing his memory still, often he would talk very sensibly and would sometimes his fellow-listeners and interlocutors with very quick response and ever-ready answer. Despite such lack of memory, his childhood memory remained intact and would miss the link in narrating about his native village and whom else he has to meet and talk etc.

Born in a devout Catholic family of Silphari village on 07 March 1933, previously making a part of Katkahi Parish but now falling under Chainpur parish (diocese of Gumla), Bernard had his Primary Education in Katkahi which was, till that time, still came under the care of the Ranchi Jesuits. In 1949, he moved to St. John's High School, Ranchi and did his intermediate studies at St. Xavier's College Ranchi. While he was still studying at St. Xavier's College, young Bernard experienced a call to religious life and thus he joined the Jesuit Novitiate at Sitagarha in 1956. He remained in Sitagarha till he finished his Juniorate in 1960. Thereafter, he was back in Ranchi in 1960 where he pursued his university studies at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. In continuation of his priestly formation, Bernard was sent to De Nobili College, Pune where he did his studies in Philosophy from 1962 to 1964 and to St. Mary's College, Kurseong for his theological studies from 1965 to 1969.

Bernard was ordained a priest at Kurseong on 24 March 1968. After his ordination Bernard was appointed as an assistant teacher in Loyola Higher Secondary School, Kunkuri. After his tertianship at St. Joseph's Bangalore in 1970-1971, Father Bernard was given the charge of St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary Ranchi as its director. Guiding and directing the young aspirants to Priesthood and to Religious way of life, a tedious but very important ministry from the point of view of formation and promotion of vocation. Here he worked till 1975. In his next assignment, Father was asked to join the Province Curia as Socius to the Provincial from 1975 to 1977 and thus, he changed his residence from St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary to Manresa House Ranchi. Father Bernard would be seen busy in the Provincial's Curia for next two years (1977- 1979) with administrative works till he would be made the Principal of St John's High School, Ranchi (1979-1980). In 1980 Bernard was sent St Stanislaus, Sitagarha as a Minister for a year where he stayed till 1980. Bernard became Vice-Principal of St. Xavier's Doranda from 1980 to 1982. In his next appointment Bernard was sent to Loyola High School Khunti as an assistant teacher and Minister of the House. In his next appointment, We find Father Bernard back for one year as an assistant teacher in Prabhat Tara High School Dhurwa for a year. In 1990 he was asked to become the Parish Priest of Soso for next three years and from Soso to Patrachauli till 1999. In his last and active life of apostolic ministry, Father Bernard was once again placed in St. John's High School Ranchi and asked to take care of its finance, its

Treasurer, as an assistant teacher and as the in charge of the school office from 1999 to 2010. As Bernard grew physically weak and could no longer render his active service in such a big school, Father Provincial freed him from all the responsibilities and assigned him to rest and to pray for the Church and the Society. He spent this time of his rest in St. John's School Community till 2012.

In his last days, after a short period of hospitalization mentioned above, when his memory weakened further, Father Bernard was shifted to infirmary in Manresa House for better care and assistance. A few days before his final call, Bernard's health suddenly deteriorated. He was taken to Seva Nilaya Health Centre at Ara Gate but after staying only a couple of days later, he insisted to get back to Manresa House. So, Father Socius decided to bring him back to the Infirmary. He definitely seemed better physically but his conversation (speech) indicated further loss of memory. Still, he was happy to be back and was now and then seen walking and talking together with Brother Samuel Toppo who too has lost quite a bit of his memory - not a small sign of fellowship and solidarity. It could be a rare coincidence that for the last few days Brother Samuel and Father Bernard both were being served meals at Brother Samuel's room. On 22 July 2013 Bernard was brought to Samuel's room for his supper as usual. But, even before the attendant could bring and serve their food, Father Bernard had already gone for the eternal banquet of his Master quite oblivious of close companion Samuel, who remained sitting just opposite him.

Father Bernard was, by appearance, a lean and thin man yet he was blessed with sharp memory and intellect. He was a man who loved order, punctuality and discipline, one who saw to it that the school and the Jesuit community followed strict discipline in all aspects of daily life. He had commendable knowledge of the Society and of the Province through his dedicated service in various capacities in the Province. As a teacher, he had developed special concern for the weak students. His main focus was on teaching Mathematics and he made all efforts to arrange regular tuition classes for those who were poor in Mathematics. As he grew older and physically became weaker he realized that his memory was slowly diminishing, so, he forced himself to refresh his skill in Mathematics by solving many Mathematical problems.

As a religious, Bernard was very faithful in all his spiritual duties. He would never miss the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, praying the Divine Office and reciting the rosary. Though a poor eater who ate very little, he loved a glass of soft drink occasionally in the community and smoking a cigar. In free moments he loved to keep himself busy with the books especially related to science & mathematics. Praying for the Church and the Society in the infirmary of Manresa House, his thin, innocent face was often lit with a charming smile and a serene glow. This was, perhaps, a sign that he was fully prepared to march to his final destiny- to his heavenly home and dine with his Loving Master forever.

*Jaywant Soreng, S J*

### BIRTH DAYS: DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER		JANUARY	
01	Surin Elias	06	Minj Patras
07	Tirkey Vijay Manohar	07	Ekka Philemon
10	Breye Erik		Kujur Anselm
11	Kerketta Sanjay		Kiro Laurentius
18	Xalxo Ignatius	09	Lakra Amrit
	Bage Kamal Chandra	11	Terrens Paul
	Toppo Bruno		Kullu Clement
22	Bilung Gilbert	12	Dungdung Mathias
	Kullu Ferdinand		Kullu Albert
23	Toppo Christopher	13	Kindo Robert
24	Lakra Christopher	15	Toppo Alok
25	Barla Emmanuel	19	Kullu Rajesh Kuldeep
	Kujur Ernest	20	Tete Ignatius
26	Beck Milianus	24	Lakra Chonhas
29	Dungdung John B.	26	Kerketta Raymond
			Tigga Tej Kumar
		27	Lakra Bimal Elias
		28	Ekka Blacius
			Lakra Nabor
		30	Ekka Manoj

#### LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYER

**Fr. Christian De Brouwer SJ** (90) passed away on 28 November 2013.

**Mr. Sumit Minj** (24) cousin of **Fr. Anupchand** died on 17 November 2013

**Mr. Victor Ba'a** (80), the father of **Fr. Theodore Ba'a**, died on 1 December 2013

**Mr. Victor Minj**, father of **Sch. Nirmal Minj**, died on 6 December 2013