

# RANCHI BULLETIN



75/9 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand **SEPTEMBER 2016**

## Fr Provincial's Programmes

<b>September – November 2016</b>	23 : Visitation of Scholastics – Germany
05 : Province Consult	27 : Brussels
10 : Follow-up – <i>Laudato Si</i> at XISS	28 : Rome
13 : Visitation – Vidya Jyoti, Delhi	1 Oct. -27 Nov. : General Congregation 36
16 : Rome	28 Nov. : Back to Ranchi from GC 36
17 : Visitation - Madrid, Spain	5 Dec. : Visitation to Assam Begins

### Father General has appointed:

**Fr Justin Tirkey SJ**, as the **Rector of Manresa House Ranchi**. He assumed the office on 1 September 2016.

### Information :

◇ All the Superiors of Houses are kindly requested to send the required information of their members for the **RANCHI CATALOGUE 2017** including the names of the House Consultors, and for parishes the number of Catholics, all the data regarding schools and Social Works Centres (this is a new entry in Ran Cat 2017), telephone/personal mobile numbers and e-mail IDs, before 28/9/2016.

◇ The Central Zone is organizing SAP Programmes in the following places and dates:

Dates	Place	Resource Person	No. of Jesuits from Ranchi Province
28 Oct. (6pm) - 30 Oct. (4pm)	UPASANA, Mango, Jamshedpur	Fr R C Chacko, SJ	6 (six only)
4 Nov. (6pm) - 6 Nov. (4 pm)	MANRESA HOUSE, Ranchi	Fr Julian Fernandes, SJ	12 (12+ if rooms are available)
11 Nov.(6 pm) - 13 Nov. (4pm)	JISU JAHER, Dumka	Fr Julian Fernandes, SJ	5 persons only

To quote from the recent letter of POSA to all Jesuits of South Asia dated September 2, 2016: “The SAP process will continue as planned in the coming months. All Jesuits of the Assistency are earnestly invited to do the SAP and join in this ‘movement of the Spirit’ that is happening in the Assistency. I encourage Provincials/Regional Superiors to urge their men to do the SAP.” Those Ranchi Jesuits who have not done the SAP Programme, please contact **Fr Ajay Soreng, SJ** (phone: **9162202888/ 9608817609**, email: **ajayremi@gmail.com**) to book your place for one of the above places. (Francis Minj, SJ, Province Coordinator for SAP Programme).

◇ **Sch Ravindra Tigga** left the Society on 16 August 2016



## The Narrative Behind the Logo of GC 36

The logo for General Congregation 36 (GC 36) receives its inspiration from the exhortation of Pope Francis to the Jesuits in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, on September 27, 2014, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the Society of Jesus. His Holiness encouraged us to know how to discern in the midst of difficult times, to be submissive and obedient to the will of God; and to “row” with Him in the service of the Church in harmony with the call of Jesus to his disciples: “Row out into the deep water” (Lk 5:4).

«Only discernment saves us from real uprooting, from true “suppression” of the heart, which is selfishness, worldliness, the loss of our horizon—our hope, which is Jesus; it is only Jesus. . .

The ship of the Society has been tossed around by the waves and there is nothing surprising in this. Even the boat of Peter can be tossed about today. The night and the powers of darkness are always near. It is tiring to row. The Jesuits must be “brave and expert rowers” (Pius VII, *Sollecitudo omnium ecclesiarum*): Row then! Row, be strong, even with the headwind! Let us row together in the service of the Church! Let us row together!

But while we row – we all row, even the Pope rows in the boat of Peter – we must pray a lot: “Lord, save us! Lord save your people.” The Lord, even if we are men of little faith, will save us. Let us hope in the Lord! Let us hope always in the Lord! »

The IHS monogram represents the boat of the Society of Jesus within the Church. The blue green waves represent the sea that invites us to explore deeply, rowing out into the deep water, towards horizons and frontiers. The cross represents the sails where the Spirit blows to help us row. The maroon color of the IHS references the seal Saint Ignatius used during the foundational period, rooting us in the tradition of our original charism. The flame over the cross represents “a fire that kindles other fires” from the prior general congregation, which continues to burn upon the mast to illuminate how to discern the direction—how to row out into the deep water within our actual context. The flame is like “a burning wick that never goes out” and represents our prayer kindled by the Spirit: Lord, save us. Let us hope always in the Lord—as Pope Francis summons us to pray and respond to his invitation, “let us row together.”

*The designers of the logo are Pablo Fernández S.J. (Chile), and Elías López S.J. (Spain).*

## PRAYER

God our Father, almighty and merciful,  
 You sent Your Son Jesus, Your living Word,  
 to save the human race by His life, death, and resurrection, and You send Your Holy Spirit to inspire and accompany  
 Your pilgrim Church on earth.

With confidence, we pray for the Society that bears the name of Jesus:

Grant the 36th General Congregation openness to hear your Spirit  
 so that we may live for the greater glory of your name,  
 faithful to our history and the example of the saints  
 who have gone before us.

Give us the spirit to serve beneath the banner of the Cross on behalf of Your Church,  
 a profound love for the world You have created and entrusted to Your people,  
 the grace to see with Your eyes  
 the beauty and suffering of our sisters and brothers,  
 hearts that beat in union with Your heart,  
 loving You and serving You in all things.

We ask all this through Jesus, the Savior who sets us free. AMEN

**General Congregations** are the ultimate governing body (GB) in the Society of Jesus, and here are some of the more interesting facts about these gatherings, which began over 450 years ago:

1. The first General Congregation took place in 1558, delayed for two years after St. Ignatius' death by a war between King Philip II of Spain and Pope Paul IV. Father Diego Laynez was elected Superior General.
2. The fourth congregation in 1581 elected the youngest Jesuit general: 38-year-old Father Claudio Acquaviva.
3. Fr Acquaviva served as Superior General for 34 years — the longest term in Jesuit history — and presided over three congregations.
4. The sixth General Congregation made obligatory a daily hour of prayer and an annual eight-day retreat for all Jesuits.
5. Given the variety of cultures and circumstances in which Jesuits have lived and worked, differing views have sometimes made for lively debate on major and minor issues alike, from interreligious dialogue to Jesuit formation to how long a cassock should be.
6. General Congregation 10 is the only one to have elected two Superior Generals. Father Luigi Gottifredi was elected first, but he died before the congregation concluded. The same group then elected Father Goswin Nickel.
7. The 20th General Congregation (1820) was the first one held after the Society's restoration in 1814. Greatly concerned that the Society be the same as before the suppression, it reinstated the decrees of all past congregations.
8. The 31st Congregation took place during and after Vatican Council II and elected Father Pedro Arrupe as General. GC 31 dealt with Jesuit life and work in greater detail than any previous meeting, legislating changes and updating the theory and practice of poverty.
9. The Jesuit elected as Superior General need not be present at the congregation — but this would be very unusual.
10. When more than 200 Jesuits arrive for General Congregation 36 in Rome in October 2016, there won't be any confusion about who sits where. It's decided for them — seating is alphabetical!

*Adapted from an article by Jesuit Father John Padberg, a historian and the former longtime director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources. This post has been originally published by the JCU conference website at <http://jesuits.org/news-detail?tn=news-20141203032106>; (Courtesy: [www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info))*

## HOUSES & INSTITUTIONS

### St. Ignatius' Gumla

We were glad to welcome many foreign guests and visitors in the month of August. Fr Van Nuffel's nephew and his daughter were the first ones to arrive here on 2 August. They spent four days seeing the works of Van Nuffel and visiting some far away villages even walking on foot and eating with hands. They were joined by a bigger group on 4<sup>th</sup> who were the relatives of Belgian missionaries in Chhattisgarh and Ranchi Provinces. Fr. José SJ, a Chilean Jesuit studying in Rome, spent with us four days seeing the kind of social works conducted here in Gumla. Fr Sylvanus Kerketta got four Italian students who stayed here and went round seeing Gram Uthan's works and

visiting villages for four days. Fr Marc De Brouwer also received his grandniece and her friend who stayed with us for one week.

The Independence Day was marked this year with two beautiful speeches – one by Fr Ravi Bhushan Xess, the chief guest on the occasion and another by a St Anne's Sister representing students. Speeches were fiery but sensible and feet on the ground. Two of the Ranchi Jesuits – Fr Bimal Kerketta, a missionary to the Middle East, and Fr Edwin Dang, a student of Gregorian University Rome - visited our community. Both of them interacted with our Apostolic boys on 14 and 15 August respectively.

You might have heard of World Women's Day, Mothers' Day, and Valentine's Day etc. but have you ever heard of 'World Mosquito Day'? Well, there is such a day celebrated the world over. Fr Ravi had a fantastic innovative idea of organizing and observing it jointly with the School, Inter College and the English Medium School. It started with a *Prabhat Pheri* procession from the school till Tower Chowk and back via Palkot Road. The attraction of the procession was the English Medium kids dressed up like black mosquitoes heading the procession followed by our students. The whole procession then converged in PP Van Nuffel Hall where a seminar on malaria was held. The students of the Ignatius' Inter-College, [Biology group] wonderfully presented in PPT about the causes of malaria and its treatment. The civil surgeon Dr JP Sanga, Anil Prasad [Health Inspector] and Mr Xavier were present in the Seminar who admired our initiatives and knowledge/idea. Congrats to Fr Ravi and the Biology Dept.

The Staff Selection Test for the Govt. Office was held in our school on 21 August where many job seeking candidates appeared. Fr Ravi had prepared a video-show on football games to encourage the team and prepare them for the Subroto Cup to be played in Ranchi. On the occasion of the *Khel Diwas* held at Ranchi on 28 August five of our Inter-College students received Government awards for Hockey. Well done! The same evening our three football teams went to Ranchi Khel Gaon to participate in the Subroto Cup Tournament. The coach Sir Rizwan, Fr Ravi and Ms Jyoti accompanied the teams. Both the teams of boys and girls reached up to the final but missed the opportunity of becoming the champions. On 27<sup>th</sup> we had a community meeting where the sharing session was held for the 7 new Community members briefly about themselves and their works. Thus they were fully inducted into the community. Let us enjoy living and working together as 'friends in the Lord'!

*Fr Christopher*

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

St Xavier's College is conducting regular classes from 9.30 a.m. to 2.10 p.m. Students seem to be very enthusiastic in their studies. The Principal had some difficulty in arranging the classes because of the lack of professors. He has also difficulty of not having bigger classrooms for the subsidiary subjects [e.g., MIL] to accommodate a big number of

students (300+). To solve problem, he has divided them into two groups.

Frs Sikander, Amar and Ireneus attended a two-day meeting of the Jesuits in Education Apostolate at St Xavier's School Doranda. It was held for all the Jesuits of the Central Zone involved in education ministry. Fr Bimal Kerketta visited Samtoli on his way to Tainser to meet his acquaintances. Fr Sudhir Minj [Socius] came along with a contractor on 14 August to inspect the courtyard of SXC Samtoli for levelling it with tiles. They did the survey and measured the area. Later Frs George, Bimal, Pradeep and Florence [members of Province Building Commission] also visited the site, inspected the college building and then proceeded to Rengarih.

The Independence Day was celebrated in patriotic spirit by hoisting the national flag in three places – namely St Mary's High School, St Mary's English Medium and St Xavier's College. In the College Fr Rector was the chief guest who unfurled the flag in the presence of 100<sup>+</sup> students and staff. Some even arrived late – 'better to be late than never'! Thereafter Fr Rector rushed to Torpa for the burial of Vishwajit Kullu (husband of his niece) who met with an accident on 15 August on Khunti Ranchi Road and died on the spot.

Deacons Bipin Tirkey and Kulwant Minj came to Samtoli for their works. Bipin came to fix the ordination date with the Bishop of Simdega whereas Kulwant came to talk to the Bishop about the process of the beatification of Herman Raschaert SJ. Kulwant was very much satisfied after the talk with the bishop who is ready to help him in finding out materials about Fr Raschaert.

The combined meeting of CRI and the diocesan clergy was held at Pastoral Centre, Purnapani. In spite of continuous heavy rain more than 100 religious and the diocesan clergy gathered at the venue. The agenda was to deliberate upon the present socio-political issues which have direct and lasting impact on tribal identity, dignity and livelihood. Mr Benjamin Lakra and Bp Vincent Barwa were the resource persons. They spoke on the present Domicile Policy of Jharkhand government and other related issues. The government has stopped the scholarship for the tribal Ph.D. students. The national student union Akhil Bharatyia Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has pushed ahead the membership drive. Many of our students have joined

the ABVP. It is to be noted that through this student body, the opponents will work against the tribals. It is an urgent call to awaken and conscientize the tribals. How do we strategically respond to the emerging issues? Bishop urgently called upon the participants to form a committee in every parish to awaken our tribals. Students should be told about the burning issues of domicile policy and the consequences of the proposed amendments in the CNT & SPT Acts. A committee has been formed to coordinate the future plans and strategies to face the situation bravely. At the end of the meeting a steering committee was formed and the meeting ended with lunch.

Our school team was the district champion in the Subroto Mukherji Football qualifying tournament under-14 and 17. Both the teams represented Simdega District and went to Ranchi under the leadership of Sch Nirmal Minj. The team under 17 lost in the semi-final against Jai Kisan School, Majhatoli and under-14 played final against Barway High school, Chainpur and lost the match. On 25 August Nehru qualifying matches for hockey started in Block level. The hockey team of girls under-17 and the team of boys under-15 have become the champions at the Block level. Congrats to the Principal and the scholastics for coaching and guiding the teams.

*Fr Linus*

### **Tarunoday, RTC Kanke**

Our long wait for a new addition to the community ended when on 2 August Fr Michael Kerketta joined the Tarunoday community as a resident member. Tarun family was delighted to welcome him, who after serving the Province as PCF for more than six years, rejoined the RTC community. All the Taruns participated in the International Indigenous Day celebrations held at St Joseph's Club hall and staged a much appreciated *nukkad* – *Mantri Ghare Nakhe* with a view to conscientizing the people about the dubious Domicile Policy of Jharkhand 2016 which, many say, will eventually decimate the *Adivasis* from Jharkhand. Indeed, it was an exuberant performance by the Taruns.

On 10 August, the Central Zone Provincials (Ranchi, Hazaribag, Madhya Pradesh, Jamshedpur and Dumka-Raiganj) made their annual visit to the RTC and met the students and the staff separately. Thanks to all our Provincials for their encouraging words and for showing concern for our growth. We had meaningful time with them.

Participated in the Kanke Youth Football Tournament, the Taruns really played very well and defeated formidable teams but were knocked out at the penalty shootout after we refused the advances of the opposite team. That was the semi-final match on 14 August. We were down but not out and on 17 August the whole community joined the Jesuits and other invited women religious of the vicinity at Manresa House to listen to Fr Bimal Kerketta, our lone but valiant missionary in Egypt. He gave graphic information and personal reflection on the "Crisis in the Middle East," quite enriching indeed!

Again on 18 August we had a rare occasion to interact with Ms. Ana Maria Müller, a Doctoral student from Munich, Germany. In a candid interaction, she offered her impression of the European church and enquired about the effects and efforts of inculturation here in Chotanagpur. She interviewed the staff individually. Her husband Simon Müller, an MBA student, did the photo shoot!

Joining peoples' movements forms part of our theological formation; and so, we participated with infectious zeal in the protest rally on 24 August and marched to Raj Bhavan against the infamous Domicile Policy of the Jharkhand Government. The rally culminated with fiery speeches and a memorandum to the Governor. We were happy to see many tribal groups coming together to safeguard the tribal interest and identity. Perhaps it was the first time in recent years that forty organizations from both Sarna and Christian *Adivasis* came together and castigated the present regime for being obnoxious towards the tribal community. All the speakers called for rejecting the government's Domicile Policy.

We celebrated Monica Day on 28 August with full gusto. A well-organized liturgy, cultural bonanza, sumptuous lunch for all – were highlights of the day. The post Eucharist Tarun felicitation song included a sapling. Fr Pius Xalxo, the new pastor who assumed office on 19 August and the leaders of the Mahila Sangh planted a sapling that stands on the right side of the main entrance to the Parish Hall. On 1 September, Fr Francis rushed to visit his ailing sister at Fatima Hospital in Gorakhpur and was back on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. On 8 September, Fr Prem Xalxo of Gregorian University explained to us the contents and nuances of *Amoris Laetitia* for personal understanding and pastoral application.

*Sch Shailesh Lakra*

## ASSAM & ANDAMAN

### Jesuit Curia, Tezpur

Fr Xavier Lakra always tries to promote vocations for the Society. On 1 August, he reached one of the candidates Matthew Kawa to Jesuit community Kathalguri for community experience for a month. Another candidate Nirmal Ekka is kept in St John's School, Balipara for the same purpose. While coming back on 3 August from Kathalguri, Fr Xavier visited Manas Bansbari and Mushalpur. He also brought with him Fr Jerome Ddungdung to Tezpur for his eye check up.

On the feast day of John Mary Vianney [4 August], the Jesuit Curia community attended the Holy Eucharist and festive meal in the evening at Pastoral Centre. Frs Xavier and Thomas Barla reached Roshan Bage to Pengaree on 8 August. Next day handing over ceremony was held during the school Assembly. Fr Telesphore Lakra handed the keys of the school after Fr Xavier Lakra read out the appointment letter of the Provincial. Fr Roshan assumed the office of the Principal. Other files were handed over in the evening during the meeting. On the same day, Frs Xavier, Patrick Xalxo and Thomas visited Mohong village to inspect tea-gardens of the individual families given by the Gana Chetana Samaj. While coming back they visited Loyola School, Kathalguri and had short interaction with the students and the staff. Fr Xavier attended the state level coordinators' meeting of Prison Ministry in Guwahati on 11 August. There it is decided to organize a state level meeting for the Prison Ministry volunteers in Guwahati itself on forthcoming 5 November.

Fr Florence Purty received the approval letter on 16 August from the Gauhati University to start Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in St Xavier's College, Sonabheel. It is one of the big achievements for growth of SXC Sonabheel. Fr Xavier had consult meeting on 18 August in which land issues of St John's School, Balipara, Tipkai and St Xavier's College, Sonabheel were deliberated upon. Fr Xavier left for Kerala on 24<sup>th</sup> to participate in the death anniversary of Late Miss Annie and returned on 30 August. He inaugurated the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) session in St Xavier's College on 1 September. In the first batch there are only 14 students.

*Fr Thomas Barla*

### Gana Chetana Samaj

August was the month of transplantation. Gana Chetana Samaj (GCS) was busy in promoting System of Rice Intensification (SRI) among the farmers of different villages. On 9 August, Fr Thomas [Director] visited the different villages of Pengaree where villagers are helped to make their own tea-garden. Some of the farmers were very happy as they have started plucking leaves from their own garden and earning money.

In Phulobari a meeting was organized on 14 August to evaluate the impact of the study centre. The villagers expressed their happiness as they see a lot of changes in the life of their children. They also requested to start adult education centre in the village as women are very much interested in learning. On 15 August Fr. Thomas and other staffs went to Tarabari village, which is a fully Boro village to celebrate the Independence Day and Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary. The villagers organized sports for the whole village after the Mass which got over at 3.00 p.m. Gana Chetana Samaj supported them with prizes. The unity and enthusiasm of the Boro community was indeed very admirable. In Chepaguri village, a meeting for four villages was organized on 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss about the forthcoming celebration of Karam Feast.

On 19 August one of the staff members, Mr Markash Baghwar met with an accident with a school boy of Nirmala School, Baithabhanga. It was the mistake of the boy but the people were unreasonably threatening to him. Therefore Fr Thomas with some local leaders went and settled the matter. On 22 August, Fr Thomas and two staff members had gone to have a meeting with NABARD office. The following day they went to meet the Deputy Commissioner to complain against three Bank Branches as they refuse to give loans to the SHGs and JLGs.

On 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 133 Students and 23 teachers from different study centres were taken for educational tour to Tezpur University, Tezpur ITI, Museum, Brahama Putra Bridge, Darang College, Don Bosco School and Tezpur Park. Students as well as teachers were very much satisfied with the tour. Fr Thomas was made chief guest in the Fresher's Day celebration in St Xavier's College,

Sonabheel on 27 August. For the Feast of St Monica, Fr Thomas was invited as the chief celebrant as well as chief guest and speaker in the Cathedral Parish on 28 August. All the other staffs with the Director were busy in supervising tribal dance practices in different villages of Balipara Block as Karam celebration is nearing.

*Fr Thomas Barla*

### **Kathalguri**

Fr Xavier Lakra reached Mathew Kawa, a Jesuit candidate, to Kathalguri on 1 August for community experience. Mathew was a great help to the school as well as in taking care of the hostel for a month. He has already joined the Pre-Novitiate at Khunti.

After summer vacation, our three schools reopened on 1 August. After a week on 10-11 August, results of half yearly exams were given to the students. Parents/guardians were called to see the results of their children. Having seen the answer papers, parents have given their feedback to the school management for better performance of the students. No doubt, overall performance of the students has improved.

The double feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary and the Independence Day on 15 August was celebrated with lot of joy and festive activities. We had morning mass with the parishioners to commemorate the Assumption. Thereafter, Independence Day programme in the school began with flag hoisting and March past. To inculcate the spirit of patriotism, house-wise patriotic singing competition was held for the students. All the four houses did well. Mr Abraham Soren, the Chairman of Grahmpur, VCDC was the chief guest, who appreciated and encouraged the students and the staff to celebrate Independence every year. The Dingdinga police outpost had provided the security.

Monica Day [28 August] was celebrated as Mothers' Day in the parish. A good number of parishioners attended the Holy Mass. All the mothers were felicitated in a short programme. Mothers had Bible Quiz for which all the village units took part. At the end Fr Jerome Dungdung [PP] thanked all for their contribution.

St Joseph's school, Jacobpur had the meeting of parents and teachers on 17 August. Parents' body unanimously agreed to send their children to the school

regularly and pay their fee on time. All are aware of how to promote better academic atmosphere for better results.

St. Xavier's School, Tipkai, the parents were excited to have a parents meeting along with Fathers and school Managing Committee. We had meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August. In the meeting, land problem and less number of students in the school were discussed. In the meeting, one opinion came up very strongly that local people are very much in favor of English Medium School. School committee is ready to go to different offices to settle the land issue. At the end, the president of the committee thanked all the participants.

*Fr. Pradeep*

### **Prothrapur (Andaman)**

The devotees of Mother Mary of Velankanni had a pilgrimage to Panighat Velankanni Shrine on 6 August. About 250 pilgrims, mostly women, began their holy journey from Bambooflat and reached the shrine chanting prayers, singing hymns and raising slogans. Fr Evan Soares [Director, ACANI] celebrated the Mass for the devotees. In his homily he highlighted Mother Mary's faithfulness as Servant of God.

SCC Day in the parish on 7 August had yet another colourful and solemn liturgical celebration. Fr Edward Kerketta was the main celebrant. Different SSC units were assigned their specific roles in the liturgy. The Church was packed to its capacity. Four representatives from different SCC groups shared their experiences of the power of prayer. Their sharing enriched and inspired others to take active participation in the SSC programmes. It was an occasion where the faithful experienced unity and communion among themselves.

The Bible Quiz Competition was held for the parishioners on 21 August. The purpose was to encourage the faithful to be familiar with the Sacred Scripture. Questions were set from Genesis, Exodus, Levi and Year of Mercy Booklet. Fr David [PP], Fr Edward [Asst. PP], Cluny Sisters and St Anne's Sisters set the questions for competition. After Mass, 8 groups from 8 village units enthusiastically took part in the event. A group was composed of 6 members: 2 men, 2 women, 2 youth (1 boy & 1 girl). The presence of a sizeable number of audience encouraged the competing groups and made the event more thrilling and interesting. The outcome was very

satisfactory. Out of 8 groups, Range Office, Malayali Community and Daudnagar secured first, second and third position respectively. These winners will be awarded on 20 November, the closing day of the Year of Mercy. The cash amount of ₹ 2,000.00 [First prize], ₹ 1,500.00 [Second prize], ₹ 1,000.00 [Third prize] will be given to the winning teams. Congratulations to all the teams for their active participation in the event.

In the history of Prothrapur parish, first time football match was held on 21 August for the young girls in Birdline ground. The match was played between Kamrajnagar and Chidiyataput. Both the teams played well but the former won the match by 1-0. A good number of spectators cheered the players.

Novena to St Monica began on 19 August in the parish. Fr George Beck SJ [Spiritual Director of the diocese] guided the Recollection of Mahila Sangh on 27 August that ended with the Eucharist. The next day the feast of St Monica was celebrated with joy and zeal. Special prayers were offered for the mothers through the intercession of St Monica. Thereafter a colourful felicitation programme was organized to show honour and appreciation to our dear mothers! At the end all were given sweet packets.

*Fr. David Bara*

### **Raia, Goa**

We, the fifteen Tertians from all over India began our Tertianship in Raia on 3 August. The next day was the inauguration and orientation session. The following day was the feast day of Our Lady of Snow which is the feast day of our parish, Raia. All of us participated by concelebrating the mass. We were welcomed by the parish priest. We were served a delicious meal after the Mass.

On Saturday, we had History of Goa by Fr Savio Abreau SJ and afternoon we went to visit the gigantic seminary, now accommodating 72 seminarians and a few staffs, which was built by Jesuits and was the main base for Goa Mission until the suppression of the Society. We had Jesuits Heritage in Goa with Fr Rinald D'Souza, SJ. Frs Tony D'Souza, SJ and Kulandairaj, SJ, guided us to self-awareness and better self-knowledge through their sessions on Psycho-Spiritual Framework and Enneagram. We had also sharing of our own personal graced history. It was interesting and

enlightening to know each one as a unique person with unique personality. Truly it was insightful and enriching to know one another better!

Fr Rosario Rocha, SJ, Provincial of Goa was with us one evening. He welcomed and wished us to have a fruitful journey of Tertianship. He shared his good knowledge of Goa province. He also celebrated the mass with us. Fr Joseph Njarakulam, SJ guided us to Autobiography of Ignatius. Thereafter we had a pilgrimage to Bom-Gesu, Old Goa on 3 September. Our Thirty-day spiritual journey has begun on 8 September. Kindly accompany us with your prayers.

*Fr. Samir*

### **Guyana**

The team of interior mission in Pakaraimas and Rupununi, had a meeting arranged in St. Ignatius Lethem to share their mission experiences on 1 August. His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, Fr Paul Martin, Fr James Conway, Fr Ronald Fernandes, Fr Poulouse Thomas, Fr Elias Surin and four Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk were present. Br Kuriakose was warmly welcomed by Fr Christovav Primo and Fr Elias Surin on 5 August in Chhedi Jagan International Airport Timehri, Georgetown as he arrived from Kolkota, India. With immense joy and gratitude, St Paul's Church Kamana celebrated the Centenary Jubilee on 12 August. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr Elias Surin.

On 14 August, wedding of eight couples in St Teresa Church Kopinang was blessed by Fr Elias Surin and had a grand celebration in the village community. The Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence Day of India was celebrated in St Joseph's Church Kurukabaru on 15 August. Fr Elias Surin, along with Br Bernard Banfus, Br Lawrence Salvador and Br Sylvester Sebastian went to Monkey Mountain, Tuseneng, Kato and Chiung Mouth communities for the confirmation preparation for a week. One hundred and ten candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next month from 16-20 September in their respective communities.

Fr Amar Bage conducted a Youth Seminar for two days from 25-26 for 45 young people in St Joseph's Kurukabaru on the theme, *Personality and Community*

*Development* which inspired and challenged them to dream for a better life. Frs Amar and Elias had the opportunity to visit Yurongparu, Rukumuta, Tipuru and Karasabai village communities in South Pakaraimas. Sr Anima, Sr Berna, Sr Divya and Sr Seraphina were preparing for the centenary Jubilee celebration in St Aloysius Church Tipuru for 6 November this year.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hosororo, in the Region I of North-West, to mark the Year of Mercy, the pilgrimage was arranged by Fr Amar Bage, the parish priest with his parishioners. 75 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation in three places from eight different communities by His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne, OSB, the Bishop of Georgetown Diocese.

Fr Mark Mukul along with Fr Joseph Raj arranged youth programme in St Francis Xavier's church Port Mourant Berbice. Fr Anil Kishore was making his best effort to prepare his Parish Lay Assistants with Bible Classes and Seminars in the East Coast Demerara, Georgetown.

*Fr Elias Surin*

## Madrid, Spain

James P. Balmuchu and I finished our regular Spanish classes in Salamanca on 15 July. With this we immediately jumped into our summer ministry. We were placed into different places to practice or to experience what we had been learning for last one year. Sch James was sent to

Santiago de Compostela, a place where hundreds of people go daily as pilgrims. His main mission over there was to help the people in their holy endeavour. I was placed with children of one school for the summer camp. The main work during this summer camp was to conduct different activities for the children for 12 days. There were 95 children with 14 volunteers and two scholastics. After the first phase of our summer ministry both of us came back to Salamanca to shift our luggage to Madrid, our new destination. There are two communities in Madrid for theologians. Both of us are destined to different communities. From 2 August, we started second phase of our summer ministry. Sch James was sent to Loyola infirmary and I was sent to Alcala infirmary to help out there. Both of us spent our time to be with the senior Jesuits to listen to them, their experiences and also their struggles in search or quest for Christ. Both of us were very much touched by their sharing about their mission of their time. On the 17 August, both of us started our 8-day retreat in Loyola retreat centre together with other scholastics of Spain. Finally, we finished our retreat on 26 August [morning] and both of us came back to Madrid, our respective communities. There was an entrance test in the university on 29 August to test our ability /competence to comprehend Spanish. Both of us cleared it to start our new stage of formation in the Society. After due admission process, we have begun our classes on 1 September.

*Sch Anuj*

## OBITUARY

### Fr Ranjit Pascal Toppo, SJ [1961- 2016]

*A Jesuit Who Never Showed Off*

*Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ*



Fr Ranjit Pascal Toppo was born to Mr Ignace Toppo and Mrs Magdali Toppo on 30 March 1961 at the present Rashmi Nagar of Gumla. He was the fourth child of his parents among five brothers and the youngest sister. Many have known his father, Mr Ignace Toppo, who was a devoted teacher at St Ignatius Middle School, Gumla. Today he is 92 and still strong. Fr Ranjit inherited from him a great love for learning and from

his mother deep religious piety and faith, which has been the hallmark of the entire family.

He did his Matric from St Ignatius Gumla in 1976 and Intermediate of Arts from St Xavier's College, Ranchi in 1979. He entered the Novitiate at St Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha in 1980 along with 13 of his companions who recall how he responded generously to the spiritual, human and academic formation during this period. He took his first vows on 21 June 1982 and did his Juniorate from 1977 – 1979 also at St Stanislaus College, Sitagarha. Once again his companions give a vivid account of his holistic formation at this early stage. He had a multi-faceted talent

and a multi tasking personality. He was very good at studies, sports (basketball and football), public speech, singing, musical instruments (guitar and keyboard) and dramatics. He was so good in English that many of his companions approached him rather than the teachers for help. His ability to grasp and conceptualize the realities around and express them meaningfully became visible at quite an early stage. In the classroom he appeared to be inattentive but whenever asked any question he gave the right answer. Because of his talent for singing and musical instruments it was a joy to be with him in the choir. His colleagues recall lovingly how it was not easy to get the ball from him while playing football or basketball because his stomach prevented them from coming closer to him!

He also was a silent and hard worker but never showed off. He was an excellent organizer too. Once the Juniors put up a historic Oriental Circus at Sitagarha. He was the ring leader of the entire *tamasha*. He anchored the whole circus with such perfection and fun that the audience enjoyed it thoroughly. His companions recall the fun-filled Juniorate till date especially his wit and humour not to forget his street plays and acting.

Ranjit did his BA from Loyola College, Chennai from 1983-1986 and got a gold medal in Sociology. Thereafter he had mini regency at St John's High School, Ranchi from 1986-1987 followed by the Post Graduate studies at Delhi School of Economics from 1987-1989. His philosophy was at Satya Nilayam from 1989-1991, theology at RTC, Arsande – Ranchi from 1991-1993 and at Vidya Jyoti from 1993-1994. He played a leading role in the demonstration against the Netarhat Field Firing Range organized for the Jharkhandi tribals in Delhi in April 1994. After his diaconate ministry at the Catholic Church Tongo later in 1994, he was ordained a priest on 16 May 1995 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Gumla. He took his final vows on 27 September 2002 in Ranchi.

As regards his ministry he was mainly in the higher education as he was appointed a Lecturer at Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) from 1995-2001 and was Assistant Director in 1999. For a short period he was also Assistant Director at ATC Namkum from 2001-2003. Then he came back to XISS as Professor and Project Director from 2003-2005. He did his Doctorate in 2005 from Ranchi University and was Provincial Superior from 2005-2011. The Province experienced a unique exuberance in overall personal care as well as in governance through different ministries and

commissions. Fr. Ranjit also reinforced the missions in Assam, Andamans and overseas like in the British Guyana and Cambodia.

After completing his term as the Provincial Superior of Ranchi, Fr Ranjit was appointed as Assistant Director at XISS in 2011. Besides teaching he was in-charge of projects in the field and did a commendable job in promoting livelihood among the poor. Perhaps his encounter with the naxalites one night at Vijaygiri is unknown to many. He was returning to XISS on a Tata Sumo with the Project Officer, Mr Xavier Turkey after their visit to the *Diakonia* project of people's empowerment through self reliance at Vijaygiri. There was a pond by the road side surrounded by thick bushes. It was known that elephants came at night to drink water at the pond. As Fr Ranjit and Mr Xavier came close to the pond in their vehicle, a voice was heard, "Stop I say. Stop the vehicle". At first Fr Ranjit and Mr Xavier thought that someone was warning them of the elephants quenching their thirst at the pond, but there appeared a few gun totting masked naxalites as the vehicle came to a halt. They ordered Fr Ranjit and Mr Xavier to dismount from the vehicle and identify themselves; then they interrogated them further about their business at night. They took away the mobile phone from Fr Ranjit and the keys of the vehicle. Then as two of them continued interrogating Fr Ranjit and Mr Xavier, a third one drove away their vehicle towards the Jamshedpur Highway. Fr Ranjit told us later how he answered to all their queries including that he was a priest and that he was returning to XISS after supervising the poor people's project for livelihood. In return to Fr Ranjit's query they said that they were a group of 80 odd young men and women prowling at night to catch any exploiter. In the meantime their colleague returned driving the vehicle. So without much fuss they returned the mobile phone and the keys of the vehicle to Fr Ranjit, who drove off with a great sigh of relief with Mr Xavier saying thanks to them with a smile.

He was an excellent teacher and a seasoned administrator. It was during his provincial ship that the Xavier Institute of Polytechnic and Technology (XIPT) was started in October 2010 at the ATC campus and later shifted to the present campus at Bargawan. He had great respect for his seniors, regard for the professors, care for the supporting staff and affection for the students. He was a wonderful companion in the community and exemplary

in the community activities like the evening prayer and the Eucharistic celebration. His comments over the various issues of the world were insightful. He engaged in a pleasant conversation, was an avid reader and a writer. He was the Province Coordinator for Higher Education and a member of a number of commissions. He was also exceptionally gifted in doing several things simultaneously with equal attention and perfection. He carried out all his responsibilities without complaint and never escaped from any commitment. He was a very good team leader and a team worker. He listened to people well and responded to their needs judiciously. He was a thinker too. He had great visions for XISS to raise it to the status of a university. He liked discussion and discernment over all matters big or small and put across his views in a constructive manner. He encouraged and motivated all members in the group to give their best.

He lived a perfectly healthy life as it appeared though he had made us known that he had an enlarged heart. Only towards the end of February this year he complained of coffee colour urine and sleepless nights. Despite the urine and blood test his problem persisted. It was only after CT Scan and Ultra Sonography that it was revealed that he had a tumour in his left kidney, the liquid of which proved to be non-malignant at first. But after the operation the biopsy report stated that the tumour was malignant. By then it was the end of April. Medicines were administered to him to relieve the pain and put him to sleep. Fr Ranjit knew of his serious ailment yet bore it courageously showing a cheerful countenance to all who came to wish him good health. All the Professors and the supporting staff of XISS were given briefing from time to time on the health status of Fr Ranjit ever since he was hospitalized. All prayed for him and wished him well. He was taken to the Health Care Global Hospital, Bangalore on 5 May 2016 for PET scan to determine the extent to which the cancer had spread in his body. The report revealed that the disease had spread to other vital organs of his body. Fr Ranjit suffered the agonizing pain on account of the growing ailment and was unable to sleep. Hoping that some medication might still help him, he was flown to St Elizabeth Hospital, Mumbai where his younger brother and sister in consultation with the doctors did everything possible to cure him from the fatal sickness, but of no avail. So he was flown from Mumbai to Ranchi on 20 May and admitted at Seva Nilaya Hospital, Aara

Gate under the care of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. But his condition worsened every day. Fr Sudhir Kumar Minj, SJ, Socius to the Provincial, administered to him the Sacrament of the Sick on 22 May and the next day 23 May Fr Ranjit Pascal Toppo, SJ was called by the Lord for eternal rest in heaven.

The tragic and untimely demise of Fr Ranjit sent shock waves across society. The parents, relatives, friends and above all Jesuits of Ranchi Province and of the central zone were deeply aggrieved at the loss of such a great person. Next day 24 May 2016 the funeral mass was presided over by His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo at St Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi with many priests and religious concelebrating with him. Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Provincial preached a befitting homily and at the end of the mass thanked all those who devoted themselves for the care and well being of Fr Ranjit Pascal Toppo, SJ. Fr Ranjit's elder brother Mr Valerian Toppo spoke on behalf of the family expressing gratitude to the Ranchi Jesuit Society for enabling his brother to work in the vineyard of the Lord so fruitfully and for taking care of him till the end of his life. Fr Ranjit's mortal body was buried at the Kantatoli Tamtam cemetery in Ranchi with Fr Provincial performing the last rites accompanied by His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo and many Jesuits, priests and other religious of the city.

Since Fr Ranjit passed away during the summer vacation of XISS, many Professors, students and staff were not able to be present for his funeral. Consequently a well prepared Holy Mass was offered on 24 June in the afternoon in the Institute's auditorium for the repose of Fr Ranjit with Fr Xavier Soreng, SJ the Superior of XISS community as the main celebrant. Fr Alex Ekka, SJ, the Director, Fr Pradeep Kerketta, SJ the Assistant Director and Fr Ashok Ohol, SJ, a new member of the community were concelebrants. The auditorium was packed with Faculty members, students and staff. After the mass a memorial service was conducted on the lawn of the Institute by Prof. S.R. Shauq and Prof. Mary Sheila Bodra. A gathering of more than 500 hundred people included students, faculty members, staff and the alumni of XISS. Representatives from various groups and classes paid heartfelt tribute to Dr. Fr Ranjit Pascal Toppo, SJ, Assistant Director of XISS who was loved by all, respected by all and admired by all. May God award him eternal rest.

**BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER****SEPTEMBER**

02 Delporte Antoon  
 04 Kerketta Patrick  
 07 Ekka Severius  
 08 Kadookunnel Anthony  
     Saras Ajit  
     Kullu Elias  
 10 Ekka Prakash  
 12 Kerketta Elvius  
 13 Kindo Beatus  
 14 Tigga John Crus  
 15 Bara David  
 16 Ekka Patras  
     Tirkey Alexius  
     Dhanwar Fulit  
 17 Minj Claber  
 21 Toppo Christopher Raju  
     Bage Tej Mati  
     Dang Edwin  
     Kandir Stephen  
 23 Kujur Linus  
     Kujur Pingal  
 24 Tirkey Ignatius  
 25 Baxla Tej Kumar

**OCTOBER**

04 Tirkey Anil Kishore  
 08 Lakra Ignatius  
     Ekka John Fabianus  
 09 Beck Walter  
 11 Toppo James Ignatius  
     Minj Anthres  
     Beck Suman  
     Kerketta Michael  
 12 Surin Victor  
     Minj Billianus  
     Kerketta Pradeep  
 14 Tete Callixtus  
     Soreng Jyoti Bhushan  
 15 Baxla Suman J.  
 16 Dungdung Albert

Lakra Xavier  
 19 Ekka James  
 20 Bilung Francis Xavier  
     Minj Abraham  
 21 Barwa Solomon  
 22 Ekka Anselm  
 24 Tirkey Francis  
 26 Soy Raphael  
     Kujur Florence  
 27 Guria Florence  
     Tigga Mahendra Peter  
 28 Kujur Sudhir  
     Soreng Kennedy Prabhat  
 30 Aind Alphonse

**NOVEMBER**

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

**WISHING YOU ALL - A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY**