

# RANCHI BULLETIN



71/11 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand NOVEMBER 2012

## FR. PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### November 2012

- 03 To Soso GB meeting
- 04 To Kathalguri (Visitation Assam Mission)
- 08 To Manas Bansbari (Morning): Visitation
- 10 To Mushalpur (Morning): Visitation
- 12 To Tejpur (Morning): Visitation
- 14 To St. Xavier's Sonabheel (Morning): Visitation
- 15 To Balipara (Morning): Visitation
- 16 Exhortation for all at Tejpur (Evening)
- 17 To Pengree (Morning): Visitation
- 20 To Ranchi (via Dibrugah-Kolkata)
- 22 CONSULT
- 23 To Delhi (Afternoon) ISI (Stay): Visitation
- 24 To Vidya Jyoti (Morning): Visitation (Stay ISI)
- 25 ISI (Stay)
- 26 To Jammu (Morning): Visitation
- 28 To Ranchi (Jammu-Delhi-Ranchi)
- 30 Province Golden Jubilee Celebration of  
**Fr. Horo Emmanuel, Fr. Soy Raphael and  
Fr. Tete Albinus**

### December 2012

- 04 To Kolkata (visitation: Andamans Island)
- 05 Kolkata-Portblair/ Prothrapur: Visitation
- 07 To Diglipur: Visitation
- 09 To Ramnagar: Visitation
- 11 To Portblair
- 12 To Ranchi
- 15 CONSULT
- 18 St. John's (Morning): Visitation
- 19 Exhortation (Evening)
- 21 St. Xavier's Doranda (Morning): Visitation
- 22 Exhortation (Evening / Back to Curia)
- 28 Bhatta (Ranchi): Priestly Ordination of  
**Deacon Roshan Bage S.J.**

### Announcement: INDIA DESK

"Every year the India Desk sends a **Christmas and New Years** letter from Father Provincial to our benefactors and friends. It gives some news of the developments in the Province and also explores one topic. Last year it was **"the youth"**, this year it is **"the new Evangelisation"**. A Flemish copy of **"Ranchi Calling"** goes to about 600 benefactors, an English copy to another 400. Last year 250 English copies were provided to Ranchi Jesuits to be sent to their family and friends. Many appreciated this. This year India Desk intends to make a Hindi version of this Ranchi Calling available. May I kindly request each one of you Ranchi Jesuits to inform **Fr. Brys (Mob. 9934368213)**, or your superior who will then inform Fr Brys, how many Hindi and eventually also how many English copies you want to send to your family and friends.

**By Fr. Brys**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

☞ **Sch. Anup Arvind Ekka, Sch. Rajesh Kullu and Sch. Edwin Dang** have applied for Major Order of Diaconate Ordination. If someone has anything to say about them, may kindly inform to Fr. Provincial.

### ❖ PROVINCE JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF

☞ **Fr. Leo Bara, SJ, Fr. Christian Debrouwer, SJ, Fr. Paul Terrens, SJ** (*70 Years in the Society*)

☞ **Fr. Anthony Kadookunnel, SJ** (*50 Years a Priest*)

☞ **Fr. Emmanuel Horo, SJ, Fr. Raphael Soy, SJ, Fr. Albinus Tete, SJ** (*50 Years in the Society*) will be held on **30 November 2012 in Manresa House, Ranchi**. All the Province men are cordially invited to join the Jubilarians to praise and thank the Lord for his goodness to them as Jesuits and priests in the service of the Church.

### ❖ FR. GENERAL HAS APPROVED

☞ **Father Anselm Ekka and Brother James Barla** for Final Vows.

☞ **Fr. Anselm** will pronounce his Final Vows on **18 November 2012 at St. Ignatius' HS, Gumla** [10:00 A.M].

☞ **Br. James** will pronounce his Final Vows on **16 December 2012 at ATC Namkum** [5:00 P.M].

## SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

*Father General has participated in the recent Synod of Bishops on: "The New Evangelization for the transmission of Christian Faith". He expressed some of his impressions on this event in an interview. Here are his responses.*

I confess having some misgivings about the Synod before it started. I was asking myself: Are we going to move in the direction of "more of the same" or will we be ready to move ahead with courage and creativity?

The reality of the Synod has been mixed. I can indicate some (1) positive, inspiring and encouraging points, and (2) some insufficiencies that indicate areas where the Church, or, at least, the awareness of the Bishops and other Synodal Fathers, including myself, have some journey to make.

### 1. We can classify the positive points in three categories:

a) *Geographical input*. This part refers to presentations that gave us a good sense of the situation, the issues and, often, the sufferings of specific countries - mostly in the Middle East, Africa or Asia. One of the best features of a Synod is the very fact that the Bishops from many countries have a chance to communicate and exchange freely about their experience and thinking.

b) *Ongoing creative initiatives*, especially those based on cooperation projects, networking or international exchange, in which lay persons and movements are very involved and committed. Not only through the presentations in the plenary sessions, but mostly through informal sharing and comments on the same initiatives outside the sessions.

c) *Reflections on the Foundations, Meaning and Dimensions of the New Evangelization*. Here we could witness a great confluence, among other points, on:

- \* the importance and need of religious experience (encounter with Christ);
- \* the urgency of good spiritual and intellectual formation of the New Evangelizers;
- \* the central role of the family (*Ecclesia domestica*) as the privileged place of growth into the Faith;
- \* the relevance of the parish and its structures, that need to be renewed and become more and more open to wider lay involvement and ministry;
- \* the priority on evangelization rather than sacramental expression, as Saint Paul thought of himself, "sent to Evangelize, and not to baptize";
- \* etc.

### 2. As for "insufficiencies" we can indicate the following:

a) The voice of the People of God does not have a place to be heard. It is a Synod of Bishops, and, thus, there is

no much provision for the Laity to participate, even though a number of experts and "observers" (*auditores*) are invited. It made me think of Steve Jobs' statement that he was more interested in listening to the voice of the clients, rather than to that of the producers. And in the Synod we were all "producers".

b) Thus it was difficult to avoid the feeling that this was a gathering of "Men of the Church affirming the Church", which in itself is a good thing, but hardly what we need at the time of the New Evangelization. There is a real danger of producing "More of the same".

c) Lack of reflection on the First Evangelization, and, thus, very little on whether and what we have learnt from the very long past history and from the good points in it, as well as from our own mistakes. This omission could have very negative consequences.

d) Very little awareness and/or knowledge of the History of Evangelization and the role of Religious men and women in it. At times Religious Life was ignored and at times it was mentioned only in passing. Not that we, Religious, need further affirmation, but I express a concern that the Church risks losing its own memory.

e) Maybe the weakest point is the methodology followed, very similar to the old way of running our own General Congregations. I do hope, though, that the complexity of reality and the needs of the future will help the Church adjust its processes for greater apostolic fruits.

You can understand that it was a time of much reflection, of learning and challenge. The invitation to deepen our Faith, proposed by the Holy Father, can help us face the deepest dimension of the New Evangelization. The reality around us has become much more complex than we can face individually, and the original challenge of our Mission to serve souls and the Church continues and grows in poignancy.

It is my hope that Jesuits will respond to the new challenges with the depth that comes from our appropriation of Ignatian spirituality and from a serious study of our times.

I pray that the reflections in our Communities and Apostolates on the Year of Faith will help us renew our spirit and our mission.

*(Courtesy: www.sjweb.info)*

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## INSTITUTIONS & FORMATION HOUSES

### **Manresa House Ranchi**

On 9th Oct. around 2 pm, while taking a nap, Fr. Walter Ekka had some cough and breathing difficulty with perspiration, which was a symptom of heart attack that he could not make out. He thought that it was just a simple cough which would subside after sometime; but as it did not he informed our infirmarian Br. Telesphore and was rushed to the Gurunanak hospital by 3 pm and got admitted. By around 7 pm, he seemed perfectly all right and so he told Fr. Minister that everything was normal and he would like to get back to Manresa House as the next day he had certain classes to be completed. Till 10th Oct. by 9.30 pm, everything was fine with him as Fr. Rector from Manresa and some of the community members went to see him. But barely had we returned to Manresa House from Gurunank by 9.40 pm, Sch. Anil Toppo called Br. Telesphore informing him that Fr. Walter was having the similar kind of problem, i.e., the attack. Sch. Albert Kispotta hastily got the required medicine from the shop, but alas! Fr. Walter had already

breathed his last. Everything occurred in a fraction of seconds. We would all say that he disturbed us all with his loud and majestic talk by leaving us without much disturbance. It was a saddening and unexpected departure which grieved the Manresa House most and the whole of Ranchi Jesuit Society. We really miss a gem of character who was a real father figure motivating, guiding and orienting so many of the young people to build their future.

On 16th Oct., we started our canonical visitation. It was a time to research and recollect our own personal self to have a proper manifestation of conscience. Thus God's grace was brought us bountifully as we shared our life with Fr. Provincial in the spirit of the Society. The exhortation enabled us to revive our drooping spirit in the community. He stressed us to continue the community recreation as it was agreed upon once in a week for it reunited the community bond.

Brothers of Manresa House were invited by Fr. Savarimutthu (HAZ) to Pakari Path for a one-day

trip. This short break from their busy schedule refreshed and re-energized them to carry out their mission with a new vigour and zeal.

On 19th Oct., Fr. Alexius Tirkey left for Jaipur to attend the JESCOM meeting.

Puja holidays began from 20th Oct. Scholastics of Manresa House took some time off to relax and at the same time share their wisdom and knowledge with youngsters. For a week in three different groups they were sent to Samtoli, Gumla and Bardih for mission exposure.

On 27th Oct., they returned and the three-day of community days was launched. It was a moment to enjoy and celebrate life at Manresa House. Fun and frolic commenced with the fancy march past and a solemn oath ceremony. Fr. James Toppo recited a poem *Putus Jhurr*, an excerpt from his recent unpublished work. It was a real mood of festivity as our young collegians engaged themselves in various activities, games and dance. Every interval during an activity and game three different groups came together with their free style Nagpuri dance. The dancing floor seemed to be on fire. The staff members seeing the young ones enjoying tremendously could not control themselves and joined the celebration. It was mesmerizing to see and celebrate community life with such a vigour and gusto. Hats off to the organizing committee, mainly Schs. Sanjit, Gorakh, Elphiz, Sujit for bringing the whole community together.

*Fr. Sanjay D. Ekka*

### **ATC, Namkum**

ATC organized a training programme on Sustainable Agriculture and Para Veterinary for 15 days. Six Ursuline nuns from the Gumla Province received the training and benefited from the same. The ATC farm is slowly picking up the cultivation and the training programmes.

The second year ANM students of St. Joseph's Community College completed 45 days going to the Military Hospital, Namkum, Primary Health Centre, Namkum, and Seva Nilaya, Aara Gate for their practical experience. They feel confident as they had exposure and practices in these hospitals. The institute organized a visit to Joseph's Rural Community College

Bhusar, Chandwa. The staff and students had an interactive session with the Bhusar group.

The ATC with great solemnity celebrated the feast day of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez the patron saint of the Jesuit Brothers on 31st October. Brs. James Barla, Angelus Xess and Felix Tete shared their Jesuit life-experiences during the holy Eucharist. The trainees felicitated our Brothers presenting them a beautiful cultural programme and in the evening Jharna-Ashirvad, Bagaicha and Kishor Nagar jointly wished them happy feast followed by agape dinner.

Jesuits from Rome Fr. Patxi Alvarez, SJ (the secretary of Jesuit Social Action & Ecology) and Fr. Xavier Jayaraj, SJ., Fr. Stany Jebamalai, SJ (Sani Bhai), ISI, Delhi, Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, AROUSE, Gumla visited Bagaicha, ANM Trainees and encouraged us to work for the needy.

Jesuits of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, had organized a one-day recollection at ATC for Xavier's Association of Religious. Theme of the recollection was "Rediscovering Oneself". Frs. Francis Minj and Ajit Kr. Xess, delivered their reflection and 130 religious students benefited.

*Fr. Evaneus Toppo*

### **Ashirvad-Jharna**

The Sign Office group came to Jharna for two days for their training programme for farming. This was arranged by dioceses. Twenty Sisters (Tertians) of SCJM entered into a 30-day retreat from 14th Oct. evening to 14 Nov. morning. Fr. Theodore Toppo S.J. (MAP) and Fr. Sylvanus Kiro (RAN) guided them into two groups of ten each. Fathers and Brothers of CDF, Kumhartoli, had their recollections on 14th and 28th. Fr. Samir Ddungdung gave them recollection talks. Frs. Anselm Ekka, Alexius Ekka, and Sanjay Kerketta made their 8-day retreat during Puja holidays. Fr. Prabhu Narayan, S.J. (MAP) also made his 8-day retreat during that time. Srs. Norberta Baxla and Madhuri Toppo (MJEP) made their 5-day retreat under Fr. Samir Ddungdung.

Fr. Giorgio Mennini went to Lohardaga to give a retreat and soon after coming back home, he went to Kolkatta for his visa extension. Fr. K.C Philip came back home from Hazaribag after guiding a month-long retreat to the tertian Sisters of the Holy Cross.

The community wished our novices, John Fabianus Ekka and Henry Kullu on their birthday. Fr. Samir Ddungdung went to Longa, a pilgrimage center, for two days to help out in the ministry over there. The novices went to the Sanatorium Dam, Hulhundu for their cycle picnic on 20th Oct. They enjoyed cycling, swimming, dancing, cooking, eating and being together. However, they regretted for not able to fish, as it is not allowed to fish in the dam. Frs. Raymond, Samir, Deepak and Br. Blacius accompanied them.

The two second year novices have begun their a month long Hospital Experiment on 1st Nov in Radha Rani, a Centre run by the Sisters of Missionaries of Charity. The thirteen first year novices also have begun their month-long Ignatian retreat guided by their Novice Director on the same evening. Kindly pray for them all.

*Sylvanus & Samir*

### **St. Stanislaus, Lohardaga**

Apart from students and teachers the St. Stanislaus School campus was almost occupied everyday by the participants of various activities, namely, Zonal St. Annes' School Games and Sports Meet, Lohardaga Inter Catholic School Sports, Yuva Jhankar Khasi Football Tournament for girls and boys, Youth Workshop, DOTs Project Training Programme and meetings of SHG members and youth.

In such environment Fr. Albinus Tete, after coming back from the hospital, has controlled and regulated his diet to keep himself healthy and strong enough to nurse plants, pigs and people. Fr. Ignas Xalxo, due to less water in the well, decided not to have pea and potato cultivation but continued working in the field to maintain his physical fitness. Fr. Soy has faithfully and earnestly been carrying out his outreach ministry in Tilsiri which comes under Dighiya parish. Br. Modestus is testing his memory power by remembering the names of the hostellers. He says, "Calling by name is sweeter, effective and affective." After receiving the permanent approval of St. Stanislaus High School Fr. Ignatius Lakra and his staff are rejuvenated to pledge their commitment to the school and students and also visualize the +2 for greater services to the local students. Fr. Sushil and his team remained always on move to villages of hills and plains. But during the Puja holiday the community went through Annual Retreat under the guidance of Fr. Giorgio Mennini.

After the Pre-Test the X standard students are going through special classes with close monitoring for the better performance in the final exam. Principal, staff and students welcomed and assisted the Zonal St. Anne's School Games and Sports in the campus and also allotted its ground for Lohardaga Inter Catholic School Sports Meet on 18th and 19th October. The Superintendent of Police graced the occasion as chief guest and the students and audience enjoyed the events.

AROUSE Lohardaga, through the assistance of the National Bank of Rural and Agricultural Development (NABARD) has taken up the responsibility of promoting Farmer's Club so as to organize them for their own socio-economic development. It also organized motivational seminar for the youth and Khasi Football Tournament for the girls and boys affiliated to *Yuva Jhankar on Gandhi Jayanti*. Fr. Sushil, Mr. Vinod Bhagat and Ms. Anima Panna attended a Panchayat meeting in Mungo *Panchayat* in Peshrar block on 4 October 2012 when all the Ward members, Zila Parishad members, Mukhijas and more than 300 people from 18 villages had gathered to put forward their needs and grievances. People demanded an opportunity for better education for their children but the lack of inspection and irregularity of teachers have darkened the future of the students.

For the first time the youth, the members of Women SHGs and Kisan Clubs, together with villagers of Kandra and Mentgara, welcomed Fr. Pachi, Fr. Sunnybhai, Xavier J. and Fr. Thomas Barla in their village. Villagers were surprised to hear them speaking about socio-economic, cultural and educational wellbeing of the Adivasis. AROUSE has also taken up T.B. Awareness Programmes in different villages. On 30th October a mega health camp was conducted by Red Cross Society in Dundru Panchayat in Peshrar block. But the treacherous journey and frightening situation shook the volunteers in such a way that they are very reluctant to revisit the area.

*Fr. Sushil SJ*

### **Vidya Jyoti Delhi**

Vidyajyoti calendar was marked with series of considerable events in October. On 2nd Oct., the college hosted a presentation entitled "The Stories of Vatican II" during the period of the Council by

Mr. Robert Blair Kaiser, a Rome-based reporter of the Time Magazine. His first person account of what happened at the Council brought alive before the staff and students of Vidya Jyoti the bright and shady moments of Vatican II. It is amazing to see how the Spirit of God accomplishes great and wonderful things through weak and sinful human beings. On 7th Oct., Fr. Michael Kerketta arrived Delhi as part of the annual visit to scholastics. His presence proved to be a moment of grace for all of us as he re-energized our spiritual and academic life to persevere in all our endeavours.

On 11th Oct., Vidyajyoti College of Theology entered into the "Year of Faith" with a special Eucharistic celebration held in the college. Fr. Abhilash IMS, Director of Jnana Bharati, Varanasi presided over the celebration. In his homily he pointed out that the spirit of evangelization calls us to be salt and light in the world in order to transform society from within. Sr. Shalini, PBVM, in her reflection during the Eucharist, described faith in terms of human response to God.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Vidyajyoti Journal, a two-day national seminar was organized on Oct. 12-13, on the general theme: The Role of Critical Thinking in Religion. Theologians, scholars and academicians from different parts of the country took part in the seminar proceedings. The Dean of the RTC, Ranchi, Fr. Francis Minj along with Frs. John Mundu and Biju also participated in the programme. In the keynote address Dr. Michael Amaladoss from Chennai said that theology must be from and for life in the world. It must start with experience, from below, but at the same time must lead us to transcendence.

On 26th Oct., the Second year students as a part of the annual theological project, enlivened the hearts and minds of all in the Vidya Jyoti Parivar with a multimedia presentation entitled "Rta - the heartbeat of the cosmos". It was a way of awakening the heartbeat of self, blending it with the heartbeat of the other and the whole cosmos! The artistic presentation portrayed the general theme 'symbols in religion - use and abuse'. The presentation powerfully and with clarity brought out many uses and abuses of symbols in the practice of religion. It also enlightened the audience as to how the unjust, selfish and corrupt structures and practices of religion work against cosmic harmony and degrade human life. The play posed a prophetic challenge to rise against the travesty of religion and recover its true spirit.

On 27th Oct., Vidya Jyoti was shocked at the untimely demise of one of the faculty members, Fr. Desiderio Pinto. Fr. Desi was undergoing treatment for AML (acute myeloid leukemia) at the Holy Spirit Hospital, Mumbai since March 2012. He fought a brave battle as he underwent many courses of chemotherapy. We were really hoping that he would come out successfully through the expert treatment but suddenly his condition deteriorated a couple of days ago. The college came together on 31st Oct. for a Requiem Mass and to pay tribute to his memory. May God grant him eternal rest.

*Sch. Edwin Dang*

### **Tarunoday**

We began the month of Oct. with exams. From 1st Nov to 5th Nov we had both the viva and the written exams. 6th Oct. was the preparation for our mission. On 7th Oct, the second years left for their mission tour to Chhatisgarh and the first years left for their contextual immersion programme (CIP) to Kajarkilo Hazaribag. While we were in our mission activities the staff members Fr. Francis, Fr John, and Fr Biju went to attend two days seminar at Vidya Jyoti Delhi. After witnessing the mission areas of MP province the second year theologians returned to Tarunoday on 12th Oct. and resumed their classes on 15th Oct. The first year theologians were put in the different Santhal villages one by one for 14 days to immerse fully in the Santhal Tribal way of life. After having rich experiences about the life of the Santhal Tribal the first year theologians return to Tarunoday on 21st Oct. and started their Theological Reflection and Assignment from 22nd Oct. Fr. Francis went home to bid last farewell to his beloved mother on 24th Oct. While we were busy with our classes and assignments Fr Amrit left for Bokaro. The first years resumed their class on 29th Oct.

*Sch. Pradeep Tutej*

### **S.S.C. Juniorate Sitagarha**

October was packed with many activities that gave innovative experiences to our life. On 13th Oct., we had a Hindi play on "Sangarsh Aur Safalta". We, Juniors staged the play successfully. It gave us an opportunity to show our talents and motivated us to build up our confidence. The next day, we started the course on Mass Media. It was given by Fr. Lourduraj, SJ and Mr. Rituraj. All of us enjoyed and profited from the course. It has influenced us to be more creative and productive Jesuits. Through this course we learned to communicate with others respectfully and with right perception.

On 15th we had a community evening prayer on the occasion of Naya Khani. The prayer session was conducted by the novices. We had a community meal in the noviciate refectory. We were inspired by the way the novices showed their hospitality.

On 20th Fr. KC Philip gave us a talk on the topic "Assistancy Programmes". We were enlightened by his sharing of rich ideas to lay a solid Jesuit formation. He inspired us to live the present life fully, rather than be much worried about the past and the future. All this

input enlightened our minds and hearts. On the same day Fr Michael Kerketta paid us a visit. His presence made us alive and cheerful.

On 25th there was a music class on tabla given by Fr Sebastian. We profited much from it.

On 29th we started our Awareness Seminar under the direction of Fr. Aurel Brys. The course has been very beneficial and insightful for us to pave the way for a life of Magis.

*Sch. Peter P.K. Hora*

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## PARISHES

### Sogra

Parish community and parishioners were busy in gathering groundnuts and other cash crops from their fields in the first two weeks of Oct. Students and teachers of Sogra school also helped the parish community in finishing these works faster and better. The construction of a new toilet in the school campus began in the first week of Oct. by the local committee. On 15th Oct., the headmaster of the middle school organized a 'Cleanliness Awareness Programme' for the students of Sogra school. All the students participated in all activities joyfully and took resolution to keep themselves and their surroundings clean. Meanwhile Fr. Tejmati Bage completed the registration work of the students, studying in Sogra High School. Thanks to Fr. Philomon Ekka and the staff of St. Mary's High School, Samtoli for their cooperation and generosity. This year the number of the students is 28. The Girls' hockey team from Sogra participated in the 'Bossuyt Girls Hockey Tournament Tamra' from 17- 20 Oct. for the first time. All of them played quite well and won initial two matches in the tournament.

Our school closed for the Puja holidays on 21st Oct. and the parish community dispersed for many

programmes immediately. Fr. Sikander Tirkey preached a three days' retreat to the Jesuit candidates of St. Aloysius' Apostolic College, Ranchi from Oct. 21- 24, and opened their hearts and minds for the Jesuit mission and vision. Fr. Tejmati Bage attended the IPP programme for the Jesuits and the collaborators in Bagaicha, Namkum from Oct. 22- 24, and returned with many ideas and plans. Meanwhile three catechists took the responsibility of looking after the parish and guarded it from all unwarranted elements. Thanks to all for their generosity and humble service to the parish community. The three youths from Sogra parish attended the BIJHAN youth convention, at Khunti from Oct. 21- 23, and returned with enriching experiences and visions. They shared their experiences and challenged the parish youths with the motto of the convention, "Change yourself and Change the World". On 21st Oct., the parishioners celebrated the 'Nawakhani' with great joy and offered their first fruits to God in the church. Some village units namely Sandih and Beritoli celebrated separately in their village units. Meanwhile Fr. Sikander Tirkey as a pastor and social worker is very busy in whole of the parish.

*Fr. Tej Matti Bage*

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## ASSAM MISSION

### Kathalguri

On 2nd Oct., Catechists' meeting was held at Loyola Parish in the evening. Among 65 participants include catechists, youths and parish council members. The agenda of the meeting were Parish Sabha collection, liturgy, receptions of guests, cultural and food management, involvement of youth, etc. In the

following week parish youth meeting was held in the parish. Mr. Pintu Dodray and Ms. Anna Hembrom were elected sabha president and secretary respectively. On 13th Oct., Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting was held in Bishop's House, Bongaigoan. The theme of the meeting was "New Evangelization and the Year of Faith". The theme was highlighted

by Rev. Fr. Curiacose, the Rector of the Orientals, Shillong. Fr. Jerome together with Mr. Ismail Hembrom, the parish secretary took part in the meeting. From 19-21, Fr. Pradeep conducted an orientation and animation programme for youths at Gossaigoan.

Loyola School had unit test for school children from Oct. 19-26. This unit test kept students busy with their studies. The long awaited Parish Sabha was held on Oct. 27-28 in the Loyola parish. On 27th evening, 15 members from 17 units came to the parish and spent time in prayer and adoration. Next day Bishop arrived at Loyola Parish. He was welcomed with open arms by the parishioners. It was quite heartening to see a big number of faithful. The new school hall was packed to its capacity with people who had come to witness the annual Parish Sabha. On this auspicious day 122 children were confirmed and 102 children received the first communion. The liturgy lasted almost two and half hours. After the Holy Mass there was a short cultural programme followed by fellowship meal and common dance.

*Fr. Jerome Dungdung*

### **Pengaree**

On 2nd of October there was a day of recollection for the priests in Dibrugarh. Dominic and Telesphore both participated in the programme. On 6th of October Karam Feast was celebration in Pengaree (12 No. Line). Preparation was affected due to continuous rain. In the evening Fr. Dominic accompanied the group from 13 No line and Telesphore joined late but reached to the spot to initiate the karam welcome prayer. After evening ceremony, Dominic and Telesphore came back to the parish and the others enjoyed singing and dancing till late night. Next morning Mass was organised. From all over the Parish the faithful came for the celebration. After the Mass there were dance competitions. All were served meal after the programme.

On 7th of October, three Irish guests visited Pengaree to make a Video for raising funds for the education works of our children through EDUCO.. Already they have done quite a bit through EDUCO for Pengaree and extending now to Bogapani Digboi School. Mr. Grattan Boylan, the founder, sent members of EDUCO - Mrs Sheana, Mrs Karen and Mr. Ross - to Pengaree who stayed for three days and made all

possible videography so that it may be presented to the benefactors. Fr. Xavier guided them from airport. He stayed with us throughout their stay at Pengaree. It was a graceful time for all of us. All three guests namely Sheana, Karen and Ross enjoyed thoroughly here at Pengaree.

21 matric students filled up their Board Exam forms on 11th October through the guidance of Fr. Telesphore. He sat with Govt. school teachers and checked the files and filled up forms of the class X students.

On 20th October, Bogapani School levelling work started by employing JCB and Mr. Papoli Chaudhry from Borbil helped the JCB work. All our schools closed for a week for Puja holidays.

There was a joint Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh and Youth meeting on 21st October. Many people were present there. However, youth presence was very poor. Some 10 girls were present but boys presence was nil. People were concerned about the situation. Fr. Mukul from Mornai, Kathalguri came to give retreat to the Pengaree youth. There were 75 youth participants. The programme was conducted for two days due to meeting and Catholic Sabha football final match. Mohong became the champion and carried away the Shield. Fr. Dominic had gone to Ranchi for the burial of his sister in law, who died in Bokaro and was buried in Kudda parish. She was 85 years old.

Fr. Telesphore had gone to Mohong village on 28 October Sunday (evening) for the Bible Sunday Programme. In the evening there was the confession, Mass and thereafter different types of biblical competitions. The young and old all participated in the programme with fervour. Programme ended at mid night but it was really good and worth seeing it.

*Fr. Telesphore Lakra*

### **Mushalpur**

On 6 October there was Baksa District level Science exhibition held and St. Xavier's School Mushalpur bagged the third prize. From 9th October the third and fourth Unit tests in the school were conducted. This time the performance of the students is much better.

On 19 October there was a meeting with parents. The proposals to have the SMART classes in the school and to have school bus facility for conveyance were readily accepted by them.

On 20 October there was a singing competition for all the students starting from L.K.G. to Class X. Many students took very active part and prizes were given to all the winners for encouragement.

*Fr. Pradeep Kullu*

### **Manas Bansbari**

Completion of the construction works was in full swing under the guidance of Mr. Dilip. St. Anne's Convent was completed. On this auspicious occasion two of our benefactors Mr. Nathan and Mr. Ranjan from Sri Lanka were also present. They cut the ribbon of the new convent and Fr. Xavier blessed the new convent on first of November. On this occasion two counsellors Srs. Evelyn DSA and Bernadette DSA along with other Sisters from Damanpur Convent were present. There was agape meal for all the guests. Frs. Santosh SDB and Nichodim Topno SDB from Barpeta Road community were also present for the occasion. Indeed it was a red letter day in the history of Manas Bansbari and also in the annals of the Daughters of St. Anne's. The ceiling and grill work in St. Xavier's School is going on in full swing and within 2 weeks it will be done.

Fr. Ajay Tirkey has passed his M.ED exams in first division. Congratulations. Well done Ajay. In spite of busy life you have done well.

*Fr. Ajay Tirkey*

### **Tezpur**

Fr. Xavier was on the move in the month of October. From October 7 to 10 he accompanied 3 Irish guests - Mrs. Sheana, Mrs Karen and Mr. Ross - who had come from Ireland to make a film over our works at St. Xavier's school Pengaree, Konapathar and Bogapani.

29 October to 2nd November, Xavier was with two Sri Lankan friends Mr. Nathan and Ranjan. He showed them the income generating activities at Missamari and also the flood affected areas where our people were very badly affected under Sootea constituency. The guests visited Balipara, St. John's school, Holy Cross Convent, Girls Hostel Balipara and New Catholic Church at Balipara parish. They inspected the college construction works and discussed with the contractor and Jesuits Fathers. Fr. Xavier accompanied them to Manas Bansbari and Mushalpur also and finally reached them to Guwahati airport on 2nd November.

Meanwhile Gana Chetna Samaj team was busy with flood relief material distribution and food distribution in two centres on 25 and 26 October for more than 3000 families.

*Fr. Xavier Lakra*

### **Balipara**

During Puja holidays, 3 Jesuits of Balipara community visited Tawang, the Buddhist centre, through the kindness of one of the Army Officers who is known to them. The Army Officer made all necessary arrangement for their accommodation for 4 nights. The trip was very relaxing, memorable and enjoyable one.

The painting of the Catholic Church is going on in full swing. The blessing of the Balipara Catholic Church is fixed for 16 December. All are invited on this occasion.

On 31 October St. John's School welcomed the Sri Lankan guests with much warmth and fervour. Both the guests visited St. Xavier's College Sonabheel also and they were welcomed by Adivasi, Assamese, Boro and Misings dances. The guests were very much touched and impressed by the amount of works is done for the growth and wellbeing of the students.

*Fr. Xavier Lakra*

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## ANDAMANS

### **Diglipur**

It is the custom of Diglipur parish that the Birthday of Our Lady, on 8th Sept., is celebrated with great fervour and devotion. This year too it was solemnly celebrated. The faithful had the novena prayer in Diglipur parish and in Valankanni church, Keralapuram simultaneously which was followed by the Holy

Eucharist. On 8th Sept., we went to Velankanni church in procession saying the rosary and singing hymns. We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration there after which lunch was served for all. In the evening, the Maria Sena members gathered in the Parish in order to celebrate the Birthday of Mother Mary. After their usual prayers they cut the birthday cake in honour of our Lady. Many of

us were invited to share that joyful moment. They served snacks to all as they wanted to share their happiness with us. It was a fitting and meaningful celebration.

Since there were just a few but extremely busy days before the celebration of Karam we decorated the Parish Church on 7th Sept. itself. The Karam feast was organized on 9th. With the arrival of the Karam Raja the Holy Mass began with the entrance dance. After having a solemn and meaningful Eucharistic celebration, we had the Karam Dance Competition. All the participants received prizes, naturally by the Parish Priest, Fr. Edward. On this joyful day, we also had common Karam dance. Learners were trying their best to match their steps with the drum beats.

On 11th eve, Frs. Benedict Kiro and Alexander Tirkey arrived in Diglipur and, on 12th Sept., we set out for Port Blair in order to participate in the Annual programme of the Andaman and Nicobar Diocese.

On 21st Oct., we celebrated the Mission Sunday. With the entrance hymn the Holy Bible was brought and placed in front of the altar. The whole liturgical celebration gave us the feeling that the Lord has entrusted us with the mission and we have to become missionary wherever we are. After the Mass, "Mina Bazaar" was organized by different sanghs and SCC groups.

After that, the Youth Centre Meeting started. About 110 youths turned up for this meeting. All of them took an active part in it. All left after having had a lunch.

The celebration of SCC day and the inauguration of the "Year of Faith" were fixed on 28th Oct. These two events doubled our joy. Our Christian life basically depends on faith, which is lived out in the Christian Community. In fact, it was the celebration of life itself. In order to make the Holy Eucharist more participatory, lively, and meaningful, different SCC groups were given diverse roles in the liturgical celebration.

Just after the Eucharist, we had a ceremonial opening of the "Year of Faith". All the SCC leaders with Bibles in their hands entered the church in procession. Once the procession reached the altar, enthronement of the main Bible took place. This was followed by a short Bible reading by Mr. Nirmal Soreng. He himself delivered the message. He enumerated the ways and means of growing in faith in our day-to-day living. The next on the programme was the biblical role play. It was really very fascinating. Finally, we had the Bible quiz competition based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Winners were given prizes and other participants were also given consolation prizes. Again, the Parish Priest, Fr. Edward gave away the prizes.

*Fr. Anil Kandulna*

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## DIASPORA

### **Gregorian University Rome**

On 8 October, the new Academic Year for the Gregorian University was inaugurated with a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Church of St. Ignatius. The Holy Mass was presided over by R.P. Rector and was attended by a large number of students, teachers, non-teaching staff members and a good number of Ecclesial and State authorities. The liturgy was meticulously planned and executed well under the guidance of Prem, who continues to be the Chaplain of the University for another year. The enthusiastic and confident spirit of our two new men - Suman and Sylverius - was evident from the first day of the classes, as Suman read one of the Prayers of the Faithful in Hindi with full gusto. Their hard work of three months in learning the Italian language and culture is being tested now during the lessons, which are held only in Italian. Sometimes, the matters taught seem to be out of their

grasp; but they are working hard with an ardent hope to turn the tide in their favor. There are 35 students from 23 different countries in their batch. So, Suman and Sylverius are adapting themselves diligently to the international way of life in the University as well as within their community, that is, Collegio Bellarmino.

Linus is keeping pace with the demands from the University on the academic level. He had dedicated full time and energy to prepare a course, which fell on his shoulders almost suddenly as the actual Professor fell sick. Calmly and confidently, he is trying his best in every new responsibility. Justin is doing a wonderful job for the Hindi section of the Vatican Radio. He has expanded and made the E-Samachar more attractive and appealing. It is a Hindi Website which covers almost every bit of news and views from the Holy See. After a long and arduous journey of learning traffic signs and symbols, he finally passed the test to obtain

the driving license. There is no doubt that he will pass the practical exam too without any difficulty. Next time, our Jesuit and non-Jesuit friends from Ranchi will receive an additional cordial welcome from Justin.

On 28 October, the adivasi brothers and sisters living in Rome accorded a hearty welcome to His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo amidst them. His Eminence was not keeping well during the Synod of Bishops. He was admitted to Gemelli Hospital for three days. On top of all that 28 October was the concluding day of the Synod; but he gladly accepted the invitation to come immediately after the conclusions of the Synod and spend some time with the adivasi community. He was surprised to see a relatively large group of adivasis in

Rome. Indeed, this year the number has gone beyond the half-century mark. He presided over the Eucharistic celebration, during which he spelled out beautifully the profound meaning of faith and re-evangelization. No wonder, he left everybody present spell-bound. Under the leadership of Justin, the ABHAS (Akhil Bhartiya Adivasi Samuday) team did a wonderful job to gather together most of the adivasi brothers and sisters living in Rome and to make the meeting with His Eminence a memorable one. Such gatherings always strengthen the spirit of communion and belongingness in a foreign land and becomes a source of mutual support and encouragement.

*Fr. Prem Kalra*

### LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**Fr. Theodore Toppo, S.J. (89)** died on 16 Oct. 2012 at Nairobi Hospital.

**Fr. Walter Ekka, S.J. (58)** passed away on 10 Oct. 2012.

**Fr. Desiderio Pinto, S.J.,** died on 27 Oct. 2012.

**Fr. Walter Pillen, S.J. (88)** died on November 4, 2012.

**Mrs. Margaret Tirkey (75),** mother of Fr. Francis Minj, S.J. died on 24 Oct. 2012.

### FR. THEODORE TOPPO SJ

[1923-2012]

Fr. Theodore Toppo, SJ (Kenya Eastern Africa Province) died at Nairobi Hospital on 16 October 2012. Fr. Toppo was born on 9 June 1923 in Karanjtoli, Jharkhand. He joined the Ranchi Province and did his novitiate from 1942-44 at St. Stanislaus' College Sitagarha, followed by his Juniorate at the same place from 1944 to 1946. He went to Sacred Heart College Shembaganur for his Philosophy (1946-48). He was assigned to St. John's High School, Ranchi for his regency from 1952 to 1955.

Father Toppo went to Eastern Africa in 1976 as one of the several Jesuits missioned by the Provincial of Ranchi to work in Sudan. He taught at St. Mary's Senior Seminary Wau from 1976 to 1980. He was the Superior of the Jesuit Community and Consultor of the Regional Superior from 1976 to 1983. In 1984 he

became the Assistant Pastor of the Holy Family Parish and the Director of the Nazareth Christian Community Centre.

In 1998 Toppo was assigned to Kenya as Chaplain at Materi Girls' Centre, Meru, where he worked until 2004, the year he was assigned to Pedro Arrupe community Nairobi, to care for his health and pray for the Society and the Church.

Toppo lived his life to the full and embodied the very essence of simplicity, compassion, hospitality and joy. He rarely missed an occasion to celebrate Jesuit companionship in mission. He welcomed everybody with a smile. His retinue of friends was a testimony to his singular apostolic charm and hospitality.

*(From the news of Fr. Provincial, AOR)*

### Father Walter Ekka, S.J.

(1954-2012)

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28). These words echoed in the life of Fr. Walter Ekka who died of a severe heart attack on 10th Oct. 2012, at Guru Nanak Hospital, Ranchi. He was 58 years old.

Walter Ekka was born on 11th May 1954 in Noadih-Dera. He was the eldest among three brothers and five sisters. His primary schooling was in Noadih.

He went to St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla as an apostolic boy for his high school from where he matriculated in 1971. After completing his Intermediate studies at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi in 1973, he joined the Jesuit Novitiate at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha. He learnt and experienced the Jesuit way of life with great eagerness and generosity. After his Juniorate at Sitagarha, he returned to Ranchi where he did his B. A. at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. In 1979 he went to

Shembaganur for his philosophical studies. At the end of the First Year, the Faculty was shifted from the hills to warm and humid weather of Satya Nilayam, Chennai where he completed his study of Philosophy. Thereafter Walter had two years of regency at St. Xavier's School Doranda before being sent for theology in 1983 at the newly started Regional Theology Centre (Tarunoday), Arsandey. After the First Year, he went to Vidya Jyoti, Delhi to continue his theology there. Walter was ordained a priest on 17th May 1986 in Noadih after which he did a year of pastoral work at Catholic Church Dighia.

Walter was a studious person and his superiors thought of sending him for higher studies. Thus, he was sent to Loyola College Chennai for a Master's Degree in English Literature. He secured First Class in M. A. He joined St. Xavier's College as a Lecturer on 1st January 1989 and was given the additional responsibility of looking after the Loyola Hostel nearly a kilometre down the then Purulia Road, Ranchi. After a few years, he was made the Assistant Hostel Superintendent of St. Xavier's College Hostel. Meanwhile, Walter went for tertianship at Lonavla. On his return he assumed the responsibility of the Hostel Superintendent. He spent 12 years with the hostel boys. Walter pronounced his Final Vows on 15th Aug. 1997 in St. John's Chapel Ranchi. In 2002, he was appointed as the registrar of the college.

Father Water Ekka will be remembered as a loving and caring teacher by the students. He was the state advisor for AICUF and organized camps and workshops every year. He has left indelible memories in the lives of the youth. Many AICUF students called him "Baba"

because of his credibility, integrity, and sincerity.

In the course of his stay in the hostel, he found out that his health was worsening. He consulted the doctors and it was diagnosed that he was having blood pressure and diabetes. He regularly consulted the doctors and followed their advice. He was also quite regular for physical exercises.

In June 2011, Fr. Walter was appointed Spiritual and Study Guide of the College-Juniors at Manresa House, Ranchi. He shifted his residence from the College Community to Manresa House but continued his duties of teaching and taking care of the Registrar's Office in the College. He was very particular about meeting the College Juniors for spiritual talks.

Fr. Walter had a desire to grow every day. He was a seeker and looked for new and effective means to enrich himself and others. In pursuit of intellectual excellence, he registered himself for doctoral studies in the Ranchi University, Ranchi and got his Ph.D. in English in January 2012. The thesis of his research was- African Fiction: A Study in Paradigm. He also authored a book *Adivasi Yuva: Soch, Gati aur Disha*. This book is the outcome of his interaction with the AICUF and other students and his personal reflections on the tribal youth.

Walter was deeply aware of his life as the precious gift of God who had chosen him to work in his vineyard. So, whether in good or ill-health, he lived it accepting everything as it came his way. In a way, his life can be summed up in three words- compassion, commitment and competence.

*Fr. Nabor Lakra*

## BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 04 | Jaecques Raymond                                   |
| 05 | Kerketta Camil<br>Minj Damian C.                   |
| 06 | Lakra Peter C.                                     |
| 07 | Lakra Amit   |
| 09 | Kerketta Ranjan M.<br>Minj Sudhir Kr.              |
| 10 | Kujur Augustine<br>Soreng Ajay Remis<br>Toppo Alok |
| 12 | Soreng Vinod S.<br>Tirkey Alexander                |
| 13 | Bage Roshan  |
| 15 | Kujur Marianus J.<br>Soreng Fuldeo                 |
| 16 | Minj Walter Xavier<br>Barla Thomas                 |
| 17 | Brys Aurel   |
| 21 | Tigga Swarn  |
| 23 | Ekka Clement                                       |
| 26 | Minj Linus   |

### DECEMBER

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 01 | Surin Elias   |
| 07 | Tirkey Vijay Manohar                                |
| 10 | Breye Erik  |
| 11 | Kerketta Sanjay                                     |
| 18 | Xalxo Ignatius<br>Bage Kamal Chandra<br>Toppo Bruno |
| 20 | Tigga Lalit Peter                                   |
| 22 | Bilung Gilbert<br>Kullu Ferdinand                   |
| 23 | Toppo Christopher                                   |
| 24 | Lakra Christopher                                   |
| 25 | Barla Emmanuel<br>Kujur Ernest                      |
| 26 | Beck Milianus                                       |
| 29 | Dungdung John B.                                    |