



# RANCHI BULLETIN



Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, Servant of God

Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, Servant of God

80/5 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand May 2021

## MESSAGE OF FR. PROVINCIAL

On May 23, 2021, I complete one year in the office of the Provincial of Ranchi Jesuit Society. I am grateful to God for His abundant blessings upon me and the members of Ranchi Jesuit Province. I also thank Fr. Socius and all the members of Sadbhavna who have been guiding me thoroughly in making my stay here a comfortable one. I thank you dear brothers for your sincere prayers, best wishes and for your constant and concerned support so far.

It has been a year of learning various things of my office and it has made me aware of my duties and responsibilities. I have this continuous happy feeling that I belong to the Society of Jesus and that Ranchi Jesuit society is a part of a Grand Universal Society.

Ranchi Jesuit Society has not confined itself in Jharkhand but has also gone beyond the territory such as Assam and Andamans. Moreover, we have moved overseas and our men are missionaries in Africa, Cambodia, Guyana, Japan, Jordan and Rome. God has called our brothers to serve in these distant lands.

The year has been a very challenging one. We have had immense challenges to face and also had enough possibilities to prosper in. The Pandemic situation affected every sector of our life. Many of our men were affected by Covid – 19. Many, however, have recovered from the sickness and some sadly succumbed to it. Their absence is a great loss to the Province.

The pandemic situation disrupted our usual life and works. But we were able to find some alternatives to make our life and works more meaningful. Though we were at various locations living our daily lives at different pockets of our provinces, we were ever united with one another in our minds and hearts. During the pandemic times, lots of good works were carried out by all our communities especially by reaching out to the poor, migrants and the vulnerable. I congratulate you all for your true sense of service and charity. I regret that due to the Pandemic situation, I could not make my timely official visitations to all the communities. In such scenario, though, I managed to visit many communities. We had wonderful moments of bonhomie then.

In my letters and addresses on different occasions in the province, I have always wanted to create a sense of “We feeling”. This is what makes us the “Companions of Jesus” and “Friends in the Lord”. I also stressed on ‘Jesuit ways of life’ which must be visible in our life. Let Ignatian discernment be part of our daily life.

Come what may, Christ should always be the center of our life and work. We have to be always united with Him in our daily spiritual activities. Like St. Ignatius, we have to find God in everything. Each thing we do must be for the Greater Glory of God.

The year ahead is the Ignatian Year for us. To this end, the Ignatian year will open on the 20th of May 2021 (anniversary of the injury at Pamplona). It will conclude on the 31st of July 2022. The 12th of March 2022 will be its centre, marking the IV centenary of the canonization of St Ignatius with St Francis Xavier, St Teresa of Jesus, St Isidore Labrador and St Philip Neri.

Let this time be a point of conversion for all of us - at the individual, community and institutional levels. The Ignatian Year Committee of the province has concretely framed the plan and programme for us all. I would expect every member of the Province to attend to these honestly and earnestly. Besides, we also have before us Universal Apostolic Preferences and have aligned Ranchi Province Apostolic Preferences with the UAP. We have to keep them in our mind consciously and work towards them.

Fr. Superior General has convoked 71st Congregation of Procurators which will start in Loyola (Spain) between the 16th and the 22nd of May 2022. "To see all things new in Christ", is the motto of the Congregation. As a part of preparation for the Procurators Congregation, we will have Province Congregation in the fourth week of September 2021.

I firmly believe that we are the precious instruments in the hands of God. We have to surrender and submit ourselves in the hands of God and allow Him to work through and with us. We are integral parts of God's plan in his creative and curative missions. Our ministries should have this guiding force throughout. At the same time, we need to network and collaborate with one another by entering into various cooperative measures by establishing inter-ministries and inter-Regionals rapport and also by creating trust among men and women of our world.

May God bless all of us.



Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ

Provincial



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Due to the present alarming situation of Covid – 19, we suspend our Province days which were scheduled to take place from May 23 – 25, 2021 in Manresa House. We will look some alternative ways in doing so.
2. We suspend the Get Together of Scholastics which were scheduled to take place from May 16 – 19, 2021 in Sarwada and Tongo.
3. The Annual Retreat of the Scholastics will take place from 26 May evening – 03 June evening in different communities in a small group.
4. A list of transfers/new appointments will be published by the third week of May 2021. However, transfers/new appointments and especially the date of joining will depend on the situation at that point of time.
5. Finance Commission has not been able to go through the proposed budgets of different communities for 2021 –22, due to the present crisis situation. Those needs which are very urgent at the moment, kindly send them to the Treasurer, Fr. Vijay and only those urgent ones we could attend.

## APPOINTMENTS

(w.e.f. 20 April, 2021)

1. **Fr. Ashok Kandulna** - Treasurer, St. Ignatius School, Gumla.
2. **Fr. Claber Minj, SJ** - Assistant Treasurer, Sadbhavna, Ranchi

(w.e.f. 04 May, 2021)

1. **Fr. Anselm Kujur, SJ** - Acting Headmaster of Janta High School, Noadih (Additional)
2. **Fr. Jerome Xalxo, SJ** - Acting Superior of Jesuit Community, Noadih (Additional)
3. **Fr. Ajit Kerketta, SJ** - Asst. Parish Priest & Asst. Teacher (Ad Tempus), Catholic Church Burudih-Kochang
4. **Fr. George Burh, SJ** - Acting Headmaster, Middle School Kochang (Additional)

## MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

The month of April began with the Maunday Thursday, the community engaged in morning prayer led by scholastics and came to an end with Lord's Supper presided over by Fr Rector. Due to increase in the number of Covid-19 cases and the guidelines of government, we had all the Holy Week services in our Community Chapel. Though, there were unfavourable circumstances and restrictions from the administration, our joy and enthusiasm was still alive. Manresa Fathers and brothers were actively involved in their Easter ministry in some of the nearby religious houses.

For the Holy week ministry, scholastics were divided into four groups. These groups rendered their service to Holy Cross Convent, Burdwan Compound, St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Xavier's College and Manresa House. Unfortunately a very sad incident occurred on Easter Sunday. Mr Albert Minj, our cook, fondly known as 'badku' and his wife passed away due to corona. Some Fathers and Scholastics went for the burial and to console the bereaved family. Mr. Albert served the community selflessly and generously for many years. May God grant him and his wife eternal peace and consolation to all the family members.

After Easter celebration, scholastics resumed their online classes on 6th April. On 16th April scholastics came together in their living groups to share their experiences. This was also an occasion to bid adieu to 3rd-year brothers. The coming together and farewell program was concluded with delicious dinner. A Big thanks to Br. Blacius, our Minister, who provided us with varieties of dishes.

On 20th April, the community organized a Community Eucharistic Celebration to thank God and pray to him for the birthday babies of the months and the departed souls. It was an opportune moment to thank God for Sch. Sameer Ekka too, for being with us and for his generous service to the Community. The community bade him farewell and extended to him many good wishes for the next mission in Manipur.

Fr. Severius Ekka, SJ, a saintly person, a man of prayer and simplicity, passed away in Fr constant Lievens Hospital and Research centre, Mandar, on 22nd April. The following day his mortal body was taken to Samtoli,

Simdega. Fr. Mahendra, Fr Bipin and some scholastics went to Samtoli to say Good Bye to Fr Severius.

On 25th April, in the evening at 8.45 pm Bro. Modestus Tirkey, SJ, died due to cardiac arrest in St. Anne's Hospital, Ulhatu. His mortal body was brought to Manresa House Infirmary. The next day his body was taken to ATC, Namkum for his last journey.

Schs. Johnson, Blacius and Alfred

## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RANCHI

The month of April began with the Holy week. As the Government gave the guidelines for prayer services with limited numbers of faithful, we were able to conduct the services in the college chapel and in Ursuline Novitiate, Kanke Road. The ceremonies were meaningful and life giving in this fearful and gloomy situation of pandemic. Under the care of Fr. Florence purty, SJ, the choir of Manresa scholastics did well in the college chapel for the English group. Fr. Ajay Anil and Fr. Robert Pradeep went to Birsa Munda Prison for Holy Mass on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday. On Easter Monday there was "gami" of the parents of Fr. Ajay Arun Minj in Garmi, Mandar. Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur and Br. Isidore Ekka accompanied him. On 5th April Fr. Prabhat Kennedy Soreng set out for "Roots and Wings" programme in Shembaganur.

In view of the prevailing situation with worsening condition, the online classes are going on for Semester VI, IV and II. The offline classes for practical have been postponed till further notice. It is sad that the second phase of corona is devastating the whole country. The Jharkhand govt. has declared the "Health Safety Week" from 22nd to 29th April 2021. In such case the college is closed and the student support system is hampered. The classes are going on through online but how far the students are learning is a big question. There are requests from the students for offline classes in small groups but this is also quite inconvenient and impractical in the given situation.

Fr. Vinod Bilung, SJ, is improving. Now he can walk a bit without any support. We are also following the guidelines strictly in this pandemic situation.

Fr. Nabor Lakra, SJ

## KANKE, CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH

In view of the Pastoral care, “without the contribution from Tarunoday to Kanke Parish is not complete” is the experience of Fathers at Parish. Due to Corona the entire ‘Taruns and Professors’ were inside the gate. And whenever gate was opened either the vehicle headed to Ara Gate or to Mandar Hospital and not to the Parish Church for Easter Ministries.

The Palm Sunday was without Procession. The faithful flocked to the Church with mask on the face and sang ‘Hossana’ to the Lord aloud. The Passion week was a testing time. In the situation of aggressive Corona and imposition of Section 144 of Cr.P.C. in Ranchi, after deliberation we decided to arrange Passion Week Services at the Halls of Anita Intermediate College and Mont Fort Niwas Province Head Office respectively to curtail the crowd gatherings of the faithful. We conducted and maintained the larger group in the Parish Church for the service. We are very grateful to Sisters of St. Anne’s Convent and Brothers at Mont Fort Niwas at Kanke for their good service. All Sisters and Brothers came forward creatively to conduct the entire Holy Service. “Kudos” to all you generous hands, hearts and souls. The Parish - faithful were happy and are grateful for the moments of grace your service created.

At a time when no priests seemed to come to help us as planned, Fr. Justin Kandulna, S.J. from LTC offered himself to come and assist without hesitation in the emergency moment. I salute the spirited Fr. Justin with which he said, “I’ll come”. Fr. Justin with his ‘innocent smile and choice of words’ won the hearts of People of our Kanke Parish. Further he brought Fr. Mukul Lakra for Good Friday and Easter Vigil. Fr. Mukul with “buland awaz” and message of the occasion shook the faith of the people, gearing to the understanding towards the “faith that does justice” and emphasized that this begins from individual to family and it must spread to the society at large.

Fr Clement Kullu, SJ lost his elder sister late Christina Kullu on 10th April 2021. He had to rush for burial to Karangaguri, Simdega on the following day. That was the day 11-4-21 fixed for the First Communion for 45 children. There came Fr. Telesphore Lakra, SJ as an Angel to help out all the way from Assam. He celebrated the “First Communion- Holy Eucharist” with 45 Children and two members from the side of each child. Thank you Fr. Tele , it would have been heavy for one priest to celebrate three Mass on that day. The St. Anne’s

sisters and Parish Catechist took trouble to prepare the children in four groups for the First Communion with special class for a week from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm. It was a great task and you performed well which a priest at confessional could experience that graciously.

The 18 April was the Confirmation Day. The 64 children had special Anointing of the Holy Spirit administered by His Grace Felix Toppo, SJ, D.D. . Fr. Clement Kullu, SJ, Parish Priest, with keen interest and care lovingly prepared all the candidates for five days from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm . The candidates were divided in five groups. Sisters from St. Anne’s Convent and Parish Catechist Ashish Tirkey actively helped Fr. Clement to prepare the candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation. The audio visual can be followed in the YouTube published by the Archdiocese for one’s appraisal of the ceremony with the Holy Eucharist.

In the “Week of Swasthya Surakha” there is Holy Eucharist. People are advised to maintain the SOP. The participants are not compelled to attend it. The Grip of second wave - fear and awareness towards precautionary measures related to Covid have resulted the attendance of the faithful qualitative.

Fr. Ignatius Minj, SJ

## PRABHAT TARA SCHOOL, DHURWA

We had a very meaningful Holy week and Easter celebration amidst uncertainties of lockdown due to Covid -19. The faithful attended the services following the protocol given by the authorities. All the services took place in the open space near Middle School and many were able to participate in the liturgy. During the octave of Easter few marriage blessings took place and on white Sunday, 24 children took first Holy Communion during solemn Holy Eucharist.

All the three schools, namely middle school, high school and English medium school are functioning smoothly following the guidelines given by the government. We managed to conduct annual exam through online and offline and have given the progress report on time. At present enrolment for the new classes is almost completed. Class 10th students of High School were given farewell just before closing the classes due to lockdown. At present we are taking our classes online through Iguru app, whatsapp and google meet. . The construction work of English Medium school is moving fast and it will be completed soon. Recently Fr. Rohit Kujur managed to paint the long awaited entrance part of

the school building and the gate. Now it looks beautiful.

We all are fine in the campus and community. During Holy Week and Easter Fr. Amrit Tirkey and Fr. Gilbert Barla had some health problem respectively, but now both are keeping fine.

Fr. Swarn Tigga, SJ

## AHIRVAD NOVITIATE & JHARNA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, NAMKUM

The month of April started with one of the greatest feast in the liturgical year EASTER. The staff members were engaged in assisting Pascal Mystery celebrations in different mission stations. As the second year novices were out for village experiment, the first year novices had an opportunity to conduct liturgical services in one of the mission stations, Palandu. The entire community came together to share the joy of the risen Lord in the festive meal at Jharna. The Easter celebration culminated on 06th April 2021, with the birthday celebration of brother James Barla SJ, the invited guests were from our neighbouring communities Bagaichha and ATC. The participants of Ignatian Spirituality Course students (9 sisters) were also present to honor the birthday Baby Br. James Barla. The novices meticulously decorated the newly constructed basket ball court for the occasion.

In the second week of Easter, Fr. K.C Philip and Fr. Edwin complained about their health and they were taken for Covid test. Fr. Edwin's report was negative but Fr. K.C was tested positive. He isolated himself immediately and after few days he was shifted to Mandar hospital. Thereafter, Fr. Sylverius, NS Nelson H. Purty, Sch. Albert Beng, Sch. Benjamin Guria and Fr. Jyoti Paul Baxla were also tested positive. Fr. Sylverius was admitted in Mandar and the rest were home quarantined. Many novices also had complains of viral fever. The community stopped all common activities and took all precautionary and preventive measures for the safety of one another. Due to the increasing number of covid cases, 'one month Ignatian Spirituality Course and long retreat' were cancelled after two weeks. In the absence of novice master and socius, Frs. Camil, Edwin and Br. James were always at the service of novices.

NS Ajay Ekka

## ST. IGNATIUS, GUMLA

When the classes were opened after long period of lockdown in March, many activities were organised. Such as Orientation Programme, Career Counselling and Life Orientation Programme. Meanwhile, we were not very careful that Corona is still lurking. Frs. Augustin, Pradeep and Anil showed some symptom, so they were admitted to Mandar Hospital on 22nd March. On 24th March, Fr. Anil was tested negative. So he was shifted downstairs but he developed breathing problem. He was taken to ICU where he breathed his last on 27th early morning. Previous day he had signed all the cheques which Fr. George had taken. We were really shocked and saddened by his sudden demise. It is a great loss for the community and Society.

On 27 March at 3.30 p.m. Holy Mass was arranged in St. Ignatius' Hall. Fr. Rector was the main celebrant. Frs. Socius and Ashok represented the Curia. The Hall was packed by his relatives, friends and all those who knew him to give adieu to him. He was buried in Apostolic School graveyard according to the Covid guidelines.

Again the School is closed. Some teachers were also found positive. Next, Fr. Manohar and Sch. Francis were tested positive. They are now recovering. One day Fr. John Lakra fell headlong on the way to Apostolic School as he was walking too fast and lost the balance. He got minor injuries.

Fr. Ashok Kandulna has joined the community to look after the office of bursar. He is also appointed as Minister of the house.

From 22nd again lockdown is imposed for a week. We hope that situation improves in our states. All the students are sent home.

Fr. Nicolas Tete, SJ

## VIJAYGIRI

The Covid-19 Pandemic is experienced in and around Vijaygiri. There is fear and suspicion about Covid vaccination. Frs. Raju, John and Vijay took the first dose of vaccination in Vijaygiri itself. Fr. Raju had fever after taking the dose. The holy week programmes were quite simple. Due to Coron disease the faithful were less in number. There was no way of the cross on the crus Buru nor Easter vigil Mass in the church. However good number of faithful attended the Sunday Easter Mass. The Easter Mass was also organized in two mission Stations,

namely Baremarcha ( Kuchai) and arilor . The usual classes of class VIII, IX and X is being closed due to corona pandemic. The matric students are worried about their future life.

Fr. Vijay Kumar Minj lost his father on 22nd April. Fr. Raju and two St. Anne's sisters accompanied him to Mandar for burial. May the soul of Mr. Raphael Minj rest in peace.

Fr. John Dungdung, SJ

## ST. STANISLAUS JESUIT COMMUNITY, LOHARDAGA

**D**uring the lent, Fathers from our community rendered their services to the religious and the faithful by hearing confessions and conducting retreats and recollections. Brothers from community, inmates of our campus, hostel boys participated in the Holy Eucharistic celebration on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday at St. Bernadette Church, Lohardaga, where as all the community Fathers took part in the Holy Week's liturgical services held at UC High School, Lohardaga. Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ accompanied by Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ, two Hostel Boys and Miss Anima Panna had gone to Thakurain Dera for the Easter Vigil Mass. Fr. Sushil presided over the Mass and through his beautiful homily, imparted a good message of the Risen Lord to the faithful. Sch. John along with the Hostel Boys helped the choir in playing Musical instruments during the Easter Vigil Mass. On the following day, they all moved to Dewdhariya for the Sunday Easter Mass and contributed the same and made the celebration a meaningful one. Three Fathers of our community took part in the Easter Vigil Mass in UC High School, Lohardaga. Fr. Ranjit Lakra, SJ the Superior of the House was the main celebrant. As concelebrants, Fr. Ignatius Xalxo, SJ helped in singing Exultat where as Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ preached the Easter homily. Fr. Dharamsheel Kujur, SJ had gone to Bokaro for the Easter Celebration and returned to the community on 6th April 2021.

On 6th April, Fr. Ranjit took his first Corona vaccine in Messo Office, Lohardaga. As the Government has prohibited offline classes, we stopped conducting offline classes for the 8th and 9th standard students from 8th of April. But the school offices remain opened. Teaching and non teaching members continued to come to the school. Test exams for the new students are still continuing. Readmission for the old students and admission for the new students are going on. On 6th April, we received Mrs. Alma Minj a new cook, from

Noadih Parish, village Thootha in our community. As a cook, she is rendering her service to the community and in the kitchen. On 8th April, Fr. Philemon and Br. Nicholas Topno, SJ were vaccinated with the second dose at Messo Office in Lohardaga. Both of them are quiet well after taking their second vaccinations. On the same day all the community members had a community budget session 2021-2022 for the Community, School, Hostel and Arouse and discussed on other matters as well.

On 9th April, St. Stanislaus School conducted practical exams for the 10th Standard students. Practical exams were continued till 13th April. All the students appeared in the practical exams with great zeal and vigour. On 9th April, Fr. Ranjit submitted the Budgets of the community, School, and Hostel in Sadbhavana, Ranchi. On the same day we welcomed Sch. Nitish Ekka, SJ in our community. He is here to help out in the Arouse and in the community. On 10th April, Fr. Ranjit reached Miss Ursula (community cook) to her home, Binda, Khunti. On 10th April, Fr. Sushil and his team organized a meeting for the teaching guides in the school Hall. This meeting was held basically to inspire and encourage teaching guides who can focus and promote a value education to young children in the villages for they do not have classes in the schools due to lockdown. On 11th April, 28 children received their first Communion in St. Bernadette Church, Lohardaga. On this great day, Community members, hostel boys and inmates of our campus participated in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration. On 12th April, Br. Nicholas Topno, SJ the Minister of the House, celebrated his birthday with the community members and inmates of our campus. On his birthday, the community members remembered him and prayed for his good health of mind, body and spirit. On 15th April, Fr. Philemon, the headmaster of the school arranged a meeting for teachers from primary section, to give classes to the school children at village level but due to the rapid spread of corona virus the plan was cancelled.

On 18th April, Fr. John Tirkey, SJ the Headmaster of the Janta High School, Noadih came to our community to remain in self quarantine. He remained in self quarantine in the community itself for 4 days. We heartily welcomed Fr. Raphael Soy, SJ in our community on 19th April. He was there for two days for the work of Bank and returned to his community on 21st April. On 19th April, Fr. Patrick Xalxo, SJ the Parish Priest of Noadih, arrived to our community to remain in House Isolation. As per the Government order for "Health Safety Week" school and offices remained closed from 22nd April to 29th April. The school offices will be reopening on 30th April from 9

AM to 1:30 PM. Sr. Placida Kisppotta; OSU breathed her last on 21st April in the Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga. Fr. Ranjit and Fr. Philemon took part in the burial ceremony, held in UC High School, Lohardaga on 22nd April. On 22nd April, Fr. John Tirkey, SJ and Fr. Patrick were taken to the Lievens Hospital, Mandar for the corona test and other medical treatment. After having gone through the check up and other medical treatment, Fr. John was taken to the Prabhat Tara community, Dhurwa for his better care. Fr. Patrick returned to the community. On 23rd April, Fr. Philemon and Br. Nicholas took part in the burial ceremony of Late Fr. Severius Ekka, SJ in St. Mary's High School chapel, Samtoli. May God grant him eternal rest in heavenly abode.

Sch. John Fabianus Ekka, SJ

## JESUIT BHAVAN & GANA CHETANA SAMAJ, TEZPUR, ASSAM

**T**ravel News: Fr. Thomas Barla traveled to Ranchi on 25th March to attend the Province Consult Meeting which was to be held on 26th and 27th March. Just after the meeting he travelled back safely to Tezpur, on 28th March.

**Holy Week Ministries:** Fr. Cyril Guria was in Tezpur and did his Easter ministries in Don Bosco Cathedral Church, Tezpur. He also included Ursuline Provincialate, Gutlong for his Easter Sunday Ministry. Fr. Thomas Barla had gone to Bishwanath Charali Parish for the Holy Week Ministries. For Holy Thursday he was in Girija Line, Baghmaria Tea Estate where faithful from four different village Churches had gathered. After the whole day of work in the Tea Gardens, the faithful gathered slowly coming on foot, by hired vehicles, bicycles, etc. The ceremony started late and went on up to 11.30 night but it was very solemn. The Good Friday ceremony was in Garha line of Bhamaria Tea Estate. Again the faithful from the four village churches had gathered in a huge number. The Way of The Cross started at 9.30 a.m. and was completed in 3 hours. It was led by the different people of four churches. In each station, one faithful gave his or her reflection about Jesus and the present situation of the faithful. It was followed by Passion Narration of Jesus, the Veneration of the Cross and the Communion. The Easter vigil Mass was celebrated in the Bishwanath Charali Parish Church. For the Easter Sunday celebration, he went to Samukjuli where faithful from five village churches and different communities

such as Mundas, Garos and Santhalis were gathered. Celebration was really joyous as the faithful were very jubilant in singing.

**Gatherings and Celebrations:** The Easter gathering of the three Jesuit communities (Balipara, Sonabheel and Tezpur) was organized on 6th April in St. Xavier's College Community. Fr. Anand Kerketta's Birthday which was on 7th April, was anticipated and celebrated with the Easter Gathering. The best part of the celebration was the common dance in the refectory itself after the dinner under the leadership of Fr. John B. Dungdung. There was a feeling of oneness and sharing of Easter Joy. Fr. Cyril Guria's Birthday was celebrated on 9th April in the Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur. It was a whole day celebration as community members and domestic workers wished him in the morning itself; during the lunch the staff of Gana Chetana Samaj wished him and celebrated with him and finally it was culminated with the dinner with the Jesuit Friends of all three communities.

**Workshops, Trainings and Meetings:** On 13th April Fr. Thomas Barla took two sessions for the Adivasi youths on Adivasis' Cultural Values for the Development of Adivasi Leadership in the training programme at Tinkhuria training center of PAJHRA. The youths were very interested to know the cultural values of the Adivasis. They went for a day field research to find out the cultural values of the Adivasis in villages and tea estates. On 19th April Fr. Thomas Barla had meeting with the Christian Leaders of Sonitpur District to take forward the leadership development of Christians and Adivasis. The staff of Gana Chetana Samaj conducted 6 training programme for the leaders of Children's Clubs in 6 villages.

**Visitors and Guests:** Sr. Arpita from SMMI Congregation who is working in Meghalaya was our guest during the Holy Week as she stayed with us from 30th March to 6th April to work on her Ph. D Thesis. Sch. Albester Kujur, SJ, from MP Province was an important visitor as he came to visit Assam for the first time on 9th April just after his Philosophy. He stayed with Sch. James Ekka in his house for a few days. And then was taken to Arunachal Pradesh by Fr. Mukti Prakash Xess, SJ, who is the Parish Priest of all the Jesuit centers in Arunachal Pradesh to see the Mission Work in Arunachal. Sch. James Ekka, who has come for home visit came to stay with us for a few days and went home to his cousin sister. There were some other visitors Fr. Praveen, Fr. Nilesh Parmar, Fr. Laurence and Fr. Rakesh. Now again Sch. James is staying with us since 22nd April 2021.

Thomas Barla, SJ

## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, TEZPUR

To prepare for meaningful Easter, the Diocese of Tezpur arranged a day of recollection and confession for the priests and religious on March 30th followed by Chrism Mass at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral Parish, Tezpur. All the community members actively participated the programme. For the Holy Week services all the seven members of the community were dispersed in various parishes of Tezpur Diocese. Fr Xavier Lakra went to Lakhimpur Pariesh, Fr. John B. Dungdung went to Dholaibari Parish, Fr. Theodore Baa went to Missamari Parish, Fr. Erenius Toppo, gave his Maundy Thursday service at Malijan Tea Estate Madali, and went to Salana Parish. Fr. Ranjit Kujur went to Rangapara Parish, Fr. Anand Kumar Kerketta celebrated his Easter Vigil at Balipara Parish and Fr Ajay P. Minj Celebrated the Easter Vigil at Sonabheel Tea Estate Mandli. All the community members were back home by the Easter Sunday Evening. Fr. John B. Dungdung and Fr. Erenius Toppo experienced cold and cough.

St. Xavier's College Community arranged a Post Easter Gathering on 6th April at the college community and the Jesuits from Jesuit House Tezpur and Balipara Parish were invited. Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, the New delegate of the Provincial, Assam Mission addressed the gathering. On the same evening we celebrated an anticipated birthday of Fr. Anand Kr. Kerketta who celebrates his birthday on 7th April. Fr. Ajay P. Minj went to attend "Pshosexual Spiritual Course" organized for the young priests at Jesuit House, Uzain Bazar, Guwahati.

St. Xavier's Junior College conducted the Pre-Board Test from 6th April to 12th April and on 13th April organized a "Farewell" programme for the seniors. St. Xavier's Degree College started registration for students of the Session 2020-2023. The Guwahati Examination Form filling was monitored in the college office.

The community was saddened to hear the news of demise of beloved mother of Fr. Ranjit Kujur on 22nd April. He went home on the same day for the funeral of his mother. On same day Fr. Xavier Lakra, experienced a mild stroke around 1.00 p.m. and he was rushed to the Baptist Mission Hospital, Tezpur. He was also tested Covid-19 positive. He was referred to Narayana Super-speciality Hospital, Amingaon, Guwahati. Fr. Erenius Toppo and Sch. Kanchan Minj accompanied him to the said hospital. As Fr Xavier was tested Covid-19 positive, all the community members went for Covid-19

Test at Baptist Mssion Hospital. Fr. John B. Dungdung was tested to be Covid-19 positive and others were tested negative. Doctor has prescribed medicines and recommended strict home quarantine under monitory observation by the hospital. Fr. Xavier Lakra is expected to return home shortly from the hospital.

Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ

## JEUSIT COMMUNITY, BALIPARA

We visualize the worries of the parents amidst Corona virus which has affected every aspect of our life but we're learning to adjust, live and work with it. Since Assam govt. announced to reopen schools we began the new academic session 2021-2022 on April 6. Within two days we're told to close classes LKG up to V. The very next day the govt. asked to take only 50 per cent students a day in order to maintain social distancing. And, therefore, Frs. Suresh and Elvius are calling the students on every alternative day.

A three days programme for young Jesuit priests was organized at Guwahati 'Jahaj-Ghat' Jesuit House. Fr. Suresh came back refreshed after attending the same.

On Divine Mercy Sunday 33 pairs of couple's marriage was rectified and blessed by Frs. Elvius, Suresh and Benedict 11 each. They were assisted by Frs. J. B. Dung2 and Rakesh Kerketta.

Miss Aradhana from Jharkhand came to unknown situation of Assam for the first time with her civil engineer brother on April 13 to join SSB "Seema Suraksha Bal". Since they knew no one here and came well ahead of time we made them feel at home in our community for nearly two weeks. Once she joined her camp her brother went back to Jharkhand.

On April 25, our veteran and back bone of Assam Mission Fr. Xavier Lakra had a stroke. He was reached to Mission Hospital, Tezpur (Seven Day Adventist's Hospital). All of Ours from three communities were present to support him. The same night Fr. Erenius and Sch Kanchan accompanied him to Guwahati for further and better treatment. Fr. Xavier is stable and improving.

Due to less impact of Corona the number of faithful are coming to the church but today April 25 Fr. Benedict baptized 5 young souls and 1 adult. The number of Catholic fold is increasing day by day.

Fr. Benedict Lakra, SJ



## KATHALGURI, ASSAM

The last week of March was important as the students from all three school waited for their annual Result. Thanks to all our teachers who laboured under the guidelines of School authorities and completed the course and conducted the annual exam efficiently.

The new academic session 2021-22 started from the reopening of schools on the 8th April. The admissions and the entrance test for the new students kept us busy till the Bohag Bihu Holiday ( 14th to 16th April).

Meanwhile Fr. Rakesh and Fr. James went to Guwahati to participate in a workshop which was organized by the Kohima Jesuits for all the Young Priests (those who have not done Tertianship). The workshop was on "Psychosexual Integration for Religious" conducted by Fr. Konrad. The inputs given to us were good and enlightening and the sharing part of each individual based on one's psychosexual and spiritual stories was even more touching and inspiring.

On 21st April, we bid farewell to Fr. Amar Beck. We three of us Fr. Pradeep, Fr. Rakesh and Fr. James reached him to Manas Bansbari to his new Community. Thanks to Fr. Amar. His short stay over here in Kathalguri was marked very positively by all of us, faithful and the students. His contributions in the Pastoral and educational fields were very helpful for all of us here in Kathalguri community.

Following the strict compliance of SOP COVID-19, On 23rd April, the Primary section (class L.K.G. up to class v) was temporarily closed down till 30th April. The upper classes from VI to X are still running with strict guidelines and protocols circulated by the Government.

Fr. James Balmuchu, SJ

## DIGLIPUR, ANDAMAN

Uncertainty in life is always very awkward and problematic but there is no other option than to face it, therefore, according to the situation of time and needs of the faithful we had to adjust religious gathering on the occasion of Palm Sunday. Due to lots of rumor of lockdown or some kind of restrictions of number we were disturbed much, however ceremony started as usual at 7.30 A.M. procession took place within the campus, inconvenient and difficult for the people but proved to be a devotional. Small auditorium is there which could accommodate a sizeable number of faithful. Finally faithful entered the Church and ceremony continued. To provide the convenience Fr. Alex moved to Laxmipur

for the celebration of Palm Sunday whereas Fr. David rushed to Bhashadeg just after the completion of Holy Eucharist in the parish.

Holy Week celebration was shared between Fr. Alex and David as Fr. Roshan was out of the parish for some days. Holy Thursday ceremony began at 3.45 P.M. keeping in mind the problem of the transportation. Fr. Alex preached the sermon elaborately and meaningfully which attracted the faithful. Later people participated devotionally in the adoration which was shared by bastis in order to run the adoration smoothly which continued till 10.15 P.M. Keeping in mind the good tradition of Diglipur a day of recollection was organized for fathers (abbas). This year too we have but due to rain many did not turn up. A sizeable number of abbas attended and benefitted spiritually.

After due preparation 46 boys and girls received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 7th April 2021 by Rev Fr. V. Selvaraj, the Diocesan Administrator and Fr. Gabriel Toppo, the parish priest of Stella Maris cathedral, Port Blair assisted him. Diglipur parish was graced with seven D.S.A. sisters and Fr. Ashok Sandil, SJ, on this occasion who participated in the Eucharist and prayed for our children. After lunch Fr. Ashok wished to have a glance of Magarnala where D.S.A. sisters reside and Radhanagar parish run by the diocesan priests of the diocese. Frs. Selvaraj and Gaby moved to Radhanagar parish where they did have night halt and Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred at Radhanagar on 8th April 2021.

Laxmipur is one of the sub-stations of Diglipur parish where the faithful planned to build a new Chapel in the year 2015 but it took a long time for the completion. There are only 35 families in that village. Thanks to diocese which provided roofing sheets for the chapel and the rest was done by the faithful and some generous hearts of near and around Laxmipur and Diglipur. Chapel is dedicated to our Lady of Immaculate Conception. Ceremony started at 10.00 A.M. on 9th April 2021. Initially Fr. David Bara, the parish priest welcomed all and invited the main celebrant Fr. Rev. Selvaraj for cutting the ribbon. Just after that all the faithful entered through the main door of the Chapel and it was blessed by Rev. Fr. V. Selvaraj. A good number of people witnessed the ceremony. Liturgy was well prepared. All thanked God for his blessings and graces.

Easter house blessing started on 19th April onwards with the cooperation of pastoral sisters who are always ready to move around. Thanks for their generous hearts and availability.

Fr. David Bara, SJ

## DIASPORA

### ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA NEPAL

Our joy of Easter was doubled after having received Sch. David Donald Minj, SJ who joined as regent. We were happy to welcome the Jesuits of North Point Darjeeling on the Easter Sunday. Arrupe Niwas community, Deonia hosted a fabulous Easter dinner for all the Jhapa Jesuits and their collaborators. We heartily welcome Fr. Mike Parent to Arrupe Niwas to take up the new office as the Local Superior of the community. We were happy to have Bro. Broney who stayed with us a day before he left for Godavari to join the community. We were also glad to receive Ms Treasa, the niece of Fr George P.M. SJ who stayed with us for a few days. The community was happy to celebrate Sch. Wilson Kandulna's birthday on 22nd April along with the Jesuits of Jhapa.

Fathers continue to go for the Easter house blessing in the Mass centers. The Scholastics with the youth of Deonia went to Dhulabari Mass centre for exchange programme on April 24, 2021. Fr. Dilip motivated the youth with his encouraging words on power of being youth.

The students of Class XII both Science and Management went for their four-day educational tour to Pokhara in the first week of April. Students were accompanied by four teachers along with Fr. Daniel Bara SJ, the Coordinator. In the second week of the month, the Pre-Final Exams were conducted for classes I to VII and IX. However, the Pre-Board Exams and Term exams for students of classes VIII, X and XI could not be completed as the local government has ordered to close down all the schools due to increase in COVID 19 cases. Now the classes are going on through online. Under the supervision of Fr. Daniel Bara SJ, the new Basketball court is coming up. Thanks to Fr Boniface Tigga, SJ for all the help received from CDSS. The teachers and supporting staff went to Sadakbari for the marriage reception of the Vice-Principal, Simon Hembrom of SXD on April 20, 2021.

Sch, Wilson Kandulna, SJ

### CAMBODIA

The Month of April was very busy month for Fr. Manoj Ekka and Fr. Rajat Hassa Purti. Fr. Manoj finally completed the Leadership Development Programme organized by Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific on 28th March, 2021. Fr. Rajat attended a zoom meeting of

Ignatian Year preparatory committee on 28th March, 2021. The Easter was celebrated but in a very simple way and only for a very small number of people. Fr. Manoj and Rajat celebrated all the liturgies in their own parishes for a small number of people. Just one week before the Khmer New Year the Royal Government of Cambodia announced lockdown from 7th - 19th April 2021. It was all of a sudden without any prior notice. Many people couldn't come back to their families for the New Year. Fr. Manoj and Rajat celebrated Mass for the New Year. Fr. Manoj with the youth from his parish organized the 'Gratitude Day' on 13th April 2021. The youth expressed their gratitude to the priests and their parents by giving them bath and a gift as a token of love. Well done Fr. Manoj. Both Fr. Manoj and Rajat were busy after the Khmer New Year, preparing rice fields for sowing. This year they are given a new tractor for farming. Both Fr. Manoj and Rajat have submitted their names in the local police station for vaccination. They are waiting for the call from the office. Hopefully, they will get vaccination soon.

Rajat Hassa Purti, SJ

### FRANCE, PARIS

We wish you a happy Easter season. May this joy allow us to lift the gravity of the days in this pandemic which stretches indefinitely. We are safe and sound by the grace of God, we feel optimistic that the sanitary measures and vaccine campaign will make it possible to continue the seminars and the few face-to-face courses. Moreover, the situation is worsening day by day. So as a new lockdown has been once again implemented in France since 3rd April, and at least until early May, a derogatory trip certificate is once again compulsory to go out and to move around during curfew hours or for trips over 10 km.

With this horizon, and with the semester ending, we are invited to seek and find and to take up and to carry out the various works assigned to us. In particular, we are deepening the French language. We are determined to broaden our learning skills so that the continuous effort will help us to be prepared for our next step in our theological studies.

On Maundy Thursday Mass, Sch. Peter Paul participated in St. Ignace, with the students of Laennec, a Jesuit centre that assists students pursuing medical studies and Sch. Sudhir Lakra took part in St. Ignatius Church. Holy Thursday, the feast of the institution of the Eucharist, is also the feast of priests: We had a time of Eucharistic adoration from 10 - 11pm in the community. The other offices of the Paschal Triduum were celebrated outside

the community except the Easter Sunday. On Easter Sunday, the whole community gathered and celebrated the Mass. We also participated in the holy week service in different churches: St. Ignatius, St. Sulpie and Notre Dame Church in Paris.

On 11th April a day of recollection and renewal of vows took place at rue Raynouard community. Fr. Pascal Sevez, a member of the community, gave some directions for prayer, meditation and reflection. Everyone organized his day to pray, reread the past year and renewed his commitment to following Christ. It was really helpful and enriching for us. On 7th to 11th April Fr. Thierry Lamboley the auxiliary of the provincial came for Canonical visit to the community at 14 rue d'Assasin where Sch. Sudhir Lakra had very friendly manifestation with him. On 11th April, Fr. Thierry Lamboley, was present in the community at 9 rue Raynouard and celebrated the Eucharist. During which Sch. Charles Niyigena (Rwandan) made the "profession of faith" which is required before ordination. It was also the canonical visitation of the members of the community. On the same evening we all had the evening meal with Fr. Thierry and then he gave us some news of the province. At the end of his visit on 14 April, he gave a feedback which was remarkable and inspiring.

Finally, we would inform you that on 17th April we started our two-weeks holiday. Since there is confinement (lockdown), we have a precious moment to deepen the French language. On 18th April we had the community meeting at rue Raynouard. We came up with a different plan and programme for the upcoming community weekend. Meanwhile, we are going for a picnic in a small group within the 10 km. We also got time to refresh and spend some time and be creative in the community. We are also spending a meaningful time yet fun-filled holidays with the members of the community. We go for walks with the members of the living groups. We are visiting some of the historical places and exciting sites in Paris. Most importantly, this gives us a chance to explore the very fine Art and culture of the city.

Sch. Peter Paul Horo, SJ

## ITALY, ROME

### INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF GESÙ

The community of Kuldeep, Sandeep and Nirmal had grace-filled and joyful Holy Week and Easter celebrations amidst the ubiquitous Covid-19 situation. The whole community actively participated in all the Liturgical celebrations of the Holy Week in the beautiful Church of Gesù – a moment of grace for every community member

lived in prayer and reflection on the mystery of Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Scholastics had good opportunities to serve during the Liturgical celebrations and to lead the Choir. Apart from limiting the number of participants, the Covid-19 protocols were strictly maintained during all Liturgical Celebrations. The Easter joy was evident during the community meals. Some of the Scholastics also took the initiative to practice their culinary expertise to prepare variety of delicious international food for the entire community, which enhanced not only the Easter joy, but also strengthened the community bond.

Immediately after the Easter, one of the most awaited events in the Community Calendar arrived on Tuesday 6 April; that was, the Diaconate Ordination of the Third Year Scholastics. Twelve would-be Deacons, including Nirmal Minj had returned to the community on 31 March after preparing themselves spiritually, emotionally and interiorly to move one firm step forward toward the Priesthood. On the eve of the ordination, the community organized a special Prayer Service to pray for the would-be Deacons. The Prayer was led by Orlando Torres, Rector of the community, who invited all to pray in a special manner for them and for their Family members.

On Tuesday 6 April, the would-be Deacons were led to the altar by His Eminence Cardinal José Tolentino Mendonça, Archivist and Librarian of the Holy See. During a solemn Eucharistic celebration, Nirmal and his companions were ordained Deacons. Although, the partial Lockdown and the Covid-19 protocols prohibited a large number of participants, all the Ranchi Jesuits and a good number of Adivasi brothers and sisters were present to witness the historical moment and to felicitate Nirmal Minj. All the seating arrangements and liturgical celebration were meticulously planned, and hence, everything went on very smoothly. The usual Refreshment was cancelled to abide by the Covid-19 protocols. However, the Adivasi brothers and sisters quickly managed to extend their traditional felicitation to Nirmal, and to wish him every success for the eventual priesthood.

On Thursday 8 April, Ranchi Jesuits came together to felicitate the newly ordained Deacon Nirmal in Sala Arrupe of San Pietro Canisio, the community of Dilip Sanjay. A few non-Jesuit guests were invited to participate in the joyful event in honour of Nirmal. A short and sweet felicitation was followed by a delicious fellowship meal prepared by Nirmal himself with the help of Kuldeep and Sandeep, and Dinesh, a Patna Scholastic. Nirmal was extremely happy and satisfied as he received

lots of best wishes, prayerful support and brotherly love from different people.

After having spent joyful and meaningful Easter celebrations and the Diaconate Ordination, all were ready to resume their regular classes from Monday 11 April. The Community was back to its normal rhythm. All the first week classes were held online. During the third week of April, R.P. Johan Verschueren, Delegate of R.P. General for the Roman Houses, came to the Community for the Canonical Visitation. He spent entire two weeks of his valuable time in the community and met individually all fifty-six members. His canonical visit strengthened the community life collectively and the Jesuit religious vocation individually.

### COLLEGIO SAN ROBERTO BELLARMINO

All the members of Collegio San Roberto Bellarmino, the community of Deepak and Kulwant, remained at home for the Holy Week and for the Easter celebrations. On Monday 29 March, the first day of the Holy Week, the community observed a day of fasting and prayer. At the end of the day, they had sharing in their respective Living Groups on two questions asked by R.P. Johan Verschueren, Delegate of R.P. General for the Roman Houses: Where are you and where is your brother? After the sharing practically everyone felt encouraged to grow in their spiritual as well as community life.

All the Holy Week Liturgical Services were held in the Community Chapel. The newly ordained Priests conducted all the services in a modest but meaningful way. After Easter, the community decided to open its door to the Jesuits residing in Rome. At present, the inmates of Collegio San Roberto Bellarmino are allowed to invite Jesuits from the other communities for meals, especially on Fridays for well-known Pizza Bellarminiano. However, the community still maintains strict social distancing and other safety measures so as to avoid any contagion and eventual spread of the Covid-19.

### GENERAL CURIA

Amid the Coronavirus pandemic, both the General Curia and San Pietro Canisio Community celebrated together all the Holy Week Liturgical celebrations of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in St. Francis Borgia Chapel of General Curia. A united choir group, consisted of both the communities, was formed to make the Holy Week celebrations more solemn, ceremonious and devotional. For Anselm, the Holy Thursday was a precious moment to contemplate

on the model of salvific leadership of Jesus who offered His perfect love and empowering service to all. On Holy Friday, all contemplated on the mystery of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ by following the Way of the Cross on the Mount of Spirito Santo. Further the Holy Friday ceremony was a moment of grace for Anselm, which reminded him of the Hour of Salvation, the Kairos and invited him to enter into the Mystery of Faith. The Holy Saturday was the day for the renewal of the Mystery of personal Redemption. On Easter Sunday, Anselm renewed the call of the Risen Lord to become the apostle of the Resurrection with full of faith, full of joy, full of hope and full of love with Mother Mary.

On Monday 12 April, Anselm's Economo Group members had the fourth phase of meeting on Apostolic Plan for the General Curia 2022-2026 where they successfully wrapped up the examination phase of last Apostolic Plan 2017-2020. In the meeting, they discussed on the issues which stand out for their Group, and the issues, which they did not wish to lose for the next Apostolic Plan. In the discussions, the following issues emerged which the Group would like to keep up for the next Apostolic Plan, i.e., the collaboration with R.P. General and with all the Provinces, UAPS, planning, communication/networking.

On Saturday 17 April, the community members of General Curia and San Pietro Canisio visited the Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (ARSI), which was renovated completely last year. The visit enlightened all with some basic ideas and knowledge about the hidden treasure of the Society of Jesus preserved and maintained by the Society. Fr. Robert Danieluk, one of the Archivists, explained in detail that ARSI is the archives of the central government of the Jesuit Order. They mainly contain materials sent from Jesuit Provinces and Regions to R.P. General regarding the general governance of the Society. The ARSI is divided into three main sections: The Archives of the Early Society (1540-1773); the Archives of the Restored Society (1814 and present), and the FondoGesuitico (The Italian National Central Library of Rome). Numerous manuscripts, typescripts and published inventories of the ARSI manuscript collections are available and listed in a general index. Some important reference books have been digitized and loaded on computer terminals for the readers. All those, who visited the Archives, were shown some major collections of the Archives on China and the original manuscripts of St. Ignatius of Loyola. For Anselm, the visit to the Archives was highly interesting and enlightening to be introduced to the treasure of the Society and its mission.

From January to March, the General Curia underwent the process of Budget Preparation for the Financial Year July 2021 – June 2022. All the independent Secretariats, Departments and the General Assistants participated in the exercise. They presented the Budget to the General Treasurer and discussed with him personally before the final approval by R.P. General. After completing all the procedures, the General Treasurer presented it to R.P. General and had a discussion on the entire Budget. In the end of April, the Curia Budget 2021-2022 was approved by R.P. General.

### **PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY**

The partial Lockdown during the Holy Week provided the Gregorian Community with a good opportunity to stay together at home. All the Holy Week Liturgical Services were meticulously planned and celebrated with great solemnity and devotion ensured by the active participation of each member of the community. Although, the partial Lockdown was relaxed after Easter Monday, most of the community members preferred to stay back at home to continue their usual routine of study and research. After almost two weeks of Easter Holidays, the regular classes resumed from Monday 11 April. However, abiding by the Decree of the Government, all the lessons of the first week were held Online. From Monday 19 April, the students were allowed to come to the University for the classes according to the Odd-Even Roll Number System. Although, the number of contagions has decreased significantly, the Italian Government put into effect all the necessary Covid-19 Protocols, and the people seem to be acclimatising themselves well to the changed circumstances by wearing masks and by maintaining social distancing.

Linus Kujur is, as usual, busy with online lectures. He appreciates the human intelligence that the invention as 'zoom' is done in due time, which allows communication possible despite lockdowns. Likewise, he is hopeful that the human mind will achieve a solution to the covid-19. Apart from the academic activities, he is also busy writing the Dossier (Position) of the Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ. In this process, he understood the value of Archive and Archivist, without whose reference and signature no document becomes valuable or historical. Therefore, he would like to appeal to the Province and its Houses to keep records about the important events or anniversaries, especially the homilies, homages, memorials, talks, monuments, etc., dedicated to the Servant of God. The ongoing veneration counts very much for the justification of the sanctity of the person.

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

### **VATICAN, ROME**

This year, once again due to covid-19 strictly safety measures were observed with regards to the Holy Week celebration. Thus the Holy Father, along with cardinals and limited Vatican residents celebrated the solemnity of Palm Sunday but there was no usual procession. The holy Triduum ceremonies were restricted and so none from outside could be physically be part of the ceremony with the Pope.

For the way of the cross on the Good Friday, this year special prayers were written by the children and young people of Rome. It was unique and heart touching as they poured out their heart felt daily experiences of life. On Easter Sunday, Urbi et Orbi, that is the Pope's message to Rome and the world, Papa prayed and appealed for the peace and justice in the entire world. At the end of his message he imparted special Easter blessings and absolution for sins of the faithful.

In the community of St. Pietro Canisio the letter of the father General on vocation was presented during a community meeting and the community is asked to pray for vocation everyday. On 25 April two of our regents received the order of acolyte along with Gesu scholastics whereas one of community member Fr. Mesini Ugo of Euro-Mediterranea (EUM) province celebrated his 102 birthday.

Fr. Sanjay Ekka, SJ

### **GUYANA**

The Diocese of Georgetown, was saddened by the demise of Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey, SJ on 27th March, 2021 in Constant Lievens Hospital and Research Centre Mandar, (Ranchi), who sincerely served the people of God here in Guyana for last fourteen years. Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ and Fr. Elias Surin, SJ were shocked as they worked together as missionaries for years. May Almighty God grant him Eternal Rest!

On 29th March 2021 was a historical and special day for St Ignatius Mission Lethem with the graduation of four students on the professional certificate course "Learning facilitator" offered by JWL "Jesuit worldwide Learning-Higher Education at the Margins". This was the first batch. This program was facilitated in both, online and onsite. They journeyed with Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, as an onsite facilitator for six months to complete the program. The students were really happy to see the result of their hard work. The Learning Facilitator professional certificate course, certified by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Munich Germany.

In North Pakaraimas, Fr. Elias Surin, SJ was in St. Michael's Church Maikwak and St. Teresa Church Kopinang for the Holy Week and Easter Celebration respectively. During the Easter Season, he visited and blessed the wedding couples during the Holy Eucharist in St. Francis Xavier's Waipa, St. Paul's Kamana, Sacred Heart Itabac and Holy Cross Kanapang.

Fr. Ronald Fernandes, SJ, the Vicar General was in South Pakaraimas for the Holy Week and the Easter celebration. Along with Sr. Sosan Anima Kujur, the Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk in Angela House Karasabai, Sr. Nishi Susanna Kujur, OSU, Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU and Sr. Helena Soreng, OSU, he visited and celebrated the Holy Eucharist in Our Lady of Guadalupe Pai Pong, St. Cuthbert Tiger Pond, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Tipuru, St. Francis of Assisi Rukumutta and St. John De Britto Yurongparu.

Fr. Edwin Anthony, SJ, remained in St. Ignatius Mission Lethem, central Rupununi. Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, went to help out Fr. Paulose Vellacada, SJ, in St. Robert Bellarmin's Church Aishalton, in deep South Rupununi during the Holy Week and Easter. There were Marriages in four communities just after the Easter. Fr Amar blessed the marriages in three communities in sand creek, Rupunau and in Aishalton. Communities were very happy to witness the marriage of young people. Marriage celebration is always a joyous occasion for the people but this joy was turned into sorrow and saddened one of the communities when it was found out that some people were with Covid-19 positive.

In the year of St. Joseph, many programmes were being arranged to strengthen the Christian family life. The Seminars on marriage and family life were arranged by Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, in different villages of the parish where the sizeable number of couples participated and profited a lot. Br. Pascal Jordan, OSB and Fr. John Packiaraj, SJ, were guiding online Retreat to the Lay Leaders of the Diocese for five Saturday since 10th April.

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

## MARQUETTE, USA.

Amidst the challenging moments of deadly epidemic and a painful continuum of death news from every nook and corner of the Province and other parts of the world, I, too, shared the anguish of bidding farewell to my father on April 15. My sincere gratitude to everyone for incessantly pouring on the prayers, words of comfort, and consolation. The gestures of sympathy mean so much, especially when we are away from the country, leaving

everything on God and in the care and thoughtfulness of the Province.

During the weekly Jesuit community Mass on April 19, the whole community gathered to pray for the repose of my father's soul. The community also prayed for those who joined the company of ancestors and angels in heaven in the recent past. I officiated the Holy Mass and thanked the Lord, and the community for their support and solidarity. During the homily, I shared the experiences of my father's "unwavering faith and ever steady attitude of gratitude to God".

Apart from praying every day for the deceased brethren and our relatives, Fr. Greg, the Rector and community members are deeply concerned and express their solidarity with the people facing terrible pandemic problems in India.

My academic life continues to be more hectic, with three discussions a week. I am working with my guide on the last chapter of the dissertation. The maiden meeting with my dissertation committee members will be held on May 5, 2021, to discuss the paper's flow, coherence, and rationality.

April community meeting was dedicated to a sensitive issue of Jesuits' practice and participation in slaveholding between the 16th to 19th centuries. Following the direction of the Provincials of the United States, the O'Brien Jesuits community at Marquette University spent time in prayer and reflection to find the ways of healing the memories and outlining a set of recommendations to the future efforts of dialogue and reconciliation with the descendants of slaves.

Members present in my group did humbly accept the evil practice of slavery and its legacies of racism that endure among the Jesuits. The members also acknowledged that though we were not part of the practice of slave-holding, yet we cannot exclude ourselves from being the beneficiaries of what was practiced in the past by Jesuits. Elderly members strongly believe that sustainable reconciliation can be done by the approach of "listen and learn" from them.

Again, the graduate students gathering was held in Jesuit Villa with mass and dinner. Thanks to Fr. Mark, the minister of House who prepared a sumptuous dinner for us. This was the last gathering with him. Mark has already been appointed as the director of a very popular Retreat House in Oshkosh 140 km from Milwaukee.

Thanks to Fr. Anderson for inviting me for a baseball game between Brewers, the local team, and Marlins from Miami at the American Family Field Stadium. It gave me

a moment of relaxation and a well-needed break with my studies on April 27. The indoor stadium accommodates some 42 thousand spectators. I assure you of my prayers and express my prayerful support to the province members, our relatives, friends and suffering people of our nation, grappling with deadly health care crisis.

Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ



## LET US PRAY FOR THE DEAR DEPARTED

1. **Fr. Severius Ekka, SJ (RAN 82/60)**, passed away on 22 April in C. Lievens Hospital, Mandar.
2. **Br. Modestus Tirkey, SJ (RAN 72/52)**, passed away on 25 April in St. Anne's Hospital, Ulhatu.
3. **Fr. Phil. Crotty, SJ (HAZ 89/71)**, expired on 6 April in Sydney, Australia.
4. **Fr. Vargheese Paul C. SJ (GUJ 77/51)**, expired on 10 April in GMERS Hospital, Badodara.
5. **Fr. John Joseph Amaladoss, SJ (AND 75/58)** expired on 14 April in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur.
6. **Fr. Erwin Lazarado SJ (GUJ 58/37)** expired on 17 April in NLPMP Hospital, Vadodara due to Corona-19.
7. **Fr. Jesuraj Arputtam SJ (GUJ 60/39)** passed away on 16 April in a Private Hospital, Dindigul.
8. **Fr. Jerry Sequeira SJ (GUJ 73/54)**, passed away on 18 April in Sola Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad.
9. **Fr. Sylvester Kerketta SJ (DUM 62/42)**, passed

away on 18 April in St. Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Dumka.

10. **Fr. Francis Guntipilly SJ (KAR 72/54)**, passed away on 18 April in St. Philomina Hospital, Bangaluru.
11. **Fr. George Karamayil SJ (PAT 75/53)**, passed away on 21 April in Kurji HF Hospital, Patna.
12. **Fr. Royce W. Macedo SJ (AND 89/71)**, passed away on 25 April in St. Patric H/ S, Secunderabad.
13. **Fr. Sushil Shah SJ (PAT 67/47)**, passed away on 24 April in Holy Family Hospital, Kurji, Patna.
14. **Fr. Augustine Peedikamal SJ (DEL 82/60)**, passed away on 24 April.
15. **Fr. Sushil Kujur SJ (DUM 58/35)**, passed away on 24 April in St. Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Dumka.
16. **Fr. Samuel Marandi SJ (DUM 56/32)**, passed away on 24 April in St. Luke's Hospital, Dakaita, Dumka.
17. **Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj SJ (KAR 41/22)**, passed away in M. Shaw Medical Centre Bangaluru.
18. **Br. Clestus Baxla SJ (MAP 53/30)**, passed away on 23 April in Lievens Hospital, Mandar, Ranchi.
19. **Fr. Panoor C. Joseph SJ (MDU 85/66)**, passed away on 22 April at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.
20. **Fr. Peter T. Jones, SJ (HAZ 90/66)**, passed away on 25 April at St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha.
21. **Fr. Mangal Kerketta SJ (DAR 46/23)**, passed away on 25 April in Gayaganga.
22. **Sr. Gulab, OSU, elder sister of Fr. Fabian Bhuiyan, SJ (JAM)**, expired on 18 April in Ranchi.
23. **Mr. Fredrick Tirkey, 85 years old**, father of Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ, expired on 14 April at home.
24. **Mrs. Francisca Kindo, 83 years old**, mother of Fr. Ranjit Kujur, SJ, passed away on 22 April at home.
25. **Mr. Raphael Minj, 76 years old**, father of Fr. Vijay Minj, SJ, passed away on 22 April at home.
26. **Mrs. Saroj Minj, 56 years old**, sister-in-law of Fr. Ajit Kr. Xess, SJ, passed away on 27 April in Pulse Hospital, Ranchi.
27. **Sr. Mariam Scholastica, H.M. 91 years old**, Aunty of Fr. Augustine Kujur, SJ, passed away on 29 April.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## MAY

- 01 Soreng Xavier  
 02 Minj Ajay Prakash  
 Kujur Hemant  
 03 Barla Amit,  
 Minj Erentius  
 Soreng Hemant  
 04 Toppo Erenius,  
 Dungdung Samir  
 Lakra Shailesh  
 05 To'ppo Ireneus,  
 06 Ekka Ishak  
 07 Minj Gyan Prakash  
 Soreng Pradeep  
 08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen  
 09 Minj Bimal,  
 Xess Gabriel  
 10 Dungdung Kuldeep  
 11 Minj Anand  
 12 Khoya Manohar  
 14 Soreng Alok,  
 Soreng Blacius

- 15 Kerketta Xavier  
 16 Kerketta Benjamin  
 19 Dungdung Alexius  
 20 Ekka Praful,  
 Kujur Ajit Kalyan  
 24 Ba'a Ephrem  
 28 Chermako Sylverius  
 29 Tigga Lalit John  
 30 Kullu Francis David  
 Minj David  
 31 Horo Peter Paul

## JUNE

- 01 Oreya Suman Shishir,  
 Thomas Purty  
 03 Kerketta Ajit  
 Dungdung James Vik.  
 06 Kerketta Sylvanus  
 07 Xaxa Anil  
 12 Tete Patrick  
 15 Minj Elias

- 17 Dungdung Jerome  
 Xalxo Medard  
 18 Kindo Ashwin  
 19 Tirkey Sushil,  
 Minj Kulwant  
 20 Ekka Isidore,  
 Minj Ignatius  
 Ekka Nitish  
 21 Lakra John  
 Beck Alois,  
 Toppo Manohar  
 22 Burh George,  
 Barla Gilbert  
 Dungdung Sanchilit  
 24 Bara Amar,  
 Kerketta Erik  
 Osga John Fisher  
 25 Tudu Simon  
 28 Minj Akshay  
 30 Dungdung John  
 Kullu Henry

**NOTE: The last date to send/submit your articles for RANCHI BULLETIN is 25th of EVERY MONTH.**

Kindly send your articles on the following ID: medardsj@gmail.com either on or before 25th of EVERY MONTH.

RANCHI BULLETIN EDITOR: MEDARD XALXO, SJ