

RANCHI BULLETIN



77/2

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

FEBRUARY 2018

Priestly Ordinations in 2018



- 1) Deacon Rajesh Sandil, SJ was ordained priest by his Lordship Binay Kandulna, DD, Bishop of Khunti Diocese, on 7 January 2018 at St. Xavier's High School, Bundu. His motto was "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (Jn 15, 16). The bishop's homily centred upon "The Lord Jesus appoints priests to make his people holy." There were 105 priests, 5 Coadjutor Brothers, 3 Deacons and 43 Religious Sisters participated in the ceremony.



- 2) Deacon Pradeep Soreng, SJ, was ordained priest by his Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, bishop of Simdega Diocese, on 15 January 2018 at Jampani Parish. His motto was "You are precious in my eyes." (Is.43, 4). There were 78 priests, a good number of Scholastics and Coadjutor brothers, some 21 Sisters and about 2000 faithful present in the ceremony. The theme of the homily was "All Religious are called to unite others."



- 3) Deacon John Jyoti Kujur, SJ, was ordained priest by His Lordship Anand Jojo, DD, bishop of Hazaribag Diocese, on 21 January 2018 at Rengarih Parish. His homily centred round the theme that a priest is to be a teacher, preacher and shepherd to his people. There were 78 priests, a good number of Jesuits Fathers, Brother sand Scholastics, some 40 Sisters and about 4000 faithful participated in the ceremony.



- 4) Deacon Bipin Lugun, SJ, was ordained priest by his Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, on 28 January 2018 at Pandripani parish, Simdega Diocese. His motto was "Abide in my love." (Jn. 15, 9) He is the first Jesuit from this new Pandripani parish. A good number of Jesuits, Fathers, Coadjutor Brothers and Scholastics and some 2000 faithful took part in the ordination ceremony.

Congratulations: Schs. Fuldeo Soreng, Rakesh Kerketta, Roshan Ba'a and Shailesh Lakra were ordained Deacons by His Lordship Anil J. T. Couto, DD, Archbishop of Delhi, at the Millennium Hall, St. Xavier's School, Delhi on Saturday, 24 February 2018.

Health update: FROM: FR. ERENEUS TOPPO, SJ, Chennai - 22.02.2018

Subject: Latest Health news of Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, S.J.

This is to update you the latest progress regarding surgery of Fr Ignatius Xalxo at SIMS Hospital, Vadapalani, Chennai. Dr Suresh Babu, Director and Neuro Surgeon and Dr Vijay S, Senior Neuro Consultant examined and explained the MRI report clearly that C6, C7 Disk osteopathy complex with myelopathy OPLL has not developed all of a sudden but it must have taken at least 45 years. OPLL is the pathological replacement of the posterior longitudinal ligament (PLL) in the spine with lamellar bone. It predominantly affects men, the elderly and Asians, and is found in up to 25% of patients presenting with cervical compression myelopathy. At C6 and C7 disc constant development of these disc bones leaving no free space for spinal cord is compressing the spinal cord. In the surgery they will not touch these bones but posteriorly the space will be made by pulling back the cervical section. After the consultation Dr Suresh Babu prescribed the diagnosis for ECHO (Cardiology Rs. 2200), Surgical Pack (Blood tests Rs. 6200), X-Ray Cervical Spine (FLEX and EXT Rs. 700) and Consultations Rs 400+400 = grand total Rs. 9900 was paid through my debit card. The reports will be ready by 24/02/2018. Dr has advised surgery for the OPLL at the earliest. He presented the approximate estimate Rs. 3 lakhs.

Fr. Ignatius will be admitted to the Hospital on Tuesday, 27 February, 2018 and his surgery will be the following day. Br. Telesphore Horo, Fr. John Berchans are with Ignatius in Chennai. Let us keep Ignatius in our prayers.

St. Mary's High School, Samtoli

The month of January had been the time of wedding. Some of us had gone to bless the marriages to different places. Still some went for the death anniversary masses. Thus the holidays got over and the classes resumed on 3 January 2018.

This year we had three priestly ordinations of the Jesuit deacons in our Simdega District, namely, at Jampani, Rengarh and Pandripani parishes. This time also the teachers who are approved by the government could not attend the ordinations because of the exams conducted by the government. The emeritus Bishop Charles Soreng, SJ, was one of our distinguished guests who came for the ordination at Rengarh. He also had to discuss some matters with Fr. Emmanuel Barla, the Principal of SXC, Simdega.

Fr. Albert Dungdung was taken to Manresa House Infirmary for recuperation as he was not keeping well since a few days. He had problems of appetite and pain in the legs. After reaching Manresa House, his problems continued and he was rather upset.

This year the chakravajuh was at St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla. Some of our boys and girls participated in different events and won some prizes. The girls from the Inter College bagged the First prize and became champion in the overall events. The winners were honoured in the school on January 29 at St. Mary's High School, Samtoli.

Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ

St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla

The Bright and Prosperous New Year 2018 was greeted with cheers and jubilant noise of crackers and fire works! Our usual picnic of the clergy group to Datli Dam forest was not missed this year either. The whole of the post – Christmas December and the first week of January 2018

were time for marriages, jubilees, final vows, *gami* Mass and many other celebrations all over. Finally, the time for work came when on the 3rd January our schools, Inter college and AROUSE reopened and all were back to their desk.

The CHAKRAVYUH event (Jamboree) was organized at St Ignatius' School Ground, the Jubilee Stadium, from 12 to 14 January 2018 for sport and athletics lovers. It was the Golden Jubilee Year of the Games(1968 – 2018). Some 417 athletes from 21 institutions participated: High School Boys = 18 teams and Girls = 10; Inter College Boys = 08 teams and Girls = 7.

Mr. Sudarshan Bhagat, the Union State Minister for Tribal Affairs, inaugurated the ceremony on 12 January and lit the fire with the *mashal* (Flame) that was lit at the Tower Chowk by Jagatpal Minj, the product of Charavyuh and our former student. On this occasion other former renowned athletes were also present : Arvind Panna, Mahabir Lohra, Maria Goreti Xalxo, Goreti Minj, and Pushpa Hassa. St. Ignatius' Inter College, Gumla won the overall Championship for the Boys and St. Mary's Samtoli for the Girls; Kishore Nagar Namkom was for the High School Boys and St. Patrick's Gumla for the Girls. Rohit Minj from St. Ignatius' Gumla was declared the best athlete for Inter Boys and Neel Kusum lakra of St. Partick's Gumla for the girls. Prakash Xess from Kishore Nagar was declared the best athlete for High School and Supriti Kachhap of St. Patrick's Gumla for the Girls. Fr. Bob Slattery, SJ, was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of CHAKRAVUH. He is the lone survivor of the four founder Fathers of the CHAKRAVUH in 1968.

Fr. Headmaster and Rector went to meet Mr. J. Glen MLA (Nominated from the Anglo Indian Community) and to follow up the application for concrete roads in the campus. He sounded positive.

The next big celebration in this campus was the Republic Day on 26 January. Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ, was the Chief Guest to hoist the flag. He delivered a beautiful message on the occasion and liked by the entire crowd. The Loreto Sisters from Doranda had invited us for their Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on 30 December. Three of us went to join in their joyful celebrations. The month ended with two of us going for the Extended Province Consult at Manresa House, Ranchi.

Fr. Christopher Lakra, SJ

DNC, Pune

On 1 January we had a solemn Community Holy mass at 12:15 a.m. and nothing any special. We resumed our classes on January 4th. On 12 January we had a community dialogue. We were reminded of our way of life by having dialogue about the strengths and weaknesses of the community. Thus it was very meaningful for our life and community. On 13 January we celebrated Pongal in the DNC Community led by our Madurai Scholastics. In the morning we began with a solemn Holy Mass in Tamil. After breakfast there was the breaking of the pot. For lunch we had a special Pongal dish prepared and served by the Tamil Brothers. In the evening there was a cultural evening organized by them. We had Province mass without dinner on 20 January. For us Fr. Ajit Saras offered the Holy Mass. We remembered all the members of our Province very especially and prayed for the departed souls of our Province in 2017. 26 January was very-very busy and significant for us. We hoisted the flag at the DNC after breakfast. We had the Holy mass in the Papal Seminary Chapel organized by JDV followed by the flag hoisting ceremony and a high tea. Then we, the members of Chhota Nagpur Cultural Association (CCA), organized a one day Hockey match at the DNC ground which passed off successfully. All together there were fourteen teams, but after getting the re-entry, it went up to twenty teams. As prizes there were two he goats as the 1st and 2nd prizes. The inaugural match began at 11:00 am and the matches went on continuously till the evening. To make this programme successful all the members of the Central Zone were involved, since this is one of the big and important ministries for us. AHA (Adivasi Hindi Association) organized a farewell programme in the campus for the outgoing members. POSA visitation began in the campus since 27 January onwards till 1 February. He met all the Staff and different faculty members. On 27 January Fr. ADF met us Philosophers and Theologians separately in common. He told us about the different policies of formation, especially about the vocation promotion. Now the vocation promotion should be done for the Universal Society not only for the province. Fr. POSA met us Philosophers and theologians

together in common. He told us that the first phase (SAP) of the process of restructuring the Society is over. The second phase will begin soon. We realized that every visitation is a moment of grace. The month of January was quite fruitful for us.

Sch. Ruben Xalxo, SJ

Jesuit Curia & Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur:

The month of January was full of celebrations in the Assam context. Though the 'Bhogali Bihu' was on 13-15 January, but the people of Assam started the celebration from the first day of the year and continued till the end of the month. The whole environment remained like holidays in January. But the Jesuits tried to do some work. Fr. Pius Xalxo and Fr. Anupchand Kiran Minj made two trips to Tipkai, Loyola Kathalguri, Mornai and Mushalpur to start classroom construction in Tipkai, Jesuit Residence in Loyola Kathalguri and a boundary wall for the Sisters' convent in Mushalpur. Fr. Anupchand Kiran Minj received a good news from his college that he has passed the LLB in the 1st Division. He also received the degree certificate from the university. We congratulate him for the good result. He has also started practicing law under a senior lawyer in his residential chamber. The Jesuits of three communities, namely, Balipara, Sonabeel and Tezpur organized a common community picnic with the community workers to Bhairav Kund on 22nd at the SANGAM of Assam, Arunachal and Bhutan. All the Fathers and workers were happy to see themselves in the foreign land (Bhutan) for sometime. The picnic was enjoyable and memorable for all of us. Fr. Thomas Barla took time to visit his field and the Jesuit brethren of Pengaree. Fr. Pius Xalxo once again left for Ranchi on 23 January for the registration of land for the Franciscan Fathers of Harmu. After the work was done, he returned on 1 February.

Fr. Thomas Barla, S.J.

Prothrapur, Andaman

As a good tradition his Lordship Alex Dias, DD, Bishop of Port Blair Diocese invites all the Fathers and Sisters in and around Port Blair for a Christmas gathering on the New Year Day. In full dress and creativity with colourful Christmas songs and dances we had the joyous and pleasant evening gathered from Institutions, Convents and Parishes of the Southern zone. The special visitors Fr. Hubert, Mr. Karl and Mrs. Karl from Austria doubled the happiness with their presence and a melodious song too. His Lordship Rev. Alex Dias delivered the Christmas message and a sumptuous dinner followed.

On 2 January the Shadi Dharam Classes started with 14 participants directed by Fr. Edward, Sr. Rosa and Sr.

Nirmala. Three times a year a marriage preparation course is offered in the diocesan and it has proved very useful and successful as the participants express it. Fr. Donatus Kujur, SJ, from Darjiling Province had a short visit to Prothrapur on 7 January to see his brother and family members hailing from Baratang Island.

On 12th evening Fr. James Pascal Tete came to Prothrapur from Ramnagar for the Mahila Sangh convention on 14th and from 19–21 January 2018 for the Annual youth Day celebration. Prothrapur Parish and the children were lucky to have Fr. James as the chief guest on the occasion of Christmas gathering on 13 January though it was out of season and the children were given prizes. Fr. Edward and Fr. James went to Panighat Shrine to participate in the convention of Catholic Maha Mahila Sangh of the diocese which began with the flag hoisting followed by the Eucharistic celebration. Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias, DD, was the main celebrant. From every parish a big number of mothers attended, consequently the Church was packed. The main speaker was Mrs. Bimla Toppo who focused her talk on the joy of love, the Pope's letter, followed by a parish wise discussion. Prior to lunch there was the election of new central committee members of the Catholic Maha Mahila Sangh of the diocese of Port Blair. The meeting got over at 5.00 P.M. with the final blessing of the Bishop.

The feast of Pongal was celebrated in the parish and Fr. Michael D'cruz, the Pilar Father from Lambaline was the main celebrant and the chief guest. The Tamil community of the parish prepared the programme well. Thanks to Fr. Michael for his generosity and availability to make the occasion a memorable one. Accompanied by Fr. Edward Fr. James had the glimpses of the historical cellular jail.

The Silver Jubilee of Sr. Phoolkumari Tete, DSA, was celebrated at Prothrapur Church on 21 January as she is a parishioner here. The Mahila Sangh received her very warmly and brought her to the Church singing and dancing. The Liturgy was lively. The choir was formed of the mothers and youth. Mr. William Ekka read out the life history of Sr. Phoolkumari. A colourful cultural programme followed to felicitate the jubelirian. Mrs. Binita Bage conducted the cultural programme. In the end Sr. Phoolkumari thanked the parishioners for their cooperation, love and concern. Later all were served lunch.

The youth Day was celebrated at Prothrapur parish on 28 January and the Diocesan Youth Director, Fr. Charles celebrated the Holy Mass. Fr. Charles gave a talk and inspired the youth. The election of the new central committee members for three years was done. Later the youth went to Chidiyatapu for a picnic and came back refreshed.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

Israel

As any other year here in Jerusalem the celebration of the New Year 2018 went in a low key. No events could be seen to highlight the importance of it. The day seemed to be normal. However, the PBI community prepared itself for welcoming the New Year more in a spiritual way. On the eve of the New Year there was a solemn thanksgiving Mass in our Chapel. Some faithful from the neighbourhood too were present for the Eucharist. Evidently, the Eucharistic celebration was centred on each one's deep gratitude to God for all the blessings and favours received throughout the year 2017. The PBI Community festive lunch on the 1 January was the height of the New Year celebration.

The Community members kept themselves busy in their respective apostolates. Fr Doan went to give lectures in the theological faculty in Manila, Philippines. He is expected to stay there for about three months. Fr Hans went for his Retreat in Galilee. The students had rather hectic days in following their classes in the Hebrew University. The last days of January were heavy as they were scheduled for the examinations. They had a diploma day on 29 January 2018. Fr Miahcael Kolarcik, SJ, the Rector of the Biblicum, Rome and Fr Alan J. Fogarty, SJ, the President of the Gregorian University Foundation, Rome, came to honour the diploma day. They remained with us as honoured guests for four days.

The Prayer for unity among Christians was one of the important events in Jerusalem. The prayer days were organized in Churches of different Christians residing in the city. The first day was held at the Holy Sepulchre. The second day at the Anglican Cathedral, St George, the third day at Armenian Cathedral, St James, the fourth day at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, the fifth day at Saviour's Church of the Latin Parish, the sixth day at the Upper Room (Last Supper room), the seventh day at the Church of St Anthony, the Coptic Orthodox Church, eighth day at St Mark's, the Syriac Orthodox Church and the last day was at the Greek Catholic Church of Annunciation. All prayer services were done in the evening at 5.00 p.m. and fairly a good number of people participated in this event. To have the taste of this prayer week, I went to St Mark's Church, the place believed to be the house of Mary and John (also called Mark), and also the place of the Last Supper.

Fr. Camil Kerketta, SJ

IRELAND

Our regular classes resumed on 2 January 2018 with a new zeal and enthusiasm. Sr. Averin O'Ragena, LRL, the Sisters of Retreat took two sessions on how to guide Ignatian Retreat to different age groups of people at different periods of time. We were blessed to receive Fr. Michael Pace, SJ, from

Malta, the younger brother of Fr. Paul Pace, SJ, our Tertian Instructor in Cardonner House Dublin as a guest who is a great missionary in Brazil for many years. On 7 January on the joyous and gracious occasion of Christmas celebration in Byzantine Rite, Fr. Oleksii Bredeliev, SJ, one of the Tertians from Ukraine presided over the Solemn Holy Eucharist with lots of incensing and chanting prayers in the Ukrainian Church in the City Centre Dublin. We, Elias Surin, Niccolo Steiner, Sanjeeva Fernando and Zong Jiang were privileged to join the Christmas celebration with the Ukrainian Catholic community in Dublin.

On January 8-9, Dr. Clarrisa Sammut Cerril, the professor from Malta, gave us very insightful, enriching and practical lessons on affectivity and celibate life. On 10 January, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ and Fr. Jan Van De Poll, SJ the Tertian Instructor, celebrated 6 and 42 Priestly Ordination Anniversaries respectively in Cardonner House, Dublin. Fr. James Hanvey, SJ the British Jesuit, gave us a very inspiring session on the priesthood on 11 January. On the next day Fr. Jose de Pablo, SJ the Spaniard Jesuit gave us overall view of the present situation of Jesuits in Europe.

We, the eleven Tertians, along with our two Instructors: Fr. Jan Van De Poll, SJ and Fr. Paul Pace, SJ, visited Clongowes Wood, St. Aloysius Jesuits' College for Boarders in Castlebrown, Clane, Kildare, Ireland on 14 January. Fr. Michael Sheil, SJ, the Rector of the Jesuit Community presided over the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando, SJ, preached a short and sweet thought provoking and inspiring homily to four hundred hostellers in the multi-purpose Hall.

On 16 January, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando, SJ and Fr. Zong Jiang, SJ, presented the Jesuits' Assistancies of South Asia, Asia Pacific and Oceania in the aula. It was interesting to know the present situation of the Society of Jesus in South Asia and Asia Pacific and Oceania as they are very vibrant and flourishing. It was highly appreciated by everyone present. In the afternoon there was a heavy snow fall and all of us enjoyed thoroughly.

All of us after having the profound spiritual experiences during our one month long Retreat, departed for our respective destinations for two and half months Pastoral Experiments on 18 January. We are engaged in the Universities, Parishes, Home for the aged, Disabled and handicapped centres, Refugee Services and Homeless centres in USA, France, Armenia, United Kingdom and Ireland.

On 20 January the Legion of Maria organized one day Conference on the theme "Be not afraid, Mary." in DCU All Hallows' Campus Drumcondra where a huge number of Legionaries of Mary, actively participated and profited a lot from it. Bishop Eamon Walsh, Msgr. Dan O'Connor, Fr. Paul Churchill, Fr. John Harris, OP, Fr. Eamon McCarthy,

SJ, Fr. Michael Maher and Mrs. Rosemary Swords were the guest speakers on various topics under the theme.

Fr. Paul Pace, SJ, paid a short visit to us on 30 January: Elias Surin, Jean Claude, Oleksii Bredeliev, Peter Paul Musekiwa and Zong Jiang, in City Centre Dublin when we shared our experiences, moments of joy and challenges. We cherished our International Jesuits companionship and enjoyed the sumptuous Chinese Cuisine with chopsticks. On 31 January, the feast of St. John Bosco, the patron Saint of youth, was celebrated with grandeur and gusto at Morning Star.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

Rome

The regular classes in Gregorian University resumed on 8 January 2018 after the 15 days Christmas vacation. Usually the Feast of Epiphany celebrated all over Italy as a national holiday on 6 January which signals the end of all Christmas festivities. However, R.P. General invited all Jesuits in Rome for the annual Christmas-cum-New Year Tea Party on Saturday 13 January. A good number of Jesuits turned up for the Party which also provides with an excellent opportunity to meet and exchange news, views and experiences with others with whom otherwise one hardly meets during the year.

In the evening of the Feast of Epiphany, the Ranchi Jesuits came together to celebrate the New Year. The presence of Sameer Ekka and Ajay Paulus Minj from Munich generated a real sense of Ranchi men in Diaspora. While Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant took them round during the day; Kulwant, Edwin Dang and Biju Sebastian (DUM) prepared a delicious meal for the evening. Immediately after the dinner Sameer and Ajay Paulus left for Munich by a night bus. The following day, Anselm left for India, and the others started preparing themselves for the final two weeks of lessons of First Semester. Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant had wisely played safe by dedicating their time in completing some of the written assignments during the Christmas vacation; and hence they were able to complete some of the academic requirements before the First Semester exams on 24 January. Both had opted for 7-8 Courses and hence, they had to confine themselves to their desks until 9 February. As the first year Licentiate student of Canon Law, Kulwant had chosen a few basic courses, and hence, he had enough time to prepare himself during the exams. Edwin Dang was free from exam tension, but his counselling sessions followed by report writing keeps him busy all the time. Biju Sebastian keeps guiding them and finds various means to make them rest and relax.

During the first week of December Dilip Sanjay had to leave aside everything to prepare all his Radio programmes

and keep them ready for transmission during his absence from the Office from 10 December 2017 to 21 January 2018. He was in Ranchi for his annual holidays. He dedicated the first leg of his holidays to be alone with the Lord in Sitagarha. Ignatius Tete, his Tertian Instructor guided him in his annual Retreat in an inspiring way. The fruitful spiritual journey helped him to spend his holidays in all the more meaningful ways. He visited different communities and shared his joys and sorrows, challenges and struggles faced in Radio mission. He received lots of appreciation and encouragement from the Province men which helped him to garner more strength and energy to carry on his responsibility in Rome.

From 7 January, Anselm too was in the Province for two weeks' vacation. He was happy to be reunited with the Province men and to get acquainted with the apostolic works and new ventures. While visiting to the different communities, he also inquired about the maintenance of the accounts and the management of finance. He was glad to know that all the communities are sincerely working for the *greater glory of God*. The meeting of the Novitiate Batch 1987-1989 in Manresa House was another grace-filled moment for him, during which he benefitted a lot from mutual sharing of experiences, opportunities and challenges in various apostolates of the Province. After having a fruitful sojourn in the Province, both Sanjay Dilip and Anselm came back to Rome on 21 January 2018. As a part of the Canonical visitation of Curia members, Anselm met R. P. General on 31 January 2018. He found the personal meeting very meaningful and encouraging. On 2 February, he met Thomas McClain, Oeconomus Generalis, for the evaluation of his one year in the Office and received feedback for the better service to the universal Society. The meeting also helped him to make some concrete plans for the effective functioning of his ministry in Rome.

After the successful transplant of the left kidney, Linus is going through a period of close observation by the doctors for three months which will be complete on 16 February 2018. The doctors have advised him to remain in the Infirmary to avoid any infection or virus. The Gregorian community has all the necessary facilities and cooperation of the community members for a such care. A special diet is being followed which excludes all milk products and food containing fat. Thanks to Jesuit friends in Rome, who follow the doctors' advice and support him with their prayers. During the recovery period he completed his course of the First Semester using the online services of the University. During the exam period, he dedicated his time to correct the assignments. He hopes to start lecturing from the Second Semester. Prem had two Seminars and two courses during the First Semester. He was very happy with the hard work and dedication of Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant, who

attended his course on Synthesis of Theology and Morality in *Amo ergo sum*. Both of them have to write their final dissertation under his guidance and he expects them to do some serious study and research to be able to write a good synthesis of their three years of theological studies. He has been coordinating well the Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology, a joint venture of Pontifical Universities of Rome, which has 77 students from different parts of Italy. Thanks to the promulgation of the Encyclical *Laudato si'* by Pope Francis, an alliance is born amongst the Pontifical Universities for the first time in the history to create an awareness towards the current ecological challenges faced by the humanity, and to take some personal as well as communitarian initiatives for the Care of Our Common Home.

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

Munich, Germany

We ended our classes on 23 December. The Christmas celebration in Munich was one of its unique kinds. It was more of a spiritual celebration. There was no dancing or the exterior jubilation, except for a bit of singing during the Mass and a sharing of happiness in the form of coming together for a sumptuous Christmas meal. Sch. Sameer and his Community celebrated the Christmas with the Jesuits in Unterhaching, a Community for the elderly Jesuits. Sch. Ajay celebrated Christmas in his Community (Gonzaga). After the Christmas celebration on 25 December all the Community members of both, Gonzaga and Hurtado Communities were free to plan their own holidays till the first week of January. We planned to do our Annual Retreat which we could not do due to the hectic programme during the year. We flew to Rome on 26 Decemger. Thanks to Fr. Sanjay and Fr. Anselm. We found a very beautiful lodging in St. Peter Canisius Community, the Community of Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka. In the guidance of Fr. Anselm Ekka we spent 8 fruitful days in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are very grateful to Fr. Anselm for his precious time and spiritual guidance that he gave us. We concluded our Retreat with the Mass on the evening of 4 January in the Camerette (small rooms) of St. Ignatius. Schs. James and Anuj (Spain) joined us on this occasion along with the Fathers and the Scholastics residing in Rome. Fr. Kulwant and Sch. James Balmuchu led us with beautiful sadri songs during the Mass. It was an overwhelming experience to conclude our Retreat with sadri songs and in the presence of the Founder Father St. Ignatius. After the Mass we gathered together for a sumptuous meal prepared by Sch. Ravi Hemant in a Jharkhandi style. The next two days we visited the beautiful Churches of Rome, the Sistine Chapel and Catacomb of St. Callixtus. Thanks to Sch. Edwin Ddungdung who took us round. We were very privileged to have breakfast in the General Curia and to meet Fr. Superior

General which was made possible by Fr. Anselm. On 6 January we were invited to Bellarmino Community for the dinner. We were very happy to have Fr. Prem with us. His love and care for his fellow brothers was shown in the act that he brought a good number of “Boroplus” from India with him to Rome. The time spent together in Bellarmino was deep and enriching. We gathered all these beautiful and precious moments and came back to Munich on 7

January. On 8 January we resumed our Philosophy classes. We worked hard and prepared ourselves for the Exams that came at the end of the month. With our hard work and God’s blessings both of us have passed first Semester Exam which was done orally. Now we are looking forward to the Summer Semester which will begin in April.

Sch. Ajay Paulus, SJ

OBITUARY

Br. Vinay Santosh Kullu, S.J, (1945 – 2017)

Brother Vinay Santosh Kullu, SJ, Sleeps in heavenly peace today on the day of Christmas 2017. He chose a beautiful day, 24 December 2017, to meet his Master and Lord Jesus.

Brother Vinay Santosh Kullu was born on 25 April 1945 in a small village called *Dalmadih* in Noatoli Parish in Gumla Diocese. After his early childhood in 1958 he moved to the nearest parish school *Konbir Noatoli* for his primary and middle school education. He successfully completed his middle school education which was up to the 7th standard at that time in the year 1965. In those days when the schools were few and the parents were uneducated, usually, in the villages young boys and girls were joining the school quite late at the age of seven or eight or even thirteen-fourteen. Young Vinay Santosh was not different from other village children of his time. He had completed his standard seven at the age of 20 and at that time he heard a silent call of His Master and Lord who said to him ‘*come, follow me.*’ He heard the call and said, ‘*Lord, speak your servant is listening.*’ Young Vinay Santosh Kullu had no idea where the Lord was going to lead him. He went to Sitagarha in the year 1966 and joined the Jesuit novitiate, St. Stanislaus’ College, Sitagarha for Ranchi Jesuit Province. After a rigorous training in prayer and the way of life as a religious in the *Society of Jesus* for two long years he was found worthy to serve in the vineyard of the Lord Jesus as a *coadjutor brother* in the society of Jesus and he pronounced his first vows *on the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord*. He was asked by the superiors to continue his studies in Sitagarha in the *Juniorate* during which period he devoted his time in learning English language. He spent two years in the Juniorate.

Seeing his ability and intelligence he was sent to *Teachers’ Training Institute, Sitagarha* in the year 1971. He successfully completed his training from the Institute in the year 1973 and was assigned the responsibility of teaching in Bardih Middle School as an assistant teacher. He faithfully carried out his responsibility there. Superiors saw his capability and brought him to St. Xavier’s College Ranchi in the year 1977 and gave him the responsibility of an Assistant Librarian. He did his job very sincerely and faithfully till 1989. This was a period for Br. Vinay Santosh Kullu for upgradation in terms of *grade in the Society* and also in terms of *secular degree*. He quietly pursued his studies from Ranchi University as a private student and acquired a *bachelor degree in Arts*. He also went for his tertianship to Xavier Teachers Training Institute (XTTI), Patna, in the year 1981 and later pronounced his *final* vows in the year 1986 at St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi.

The superiors observed his dedication and intellectual ability and decided to send him to Rome to be in the service of Rev. Fr. General of the Society. He went to Rome and very sincerely carried out his responsibility of minister of the General Curia and assisted Rev. Fr. General for 19 long years till 2009. By this time he had given his prime life time to the service of Society in different capacities and crossed his retirement age. But as the tradition goes *a religious never retires* after coming back from Rome he spent one year in the Provincial House, *Sadbhavna* in the capacity of assistant treasurer of the Ranchi Jesuit Province. Then towards the twilight of his life in the year 2010 he came back to the place where he had spent his youth and grown-up in his intellectual and spiritual maturity, St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi. He served this community in the capacity of a minister, an assistant minister, in-charge of kitchen and garden, etc... But his health was slowly waning. He was asked to take rest in the same community. During his stay in Rome he had undergone a by-pass surgery for his artery blockages. That too took a toll on his health. He was 72 years of age. He had celebrated his golden jubilee of his religious life a year before. He had lived a fruitful religious life.

As a whole he was living a normal life with some occasional complaints of weakness and pain in his knees. One fine day he said, ‘*I feel I should go to the hospital. My Haemoglobin level has come down.*’ That day he went to the Main Road, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Ranchi, for a walk. After coming back he was taken to the hospital at Ara Gate.

Over the last seven years when he was in St. Xavier's College Community he had been admitted to a hospital and he had come back refreshed in mind and body. The community members thought that this time too he would regain his health and join the community again as he had done earlier.

This time God had a different plan for Brother Vinay Santosh Kullu, SJ. He was taken to Seva Nilaya Health Centre, Ara Gate. There he was given three units of blood transfusion. Then the doctor found out that there were some other complications in his anatomy. He was transferred to Lieven's Hospital, Mandar. There he was taking rest and on December 23, 2017 a news came to the community that Brother Vinay Santosh Kullu was in a critical condition and had been transferred to the ORCHID HEALTH CENTRE, Ranchi, for better medical care. On 24 December the day before Christmas when the whole city was in a mood of *jingle bells, Santa clause and Christmas carols*, he must have heard the singing "*O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come to Bethlehem...*" Hearing this call at around noon Brother Vinay Santosh Kullu, SJ, went to his eternal king in heavenly Bethlehem and slept in the Lord peacefully. May the Eternal King give him his eternal reward!

Fr. Vinod Bilung, SJ

Remember them in your prayers!

1. Fr. Stanislaus Mariadoss (55/32), Madurai Province
2. Fr. Brian D'Silva, SJ, (BOM) 71/48
3. Fr. Jerome Durack, SJ, (PAT) 89/71
4. Mrs. Antonia Soreng, 78, mother of Fr. Jaywant Soreng, SJ

A Happy Birthday and Many Happy Returns of the Day!

FEBRUARY

- 03 Tigga Blacius
- 04 Kacchap Johnson
- 05 Beck John Anuranjan
Kerketta Cherobin
- 06 Ekka Anup Arvind
- 09 Kujur Ranjit
- 10 Kujur Robert Pradeep
- 11 Minj Anuj
- 12 Kujur Ignatius
- 13 Dungdung Paulus
- 14 Kujur Johny
- 15 Ekka Sameer
- 16 Toppo Deepak
Lakra Amit Juel
- 21 Tirkey Suresh John
- 22 Kerketta Bimal
- 23 Tete Isaac
Ekka Alok
- 24 Horo Emmanuel
Kerketta Edward
Kullu Pradeep
Kujur Amit
- 27 Minj Kanchan
Soreng Sumit
- 29 Dungdung James W.

MARCH

- 05 Kujur Frederick
Xess Ravi Bhushan
- 06 Lakra Ranjit Walter
Beng Albert
- 07 Kindo Alexius
- 10 Kujur Habil
- 11 Kullu Anil
- 14 K.C. Philip
- 16 Dungdung Christopher
Tirkey John
- 17 Barla Henry
- 19 Horo Sibil Joseph
Soreng Jaywant
- 21 Lakra Benedict
Beck Anand Amar
- 23 Bilung Brice
- 24 Kullu Ranjit
- 25 Soreng George
- 27 Tete Nicholas
- 29 Kiro Benedict