



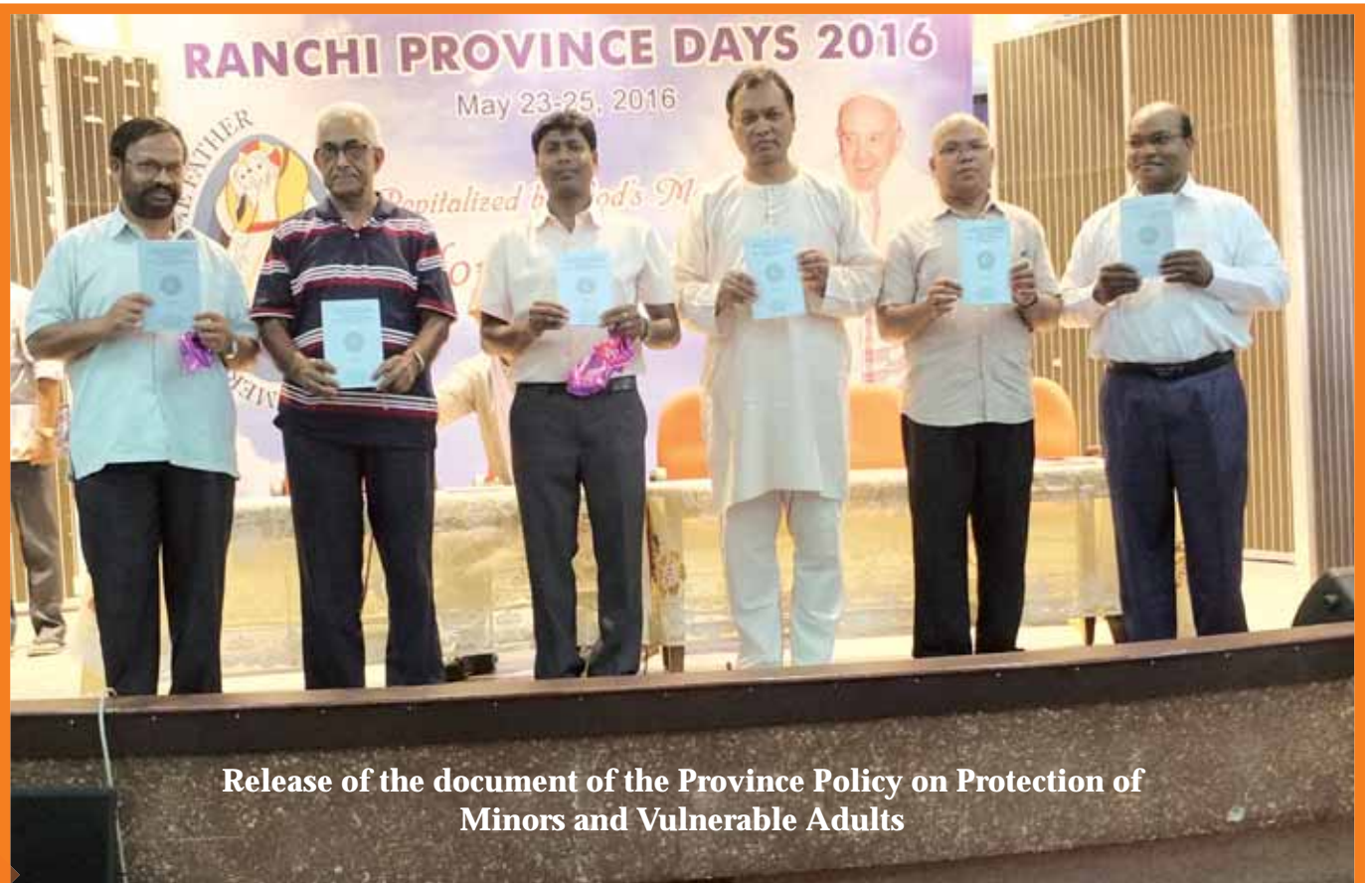
Ranchi Jesuits

Year Book 2017





Release of 'Ranchi Jesuits' Year Book 2016



Release of the document of the Province Policy on Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults

Ad Majorem
Dei Gloriam!

Ranchi
JESUITS
YEAR BOOK 2017



Imprimi potest

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Foreword

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ

Provincial Superior, Ranchi Jesuit Society

The third volume of the ‘Ranchi Jesuits Year Book 2017’ is in our hands. The credit goes to the Chief Editor Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess and his team. Congratulations! The Year Book brings to the fore the achievements, good practices and vision for the future. It also captures the struggles, brokenness but resilience of Jesuits and their collaborators in the far-flung areas of Jharkhand, Assam and the Andamans. The volume is also a rich tribute to those working in international missions in Guyana, Cambodia, Jerusalem, Egypt, Africa and Rome. It is the celebration time for all of us because God is good and has blessed us with plenty.

On 22 May 2017, I completed three years in Provincial’s office. I thank God for all His blessing during these years! I also thank each one of you personally for being kind to me. The third year was much more challenging than the first two years. The last year was rather hectic due to Governance Commission work and GC36 preparatory workshops in and outside India apart from many other issues related to our institutions, communities, apostolates, persons and properties.

The Province Days-2017 is very special because of the presence of none other than Fr. George Pattery, the Provincial and President of South Asian Jesuit Conference and also Fr. John Lee, the Provincial of China.

1. An overview of the ‘Ranchi Province: 10 Years from 2007’

The theme of the Province Days 2007 was ‘Ranchi Province: 10 Years from 2007’ and three areas, namely education, pastoral and social, were taken for analyzing the then existing trends. Before going into the details and other intricacies of the three said areas, it will be appropriate to compare the general trends of 2007 and 2017.

General trends

- In 2007, the rural-urban migration was on the increase: Life was increasingly getting an urban-industrial look. In 2017, life in Ranchi is pretty much the same.
- In 2007, there was an increase in the overall population but was a general decrease in the population of STs. In 2017, the trend continues. While in 2001 census the population of the state of Jharkhand was more than 26 million, in 2017, it has shot up to more than 32 million. While STs of the state have out-migrated to other states like Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala, to name a few, more than 50 lakh outside non-ST population has in-migrated to Jharkhand.
- In 2007, there was an increasing inroad of fundamentalist politics to affect civic life, especially the minorities. In 2017, what we see is a deadly nexus of corporate and communalism. The minority bashing

has reached its peak. There is an alarming situation for the minorities. While the Muslim community continues to be demonized as ‘anti-national’, the Christian minority is branded as a conversion agency. There is indeed serious conflict between the Indian nationalism on the one hand and Hindu nationalism on the other.

- In 2007, the poverty breeding militancy was sometimes found with political nexus. In 2017, militancy has nexus with bureaucracy, political class and the corporate.
- In 2007, there was an increasing collaboration with other churches, religious groups and like-minded people. In 2017, this collaboration has not only expanded but has also intensified. Unity is the only way for the survival of the minority communities. All Churches Committee’s existence and its activities is one clear example of strategizing for their socio-cultural and political survival.
- In 2007, tribals were ignored and sidelined by the general population. In 2017, this alienation of the tribals is further intensified by the right wing central and state governments. One clear example of this is the amendment of CNT/SPT Act, domicile policy and land bank policy of the government. Never in the past was such a horrific and threatening situation for the tribals as it is now. The situation seems even worse than emergency. Banning of cow slaughter and other meats, talk of anti-conversion bill, cancellation of FCRA of the church-related organizations, Rahgiri on Sundays obstructing the church goers, declaring 25th December, the day of Christmas, as the good governance day, etc. prove the point.
- In 2007, it was pointed out that there was a low quality of vocation and end product of formation. However, in my last three years of experience I have found a qualitative difference in our vocations. Despite various constraints and limitations, the province-men are working hard to equip themselves to be effective in their apostolate. This positive attitude is very much appreciated. The number of qualified personnel for all sectors has gone up – in some minuscule, in others many more.

2. Vision 2017: the roadmap of the Province for the next 10 years

Visualizing the context in the next 10 years:

In the socio-economic and political front, there will be further marginalization of the already marginalized groups, particularly that of adivasis, moolvasis, dalits and Christians. It is likely that the land rights will be a thing of the past – making the situation of the adivasis like that of red Indians and others who have no land in India and outside.

The nexus between the corporate, bureaucracy and political class will be at its height and the marginalized sections of society will be the biggest casualty.

Efforts will be made to do away with the reservation policy. Even if the policy remains due to the resistance of the people, it will be ineffective and irrelevant due to rampant privatization and unfavorable government policies.

Unemployment will continue to be on the rise and there will be dissatisfaction across the country. The locals will be continued to be ignored in jobs.

There will be no personal secrecy. Adhaar number will be sold to the companies. There will be emergency like situation – if one opposes the government and its policies, he will be dubbed as anti-national and anti-social.

The space of democracy will continue to further shrink. Anti-conversion act may be a reality infringing upon the rights of the citizenry. Cow slaughter may be prohibited all through.

Education will continue to be saffronised. The life of the minority institutions will be more and more difficult on false charges of conversion and flouting of laws concerning their institutions and financial management.

In the given circumstances, more competitiveness and competencies will be required not only of the job-seekers laity but also of the Jesuits running institutions, development centers and parishes.

Response of the Ranchi Jesuits to the above situation in the next decade

A follow-up of Reorienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness (REGAE) of our Ministries

Phase-1: The Way Forward after the Phesama JCSA in 2014

The JCSA meeting in Phesama in 2014 discerned to take the Ignatius' dream of 'A Universal Body for a Universal Mission' forward. To this end, a Commission was set up under the Chairmanship of Julian Fernandes, to study the restructuring process in the South Asian Assistancy. Based on its interim report of November 2015, 3 sub-commissions were constituted, namely (1) the Spiritual Animation Process (SAP), (2) Formation, and (3) Governance.

The SAP, which was built on the deliberation of the First Fathers, facilitated Ignatian framework for the 2 other Commissions. More than 3500 Jesuits across South Asian Assistancy participated in the same. The main purpose of SAP was to prepare the Jesuits of the Assistancy "for eventual discernment on **reorienting** our ministries, formation and governance **for greater apostolic effectiveness**" (REGAE) (POSA Circular 2017/05; 3 May 2017).

The Joint Report of the Commission was presented during the JCSA in Jabalpur in the presence of Most Reverend Father Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, who endorsed the process.

Phase-2: Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia in Post-JCSA in Jabalpur 2017

JCSA in Jabalpur in February 2017 discerned to take REGAE forward for which a Core Team was appointed with Fernando Franco as Coordinator ad R.C. Chacko, Jossie D'Mello, Jeyaraj Veluswamy and Francis Minj as members.

The focus in the second phase will be on the 3 streams: (a) REGAE stream, (2) GC 36 stream, and (3) Apostolic Planning & Apostolic Priorities stream.

The methodology of the 'head & heart' of the participants will be followed.

The main task of the Core Team is to prepare a module for the next phase of REGAE to be implemented at Zonal level. Its task also is to prepare Zonal teams to organize training sessions at the Zonal level.

The REGAE module in the second phase is expected to discern on the following issues:

- a. The Secretariats/Commissions at the Zonal/Assistancy levels
- b. The Apostolic Priorities of the Conference/Zones
- c. The Re-orienting of our apostolates at the Province/Region/Zone levels, leading to a re-drawing of boundaries of Province/Regions if needed

The Jabalpur JCSA proposed the following priorities of which one or more can be taken up by each Region/Province/Zone as its priority in consonance with the apostolic priorities of the universal Society:

- a. Peace and Reconciliation: Response to Fundamentalism, Casteism, Nationalism
- b. Ecology and Justice
- c. Informal Education, Literacy and Skilling
- d. Quality Education and Research: School and Higher Education in particular
- e. Entitlement (Lok Manch) including Food, Water and entitlements of the marginalized groups of SCs & STs under the sub-plans
- f. Migration: land alienation, displacement, trafficking

- g. 'A new way of being a Jesuit Pastor'
- h. Ignatian Spirituality

Modus Operandi in the light of GC36 call:

Discernment, collaboration and networking at all levels to make the governance in the province more effective, so that the apostolic priorities of the province identified, are addressed properly within the framework of the province apostolic planning:

a. Depth – spiritual and intellectual

We need a formidable combination of the head and heart, spiritual and intellectual. While spiritual depth is necessary for freedom from all inordinate attachments, intellectual depth is inevitable to bring about a social transformation from all external anti-life and anti-people forces. Hence, we do not speak either of spiritual or intellectual depth in isolation. We rather insist upon an integral vision of depth in Ignatian spirituality and intellectual pursuit. This integral vision will enable our youngsters not only to engage in rigorous academics but also to a learned approach in all our ministries with interior freedom.

The apostolic planning for the above vision will include training of ours in social sciences, pastoral psychology, spirituality, counseling, indigenous knowledge system and others, to inculcate in them intellectual rigor. Given the multitude of educational institutions and centers of spirituality, formation, social action and pastoral ministry, a minimum of Master's Degree and B. Ed/TTC will be required of a sizable number of province men. In view of the growing need of the higher education, the province needs to prepare personnel and develop infrastructures in the field of higher education. In short, this vision hopes to prepare quality men – spiritually and intellectually – at different stages of formation to be able to address the issues and problems of the post-modern world.

b. Strengthening education at all levels – primary, middle, higher secondary, intermediate, degree and above

We will not open any more English school. We will rather strengthen whatever English Medium and other schools that we have. English will be emphasized in our Hindi medium schools. English medium schools will have to perform well. Inter-College will be opened in Lohradaga and other schools wherever necessary. The lack of Jesuit staff in our schools will be compensated by committed lay staff. Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm (IPP) and Jesuit Legacy in our schools will be given regularly.

St. Xavier's College Simdega will start B. Ed. next year and eventually B. Sc. either next year or in its third year.

St. Xavier's College Ranchi will further expand in the old St. John's School campus with multi-storey building facilities for guests, class-rooms and also for shifting St. Xavier's Inter College. It will also have a girls' hostel in the land near Kantatoli chowk. Our dream is that in the near future St. Xavier's College also starts the department of foreign languages teaching French, German, Spanish and Italian.

St. Xavier's College Ranchi is not going in for University status due to far-reaching financial consequences. XISS, however, will go for the university status, as soon as it fulfills all the criteria. About 25 acres of land in Namkom are being made available for XISS to have a campus like XIMB or XLRI.

Kishore Nagar is going in for a sea change in its infra-structure and approach. In the coming months, the school will go in for opening permission from the Government followed by other requirements for its up-gradation. There will be separate hostels for students of different age groups.

St. Xavier's Doranda will further expand with the realization of its Vision 2020 on the eastern part of the Senior Section building.

Adhyanan (An Educational Organization) with its expertise in assessing school education has evaluated 10 schools of the province with the help of Porticus (funding agency). We look forward to the assessment of the remaining schools so that we can enhance the quality of our education and management.

The Province will keep building up corpus for the private teachers so that they can be given a good salary package to live a life of dignity and self esteem.

c. Conflict, Peace and Reconciliation: Response to fundamentalism, nationalism, ecological degradation, development-induced displacement, land-alienation, migration, human rights, under-trials, etc.

Conflict takes place due to various factors. One of those factors is identity. Some of the sources of identity conflict are based on religion, ethnicity, territory, natural and other resources, etc. The Ranchi Jesuit Society can and should play an important role in establishing peace and harmony wherever there is conflict, war, tension, etc., which necessarily means social justice, ecological justice, assertion of people's rights to protect and promote their existence, identity and culture, demand for entitlements, etc.

The apostolic planning will involve preparing men in the above areas, collaborating and networking with others to be able to intervene efficaciously. The province should have 6 Ph.Ds in 2 years and until 2017, there should be about 10 Ph.D holders.

d. Collaboration and networking

Collaboration and networking have become the buzzwords, especially after GC36. The province has collaboration with more than 10 Religious Congregations in Ranchi, Assam and the Andamans. Collaboration with laity is another area much emphasized by GC36. These two need to be further deepened and expanded. Inter-sectoral collaboration is much to be desired. The zonal collaboration between the five provinces is also to be assessed and strengthened. Viable and concrete programme of collaboration will be worked out at the inter-provincial, zonal and Assistancy levels, and thus maximizing the use of our resources. Rationalizing our commissions at province and zone levels will be rationalised and structures of collaboration will be supported with the Ignatian family of the laity and the religious, in order to promote the Ignatian charism. Collaboration also implies setting aside five per cent of our men for the common works of the South Asian Conference and five per cent for the needs of the universal Society. It also means taking forward the process of redrawing boundaries for greater apostolic availability, without being unduly conditioned by the exigencies of language, culture and civil borders.



e. **Dialogue**

In the midst of the inter-religious tensions, ethnic divisions and conflicts due to pillaging and plundering of tribal land and resources, dialogue has to continue between the Sarna and Christians, different Church denominations, civil society and political class and government machinery. Efforts will be made to take the process of dialogue forward for some concrete result-oriented action.

f. **Pastoral plan**

In view of strengthening the pastoral ministry, emphasis will be given on faith formation, family catechesis, BCC, retreat, seminar, Eucharistic celebration in units and villages, family visits etc.

Lay leaders will be trained with the help of L.N.N.

No more new parishes will be opened but whatever we have will be consolidated and strengthened.

Our Jesuits will be sent for pastoral management programme in Pune, Manila or wherever such a course is available.

Collaboration with the diocese will be done in a big scale. The Ranchi Archdiocese has come out with its pastoral plan. All Religious will be part of that, including the Jesuits.

Agreement will be signed with the Bishops wherever we are working in their dioceses.

Catechists' salary structure will be revisited to enhance it to the extent they can live a life of dignity and self-esteem

g. **Vocations and formation**

Efforts will be stepped up to get vocations for Brotherhood as well. The Brothers Commission will be activated to go round mobilizing various schools, hostels and parishes.

Formation programme will be revisited in order to instil in our men a greater passion for Christ and His mission, and to become learned, and skilled in ministries, imbued with the spirit of collaboration and dialogue. Apart from emphasis on spiritual, intellectual and human formation, emphasis will also be given on singing, music, art and theatrics. This will require training of our men in formation with a vision for the future.

h. **Financial management**

Ranchi Province is divided into 5 zones, with each zone having one Treasurer, responsible for helping out each community's treasurer to keep accounts in conformity with the guidelines of the Province Finance Commission. Finance Commission will ensure that the all centers follow the Government laws and norms of the Society of Jesus without fail. Finance Commission will train the local treasurers to maintain uniformity in the accounting and budgeting system. The province financial behavior will be streamlined for 'financial solidarity', with an attitude of sharing and interior freedom.



From Editor's Desk

Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ

This is the third consecutive volume of the Ranchi Jesuits Province Year Book. It is not only a way of sharing our life and mission but is also an instrument to realize God's ways of leading our lives and His being part of our lives. We are thankful to God for every blessing we receive in our lives individuals and as "friends in the Lord". We share our joys and sorrows with our brethren for whom we work and with our Jesuits with whom we are united in our minds and hearts though we may be geographically quite far from one another.

We are missioned and commissioned by God alone within the country (Jharkhand, Assam, Delhi, Chennai and the Andamans) and across the world (Rome, Jerusalem, Egypt, Cambodia, Africa and Guyana). We all have received the same call to love and serve God in humanity.

I firmly believe that geographically scattered though we are in our mission, we experience a tremendous sense of unity and solidarity with one another. The source of our union of minds and hearts with one another is none other but Jesus Himself. We celebrate our life with Jesus and with one another.

During GC 36, to the Jesuits assembled in the aula of the Jesuit Curia in Rome, Pope Francis gave a call "to pray insistently for consolation". Consolation implies the "great spirit and generosity" that is presupposed in the fifth annotation [5]. St. Ignatius talks of consolation as "every increase in hope, faith and charity and every interior joy.... Peace [316]. This consolation is characteristic of one who is already on the path of Spiritual progress.

"Rowing into the Deep", was the theme for GC 36. The true identity of the sailor is made manifest when he leaves behind the safe shores and rows into the deep. This readiness to go beyond the horizons of our known world is an intrinsic part of our Jesuit identity. GC 36 is asking us to renew our way of proceeding at different levels. This challenge, to gaze at our world with a renewed intellectual and spiritual depth, from the vantage point of the Cross and then row out into the deep, will manifest itself in many different ways in our life and mission.

I invite all Jesuit friends to ponder over our life and mission and enter into the depth of our spiritual being which will give us inner freedom to be generous in giving ourselves completely in true faith, hope, charity and joy.

(From Left to Right)

Sitting – Ajay Soreng, Joseph Marianus Kujur (Provincial), Ajit Xess (Chief Editor) & Cyprian Ekka.

Standing – Alexius Tirkey, Michael Kerketta, Xavier Soreng, Aurel Bryse & Francis Minj.



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SERVENT OF GOD, FATHER CONSTANT LIEVENS

Fr. Ajay Soreng, SJ

Constant Lievens had landed at Jamgain village, a small mission centre, on 19 March 1885, where Fr. De Cock, SJ, had already been stationing since 1882. He arrived there from Doranda for the first time with a purpose of helping out De Cock, in the mission work and to explore the possibilities of winning souls among the tribals of Chotanagpur. Having worked there for six months he left Jamgain and headed to Torpa to operate the mission from there. De Cock also left Jamgain after a year or two and went to Dighia to found a new mission station which became successful. Since then Jamgain was abandoned. To this day, only a primary school along with a small village chapel remains there as a small unit of Hullhundu Parish.

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ, sent information from Rome for the *Ranchi Bulletin*, dated February 2016, which read as follows: “On Thursday, 21 January 2016, the canonization process of Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, moved one step forward with the public opening of the *ACTA of the Process* and the collection of evidences in the Aula Magna of the congregation for the Causes of Saints. Mons. Giacomo Pappalardo of the congregation opened the seals in the presence of P. Anton Witwer, Jesuit Postulator General, his Assistant P. Marc Lindeijer and the Canon Law students of Pontifical Gregorian University. Frs. Linus Kujur, SJ, and Prem Xalxo, SJ, three St. Anne Sisters Alma Xalxo, Anupa Kujur and Ranjita Minj represented not only the Archdiocese of Ranchi, but also the face of a vibrant and ever-growing Church of Chotanagpur. Mons. Pappalardo opened the letter of H. Ex. Josef de Kesel, Archbishop of Bruges, which communicated the completion of the diocesan phase of the Postulation and the seal of the Box was broken containing the documentation of the testimonies on the life and virtues of the Servant of God, which is called *ACTA (Acts)*.”

Back home at Ranchi and more particularly at Jamgain R.C. Primary School premises on 19 March 2016, Ranchi Archdiocese declared a special year “**A Year Dedicated to Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens**”. This special year began on 19 March 2016 and concluded on 19 March 2017. This was a Jubilee Year for Ranchi Archdiocese.

On this occasion there was a solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, DD and eight other bishops: Bp. Emeritus Charles Soreng, SJ, Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, John Barwa, DD, Auxiliary Bp. Theodore Mascarenhas, DD, Auxiliary Bp. Telesphore Bilung, DD, Bp. Felix Toppo, DD, Bp. Paul Lakra, DD, Bp. Binay Kandulna, DD and Bp. Anand Jojo, DD. There were 101 priests concelebrating at the Holy Eucharist, attended by about 200 Religious Sisters and more than 4000 faithful. The laity and Religious of Hullhundu Parish had taken up the responsibility of all the arrangements – the decorations, choir, shamiyana, furniture, drinking water, etc. In the end all present were served with well prepared lunch.

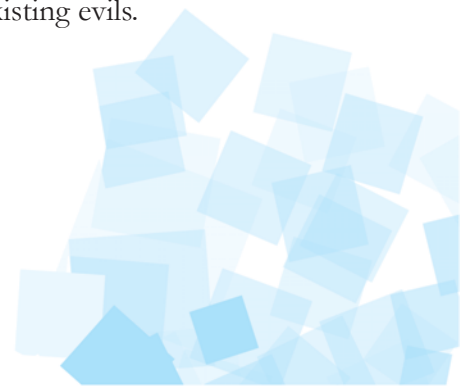




Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur & Fr. Francis Minj in the house of Mr. Gilbert Lievens (Fr. C. Liveins' Grand Nephew) in Moorslede (Belgium)

In his homily, the Cardinal referred to the glimpses from the past about Lievens. Lievens wrote to his family in Belgium thus – “The country is full of hills, only one road and the rest small footpaths all around. People are not exactly black like the Negroes, but a little fairer, nose flat, round face and black hair.” Lievens stayed at Jamgain only 6 months or so and shifted to Torpa for his mission work. Ever since 1869, the arrival of the first priest to Chotanagpur, Fr. Augustus Stockmann, SJ, until 1967, altogether 529 missionaries from Europe came to Chotanagpur, that means at the ratio of 5 per year. At the moment only 4 Belgian Missionaries are left in Chotanagpur –Fr. Marc De Brouwer, SJ, (91), Fr. Louis Fracken, SJ, (78), Fr. Aurel Brys, SJ, (76) and Fr. Erik Breye, SJ,(76).

A hundred and thirty five years have passed since Fr. Lievens set his foot in Chotanagpur, then known as Lohardaga Mission as it was the Headquarter of the British Government in Chotanagpur. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens stood out as the instrument of God’s Mercy of the Catholic Church in Chotanagpur. He proclaimed to the people, “the fire must burn”. This special year was expected to promote the Cause of Beatification of Fr. Lievens. Let there be a deepening of faith among the people and spread of the Gospel and emancipation of human society from the existing evils.



FORMING CAPABLE AND COMMITTED JESUITS

Fr. Suman Beck, SJ

The Province has two apostolic schools at the High school level to ‘catch those young’ and one at the Intermediate level, serving as a candidate House. We have our own Pre-Novitiate and the Novitiate. After receiving the First Vows, our scholastics are sent for their further studies.

Aims and Objectives

- To form mature, dedicated, capable and committed Jesuits who are profoundly centered in the love of Christ experienced in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, our Holy Father.
- **Means to Achieve**
- As there are different stages of formation indicated above, those responsible in each stage take care of their men’s growth – human, intellectual, spiritual, psychological, social, cultural, etc.
- Once they are specifically with us from the Pre-Novitiate onwards, the norms of the Assistance pertaining to formation of ours are closely incorporated in our formation policy. For example, in keeping with the Restructuring of the Society, we are sending our men to other provinces while they are in their early stages of formation.
- In the art of theologizing in the local context, the Regional theologians collaborate with the laity and other people of good will. They have ample opportunities to participate in the struggle of faith and justice dimensions.
- Opportunities are provided to our formees to learn to collaborate at the parish level, village level and also in the hospitals with the sick.

The Vocation Promoters and Pre-Novitiate Directors Meet

Ranchi Province had an opportunity to host ‘The Annual Meeting of the Vocation Promoters and Pre-Novitiates Directors’ which held in Jharna, Namkum, from 2 to 8 February 2017. Since this meeting was at the Assistancy level, all the vocation promoters and pre-novitiate directors of South Asian Assistancy were present. Various important issues regarding the vocation and formation were discussed in this meeting.



The formators and directors highly appreciated Ranchi Province, for making this meeting very fruitful with their amazing hospitality and organizing skills. Their visits to various houses in Ranchi gave them an informative and inspiring look into the mission and the ministries of Ranchi Province.

Spiritual Animation Process for the scholastics

Spiritual Animation Process for the scholastics in and around Ranchi was an important practicum, which held in Manresa House, Ranchi from 12 to 14 March 2017 under the guidance of Fr. Irudaya Raj, ADF.



He emphasized on the importance of Spiritual Animation Programme (SAP) for every Jesuit and for the greater apostolic effectiveness in the context of today's changing world. He also invited the group to spend time in prayer and reflection and to find their response to today's world, to make Jesuit life more relevant and effective in the present context.

Novitiate Formation

Two activities of the Novitiate are worth mentioning in this issue: first, since the last few years, the novices from Ashirvad Novitiate have been sent to Assam Mission during their Village Experiment. Thanks to Fr. Xavier Lakra, Delegate of the Provincial, and our men in different mission centres, who make our novices comfortable in their Houses. This exposure is definitely helping them to grow in the sense of the Society's mission outside Chotanagpur. Secondly, the novices have been readily availing themselves to help our aged and sick members in different health centres throughout the year.

At the moment, the total number of the novices in the Province is 34 in which 27 novices (15 first years and 12 second years) are getting their formation in Namkum, while 7 other second year novices are getting the same in Kalingpong, Sitagarha and in Jamshedpur.

Pre-Novitiate, Khunti

The 28 Pre-Novices are given ample opportunities for their holistic growth. The stress is given on spiritual, psychological, pastoral, human and intellectual formation.



St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary, Ranchi

St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary is the Candidates' House of the Ranchi Jesuit Society. The aim and the objective is to continue candidate's own vocation and spiritual life in deeper union with the Lord as one is grounded and rooted in love of Jesus. The spiritual formation is intensive so that they may bear witness to modern times. At present 110 students from Minor Seminary study in St. John's Inter College Ranchi under the guidance of Fr. Binod Toppo, the Director, and Scholastic Johny Kujur, the Assistant Director.



Apostolic Schools (Gumla & Simdega)

In Ranchi Province we have two Apostolic Schools.: One in Gumla and another in Samtoli, Simdega. Apostolic School promotes priestly and religious vocation. Many enthusiastic young boys come here to test and strengthen their vocation to become a priest or a religious. So far it has produced a number of priests and religious including non-Jesuits. At the moment there are 138 and 110 boys getting their initial education in Samtoli and Gumla Apostolic schools respectively.

In the Apostolic school special attention is paid to deepen their spiritual life. In the beginning of the academic year the newcomers are helped by the senior students in learning the prayers and songs in English. They actively take part in the daily Eucharistic celebration, reciting the rosary, reading the Bible every evening, visiting the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the day which strengthens their spiritual life. As a preparation for big feast days, confessions and recollections are arranged. Every Sunday evening the boys meet in their respective groups to evaluate their life in the Apostolic school. We have an annual meeting of the staff, students and parents to see where we are and where we should be.

Care is taken to help them learn and speak English. During summer and Puja holidays four scholastics from Manresa House come here to conduct Spoken English course which ends with a cultural evening when they present skits in English to exhibit what they learn. All have to speak English on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. However, one is encouraged to speak English every day. Apart from this the school caters to the need of spiritual, intellectual and character formation of the students. The school also promotes tribal culture and values of life.



Thirteen second year novices of Ranchi Province pronounced their first vows on 21 June 2016 at Jharna-Ashirvad Novitiate in the presence of a good number of Jesuits, Religious Sisters and local Catholics from the neighborhood.



Fr. Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, received their vows. In his homily he stressed on the following: The two years of prayer and training placed each one upon the Ignatian Charism “Tantum Quantum” meaning using things of the world only as much as they are required and not more and “Agere Contra” to act against our carnal desires for the Greater Glory of God which means He should increase and we should decrease. He also added that “The Two Standards” are the challenging calls to win the world with Christ.

Further, he delineated that the two years of Novitiate life taught us to acquire, learn and appropriate a lot of good and positive qualities and virtues. At the same time we are faced with a lot of negative experiences. This is where the tool of discernment comes in to play as a rare weapon in fighting the evil. However, these two years are a time of being tried, tested and purified in the furnace of God’s plan.

He further reminded that Our Promise to God is a perpetual and personal one to be preserved till the end and so it is unlike changing our clothes. Fidelity, sincerity and commitment are called for.

In the end Fr. Provincial thanked Fr. Raymond Kerketta, SJ, the Novice Master, Fr. Ferdinand Kullu, SJ, Asst. Novice Master, Fr. Superior, K. C. Philip, SJ and the Jharna-Ashirvad community. They all spread a delicious dinner for all present in the end of that ceremonious programme.



Ranchi Jesuits in Mission ...

Pastoral



Education



Social



Formation



Communication, Dialogue, Youth ...

4

INTEGRAL FORMATION: PHILOSOPHY IN PUNE

Sch. Anil Kullu, SJ



De Nobili College Pune (DNC) is one of the biggest formation houses of the Society of Jesus. There are 129 scholastics including a few from other congregations. All the philosophers and theologians pursue their studies in JDV (Jnana-DeepaVidyapeeth). The basic objective of JDV is to have a human and philosophical vision that will promote personal, social and ecological well-being of every person. On the theological level, in the light of Scripture and Tradition, we have to spell out Jesus' vision for India. Our studies over here are making us to have accurate information, critical analysis and creative reflection on the Indian reality, religious pluralism, the Christian faith, and the relationship between science, society and religion. JDV and DNC's vision is leading us to promote dialogue among religions, cultures, communities, and secular movements, in order to make a positive thrust towards enculturation.

On 6 June, the new Academic year 2016-17 was inaugurated by Prof. Mrs. Shashilata Kurpur, Symbiosis Law College, Pune. Apart from Academic life in JDV, we are also engaged in some active ministries which have touched many lives, such as Chotanagpur Cultural Association (CCA) Prison ministry, Slum ministry, Sahelli ministry, etc.

Chotanagpur Cultural Association:

Chotanagpur Cultural Association is a ministry of Central Zone province. It promotes bringing together all tribals working in Pune from different states like Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, west Bengal and Bihar, etc. The Association promotes tribal identity and culture among the people who seem to be on the verge of losing their identity, language and culture. The CCA brings them together by way of organizing Hockey tournament, Karam feast, Bal Diwas (Children day), Annual gathering etc.

Prison Ministry:

It is another most challenging ministry. There are ten brothers who go to remand home to conduct sports for the boys. They seem to be both the extremes good and evil (so to say bad). Sometimes it becomes difficult to interact with them. Yet we do not give up. The authorities over there are very good to us. It is a good time for us to practice our learning and talents. We get lots of appreciation from the PMI (Prison Ministry of India) group.

Slum Ministry:

Slum ministry is a life touching ministry. Though they stay in slums, their heart is so big. They give so much love and respect to us that cannot be compared. It is mainly to teach their children and visit them. It is life touching because their life story it is unimaginable. They are the people who lack basic necessities of life.

Sahelli Ministry:

Sahelli is a special ministry in the city. The brothers work among the sex workers who have lost their dignity of life and are treated as sex objects. Their children face the same difficulties in their life and our task is to bring them to the mainstream.



5

ROWING INTO THE DEEP... THEOLOGY IN MADRID

Sch. James P. Balmuchu, SJ

Sch. Anuj Kr. Minj, SJ

One year of stay in Salamanca gave us ample opportunity to broaden our way of thinking and understanding the Society of Jesus and above all to be tuned with its root and tradition. It provided us with a suitable platform to get familiarized with the unknown language, culture, and ways of life and works in Spain.

After completing our language classes, both of us were assigned to two different places for our summer ministry. **James** was sent to Santiago Compostela (the tomb of Saint James the great) where he worked in the pilgrimage office as a volunteer. It is a place where thousands of pilgrims come every day looking for a spiritual consolation. **Anuj** was sent to accompany a group of school children in their summer camp for 12 days. The main purpose of this camp was to make the children aware of the reality of the world and the nature, so that they learn to take care of the nature from their childhood itself.

After our summer ministry we moved to Madrid to begin our theological studies. We were happy and enthusiastic yet a bit nervous. The fundamental question which haunted us was -"**whether to learn something new from this theological study or to deepen the same faith which we have.**" We realized that our personal prayers and our studies need to go hand in hand; so the question of **how we live and what we study** became very important.

Our university which is situated outside the city provides us a very conducive atmosphere of study. The university emphasizes much on acquiring personal knowledge of God to deepen our faith, which is possible only with the habit of personal reading of different theological books and journals. These personal readings are also helpful in completing our personal projects and assignments.

Apart from our intellectual endeavors, the community also gives us chance to know the mission of the society by engaging ourselves in to different ministries of the province. We both of us are involved in a community called Fe y Luz (faith and hope), a group of differently able persons taken care of by the lay persons. The main objective of our ministry is to come together to share Christian faith and help others to grow in it.





Besides this, Anuj goes with a group of university students once a week for prayer service followed by a short sharing based on Gospel passages, while James goes to take catechism classes for the preparation of confirmation to higher secondary students every Friday.

During the time of frustration and loneliness, our personal prayers always give us strength and courage to move ahead in life. We also draw inspiration and support from the community life.

The Visit of Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, our Provincial has always given us support and encouragement. Periodical visits of our Ranchi men like Fr. George Kerketta and Fr. Xavier Lakra have made us strongly to feel one with the Province men though we are away from the Province. Sharing of their lives and works with us has given us a lot of energy to embrace the coming situation with hope and courage.



Regional Theology Centre (RTC), Tarunoday, was started on 30 June 1983, as an extension of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi, to serve the Jesuit central zone Provinces. It is situated in the village Arsanley, Boreya, of Kanke Block. On 2 July 2016, the new academic year 2016 – 2017 was inaugurated. Most Rev. Anand Jojo, the Bishop of Hazaribag Diocese presided over the Inaugural Mass. Rev. Dr. Manmasih Ekka, the Principal of Gossner Theological College, Ranchi, delivered the Key Note Address. Both of them highlighted on the Annual theme of the year, Glimpses of *Adivasi* Mercy and Its Challenges (आदिवासी करुणा की झांकियाँ एवं चुनौतियाँ)



Important Features of Theological Formation at R.T.C.

1. **Seminar and Workshop:** A special feature of the academic year is the Annual Seminar on a current and relevant issue. This year the seminar was scheduled for 7 January 2017 on the topic, “Glimpses of *Adivasi* Mercy and Its Challenges”. Tarunoday takes part in various seminars and workshops organized in Ranchi. On 10 September 2016 we participated in a follow-up of the Conference on *Laudato Si’* and on 2 October 2016, in the World Day of Peace celebrations organized by *Jharkhand Sadbhavna Manch* at Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi.



- 2. Pastoral Involvement and Reflection:** Pastoral involvement in the life of the people is the door to the mystery of human life. Active Apostolic involvement throughout the year is an integral part of theological formation in Tarunoday. The apostolic areas include: family apostolate – Christian and other faiths; faith formation of children; accompanying and guiding the youth, parish ministry. In addition, Tarunoday regularly participates in various religio-cultural festivals.



- 3. Rally and Dharna:** Tarunoday is regularly on the streets to demand for justice. Every year from 22 to 24 March, Tarunoday participates in the protest rally against the Neterhat Field Firing Range.

On 15 September and 22 October 2016, we participated in the *Maha* (grand) Rally to protest the new domicile policy and the amendment of Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 & Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act 1949. Every year on 9 August we join the Adivasi groups and present a *Nukad* (street play) at the celebration of International Day of the Indigenous Peoples.



4. **Contextual Immersion Programme:**

During their formation, the young Jesuits should be in contact with the poor in a sustained manner. The experience gives an occasion for a longer and deeper immersion into the life of our people. This year (24 Sept.–8 Oct. 2016) the first year students had gone to different villages of Lohardaga and had two weeks of experience in the *Sarna* families.

5. **Mission Immersion Programme:** With a view of acquainting ourselves with the rich heritage of the mission in the Central Zone provinces, Tarunoday organizes a mission immersion programme. The second year students organize this programme in one of the Provinces of the central zone. This year (24-29 Sept. 2016) the students visited Madhya Pradesh Jesuit Province.

6. **Pilgrimage:** Every year on 2 September, Tarunoday goes on a pilgrimage to Karwandabeda, the place of martyrs. To mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the four religious communities of Kanke parish went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ranchi on 12 November 2016.



Fourteen tertians from all over India converged at the “School of Heart”, at Pedro Arrupe Institute, Raia, Goa, on the 3 of August 2016, to embark upon the journey of final formal Jesuit training. The very next day we set sail in the “School of Heart” with inauguration and orientation.

The main programme of the “School of Heart” can be divided into five parts:

1. Self-knowledge and Understanding:

Psycho-Spiritual Framework, Enneagram and Human Maturity have been specially designed to understand self better with special focus on compulsions. They were of immense help in this direction that created conditions for the possibility of inner transformation.

2. Study of Sources of Ignatian Spirituality:

Ignatian spirituality: the Autobiography of Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises, the Constitutions and the Spiritual Diary, the tertians felt, are real treasures and heritage of the Society of Jesus. They led us through to the in-depth knowledge of the person of St. Ignatius, his being and becoming and also of the Society of Jesus and its spirit and charism.

3. Ignatian Experiments:

The inner compulsions were more revealed in the first experiment: Making the Long retreat, the nucleus of the tertianship. Slowly and gradually, the spirit began to take hold and the inner freedom was experienced. The unresolved issues that would seem impossible for the self to deal with were resolved by the Lord. That was followed by preaching a retreat which deepened and confirmed the graces of Long Retreat. The same graces were experienced in December in serving the poor and sick people in the hospitals. The first experiment was guided by Fr. T.A. Samy, SJ (PAT). I also strengthened myself in my own capacity to engage in the apostolate of retreat preaching.



4. History of Goa and the history of the Society in South Asia and the pilgrimage to important Jesuit places in Goa:

History of Goa by Fr. Savio Abreau, SJ (Goa) and the Jesuits Heritage in Goa with Fr Rinald D'souza, SJ (Goa), were a great revelation to us, which was enhanced by visiting the Basilica of Bom Gesu, Old Goa. The pilgrimage to important Jesuit places in Goa deepened our love for the Society as we were able to see our roots.

5. Spiritual Guidance:

Constant personal spiritual guidance available from our Directors - Fr. Antony Samy and Fr. Joe Njarakulam were of enormous help in achieving the individual and common goal of tertianship.

Thus, the school of heart schooled our hearts in the real sense of the word. It enhanced and deepened our knowledge and experience of various aspects of the Ignatian spirituality which in turn has been moulding us to be a better Jesuit.

A GLIMPSE OF 22 SMILING TERTIANS IN SITAGARHA

Fr. Ignatius Tete, SJ

On 14 June 2016 twenty two tertians – twenty one Priests and one Brother – hailing from twelve Provinces arrived at SSC Sitagarha. They were warmly received by the two Tertian Instructors, Fr. Ignatius Tete and Fr. K.C. Stephen. The Following day, 15th June with a simple inauguration ceremony in the morning and Holy Eucharist in the evening began with earnestness the six month long pilgrimage into the heart of the Society of Jesus.



Disposition phase: As in the past this phase began with an orientation to the dynamics of the school of the heart by pondering over and assimilating the 'Directives on Tertianship' by late Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach. The necessity and significance of spiritual and corporal pursuits for schooling the heart were emphasized. The disposition to be built up in this phase was meant for the whole of tertianship but more especially for the Long Retreat. Therefore this phase was preparatory for the month long spiritual exercises. In the first two weeks there followed a series of activities meant to enable the tertians to get emotionally rooted in the locality and to get acclimatized to the tertianship atmosphere. Some fourteen activities could be enumerated such as Eucharist in the Carmel Ashram, Welcome Sunday Eucharist with the Parishioners, tertianship community Mass, Eucharist with bishop Anand Jojo, ministry of the Eucharist in more than 12 Mass Centres, Hazaribag trip, welcome dinner with the staff, serving at table on the day of the first profession, reflection on the two foundational experiences of St. Ignatius, sharing of one's graced history in the group, weekend reviews, scullery, manual works and games.



Individual and collective sapiential reading of the Autobiography, the letters, the Spiritual Diary and the Spiritual Exercises helped the tertians to enter into St. Ignatius' mind, heart and spirit. The disposition of the tertians was further enhanced by the study of the history of the Society of Jesus, reflection on Ignatian discernment and a course on 'inward Journey'. The novena to St. Ignatius for his feast day with well-prepared prayers on Ignatian themes energized them for their long retreat. Finally the pilgrimage to 'Dhori Mata' while giving the tertians the assurance of the intercession of Mother Mary placed them firmly on the threshold of the Divine encounter.

1. Divine encounter phase: This phase consisted of the long retreat, preparation for retreat guidance and one month exposure for sharing the retreat experiences in retreat guidance and deepening them in living with the poor and the marginalized.

The long retreat: With the Holy Eucharist on 5th August evening, the twenty two tertians divided into two groups of eleven, went into total seclusion to encounter with the Divine according to the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises. After supper half an hour input was given to orient them on the theme and grace of each day of the spiritual journey with the Lord. Each one made four hours of mediation daily proceeded by personal preparation and followed by review. While the points were given in common for both the groups and the Eucharist and Adoration done together, each tertian met his own guide every day. The long retreat was punctuated with a rest day after each of the three weeks. The retreat proper was concluded on 5th September but it was followed by three unwinding days terminating on 8th September. After the retreat each one shared in common the process of God's dealings, significant and peak experiences and insights. There was a deep sense of joy and gratitude that the Divine encounter had transformed each and everyone.

Preparation for retreat guidance: Each one prepared an outline of eight day Ignatian retreat and presented it to the class receiving corrections and suggestions from one another. Fr. Barry's practical tips for retreat enhanced their preparation. A pilgrimage to Fr. Lieven's Mission Land instilled in them a missionary spirit.

One month experiment: It was a wonderful experience as to how God in his Providence provided a retreat and a place of experiment for each one. They went out with a sense of mission to witness to Christ first to the assigned retreat groups and then among the poor and the suffering. They returned with their retreat experiences deepened and confirmed as was evident in the group sharing that followed.

2. Integration phase: After the experiment the tertians focused their attention on the study and understanding of the Constitutions. Their attention was drawn to the twofold integration – an integration of intellectual, affective, spiritual and apostolic dimensions of life and integration of our Jesuit charism and our way of proceeding. The integrating factor was their experiences of the Spiritual Exercises permeating different

dimensions of life on the one hand and on the other correlating with the charism and our way of proceeding as enshrined in the Constitutions and finding meaning in our daily living amidst challenges of our times. Through this process they were led to the experience of the interior law being written by the Holy Spirit deep within their hearts so as to gain his assurance to carry the weight of Jesuit vocation.

The integration phase was boosted up by the annual visitation of the POSA, Fr. George Pattery fresh from GC 36. Appreciating the wonderful tertianship experiences of the tertians he cautioned them on their sustainability in the daily humdrum of apostolic life. This phase was marked by several farewell parties hosted by different formation houses of the campus as well as by a SAP programme conducted by Fr. R. C. Chacko. Finally it was concluded by the Integration Triduum of fruit-gathering and the final evaluation of the entire programme. The tertians of the batch of 2016 will be remembered for their three specific contributions in their corporal and spiritual pursuits. They willingly volunteered to do daily scullery to the edification of their younger Brothers, the juniors and the novices. They took very seriously the pilgrimage to Dhori Mata and to Fr. Lievens' Mission Land to a great satisfaction of their two Tertian Masters. To the relief of the campus people and the appreciation of the SSC staff they gave an ascetical touch to the farewell parties. At their departure from the school of the heart they were not the same as they were at their arrival six months earlier.



Having made progress as Friends in the Lord and endowed with Jesuit charism the tertians returned to their home Provinces to better help others to make progress for the glory of God.

Finally to highlight the significance and relevance of the core of tertianship it is worthwhile citing Le Pere Scheuer (+1957) who inspired J. Marechal, "This has for me an extraordinary importance. The long retreat of the Third Year is perhaps the most solemn time of the life of a Jesuit. Experience proves that one does not, afterwards, lift oneself up above the point one has been able to attain during this time. It is a general rule that, according to the use of this time, one will - or will not - realize great things for the glory of God and the salvation of [people] ... To make it perfectly, one needs a great courage and much generosity. The bravest themselves do not begin it without some feeling of terror"¹

It is hoped that this article on the School of the heart, concluded with the statement of Pere Scheuer will inspire the young Jesuits to prepare themselves well for their tertianship. At the same time it may also prove to be beneficial for those who have made their tertianship and have taken their final vows urging them to revisit and rekindle their root graces and experiences and to get anchored in the primary sources for greater apostolic efficacy in the spirit of GC 36.



REVISITING EDUCATION MINISTRY

Fr. Augustine Kujur, SJ

A senior Jesuit Educationist made a comment on Jesuit legacy, “we have many good documents on Jesuit Education, but hardly have we implemented the provisions of those documents.” This comment certainly makes us to think and reflect as to how to make our educational ministries more effective and visible for others as a model. Education ministry has been our focus from the beginning of our establishment in the Region. Jesuits engaged in education ministries are trying their level best to carry on the Jesuit Legacy and to share it among staff, students, parents and well-wishers. I am of the firm opinion that there is a need of revisiting and revitalizing our Education Ministry in the Province. Education Commission has made a road-map for all the educators, students and parents for the year 2016–17 in view of empowering our ministry.

Educators:

A workshop on Jesuit Legacy for Educators was conducted from 8 to 12 June 2016 in Spirituality Center Jharna, Namkom under the banner “Jesuit Legacy: Revisiting and Revitalizing our Education Ministry.” Around 60 Principals, Vice Principals, Headmasters and other Jesuits, who are involved in Education Ministry, attended the workshop.



The same programme was organized by Central Zone Education Bureau for the Central Zone Educators in St. Xavier’s Doranda from 7 to 9 August 2016. As many as 150 Jesuits from Dumka, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Madhya Pradesh and Ranchi participated in the workshop.



At the School level, all the Schools of province conducted one/two day Seminar for teachers and the collaborators to share our vision and mission with special reference to Jesuit legacy in the light of Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm (IPP) and School Improvement Program (SIP). One day zonal workshops for teachers were organized in Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa and St. John's High School, Doreya on 3 April 2017 and 8 May 2017 respectively. A good number of teachers attended both the seminars.



Students:

Three Kinds of activities were organized for the students throughout the academic year.

a. Literary Activities:

A common programme, "Ranchi Jesuit Schools Literary and Cultural Fiesta 2016" was organized in Ranchi for the Middle Schools, High Schools and Inter Colleges from 8 to 10 July 2016. About 300 students from 40 Schools participated in the meet. The programme included speech in Hindi, declamation in English, solo singing and quiz in Jesuit Legacy.



B. Games & Sports

Games and Sports were held for Middle and High Schools/Inter Colleges separately. "Ranchi Jesuit High Schools' Football Meet and Cultural Fiesta 2016" was organized in St. Ignatius Gumla from 13 to 16 October 2016. About 1000 students from 26 Schools participated in the meet.

The same was organized in Loyola HS Khunti for the middle schools from 27 to 29 October 2016. About 300 boys and girls from 16 schools came to participate in the meet.

The most memorable event was the 'Chakravayuh' (Athletic meet) held in St. Mary's Samtoli which took place from 13 to 15 January 2017. About 300 athletes from 26 schools participated in this prestigious meet.



c. Spiritual Activities:

To observe the 'Year of Mercy' the schools arranged monthly school Mass, Pilgrimage, Penitential service with the sacrament of reconciliation and recollections on various occasions. Novena to St. Ignatius and annual retreats were arranged by many schools. Rally of C.L.C. and crusaders were arranged at the Diocese/Deanery level. Five day thematic spiritual reflections and prayers found place in our school assemblies on the eve of the declaration of Mother Teresa as a Saint.

Parents

It is a felt need that the parents are addressed and made acquainted with our vision and mission with the sharing of our legacy with a special reference to networking and collaboration. Every school found some ways and means to communicate the same to the parents.

Collaborators:

We are keen to share our mission with our collaborators. At present we are being open to collaborate with other religious congregations, especially in running our English Medium Schools.

Alumni:

Jesuit Alumni are associated closely with our educational institutions. They become integral parts of our school/College family. The National Congress of Jesuit Alumni Association of India (JAAI) was organized in St. Xavier's Doranda from 27 to 29 January 2017. Around 400 Jesuit Alumni accompanied by the Province Coordinators attended it from various parts of India.



Assessment of Our Schools:

Ranchi province is open to the call of the Society. To improve our Schools, review and assessment is the demand of the time. In the process, the Province has taken an initiative to join hands with the 'ADHYAYAN' (an Educational organization) supported by PORTICUS (funding agency). To begin with ten of our schools in the Province were chosen to undergo assessment and were reviewed from 5 to 14 January 2017.



The assessment was made on 7 key areas of education-- leadership and management, teaching and learning, the child, the curriculum, community and partnerships, infrastructure and Jesuit way of running the school. With this we know our strength as well as our weakness on which we have to work in a more focus way to improve our grade and such process and exercises, will help us to revisit and revitalize our Education Ministry.

The Province Higher Education Commission got Fr. Alexius Ekka, SJ, as the new coordinator on 1 January 2017, after the sad demise of Fr. Ranjit Pascal Toppo on 23 May 2016. I would like to highlight some of the recent features of higher education institutions of the Province. These are Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, St. Xavier's College, Sonabheel, Tezpur, and St. Xavier's College, Simdega.

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi

XISS started its diamond jubilee celebrations in 2015 and ended in 2017. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Mr. Raghubar Das on 6 November 2015. Since then until this year there were series of lectures as Industry–XISS interface. The Grand finale of the Jubilee celebrations was from 14 to 18 February 2017, with His Excellency Paul Tighe, Adjunct Secretary for Pontifical Council for Culture, Vatican City, as the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. Other important events were (1) international conferences for the students and faculty on the theme “Management education, leadership and innovation for a



sustainable world”, (2) the Diamond Jubilee Fest of the Students, (3) Honouring the former Professors and Staff and those with 25 years of service, (4) Honouring the Silver Jubilee batch of the alumni, and (5) formal launching of the Alumni Association of Xavier Institute of Social Service (AAXISS), Ranchi.

St. Xavier's College, Ranchi

Apart from the magnificent sprawling infrastructure of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, it has added new facilities in the campus like the new cafeteria and a gymnasium. Similarly, in academics two additions are the Departments for Bachelors in Sociology and Statistics.

The Department of History has the Post Graduate course from this academic session. A new course in Commerce “International Accountancy” has been started. The College is further preparing for 4th cycle of National Assessment and Accreditation.



St. Xavier’s College Sonabheel, Tezpur

The Junior College started by late Fr. James Lakra, SJ, in 2006 at Balipara, was shifted to Sonabheel in 2010. The same year Fr. John Berchmans Dungdung started a Degree College at Sonabheel and obtained official affiliation from the University of Guwahati in 2012. The college started formally in 2013 with 23 Commerce students. In 2016 the College got permission to start the B.A. course for general subjects with Fr. Florence Purty, SJ, as its Principal. St. Xavier’s College Sonabheel, Tezpur, is committed for the overall development of the students who are mostly tribals and dalits.

St. Xavier’s College, Simdega



St. Xavier’s College, Simdega was started on 1 August 2016 when it was blessed by His Lordship Vincent Barwa in the presence of Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Rector of St. Mary’s, Fr. Linus Dungdung, SJ, and Fr. Emmanuel Barla, SJ, its Principal along with 453 students in the premises of the temporary new St. Xavier’s College campus in Samtoli. It was formally inaugurated on 9 September 2016 by Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, the Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University, Ranchi. It has also received the recognition of NSS from Ranchi University and has a unit of AICUF. The Professors and staff of the college are doing their best to provide quality education to the students under the guidance of Fr. Gilbert D’Souza, SJ, Registrar of the college. The Province wishes the College long life and vibrant quality education.

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE SIMDEGA A NEW VENTURE

Fr. Ajay Soreng, SJ

On 1 August, 2016, on the occasion of the inauguration of St. Xavier's College, Simdega, His lordship Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, was the Chief Guest and Mr. Benjamin Lakra, IAAS, (Retired) the guest of honour.

Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, offered the prayers of blessing on the newly built college building and sprinkled the Holy Water. The lighting of the lamp of knowledge, cultural items and delivering of messages followed the blessing of the college building.



The gathering was enthusiastic about the inauguration of the college and many Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, newly appointed college staff, some well wishers from among the elite public of Simdega, newly admitted student boys and girls were present. Among the conspicuous members were,

His Lordship Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, Fr. Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Mr. Benjamin Lakra, Rtd., IAAG, Sudhir Kr Minj, SJ, Socius, Fr. Emmanuel Barla, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College, Simdega, Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, SJ, Registrar, St. Xavier's College, Simdega, Linus Dungdung, SJ, Rector, St. Mary's High School, Samtoli among other important dignitaries.





Proposed Building of St. Xavier's College

Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, in his message stressed the need of the time to have a degree college in Simdega diocese for the education of the youth of this area which is directionless due to the lack of higher education. He was so very enthusiastic about this college which will fill the vacuum.

He drew the attention of the gathering pointing that there are so many High Schools and a few Inter colleges in Simdega District but only two degree colleges in the district. Underlined that Fr. Xavier Soreng, SJ, his predecessor, had prepared the ground work for starting this college. He surveyed that around 5000 students passed out each year in Simdega district, who could avail this institution of higher studies.

Mr. Benjamin Lakra explained how he in his days had to struggle to go to Ranchi to follow college studies after spending the night on the verandah of the SDO Court, Simdega, and the next day to board a bus for Ranchi. So he expects the students of today to achieve what he could not. Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, Fr. Linus Dungdung, Fr. John Tirkey, Fr. Vinod Bilung also gave their message.

The newly admitted students presented some cultural items Fr. Gilbert D'Souza, SJ, offered a vote of thanks and wound up the programme

St. Xavier's College, Simdega, was officially inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Ranchi University, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Pandey on 9 September 2016 and so the College became an affiliated unit of Ranchi University with all its rights. Along with the Chief Guest there were many esteemed academicians, administrators and well wishers present during the ceremony.

Fr. Marianus said that this college was a gift to Simdega District from the Jesuits of Ranchi Province.



Mr. Benjamin Lakra, IAAS, spoke of the 4 pillars of learning: to learn to know, to learn to do, to learn to be, and to learn to live together.

Mr. Ravi Ranjan, SP Simdega, said that he was happy to be present in the formal inauguration event of St. Xavier's College, Simdega, and wished that this college also became a college like St. Xavier's college, Ranchi..

Fr. Nicholas Tete, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, expressed his hope that the college would do well in the future. He insisted that the excellence should be the aim of every one. The students should work hard and produce good results because education is empowerment.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Pandey delivered his message in earnest and satisfaction that a new college had dawned in the tribal heartland. He congratulated the Jesuit Fathers for venturing to open a new college. He even added saying that there should be more Jesuit colleges.

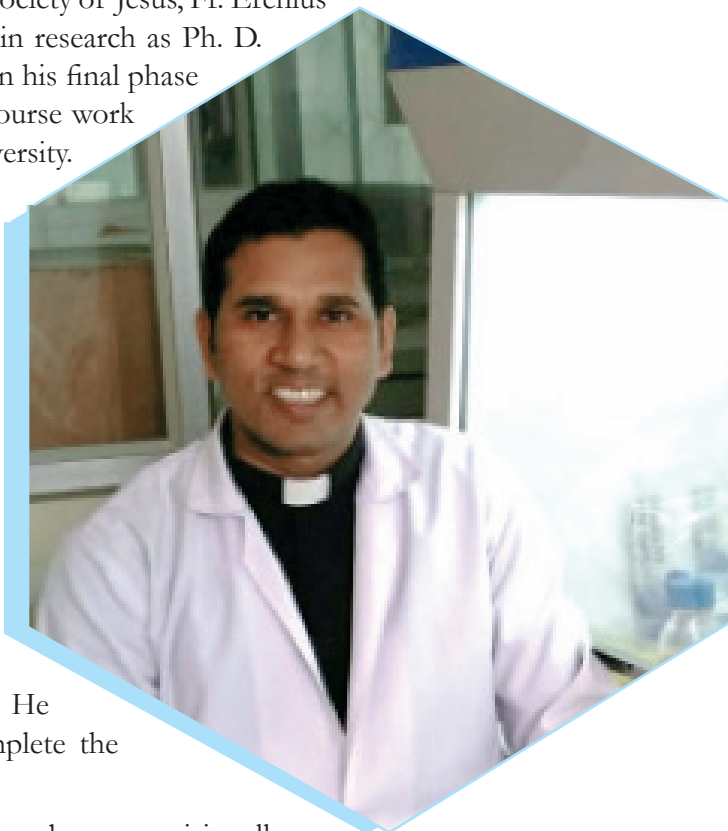


RESEARCH IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS

Fr. Erenius Toppo SJ & Fr. Ajay Minj, SJ

Keeping to the tune of learned ministry of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Erenius Toppo SJ and Fr. Ajay Minj, SJ are engaged in research as Ph. D. scholars in Loyola College Chennai. Fr. Erenius is in his final phase of work whereas Fr. Ajay is busy with his initial course work required for pursuing Ph. D. programme in the University.

Fr. Erenius is researching on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), Bio-Technology, using medicinal plants at Entomology Research Institute (ERI) Loyola College, Chennai. ERI was started as a unit of Loyola College, Chennai in 1963. ERI conducts research on value-based areas of applied significance namely Insect Biodiversity, Biological Control of Pests, Bio-pesticides, Mosquito Control, Ethnopharmacology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Genetic Engineering, Biotechnology and Phytochemistry. Fr. Erenius has selected *Coccinia indica* (Kundri) and *Andrographis paniculata* (Green Chiretta) for their efficiency to alleviate NAFLD. He has found them to be very effective. He has published a paper and is expecting to complete the work by July 2017.



Fr. Ajay has been provisionally registered for Ph. D. in

Mathematics. He is busy reading various books particularly on Fuzzy Set theory and Applications and Research Methodology to complete his course work. He periodically prepares for group discussion and presentation on the topic. The broad area of his research work is 'Fuzzy Set Theory and Multi-Criteria Decision making'.

Research work has been a process of systematic and scientific learning for both of us. Sometimes a sense of wonder and moments of confusion and void continue to challenge us. Every now and then the feeling of 'don't know what to do next' makes life so dry and dehydrated. But, there is a great joy in doing what the

Society requires of us. The sense of responsibility towards the mission entrusted to us and the love for the Society continue to motivate us in our works.



The Social Apostolate in the Province has been working concertedly under two common programs for the last two to three years:

JAN NETRITVA PAHAL (JNP) is peoples' initiative for leadership. The purpose is to prepare leaders in the local village communities who can play pivotal role in the village communities to work together, solve their problems at the village level and fight for their rights. It is to promote harmonious living at the village level. It is a common social platform and a network of Jesuits and their collaborators of the Central Zone Provinces. During the last year, Ranchi Province has worked in 7 villages of Raidih Block in Gumla District and 20 villages of Thethaitanger Block in Simdega District. Two types of training programs have been conducted: (a) Leadership Training, and (b) Para Legal Training. The villagers are slowly becoming aware of their rights. This is observed very much in the decision making processes of Gram Sabhas.



LOK MANCH is another Peoples' Forum for ensuring better access to their rights and entitlements. This Manch consists of 92 organizations, both lay and religious of South Asia. 37 Jesuit organizations are partners in this network. Jesuits and non-Jesuits are working in collaboration with one another for preparing local leadership who could voluntarily offer their services to their respective communities so that they have better access to their rights and entitlements. In Ranchi Unit, there are four partner organizations- two Jesuit and two lay organizations. AROUSE Gumla and Simdega have been taking leadership to strengthen the network and make it effective.



We have been working on the Food Security Act, 2013 for the last one and a half years under Lok Manch and we continue to work on the same issue in the coming years. The work under the Act involves Adhar Card and Voter ID, old age pension and widow pension, free meal to pregnant and lactating women, free meal to children aged 6 months – 5 years in Anganwadi, Midday Meals (MDM) for children in schools from 6-14 years, possession of ration cards, Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY), etc.



TSP (Tribal Sub-Plan) and SCSP (Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan) is part of the Lok Manch program. From this year onwards, we have already started working on TSP and SCSP. These two are special plans of the Government for the welfare and development of the Adivasis and Dalits. A budget proportionate to the percentage of population of Adivasis and Dalits are allocated at the Union and State levels for the above said purpose which comes to 16.6% for the Scheduled Castes and 8.6% of the total budget for the Scheduled Tribes at the national level and 12.1% for the Scheduled Caste and 26.2% for the Scheduled Tribes at the State level.

The funds allocated for the TSP and SCSP are non-divertible and non-lapsable. Unfortunately, these funds exclusively meant for the benefit of the Adivasis and Dalits are diverted in large scale and the unutilized funds also lapse. The aims and objectives of Lok Manch Program is to make the village communities aware of this and prepare leadership at the village community level to take up this issue and assert for greater realization of their rights and entitlements under SCSP and TSP.

BOOKLETS for Enhancing Knowledge and Information: With a view to bringing in awareness and grooming leadership, we have prepared four booklets for information dissemination and mass mobilization in the line of our actions. The first book is on **CNT & SPT Amendment Act, 2016** with lots of questions for enhancing better understanding of what it is and how the same is going to affect the lives of the people. Second booklet is on **Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan** which aims at providing basic information about what they are and how the budget allocated is diverted and remains unutilized. Third

booklet is on **Government Schemes** which gives extensive information regarding the Government Schemes both Central and State; it also gives necessary information about whom to approach in case of need. Fourth booklet is on **Application Forms for various Government Schemes** to enable people to apply for various schemes and file them to the respective ministries and departments.



Apart from the above said, our Social Centers have been engaged in integrated farming system, organic farming, lac cultivation, sericulture, health awareness programmes for making life and livelihood more sustainable. We continue to accompany, support and strengthen Women Self Help Groups, Youth Clubs (Yuva Jhankar) and Farmers Clubs as part of our priority to empower people. Under Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP), we have basically only three trades; tailoring & embroidery, computer education and food preservation. AROUSE Gumla is also associated with Childline Program under the banner of CIF (Childline India Foundation) supported by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Jeevan Pravesh continues to give life orientation to the students through its workshops and seminars in different schools. The number of visitors to the Jharkhand Tribal Museum in AROUSE is increasing. Historical extension to the museum is underway in spite of many challenges and financial constraints. There is a plan to complete it in one year's time.

Vision-Mission Statement:

We the Jesuit pastors commit ourselves to bring about equality, justice, peace love, mutual respect and dignity among people in our parishes. In this way we aim at building a humane society based on Kingdom values.

**Aims and Objectives:**

This may include both short and long term objectives. With strengthening of the Catholic families and engaging into inter religious and cultural dialogue, especially, with the Sarna tribals. We also plan to make the parishes active, responsible and vibrant communities living in harmony and social cohesion (Ref. “Jesuit Mission among the Adivasis of Chotanagpur” by Fr. Francis Minj, SJ & Fr. Alexius Ekka, SJ, pp. 278-281)

Pastoral Activities: Family visit; Contact with people of other faiths, particularly, the Sarna; Faith formation: organizing prayers, retreats, recollections and Sunday classes; Inter-religious dialogue; Youth programme, leadership training; Drop-outs and unemployed; Orientation in life: Seminars, workshops, career guidance, skill training; Celebration of feasts, and so on.

Opportunities and Needs:

- Presence of different Christian denominations.
- Multi-religious context.
- Existing structures of the Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh, Yuva Sangh, Krus Veer, BCC, etc.
- Good rapport with the government officials and the administration.

Our Challenges:

- Religious fundamentalism
- Increasing impact of anti-social elements or groups
- The existence of tribal disunity
- Negative impact of the Modern Media Culture on tribal culture.
- Faith Formation.



Meeting of Pastor Commission Co-ordinators of different provinces in Ranchi

Over the years Ranchi Jesuits have proclaimed the good news to people within Jharkhand and outside. such as in the Andamans and Assam. There are 21 parishes in Jharkhand, 5 in Assam and 3 in the Andamans. As many as 58 Jesuits of Ranchi Province are engaged in the parish ministry serving 96,651 Catholics besides people of other Christian denominations and faiths.

In addition to the pastoral works, the Parish priests are also educators. They are the teachers and secretaries of village primary schools. There are 51 primary schools having an average of 200 students in each school. Therefore, the parish priests are educating 10,200 children altogether.

The primary task of the parish priest is to dispense sacraments to the faithful, namely, Holy Eucharist, Baptism, reconciliation, Holy Communion to the elderly and sick, anointing the sick, blessing the marriages, etc. Moreover, teaching catechism, marriage preparation courses, preparing children for Confirmation, are also his main responsibilities. He has to visit families, attend social functions like engagements of young people and marriage ceremonies in the family, visit the sick, and attend the village meetings when burying the dead is sacred. On each death in the parish the parish priest is expected to offer Holy Mass and bury the dead.

The villages of the parish are divided into units for better administration. These units are sometimes village chapels themselves and the primary schools are attached to them. The number of village chapels in each parish varies from 2 to 20 depending upon the size of the parish.



The parish has catechists who take care of the village chapels. They conduct prayers on Sundays and feast days in the village chapels. They are responsible for the social and political administration of their units. They are the link between the people and the parish priest. The parish priest looks after the social, political, agricultural and developmental activities of the people. If there are quarrels in the village the parish priest goes to settle them. There are catechists to help out in Pastoral field.

Marian Devotion is very popular among the people. Parish priest makes it a point to attend Marian Procession in each hamlet or village in the month of May and if possible offers the Holy Mass.

St. Monica's Feast has a great appeal among the mothers of the families. Mothers arrange retreats for women and celebrate this feast on 27 August each year in great solemnity and devotion. A big number of mothers participate in it. The parish has an organizational structure, namely, the Catholic Sabha for men, Mahila Sangh for women and CLC for the Youth and Crus Vir (Crusaders) for the children. Each of these wings has its annual rallies organized according to their convenience. The parish priest has to attend all these rallies. Owing to these organizational structures the parish life goes on well.

Each village in the Parish has its patron saints. The pastor has to say a Holy Mass for the faithful on the occasion of the feast day.



Ranchi Jesuit Parish Priests prepare Hindi Bible Diary 'PAJHARA' each year. Each Jesuit Parish Priest writes a full month's reflection for the Bible diary. It is in great demand not only in Jharkhand but in big cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, the Andamans and in other places. The translation of 'In Good Company' in Hindi is completed by Fr. Emmanuel Baxla, SJ and is ready for the spiritual care.

All Jesuits of the Province attended **Spiritual Renewal Animation Programme** in different centres and at different times in Jamshedpur, Hazaribag, Dumka and Ranchi. There is now a feeling of belonging to the universal society and Ignatian energy to love and serve the Lord in the poor and marginalized.



Satya Bharti

Satya Bharati Ranchi has been following the objectives to diffuse social, religious, secular and scientific knowledge through the means of social communication such as printed matter, audio-visual, radio-television, art and music.

Activities

CD/DVD: Two Video Albums for Christmas namely **Deikh Abun Baitulham Gaon** by **Sch. Sujit Toppo, SJ** and **Daliya Sajay Ke** by **Fr. Bipin Tirkey, SJ**, were produced which were videographed by Fr. Sibil Horo, SJ.

Books Published: The following books were released during the Province days:



1. *Laudato Si'* Translated in Hindi by Fr. Francis Minj, SJ
2. *Bharat me Adivasi Siksha* by Late Fr. Vijay Kamath, translated in Hindi by Fr. Mathias Dungdung, SJ
3. *Ujale Yadon Ke* (Autobiography by Fr. Mathias Dungdung, SJ)
4. *The Palas Blooms (Palas ke phool)* of Fr. Peter Paul Ekka, SJ Translated by Ravi Nandan Sinha.

Yearly publication of Hindi Bible Diary 'Pajhra 2017', Liturgical Calendar 'Catholic Patra' and many more reprints of Liturgical books.

Photography: Different events of the Province were captured by Satya Bharati through photography, such as, ordination, vows, jubilee, funerals, talks and other activities.

Vatican Radio

Hindi section of the Vatican Radio has published Vatican Bharti magazine every month and sent to the listeners and readers. On 24 April 2016 the Golden Jubilee year of Vatican Radio was concluded with the Listeners' Meet in XISS. The Most Rev. Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo was the Chief Guest, accompanied by Bishop Telesphore Bilung, and Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Provincial, Ranchi Province. All the former members of Vatican Radio, such as Frs. Justin Tirkey, Cyprian Ekka, Lalit Tigga, Sanjay D. Ekka, and Mr. Kamal Bara graced the occasion. The representatives from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad were also present.

Signis India:

SIGNIS INDIA is the Indian National Catholic Association for Social Communication, and is recognized by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI).

The word SIGNIS is derived from two Latin words, Signus (Sign) and Ignis (Fire). This includes all the fields relating to communication and information such as Radio, Television, Film, Audio-Visuals, Information Technology, New Media Graphics, Group Media, Folk Arts, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Media Education, Public Relations Production and Distribution of Media Programmes, Training, Academic Teaching and Research.



Fr. Alex attended SIGNIS INDIA meeting from 20 to 23 February 2017 in Chennai. The Topic of the meeting was “*Communicating Hope and Trust in our time*”. It was augmenting and fruitful. In his Keynote address, the speaker Mr. Sashi Kumar, Founder Asian College of Journalism, told that Religion and News Media both should inform and represent people and work for the betterment of public sphere, but both have compromised today. They have to be part of healing process and be part of the solution now. Giving the example of Pope Francis he said that the Pope is relevant today because he is communicating Hope and Trust to the people. He is not hesitant to point out unwanted and undesirable elements in the society.

Signis Bijhan

Fr. Alex Tirkey, the coordinator of Communication Commission also attended the Signis Bijhan meeting in Seva Dham, Buxar on 18th and 19th Nov. 2016. The theme of the meeting was *Social Media and Family*. The meeting started with Holy Mass presided by Rt. Rev. Bishop Sebastian Kallapura, Bishop of Buxar Diocese. He said that Media is Message. Message should be true, fare and genuine. Media means Communion with Trinitarian God.

School of MUSIC, ART and TRAINING (SMART)

It was inaugurated on 13 April 2016 by Fr. Provincial, Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ. The function was also graced by Fr. Alex Tirkey, Director, Satya Bharti and Fr. Sibil Horo, Assistant Director, Satya Bharati. It was attended by students and faculty of the School.

Fr. Marianus inaugurated the SMART on the second floor of Satya Bharti, where the School is located. In his inaugural speech Fr. Marianus said that Jharkhand has unarguably a rich art and culture. Music is part of everyday life of the people of Jharkhand. It is a thread that connects different cultures and brings people closer to each other. But with the changing environment there has been a decline in the interest of the people in their art and culture.

According to the available data from the UN, many languages have disappeared for good from the face of the earth. SMART will work towards encouraging the local art and culture of the state and motivate the new generation towards it.

The objectives of the SMART are as follows:

1. To promote art and culture of Jharkhand
2. To provide livelihood to the local artists and trainers in the area
3. To provide specialist, practical and performance based training in various arts and skills for an all-round development of an individual
4. To provide an environment for creative learning and innovation that encourages self expression and help the individual to develop, through a creative and meaningful medium

The School adopts pluralistic approach to teaching. Students have opportunities to be well acquainted with a wide range of traditional and contemporary art forms and skills. The School encourages in each student the development of discernment and an individual approach and style.

Anup Binay Tigga is the Coordinator. Santosh Toppo looks after the Finance / I.T. Nilima Monica Purti is in-charge of Operation and Joel Amlan Khalkho is Course Coordinator.

Interreligious Dialogue is an integral part of the One Mission of the Society, which Ignatius and his first companions visualized in response to the signs of the times. Their main concern was to cooperate with God's plan of salvation for the whole world at all levels.

Following the demands of GC 34 and GC 35, "to go anywhere in the world where there is hope for God's greater glory", and thus give a concrete shape to the One Mission, the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) created the new Jesuit Secretariat for Dialogue (JSD) by merging two previously existing Secretariats, the Secretariat for the Service of Faith and Religion in India and the Secretariat for Jesuits among Muslims in India (JAMI). The new Secretariat for Dialogue aims at fostering Interreligious Dialogue at various levels, and making it an essential dimension of our One Mission. On the more practical level, the Secretariat for Dialogue strives to help all the members of the Society, as committed Jesuits, to understand the significance and the need of entering into dialogue with all peoples of good will, transcending all boundaries of religious and ethnic conflicts, and work together toward mutual trust and cooperation, peace and harmony of life.

In response to the call of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia, to establish a Commission for Dialogue in their respective Provinces/Regions, Ranchi Province established a Commission for Interreligious Dialogue in 2002. It is operative in the multi religious, ethnic and socio-cultural context of Jharkhand, Assam and Andaman Nicobar Islands towards achieving the desired goal, though with limited success due to various reasons.

As per the decision of the Province Congregation and subsequently proposed by Father Provincial for a common deliberation on the Postulate, "Urgent renewal sought at personal and community levels according to our Institutes", the Province Commission for Dialogue formulated its vision, mission, objectives, guidelines and concrete action plans for better apostolic efficacy.

The vision-mission of the Commission for Dialogue is "To create awareness among all classes of people, of the urgent need for a common understanding and acceptance of one another's inherent rich ethnic, socio-cultural and religious heritages, leading to a harmonious co-existence". To realize this vision, "We, as a Province, commit ourselves and make a concerted effort to reach out to all classes of people without prejudice, transcending all boundaries of caste, creed, race and socio-cultural background. To this end we commit ourselves anew to work with the Adivasis and other Christian denominations, sharing our common heritage and identify as Tribals and Christians respectively."

The first objective of the Commission concerns a genuine effort to create awareness of the urgent need of dialogue, and provide an atmosphere, where people of different socio-cultural background are ready to enter into dialogue with one another and arrive at a solution to the existing conflicts of communal disharmony, transforming it into a society where all live in total freedom with respect and dignity as one people of God.

In 2014 – 2015, one such effort to achieve this objective was made in the Sarna-Christian dialogue with the students and their parents of ST. John's School, Ranchi. Fr. Augustine Kerketta of Ranchi Archdiocese, then working for the Sarna-Christian identity, mutual understanding and cooperation, addressed the participants during the two-day seminar especially organized for the students and parents of the followers of the traditional Sarna religion. The seminar ended up with a positive note; and realizing its positive value, the participants voiced their desire to organize many more awareness programmes of such kind. The Commission has on its action plan Saparom and Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa, both Jesuit Schools, as the next target groups.

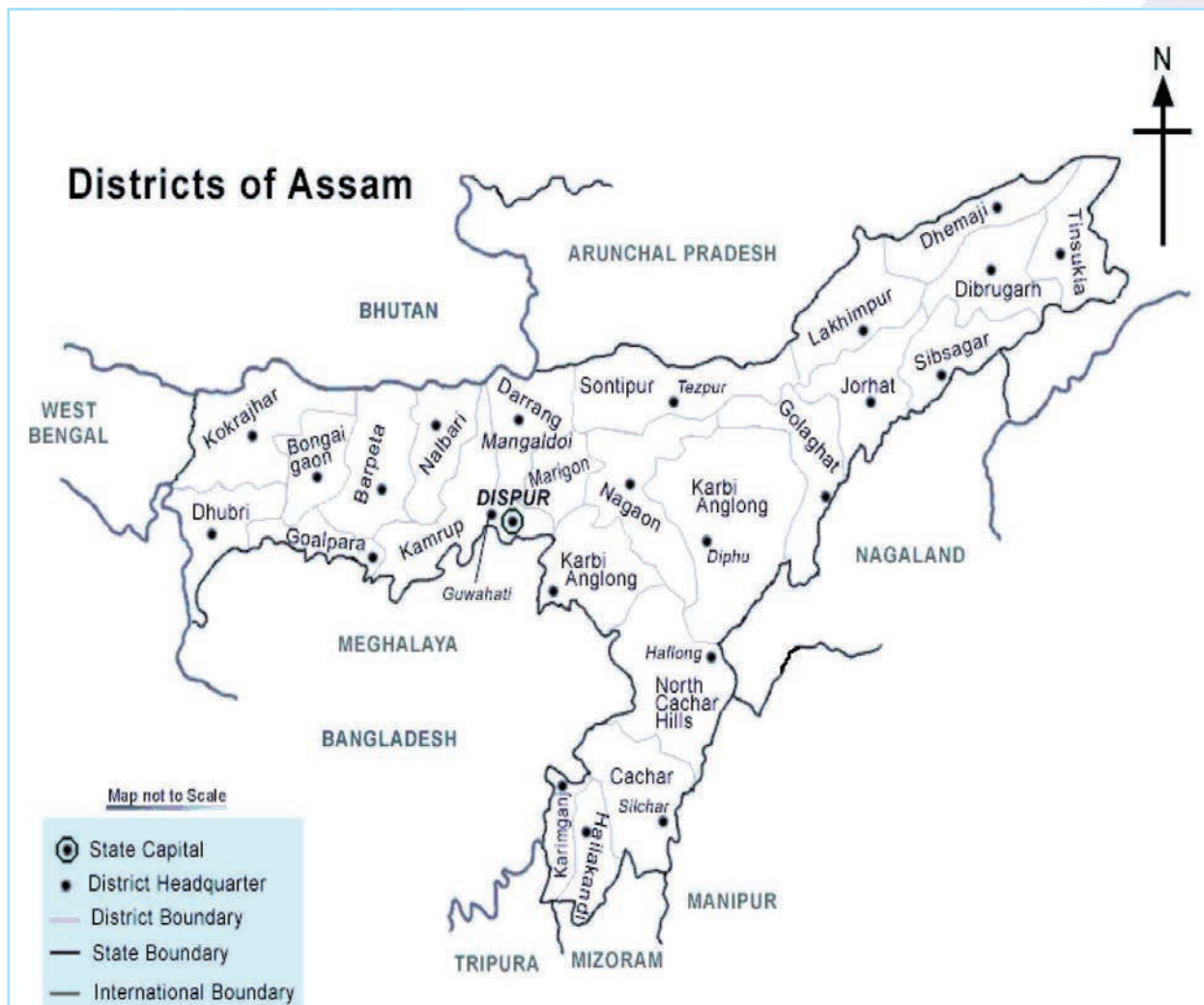
One of the action plans of the Commission for the year 2016 was the urgent need to identify some experts in the areas of human rights and Interreligious dialogue, and invite them to help us with concrete guidelines to

be employed in conflicting situations. The objective was purely to learn from their experiences of working for justice, human rights and inter-communal and religious harmony.

On December 14, 2016, the Province Commission invited the Secretary of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia for Interreligious Dialogue, Fr. Dr. Vincent Sekhar, SJ (MAD), to address an august gathering of Jesuits and religious from the neighbouring communities at Manresa House, Ranchi. While speaking on “The Ministry of Interreligious Dialogue in India: Shades and Shores”, various activities and *modus operandi* on the national and Assistancy levels, Dr. Sekhar not only made the congregation aware of the importance of the ministry of dialogue and its urgent need in the present context of Jharkhand, but he also challenged us to enter into dialogue with the architects of “rapid forces” of communalism and anti-Christianity, giving rise to violence and religious hatred, indeed, a big concern for Adivasis and Christians whose identity is at stake.

The Commission for Dialogue commits itself anew in 2017 towards executing the action plans chalked out in the past and renewing them as per the signs of the times.





There are twenty one energetic, enthusiastic and committed Jesuits who are rowing into deep as the frontier men in Assam mission. We are happy to see that all our institutions have good infrastructures and are being developed to render quality service to people in all spheres of life. It is to bring about a positive change in the lives of Adivasis, tribals and other marginalized groups. We are thankful to our benefactors and well-wishers who support us in a big way to expand and consolidate our mission in Assam.

375 Catholics of Phuluguri Villagers in **Balipara Parish** completed 50 years of their faith which they celebrated organizing retreat, spiritual renewal programme and sacrament of confirmation for 60 people. The Bishop of Tezpur, Michael Akasius Toppo DD, officiated the celebration. New churches were built to accommodate the increasing number of faithful.



St. John's school Balipara is striving for the all-round development of the students. This year 28 students secured first division in the board examination and so the Assam Government awarded them with Laptops. Throughout the year, different extra-curricular activities are organized, such as games, sports, annual day celebration, picnic, exposure, seminars, coaching, etc. From St. Joseph's School Aalst (Belgium), 30 students and 6 staff members visited St. John's school to have the first-hand experience of the lives of St. John's students. There was a good exchange of ideas and culture.

For annual sports on 27th January, Mr. Valdek from Poland and Mr. Norbert Eckert from Germany were the chief guests. On 4th February School day was celebrated and the prizes were distributed to all the students who have scored first, second and third rank in the last year final exams.

Nirmala School Bhaitabhanga was built in 1979 by the Diocese of Tezpur and was handed over to the Jesuits in 1999. It was Assamese medium school but Jesuits have switched it over to English medium school with 380 students till class VII. This is one of the good feeder schools of St. John's school, Balipara. The school has a new look as the new colorful tin roofing has been done.

Kathalguri in the Western part of the Mission centre is at the bordering area of West Bengal and populated with Santhal Adivasi majority. The school installed the solar system which dispels the darkness of the place. The mission has targeted that Santhal and other marginalized students study well and shape their bright future.

St. Joseph school Jacobpur has been attracting many students with its colorful look, good teaching and many other extra-curricular activities. Thus the number of students has gone up this year.

St. Xavier's School, Tipkai is the newest mission station which is 40 km away from Loyola School Kathalguri. There are 70 students up to class VI. The class rooms were of Bamboo walls and thatched roof but now it has concrete rooms, with computer and toilet facilities. There is a ray of hope to reach out to Boros, Garos, Rabhas and Rajbongshis communities. The government has allotted 6 Bighas of land but mutation is yet to be done.

St. Xavier's School and Parish, Pengaree is one of the fast developing centers. The inauguration and blessing of the Parish church, multi-purpose hall and Convent of the Daughters of St. Anne Sisters was done on 12 June 2016



by Fr. Xavier Lakra and Bishop Joseph Aind DD of Dibrugarh. A separate wing for LKG and UKG was built with the generous financial support of EDUCO group, which was inaugurated by the founder of EDUCO on 8 December 2016. There are 113 kids in LKG and UKG. A hostel in the campus has been started with 15 boys and girls.

Manas Bansbari is happy to have multipurpose hall for St. Xavier's School, new Presbytery and hostel for boys and girls which were blessed by Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, the Bishop of Bongaigaon and inaugurated by Fr. Xavier Lakra on 12 February 2017. All these were the most urgent needs of Jesuits, students and the faithful.

Mushalpur got the new Presbytery and was blessed on 29 January 2017. St. Xavier's school has started a small hostel with 13 boys.

St. Xavier's College Sonabheel has a huge and beautiful hostel building with modern facilities for boys which have 300 capacities. It was completed and blessed on 31 July 2016. Bishop Michal Akasius Toppo and Bishop Robert Kerketta blessed and Fr. Xavier Lakra inaugurated the hostel building.

On 24 August 2016 the Guwahati University granted permission to start Bachelor of Arts General Courses to St. Xavier's College Sonabheel. Since it was already late and admissions were over in all the other Colleges, the first batch of B.A. started with only 20 students. In view of beautifying and making the campus environment friendly, 500 Mahogany trees were planted during the rainy season.

Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur reaches out to interior villages and tea gardens for the social, cultural, economic, upliftment of Adivasis, tribal and marginalized people. There are 50 instructors who are taking care of the study centers where every day children come for study in different villages and tea gardens. Last year nearly 200 study centres' students had exposure to Tezpur town and its various institutions and places of importance. This was a great eye opener for all of them. There are 5 coaching centers for the coaching classes for Matric and Inter Mediate Examinations. In the line of income generation activities piggery and tea plantation in their own 1-2 bigha of land is picking up. The Women Self Help Groups, Joint Liability Groups, Farmers' Clubs and Youth Clubs are becoming more aware of their situation and trying to develop with the support of Gana Chetana Samaj. The organization conducts training programmes on Adivasi cultural dance and celebration of cultural feasts. In July 2016 from Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan, 24 Indigenous people of 12 different tribes visited for a cultural exchange, promotion and preservation of the cultures. They had cultural exchange programme in 4 different villages of Adivasis and Boros. It also organizes computer classes and helps for skill development training for the jobless youths. There is hope that there will be a better life of the Adivasis, tribal and marginalized groups of people.

Jesuit Curia Office Tezpur updates and upgrades itself to become the power house in the Region. It has become the strong pillar to cater the various needs of our men in the Assam mission.



The Republic of Guyana - "Land of many waters" - is located in the North East Coast of South America, bordering Surinam to the East, Venezuela to the West and Brazil to the South. The predominant religious groups are Christian, Hindu and Muslim. Guyana has one of the largest unspoiled rainforests in South America, some parts of which are almost inaccessible by humans. Eighty per cent of the country is carpeted in pristine tropical rainforest. The Guyanese are East Indians, Africans, Amerindians, Portuguese and Chinese. They enrich and inspire one another through their beautiful culture and traditions.

The Diocese of Georgetown is the only diocese in the country for 60 thousand Catholics. His Lordship Bishop Francis Alleyne is the Bishop of the Diocese. The local vocation for religious life is very poor. It is a crucial moment for the Diocese as there are only three Diocesan priests.

Guyana Jesuit Region is under the British Jesuit Province for more than hundred years and from their behalf there was a felt need of more young and energetic Jesuits from the other provinces. It presents a very good example of the Universal nature of the Society of Jesus wherein there are Jesuits from Guyana, Britain, Brazil and India. There are 24 Jesuits in the Region, 14 of them are from India - Bombay, Goa, Karnataka, Kolkata, Madurai, and Ranchi. At present 4 Jesuits are missioned from Ranchi. In this situation lay ministers' role is also significant.

Fr. Anil Kishore Turkey, SJ, was one of the pioneers to this mission who landed in Guyana on 23 of December 2006 and served the community as a minister in Jesuit House Brickdam and Arrupe House, Queenstown, for five years. At present he is working in the capacity of the parish priest of St. John the Baptist Church Plaisance, East Coast Demerara, Georgetown. He is the superior of his community. He has nine communities where he administers the sacraments and gives his time and energy in catechizing his parishioners. He also extends his services in various convents to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and hears their confession. He gives regular classes to his Parish Lay Assistants on Holy Scripture to strengthen leadership qualities. Annual retreat with Fr. Elias in Trinidad and Tobago was a joyful experience and gracious moment to be strengthened by God to move ahead in life journey.

Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, was another frontier who came to Guyana in 2006 and was missioned to St. Robert Bellarmine Aishalton, among the Wapishana people in deep South Rupununi, in the Savannah. Together with building the Christian Community he built the first concrete presbytery replacing the shingles roof house. He went to Boston in the USA for his tertianship followed by his Master's Degree in International Development (Natural Resource Management - Forestry) from Birmingham University, Britain. For two years he served the Patamuna and Macushi communities in North and South Pakaraimas respectively. Now he is the Superior of the community, work director and the parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Hosororo in North West Region of Guyana among the indigenous people. He has 28 communities to take care of, majority of whom are on the bank of the rivers. It is a tough mission. He is convinced that there is good development with the structure. Most of the community churches are in a bad condition and leadership in the church is lacking. He encourages his parishioners to rebuild their churches. With the help of self-help groups, British province and some generous people some of the village churches are taking new shape.



Fr. Elias Surin, SJ, just after his Priestly Ordination came to Guyana on 30 December 2012 and he was missioned in the Pakaraimas mountain, one of the most

challenging mission areas. He felt the need of the native language and made his best effort to learn it. He not only learned their language but started celebrating the chanting Mass in their Patamuna language with a tribal flavor. He is working at the capacity of a Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Kurukabaru for three years. He is well accepted among the people. He realized the importance of the training of the Parish Lay Assistants for the quality service in the mission. Every year he arranges their training programme for a week in which 50 of them from 14 communities actively participate and get its benefit. Another initiative was the annual youth convention and youth training programme. The result is very encouraging; young people are taking leadership in the church as well as in their communities. 392 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation in last two years. The young couples are getting married and taking their responsibilities seriously. To spread the Good News in the lives of people, the lay collaboration is a must. It is their pleasure to visit their neighboring communities and help them in catechism and faith sharing.

The four Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk from Ranchi - Sr. Crecencia Toppo, Sr. Divya Gulab, Sr. Nishi Susana and Sr. Seraphina Kerketta are working in collaboration with the Jesuits in Guyana. They are very much involved in the pastoral ministries in South Pakaraimas. They have been entering into the depths of the lives of the people, especially youth and women, by their constant family visits and catechisms.

Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, SJ, arrived in Guyana on 4 of January 2016 with a missionary zeal and enthusiasm and he is the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis Xavier Port Mourant, Berbice and assistant Director of the Guyana Human Development Centre. There are six communities where he administers the sacraments. The Guyana Human Development Centre offers various courses like computer, cake baking, embroidery and nail care. This is Hindu and Muslim dominated area, naturally, most of the students are non-Christians. Besides their training, it offers them value education for their better life.

Thus, Guyana mission has been picking up momentum with great concrete results.



For the Cause of Saints: Fr. Kulwant Minj

Towards the end of the theological studies in Pontifical Gregorian University, Kulwant Minj was appointed by R.P. Provincial the Co-Postulator along with Aurel Brys to work for the cause of Herman Rasschaert, SJ. As a beginner, he had some initial hesitation; however, after his return to the Province, R.P. Provincial, Socius, Prem Xalxo and Aurel Brys provided him with all necessary information and guidelines regarding the procedure. While Aurel Brys assumed the responsibility of gathering materials in Belgium and Holland through interviews and research in archives, Kulwant was assigned the task of visiting people and places attached to life and mission of Herman Rasschaert.



Abiding by the first requisite of the process, Kulwant first met H.L. Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Simdega, to seek his support and blessings for his mission of collecting some fundamental information regarding life, mission and virtues of Herman Rasschaert. He received the help and support of Rev. Jailas Kullu, Parish Priest of Gerda in moving around Gerda, Kutungia, Noagaon, Barilapta and Harungda. He interviewed extensively Christians, Sarnas, Hindus and Muslims as well as people who had seen, known and worked with Rasschaert. Amongst the 40 people interviewed, the interaction with Mr. Bernard Jojo, Catechist of Rasschaert, was very fruitful.

He also met those who carried the martyrs' body from Gerda to the chapel of Girjatoli and then to Kutungia Parish, and those who prepared his grave and buried him. Kulwant is convinced that Rasschaert helped establish peace, harmony and brotherhood during the most difficult times of the people of Gerda and the neighboring states through his martyrdom. Carrying along with him all the experiences of collecting valuable data on life, mission and virtues of Herman Rasschaert, Kulwant came back to Rome and started attending *Studium*, the course organized by the Congregation for the Cause of Saints so that he could make some concrete contributions towards the beatification process of both Constant Lievens and Herman Rasschaert.

Accomplishing Study Mission: Edwin Ritesh , Ravi Hemant, Edwin Dang

Edwin Ritesh, Ravi Hemant and Edwin Dang have kept themselves busy with academic activities of Gregorian University. In June 2016, all three of them completed their yet another scholastic year successfully. During summer vacation, Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant collaborated with Jesuit Refugee Service in Ethiopia for one month. In August-September, both were in Spain for the Pre-Ordination Program called Arrupe Month along with their companions of International College of Gesù. They began the Arrupe Month with a pilgrimage on the footsteps of St. Ignatius by visiting various important places starting from Montserrat and then moving to Manresa, Barcelona, Javier, and finally arriving at Loyola. After the completion of Arrupe Month, they came back to Rome to begin their new Academic Year from 3 October 2016.



Edwin Dang has become more confident and mature in dealing with the emotional as well interpersonal relational problems after completing almost three years' of studies in the Institute of Psychology of the University. Studying abroad for him has been an amazing as well as a challenging opportunity to develop personal skills, to discover new strengths and abilities, to conquer new challenges, and to solve new problems. His major academic activities of 2016-17 consisted of conducting personality assessment. He started working as a psycho-therapist by conducting Vocational Growth Sessions under the guidance of Fr. Hans Zollner SJ He is working hard right now to appear in the Comprehensive Exams scheduled for May and to submit his final thesis by 5 September 2017.

Fills and Fulfills during the Year of Mercy in Vatican Radio: Sanjay Dilip Ekka

Just like any other mission, Sanjay Dilip found the first year of his Vatican Radio mission hard and tough. However, at the end of the first year, he feels that the task commitment and dedication yield rich harvest no matter how hard and difficult the task is. The thrust of Vatican Radio mission is disseminating each and every activity of the Holy Father and proclaiming aloud his messages of peace, harmony and brotherhood to the entire world. The transmission program includes reporting of the Apostolic tours, Sunday Angelus, Catechisms, Holy Masses and General as well as General Audiences. Hindi Section translates those programs from Italian or English to Hindi.



One of the most fascinating and scintillating experiences of Sanjay Dilip is the heart touching messages of the Holy Father, which has been continuously and constantly transforming the lives of so many people. As of now, the Radio mission in the Eternal City continues to enhance the overall joy, inner peace and a sense of fulfillment.

New mission in Jesuit Curia amidst New Hopes: Anselm Ekka

Anselm Ekka arrived in Rome on 6 January 2017 to take up the responsibility of the Assistant General Treasurer. On the next day, Ranchi men warmly welcomed him amidst them during the traditional New Year Tea Party in the Curia. R.P. General was very courteous in posing for a group photo with Ranchi men during the Party. From the next day onward, Anselm devoted his full time and energy to learn the tricks and intricacies of the treasurer's office before the scheduled departure of his predecessor on 25 January. Along with his work, he also



started dedicating enough time to learn the basics of Italian language to be able to acclimatize himself fully to Roman life and culture. His colleagues are very happy and content with his spirit of dedication, collaboration and hard-work. His work as the Assistant General Treasurer of the Society of Jesus has already become part of his life experience, enhancing gradually his skills and knowledge. In a short time, he has come across with many insightful, practical and inspirational events, which spontaneously reminded him of the true spirit of the Society of Jesus in the financial matters. He was fortunate to meet Pope Francis personally, who paid a surprise visit to the Curia community and participated in the farewell dinner to say adieu to R.P. Adolfo Nicolás, former Superior General. All had a chance to meet the Pope individually after the dinner and receive his blessings.



Mission of Imparting Knowledge and Exploring New Research Areas: Linus and Prem

Linus and Prem are trying their best to live up to the expectations from their teaching mission in Gregorian University. Linus is coordinating well the conferences organized by the Centre for Interreligious Studies to study different religions of the world. The conferences aim to promote the in-depth study and analysis of history, philosophy, theology and spirituality of different religions; and thus to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and collaboration. In August 2016, his doctoral dissertation was published by Xavier Publications, Ranchi, in a book form titled *Encounter between the Christian and the Uraon Rites of Passage*.

After the publication of *Laudatosi'*, Prem has focused his attention on the challenges and questions raised by Pope Francis in his Encyclical. Inspired

and enthused by a series of Conferences being organized and number of books coming out on various themes of *Laudatosi'*, a team of Professors from different Pontifical Universities had started drafting a project of Joint Diploma course to promote the teachings of Pope Francis on the care of “Our Common Home”. From Gregorian University, Prem is the member of the inter-Pontifical University scientific team, which started exploring various possibilities from November 2016 onward. After a series of meetings in different universities, the final draft of the Project is ready to be presented to different entities of the pontifical universities for their approval during the first half of May. If the proposal is approved and the Course begins from the next Academic Year, it will signal a new era for the inter-university collaboration. As part of the process, the scientific committee participated in an International Conference on International Conference on *Watershed: Replenishing Water Values for a Thirsty World* organized and co-hosted by the Holy See and the Club of Rome.



Presence of GC Delegates in Rome: Moments of Grace

The presence of GC36 Delegates from the world over in different Roman Houses for almost two months was very inspiring, enriching and enlivening amidst sharing and listening to the diversity of experiences and reflections from the worldwide missions of the Society of Jesus. Although the Delegates kept themselves busy during the day in the proceedings of GC36, their presence during the meals and especially during the weekends brought a sense of newness, more life and vigor in the communities. Indeed, that was one of the many remarkable fruits of GC36!

Before GC36 began in Rome, the demographic changes in the Society of Jesus were called to our attention. The Society is growing in numbers in Asia and Africa, whereas its members in Europe and the Americas are aging.

The continued increase of the average age of Jesuits in certain regions of the world sparks new questions for the Society about the care for elderly Jesuits, as well as for the configuration of provinces and communities with growing numbers of the elderly.

Fr. Cipriano Díaz Marcos, SJ, delegate for the Elderly and Preparation from the Province of Spain remarked at the recently concluded GC36 that there was nothing strange about the topic “care for the elderly”. In the light of the increasing number of elderly Jesuits, not only in the west but also in South East Asian countries, care for the elderly, is very relevant. We could, indeed, add “and for our sick and infirm brethren”. Caring for the elderly [*and our sick and infirmed brethren*] as members of the same family reminds that we all feel responsible for each other. Apart from this vital care, what should also remain our focus in this service is “to face diminishment that comes from our spirituality”. As Fr. Cipriano says, “Our own spirituality speaks of the vow of poverty, and perhaps old age is a time for dispossession, to give in willingly, a moment of personal surrender in which we can live splendidly in the manner Fr. Arrupe taught us when he had to resign from the Society of Jesus due to health problems.”

Care for the elderly, as Fr. Cipriano reflects, gives us an opportunity to better understand the theology of religious life: “Old age tells us that Religious Life has a lot of passivity, submission, donation [...] and this is a time also to recover those keys of theology and spirituality.” (cf., *GC Daily News: 3/11/2016*)

Care for our sick and infirm brothers, likewise, gives us an invitation to deepen our union of hearts with them who need us. Our spiritual communion and nearness to those who suffer from physical ill-health and spiritual loneliness call for self-sacrifice on our part. It calls for a change from our busy schedule to make ourselves available to them. It means making effort to visit them, giving them company and have conversation with them. The history of our Mission depicts how our Fathers (cf. T. Van der Shueren SJ, *The Belgian Mission of Bengal 1,2,3*, Thacker, Spink & Co, Calcutta, 1922, pp. 45), on hearing someone’s illness, would rush to visit them and attend to them in the Mission Stations they were assigned. It is heartening to see how some of our elderly or recuperating brothers visit one another and give companionship, comfort and solace to each other.

This care for elderly, sick and infirmed brethren, demands magnanimity, a big heart which is central to the Spiritual Exercises. No wonder, our Father Ignatius and his nine companions, while waiting for permission from the Holy Father to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, devoted themselves in caring for the sick. The spirit of availability in service to our brethren in our communities where our Mission begins even before we are sent to universal Mission elsewhere comes from this *sucipe* of the Exercises.

The activities

The activities of the Health Commission through 2016 have been the same as in the past years and could be looked against the background of what has been said above. These activities typically reflect the day-to-day duties in the infirmary. They may appear a routine work, sometimes monotonous but they are in no way less humbling and less edifying.

[i] Monitoring

Some of our elderly and sick brethren as well as few others who have been taking preventive or regulating medicines require regular monitoring for their medicines as well as consultation with doctors. The in-charge of the Province Infirmary keeps a record of those members and their medical requirements and makes arrangement for timely supply of their medicines.

[ii] Province infirmary

Presently, there are seven members (4 Priests and 3 Brothers) accommodated in the infirmary while two elderly Priests stay in the community. Occasionally, some brethren also come from other Houses and stay in the infirmary for recuperation after hospitalization. The infirmarian looks after them with the help of two lay caregivers.

Occasionally, the Infirmary has extended its services to others in other ways such as; it provided its Ambulance on six occasions to our own Jesuits and twice to other religious. Similarly, it offered the facility of its mobile mortuary to others three times.

[iii] Consultation with the doctors

The House Doctor visits all the inmates of the Infirmary once a week. He is also available for medical consultation once a week and for an emergency as and when required and in the event of death, he certifies the same.

The Infirmarian always accompanies the elderly and the sick and other Jesuits to doctors' clinics and attends to their needs inasmuch as they need his help.

Four Jesuit communities arranged for routine health check up of their brethren last year. Apart from this, there were at least 16 of our companions who required consultation and treatment from the doctors for leg fracture, spondylitis, neurological problems, prostate cancer, worm in brain, dental care, for eye & ear problems, and for dialysis.

[iv] Hospitalization

The Infirmarian has been taking care of hospitalization, of arrangement for attendants to help the sick, and in the case of surgical intervention, for pre/post-surgical arrangements and treatments etc., These are always done in consultation with the Socius to the Fr. Provincial who also happens to be in-charge of health.

There were at least 21 Jesuits who required hospitalization in 2016 for treatment for various health conditions like- cold and breathing problem [one case], fall and bone fracture [two cases], hernia surgery [one case], typhoid, malaria & jaundice [ten cases], kidney stone surgery [one case], blood clotting in the brain [one case], cardiac surgery [one case] cardiac attack [one case], blood clotting in the brain [one case], low BP [one case], blood sugar [one case], thyroid problem [one case], prostate surgery [two cases], cancer surgery [one case], for oncological therapy [one case] and for dialysis [two cases].

[v] Visiting the sick brethren

Apart from the daily routine health check-up and attending to any need of those in the Infirmary, visiting the sick brethren in any clinic, health care or hospital whenever they are admitted for some specialized care or treatment, is another important aspect of care of our brethren. Irrespective of engagements, and inconvenience of distance a routine-like regularity has helped in following their progress and needs.

[vi] Our dear departed

Six of our brethren have gone to their eternal reward in 2016. On each occasion, the members of the Province came in good number and paid their last respects and bid them eternal rest. The Province has always felt a deep sense of fellowship on these occasions.

Father Florent Jonckheere SJ (1925-2016), except for a stint of six years as Superior of St. Xavier's School Doranda, spent his life in the formation of the Seminarians in St. Albert's College, Ranchi. He fell from the staircase in the Seminary and died on 28 January 2016. His dedication to the formation of the seminarians, his exemplary life of prayer and discipline, punctuality, his interest in the seminarians, besides his work for the catechism in the diocese and the cause of Fr. Constant Lievens, SJ, has left a mark in the Seminary as a formator.

Father Ranjit Pascal Toppo SJ (1961-2016), a visionary for apostolic works, died of cancer at Seva Nilaya at Ara Gate, Ranchi, on 28 May 2016, barely after two months of its detection. He showed great resilience in his suffering and accepting death. As Provincial of Ranchi Province (2006-2011), he knew the men of the Province well and he took great interest in the scholastics and their formation. Under his leadership the Province saw expansion in education apostolate and a blueprint for better management of financial resources of the Province.

Father Vijay Paul Minj (1966-2016), an energetic hard-worker, died of a massive heart attack while playing at St. Xavier's College on 2 June 2016. He was committed to his given responsibility and he drew his inspiration and strength from his faithfulness to prayer-life and Ignatian spirituality. He almost single handedly started and gave firm foundation to the St. John's English Medium School, Ranchi.

The demise of the latter two in the interval of 10 days shocked the Province since both, Vijay Paul and Ranjit Pascal were shortly to assume new offices in major educational institutions of the Province.

Fr. Paul Frans Terrens SJ (1924-2016), a man with deep missionary spirit who served the Lord in his vineyard mostly through institutions -- as a Director, Superior, Rector and a Chaplain, of Apostolic Schools, the Jesuit Novitiate, High School and Hospital, respectively, died in Constant Lievens Hospital of Medical Sciences, Mandar, on 21 November 2016 graced with age of 92 years. He knew each of his students personally not only by their names but also by their qualities and family backgrounds and visited their families during summer holidays. His compassion and kindness for his students, has left a memorable impression in them.

Fr. Leo Bara SJ (1922-2016), a man of discipline and hard work, who loved and encouraged his teachers and students as a school-headmaster and an admirer of his people as a pastor, a keen reader and with an interest for ecology, one who never lost his sense of humour till the end, died at Manresa House Infirmary on 10 December 2016 at the age of 94 years. His funeral revealed how many hearts he had touched by his life and mission as a teacher and pastor in the Lord's vineyard.

Fr. William Surin SJ (1933-2016), a man of well-built physical stature with equally strong will power blended with kind heart and understanding person towards his students and colleagues be it in the hostels or in the College, died on 24 December 2016 in Constant Lievens Hospital of Medical Sciences, Mandar. A self-giving man, Willy never got tired of giving his time in the College campus, in the hostels or elsewhere he would be required. His initiative to have National Assessment and Accreditation of the college and the construction of the new auditorium despite many financial constraints and taking his colleagues into confidence in taking decisions, showed his administrative capacity and the spirit of collaboration. The Presence of many of his colleagues and students at his last journey was a mark of his affable character, whom his Master called for the befitting reward in his heavenly abode.



Committed Jesuit Brothers of Ranchi Province



Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ - the Chief Guest on Republic day in St. John's School, Ranchi



Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Provincial - Addressing students on the occasion of Inter - Jesuit Schools' cultural Fiesta



“ Aiming not merely for improbable but for the impossible driven by firm faith---nothing is impossible for God.” (Homily of Fr. Arturo Sosa at his first thanksgiving mass)



Everything for the Greater Glory of God...

