



RANCHI JESUITS



YEAR BOOK 2020



Let us ask
for the grace
not to tire
of asking forgiveness,
because
He never tires
of forgiving.

~ Pope Francis



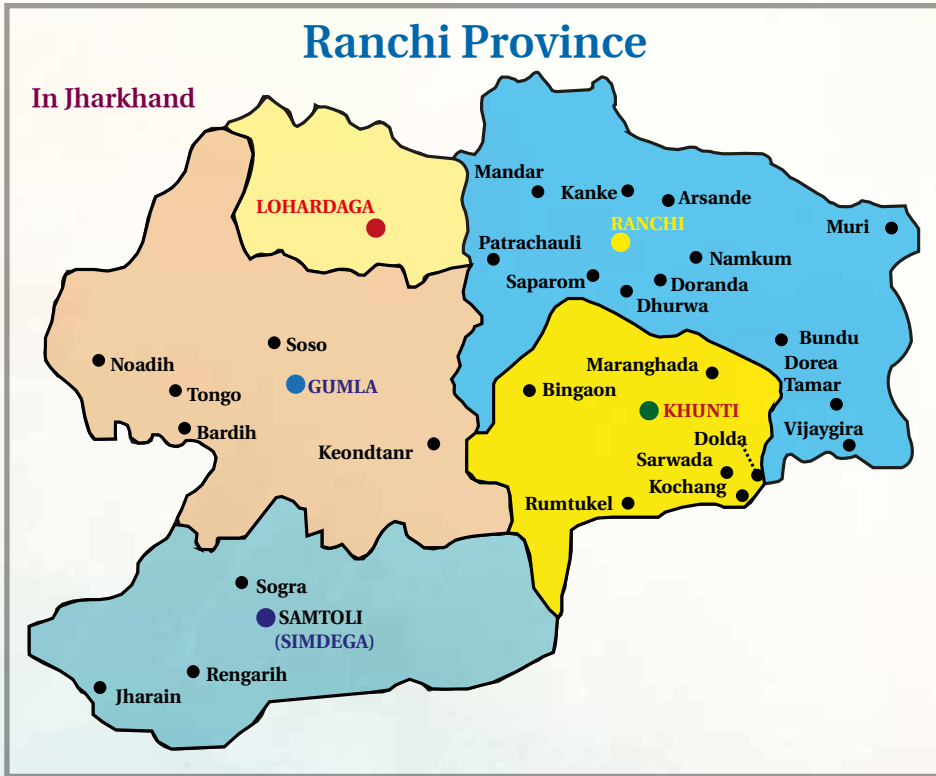
Joy of Coming Together! (Province Days 2019)



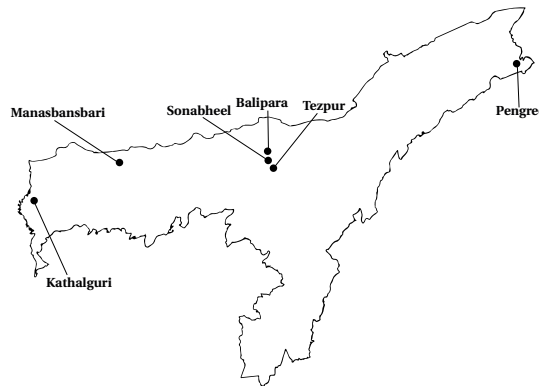
RANCHI JESUITS
YEAR BOOK 2020

Ranchi Province

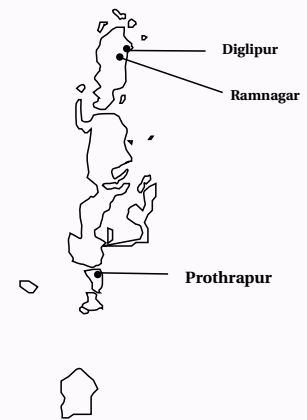
In Jharkhand



In Assam



In Andamans Islands



Imprimi Potest

Fr. Dr. Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ

Provincial Superior

Ranchi Jesuit Society

©Ranchi Jesuit Society

Published: 2020

Publisher: Ranchi Jesuit Society

Overseas:

- ◆ Guyana
- ◆ Combodia
- ◆ Rome
- ◆ Egypt
- ◆ Africa

Table of Contents

Sl. No.	Content	Author	PAGE No.
	Foreword	Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, Provincial Superior	ii-iii
	From Editor's Desk	Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Chief Editor	iv - vi
1	Response of Ranchi Jesuits to Covid – 19	Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur	1-12
2	Canonization Process of Fr. Constant Lievens: The Apostle of Chotanagpur	Fr. Linus Kujur	13-15
3	Fr. Herman Rasschaert: The Servant of God	Fr. Kulwant Minj	16-17
4	Formation in Ranchi Province	Fr. Medard Xalxo	18-20
5	Internazionale Collegio Del Gesu	Sch. Nirmal Minj	21-23
6	Collegio S. Roberto Bellarmino, Rome	Fr. Kulwant Minj	24
7	International Conference on Amazon	Fr. Prem Xalxo	25-27
8	Ray of Hope Continues...	Sch. Subodh Lakra	28-29
9	Ranchi Jesuits in Cambodia Mission	Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty	30
10	Bro. Vincent Soreng, SJ: A Missionary in Africa for 49 Years	Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng	31-33
11	Ranchi Jesuits in Guyana Mission	Fr. Elias Surin & Fr. Amar A. Bage	34-36
12	Creating Processes, Not Occupying Spaces	Fr. Xavier Lakra & Fr. Rozario Mosahari	37-40
13	Towards Re-Visioning the Future of Assam Mission	Fr. Xavier Lakra	41-45
14	70 th Year of Tertianship at Sitagarha: A Year of God's Sevenfold Blessings	Fr. Ignatius Tete	46-49
15	A Call to Hear the Cry of the Poor & the Earth	Fr. Sushil Tirkey	50-51
16	Walking with the Poor and Excluded	Fr. Xavier Soreng & Team	52-60
17	"Set the World on Fire" - Mandate of the Jesuit Secondary Education	Fr. Erentius Minj	61-63
18	Higher Studies...Sky is the Limit	Fr. Francis David Kullu	64-66
19	Higher Education and Quality Assurance	Fr. Pradeep Kerketta	67-68
20	Platinum Jubilee of St. SXC, Ranchi (1944-2019)	Fr. Emmanuel Barla	69-72
21	A Collaborative School Review	Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess	73-81
22	Communicating God's Mission	Fr. Alex Tirkey	82-84
23	Glimpses of Pastoral Apostolate from the Past	Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng	85-86
24	Peace Building Through Dialogue	Fr. Sanjay Kerketta & Fr. Amrit Tirkey	87-89
25	Educative and Formative Venture for Youth	Fr. Pradeep Tirkey	90-91
26	Annual Retreat and Meeting of Jesuit Brothers	Bro. James Barla	92-93
27	Planning for Greater Effectiveness in Mission	Fr. Francis Minj	94-97
28	Milestones of Ranchi Province in 2019 - 20	Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng	98-114
29	Province Infirmary, Manresa House, Ranchi	Fr. Raymond Kerketta	115-116

Foreword



Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ
Provincial Superior

At the end of my tenure in the office of the Provincial of Ranchi Jesuit Society, while I congratulate and wish all the best to my successor, Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, I sincerely thank every province man for his support and collaboration all these years. It has been a pleasant and happy journey together towards tomorrow in spite of stress and strain due to various historical, socio-economic and political developments. I take this opportunity to thank my socius, consultants, curia members, commission heads, rectors, superiors, directors of works, parish priests, collaborators, catechists, support staff, cooks, drivers, gardeners, and so on – past and present – for their guidance, accompaniment, support and understanding.

I thank Most Reverend Father Superior General of the Society of Jesus for placing his trust in me despite my inadequacy and unworthiness, to take God's mission forward. It has been a joyful experience to work with the powerful legacy of the Society with all its dimensions – spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, social, temporal, human, etc. The legacy will continue calling for transparency, accountability and integrity. I am happy and proud that in my successor, the Province is in safe hands.

There have been experiences of consolations and desolations, struggles and strains. However, whatever we have tried to do together is in the direction of striving for the betterment of our life and mission in the midst of manifold challenges.

The present situation in Jharkhand is better than before. We can now take a sigh of relief. However, hostility continues at different levels. Investigations of the minority institutions concerning F.C.R.A. continue. If there is a routine screening, there is no issue. However, if only the Christian institutions are singled out, there seems to be a bias and a well-thought-out design. Although Sister Concilia is out on bail, Fr. Alphonse Aind, SJ, continues to languish in jail. Fr. Stan Lourdsamy, SJ, is not yet out of danger of being arrested. Meanwhile, the threat of Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and National Register Citizenship (NRC) is real. From 1 April 2020, NPR was supposed to have started. Various Adivasi groups, Muslims, the poor and Church organizations oppose it as this process is perceived as posing threat to their very existence as 'citizens' in the country. Ranchi Jesuits continue working courageously in Assam Mission, the Andamans, Egypt, Africa, Guyana, Cambodia and Rome in overseas missions, and

also in the Common Houses of JCSA in Vidya Jyoti Delhi, Satya Nilayam Chennai and Sitagarha Tertianship. This is the context in which Ranchi Jesuits are working at the moment.

I am full of gratitude to God for guiding me all along. The first year was a period of learning and getting used to the work of the office. Thereafter, too, it was a learning process. I have learnt a lot during these years and I am still learning.

All along, I experienced that the office of the provincial was a sacred seat, entrusted to me by the Society of Jesus to carry out the Mission of God – of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. There was never a moment during these years that my eyes were off this focus. I felt that God's hand was right there in all that we did together. There is a feeling of self-satisfaction that we were doing God's work and not ours and it was God who was taking care of the Province in the midst of many challenges.

Being in the office of the provincial, it was a consoling experience to be exposed to the universal society – through various zonal and JCSA meetings, colloquium of the new provincials in Rome, 36th General Congregation, reading about the happenings in the Society in various parts of the world, Re-orienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness (REGAE), Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs), Province Apostolic Planning (PAP), etc.

I felt a strong sense of bonding with the entire Society and the Province, dealing in cura personalis and cura apostolica. I felt one with the Jesuits slogging day in and day out in the remotest of the villages. I was part of their joys and sorrows. This gave me great consolation and solace.

I have a feeling of happiness and satisfaction for being able to work hand-in-hand with various dioceses during the last six years. Our relationship with the dioceses was all time high. Bishops entrusted me with the responsibilities of animating the religious and faithful on socio-political and religious issues. On many occasions I was the chairperson and/or resource person in the meetings of the Bishops and C.R.I

(Catholic Religious of India). This relationship with the Bishops gave me a feeling of 'thinking with the Church' and supporting the Church when she needed our help. I am grateful to the JHAAN Bishops' Conference in general and to the Archbishop's House in particular, including the Cardinal emeritus.

The unfulfilled dreams will surely be fulfilled in the years to come in the areas of (1) implementation of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) & Province Apostolic Planning (PAP), (2) depth – spiritual, intellectual and human – in our life and mission, (3) financial stability, (4) just wage to collaborators, (5) strengthening and deepening ministries – (a) quality but cheap education – primary, secondary, inter-mediate and higher/professional – including a new degree college in Gumla, and University status to XISS and St. Xavier's College Ranchi, (b) socio-pastoral, (c) socio-political research, analysis and advocacy, (d) youth empowerment through spiritual & career guidance, skill training and social consciousness, (e) creation and consolidation of civil society in Ranchi, (f) strengthening and expansion of alumni, collaborations and networks, (g) pioneering periphery missions, (h) vocation promotion, especially of religious brothers, and (i) holistic formation.

I believe that every Jesuit must move on and not be stagnant. He should be part of the process and not occupy space. I am convinced that no one is indispensable. The time now has come for me to move on to whatever the Lord wants of me.

My special thanks to Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, the editor and Provincial designate, for editing the 'Ranchi Year Book' for the past six years so very professionally. I acknowledge and appreciate the contribution of Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng, the Secretary, who coordinated the entire process in giving the present year book its shape. My congratulations and thanks to the entire editorial team for a wonderful 'Year Book 2020' publication. Once again, my thanks and best wishes to one and all! God bless us all! God bless Ranchi Province!

From the Editor's Desk...

Fr. Ajit Kumar, Xess, SJ

Dear Friends,

Recently, I came across a divine saying:

"Trophies gather dust but memories live forever."

Truly, it filled me with an immense insight into life when I started reflecting upon it and even as I express my feelings and emotions on this page, I am entirely guided by the spirit of this saying. What we really leave behind each moment is our memories. Some last eternally, some for centuries, decades, years, months, weeks, days and some others, perhaps, for a few brief moments. But, the most common actuality among all these is TIME. Yes, Time and Memories are so intertwined with each other that it is almost impossible to separate them in our life. Everything happens in time. Right from the day of Grand Creation by God, humanity has been internally sowed in time and we experience it constantly each second. Yesterday has become History, now is Present and tomorrow will be our Future.

In the light of this marvelous truth, I would like to draw your attention to our life as Jesuits, particularly as members of Ranchi Jesuit Province. Since the arrival of the first Jesuits in our region of beautiful Chotanagpur, we have been graciously blessed by the Lord. History (Time) proves that our Founding Father, St. Ignatius of Loyola, got an amazing call to salvage the world from the onslaught of Evil. The vicious plans of Devil and its advocates had almost numbed the Faith of the people of God. It was during these challenging times that Jesuits had to carry the Victorious banner of Christ. WE belong to the same group of knights. We carry the same spirit and bear the same banner of Faith among the natives of our place. We are privileged in keeping afloat this victorious banner.



As Jesuits, we rally behind the great legacy of our pioneers. We cannot forget the undying sacrifices of the first Jesuits. They were the brave soldiers of Christ to withstand the severe times of this region and were blessed abundantly in their efforts to bring the Word of Christ to us. Our land has had great Jesuit Missionaries who came all the way from distant shores to share the Love of God. They taught our forefathers the basic truths about God and also assisted them in their spiritual growth. They walked many miles; they were subjected to fear and suspicion but they continued to bear the love of God to get our land rid of its sad plight. The plundering, pillaging and exploitation of natural resources and the native populations by the landlords inflicting abject poverty on them were just some of the many undeserved things. The physicality of such liberation did definitely help the missionaries in bringing the locals closer to Christ.

Moreover, our pioneering Jesuits did not merely stop here but went ahead in laying the foundation for bigger awareness and consciousness. It was a kind of RENAISSANCE for the people then. From knowing nothing about the outside world and Love of Christ, our forefathers started interacting with other people with confidence and a sense of purpose. Yes, our first Jesuit Missionaries ventured into a new path – They taught people to understand their misery and also enlightened them with enough fire to awaken and deepen their TRIBAL CONSCIOUSNESS. It was not easy though as many came forward protesting against such actions of our valiant missionaries. Our people are today able to speak their hearts out freely because we were guided ably to stand for what we are and what we have for ages unknown. The people of Chotanagpur will ever remain indebted to these valiant knights of Christ.

Dear Fathers and brothers, it is therefore a time to reflect the same tenor and fire. We have to mirror these courageous missionaries in our words and acts. We are Jesuits now because

someone in the past sowed the seed of faith for the future. The love of God has blessed this land through the life of our missionaries. They have lived their life and gone to meet their rewards but they have left us a great path to walk. In their life, we find light to be guided by. Whatever they did for the natives of this land has become iconic and we cannot in any way be any less Jesuits in living the same spirit of faith and courage.

We have moved ahead in time – the year 2020. Our Jesuit family in Ranchi and in the world has grown beyond our expectation. God has been walking with us. He has been there to guide us and to motivate us. Our mode of interacting with the people of God is ever changing. We have been experiencing numerous transitional phases and ideas. We are now in an era where chemical, biological and industrial changes are impacting our life. We are seemingly clueless regarding some of the new developments. The case of Corona Virus and its aftermath is just one example.

We, therefore, need to have purpose in life. We have to live our mission in the present circumstances. We have displayed great resilience and perseverance so far. We, as a Jesuit family, are united and committed in living the call of God to serve our people. Let us renew our faith and resolve to be sustained by the examples of our first missionaries and pioneers of our society. Let us look for good examples among us.

This Year Book for Ranchi Jesuit Province reflects these sentiments. All the articles on various subjects are tales of firmness and inspirations for our Jesuit brethren. Not only do they inform us about our present life and happenings but they also speak volumes about our life as Jesuits. It is a great practice for sure and has become a good tradition of the province – continuous six years in all.

I am extremely happy to inform you that this 'Province Year Book-2020' has faced countless challenges to survive for the sixth edition. We are well into the present edition because of the inimitable vision of our Provincial, Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ. He has always seen this Year Book as a mirror of our life. He has been personally going through each article before it reaches your hands. We need to laud this personal initiative of Fr. Provincial. Thank you Father, for enlightening our life, through this Year Book!

I would like to acknowledge contribution of every Jesuit of our Province for encouraging us in

bringing out this edition. Six consecutive years is no mean achievement. Kudos to all of you! Your well-researched articles and well-meant thoughts have been inspiring us for the last six years. Let us continue to prosper in them.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that as an editor, it has been a wonderful experience for me. I am personally enthused and suffused with knowledge and wisdom. In your writings for the Year Book, I have discovered a treasure of great stories. Therefore, I am well reminded of a great saying again,

“There is no greater agony than sharing an untold story inside you” – Maya Angelou

**Let us keep rejoicing in our stories!
Let us keep sharing them! Happy Reading...**



Our Stories Began Here..... Manresa House (1889)

1

Response of Ranchi Jesuits to COVID-19

Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ
Provincial, Ranchi Jesuit Society

The response of the Ranchi Jesuits to COVID-19 has two clear phases – the present and the future. If the present is deadly the future is going to be equally if not more deadly. The present report tries to capture the moments that triggered the Ranchi Jesuit involvement in the relief of those most affected by the killer virus and also spells out the post covid-19 future challenges to be addressed.

[A] Covid-19 Combat – the Present

Global Context

It is indeed horrific to see the everyday news of the havoc created by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) across the world and particularly in some countries of Europe. COVID-19 is an unprecedented situation, which is changing everything about life and work. The first time Covid-19 outbreak was declared by the Director-General of W.H.O. on the 31 January 2020. At that time, a total of 9720 confirmed cases and 213 deaths were reported in China. Just a day before that, i.e. 30 January 2020, a laboratory-confirmed case of Covid-19 was reported in Kerala, India, of a patient, who was a returnee from the Wuhan City of the Hubei province in China, the epicenter of the outbreak.

On 27 April 2020, there were 3,064,255 confirmed cases and 2,11,537 deaths across the world. According to ministry of health and family welfare there were 29,451 cases and 939 deaths in India. In Jharkhand there were more than 103 confirmed cases and 3 deaths. In Ranchi alone there were 75 confirmed cases and 2 deaths reported.

March 23rd 2020 was declared as Janta Curfew by the Prime Minister. On 25 March 2020, he issued an order for a National lockdown in the country for 21 days, until 14 April 2020. Again, the lockdown was extended from 15 April to 3 May 2020. Now, it will have to be seen as to what will be done to contain the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. The entire world has come to a standstill due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

The Context of Jharkhand

The COVID-19 has paralyzed Jharkhand as well. The inflow of millions of migrants from the host states is a big challenge for the Government of Jharkhand. It is a responsibility of each one of us as a responsible citizen of the country.

The state government has a four-fold challenge: first, containing the covid-19 and prevent it from escalating; second, manage the homecoming and other stranded migrant workers; third, managing the starving population in rural and urban areas; and fourth, managing the economy of the state after covid-19 exit. According to the media reports there are more than 9 lakh migrant workers of Jharkhand stranded outside (Prabhat Khabar, 25 April 2020).

Call of the Society of Jesus

In the given situation of COVID-19: How can the Jesuits sleep peacefully while millions of their brethren (migrant labourers, displaced, daily wage workers & others with sizable number of women and children) are spending sleepless nights on the street, inter-state borders and on the roads, walking back home from the host states of Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, Delhi, and Rajasthan, to name a few?

It is a kairos moment for the Province to find God in those 4 Universal Apostolic preferences (UAP)-people – the homeless, the broken, the lost, the least, the youth – on the margins.

COVID-19 in the Context of Universal Apostolic Preferences

1. To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment

COVID-19 has given us Jesuits the opportunity to strengthen our collaboration with the Church in experiencing secular society as a sign of the times that affords us the opportunity to renew our presence in the heart of human history. In our involvement with the most vulnerable to coronavirus pandemic it is important to have a deeper experience of the Spiritual Exercises so that we lead them to a personal and communal encounter with Christ that transforms us. This transformation, therefore, is outward looking and not inward looking. Serving the stranded migrants is a manifestation of their spiritual experience. This is how we can also lead them to a deeply spiritual experience without being sectarian. In our response to covid-19, is also a discovery of our spiritual exercise and spiritual conversation.

2. To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice

Walking with the poor stranded migrants, in a broader sense, is also promoting social justice, peace and reconciliation in the context of individuals, peoples and their cultures with one another, with nature, and with God.

Our involvement in shelter homes, dry ration distribution and their protection, confirms our commitment to care for migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and victims of wars and human trafficking. This also defends the culture and the dignified existence of all human beings irrespective of their caste, colour and creed.

Our involvement also implies an in-depth understanding of the existent economic, political, and social processes that generate such great injustice. Hence, relief work is only a crisis management. Our larger aim is at working for alternatives through research, networking and advocacy.



3. To accompany the young in the creation of a hope-filled future

Most of the stranded migrants are youth. While the male youth are trying to come back to their home states, the female domestic helps are retained by their families to continue household chores. These unfortunate youth, most of them dropouts, had migrated to other states for financial stability in their life and to support their families. This is the time when we need to instill in the youth depth in their spiritual life during their time of crisis. However, to accompany young people demands of us authenticity of life, spiritual depth, and openness to sharing the life-mission that gives meaning to who we are and what we do.

4. To collaborate in the care of our Common Home

The migration crisis due to covid-19 is due to the damage done to the earth resulting in the damage to the most vulnerable, such as indigenous peoples, peasants forced to emigrate, and the inhabitants of urban peripheries. The environmental destruction being caused by the dominant economic system is inflicting intergenerational damage: not only does it affect those now living on earth, particularly the very young, but it also conditions and jeopardizes the life of future generations.

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that all human beings share responsibility for care of creation, considered by many peoples "mother earth." "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her... This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail'" (Rom 8:22).

As Jesuits, it is our responsibility to collaborate with others in the construction of alternative models of life that are based on respect for creation and on a sustainable development capable of producing goods that, when justly distributed, ensure a decent life for all human beings on our planet.

Bold decisions are required to avoid further damage and to bring about lifestyle changes that are necessary so that the goods of creation are used for the benefit of all. *Laudato Si'* reminds us that "disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. We Jesuits need an 'ecological conversion, to be protectors of God's handiwork. Conversion for us begins by changing the habits of life promoted by an economic and cultural system based on the consumption of an irrational production of goods.

Appeal to the Province-men

An appeal was made to each Jesuit of the Province of each community -- To prayerfully discern what we can do collectively to collaborate with the state government at this juncture in view of:

1. Exploring the possibilities of organizing voluntary service teams in parishes and dioceses to collaborate with the government agencies in assisting the corona virus infected people and their families.
2. Exploring the setting up of a team of healthcare personnel comprising doctors and nurses, including the retired ones.

3. Finding out about conducting awareness programmes for the people about the safety measures to be adopted in the current situation as the number of the patients with Covid-19 is on the increase.
4. Examining the possibility of facilitating accommodation and food for the migrant laboruers who are coming back from other states.
5. Finding out the possibility of facilitating ration/food distribution for the daily wage labourers, rickshaw-pullers, etc., who cannot engage in any work to earn their daily bread during this moment of crisis.
6. Exploring the possibility of fundraising for the above said initiatives.

Given the tragedy, on behalf of the RANCHI JESUIT SOCIETY, we pledged our support to the District Administration in whatever way possible with our constraints. Under the aegis of Ranchi Jesuit Society, its affiliate Institutions, such as St. Xavier's School, Doranda; Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi; St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, St. John's School, Ranchi, to name a few, in coordination with the Catholic Archdiocese of Ranchi, Catholic Religious of India (C.R.I.), and several other NGOs and people of good will, irrespective of their caste, colour and creed, would be part of the Relief Team, to facilitate shelter homes and community kitchen in various sites within and in the outskirts of Ranchi. We were also in touch with Prof. Jean Dreze and Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX, who would be our advisors in carrying out the operation. It would be our concerted effort to house and feed the 'guests', instilling in them a sense of human dignity and self-esteem.

Before taking up the work needed some clarity on the objective of our engagement, i.e. to accommodate and feed the migrant labourers thronging from other states in the wake of the COVID-19, with the support of the Jharkhand Government.

Our concerns at that point in time were

- Data on the migrant laborers, who will be our responsibility, as per our capacity.
- Identification of various locations/sites and infrastructural facilities.
- Orientation and training required for the volunteers before they are deputed to different centres.
- Strict following of the WHO & Government of India 'Health Advisory' and safety measures for the Volunteers as well as the Migrants.
- Infrastructural facilities by us, our collaborators and other networks through the Government support for ration, kitchen, transportation, and other logistics.
- Ensuring that the migrants first go through the medical test at RIMS and are not infected before they are shifted to the shelter homes.
- Kits and other necessary materials – gloves, masks, sanitizers, plastic gowns, etc., be made available to the volunteers.
- Necessary materials, kits, etc. for the education & awareness of the migrants about the danger of covid-19 & safety measures (sanitizer, masks, etc.) for them.
- Need of sanitizing the shelter homes before their use and also once they are vacated, so that the facilities can be used by the concerned institutions for classes and other purposes.

Implementing Plan of Action

The District Administration initially suggested us to work on the following tasks: (1) Shelter homes close to the district borders caring for 4000-10,000 stranded people; (2) Helpline – attend to the distress calls, to assist those suffering from hunger or other crises; (3) Chief Minister’s Kitchen; and (4) Community Kitchen. Taking into consideration our resources – human and financial – it was not feasible for us to take up everything together. We settled for the first task, which requires our intervention immediately. In fact, when we asked the District Administration as to when the Shelter Homes should start functioning, we were told “within 24 hours”. However, even after 48 hours it was difficult to start the work as the basics were not in place. Nevertheless, we tried our level best on a war-footing basis to do whatever was possible.

Since the district borders on all sides had been sealed, we had been asked to take care of the Shelter Homes on the borders. These are the centres identified by the District Administration for shelter homes: (1) Muri – 2 schools, (2) Khalari for Chatra entry – 2 schools, (3) Mandar – 2 schools, (4) Tamar – 2 schools, (5) Kanke for Ramgarh entry – 2 schools, (6) Ormanjhi – 2 schools, and (7) Hulhundu – 2 schools.

The following 14 schools belonging to various Church-based organizations were requisitioned by the DC for their use for the said purpose:

- (1) **Muri:** Ursuline HS for 200 men & R.C. Girls’ Middle School for 100 women;
- (2) **Khalari :** Ursuline English Medium School for 200 women & Adarsh HS for 200 men;
- (3) **Mandar:** St. Anne’s Girls’ HS for 200 women & St. Aloysius Middle school for 200 men;
- (4) **Tamar:** St. John’s Middle & High School for 200 men & 200 women;
- (5) **Kanke:** Anita Girls High School for 200 women & St. Joseph’s High School for 200 men;
- (6) **Hulhundu:** St. Joseph’s Middle School for 200 women & Fatima Boys school for 200 men;
- (7) **Ormanjhi:** Mount Carmel School for 200 men & 200 women.

The Ranchi Jesuit Society identified the core team members and volunteers. While Fr. George Kerketta, Province Development Director, kept trying to mobilize funds, Fr. Ashok Kandulna was appointed the overall in-charge of the Jesuit-run shelter homes. Fr. Deepak Toppo, Fr. Sylverius Chermako and Fr. Binod Toppo were appointed as coordinators respectively of Muri and Tamar shelter homes. Along with the coordinators, there was a host of more than



80 volunteers from Manresa House Juniorate, Novitiate, and Pre-Novitiate to take turn in the shelter homes.

We have had an orientation programme for volunteers in XISS auditorium conducted by an official from DC office along with Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX.

We prepared a check list of all items required. We also made a tentative check list for the volunteers. We had a meeting with our Jesuit volunteers and asked them to purchase all items required. On 2 April, some of our volunteers moved to Tamar and Muri and stayed over there. They ensured that all preparations were made before the inflow of the guests.

By this day all primary requirements, such as ration, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, buckets, mugs, etc., were expected to be transported from Ranchi to the said places. Unfortunately, Tamar is a malaria prone area too and we needed to be extremely careful about that. XISS had been helping us in a big way to procure things from the shops in spite of the lockdown. It also helped us reach the necessary goods to both the locations. Doranda Old Xaverians (DOX) also supplied us provisions for all our shelter homes.



The following are the areas of engagement of the Ranchi Jesuits to combat covid-19 in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Ranchi, DOX, C.R.I., NGOs and People of good will:

1. Shelter Homes

Out of the 12 shelter homes run by various religious societies, the Ranchi Jesuits have been entrusted with 3 of them – two in Tamar and one in Muri.

The modus operandi for bringing migrants to shelter homes is that the Medical Team at the district & State borders examines the migrants. After screening, if they are found to be negative, they are sent to the shelter homes. Those with infection are sent to the hospital for treatment in isolation.

Police bring the migrants along with certificated of screening to shelter homes, where they are registered. Their photos are taken along with various details at the time of registration. The school concerned along with the coordinators and volunteers ensures the accommodation and feeding of the migrants in a good and healthy environment. Counseling, education, awareness programme, etc. are also conducted.

As on 27 April 2020, on the whole, 79 inmates in the Muri shelter home and 46 in Tamar, have been the beneficiaries of the Jesuit hospitality. The details are given in the table below.

MIGRANT WORKERS IN JESUIT SHELTER HOMES

Centres	Bihar	Jharkhand	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Total	Adults	Minors
Muri	01	17	12	49	79	63	16
Tamar	03	20	05	18	46	45	01
Total	04	37	17	67	125	108	17

2. Dry ration distribution:

Ranchi Jesuits are engaged in distributing dry ration to the most needy – the stranded workers, migrants, students, families – in the districts of Ranchi, Simdega, Gumla, Lohardaga and Khunti, through their institutions and social centres. A quick survey is first conducted to ascertain as to how many persons and families require our assistance.

Prabhat Tara School: The Prabhat Tara Management also distributed dry ration – rice, dal, salt and potatoes to more than 100 families.

RANCHI JESUITS COVID-19 RELIEF WORK INTERVENTION

S.N.	INSTITUTION	SERVICE PROVIDED	PARTNER	VOLUNTEER	BENEFICIARIES	BENEFICIARIES/HH	TARGET	LOCATION
1	Sadbhavana Jesuit Provincialate	Food & Shelter Home	Local Jesuit Community & Ursuline Sisters	6	Stranded Migrant Labourers from W.B., UP & Bihar	180	200	Muri
		Food & Shelter Home	Local Jesuit Community	5	Stranded Migrant Labourers from W.B., UP & Bihar	79 (Male-65; Female-10; Children-4)	100	Muri
		Food & Shelter Home	Local Jesuit Community	6	Stranded Migrant Labourers from W.B., UP, Bihar, Bangalore & Jharkhand	42	300	Tamar
2	Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS)	Food Kit Distribution- (Rice 10 Kgs; Potato 3 Kg; Onion 2 Kg; Masoor Dal 1.5 Kg; Grams 2 Kg; Sugar 1/2 Kg; Soap 2 Pcs; Sattu 4 Pkts; Haldi 1 Pkt; Oil 1 Pouch; Salt 1 Pkt)	District Administration, Ranchi	100+ (in 3 Shifts)	Quarintined (Red Zone with as of 25th April, 35 COVID-19+ cases)	42000 (7000 HH)	60000 (10000 HH)	Hind Pidi, Ranchi
3	AROUSE	Food Kit Distribution-(Rice 10 Kgs; Dal 2 Kgs; Potatoes 2 Kgs; Salt 1 Pkt)	Local Jesuit Community	19	Stranded Students & Migrant Labourers	1675 (335 HH)	10000 (2000 HH)	Gumla
4	Gana Chetana Samaj (GCS), Assam	Food Kit Distribution-(Rice 10 Kgs; Dal 2 Kgs; Potatoes 2 Kgs; Salt 1 Pkt)	Local Jesuit Community	8	Tea Garden Labourers and Daily Wage Earners	3380 (1276 HH)	10000 (2000 HH)	Assam
5	Khunti Parish	Food Kit Distribution-(Rice 10 Kgs; Dal 2 Kgs; Potatoes 3 Kgs; Soap 2 Bars; Oil 1 Ltr)	Local Jesuit Community	10	Daily Wage Earners and poor rural families	1675 (367 HH)	10000 (2000 HH)	Khunti Zone
6	St Xavier's College, Ranchi	Food Kit Distribution-(Rice 25 Kgs; Dal 5 Kgs; Potatoes 5 Kgs; Salt 1 Pkt; Sugar 5 Kgs; Tea Leaves 1 Kg; Mix Masala 1 Kg; Onion 2 Kgs; Sattu 2 Kgs; Biscuits 20 Pkts; Oil 1 Ltr)	Local Jesuit Community	20	Daily Wage Earners and poor rural families	1000 (200 HH)	2500 (500 HH)	Ranchi



Fr. Gilbert on behalf of the Sponsorship reports: “Prabhat Tara Centre distributed food provisions (Rice 10 Kgs, Dal 4 Kgs, Potatoes 4 Kgs, Onion 2 Kgs, Oil 1 pouch, Salt 1 Packet and 5 pieces of bathing soaps) among the sponsored children and also among the needy children and parents. In fact, it was meant for the sponsored children. Nonetheless, we supplied food to others too in need. We are very much thankful and grateful to Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati and to all who are working under this programme.

3. Distribution of masks, sanitizers, soaps & other necessary items

Ranchi Jesuits are involved in free distribution of masks, sanitizers, soaps, gloves, etc., in the districts mentioned above.

4. Distribution of medicine through various hospitals & health centres

The Ranchi Jesuits have also distributed medicines to the shelter homes and villagers through various hospitals and health centres.

5. Coordination with District Administration to prepare kits for hotspots of Ranchi

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) virtually became a key centre of the district administration for preparing 8000 kits to be distributed in Hindpirhi which has today become the covid-19 hotspot of the state of Jharkhand. More than 100 volunteers from novitiate, pre-novitiate, Manresa House, Ursuline convent, Queen of the Apostles, St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi, and so on, were involved in packaging the kits from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. The district administration was very appreciative of the work of XISS.

6. Blood donation camp to Save Children during Lockdown (14 April 2020)

The life in the Covid-19 lockdown period is challenging indeed. Much more so for the most vulnerable and underprivileged! It is from this perspective that a passionate appeal to each Jesuit was made to motivate and mobilize blood donors, who could save precious lives of those children, who otherwise are sure to die.

Under the aegis the Doranda Old Xaverians (DOX) and in collaboration with St. Xavier’s School Doranda under the coordination of Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, Provincial designate, a Blood Donation Camp at Manresa House, Ranchi, was organized, to save the lives of the children who were battling for life in Sadar Hospital, Ranchi. More than 25 Jesuits from Pre-novitiate, Novitiate and Manresa House along with a few lay persons, volunteered to donate blood to save the lives of the thalassaemic children battling for their life in Sadar Hospital, Ranchi.

Thalassemia Day Care is a facility in Sadar Hospital Ranchi for treatment, transfusion, Iron Chelation, medicines for children suffering from Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Anemia and Haemophilia.

All thalassemic and few Sickle Cell Anemic are blood Dependant as due to the genetic disorder, their bone marrows don't make blood. Every Thalassemic requires blood transfusion every 20 days. If their transfusion is stopped, they will die. Blood transfusion has no replacement for them.

Sadar Hospital Day Care takes care of 550+ children who come from 17 districts of Jharkhand for their regular transfusion. Day Care provides all these services free of cost to all these children. Most of these also come from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Dr. Atul Gera, an Old Xaverian from Doranda, is connected to the Day Care as part of a voluntary organization in the name of Jharkhand Thalassemia Foundation. The Foundation supports the Day Care with blood collection, education and counseling to parents and CME for doctors. As a part of their social responsibility they have an MOU with Sadar Hospital mentioning that their services to Sadar Hospital Day Care shall be Free of Cost.

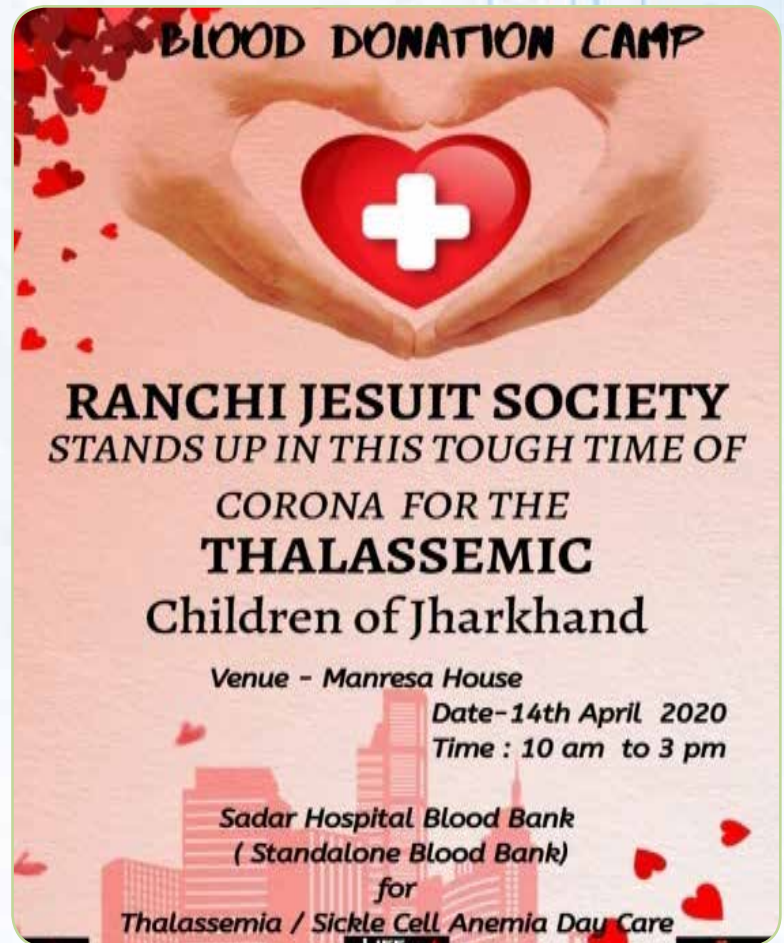
Children in Day Care are really struggling for blood and delayed transfusion due to lockdown and shortfall in blood units through camps. The centre normally requires 25 units every day but to handle emergencies, right now 8-10 units each day are also becoming difficult.

On the request of Mr. Atul Gera there was a positive response for supporting the thalassemic children for their Life. The Sadar Blood Bank team came to Manresa House with a team of Doctors and technicians to do a camp with all safety precautions advised by the Government. Subsequently blood donation camps were organized in Prabhat Tara School, Nirmala College and XISS.

The Foundation was looking forward for our support in this tough time for the children. It was a blessing for the children by helping them with their blood need for their existence.

7. Helpline to track down stranded migrants outside the state of Jharkhand

Ranchi Jesuits are also involved to some extent in collaborating with some charitable associations to track down the stranded migrants in different states and help them find place for their temporary boarding and lodging. Jesuits of other states are also willingly and proactively helping in the matter.



8. Awareness programmes on covid-19

The Ranchi Jesuits is working for bringing in awareness among migrants in some of the shelter homes and also among other citizens of the country. It is noticed that the neighbouring villages where our shelter homes are situated are objecting to the establishing of centres for keeping the migrants. In their ignorance they argue that the infected migrants are kept in the shelter homes which will affect them as well. Our effort is also to educate them and bring in awareness among them about the covid-19 and the precautions that they should take to avoid the virus. Awareness materials are printed and distributed for display and education.



9. Collaboration with administration for accommodation during Covid-19

There were three visits made by the district administration to acquire Prabhat Tara Campus with all its facilities for the board and lodge of Police Force (Male & Female), Nurses (Male and Female) and the cleaning staff. After two preparatory visits from the office of District Development Commissioner the DDC, Mr. Ananya Mittal, came to confirm the board and lodge of the said staff if the situation worsens in the state.

The DDC and its team along with the Management of Prabhat Tara Dhurwa worked out the rubrics and it was settled that Police Force would stay in the Hall and High School, Nurses would board in the English Medium and that of cleaning staff in the Middle school.

The district administration also asked the management to prepare and serve the meals for the boarding staff for which preparations have been made. All 26 non-teaching staff along with 30 more youth have been asked to render their service in all this arrangement along with the cleaning in the JSCA stadium which also is shortlisted for the board and lodge of the Medical staff. All the cleaning and arrangements for their stay is made. The District Administration would supply the ration for the boarders and other arrangements of cooking have been done.

Two magistrates who have been deployed here come and visit the school every day in their duty hours. The News 11 also came to see the preparation and asked the Management about same which was broadcast in the news.



Response of the People and Institutions

The response of various well-intentioned groups, institutions and people has been great in terms of contributing in cash or kind to support the above-mentioned programmes. While some overseas friends have come to share their resources with us, there are also generous people at the local level, who have generously supported our battle with various required provisions, materials, medicines and also cash. We appreciate them and pray for their well being and prosperity.



[B] Long term engagement to combat covid-19 impact – the Future

1. Baseline Survey

According to the media reports more than nine lakh migrant workers from Jharkhand are stranded in other states and the state government is concerned because scanty information is available about them. It is consoling that the state government has appointed a high ranking nodal officer for every state to liaison with the respective state governments to help the needy where the migrants from Jharkhand are stranded.

The Jharkhand Ranchi Jesuits has yet another opportunity to collaborate with the state government by using its networks

- To find out how many people from each village have been stranded irrespective of their caste, colour, creed or gender;
- To supply the data to the government to help the stranded migrants.
- To keep the record for a follow up – for their rehabilitation.

Methodology

- House to house survey with the help of Parish priests, Mahila Sangh, Catholic Sabha, Yuva Sangh, etc.
- Roping in other organizations & leaders at the village level as our Church alone will not be able to cover the entire state.
- Take help of all Bishops, Major Superiors, C.R.I., Communities/Houses, and so on.
- Interview schedule should include: (a) Full name (b) Age (c) Sex (d) Native village (e) Name of the place where stranded (f) Name of the place of work (g) How did s/he come to the place where stranded (h) What work s/he was doing (i) Personal Mobile number (j) Mobile number of family/contact person (k) difficulties faced.

2. Livelihood opportunities

According to the W.H.O. and other credible agencies analyzing the present situation due to covid-19, even after the pandemic is over, there will be serious economic crisis. With the GDP of India slumping below 1 per cent and all productions coming to a standstill, there will be far reaching consequences for livelihood, primarily of the marginalized sections of society. Under these circumstances we need to come out with some programmes for livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable in the society.

3. Food for work projects

Whenever there have been famine or other natural calamities, livelihood has been a key issue. We need to make some concrete programmes so that people have work to earn their daily living. What these possible areas could be, can be explored in consultation with the stakeholders.

4. Skill development programmes

In order to make the unemployed youth competitive, skill development programme is very handy. Time is changing fast. The life style, market needs and demands are also going to see a sea change in the coming days. The youth need to be trained in skills of various kinds so that they are able to adapt and adjust according to the changes.

5. Counseling

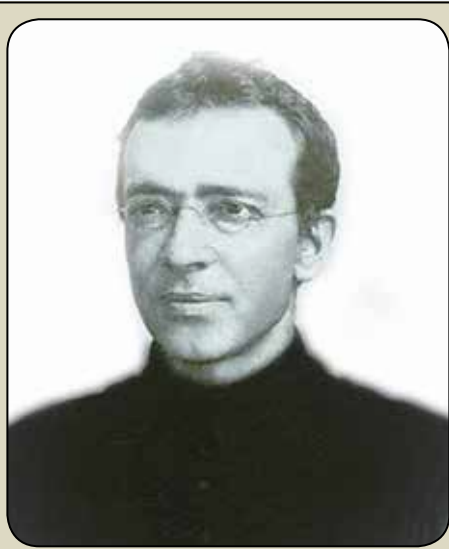
It has been a traumatic experience for the victims of covid-19 – stranded migrants, daily wage workers, elders, several others without food, job, livelihood and social security – to manage the crisis. Even after covid-19 disappears, it will take long for the trauma to be addressed. The Ranchi Jesuits are committed to come out with some concrete plans to look into the issue and address it.



2

Canonization Process of Fr. Constant Lievens: The Apostle of Chotanagpur

Fr. Linus Kujur, SJ



(Lievens as a Novice in Drongen, 1878)

“Each tree is known by its own fruit” (Mt. 6:44). This is exactly true of the Servant of God, Father Constant Lievens, SJ. When he died in Leuven (Belgium) on 7 November 1893, he was hardly known by the people there. Very few persons attended his funeral and for years it was not even known exactly where he was buried either.

Indeed the Lievens-mission was the work of God as St. Paul himself had felt so, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1Co 3:6). The fame of Fr. Lievens started blossoming from the very first biography written on him in 1895 by Father Victor Van Tricht, SJ, who named Father Lievens as the “Apostle of Chotanagpur”. Since then this phrase has been repeated by historians and authors of books. Without doubt the phrase means none other than the great evangelizer, who came to Chotanagpur in 1885 as a whirlwind and returned back to Belgium just in about seven years.

Realizing how the Church of Chotanagpur, the actual Archdiocese of Ranchi and its associate members, was growing, the fame of Fr. Lievens started to increase, especially when the Church as well as the State of Belgium decided to give him a special homage by establishing a statue in his honour on 11 August 1929 in the Market Square of Moorslede. An authoritative biography, “Jesuit Missionary: Father Constant Lievens”, was written by Father Arthur Marlier, SJ, and 74 thousand copies were distributed on the occasion. For them he was the symbol of “Flemish Messenger of God” as well as a “Flemish Militant”. During that ceremony was present the scholastic Nicolas Kujur, SJ, who in his talk in Flemish acknowledged Fr. Lievens as “Our Father and our Saver”. The occasion was prepared for two years and many committees were formed to celebrate the Lievens-Week with Pontifical Holy Mass, Exhibitions, Souvenirs, Processions and Unveiling of the Statue of Fr. Lievens on a horse-back holding a crucifix. Fr. Lievens was even attributed as the Star gone from the West to the East and as ‘Modern or Second Xavier’ (Cfr. Public Copy, 103223-38).

The Flemish community, which was asserting its socio-cultural and political identity for the past hundred years, found another way to glorify its hero. Already in 1922 Fr. Pierre Charles, SJ, a missiologist teaching in Leuven and in the Pontifical Gregorian University Rome, proposed to transfer the mortal remains of Father Constant Lievens to the Jesuit Church in Leuven. This was possible to actualize only in 1951, which led to authoritative search for the body of Fr. Lievens as well as having scientific test of his mortal remains. On that occasion 110 family members of Lievens gathered together and the King of Belgium, Leopold III and the Bishop of Ranchi, Mgr. Oscar Sevrin, SJ, were there. On 9 November 1951 through a solemn procession the mortal remains

were carried in a colorfully adorned bier by four men in between six burning torches held by six future missionaries to Congo (Belgian mission in Africa) and two missionaries destined to India inclining Papal and Indian flags towards the bier. The motto, “Fire must burn”, was written on the blue-yellow shield of the Lievens’ family against the black screen. Mgr. Oscar Sevrin presided over the ceremony and finally expressed his desire to hand over the flourishing diocese of Ranchi to the newly ordained bishop Nicolas Kujur, SJ (Cfr. Public Copy, 103239-62).

These celebrations highlighted the personality of Fr. Lievens. Thus though he had expressed his desire to be forgotten; he expressed his trust in one of his last words, “If the Mission (of Chota Nagpur) is God’s work, it will stand; if not, it will fall to pieces” (L. Clarysse, Father Constant Lievens, p. 440). His faith in God was not going to be in vain. The fruit of his sacrifice and the choice to serve the neglected inspired many young Belgian volunteers to be missionaries in Congo and Chotanagpur, though to be a missionary meant a short life. In the midst of the growing devotion to Lievens finally his plan to return among his beloved people was fulfilled, when his mortal remains were transferred from Leuven to Ranchi in 1993. The people of Ranchi Archdiocese whole-heartedly welcomed the mortal remains of their spiritual liberator based on justice.

All the above mentioned fame of sanctity of Fr. Constant Lievens, both in Belgium and in Chotanagpur prepared the ground to request for his Canonization. It was done in 1993, but the edict was issued only on 1 November 2000, because as per rule the process had to begin from the diocese where the person was ‘born in heaven’. Mgr. Omer Tanghe was appointed as the Postulator and the process of canonization started on 15 March 2001. Various committees were formed but due to the untimely death of Mgr. Tanghe another Postulator, Odile Denorme, was appointed on 12 November of the same year. At that time two more vice-postulators were nominated, Frans Herpels in Belgium and Flor Jonckheere in Ranchi. Unfortunately the untimely death of various officials continued and the fresh start had to be done only in 2010.

The new Bishop of Bruges, Josef De Kesel, took great interest in it and appointed Rev. Bart Geryl as the third Postulator and Fr. Aurel Brys as Vice-Postulator in Ranchi besides other officials in Belgium. Finally only on 14 May 2015 the diocesan phase was complete and the documents were handed to the Vatican Commission for the Cause of Saints on 5 November 2015. The commission issued the “Decree of validity” on the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry on 2 June 2017.

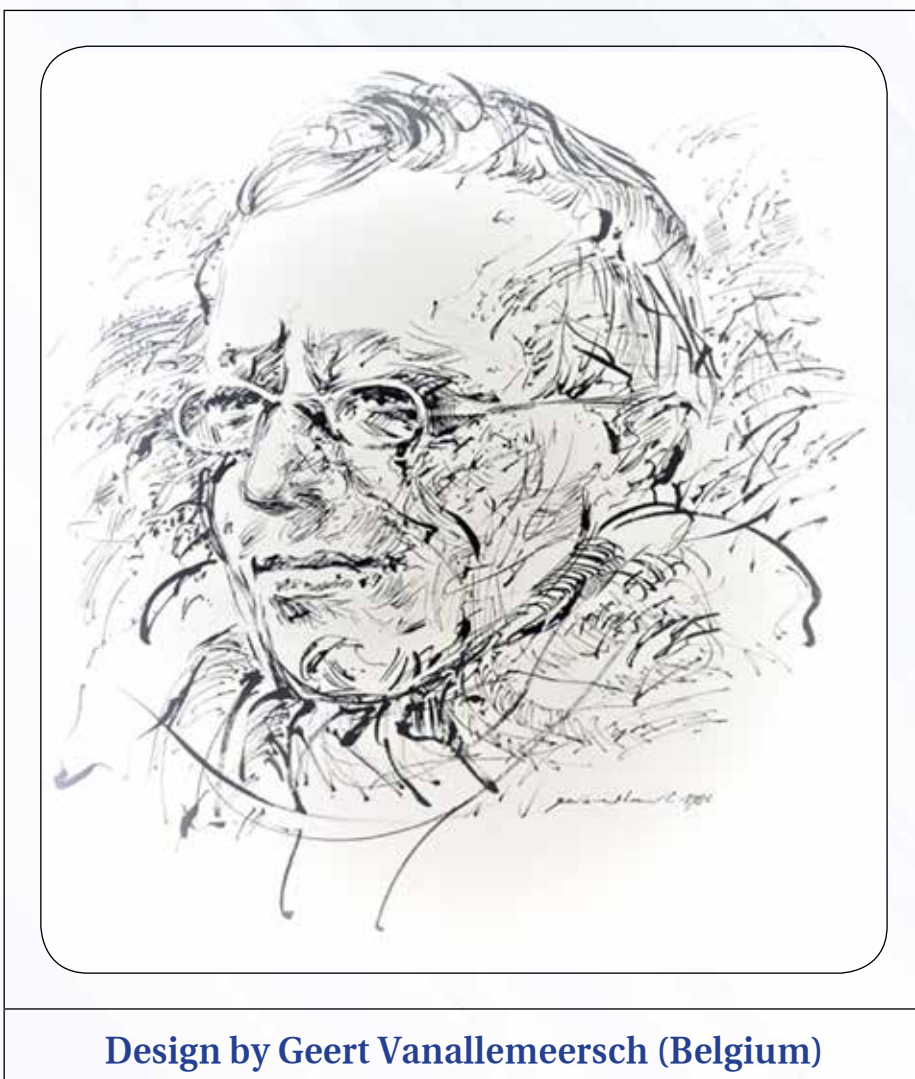
Now the Roman phase has begun, in which the “Fame of Sanctity” of the Servant of God has to be proved by writing a ‘Position’ and the “Miracles” received through the intercession of the same Servant of God have to be declared cured but is impossible to explain on the basis of the natural laws known to doctors. The Postulator for all Jesuit Servants of God is appointed by Father General of the Society of Jesus. In 2017 Fr. Anton Witwer was the Postulator and since 27 August 2018 Fr. Pascual Cebollada Silvestre is the actual one. In the case of Fr. Lievens the process was begun by a diocese, therefore the Bishop of Bruges, Lode Aerts, has delegated Fr. Cebollada to represent the Cause of Fr. Constant Lievens on behalf of the Diocese of Bruges.

Once the Positions on the “Fame of sanctity” and on “Miracle” are submitted to the Commission for the Cause of Saints, the Congress of the Theological consultants would give its opinion and the Congregation of Cardinals and Bishops would give its judgment, before the Pope would declare the Servant of God Blessed. This opens up the celebration of Beatification, which is to be done in the diocese. The second miracle would be needed for the Canonization, which will be celebrated in Vatican. The process becomes also long because the Congregation has many positions waiting

to be decided. At present the position on the fame of sanctity of the Servant of God, Fr. Constant Lievens is nearly ready and the declaration of doctors on one miracle is at hand.

Besides all these scientific research to prove the sanctity of the Servant of God, it is important that the faithful continue to grow in love for the Servant of God by reading about him and interceding through him. Let the admiration for the liberator of the people of Chotanagpur be expressed through songs, poems, paintings, etc. and above all through pilgrimages to his shrines and festivals organized on the anniversaries of his great acts. If institutions are founded and cultural events are dedicated to the Servant of God, his spirit and dream to transform the Church of Chotanagpur would be renewed. By now this Church is extended to all over India and also abroad. Let the Fire of God's love burn for all as the Servant of God had wished!

Mgr. Oscar Sevrin, SJ, a great promoter of the devotion to the Servant of God, had truly realized that Fr. Lievens was chosen by God to be the apostle of Chotanagpur. Thus what Fr. Constant Lievens has planted, let God give the growth!



3

Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ, the Servant of God: Update on the Beatification Process

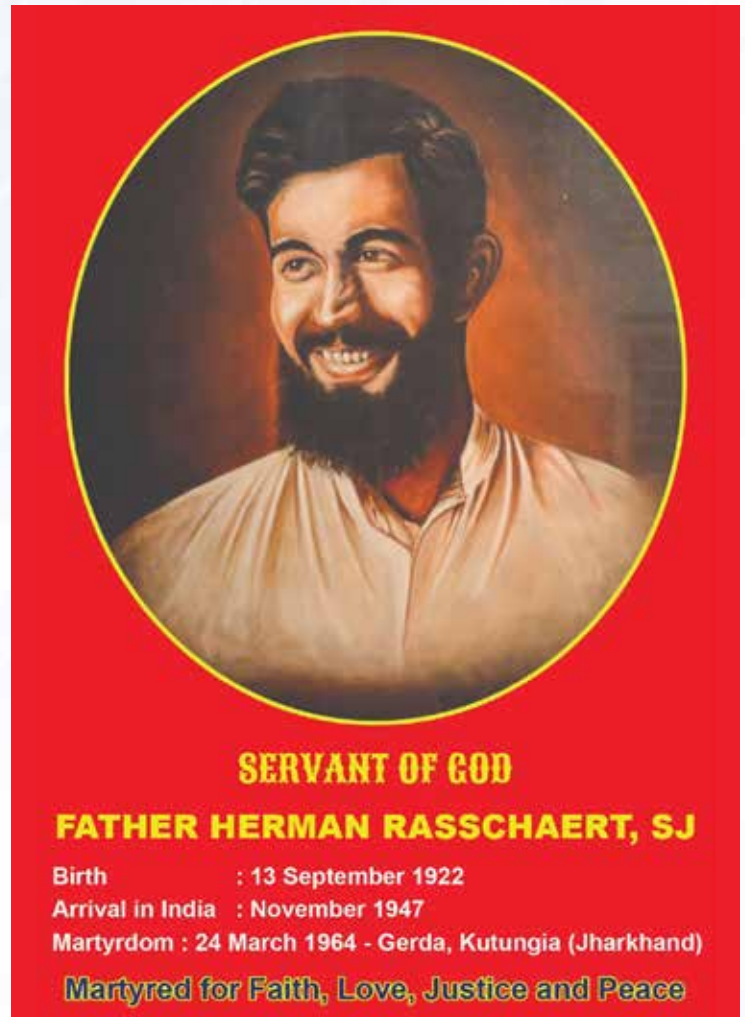
Fr. Kulwant Minj, SJ (Vice Postulator)

In the process of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ, so far the following steps have been taken:

After much consideration and extensive consultation in the Province Curia and having received the consent and approval of His Lordship Vincent Barwa DD, Bishop of Simdega, Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Provincial Superior of Ranchi Jesuit Society wrote to Fr. General of the Society of Jesus on 13 September 2018 and asked him to take up the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, Fr. Herman Rasschaert SJ and examine his life, martyrdom and reputation.

Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus found Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, as an outstanding missionary who deserves our highest esteem and veneration. He also found that Rasschaert was martyred for peace and harmony among different religions. Without doubt, Fr. Rasschaert was the mediator of peace among people. He was truly martyred for the love of God and of neighbor. Therefore, having heard the opinion of the Postulator General and his consultants, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, granted permission to Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, on 4 October 2018 and asked him to initiate the process of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ.

On 12 October 2018, having received the consent of Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Postulator General of the Society of Jesus Rev. Fr. Pascual Cebollada, SJ, appointed



Fr. Kulwant Minj, SJ, the Vice-Postulator of the cause and asked him to present *Supplex Libellus* to His Lordship Vincent Barwa, the Bishop of Simdega Catholic Diocese.

In the name of the Society of Jesus, on 5 November 2018, Fr. Kulwant Minj, SJ, requested His Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, to ask for *nulla osta* from the Congregation of the causes



Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ. in Simdega Diocese.

The Congregation of the Causes of Saints, after investigating and examining the cause, on 26 February 2019, informed His Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, that the Holy See was favorable to the cause of Beatification or Declaration of Martyrdom of the Servant of God Herman Rasschaert, SJ, assuming that “Norms to be observed in Inquiries made by Bishops in the Cause of Saints” of 7 February 1983, are performed.

Therefore, the inaugural ceremony of the Diocesan Inquiry of the cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, was held in the Cathedral of Simdega Catholic Diocese on 25 August 2019. In the same opening ceremony His Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, appointed a board of inquiry to examine witnesses in order to discover the truth about the life, martyrdom and reputation of martyrdom of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, existing until the present day.

of saints in order to examine the life, martyrdom and reputation of martyrdom of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, who was born on 13 September 1922 and was martyred for *Odium Fidei* on 24 March 1964 at Gerda, then a part of Kutungia Parish in Simdega Diocese.

Bishop Vincent Barwa had already thought of initiating the cause of Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, who was martyred to save the humanity. Therefore, he had consulted Bishops in the JHAAN Bishops’ Council on 25 July 2018 who had given him their consent to move ahead with the process. So, after receiving the request from Fr. Kulwant Minj, once again he personally examined the matter and consulted the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese and having verified the existence of a true and widespread reputation of his martyrdom growing ever stronger after his death as well as ample evidence of granting of graces and favours by God through his intercession, on 5 December 2018, His Lordship Vincent Barwa, DD, Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Simdega, asked for *nulla osta* from the Congregation of the causes of Saints in order to initiate the

At present, the board of inquiry, headed by Rev. Fr. George Valentine Kerketta, the Episcopal Delegate is fulfilling its duty according to the norms of *Normae Servandae nos. 13 a, b*. At this juncture, I also would like to humbly request all the Christian faithful to pray for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Fr. Herman Rasschaert, SJ, who was martyred for faith, love, justice and peace.



4

Formation in Ranchi Province

Fr. Medard Xalxo, SJ

Province Coordinator for Formation (PCF)

Introduction

“Come and See” (Jn:1:39) were the words of Jesus to his disciples. He threw an open invitation to his disciples to be with him and experience the person of Jesus who He is. He kept them in the inner circle of his life, instructed and taught them the purpose of his coming into this World. Jesus trained them to be instrumental and agent of Good News to the World.



Today the Ranchi Scholastics have responded to the Call of Jesus to be His instruments. Before they could venture into the Ministry, they are given the opportunities to train themselves in various places and centers to be effective instruments in the vineyard of the Lord.

Apostolic Schools

In Ranchi Province there are two Apostolic Schools namely St. Ignatius’ Apostolic School Gumla and St. John Berchmans’ Apostolic School Samtoli, Simdega. In both the places the number of students is 200 approximately. After completing standard X, the aspiring candidates join Minor Seminary and continue their intermediate, a place known for candidacy. The Apostolic Schools and the Minor Seminary orient the students for the Priesthood. After completing +2, they are free to join any Congregation or the Diocese.

Ranchi Scholastics in Formation (Novitiate to Theology)

Stage of Formation	Place	Total Number
Novitiate	Ashirvad, Namkum	32 (2nd yr-17, 1st yr-15)
	Sitagarha	3 (2nd yr-3)
	Shilong	4 (1st yr-4)
Juniorate	Sitagarha	10
	Trivandrum	05

Stage of Formation	Place	Total Number
College	Trichy	5 (1st yr)
	Vijayawada	5 (1st yr)
	Kohima	2 (1st yr)
	Loyola, Chennai	9 (1st yr-3) (2nd yr-2), (3rd yr-4)
	SXC, Ranchi	24 (1st yr-3), 2nd yr-8), (3rd yr-13)
Philosophy	JDV, Pune	6 (1st yr-4), (2nd yr-2)
	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	6 (1st yr-4), (2nd yr-2)
	Germany	
Regency	Assam	2 (1st yr-1), (2nd yr-1)
	Ranchi	15 (1st yr-14), (2nd yr-1)
	Africa	1 (2nd yr-1)
	Nepal	1 (2nd yr-1)
	Bombay	1 (1st yr-1)
	Japan	1 (1st yr-1)
	Delhi	2 (1st yr-1), (2nd yr-1)
Theology	RTC Ranchi	7 (1st yr-7), (2nd yr-5)
	Vidya Jyoti, Delhi	3 (3rd yr-3)
	France	3 (1st yr-2), (3rd yr-1)
	Rome	3 (1st yr-2), (3rd yr-1)
Total		150 (147 Sch.+3 Bro.)



The salient features of our Formation in the Province and outside

Novitiate

God has been so gracious to Ranchi Province. He has called 32 Novices to our province this year. We have a religious brother novice in the first year. He is doing his novitiate at SSC Sitagarha Hazaribagh. This year we have the highest number of novices in the whole South Asian Assistency. This year our novices are at the following places for their novitiate – Namkum, Sitagarha and Shilong.

Juniorate

There are 15 Scholastics in Juniorate. Five Scholastics at Trivandrum and Ten at Sitagarha are doing their Classical Juniorate. In both the places my impression has been very positive. They are able to get into the spirit of study culture. I could experience the depth in their studies. In both the places the staff members are of the opinion that the Ranchi Group is commendable.

College Studies

There are 43 Scholastics in the college in different parts of India. Keeping in mind the Apostolates of the Province, various subjects are undertaken: Arts, Commerce, Science and Engineering. The overall performance is quite satisfactory. The majority of them fall in the medium category. On the one hand some of them are doing very well, scoring 95% to 98% marks, on the other hand some of them have to focus more on some subjects. I feel our Scholastics need to work hard for the greater apostolic mission. The higher studies are also undertaken according to the needs of the Province.

Philosophy

This is the stage of higher learning where they grow in their ability to think critically. They are able to broaden their minds and engage themselves in reasoning, discussions, debates, readings and writings. They all seem to be working hard but at the same time there is a lack of passion in their studies. By the end of their Philosophy definitely their mind broadens and grows for intellectual pursuit.

Regency

Regency is the period of testing the vocation where they learn to integrate their lives. In this stage they learn how to balance various aspects of their Jesuit life. They grow in the skills of management, teaching-learning, organizing, innovativeness and creativity. Their gifts and talents are visible during this time. The very set up and structure of Regency helps them to become mature Jesuits by doing and engaging themselves in the active apostolic work.

Theology

The stage of Theology is the culmination of formal formation. In my observation at this stage they become mature, integrated, well balanced, responsible, accountable and available. It is at this stage that they get the sense of Mission. They learn the Word of God and apply it in their life. The stage of Theology prepares them for the Priesthood. The Regional Theological College helps them to get rooted and grounded in the local culture and thus keeps the Local Church alive and vibrant.



5

Internazionale Collegio del Gesù

Sch. Nirmal Minj, SJ

My journey in the academic year 2019-20 has been marked by a few important events apart from my academic life in Rome. First was the pilgrimage to the historical places of Fr. Constant Lievens in Belgium, and the second was the Pre-Ordination Program in Spain.

After the successful completion of the First Semester exams, I went to Brussels along with two other Ranchi Scholastics, Sameer Ekka and Paulus Minj. We were fortunate to be accommodated in the same community where Fr. Aurel Brys, SJ, was staying. It was God's providence to have him as our companion during our Belgium sojourn. He was not only a Guardian Angel, but also our Guide to explain the socio-cultural and historical significance of all the places important in the life of Fr. Constant Lievens, Servant of God and Apostle of Chotanagpur. We visited Klein Seminare in Roeselare where Fr. Lievens had his schooling, visited the Parish where he was baptised, and finally visited the family and village where he lived and grew up. We spent a night in the former horse-stable where he took care of the horses.



Ever since I landed in Europe, my dream was to visit the birthplace of the great Apostle of Chotanagpur. And so, as I set my foot in all those places, my spontaneous feeling was a deep sense of gratitude to God for sending Fr. Lievens to Chotanagpur. The warm and loving hospitality of the family of Fr. Lievens also touched me immensely. Having spent my 10 days in Belgium, I headed to Spain for the Arrupe Month, commonly known as the Pre-Ordination Programme along with 11 other Jesuit Scholastics from my community and one Scholastic from the Hungary Province.

The Arrupe Month was the time of prayer, reflection, sharing and seeing one's priestly vocation as a Jesuit. During this period we spent our days in different places – Manresa, Montserrat, Barcelona and finally in Loyola, the birth place of St. Ignatius. We also had an occasion to go for two important pilgrimages – one to Javier, the birth place of St. Francis Xavier, and the other of was to Lourdes in France. The whole Programme of the Arrupe Month was under the careful and loving guidance of Fr. Cecil Azzopardi, SJ. We all were enriched with his deep thoughts and profound reflection.

With the completion of the Arrupe Month, I finished my summer holidays fruitfully and came back to Rome to begin the Second Year of my theological studies.



I began my First Semester of the Second Year from the first week of October 2019 in a more disposed and prepared manner. More number of papers and intense classes in the morning and the afternoon kept me quite occupied with my academic commitments. During Christmas, I was delighted to have the company of Sch. Subodh Lakra, who stayed in my community from 27 December 2019 to 2 January 2020. We had a wonderful Christmas and the New Year celebrations together. Soon after the Christmas holidays, I was seriously engaged with my notes and books because the semester exam was at the door. I began my semester exam on 17 January and finished on 7 February 2020.

Having experienced the pressure of studies and exam, there came the moment of joy and relaxation in the form of one week's Semester break. We, the 44 scholastics who form the Gesù community, went for the Living Group outing and sharing for three-four days. Along with six Living-Group companions, I went to Florence, the cultural city of Italy. All of us were mesmerized with the beauty of the whole city and admired the art and architectural work of the cathedral, churches and palaces, which hold their rich history behind. I personally enjoyed every bit of those and also cherished Jesuit companionship in the group. For me these four days of outing together were a moment of joy, relaxation and preparedness for the Fourth Semester from 17 February 2020.



6

Collegio S. Roberto Bellarmino, Rome

Fr. Kulwant Minj, SJ



Collegio S. Roberto Bellarmino of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, consists of 63 Jesuits from all over the world. The atmosphere of the community is quiet which helps the students to study well. Being in such a rich community, Kulwant Minj is completing his third year of licentiate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. His thesis for the licentiate deals with “Principles and norms in the procedure of the formation and emanation of singular administrative acts” (cf. can. 48). It is aptly said that *ubi societas ibi ius. Ecclesia societas est. Ergo, ubi ecclesia ibi ius*. Therefore, there have been laws always present in the Church. With the presence of law, there have been always competent authorities to administer her. The competent authorities have always led the Church through different acts. At times they communicated their decisions through decrees, letters, circulars, *Motu Proprio*, etc....

At present, the singular administrative act (*e.g. decree, prescript and rescript*) is the most commonly used juridical instrument in the administrative activity of the Church. The competent authority of the Church resolves conflicts, controversies and disputes by two ways: by means of administrative act and by judicial act. In the administrative act, the competent ecclesiastical authority emanates a decree which is a decision. This decisory decree must not only be issued in writing but must also give, at least in summary form, the reasons for the decision (cann. 37, 51). In the judicial act, the competent ecclesiastical authority imposes a penalty. At this juncture, I would like to say that my study examines in depth only the way of administrative act. This is because, knowing that one is placing a singular administrative act and being able to identify its characters are necessary elements of the good governance of the Church, since they ensure a just manner of placing such an act and eliminate doubts about the consequences of the act for its recipients.

International Conference on Amazon

Fr. Prem Xalxo, SJ

Pontifical Gregorian University Rome



On 15 October 2017, Pope Francis announced in *Puerto Maldonado* the convocation of a Synod on Amazon to identify new paths for the evangelization of God's people in the Amazonian regions. As part of the ongoing study, research and reflections on Amazon, a one-day Conference on *Amazon: Challenges and Prospects for Our Common Home*, was organized on 16 May 2019, in the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Gregorian University, convened and coordinated by Prem Xalxo, Coordinator of Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology. The Conference aimed at proposing some viable and concrete answers to some of the most fundamental and burning issues related to Pan-Amazon Region through common reflections, sharing and discussions.

The Church authorities, Professors, Social Activists, and experts on indigenous life, history, culture, tradition and spirituality were invited to share their views, experiences and perspectives to safeguard Pan-Amazon region for the integral human well-being. The Amazon, referred to as the Lung of our planet, *is a bridge to other essential biomes of the world*, and therefore, the Conference invited the participants to read the signs of the times from a broader perspective, and to respond to the invitation of Pope Francis to "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet" (*Laudato si'*, 14) by seeing and judging the harsh realities, and acting worthily for the integral human wellbeing.

Among the eminent Church authorities present as resource persons were His Eminence Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, OFM, President of REPAM (Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network) and Emeritus Prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, and His Eminence Cardinal Pedro Ricardo Barreto Jimeno, SJ, Archbishop of Huancayo (Peru) and Vice President of REPAM. His Eminence Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for



Promoting Integral Human Development, opted for a video message in absentia in the form of an interview. With its gaze firmly fixed on the upcoming Synod on Amazon, the Conference tried to respond some of the pertinent questions, doubts and fears prevalent in the minds of the non-Amazonian people. Gregorian University offered an apt platform to help them understand the importance and implications of the Synod on Amazon by addressing various issues from theological, spiritual as well as from socio-cultural perspectives. The Conference also tried to define some possible ways and means to appropriate and implement the outcome of the Synod.

The Conference was introduced by a video message in the form of an interview of Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson. He strongly advocated the protection of human as well as natural resources of Amazon, which was not only a regional, but global challenge requiring a “long-term vision” and “inter-generational responsibility”. In his Keynote address, Cardinal Cláudio Hummes



reiterated emphatically that the degradation of the Amazon, its deforestation and pollution have put the future of the planet at risk. According to Cardinal Pedro Barreto, one of the visions of the Synod on Amazon was the need of the Church to be a missionary Church with an Amazonian face, which remained poor for the poor despite great difficulties caused by the enormous distances, environmental discomforts and the acute scarcity of missionaries and local pastors.

As a whole, the Conference successfully put on record various efforts made by the Church from *Populorum Progressio* of Paul VI to *Laudato si'* of Pope Francis in addressing the concerns of the less privileged, marginalized and voiceless people. Just like the socio-cultural values of the indigenous communities of Chotanagpur region, their profound and rich cosmivision teaches some precious lessons to the rest of the humanity. By bringing to the fore, the right of the Pan-Amazonian indigenous people to their territory, their culture, language and to their own model of development, the Conference underlined successfully the need of the hour is to walk together so as to listen to *the cry of the earth and of the poor* (LS 49).

Apart from the Conference on Amazon, the Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology is going on in full swing with 70 students for the third consecutive year. The primary objective of Joint Diploma is to promote and disseminate the message of *Laudato si'*, and to initiate a kind of Cultural Revolution by generating awareness amongst people. Another important objective is to educate and encourage people to take some personal as well as communitarian initiatives to care for *Our Common Home*. From the current Academic Year, the Pontifical Faculty of Educational Science (*Auxilium*) too joined the Alliance. Now almost all major Pontifical Universities and Institutions are participating in Joint Diploma Program. Thanks to Rev. Don Mauro Mantovani, Rector of the Salesian University and President of the Commission of Rectors; and Rev. Fr. Nuno da Silva Gonçalves, Rector of the Gregorian University, for their continuous support and encouragement in promoting the Programme.



8

Ray of Hope Continues.....

Dn. Subodh Lakra, SJ

Centre Sèvres, Paris



“*Courage, Pardon et Merci!*” These are the words that I have been hearing since 2017 quite often. I entered in a culture that is running short of time. It is often felt in Paris that time is running out. People are often rushing for their work. It is funny to see them run even in escalator. The world in which I live is moving so fast that there is a fear of lagging behind. Sometimes I wonder where I am!

It is nearly 2.5 years in France. My life has been full of experiences. They are good as well as challenging. The people will always be acknowledging your presence. This is seen even on the roads. A good gesture of asking for help is *pardon*. You will hear the word *merci* outside the house also. Sometimes one is surprised to hear as to why one is thanking me. Even for giving way to go ahead without your realization they will say thank you. I find that human life and works are highly respected in France.

Courage, one is always helped in France! This is felt throughout my studies. The generosity of helping is not limited only to religious. There are many who in spite of their busy schedule find time for correcting our writings. One feels always encouraged with such support. Even if one makes a small progress, one is always appreciated and encouraged.

There are challenges too. Sometimes you work hard spending sleepless nights with zero result. The progress is not seen. The first year of theology was just passing the time in the class room without any comprehension at all. Doing theology in the language which is not your own is difficult. It is like trying to swim against the current. The second and third years of theology gave me courage. There are lot of facilities to progress personally in the field which I liked. For all that one needs to have good foundation of language because all the materials are available in French only. There is time to work personally with the reflections that come during the study of theology.

As a Jesuit, I have had a chance to meet Jesuits coming from different corners of the world. Every Monday there is a short community gathering which is a good practice. Sometimes we have the lay collaborators to share their experiences with us. Outing with the community at weekends is a refreshing moment every two-three months. On the whole, my life in France has been that of learning from the best practices of others. The accompaniment of each student is very well appreciated. There is care and concern for each and every one. I am sure that this experience of mine will stand me in good stead in future.

“If we will be quiet and ready enough, we shall find compensation in every disappointment.”(Henry David Thoreau)



Ranchi Jesuits in Cambodia Mission

Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ

Most Reverend Enrique Figaredo, SJ, Apostolic Prefect of Battambang, Cambodia, declared October 2019-October 2022 as the 'Years of the Youth'. During these three years, the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang's focus is on welcoming, forming and sending the youth on mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ, the Coordinator for Youth Apostolate in the Apostolic Prefecture, together with members of the youth commission, is working hard to make the youth apostolate vibrant and alive in all the parishes and institutions, through the help of the parish priests and local youth leaders. The themes of the year of youth 2019-2022 are "You are my friends", "Abide in me" and "Bear fruit". They encourage parish priests, nuns, the Church committee members, faithful and the youth, to open up the Church campuses and their hearts and minds to welcome and make the youth feel accepted and loved.



So far youth synods have been organized successfully in Battambang, Siemreap, Kampong Thom and Southern Tule Sap areas of the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. Many parishes are organizing their own activities such as sports, visiting the poor, prayer meetings, availing them with dormitory facilities for the youth coming from remote areas, seminars, extra classes, scholarships, Bible sharing, catechisms, pilgrimages, recollections and retreats, etc., to reach out to more and more youth in their localities.



Fr. Manoj Ekka, SJ, says, "*I will do something more and different for the children and youth of my parish during these youth years.*" He has already prepared a study room in the Parish for the youth who come in the evening to do their home work and personal studies. He also arranged workshops on different topics to enrich the youth in their spiritual, social, intellectual and psychological areas. Under Fr. Manoj's able guidance 61 young boys and girls took the second step, preparing them to be baptized in the Easter.



Fr. Rajat Hassa Purty, SJ, feels privileged to work with and for the youth. He feels energized and young in mind and heart. He regards youth as the present and the future of the Church and the society at large. He has millions of hopes from the youth today. The efforts of Fr. Rajat and Youth commission is to make the youth to identify their potentials and be responsible towards building up better families, parishes and society.

Bro. Vincent Soreng, SJ: A Missionary in Africa for 49 Years

Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng, SJ, Secretary to the Provincial



Br. Vincent Soreng, SJ, was born on 26 May 1936, joined the Society of Jesus on 15 July 1955 and took his final vows on 15 August 1967.

In 1970s Jesuits were required to work in Africa as missionaries. They were sent to Africa from various countries at different times to Sudan, Kenya, Zambia and other African countries. In that same call Ranchi Province was also invited. Initially, 5 Jesuits were sent to Sudan in January 1971, namely Fr. Polycarp Toppo, SJ, Fr. John Guria, SJ, Fr. Mathias Toppo, SJ, Br. Tarcitius Toppo, SJ, and Br. Vincent Soreng, SJ. Of these 5, four of them, namely Fr. Polycarp Toppo, and Br. Tarcitius Toppo, died in Africa itself, and Fr. John Guria

and Fr. Mathias Toppo died in Ranchi, India. Br. Vincent Soreng is, however, still going strong, and very much hale and hearty in his mission work in Tanzania. In 2018 he came to the Province and visited his people in connection with the marriage of his nephew at Dibadih village, Doranda, Ranchi.

Bro. Vincent Soreng was trained as a male nurse with a view of serving the sick and ailing Jesuits in the Province, and so his life has been centred round the infirmaries. This mission of serving the sick has been done, without speaking much, so completely that no other world existed for him to waste time on. His brisk walks on the corridors of Manresa House, his focused

attention on the work at hand, with a cheerful and dedicated personality, ever open to help out anyone who would come across in the corridor and of course never judgmental on things or person! The kind-hearted Brother, simple and dedicated, speaks volumes about him.

When it came to opt for Africa Mission there was none but to embrace it wholeheartedly Bro. Vincent was off to a distant country with a distant vision to cap it all with voluminous 49 years all in African countries. Ranchi's loss was Tanzania's gain. In all these long years Brother has made an in-erasable a history through his devoted and dedicated works.

His works caught the sight of the Society of Jesus and on 14 March 2019, Rev. Fr. General Arturo Sosa, SJ, acknowledged his tremendous contribution to the environmental conservation and wrote in appreciation:

“Bro. Soreng spent most of his adult life caring for the planet in Africa. His assignments in various places as an administrator are always successful and go along with carrying out environmental conservation: at St. Paul's Major Seminary in the current South Sudan (1971), at St. Francis Xavier Jesuit Novitiate at Chelston in Lusaka (1981), at Jesuit Spirituality Centre at Mwangaza (1985), at Gonzaga Gonza Novitiate in Arusha (1995), and then at Mwangaza for a second time (2005). After just two years in 2017, he was sent to St. Peter Claver High School Project in Dodoma and had done great job in planting trees, hedges and vegetables. Recently, he returned to Mwangaza where he is working on orchards and vegetable gardens. I am happy to recognize him for two reasons: One, it is about an exemplary Brother and a good happy hard working Jesuit, who worked for many years in houses of formation notably in Sudan, Zambia and Tanzania. Two, he has been relentlessly caring for our common home for over half a century in India and Africa. The foundational disposition of our brother is clearly the one St. Ignatius describes as “the purity of intention” (cons no 288) which implies

obedience, abnegation, and union with God in “action”. I recognize him with a triple honour of obedience from the time of Pedro Arrupe, Peter Hans Kolvenback and Adolfo Nicolas, the three Generals through whom he lovingly served the Society and so diligently laboured (Gn 2:8) not with lip service but with deeds. The Holy Father is aware of Br. Soreng's practical contribution to Laudato Si' and he has appreciated him with a personal letter. At 83 years of age, he continues to work in the vineyard of the Lord with energy of young man. With his commitment, consistency and dedication, he challenges many as Saint Paul (Phi 2: 14), to do everything in a brotherly way, joyfully confirming the vocation of the brethren (Ref. Letter of Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General, dtd 14 March 2019).

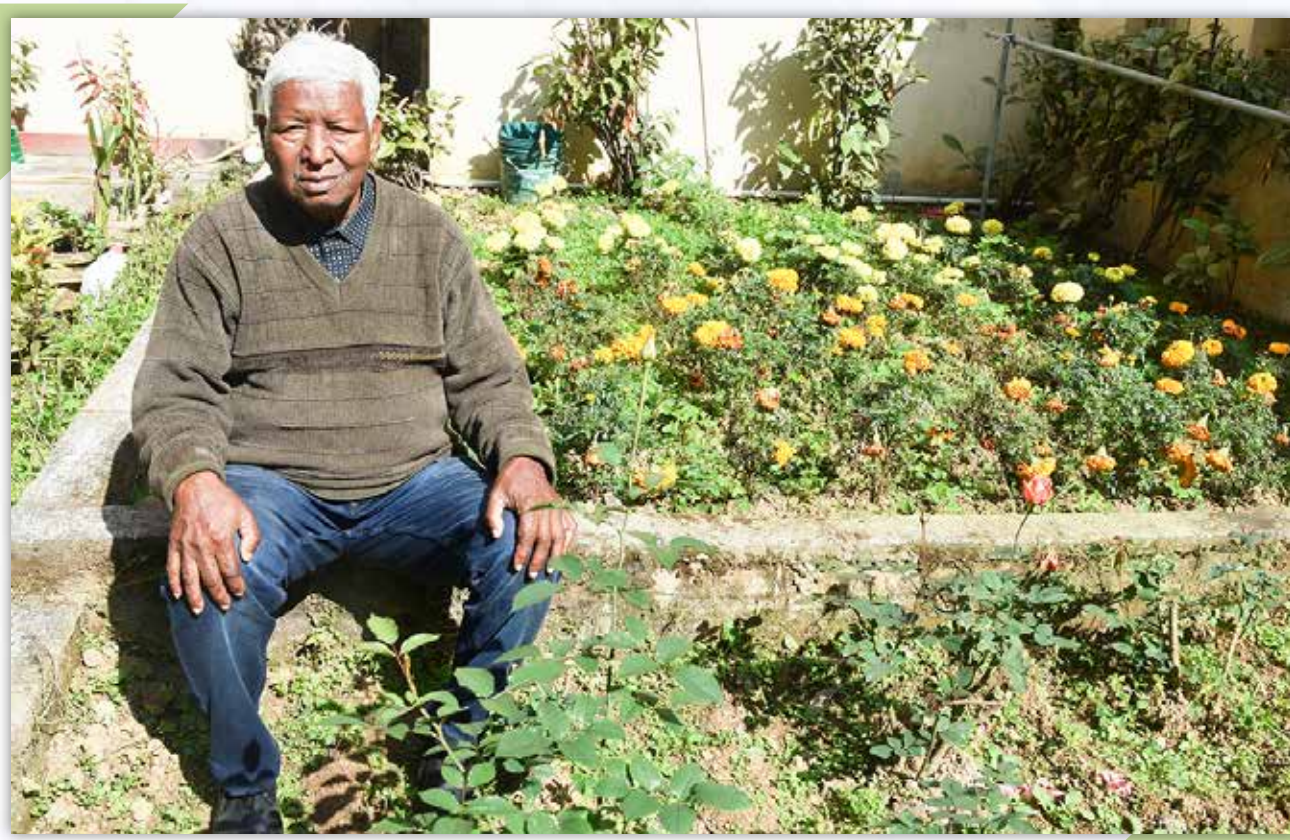
The Holy Father Pope Francis also recognized Bro. Vincent's contribution to environmental conservation through the promotion of horticulture and forestry with his unique style of doing tasks quietly with great dedication, consistency, commitment, and amazing diligence. In his letter on 10 March 2019, He wrote to him:

“Dear Vincent, at 83 years of age, you continue to work in the vineyard of the Lord with energy of a young man. For almost fifty years, you are working as a missionary in Africa, first in Sudan, then Zambia, finally in Tanzania and Kenya, with a keen eye on environmental conservation through the promotion of horticulture and forestry. You have quietly done these tasks with great dedication consistency, commitment and amazing diligence. “There is nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyles.” Laudato Si # 211.

In this case, my dear brother Vincent, your practical teaching by doing has a double positive impact, first on the minds of the learners around and, secondly on the sustainable beauty of the planet itself in preserving our common home

for future generations. In recognition for all that you have done in India and in Africa, I sincerely thank you and I send you my apostolic blessing with this rosary, I ask you to pray for me and for the graces I need to serve the Church. We are born in the same year, more and more we know that we need God's grace, more than anything else, to keep going. May our love for our Lord Jesus increase our passion to care for God's creation! May Jesus bless you and the Blessed Virgin Mary take care of you! (Letter of Pope Francis dtd. D.S.M., 10 March 2019).

Bro. Vincent visited Ranchi again combining it with a home visit on 11 November 2019. He had brought a video clip on St. Peter Claver High School, Dodoma and his work which he joyfully showed to his Province men as he visited institutions, like Manresa House, St. Xavier's Doranda, St. Stanislaus' High School, Lohardaga, St. Ignatius, Gumla, St. Mary's Samtoli and others. He returned to Kenya on 28 February 2020 and promised to come back again after 4 years. By then he will be 87 years young. Welcome Bro. Vincent!



Ranchi Jesuits in Guyana Mission

Fr. Elias Surin, SJ & Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ
Missionaries in Guyana Mission



The Republic of Guyana is in South America. ‘Guyana’ means ‘land of many waters’. This is a beautiful country with mountains, rivers and green savanah land with varieties of wild life.

This is a multicultural country with Indian origins, Afro-Guyanese and Indigenous people called Amerindians. The number of the Chinese, Brazilians and Venezuelans is also on the increase. The country’s population is around 7,80,000 (seven lakh eighty thousand).

The country has only one diocese called the Diocese of Georgetown (capital of Guyana). In the diocese, Jesuits are working in the city, small towns and in the interiors among the indigenous people. At present 21 Jesuits are working, of whom four are in rest. In the mission, the Ranchi Jesuits are working since 23 December 2006, with the arrival of Fr Anil Tirkey, SJ, and Fr Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ. Since then Guyana mission is part of Ranchi Province. After these two first missionaries there were some more Jesuits: Frs. Gabriel Xess, SJ, Elias Surin, SJ, Suman P. Toppo, SJ, and Mark

Mukul Lakra, SJ, who came and served the Guyana mission. Some of them have gone back to the Mother Province. At present Frs. Anugrah Amar Bage and Elias Surin continue the mission. Fr. Anil, after 15 years of long service in Guyana, went back to the province on 29 December 2019. Being in the mission he worked in the city as a parish priest. His service is highly appreciated. His parishioners miss him a lot. Thank you Fr. Anil for all your valuable service for the Guyana mission! Frs Anugrah Amar Bage and Elias Surin are still offering their services to the Indigenous People of Guyana.

The main apostolate in Guyana is pastoral, sacramental, social and at present exploring educational. Till 2019 three of us were working in Guyana. Fr. Anil was in Georgetown, Fr. Elias Surin and Fr. A. Amar Bage were in the interior called Kurukabaru in Pakaraimas, which is located in the high mountains. Hosororo in Mabaruma is a river area with thick swimmy forests land. These are real challenging mission areas in terms of reaching out to different inaccessible, unreachable and difficult terrains in the mission.

In the city Fr. Anil was busy with sacramental and pastoral ministries with some leadership training programmes and faith formation. In 2019, he was also helping out other parishes and convents according to the demand of the time and situation for the sacramental ministries. At the end of 2019 he went back to India.



Fr. Elias being in the most challenging mission in Guyana is giving his valuable service to the Amerindian communities in the mountains. He is busy with his sacramental apostolate and pastoral care. In order to share the good news and sacraments to the believers in various communities, Fr. Elias has to walk minimum three to six hours on an average and maximum two days.



However, today he has ATV (All Terrain Vehicle, a four wheel motor bike) to reach out to the people, going through deadly valleys.

He is strong and is with good health. Thank God for that beautiful gift of health and strength with strong faith in God, which makes it possible for him to move around easily. He is happy in his mission. Praise the Lord! In 2019, he dedicated his time and energy to give Ignatian retreat to the church leaders called PLAs (parish lay assistants) from 14 village communities. The impact of the retreat was wonderful as the PLAs became missionaries and started visiting the neighbouring communities to preach the Gospel.

Fr. Amar in Hosororo mission is focused on the leadership training programmes for youth and PLAs. He also gave his time and energy to form an effective and devotional choir in most of his communities to make the Eucharistic celebration meaningful and prayerful. With some community support he managed to build some church buildings and a multi-purpose building. Fr. Amar has to cover 26 communities and most of them are on the river side, so he has to travel through the black water rivers flowing through the thick forests. The youth of Hosororo are very active. They organized big youth programme called *Youth Explosion and Jesus Explosion*. These programmes brought a lot of good impact on young people. Youth themselves started visiting the other communities to help the community members to grow in their spirituality through their praise and worship songs and the Bible reflections.

Preparation for the synod for Amazon was taken very seriously at the regional level as well as Diocesan level. With clergy and other religious congregations, participation of the laity was huge. Guyana, being the part of Amazon, has taken as its responsibility to take care of the common home and invites the whole universe to be responsible in taking care of the environment, forests, rivers and all other created beings to give life to all.

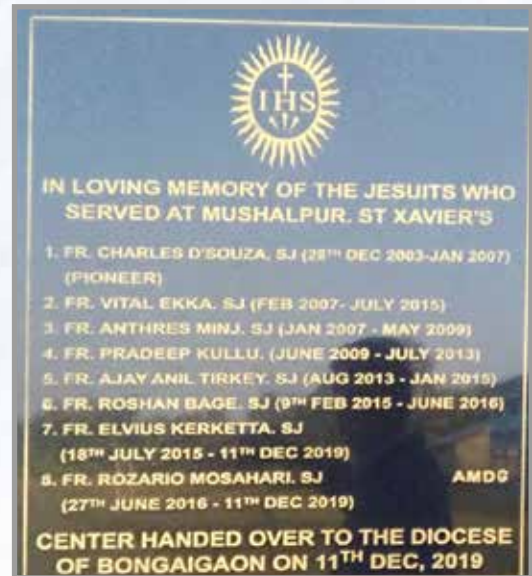
The historic handing over of the Mushalpur Parish and School to the Diocese of Bongaigaon, (Assam) is an excellent example of what a Jesuit charism is, i.e. “create processes, do not occupy spaces.” The historic event of the handing over has sent a very positive signal across the Diocese that the Jesuits, true to their Ignatian spirit, do not occupy spaces but create processes to move on to the periphery missions wherever the Lord calls them. Here is the report of the collaboration between the Jesuits, Diocese of Bongaigaon and Sisters of Our Lady of Grace.

Background of the Jesuit Intervention in Mushalpur

Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, DD, invited the Jesuits, requesting them to develop the Boro predominant area of Mushalpur. Bishop’s continuous encouragement and support to carry out our Mission at Mushalpur Centre among the Boro brethren for their integral development, has given the Jesuits of Kohima Region and Ranchi Province a sense of satisfaction and consolation even as the centre is handed over to the Bongaigaon Diocese.

The Jesuits of Kohima Region were in Mushalpur till 2000. The Bishop wanted Jesuits to come to Mushalpur, which was a sub-station of Barama Church, and develop this sub-station for the integral development of the Boro brethren. However, due to the resistance of the Bathos brethren it was not possible at that point of time. Nevertheless, in 2005 when the State government of Assam decided to make Mushalpur a district headquarter, the then D.C. of the place and a few government officials demanded to have a Mission Centre in Mushalpur for quality education of their children. They approached the Bishop and in turn he approached the Kohima Regional Superior, Fr. Gregory Coelho, SJ, to come and develop the Mission Centre at Mushalpur.

Fr. Gregory Coelho, SJ, the Kohima Regional Superior, appointed Fr. Charles D’ Souza, SJ, to Mushalpur who purchased the required area of land, put the boundary wall and started an English Medium School. In January 2006 Fr. Charles came and negotiated a plot of 30 bighas of land and put a boundary wall around the property and started St. Xavier’s English medium school from L.K.G. to Class IV in bamboo made class rooms. The total number of students in those classes at that time was only 65. All the beginnings are difficult and full of challenges. Fr. Charles stuck to the gun, stayed alone in that Barimukh (Mushalpur) property and he himself stayed in one of the bamboo huts.





On 3rd December 2006, Rev. Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, decided to divide Kohima Region and create a new unit called Assam Mission. On 3rd December 2006, the Assam Mission was created and handed over to the then Provincial, Fr. Ranjit Pascal Toppo, SJ, of Ranchi Jesuit Province. On the same evening, during the Eucharist, Fr. Ranjit appointed Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, the first Delegate of the Provincial to the Assam Mission.

In March 2007, Fr. Vital Ekka, SJ, a veteran pastor of Assam Mission was transferred from Balipara, Tezpur Diocese, to Mushalpur Barimukh in Bongaigaon Diocese and Fr. Charles D' Souza handed over the full responsibility to Fr. Vital Ekka and went back to Kohima Region. Meanwhile the Jesuit

Fathers also shifted from the bamboo rooms to the would be "Teachers' Quarters", without much convenience.

In June 2007, Fr. Anthres Minj, SJ, joined Fr. Vital Ekka, SJ, and took the responsibility of St. Xavier's School, Mushalpur, as the Principal of the School. Slowly the number of students started to increase in St. Xavier's School, Mushalpur. In 2008, the people demanded to have a concrete school building for the education of their students. Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, the Delegate-cum-Development Director of the Assam Mission, with the help of the 3 Jesuit Provinces of Switzerland, Austria and Germany, requested the required funds. The construction of St. Xavier's School building was started under the supervision of Mr. Ranjit Das of Bijni and it was ready by November 2009 and on 8 December 2009 the new concrete St. Xavier's school building was blessed by Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil. The very next year 2010, the new session started in the new school building. The number of students increased.

Meanwhile, with the financial support of the German Doctors and German Government we were able to build the middle school wing and a multipurpose hall on top, which serves as a school hall, gathering place for the various development activities for the people and on Sundays' Eucharist for the faithful of the Parish. There are 500 plus Catholics in 7 small and 2 big villages.

Fr. Pradeep Kullu, SJ, was transferred in June 2009 from Balipara to Mushalpur. He put his mind and heart to improve the standard of the school. The matriculation results were 100 per cent for 2-3 years. He was Principal of St. Xavier's School for 4 years until July 2013. Thereafter, Fr. Ajay Tirkey, SJ, took over the work of Principal from July 2013 till January 2015. After that Fr. Roshan Bage came to Mushalpur as Principal from February 2015 till June 2016 and then Fr. Rozario Mosahari, SJ, had been the Principal of the school since July 2016 till the handing over date. At the time of handing over, there were 431 Students. The result of the matriculation was quite satisfactory.

It was felt that a presbytery was needed for the Jesuit Priests of Mushalpur. In 2016 the construction work of the presbytery started and on 29 January 2017, it was blessed and since then the Jesuit priests are staying in the newly-built presbytery. The 'Teachers Quarter' is used as a small hostel for the boys. Since the road of St. Xavier's School was made of mud, it was slippery. Therefore, with the financial support of Rottenburg Diocese of Germany, block road was newly built from the School gate to the school and also in the new presbytery. The school road with block road gives a very good look and is now safe for the students to move about.

Within the last 12 years whatever was possible, we the Jesuits of Assam Mission have tried to do for the Mushalpur Centre for our Boro brethren's integral development. We have developed and watered with our sweat and blood the Mushalpur Centre and moved on to the periphery missions wherever the Lord called us to bring His Kingdom among the people. We readily and willingly handed over the Mushalpur Centre to the Diocese of Bongaigaon, to Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, on 11 December 2019.

Collaboration with the Sisters of Our Lady of Grace

The Jesuits of Mushalpur felt that it would be good to have the Religious Sisters to look after the school and do the Pastoral works in the parish to deepen the faith of Catholics. In July 2009 the Sisters of Our Lady of Grace of Meerut came as collaborators of the Jesuits of Mushalpur. These Sisters were put up in one of the Catholic villages Murisubba for nearly 2 years, with a view to learn the language of the people and get acquainted with their culture, with lots of inconveniences. After 2 years they came back to Mushalpur and stayed in the middle school wing in 4 class rooms with less convenience.

Meanwhile, Fr. Vital Ekka managed to get 3 bighas of land for the purpose of a Convent just outside St. Xavier's School compound, for which the diocese has paid the price. Fr. Xavier Lakra, got the financial support for the construction of the Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Grace from Missio Aachen, Missio Munich and the Church-In-need. The boundary wall of the Convent is supported by the German Jesuit Mission Office. Sisters shifted to the new convent and are able to render their hundred percent services to the school, parish and for the development of the people of Mushalpur. The convent has got the solar light connectivity also.

The Sisters contributed immensely in the field of education to bring up the standard of St. Xavier's School. With their effort the matriculation results were 100 per cent and most of the students passed either in the First or Second Division.

One of the Sisters, Sr. Kusum, as a pastoral Sister, tried her level best to learn the local Boro language to be able to communicate with the village people and teach them catechism in their local language. This made a lot of difference to the local Boro brethren. In spite of lots of challenges and inconveniences all the Sisters put in their hundred percent efforts as a result they are loved by the students, parents and guardians. The Sisters were excellent collaborators of the Jesuits working in Mushalpur (Barimukh).

Historic Handing Over of Mushalpur to Diocese

Fr Rozario Mosahari, SJ

After the formation of the Assam Mission, the Ranchi Jesuits took the centre forward and on 11 December 2019, it was handed over to the Diocese of Bongaigaon. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Jesuit Provincial of Ranchi, did come for the handing over ceremony, but due to the bandh call in Assam, rushed back to Ranchi around 3:30 in the morning on the next day. Hence, Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, the Delegate, represented the Provincial during the handing over.

The handing over ceremony was a historic moment. It was a joyful experience for all. The Jesuits gave a very good example of generosity and magnanimity to the Diocese and the Church at large. Many Jesuits working in Assam Mission under the leadership of the mission Delegate Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, were present. On the part of the diocese the Vicar General, Fr. Michael Elango, along

with several other diocesan clergy, represented the diocese. The members of the Kohima region Fr. Anand Perera, SJ, and Fr. Tarcus Beck, SJ, were also present for the ceremony.

The whole ceremony was well organized and there was an atmosphere of joy and gratitude in everyone's heart. Fr. Thomas Barla, SJ, was the anchor of the ceremony. The Franciscan Sisters of our Lady of Graces (FSLG) were asked to read a Gospel passage and few prayer intentions were offered.

The e-mail correspondence letter between the Ranchi Jesuit Provincial Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, and the Bishop of Bongagigaon, Bp Thomas Pullophillil, DD, was read out by Fr. Lawrentus Kiro, SJ. The content of the letter was profound and well appreciated by all. There was thanksgiving speech by Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, for all the cooperation from the diocese and the fellow Jesuits. Fr Michael Elango, the VG of the diocese of Bongaigaon, shared his words of gratitude to the Jesuits for the great generosity displayed by developing the centre and handing it over to the Diocese. As a sign of gratitude to the Jesuits, beautiful mementos were presented to the Jesuits along with the shawl. Fr. Henry Barla, SJ, received the memento on behalf of the Ranchi Jesuit Provincial, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ. The early Jesuits who worked in Mushalpur were also fondly remembered and appreciated.

Fr. Vital Ekka, SJ, and Fr. Ajay Anil Tirkey, SJ, from Ranchi, were also present for the ceremony and their presence enhanced the joy of the handing over ceremony. During the speeches, many THANK YOU words surfaced and very particularly, words of gratitude were said for the benefactors and Fr Xavier Lakra, SJ, who toiled so much for fundraising.

The entire Diocese was happy to receive the centre and the Jesuits too were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for all the good works they could do and move on with the Jesuit charism seeking the Magis. The ceremony ended with the signing of the handing over document prepared by the diocese. Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, and other Jesuit witnesses signed the document representing Jesuits and on behalf of the diocese Fr. Michael Elago and other Diocesan priests signed as witnesses. Finally, the whole ceremony was concluded with the Hymn "O Give Thanks to The Lord" followed by Agape.

Message from Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, DD

"The great generosity with which the Jesuits have built up the parish of Mushalpur and love with which it is being handed over to the Church of Bongaigaon will be greatly appreciated by all of us in the diocese for years to come. Indeed it is a great lesson for other religious congregations who show total disregard for decency when it comes to handing over parishes to the diocese according to the agreement. May the teaching of Jesus that unites us all continue to guide you and your province!"

"May I take this opportunity to thank all the Jesuits who have worked in the parish over the years! Special thanks to Fr. Charles D'Souza, SJ, the first parish priest and Fr. Gregory Coelho, SJ, the then regional superior of Kohima region. Special thanks to Fr. Ajay Tirkey SJ who made great sacrifices for the parish and Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, who took great pains in supporting the growth of the parish and the institutions."

"I assure you that we shall keep up the high standard that you have set for the parish and all the institutions in the parish in the years to come."

Introduction

All of us are affected by the recent socio-political upheavals in the country. It needs no further mention. Therefore, it is an opportune time – kairos – to read and interpret the signs of the times that open paths for our socio-pastoral apostolates through education. We, the Ranchi Jesuits in Assam, recognize that the best way to work for the wholeness of people especially the Adivasis in Assam is to give them a quality education, i.e., imparting knowledge of moral and spiritual values. It is effective for the comprehensive development of the personality of individuals. The various concerns which were unheard of until a few years ago have arisen today as a result of different situations in Assam. Yes, the hour has come for us to draw passionate inspiration from the passionate love of the crucified Lord, and to be at the side of the broken humanity with compassionate love. We, the Jesuits working in Assam try to show our compassionate love of the Crucified Christ in and through many institutions that we are running.

St. Xavier's College Tezpur

A significant resolution was taken in the Governing Body Meeting of the College on 18 September 2019 to begin five major subjects, namely; English, Assamese, Geography, Political Science and Education in the Degree College from the Academic Session 2020. In view of this, in recent past a lot of infrastructural changes have taken place within. The constructions of the second floor class rooms are complete now. Two important labs – Geography and Psycho – are established with all necessary apparatus. The official inspections from the University for the above-mentioned subjects were done in the month of February and March 2020. A positive response is given by the University to begin the courses from the coming academic session.



Besides, all academic programmes in the Junior College, this year an outreach program for the Adivasis from the local villages was organised on 13 October 2019 jointly by St. Xavier's Junior College and Gana Chetana Samaj. This was in the backdrop of preservation and promotion of the Adivasi culture in the vicinity. In short, it was in view of the formation of identity of the Adivasis working in the tea-gardens of Assam. Altogether 17 villages participated in the Karam Dance Competition. All of them were given attractive prizes for their common use in the villages.



It was appreciated by one and all. All look forward to such occasions in the years to come.

St. John's Balipara

It is said that *where there is a will there is a way*. The geographical remoteness was not an impediment anyway, as we succeeded in bringing the students of our schools under one theme "Together Towards Tomorrow". A dream came true when the selected students from Kathalguri, Manas Bansbari and Balipara gathered at St. John's School, Balipara, for sports from 20 to 22 February 2020. The chief guest, Fr. Robert Pradeep Kujur, SJ, the Principal of St. Xavier's College, Tezpur, in his message emphasized the value of games and sports in the life of students. The sports events were coloured by various items, such as march past by the LKG and UKG students, drill and *taekwondo* shows, glimpses of Bodo, Santhal, Nagpuri, Nepali dances, etc. All these were meant to encourage and entertain the young athletes. St. John's Balipara kept the champion's trophy while St. Xavier's Manas Bansbari and Loyola Kathalguri bagged the second and the third positions respectively. The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, the Mission Superior. His presence-cum-message was an inspiration for all gathered here. The exposure of this kind was appreciated by the students and the staff as they all parted with smiling faces, with a hope of meeting again, in the years to come.



Loyola School Kathalguri



The customary School Annual Day-cum-Parents' Day on 31 October 2019 was a gala event of the year. Unlike other years, the students and the staff of St. Joseph's school Jacobpur were invited to be part of this event as it is the sprout of this school family. A good number of parents and guardians enjoyed and witnessed the programme. The event marked an impact giving them a sense of belonging to the school family. Mr. Amarsing Brahma, the Block Education Extension Officer (BEEO) from Gossaigaon was the chief guest and Captain Animesh from Gossaigaon Army Camp Habrubillas was the guest of honour. The BEEO in his speech stressed on the importance of education and appreciated the contribution made by the missionary schools in the country. He appreciated the school authorities for their valuable services in the rural setup and shared about the government schemes to the audience available from the educational department for the students. Captain Animesh, in his turn, congratulated and encouraged the staff and the students for their marvellous programme and talked on the need of discipline in life to the parents and students. The renovated school building has attracted many students to join the school this year.

St Ignatius Parish Kathalguri organized the normal Annual Sabha for the parishioners on 5 January 2020. Fr. Michael Elango, the Vicar General of Bongaigaon Diocese solemnized the holy mass and prayed for the faithful. A little more than three thousand faithful participated in the Sabha. They seemed to be happy with the new church coming up which would add devotion to their Prayers. Thanks to the benefactors who have generously helped us to construct this church.



St. Xavier's Manas Bansbari

A new school bus! Yes, it has become a great and timely asset for the school. The students from far off villages are able to take advantage of this. The students look happy when they travel by bus and the parents too look on as the students are safe in all seasons. It has, further no doubt, enhanced the enrolment of the students in the school reducing the number of dropouts. The school family will ever remain indebted to Fr. Xavier Lakra, SJ, and Fr. Pius Xalxo, SJ, who thoughtfully provided us the school bus.



Prabhat Tara Bogapani

The Parent's Day this year was very special for two reasons – one, that it marked the growth of students in their understanding and values in life and other, that the parents participated actively in a big number. The students prepared a variety of meaningful, educative and communicative entertainment programs. They could express their gratitude towards parents for their love and concern and especially bearing all their expenses for their holistic growth. Secondly, Mr. Tanti, the parents' representative, showing full support to their children and management said that they see a bright future of their sons and daughters. Miss Saphira, the student representative, in her speech said that the parents are like an umbrella who protect them from all difficulties and lead them in life ahead. She further said, "Serving the parents is equal to reaching heaven. Parents are like the shadows and children are their reflections. The parents who forgive the thousand mistakes of their children are given only once."



Gana Chetana Samaj Tezpur



The simple and sincere hardworking Adivasis look good while working in the tea gardens of Assam. It is their portion to work for the whole day just to earn a small pittance – Rs. 167/- per day. To our record, hardly anybody was found working in Government job sectors; be it administrative or graded jobs. It is not that they do not have calibre but their minds are not properly stimulated through quality education. They remain far behind in the competitive world.

Gana Chetana Samaj has focused its work on strengthening and capacitating the Adivasis, the tribals, the poor and the marginalized matric dropout students through supplementary coaching classes to pass the Matriculation Board Examination. The results have been excellent and encouraging so far. Through eight coaching centres in 2018, Gana Chetana Samaj prepared 234 students out of which 175 (74.78%) passed and in 2019 out of 212 students 178 (83.96%) passed. It is a noble work to help the dropouts to fly out of tea gardens for a better life. This year, 270 students have written matric examination. We hope a good result this year too.

Conclusion

Down the years, the challenges to our missionary activities have been varied. Various forms of challenges have appeared and become part of our history. We are called to the present forms of challenges. In the words of Fr. General at Phesama (Nagaland), “Our apostolic preferences should make us relevant. How is our heart with regard to our mission in context? We need to return to our roots and sources. We need to create a culture of our Way of Proceeding – Discernment.” Therefore, there may be a greater need to discern our existing apostolates and look – with courage, risk and prophetic imagination – for newer ones at par with the challenges and demands of times. Let God-experience and spiritual freedom guide us in our apostolic process.

Fr. Ignatius Tete, SJ, Tertian Instructor

Tertianship, Sitagarha

The Tertianship at SSC Sitagarha completed 70th year of its existence in the year 2019. In the Bible the number 70 (7x10) denotes an aspect of completeness and universality. The 70th year of Tertianship was therefore understandably marked with God's seven specific blessings signifying certain sense of universality and completeness. On the one hand, God's blessing was perceived in the gift of a new building by Hazaribag Province, on the other hand, it was felt in the fact that all the 24 living rooms of the ground floor were occupied by the tertians. The apt ambience of the beautiful building felt in the self-contained rooms, in the well-planned quadrangle and in the beautiful new chapel facilitated the tertians to enter into deep experiences of the long retreat and those in turn resulted in effective retreat ministries and enriching experiments. While the pilgrimage to Fr. Lievens' mission land had a new dimension of Eucharistic celebration with the villagers of Bendora, the Instructors' meet at Rome made a beneficial impact on the tertians. Above all, from start to finish there was a personal as well as community experience of God's unfailing provident care for the school of the heart.

1. The gift of a new building

Hazaribag Provincial, Fr. Santosh Minj SJ, took up the project of a new building for Tertianship very firmly soon after he succeeded the outgoing Provincial, Fr. Francis Kurien, who had already decided upon the project. During the period of the construction, the Tertianship programme was accommodated in the Juniorate wing while the Juniorate remained closed for two years, in 2017 and 2018. The building got ready in 18 months under the strict supervision of Fr. Patras Tirkey, SJ, the Rector of St. Stanislaus College, while Fr. P.O. Chacko SJ, the architect made regular spot visits. Fr. Provincial saw to it that the new building was well equipped with all necessary facilities -beautifully tiled floors and veranda, self-contained rooms with a provision of geyser system, electricity supply with a solar system and a washing machine.

The two-storey building with its 49 pillars (7x7) stands strong and beautiful with Marian Spring at the centre of its spacious quadrangle. It houses an attractive octagonal chapel recalling the eight beautitudes. The scope of its availability has been widened. It is open to all people of good will for retreats, recollections, seminars and meetings. Only the ground floor is meant for Tertianship for six months. It has 24 living rooms for tertians apart from the rooms of the two Instructors. The number is symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel and 12 Apostles of the new Israel. The new Tertianship block signals not only God's unique gift to Sitagarha Tertianship in its 70th year through the instrumentality of Hazaribag Province but also his great blessing for the entire local Church.

2. Twenty four tertians experiencing unity in diversity

In his providence God gathered 24 tertians including one Brother from 16 Provinces and 1 Region to occupy all the 24 rooms. This was the largest batch of tertians for the last 25 years. One tertian came from Nepal after a gap of 7 years. All the four Zones of the Assistency were pretty well represented: seven from the northern Zone, eight from the central, three from the western and six

from the southern Zone. In terms of academic qualifications most of them were post-graduates with two of them being PhD Holders. Ethnically they hailed from 14 cultural backgrounds. As regards apostolate backgrounds most of them were from the ministry of education while others came from the sectors of Formation, Social Action, Pastoral and Refugee Services. Two of them had their experiences of mission works in Paraguay and Afghanistan. Thus, from several angles the 2019 batch had a good blend of inter-culturality which resulted in a rich experience of unity in diversity.



3. Unique experiences of the Spiritual Exercises

The Spiritual Exercises constitute the most significant constitutive element of the third probation. GC 36 has raised the question as to why the Exercises do not change us as deeply as we would hope. It has also challenged the entire Society to appropriate ever more fully the gift of the Exercises. The last batch which was the first batch to do Tertianship in the new building was urged to take up this challenge seriously. Their utmost generosity aided by the conducive ambience of the new building bore much fruit. Their threefold pilgrimage into the heart of God, into each one's own heart and into the heart of the humanity and the creation resulted in their mystical experiences, transformed attitudes and newness of outlook. In his memoriale Fr. POSA, George Pattery has observed, "It is really heartening to learn of the many graces that you received during the long retreat. ... The labouring God of the Exercises came alive to many of you, healing, challenging and inviting you. Some of you realized greater integration of life and mission. These are precious visitations of the Lord that we cherish for the rest of our lives. The real challenge of the Tertianship is to sustain these graces."

4. Enriching retreat ministries

In the Constitutions, describing the Spiritual Exercises as 'effective spiritual weapon for God's service', St. Ignatius prescribes that after they themselves have experienced them they should get practice in giving them [408]. In his address to GC 35 Pope Benedict XVI has highlighted the importance of the Spiritual Exercises and has specified them as 'the fountain of Jesuit spirituality', the matrix of the Constitutions and a gift of the Holy Spirit for the entire Church. Pointing out their relevance for this secularized world he has called the Spiritual Exercises as particularly precious

method to seek and find God in us, around us and in everything, to know his will and to put it into practice. Therefore, he has invited the Society to reserve a specific attention to the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises (GC 35, Pope Benedict's Address, no. 9). Among the Universal Apostolic Preferences the Spiritual Exercises hold pride of place serving as a basis for the other three.

In Sitagarha Tertianship Ignatian retreat ministry is an extension of the long retreat. The depth and quality of the long retreat finds its manifestation in the quality of the retreat ministry. Last year the 24 tertians wielded this spiritual weapon for 528 retreatants of 24 different groups in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. For 19 of them it was the first Ignatian retreat ministry. All of them had an immense satisfaction of experiencing God working in and through them. They better understood the dynamics of the Exercises, deepened their own graces of the long retreat and became a powerful medium of God's blessings as many communities confirmed it in their feedback sent to the instructors.

5. Pilgrimages with a difference

St. Ignatius, the Pilgrim started his pilgrimage to Jerusalem from Loyola and on the way spent a night vigil at the shrine of Our Lady of Aranzazu in order to gain fresh strength for his journey. Following his example every year the tertians make their pilgrimage to Dhori Mata just before beginning their month-long spiritual journey. Last year this pilgrimage was made with greater earnestness and many tertians felt the assurance of the intercession of Mother Mary at the shrine. During the long retreat they did experience their growing devotion to her and the power of her mediating role for being placed with her Son.



After the long retreat and before going for a month-long experiment, like other years a pilgrimage to the mission land of Fr. Constant Lievens, the Apostle of Chotanagpur was made in order to imbibe his missionary spirit. A new feature of the pilgrimage was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the villagers of Bendora followed by a joyous procession to Fr. Lievens' Shrine. While the tertians did get some sense of the missionary zeal of Fr. Lievens, the Bendora people were boosted up to pray

more regularly and intensely for the cause of his beatification. Both the villagers and the tertians felt a special bonding in the personality of the Servant of God. Later on, one of the tertians had his experiment among them, staying in different families and enkindling the fire brought by Fr. Lievens.

6. Impact of the Instructors' meeting held at Rome

Twenty two Instructors from 16 Tertianships of the Society of Jesus participated in the Instructors' meet at Rome in from 25 to 28 August 2019. Two themes -- the dynamics of the third probation and UAPs -- were dealt with by means of a series of spiritual conversations. In his two input sessions Fr. General, Arturo Sosa highlighted the importance of the last stage of Jesuit Formation and the need to integrate UAPs during Tertianship. He stressed that Jesuit Formation is a period of probation, 'long and thorough' which culminates in the incorporation through the final vows. He affirmed that the 4th vow and the grades are essential part of Jesuit tradition but they are misunderstood. As regards UAPs he made it clear that they are orientations, signposts and a call, not just about doing but about being, involving our entire life.

Through their in-depth sharing the instructors were enlightened and felt a sense of solidarity and support in their mission of the final stage of Jesuit formation. They returned to their respective places with a renewed vigour and zeal. After the return, in Sitagarha Tertianship the sharing sessions on the document on UAPs followed the method of spiritual conversation which resulted in a decision of dividing the tertians into four UAPs groups. Each group did something or other to promote the attitudinal values of UAPs. One group arranged Holy Eucharist in reference to the Spiritual Exercises and eco-sensitivity for the entire community. Dustbins were set up for different types of garbage. To promote eco-sensitivity a banner with dos and don'ts was fixed up on the wall adjacent to the entrance of the House chapel. The youth group organized a recollection for the Parish youth while the group assigned for the poor conducted an awareness session on POCSO for the entire campus. It has been suggested that the tertians be divided into four UAPs groups right from the start.

7. A wonderful experience of God's unfailing provident care

Last year we had a deep experience of God's providence through the intercession of Mother Mary. We were wondering whether all the 24 rooms available for the tertians in the new building would be occupied. An assurance came from a flower plant in the grotto garden. One day, a month before the arrival of the tertians, there bloomed in that particular plant 24 flowers. By the time we started Tertianship we had the joy of getting 24 tertians. Another big question was whether 24 retreats would be available for them. God provided that miraculously. When one retreat was withdrawn, another was made available. This happened as many as four times. Similarly we got 24 places for experiments against all odds. When one visiting professor was unable to come, amidst all uncertainty we got a very good one in the nick of time. The journey to Rome for the Instructors' meeting was made possible by God though humanly speaking it looked impossible. During the experiment many felt God's providence.

One day I felt as if the Lord were telling me, "I am running the Tertianship. You need to trust me and collaborate with me." That gave me much interior joy. I felt that He who has founded the Society and preserves it [812] is the one who runs the School of the Heart like a school master. We join Mother Mary in her Magnificat. He who is mighty has done great things for our Tertianship at Sitagarha in its 70th year. Holy is his name!

A Call to Hear the Cry of the Poor and the Earth

Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ, AROUSE, Coordinator, Lohardaga

I cherished the privilege of being part of the Congress of more than 200 Jesuits, other religious and lay collaborators, both men and women, gathered in Rome from 4 to 8 November 2019, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat. In the process of preparation for this auspicious and 'Kairos moment' we had a series of seminars, workshops, retreats, celebrations and other activities at the organization, provinces, zonal, national and Assistancy levels.



The introductory words of the Superior General of the Society of Jesus Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, during the concluding Eucharistic celebration of SJES Congress sums up the whole convention, "We have been invited this week to Rome to come together to give thanks, to remember, and to dream about the future of the Society of Jesus' commitment to the mission of reconciliation and justice. We have been called to deepen our journey with the outcasts of the world and with young people, to contribute to the transformation of structures of injustice that include ending the abuse of the planet and making our common home beautiful" (Homily by Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, 8 November 2019). In a way, it was an occasion to acknowledge and celebrate God's faithfulness in our 50 year journey and beyond.



The salient features of the SJES Congress was nothing but the immersion into the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) of the Society of Jesus 2019–2029 and accordingly all the topics, presentations, discussions, sharing, testimonials, prayer and reflections and Eucharistic Celebrations were arranged.

Major topics dealt during the SJES Congress

1. A faith that does justice: History, Life and Spirituality of Social Apostolate.
2. Walking with the poor and excluded: Challenges and opportunities for Jesuit and partners to bring about systematic transformation.
3. Challenges and opportunities to journey with the youth today.
4. Caring for our "Common Home": Challenges and opportunities for the Jesuits and their partners.
5. A call to Collaboration:
 - a. Collaboration within the Society of Jesus (Inter-ministerial collaboration).
 - b. Networking and collaboration beyond the Society of Jesus.



and complexity of extending collaboration among ourselves and with many others who share the same path, deepening our identity as collaborators in Christ's mission."



It was a time to recall, realize, acknowledge and relish the faithfulness of God in our journey on a mission given by Jesus Himself through the Founding Fathers of the Society of Jesus and the Jesuit legacy handed over to the companions on mission and by the services of the Jesuit martyrs, as Father Arturo Sosa, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus reminded the participants of SJES Congress, "To thank, to remember and to dream about the future commitment of the Society of Jesus to the mission of reconciliation and justice." He further reminded all of our commitment, "We have been called to deepen our journey with those discarded from the earth, with the young people, to contribute to the transformation of the structures of injustice that include stopping the mistreatment of the planet and making our common home beautiful."

He drew the attention of all to "the centrality of the spiritual dimension of our commitment to social justice and integral ecology, as well as inalienable role of personal and community discernment so that the Spirit may transform our lives and guide our action." Even His Holiness Pope Francis, while addressing the participants of the SJES Congress, urged the participants "... all the Society's ministries need to respond to the challenge of proclaiming the faith and, at the same time, of promoting justice. What until then had been a task of a few Jesuits, needed to become a concern for them all" (Address of His Holiness Pope Francis, Thursday, 7 November 2019). Fr. Sosa further reminded us "of the need

The collaboration and networking for Christ's mission be within the Society at the inter-ministerial level and with the lay collaborators and partners "to promote economic, social and political relations in which people are subjects to the process of decision making, production and distribution of goods; to open the social spaces and our institutions to an equal and adequate participation of women in projects and processes; and to give necessary priority to the struggle or the eradication of all kinds of abuses in society, in the Church and in our apostolic works."

The SJES Congress, thus, now set a path to deepen "personal and community conversion, the transformation needed for society, the need for greater collaboration and more effective networking, common and synodal discernment, and finally, the importance of promoting a new narrative that includes the marginalized and support change" (Press Release). In doing this, we can hear and respond to the "cry of the poor and the earth."

Walking with the Poor and Excluded, 2019-2020

Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ, Fr. Sushil Tirkey, SJ,
Fr. Anuranjan Purty, SJ & Sch Sudhir Lakra, SJ
AROUSE Gumla, Lohardaga & Simdega

AROUSE Lohardaga is working in different villages of 6 Blocks in Lohardaga District of Jharkhand. It has extended its services to the women, farmers and unorganized rural youth and children as well. It has also been focusing on developing critical analysis among the participants through workshops and seminars. It continues to work for strengthening women Self-Help-Group (SHGs), for promoting organic farming for sustainable livelihood through micro-economic projects and farmers' clubs. The Centre also accompanies children for raising self-confidence through Study Centres. Ever since Fr. Sylvanus Kerketta, SJ, has taken over as the Coordinator of AROUSE Extension, Simdega from 2017, the impact of the social interventions in the area is becoming better and visible. At present, AROUSE Simdega is working in Kurdeg, Kersai and Thethaitanger Blocks. It is primarily working as a unit of Lok Manch programme in 10 villages of Kersai Block and 10 villages of Kurdeg Block. In Thethaitangar Block it is also working for the Prevention and Protection of Tribal Youth from Trafficking. Fr. George Soreng has assumed office as the Assistant Director in AROUSE, Gumla. So, AROUSE, Gumla has another expertise for taking care of our social outreach in that area.

1. Lok Manch

Ranchi Jesuit Province is a unit of Lok Manch (Peoples Forum), a programme which is active at the South Asia level under the aegis of the Jesuit Social Action (JESA). The programme focuses on the capacity building of the community leaders so that the village communities are able to access their rights and entitlements better. In the first phase, it worked on the Food Security

Act, 2013 and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan. In the Second Phase, it has taken up advocacy for the proper implementation of the existing policies and welfare schemes of the government so that they reach the last person in the periphery. It intends also to work for policy change so that greater good is served at the grass-roots level. Through this programme 6,000 households from 40 villages/pockets of Simdega and Lohardaga Districts are being taken care of. About 120 community leaders both in Simdega and Lohardaga are being groomed to take up leadership of their communities. These community leaders are trained every month on different topics and issues like NFSA/PDS, MGNREGA, Right to Information, Gram Sabha, Land Bank, Natural Resources, Forest Rights Act, Leadership skills, etc. The works accomplished through this programme include 230 Job Cards, 26 Ration Cards, 86 Old Age Pensions, 9 Widow Pensions, 1269 Aadhar Cards, Toilet Construction, repair of bore wells, Construction of sheds in the common Graveyard, one PCC Road and one Pucca Bandh (dam) construction, change of ration dealer, etc. The collaboration with others is the special feature of the programme. Therefore, similar activities have been taken up by other unit partners and collaborators: 'Sahbhagi Vikas' in Simdega and 'Sitara' in Gumla Districts.

Campaign for Payment of Mgnrega Dues

Besides, assisting people for better access to their rights and entitlements, Ranchi Unit has launched a campaign for the payment of all MGNREGA dues. All the Community Leaders worked for data collection through survey

in respect of non-payment of MGNREGA labourers. They also organized MGNREGA *mazdoori bhugtan* campaign in Simdega and Lohardaga which has brought a lot of zest among the beneficiaries.

Survey on Primary Health Centres

In addition to *mazdoori bhugtan abhiyan*, Ranchi Unit is working on the health issue as well. It has begun with a random survey of the Primary Health Centres (PHC), Community Health Centres (CHC) and Referral Hospital. Survey includes data collection about the existing facilities like laboratories, drinking water, electricity, communication, ambulance, manpower, furniture, equipments, staff, etc. The identification of the patients of tuberculosis is being taken up seriously and they are being taken to the hospitals for diagnosis and treatment.



2. Study Centres

The Study Centres are meant to accompany children to gain self-confidence. AROUSE, Lohardaga has started Study Centres in 20 villages with more than 950 children from rural area. The Study Guides are chosen from the respective villages to accompany them on regular basis. The parents and village communities are being sensitized to own up and support this endeavour. In order to foster tribal identity and culture, the parents and village elders are entrusted with the responsibility of helping children to learn their mother tongue, seasonal songs and dances.



3. Women Self-Help Groups

Till date Lohardaga has promoted 21 Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) and they have become members of the *Soyang Mahila Federation* for collaboration, support and sustainability. These WSHGs, comprising 250 members, have generated their own fund through monthly savings, thrift and credit and group work. AROUSE Simdega has initiated 10 SHGs. Government is trying to initiate, mobilize and motivate them for business through JSLPS.



4. Micro-Economic Enterprises

(a) Pig Farming

The effort to promote Pig farming aims at enhancing collaborative economic development ventures. It is supported by *Caritas Italiana*. After the training on pig-farming was over 40 women were given two piglets each as livestock capital for rearing. According to the agreement the recipients of livestock capital have to donate half of the total benefits (piglets) to the next needy member of the community.



(b) Lac Cultivation

on 19 & 20 of October 2019, training on lac cultivation was organized for 58 youth. Mr. Akash Kumar Baraik and Roshan Guria from TRDSW, district Khunti were the resource persons. A systematic and scientific way of cultivating lac was to help the youth to have more production and better possible prices. Youth having lac host trees can easily earn lacs of rupees each year. The interested youths as well as pockets for the lac cultivation are being identified.



(c) Leaf Plate Making

On 28 January 2020, leaf plate making training at Neemtoli was held. Training included plucking of sal leaves, drying, bundling, preserving and storing it for the whole year. There were 18 participants for the training programme. Mr. John Lakra was the resource person.

(d) Garland Making

At the request of the children, training on garland making was conducted on 29 February 2020. Miss Manorama Dungdung from Gitilchoa Ranchi gave the training. There were 110 participants. During the training participants learnt five new designs of making garlands. The keen interest of learning and replicating designs were remarkable. At the end of the training each centre was provided with a pair of materials with which to go back to their centres and teach and practice the same along with other club members.



(e) Promotion of organic farming and Preservation of organic seeds:

In order to save natural productivity of land and preserve the indigenous seed, awareness programmes were conducted in 7 villages in Lohardaga area. There is a plan to involve approximately 200 farmers for the purpose.

5. Farmer Club, Youth Club and Children's Club

There are different clubs to serve different purposes as per the requirements of the groups concerned. Social Apostolate has been working through Farmers Clubs, Youth Clubs and Children's Clubs.

(a) Farmers Club

In Lohardaga District, 31 Farmer Clubs have been promoted by the support of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural development (NABARD). These clubs are trying to adopt scientific methods of agriculture and tap the resources provided by the Government agencies. Some members of Farmer Clubs of Merle, Turur and Naditoli follow the System of Rice Intensification (SRI); the farmers of Bethat have drip irrigation and the farmers of Bharatpur work through the Lift-irrigation.



(b) Youth Club

As per the statistics available, 228 youth from Lohardaga area have migrated to different parts of our country basically to Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Goa, Kolkata, Hariyana, Hyderabad, Chennai and the Punjab. As of now, the centre is engaged with 300 youth from 20 villages. Another 300 youth will be roped in for the purpose in future. This project is meant to provide life skill trainings and sustainable business opportunities in the days to come. Secondly, it is concerned with safeguarding their freedom, safety, security and dignity of each individual through trainings under various sexual reproductive health rights. With the same aims and objectives Youth leaders' training in Bhutkudar, Taraboga, Chetmal and Chhuria Clusters were conducted on 14, 15, 17, 18 & 25 October 2019 respectively. During the training the youth groups came up with various proposals for micro-economic activities which they can take up, e.g. leaf plate making, solar lantern making, organic farming, lac cultivation, mat making, garland making, buying and selling of forest produces and smokeless chulhas.

Sharing and counseling sessions were conducted in the Church campus of Salangapos on 12 January 2020 for 150 migrated youth. During sharing and discussion some important issues which came up were safe migration, appropriate wages, awareness creation on cause and effects of migration, self esteem, self respect and self dignity. It ended with a note of hope that in future too similar sessions will be organized.



(c) Children's Club

Children are the future of the society and need to be understood, loved, cared for and guided by the society. At the moment, there are 20 children clubs with 300 members. The classes are held every day and children are coming to the centres regularly in the evening. They are provided with values of good life and better platform for expressing themselves. The training on Air Layering, grafting and country chicken farming have been given to them. They are very keen on learning and putting into practice what they learn. The total grafting and air layering done by them were with 90% success. It is wonderful to see the keen interests of the children in making vermi-compost, kitchen gardening, country chicken farming, etc.

(d) Bolo Project

Bolo project was conducted in 30 villages of Gumla District with 30 Internet Women Satthis. The main objective of this programme is to encourage parents of children between the age group 6 -10 years to download Bolo app in their smart phones. Bolo app is a child friendly app which is designed to help children improve their reading skills. The app features interesting word games and earn in-app rewards and badges that are designed to encourage children to learn words in a fun and playful manner.



6. Livelihood Activities

Most of the workforce is engaged in agriculture; wage labour, major and minor forest produce-based livelihood, animal husbandry, household industry, etc. Some of the livelihood options of rural households, such as agriculture and non-timber forest produce (NTFP) are under threat because of considerable depletion of the resource base. There is excessive and unsustainable 5-7% deforestation each year. Many tribal groups were once used to primarily forest-based sustenance livelihood. There is a large-scale seasonal and concurrent migration to urban areas because of the declining resources base. To engage the farmers workforce there have been various livelihood activities conducted for the farmers both farm and non-farm activities.



7. Village Development Plan (VDP)

The Village Development Plan (VDP) is the village and tola level planning process of Gram Sabha together with the participation of each and every member, men, women, children, youths and elders of the community. We have completed 63 VDPs out of 83 villages and remaining 20 VDPs are in process will be completed soon. This has helped identification of community needs and issues through transect walk and observations of social and resource status. The identified community needs have been enlisted and put into the Activity Maps. The vulnerable groups of people have been identified through the poverty/vulnerability analysis or Chapaty Diagram process and they have been enlisted in the social map and family detail list.



8. Community Watch Group (CWG)

Each village has a Community Watch Group (CWG) which consists of 9 members; there are a total of 180 members. They are responsible to protect, guide and take care of all the project-related activities in the village and influence the policies of the government through Gram Sabha, so that the actual needs, facilities, works and capital of the village are taken good care of. They play a vital role in ensuring monthly meetings, reducing migration, stopping child marriages, assessment of the project works in villages, helping & guiding youth and children clubs, solving disputes related to the projects in the villages, motivating and promoting unity. One exposure-cum-training programme to Lupunpath (Asur tribal village in Chainpur Block) was organized for the CWG on 28 September, 2019. The members of CWG had training on the Village Development Plan on 6-7 November 2019. It was appreciated by all the 58 participants. They said that it was an eye opener for them to tap government schemes. Mr. Lalit Kumar Mahto from AROUSE, Chainpur was the resource person. His inputs were very inspiring.



9. The CBOs Training

The effective functioning of the Gram Sabha depends on the participation of the women members of the community. Therefore, to motivate the women members to actively participate in the Gram Sabha is very much required. As per the plan the training of CBOs in 10 units of Kating, Bendora, Rampur, Chainpur, Malom, Barwenagar, Chhichwani, Janawal, Bamda and Bardih Panchayats of Chainpur Block in Gumla have already been completed. The trainings were facilitated and supported by Project Coordinator (PC), Block Technical Coordinator (BTC) and Assistant Project Coordinators (APCs). A total of 767 members, comprising 523 female and 244 male members participated in the training programs.



10. Preservation and Promotion of Tribal Cultural Heritage

The “Block Level Abua Raj Mela” had been organized by AROUSE Gumla, under “Gram Swashasan Abhiyan” on 23-10-2019, at Block Head Quarter Chainpur. About 1500 community people, village elders, Gram Sabha Pradhans, Gram Sabha members and Panchayat Representatives from 182 villages of 10 Panchayats, participated in the programme.

Similarly, Karam Celebration was held on 22 September 2019 in Salangapos church campus with a view to preserve and promote tribal folk dance, song and music. All the mobilizers were involved actively.



11. Jeevan Prawesh

Jeevan Pravesh Seminars were conducted in 19 schools where 620 boys and 1,323 girls participated. This includes not only the schools in Jharkhand but also in the States of

Bihar, Chhattishgarh, West Bengal, Assam and Madhya Pradesh. This year the seminars were also organised for the 620 parish youth in Kurdeg Parish and another for 249 youth in Mamarla Parish.



Sarva Dharma Sadbhavana Manch

Under the banner of Sarva Dharma Sadbhavana Manch the representatives from various religions have formed a platform for ensuring peace and religious harmony among different groups. On various occasions the team comes together to discuss issues related to bringing harmony. The team is trying to consolidate the Manch and its efforts not only at the district but also at the Block levels for building peace and harmony.

12. Critical Analysis

Workshops and seminars, meetings and discussions are conducted in Lohardaga Centre and at times in some villages on a regular basis for educating and empowering the villagers with

critical analysis of their own socio-economic, political, cultural and ecological conditions and decide for the well being of their own communities. These interactions make people aware of their plight and critically analyze and find ways and means to solve their issues and problems. Such meetings and seminars have so far focused on legal literacy, information about the policies of the Government, various land and leadership issues.



Looking Forward

At the end of one year of hectic work, when we look back at the achievements, they give enormous amount of satisfaction. So many activities were conducted including the usual ones; new initiatives were introduced like mobilizers' cluster meetings, one day sharing and counseling for migrated young boys and girls, reviving Karam celebration, promotion of study centres, monitoring primary health centres, SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health Rights), CWG (Community Watch Groups),

etc., to bring all the village people together under one platform. The awareness building on Human Trafficking project has been initiated. The various activities throughout the year have brought people under one umbrella and helped them decide and work towards their better future. The Social Apostolate is expanding its contacts and collaboration with local traditional leaders, local administration, government officials and police administration like Anti Human Trafficking Unit.

Through Lok Manch programme, AROUSE has prepared and motivated Community Leaders in different villages who take initiatives to mediate for the people's rights and entitlements regularly and attend Janata Darbar in the office of the Deputy Collector every Monday. The programme has moved from project mode to campaign mode and the campaign for payment of MGNREGA wages has been launched. The survey has also been conducted to highlight health issues in the areas of involvement. The villagers have become more aware of the existing government schemes and how to benefit from them. Many of them have learnt to file applications under RTI and are eager to know more about the sanctioned schemes for their villages and panchayats. This has strengthened Gram Sabhas in different villages. The people have realized that their strength lies in unity.

At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the challenges that lie ahead in the area of social action because of the issues of nationalism and fundamentalism. Besides, operational difficulties at the grass roots in the present context, the present crisis in the country in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing shutdown, issues of migrant labourers, the economic crisis and price rise, lack of works and job opportunities, lack of investment in agriculture sector, lopsided view of development, etc., have put immense stress and burden on the rural masses to take care of themselves and their needs.

“Set the World on Fire”- Mandate of the Jesuit Secondary Education

Fr. Erentius Minj, SJ
Province Coordinator for Education



The General Assembly of UNESCO in 1948 declared that “everyone has the right to education.” Article 26 in the Declaration stated that “education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages” and “elementary education shall be compulsory” and that “education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.”

The idea that education must result in the “full development of the human personality” continued to be reflected in influential reports as that entitled: “Learning.”

The International Commission on Education for the Twenty First Century chaired by Jacques Delors was submitted to UNESCO in 1996. The report argued that education throughout life was based on four pillars:

Learning to know – acquiring a body of knowledge and learning how to learn, so as to benefit from the opportunities education provides throughout life.

Learning to do – acquiring not only occupational skills but also the competence to deal with many situations.

Learning to live together – developing an understanding of other people and an appreciation of interdependence in a spirit of respect for the values of pluralism, mutual understanding and peace.

Learning to be – developing one’s personality and being able to act with autonomy, judgment and personal responsibility while ensuring that education does not disregard any aspect of the potential of a person, memory, reasoning, aesthetic sense, physical capacities and communication skills.

Such an articulation of a broad view of education encompassing the holistic development of the creative potential of each individual in all its richness and complexity has grown increasingly popular in recent years. Students must develop not only cognitive skills – both foundational skills of literacy and numeracy and higher order of cognitive skills such as critical thinking and problem solving skills – but also social and emotional skills, referred to as “soft skills” including cultural awareness and empathy, perseverance and grit, team work and leadership among others.

To achieve this goal the Society of Jesus has come up with documents: The Characteristics of Jesuit Education in 1986, and later on in 1993 Ignatian Pedagogy: A Practical Approach, in which the learning outcome ought to be that a person becomes a person of *Competence*, of *Conscience*, of *Compassion* and of *Commitment*. The pedagogy proposed to achieve this goal, is cooperative and participatory learning. The students are encouraged to learn according to their pace and style in which he/she is familiar with and feels more comfortable to learn better and faster. The teacher is no more the custodian and the dispenser of knowledge, standing in the front, dictating the process of learning, but he is the facilitator of learning and therefore, he positions himself in the midst of the students attending every individual learner and accompanies him/her inside and outside

of the classroom. Therefore, to drive home the rationale and nuances of IPP (Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm) there have been seminars, workshops, for Jesuit Educators as well as for our Lay collaborators of the Province, so that we get saturated with the educational tradition that the Society began with the Ratio Studiorum and continues the same till today.

The most recent document, Jesuit Schools: A Living Tradition in 21st Century – An Ongoing Exercise of Discernment, reinforces the Jesuit educational tradition with greater emphasis, encompassing wider horizon. This document has received deeper impetus and force from recent global gatherings: a Colloquium in Boston in 2012, an International Seminar on Ignatian Pedagogy and Spirituality (SIPEI) 2014 in Manresa, Spain and the First Congress of Jesuit Delegates – JESEDU-Rio in Rio de Janeiro 2017. In all these global gatherings, the Jesuits from Ranchi Province, participated and came back rejuvenated to give new perspective to our educational ventures. Another Colloquium at global level, which was scheduled to be held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia, in June-July 2020, with the framework of the Universal Apostolic Preferences as an important segment of discussion and discernment, has been postponed due to COVID-19.

The Jesuit educators of Ranchi Province, together with Central Zone Education Bureau, discussed at Province and zonal level how aptly we can translate the thrust given by the Society into action and make our educational institutions different from others – in that they will be identified as ‘Jesuit Schools.’ Vibrating with the mind of the Society of Jesus, especially with four Apostolic Preferences of Fr General, our schools have chalked out action plans to take care of our Mother Earth. There are few specific and concrete areas like tree plantation, roof water harvesting, installing solar energy plant and making the campus plastic free zone have been taken seriously. Ten of our High

schools have been evaluated by Adhyayan Group from Mumbai as part of School Improvement Programme. This programme was conducted for three or four days depending on the number of students and teachers. All stakeholders like Management, teachers, students, parents and alumni were involved in the process of evaluation. It is a matter of great pride that St Xavier's School, Doranda, was awarded with National Gold medal. Kudos to the Principal and the entire school family of St Xavier's Doranda! Other schools have yet to travel a long way. The Adhyayan Group has offered some pertinent tools to administer and manage our schools better and thereby prepare our students as persons of 4Cs as envisaged by the Society of Jesus, so that they become agents of change for a better human family and society.

Some major concerns & challenges of our schools

- a. **Lack of appointment policy for minority schools (Primary, Middle, and High schools):** A draft has been prepared by Education Bureau and presented to the Department; but so far this has not yet been finalized. A similar draft for the appointment and the service conditions for Intermediate Colleges too have been prepared by Jharkhand Academic Council and are waiting for the approval of the Government.
- b. **Approval:** The approval of the appointment of teachers and the approval of the Pay Fixation without which teachers are without pay for years.
- c. **Land issues:** There are many schools (Primary, Middle and High schools) whose recognition is withheld because their land is covered under CNT Act and hence cannot be transferred to schools.

- d. **Lack of sufficient teachers:** As per the RTE Act-2009 the teacher-student ratio ought to be 1:35 for Primary schools and 1:40 for High schools. But this ratio in our schools is far too wide and alarming. Certainly this has an adverse effect on the quality education of our schools.
- e. **Inconsistency in the policy of Govt. for Intermediate College and +2:** Govt. - run Senior Secondary schools known as +2 schools are governed by different set of rules, whilst the same run by minority communities have different rules and regulations. The +2 schools receive monthly salary from the Govt. and Intermediate colleges receive yearly Grants which are insufficient and irregular. The Intermediate colleges should have separate infrastructure, staff (teaching and non-teaching), land, building etc. whereas the same is not applicable to +2 schools.
- f. **No Minority Certificate:** Schools established and administered by linguistic and religious minority communities should receive a Minority Certificate from the Government. But for years this constitutional provision has either been withheld or denied for reasons best known to the Government.

The above mentioned issues and many more others (not listed here) are genuine concerns and challenges which create hiccups for us engaged in nation-building task in a welfare state. The Society of Jesus in general, and Ranchi Province in particular, is resolved to carry the torch forward with undeterred mind and singleness of purpose as mandate received from our Founder – “Set the World on Fire.”

Higher Studies... Sky is the Limit

Fr. Francis David Kullu, SJ

Dr. (Fr.) Erenius Toppo, SJ



Dr. (Fr.) Erenius Toppo, SJ

“We are Ranchi Jesuits” WhatsApp group thronged with congratulatory messages on 6 February 2020, as the long strenuous scholarly hard work of Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ, became officially declared Dr. Erenius Toppo, SJ, as he defended his Ph.D. public viva-voce examination at Entomology Research Institute (ERI), Loyola College, Chennai, amidst hundreds of scholars. There were twenty-five Ph.D. Doctors from various faculties of the campus and 40 other research scholars and friends who graced the defense. Now we can rightly hail him as Dr. Fr. Erenius Toppo, SJ. The times when Corona Virus shocked the world, the successful defense of the Ph.D. work in the domain of Biomedicine and Pharmacotherapy is indeed a notable and praiseworthy work. Given the growing prevalence of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), Fr. Erenius, in his research work, aims to treat NAFLD from some Indian Medicinal plants, namely *Andrographolide paniculata* (*Bhuineem*). His Ph.D. thesis reads, “Therapeutic effects of selected phytochemicals and their semi-synthetic derivatives on Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease.”

Fr. Erenius Toppo, graduated in April 2002, from Loyola Academy, Hyderabad. He finished his M. Sc., Biotechnology, in April 2007, from Loyola College, Chennai. In 2013, he enrolled himself in Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College Chennai, University of Madras, under the guidance of Dr. K. Sivasankaran, MSc. M. Phil, Ph.D., Scientist and the co-guide Dr. P. Agastian, Associate Professor, Plant Biology and Biotechnology, Loyola College, Chennai. It took him five long years to pursue his scholarly research. Once his research experiment was washed away by *Hudhud*. His committed hard work was rewarded as he invented a new novel molecule and received a patent (Patent No. US10064841B1, dated Sep. 4, 2018). He published his six research articles in the international ranked journals and co-authored five other research articles. He submitted his thesis to the University of Madras in August 2018, in partial fulfilment of the award of Doctor of Philosophy. His “*Lage RahoMunna Bhai*” spirit finally yielded a rich fruit making us all proud.

Fr. Erenius Toppo is currently the Vice-Principal of St. Xavier’s College, Simdega. We wish him well that his post Ph.D. research will continue.

Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ

Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ, has completed his Ph.D. studies in Loyola College, Chennai and submitted his Ph.D. thesis on 26th May 2020 to University of Madras. He combined his deep Ignatian Spirituality and knowledge of Mathematics offering the scientific world a concrete and scientific model to decision making. He calls it “RETReAT Model”. Moving a few steps ahead from fuzzy multi-criteria decision making (FMCDM) methods, he has developed a novel fuzzy multi-criteria decision making model based on fuzzy numbers but in a new Ignatian framework of discernment. In his new decision model he incorporated various procedural steps, mathematical analysis and cognitive approach to decision making.



Fr. Ajay Arun Minj, SJ

Our life is a chain of decision making. We make choices regularly. There is always either Yes or No in our choices. In computer terminology it is zero or one. However, Ajay says, our life choices are never binary – never 100% Yes nor 100% No. There is always a range (vagueness) or imprecision in our Yes or No. Using Fuzzy tools, he captures and represents vagueness and imprecision that is inherent in our real-life problems. His model has been tested and programmed as well. Hope pretty soon you will be able to use that computer programme in your multi-criteria decision-making process.

Fr. Ajay graduated from St. Joseph’s College, Trichy, in Mathematics in 2003 and completed his post-graduation in 2005 from Loyola College, Chennai. After his tertianship in Goa in 2016, he enrolled himself for Ph D in the Department of Mathematics in Loyola College, Chennai, under the guidance of Dr Pattinathan, a former Jesuit. He has obtained Maulana Azad National Fellowship grant by UGC for his Ph.D. He has published seven scientific papers in reputed scientific journals.

Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ

Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ, is pursuing an interdisciplinary doctoral programme in Communication in Marquette University, a renowned Jesuit educational institution in Milwaukee, USA. Interdisciplinary doctoral study involves the integration of course work and research of two or more disciplines. He started his doctoral studies in January 2017. Along with communication he has combined the courses on Theology and Education for the doctoral studies. To comply with the requirement of Interdisciplinary doctoral programme, he needed to take 60 credits in the university in various subjects of communication and maintain the required satisfactory grades.

Since he had an M. A. in Communication from Ateneo de Manila, the 10 courses equivalent to 30 credits were accepted by the university. At the end of Fall semester in December 2019, he passed his doctoral qualifying examination (Written 8 hours and Oral 1 hour), and now he is engaged in writing his dissertation.

The topic of his research is “The Extent of media literacy education among Tribal religious/seminarians in their formation”. He has already conducted the survey research on Tribal religious/seminarians of Ranchi Archdiocese in 2018. Now in spring semester he is engaged in analyzing data and refining the first three Chapters of the Dissertation. He is looking forward to the submission of his dissertation by summer 2020, followed by an Oral Defense, and be eligible for the Doctoral degree in Communication. All the best Fr. Justin!

Fr. Florence Purty, SJ

In this changing educational scenario, due to technological advancement and innovative learning methodologies, teaching and learning has changed to a great extent. In this changed context and scenario, the performance of a student depends on multiple factors including friendship and study habits. This is what the subject matter of the research study of Fr Florence Purty, SJ is. *“If a student has good friendship and study habits, his performance is likely to improve.”* says Fr Purty. Together with the good study habits a student needs to be aware of his own cognitive process too. If a student is able to regulate his cognitive process and learning, his chances of better achievement is higher.

Currently, Fr Florence Purty is the HoD, Department of Education in St Xavier’s College, Ranchi. He has completed his doctoral studies from Patna Aryabhatta Knowledge University on the topic *“Friendship, Study Habits and Cognitive Self-management of Higher Secondary Students”* in the month of June 2020. The aim of this study was to find out the relationship among friendship, study habits and cognitive self-management.

In this research study he took the sample of 900 higher secondary school students and investigated using percentage analysis, ‘t’ test, ANOVA, chi-square test and factor analysis. The ‘t’ test showed that there is significant difference between friendship, study habits and cognitive self-management with respect to background variables stream, class, locality of residence etc. The significant association was found between family income and cognitive self-management of higher secondary students, but no significant association was found between family income and positive focus, systematic problem solving and task efficacy, self-blame and reasonable goal setting of higher secondary school students. Correlation analysis revealed significant difference among friendship, study habits and cognitive self-management. However, no significant relationship was found with respect to gender and locality of residence. The regression analysis revealed that there is significant influence of friendship and study habits on cognitive self-management of higher secondary students. The results indicated that good friendship and study habits lead to better cognitive self-management which eventually leads to better academic performance.



Fr. Florence Purty, SJ.

19

Higher Education and Quality Assurance

Fr. Pradeep Kerketta, SJ

Secretary, Higher Education

Bill Gates, the co-founder of the giant Microsoft Corporation, has rightly said, “The Complacent Company is a dead company. Success today requires agility and drive to constantly rethink, reinvigorate, react and reinvent.”

This is quite relevant and a smart thought-provoking statement, which is applicable to anyone engaged in higher learning institutions. Teaching and learning pedagogical tools are never constant, meaning one has to be on constant search for knowledge for value addition in the existing knowledge as well as invention of new things. In this surpassing world where there is stiff competition, all the institutions of higher learning are putting their best possible resources be they physical, financial or human, as part of quality assurance. For quality enhancement, use of available modern technology is a must. It can unequivocally ascertain success and optimum utilisation of resources.



In view of the ‘Magis’ at the back of our mind the institute of the higher learning like XISS has started tutorial classes for the poorly scoring students by students themselves with the objective to enhance their learning ability. Remuneration is given to the tutors as rewards for their hard labour and commitment. XISS has also introduced Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for complete digital solution. This will enable us for smart documentation in the system. *Swayam* is yet another initiative in the campus. *Swayam* is India’s natural MOOC platform designed to achieve three cardinal principles of country’s education policy: access, equity and quality. In the same line St. Xavier’s college, Ranchi has begun many post graduate courses, cultural exchange programme,

App based Learning Management System (LMS) and faculty development programme, to expand the horizon of teaching learning and as part of quality assurance and to meet the present demand of the market.

Apart from these developments, St. Xavier's Ranchi is committed to carry forward the spiritual legacy of the Society of Jesus in terms of facilitating Holy Masses and retreat for the students and staff to instil in them the spirit of religiosity. In the same fashion, St. Xavier's college, Simdega, though new, has taken many bold and appreciable co-curricular activities for all-round development of the students. It is heartening to know that they have some ambitious plans to take the college to the next level by way of research-oriented seminars and workshops in the near future.

Similarly, St. Xavier's Sonabheel (Assam) celebrated Karam festival for the first time to promote indigenous culture. In the academic front, the college has obtained the opening permission for major courses in Assamese, English, Political Science, Geography and Education. This is a happy news indeed for the people of Assam. All these actions taken are in resonance with creating leaders with conscience, compassion, competence and commitment, the very characteristics of Jesuit education. On this fast changing socio-economic, political, cultural and religious scenario, there is a tremendous turnaround. Virtual learning campuses have emerged;

artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and automation have created new challenges in the job market.

To keep pace with these developments and still be relevant and ethical in imparting quality education with honesty and integrity is a huge challenge. Important determinants like availability of sufficient and efficient faculty, good and enabling teaching learning academic environment, quality infrastructure of class room, library and laboratory, standard curriculum and quick grievance redressal system are beckoning us today for prompt action in order to have competitive edge. Banking on the legacy of Jesuits and inspired by the incredible tenacity and audacity of our stalwarts in universities and colleges we are confident in carrying forward our missions with overwhelming enthusiasm and inner dynamism. Let God be our guide and mentor!



20

Platinum Jubilee of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (1944 - 2019)

Fr. Emmanuel Barla, SJ, Principal, SXC, Ranchi



Platinum jubilee of the college invokes in us deep knowledge and appreciation for knowing its past. The Bengal mission was entrusted to the Society of Jesus in 1859. Chotanagpur came only in the picture 10 years later in 1869 when Fr. A. Stockman settled down at Chaibasa. St. Xavier's College Ranchi was started in 1944, after 75 years of arrival of the first Jesuit missionary in Chotanagpur. When the first classes began on 3 July 1944, the college had no building of its own. The student population was 125. Father H. De Jonghe, Superior of the mission, wanted the dream of the earlier Fathers, of establishing a college in St. John's come true. For this he relied on the broad vision and expertise of Fr. A. Verstraeten, SJ, former Principal and Rector of St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. The infant college was recognized by Patna University.

In early January 1944, Fr. Charles Saldanha, SJ, Ph. D, formerly Rector and Headmaster of

Krist Raja High School Bettiah, was appointed Principal of the proposed St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. He immediately took charge of all matters relating to the college and all his time and energy were directed at solving all its small and big problems.

This was made possible, thanks to the unstinting cooperation of Father Nicholas Kujur, SJ and other members of the staff. It was a temporary arrangement till the college would have its own premises and building. In January 1947, the corner stone of the present building was blessed by father T. Heyrman, SJ, vice Superior of the mission, in the presence of the staff and students. The plans were drawn up and executed under the direct supervision of the architect, Father A. Geeraert, SJ, while the work was entrusted to Messrs Roy & Roy, Builders and Contractors. Brother Dahmen's services were practically indispensable to construction of the building.

St Xavier's became overcrowded and the completion of the last wing was taken in hand. Fr. Geeraert's plans were brought out again and the energy of Fr. Callebaut, SJ, Rector and Fr. W. Proost, SJ, principal soon got the new construction problems organized. The work was undertaken by Mr. Daljit Singh, builder and constructor, under the supervision of Fr. P. Van de Velde, SJ. The new wing containing the new library, 12 lecture rooms, and the Xavier Institute was completed by 1961 and it was very imposing indeed.

When the eastern wing was completed, the western wing was given attention. The Chemistry and Physics laboratories, with lecture rooms and laboratory for Biology were constructed under the supervision of Fr. P. Van de Velde, SJ, and Br. A. Bara, SJ. The whole college building presented now a unified, compact aspect, solid yet not ungraceful, which serves its purpose well.

Finally, the new hostel block popularly known as B. Block was built in place of the old. It was completed in 1964 under the direction and supervision of Fr. P. Van de Velde, SJ, Br. A. Bara, SJ and Br. J. Somers, SJ.

This building work was made possible by the grant from the University Grants Commission and the generous gifts from benefactors, especially from Belgium and Holland. In December 1964, Mgr. De Smedt D.D., Bishop of Bruges, Belgium, a very generous benefactor for the building of the new hostel paid a deeply appreciated visit to the college.

When Fr. Schockaert took over as Principal in 1946, St. Xavier's College was firmly established, ready to bloom out. What a full life of service and responsibility Father Schockaert had! It cannot be expressed in words. The immense good he did and the deep impression he made on all who worked with him and under him. His years as Principal of St. Xavier's are indelibly stamped on the college institution and in the hearts and

minds of its members. When he left in 1958 that wonderfully coordinated and dynamic organism was there; above all the growing Xavierian spirit of service, collaboration and sense of responsibility in staff and students.

In 1958, when Fr. W. Proost took over as Principal, the college was in need of further consolidation. But in 1967, the college was disaffiliated by Ranchi University. In 1962, the government of Bihar had passed an Act that university teachers could only be appointed by the Bihar College Service Commission. As a minority institute, St. Xavier's college objected. It was decided by the governing body of the college to seek redressal in the Supreme Court. The latter declared that St. Xavier's college, Ranchi, a minority college, had the right to appoint its own staff. St. Xavier's was re-affiliated by the Ranchi University Senate on 30 November 1968. The other Principals as Joseph Van Troy, Louis Francken, William Surin, Gilbert D'Souza, Nicholas Tete and Emmanuel Barla further consolidated and contributed to development of the college. All Rectors of the college contributed to its growth and expansion too.

The college has obtained Autonomous status and was granted College for Potential Excellence. The college has completed the third round of accreditation and the result was announced on 7 July 2013 and the college was graded "A" and B.Ed. was graded with "B". The college is trying for the 4th round of accreditation. The college also conducts *Xavierutsava* to take out the best from the students and to develop them in a comprehensive way. It conducts convocation and awards degree to gold medalists and others.

The college had already celebrated its jubilee in 1969 and 1994. In 1969 it had its silver jubilee. In April 1994, at the inauguration of the golden jubilee celebrations, H.E. Kidwai, Governor of Bihar, praised St. Xavier's College as one of the best in Bihar and it has ventured into a mature institution of higher learning. In 1994, the Evening section and the Vocational courses

were started for poor students. In 2019, when the college started celebrating its Platinum jubilee, it had expanded enormously. As of now, it has 33 departments, having 33 under graduate courses and 17 post graduate courses. The courses are being conducted in humanities, social sciences, science, commerce and vocational courses. The student population is about 13,000. The platinum jubilee inauguration was launched for 3 days, from 24 to 26 September 2019.

On 24th September 2019, the inauguration programme formally began with the lighting of the lamp. Hon'ble Chief Guest Rt. Rev. Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ, D.D, and the guest of Honour, Rev. Fr. Provincial, Dr. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Cabinet Minister of Tribal Welfare Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda, and Shri Harivansh Singh, MP and other dignitaries were called on the stage to light the lamp to dispel the darkness. Thereafter, Rev. Fr. Provincial in his welcome address expressed his gratitude to all the professors and students and all those who were instrumental in establishing St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, as a premier institution of higher education. He emphasized upon the secular and liberal approach, which the college has been practicing since its establishment and how it has benefitted the students, irrespective of their caste, creed or religion. Rev Fr. Nabor Lakra, stressed upon quality education which is imparted by St. Xavier's, with its pillars being commitment, compassion, competence and the ability to distinguish between right and wrong.

The Archbishop had been an alumnus of the college. He thanked the Society of Jesus of Ranchi Province for envisioning and promoting a society which is based on love, freedom, justice, equality and fraternity. He thanked the former principals, present principal and the staff for maintaining the value and for providing quality education to all without any prejudice or discrimination based on caste and creed, rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable and for carrying forward vision of the founding Fathers, to provide quality education, and nurturing human and spiritual values among the students. He emphasized on the need to

uphold the values and spirit of Xavier's, namely equality, liberty and fraternity, especially in the current times.

As a chief guest, Dr. Joseph Marianus Kujur primarily focused on the role of the college in nation-building and how it should work towards making a valuable contribution to the progress of the state and the country. He emphasized on the moral value, the more you give, the more you receive, and hence the students should give back to the college and the society, all the positivity and success that they have received from it. A true Xaverian works for others-and not for himself/herself. S/He promotes the idea of selflessness, human dignity and sanctity of a person, one's rights and responsibilities towards the nation, stewardship of creation and an inclusive approach rather than an exclusive one. He pointed out that had there been no St. Xavier's College, Ranchi, the tribals, dalits, minorities and women would never have had attained higher education here. He assured Shri Arjun Munda that St. Xavier's College would keep doing its best for the nation's growth and development.

In his speech Shri Arjun Munda urged the students to take a pledge to make use of the education received in the college selflessly in such a way that all needs are fulfilled and the future is made secure. He congratulated the college for its long and fruitful life and wished that the fragrance of its achievements reaches far and wide. The college has a proud list of achievers who have made significant contributions in various walks of life. He mentioned that a large number of students, approximately 4,000 pass out from and take admission in St. Xavier's College, Ranchi every year, which is a great achievement in itself. He advised the students to receive education keeping in mind the ideals and principles of the college. He motivated them to keep the spark of learning alive and thereby uphold the dignity and maintain the quality of the college. He asked the college to share with him its requirements so that he may be of some help.

ShriHarivanshN.Singh,M.P,recallingSt.Francis Xavier, placed him among the great men who have illuminated the world. His vision allowed the poor, the tribals and the people who were left behind to enjoy the fruits of education. He mentioned how he was attached emotionally to the city of Ranchi, having spent three decades here and also to the institution, having spent time with its students, teachers and Fathers during his stay in Ranchi. Giving due credit to the Christian missionaries, he recalled how they made education accessible and thus, possible at a time when education was not available to the weaker sections of the society about 200-250 years back. Their hard work and perseverance made unparalleled contribution in the field of education. Summing up their areas of focus in the field of education, he mentioned four aims -- upgrading the level of education, inclusion of girl students in educational institutions, conducting teachers' training programmes and ensuring quality education. The forefathers of St. Xavier's had this vision and they worked tirelessly for realizing it. He advised the students to remember the past so that they have the strength to make the future secure. He recalled his memory of having known Fr. C. Bulcke and other Fathers who dedicated all their lives for the welfare of students and learners.

The quality of education should in no case be compromised. This college too could sail through all obstacles because of the

strong determination and clear vision of its forefathers. St. Xavier's college is known not just for imparting quality education, but is also admired for the value that it teaches. The greatest of companies have fallen because of a fragile value system. He said that the students of St. Xavier's college are fortunate to have gotten an environment conducive to learning. Again, he said that Jharkhand has the ability to show the path to the world. This state has produced personalities like Birsa Munda, Jaipal Singh Munda, Sidhu and Kanhu and B. P. Kesri. The people of Jharkhand dwell in the lap of nature; they have a unique model of development; they walk on the path of truth, and togetherness is at the core of their style of living. It is important that the people of Jharkhand are able to protect and preserve their culture, realize their uniqueness and know their strength. If the world follows the life style and the model of development of the people of Jharkhand, Jharkhand can show a new way to be human. He urged the students to keep in mind the dignity of the institute so that they can leave an indelible mark on the world.

The addresses of the dignitaries were followed by several academic, entertainment and cultural programmes. May the hard toil and suffering of the forefathers and the staff be the guiding force for this college and to strive for further expansion, development and excellence; and let us hope, one day it becomes a university.



A Collaborative School Review for Quality Education

Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, Principal, SXD, Ranchi



A Report on Collaborative School Review across 9 schools of Ranchi Province on 6 key performance areas of the Adhyayan Quality Standards© and the 7th performance area; The Jesuit Way (Courtesy 'Adhyayan Team').

Names of the Schools Reviewed

S. N.	Names of Schools	S.N.	Names of Schools
1	Loyola, Khunti	6	St. Xavier's Bundu
2	St. Mary's Samtoli	7	St. Stanislaus' Lohardaga
3	St. Ignatius' Gumla	8	Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa, Ranchi
4	St. Peter's Tongo	9	St. Xavier's Doranda, Ranchi
5	Janta School, Noadih	10	St. John's Ranchi (Final review process incomplete)

This is What Principals say...

"Whole process is very scientific; gives quite safe judgment, to know school's strength and concerns." Fr. Manohar Khoya, Principal, St. Ignatius', Gumla

"For last two-three years I have been in touch with orientation and evaluation programme. It has enriched me to develop the school and lead forward the staff and students. I endorse their ways of reviewing the school." Fr. Philemon Ekka, Principal, St. Stanislaus', Lohardaga.

"It gives an accurate and exact rating of the school's condition with recommendation."- Fr. Isaac Xalxo, Principal, Loyola, Khunti

“St. Xavier’s School, Doranda, Ranchi, went through the second phase of Adhyayan Review Process. It has brought remarkable changes in the life and works of the School. Firstly all the stakeholders know clearly their roles and responsibilities towards the school. All of them vividly understand the 6 KPAs and their importance. I personally have been able to see leaders growing in the school. There is more cooperation, collaboration and networking among the stakeholders. Secondly the school has made a positive progress in all KPAs.” Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, Principal, St. Xavier’s, Doranda, Ranchi.

1. Executive Summary

The Jesuit Province of Ranchi was one of the Central Zone Provinces to receive support from Porticus to assess the performance of our 10 schools on 7 key performance areas with the support of Adhyayan in 2017.



Following the review, the Province received professional development for school leaders in school assessment methods so that they could continuously assess their schools and the Province would have a cadre of assessors for the other 15 schools which were not part of the programme. They also received professional development in instructional leadership. The teachers in the schools were provided with training programmes on display and safe, secure and considerate classrooms.

The objective of the second round of assessments was to measure the changes in the schools from the 2017 baseline on the same 7 key performance areas, 6 performance areas of the Adhyayan Quality Standard and a seventh performance area -The Jesuit Way.

Nine out of ten schools undertook the second round in 2019. **St. John’s School, Ranchi** could not go through the final process of review due to the training program conducted in the school for the state general election. Six out of nine schools showed a clear improvement in one or two key performance areas. One school out of nine showed a drop in performance.

The Jesuits in Ranchi were part of the internal and external review team. There has been a clear shift in all schools, more in some than in others. Only one school, **Loyola, Khunti** has dropped in its performance, largely because the focus on the Junior College was intense and there was no second line to ensure the progress of the school.

While instructional leadership continues to be an issue, there has been an improvement in some good practice in all the schools. **St. Xavier’s** continues to be the flagship school. Two other schools - **St. Ignatius’, Gumla** and **Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa**, have shown a fair improvement in Leadership and Management and Teaching and Learning.



The Province will benefit enormously by creating a more professional cadre of educators to run the schools. All the Principals are in need of a highly qualified second line of leaders who will be primarily responsible for the professional development and performance of the teachers, the development of student leadership and the enrichment of the curriculum. All schools, except for **St. Xavier's Doranda**, need to further improve their relationships with the parents and ensure that the infrastructure is utilized well.

Going forward it is recommended that the schools identify and empower their second line of leaders, developing them as teaching leaders through exposure visits and a bespoke leadership programme. The province must have a vision for the schools and regular meetings to assess whether the schools are being equipped to reach the vision, for example, reaching State Gold by 2021 for 9 schools and International Silver for St. Xaviers, Doranda. A secretariat that monitors the progress of the schools and supports them would be necessary to ensure that the programme is given its due attention.

The calendar for the next two years (eight quarters) would include

- a. Identifying the leadership team for each school and investing in a full term course that is face-to-face, online and includes practical work to be done in the school, including class observations and team teaching.
- b. Keeping the in-house review teams functioning and involving them in the action plan for the development of the priority area chosen. This team would meet every month to assess the work that has taken place and improve on it.
- c. Adopting a student leadership framework that is implemented. The primary responsibility of the student leaders would be to ensure that all students experience a sense of physical well-being and are able to get their intellectual, emotional, and social needs met.
- d. Ensuring that the parent body acts as a partner in the education of their children. This would require protocols and processes to be adopted by the school through which the parents understand the school's provision and the impact on the students.

- e. Repeating the review in 2021 for those schools that feel they are ready to move to the next level. We would like to place on record our appreciation of the work put in by the Province leadership to ensure that the schools make progress from their baseline and that the internal resources available in the province are utilized to improve the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the schools.



2. The Collaborative Review Process

The quality of the Jesuit schools is self-assessed and validated on 7 performance areas:

- a. Leadership and Management,
- b. Teaching and Learning,
- c. The Child,
- d. The Curriculum,
- e. Community and Partnerships, and
- f. Infrastructure and Resources.
- g. The Jesuit Way

The school leader creates an internal review team, who will learn how to review its school in collaboration with Adhyayan's assessors. This internal team consists of administrators, middle leaders, teachers, parents, support staff, students and alumni.

The external team consisted of Jesuit priests and Adhyayan staff. The purpose of the internal team is to create a stakeholder representative group that can continue to undertake school self-review, using the tools and processes provided by Adhyayan. The school leader also prepares for the review by collecting the documents and books that will be required by the school team and Adhyayan's team.

The 5- day collaborative review:

- a. **Orientation (one day):** Adhyayan's assessors introduce the school's team to the tools and process of the collaborative review. The school team understands the terms used in the diagnostic applied to each performance area. They learn how to identify evidence and the methods of evidence collection that they will use.
- b. **Collaborative Review (two days):** The school team and Adhyayan's assessors use the tools and follow the process of evidence collection.
- c. **Quality Dialogue (one day):** The school team and Adhyayan's assessors collaboratively assess the evidence and come to judgment on the school's performance on 6 areas of the Adhyayan Standard and the 7th area – The Jesuit Way.
- d. **Action planning (one day):** The final step in the review process involves planning for improvement. After studying the contents of the Report Card, paying special attention to the judgments of the external review team, the self-review teams were then asked to identify

a few important issues from each KPA that they were convinced of, which needed to be addressed. From this list the SSRE team chose one or two areas to begin planning how to implement. As a first step the SSRE team of each school learnt how to 'Ripple Plan'. This planning tool is particularly helpful in enabling the school's leadership to understand the critical roles of stakeholders in the process of school improvement and the key stages of action planning.

- e. **After the Review:** Following the completion of the School Review Process, Adhyayan provides the school with a comprehensive report of recommendations for improvement. The school team uses this report to identify one strength for celebration and one area for development from a Key Performance Areas. When they have sufficiently worked on the development of the area, they consult the report for their next step.

3. Findings

The first time the schools assessed themselves on the Adhyayan Quality Standards was in 2017. This was considered as the baseline assessment. It enabled schools to: (a) identify what they had done well in, and make it stronger; (b) locate the knowledge/skill/attitude that was required to improve their performance and make a plan for professional development; (c) monitor the implementation of the professional development to identify its impact on students learning.

Key	To be read as	What this means
O	Outstanding	Best practice is consistently and visibly embedded in the culture of the school, is documented well and known to all stakeholders.
G	Good	There are consistently visible examples of good practice that have become part of the school's culture and are known to all stakeholders. The leadership and management ensures secure system and processes.
V	Variable	Some examples of good practice are visible. These are not embedded in school culture and are known or practiced by only a few.
NA	Needs Attention	Action needs to be take immediately. There is little or no evidence of good practice in the school.

A. Improvement by Schools

St. Xavier's School, Doranda, the flagship school of Ranchi Province, remains the highest-performing school, adding another Good in "The Child" and in the "Jesuit Way". With 5 "Good" KPAs, they have secured National Gold. The National tier is a whole tier above all the other schools. The school has worked hard to make this shift and must be applauded for not resting on their laurels as a National Silver in 2017. They have also provided resource persons to other schools in the Province and led by example.

Two of the remaining 8 schools have shown a high level of initiative in taking their schools forward - **St. Ignatius' School, Gumla and Prabhat Tara School, Dhurwa**. Both improved on two KPAs, taking them out of Needs Attention to the "Variable" category. This takes St. Ignatius' School, Gumla closer to achieving a state silver in the next two years, with only one more KPA going to variable. What is commendable is that both are now variable on 'Leadership and Management' and 'Teaching and Learning'.

Three schools have shown improvement in one KPA. These are: **Janta High School, Noadih, St. Peter's, Tongo and St. Stanislaus', Patratoli**. Janta High School has moved out of Needs Attention to Variable on 'Leadership and Management' and the other two from Needs Attention to Variable on 'Community and Partnerships'. Three schools need greater hand holding:

- a. **St. Xavier's Bundu** had shown no change in its performance.
- b. **St. Mary's Samtoli** has moved out of Needs Attention on 'Leadership and Management' but moved back to Needs Attention on 'Community and Partnerships'.
- c. **Loyola High School, Khunti** needs immediate attention and support. While it was in the "Variable" category across three KPAs in 2017, it is now in Needs Attention in all.
- d. **St. John's, Ranchi** is yet to undertake its second round.

B. Improvement in KPAs across schools

Leadership and Management (L&M)

Four out of 9 schools were in Needs Attention' in L&M in 2017. Three schools have improved to Variable on this KPA - **Janta, Noadih, Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa and St. Mary's Samtoli**. St. Stanislaus, Patratoli has remained in Needs Attention. The performance of Loyola, Khunti dropped from Variable in 2017 to Needs Attention in 2019. Only two schools out of 9 are now in Needs Attention.

Teaching and Learning (T&L)

In 2017, 7 out of 9 schools were in Needs Attention in T&L. In 2019 the schools in Needs Attention are 5 out of 9. **St. Ignatius', Gumla and Prabhat Tara, Dhurwa** have improved from Needs Attention in 2017 to Variable in 2019.

The Child

The only improvement in The Child is seen in **St. Xavier's, Doranda** which moved from Variable to Good. The performance of Loyola, Khunti dropped from Variable in 2017 to Needs Attention in 2019. All other schools are in Needs Attention.

Curriculum

St. Ignatius', Gumla has improved to Variable. The performance of Loyola, Khunti dropped from Variable in 2017 to Needs Attention in 2019.

Community and Partnerships (C&P)

St. Peter's, Tongo and St. Stanislaus', Patratoli improved from Needs Attention to Variable. The performance of St. Ignatius', Gumla in Community and Partnerships dropped from Variable in 2017 to Needs Attention in 2019.

Infrastructure and Resources (I&R)

St. Xavier's, Doranda retained its Good in I&R. The performance of St. Mary's, Samtoli in I&R dropped from Variable in 2017 to Needs Attention in 2019. All the other schools are in Needs Attention.



4. Way forward

This target can be easily achieved if the following are done

a. Leadership & Management

The school identifies instructional leaders who are tasked with improving the quality of delivery across the school. These leaders are exposed to best practice and are provided with training to gather data on the professional development needs of the teachers and provide the same to them throughout the year. These leaders consult their staff and students on what needs to improve and ensure that their needs are responded to appropriately.



b. Teaching & Learning

The instructional leaders assess whether the work being presented to the students is appropriately challenging and builds on their skills. They undertake regular book looks to ensure student work is being checked by teachers and appropriate feedback is being provided; that will help students to move to the next best level.

c. The Child

The instructional leaders during lesson observation assess the degree with which students are engaged in their learning and have a voice in how they like to learn. They develop strategies of the teachers to encourage enquiry, make learning visible and enable peer learning. They lay a special emphasis on ensuring that every student is able to learn basic skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving. They track the progress of students with the teachers, and create a support structure for students facing difficulties.

d. The Curriculum

The instructional leaders work with experts to develop a literacy and numeracy programme for the school in which the teachers develop their skills along with the students. They ensure students have access to extracurricular opportunities and learning opportunities outside the classroom.



e. Community and Partnerships

The school leadership works actively to ensure that the parents feel welcomed, valued and have a sense of belonging to the school. The instructional leaders invite parents to explain their work with the students as important resource persons. Instructional leaders find and introduce local and national organizations to the students. Opportunities are provided to students to help their neighborhood improve through the application of their knowledge.

f. Infrastructure and Resources

The schools develops their libraries and laboratories to be resource rooms for research and make spaces for exploration. They ensure students have allocated time in the time table to avail these facilities. The systems for health and safety need to be checked in collaboration with the parents and the student leadership.

g. The Jesuit Way

The Jesuit values of social justice must seep into the curriculum. Teachers need regular exposure to the ways in which students can be involved in community service and learn beyond their text book. They need to have practical knowledge that enables them to support each other's families in improving their quality of life.



Communicating God's Mission

Fr. Alex Tirkey, SJ,
Coordinator, Communication Commission



Satya Bharati

Satya Bharati, being a Culture and Communication Centre of the Province, tries to proclaim the 'Word of God' by publishing and distributing religious books, articles and audio-video CDs. This year we had the following publications:

Books

(1) Hindi Bible Diary, Pajhra 2020, (2) Catholic Patra (Liturgical Calendar), (3) *"Ek Teerth Yatri ke Sansmaran"* (Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola) by Fr. William Dwyer, SJ, (4) *"Samarpan ke Anmol Kissey"* (Jesuit Father's Commitment in different fields) by Fr. P. A. Agustine, SJ, (5) *"Wachan hi Jeewan hai"* (Word is Life) by Fr. Robert Yesudeep Sandhu, IMS.

CDs: (1) *"Amrit Dhara"* Vol. III, Lyrics and Music by Mr. Athanase Toppo, (2) *"Amrit Dhara"* Vol. IV, Christmas-1, Lyrics and Music by Mr. Athanase Toppo, (3) *"Amrit Dhara"* Vol. V Christmas-2, Lyrics and Music by Mr. Athanase Toppo, (4) *"Tore Kripa Se"* by Fr. James Peter Balmuchu, SJ.

AROUSE Gumla

Almost for a period of 6 years, the Audio-Visual Centre of Arouse Gumla was in suspended animation. It is now renovated with new audio visual equipments. Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, inaugurated it on 19 December 2019. It has new work station, new computer, and new audio interface system with 32 tracks which will help live recording. The Studio has Nuendo 10 and its support in plugins and softwares, fcp 12 and premier pro cc and other video editing softwares. For the video recording New Sony pxw Z19 with 4 k 3cmos recording system is bought. Many musicians and media workers graced the occasion. Fr. Sibil Horo says that with the reopening of Arouse Audio-Video Centre, the artists of Gumla feel honored. He informed the group that they had already recorded one Christmas album. At present they are busy with two documentary films on Gram Sabha.

Catholic Press

Catholic Press was busy with its printing work. Around 120 printing works were done within a year. Xavier Publications has published the following books: (1) Nishkalanka, the monthly magazine, (2) In Christo, (3) Ave (daily reflection), (4) Kharia Samaj by Sharat Chandra, (5) Fr. Louis Cardon, SJ, by Fr. Joachim Dungdung SJ., (6) Silim Khodiya Somra by Elias Baa, (7) Horo Jagar Saiti Ord by Mansid Baraiud, (8) Sepered Durangko by Remis Kandulna.

This year **SIGNIS INDIA** National Assembly 2019 was held at Prerana Sadan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from 19 to 22 February 2019. Fr. Alex Tirkey and Fr. Sibil Horo attended the assembly. The theme of the assembly was “*Media for Promotion of Peace and Truth in the society and world at large*”. It had the presence of 110 delegates from different regions of India. Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh regions were the organizers of the SINA 2019 at Indore.



In his keynote address His Lordship Chacko Thottumarickal, SVD, Bishop of Indore, said that Jesus is the truth, the way and the life. We are all at the service of the truth making use of media. On the other hand Jesus said that he brings us peace and elsewhere he said that peace be with us. Truth and Peace are integrally related to the life of Jesus and therefore to life of us all. If we are disciples of Jesus then we are committed to truth and we are committed to the promotion of peace.

This year **SIGNIS ASIA** also took place in New Delhi at the Diocesan Community Centre from 4 to 7 August 2019. Around 120 Catholic communicators from 19 countries participated in this Assembly. Fr. Alex also attended it. The members of SIGNIS, worldwide group of Catholic Communicators, are engaged in radio, television, cinema and other forms of media.

The theme of the Assembly “*The Role of Media in Building Human Communities,*” was inspired by the message of Pope Francis for World Communications Day 2019: “We are members of one another” (Eph 4,25) from social network communities to the human community.’

School of Music, Art and Training (SMART): A Jesuit-Lay collaborative venture in Satya Bharati

Summer Camp 2019

The third edition of the summer camp was organized by SMART from 21 May to 2 June 2019. The camp was especially designed for the benefit of the children from 4 to 15 years of age. This year the children learnt songs like ‘*let it be*’. They also learnt to sing and dance to the song ‘*heal the world*’ and ‘*summer song*’. They also painted some wonderful masterpieces during art and craft sessions. They also had a session on child abuse and were made aware of good and *bad touch* and how to say *No*. The puppet show was a huge hit among the children where they watched the story of ‘*How frog lost its tail*’. There were sessions on quiz and storytelling .



Photography Competition

One of the Photography students Anugrah Anmol Minz secured 1st position in photography competition organised by Meraki Art Club, Ranchi, for three of his photographs.

SMART becomes Official Training and Examination Centre for ROCK School Ltd. (RSL)

At the beginning of the year 2019 SMART was visited by two officials of RSL Ms. Henriette Madsen International Business Development Executive and Mr. Arup Gohain India Area Manager North and East, to evaluate the facilities available with SMART. SMART has now become an official training and examination centre for Rock School London for this Region.



Examination

Earlier this year SMART and RSL got into an agreement through which SMART can now train students in RSL syllabus and conduct exams. The first examination of RSL was conducted on 8 November 2019. As many as 16 students from SMART appeared for the exams this year, out of whom 4 passed the exams with distinction and 7 got merits.

Annual Day & Christmas Gathering (20 December 2019)

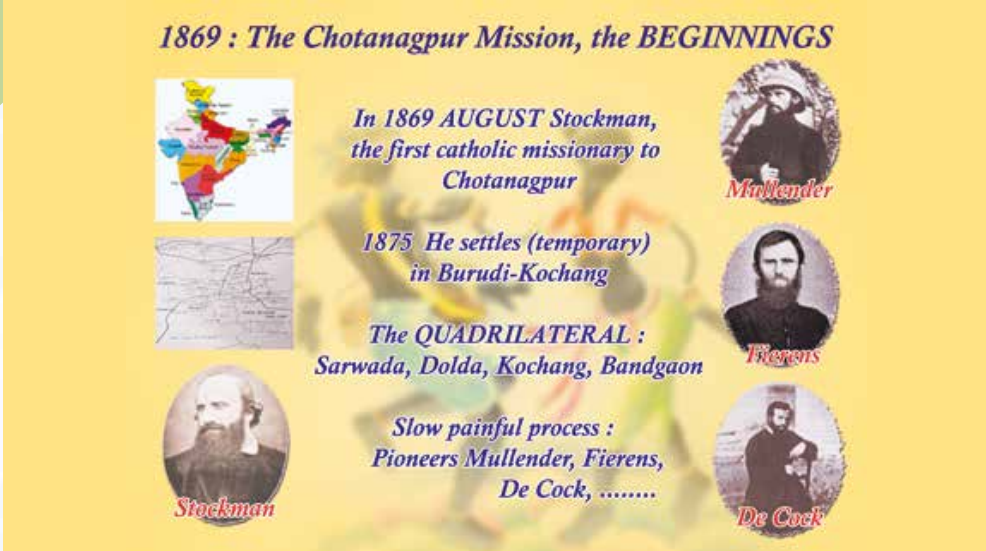
This year the Annual Day of SMART and Christmas Gathering was celebrated on the same day in Satya Bharati. Our Chief Guest was Mr. Tushar Kongari, who is a well known music teacher in the Mumbai film industry. Mrs. Elizeba Soreng, Mr. Debnath Chakroverty and Mr. Albinus Purti were special guests on the occasion. They were felicitated during the occasion by the Director of Satya Bharati, Fr. Alex Tirkey. The students of SMART presented wonderful performances and entertained the audience.



Glimpses of Pastoral Apostolate from the Past

Fr. Ajay Remi Soreng, SJ

1869 : The Chotanagpur Mission, the BEGINNINGS



In 1869 AUGUST Stockman, the first catholic missionary to Chotanagpur

1875 He settles (temporary) in Burudi-Kochang

The QUADRILATERAL : Sarwada, Dolda, Kochang, Bandgaon

Slow painful process : Pioneers Mullender, Fierens, De Cock,

Saint Matthew in the last paragraph of the last chapter of his Gospel account (Mt. 28: 18-20) describes the last command of Jesus to his disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

This parting commandment was literally followed by his disciples. Peter and Paul went to Rome. Thomas came to India and other disciples spread out to the neighbouring countries to give witness to the Gospel message and most of them embraced martyrdom. In following their footsteps Francis Xavier and countless missionaries, men and women, pioneered to all corners of the world to share the Good News of the Gospel.

Chota Nagpur was not left out in this missionary enterprise. Missionaries from Belgium, Germany, Australia, United States and other European countries volunteered to work among

the tribals of this land. Their deep faith in Jesus, calibre, dedication, sacrifice, commitment, zeal, concern and love for the tribals bore a colossal result in the form of parishes, schools, institutions and above all a solid and grounded Christian faith and life, vibrating in the heart and soul of the people.

Speaking of the pastoral ministry, currently the Ranchi Jesuit Province is engaged in 31 parishes or mission stations of Ranchi, Assam and Andamans with 31 active members involved. These pastors are in their high gear to be available 24x7 in the service of their flock. Any apostolic work is challenging and unprecedented, always calling for a new approach, though it may seem so ordinary.

Ranchi Mission/Province has a glorious past in terms of missionary work right from its inception in 1869 with the first pioneer Fr. Stockmann to the present day. More than 300 Jesuit Fathers and Brothers came to the Bengal/Ranchi mission and gave their all for the mission establishing a solid foundation far and wide. Among them were just to mention a few:

Fr. Müllender, Fr. Fierens, Fr. Desmet, Fr. Lievens, Fr. Cardon, Fr. Dehon; and from our recent memory Fr. De Meulder, Fr. George Zwýsen, Fr. Godfried Meeus, Fr. Marcel De Foort, Fr. Julius Topno, Fr. Patrick Tete and scores of them.

The pastoral ministry has been described graphically in their obituaries, all awe inspiring for any of us to emulate them. Citing an account of one such of them may not be out of place. Fr. Godfried Meeus who worked throughout his life in different parishes and established many new mission stations right from his priestly ordination in 1937 reads; “The ‘real missionary life’ of the Father was a hard pioneering work, poor living conditions, building – both material and spiritual – of Christian communities, always faith, and often blind faith in God and Providence, difficulties within and without, pressures of every kind, dangers from all sides. Forty years later he could rightly be proud of the seed he had sown. But it was the less spectacular work of touring villages, bringing the Good News, healing and caring, catechizing and other parochial-mundane activities, that provided the solid foundation of new Christian communities and uplift of life. He was a sailor doing donkey-work, day-in and day-out, caring little for exterior appearances and living frugally; was one of those who, while personally not spick and span, are essential to the life and smooth running of the ship. His extensive touring and visiting of villages and families were not a flash in the pan, he wanted to know his people and serve them. His characteristic was his excellent memory of people, families and their relationships; 30 years later he could still greet old parishioners by name and converse with them as if time had stood still.”

Challenges, consolations and fruits of it are plenty. Amidst challenges of both physical and spiritual, care abounds. Physically a pastor is supposed to be sound and sturdy. He has to ride his cycle/bike through the narrow winding muddy-slippery elevated village footpaths in the drenching-pouring July-September rain

or in the scorching heat of the hot summer sun, perspiring, sweating or in the biting cold of December-February with numb fingers, covering long downward and uphill roads, crossing rivulets or rivers in threatening speedy spate, endless calls for the sacrament of the sick or burial, very often in a hungry belly without a luck for the village frugal meal, at the end tired and exhausted to the core but all for the Kingdom. On the return home the brisk and smiling welcome of the cook with his hot coffee or tea at the table and a hot-water bucket for a bath, a waiting luxury for a pastor would certainly define well a pastoral life.

On the apostolic side there are consolations enough and more. People will adulate their pastor unmindful of what calibre he is, whether his is highly educated or not, knows the Bible or not, his sermons are of quality or not; whether he sings well or not, all of them are compromised as long as he is available to them for the Holy Mass, for dispensing sacraments in anointing their sick, burying their dead, baptizing their children and blessing their marriages.

A pastor learns from his flock the true faith in the simplicity of his people, in their reciting of the rosary, attending the Holy Eucharist, in Marian devotions-processions and charismatic prayers. The elderly will say that without attending the Holy Mass on Sundays they can't digest their meal or feel something vital missing from their very being. It is their simple faith in the kind, loving and merciful God. A pastor is like an emperor under his Parish Empire to which he is to give his full mind to each and every aspect of the parish life.

The fruit/result is that he has founded a faith community like that of the first nucleus faith community of the Apostles where they were praying together, caring for each other, sharing with each other, bringing their possessions generously for common use, attending to the needs of any, and thus gave witness to the holy Christian life to the world around.

Peace Building Through Dialogue

Fr. Amrit Tirkey, SJ, Coordinator, Dialogue Commission
and Sanjay Kerketta, SJ



On 1 January, 'World Peace Day', Pope Francis said that for 2020 the message is this: "Peace is a path of hope, a path on which one advances through dialogue, reconciliation and conversion." However, in the light of turmoil, cry for revenge and violence gripping many parts of the world, one wonders if words like dialogue, justice and peace mean anything any longer to anybody. Tension is escalating in the Gulf region after the US killed top Iranian commander General Qassem Soleimani in a drone strike on 3 January 2020. The fierce offensive that Iran promised in retaliation to the American assassination of its General involved 22 missiles fired at two bases in Iraq.

Nirvaya, a 23-year-old paramedic physiotherapy student was brutally gang raped in Delhi in the night of 16-17 December 2012. Subsequent dates after dates were issued to hang the convicts after more than seven long years of trial. Eventually,

after much effort by the judiciary they were hanged on 20 March 2020. In recent days the country is divided and blazing on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizenship (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR). The university students are on the road and the police are in the university campuses. A group of masked men armed with sticks and rods attacked students and teachers and damaged property in JNU campus on 5 January 2020. One to be sure, war and violence create vicious circle that can never lead to peace. The present situation looks grim so as to lead one to despair.

"Hope" is again at the heart of Pope Francis' latest World Day of Peace message. "Hope," writes the Pope "is the virtue that inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem insurmountable". Peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for.

If we imagine ourselves with the Trinity, in the spirit of Ignatius, gazing down on Heavy engineering Corporation (HEC) Township, Dhurwa, what do we see? We see human beings -- some male, some female; some rich; some Christians, some Sarnas, some Biharis, some Muslims, some Hindus. What meaning and opportunity does this rich ethnic, cultural and religious pluralism that characterizes God's world today have for our lives and mission of evangelization? Pluralism is a reality and a fertile ground for dialogue.

Vatican II has exhorted all Catholics to a dialogue with other groups in order to "join hands with them to work towards a world of peace, liberty, social justice and moral values." (Vatican Council II, *Nostra Aetate* nn 2, 3). We must foster the four-fold dialogue recommended by the Church: the dialogue of life, the dialogue of action, the dialogue of religious experience and the dialogue of theological exchange.

General Congregation 34 encourages all Jesuits to cooperate wholeheartedly with all men and women of good will in promoting peace, justice, harmony, human rights and respect for all of God's creation. This is to be done especially through dialogue with those inspired by religious commitment. To be religious today is to be interreligious in the sense that a positive relationship with believers of other faiths is a requirement in a world of religious pluralism.

Dhurwa, in HEC (Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited) township has a unique graveyard located at Tiril Ashram for the Sarnas, and the Christians of different denominations. It has been a bone of contention for years dividing tribals on the basis of religion. However, when the disputation intensified in 2019 in the name of tree plantation, the administration took cognizance with the initiative of Mr. Rajiv Kumar, police officer- in charge, Dhurwa who later forwarded the case to DSP, Hatia – Mr. Prabhat Barwar. Both the

claimants, along with administration wanted to settle it for good. Though, due to transfer of the DSP, the end was not met, the process of dialogue created conditions for the possibility of peace and parity to prevail which has been experienced later by both the groups.



This unity and respect among the Christians of eight different denominations in HEC Township, Dhurwa was celebrated in the form of Christmas Gathering. Though, the gathering has been an annual phenomenon, 2019 Christmas gathering blessings were exceptionally experienced on 15 December 2019 at Prabhat Tara. Counting on those blessings the participants of different Churches remained undeterred till the end in spite of incessant downpour in winter too. Dr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, S.J. Provincial, Ranchi Jesuit Society, the Chief Guest on the occasion gave immensely thought-provoking message and emphasized on finding a common ground for peace through taking by horns the present crises to humanity in different forms; Mr. Rajiv Kumar- P.S. Incharge, Dhurwa, the guest of Honour, also conformed to the message of the Chief Guest. All the religious leaders from different denominations with their faithful much appreciated the feeling of oneness that was created.

“The Society of Jesus has always sought to know and to follow God’s will for us. This Congregation takes up that task again. We do so from the heart of the Church, but gazing upon the world “that has been groaning in labor pains until now.” On the one hand, we see the vibrancy of youth, yearning to better their lives; we see people enjoying the beauty of creation; on the other hand, we see the many ways in which people use their gifts for the sake of others. And yet, our world faces so many needs and so many challenges today. We have images in our minds of people humiliated, struck by violence, excluded from society and on the margins. The earth bears the weight of the damage human beings have wrought. Hope itself seems threatened; in place of hope, we find fear and anger.

“We recognize the signs of God’s work, of the great ministry of reconciliation God has begun in Christ, fulfilled in the Kingdom of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. GC 35 recognized this mission. The letter of former Father General Adolfo Nicolás on reconciliation and the teaching of Pope Francis have given this vision a greater depth, placing faith, justice, and solidarity with the poor and the excluded as central elements of the mission of reconciliation” (GC 34).

Truly, justice and peace are two sides of the same coin. Justice without peace is lame and peace without justice is blind. Irrespective of different governments, the adivasis of Jharkhand have always quested for such peaceful and just society in the form of peaceful and non-violent protests against injustice meted out to them, the glaring examples being protests against Netarhat Field Firing Range, Koyal Karo Project to count among many. In order to seek the coexistence of these two elements, in 2019 too,

the adivasis of different faiths hit the avenues of the capital, which was possible because of the concerted efforts of many of ours along with other intellectuals. It was primarily to peacefully protest the anti-adivasi policies, mainly the amendment in the CNT and SPT act. It was a huge display of unity and protests in peace, resulting into back-tracking the proposed amendment. It was a dialogue in the streets for the adivasis of the adjoining districts of Ranchi. This unity was carried forward on different occasions and in spite of the resolute efforts of the anti-adivasi policies in different forms and occasions, the unity remained intact. However, the Church had to face numerous allegations. Efforts to vilify and demean it have persisted disparaging the image of the Church, which was beautifully summarized by the then JVM MLA Pradeep Yadav, in the first Assembly Session of the New GOVT, *Church jo health aur education mei rajya ki purjor seva kar rahi unke sir par sarkar talwar latka kar rakhti hai* (The Government is hanging sword on the head of the Church which has been committedly serving the state through health-care and education).

This is the true spirit of being Christian when you withstand all hardships to bring about justice and peace. After all Jesus, the just leader has reminded his followers – “They will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name” (Lk. 21: 12). The Church too must exult in her Pauline experience – “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor., 12:10) for “We are persecuted but not abandoned, we are struck down but not destroyed” (2 Cor., 4:9).

Educative and Formative Venture for Youth

Fr. Pradeep Tirkey, SJ
Director, Jeevan Prawesh



“If continually focus on what I don’t have, my life will always be completely empty despite the fact that it’s completely full.” Craig D. Lounsbrough.

Very often the name Jeevan Prawesh is misunderstood as marriage class or sex education as it comes from the Hindi Word *Jeevan Prawesh* meaning ‘to enter into life’. But Jeevan Prawesh (*life orientation for youth*) ‘*Life Initiation for Teenagers*’ (LIFT originally) plays a major role in every young adult, who participates in the Seminar. It is the time for self reflection, self discovery, self recognition and self acceptance. It questions the very existence of self and we know that the life is the gift of God. Jeevan Prawesh Seminar is educative and formative in nature. Education and formation are two of the prime ministries of the Ranchi Jesuit society besides many other ministries.

Without the character and moral formation the formal education is incomplete. Therefore, Jeevan Prawesh Seminar emerged in 1986 for guiding and directing the youth towards the spiritual and moral uprightness. It is character building pedagogy on the basis of Christian and Ignatian education. The entire seminar helps the students to reflect and meditate about their life and goal in the world. It is the study of the self in relation to others and the society. It addresses skills, knowledge and values about the self, environment, responsible citizenship, a healthy and productive life, social engagement, recreation and physical activity, careers and career choices. This seminar is not only for the Christian students but it is also for all the youth who are in class X and above, irrespective of caste, creed and colour. It aims at total transformation of the students for their bright future and of the society. Jeevan Prawesh

Seminar is aimed at developing and engaging learners in personal, psychological, physical, moral, spiritual, cultural and socio-economic areas, so that they can achieve their full potential in the world.

In a year, programmes can be covered in maximum 22 schools. In 2019, we covered 20 Seminars in 20 schools where 770 boys and 1,323 girls, total 2,093 participants took part in the state of Jharkhand. Earlier we used to give this Seminar in the states of Jharkhand, Bihar,

Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Assam. Now, Jeevan Prawesh Seminar has been started in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, whose coordinators were in Gumla to get the tips to start the same programme in their states.

This year we conducted 2 parish-youth programmes which is a new initiative and a successful programme. In two parish-youth programmes, the total participants were 620 in Kurdeg parish and 249 in Mamarla Vicariate making it 869 participants in total.

Seminars held in 2019 (Jan – Dec)			
Number of Schools participated	20		
Number of seminars conducted	20		
Number of students participated		Boys-0770	Total students -2,093
		Girls-1,323	
Number of parish-youth program	20	Kurdeg -620	Total youths -0869
		Mamarla -249	
Total participants		2,962	

“To a young man who wishes to be a Jesuit, I would say: Stay at home if this idea makes you unsettled or nervous. Do not come to us if you love the Church like a stepmother, rather than a mother. Do not come if you think that in doing so you will be doing the Society of Jesus a favour. Come if serving Christ is at the very centre of your life. Come if you have broad and sufficiently strong shoulders. Come if you have an open spirit, a reasonably open mind and heart larger than the world. Come if you know how to tell a joke and can laugh with others and on occasions you can laugh at yourself.” *Pedro Arrupe, SJ, former General of the Society of Jesus.*

Jeevan Prawesh is neither a job for self-employment nor for self fulfillment. It is the need and demand of the society at present to be fulfilled and ours is a charitable institute - ‘I have come to serve not to be served’ (Mt.

20:28). Therefore serious, moral and religious uprightness is a must for the leader. The young minds imitate and follow more the examples rather than words. Use of electronic gadgets and media are driving the youth almost crazy. Lack of seriousness and lack of will-to-work hard on the part of the students is a big challenge for the team. Now we have a good new team with four experienced members.

Very often we do not see the immediate result of the seminar but it bears a long range effect. Inspired by this seminar many boys and girls have even become priests and nuns and some are in respectable posts in their respective offices. The rural youth is more inclined to grab this modernity than perhaps the urban youth. I believe this mission is certainly effective and fruitful for many who have attended this programme.

Annual Retreat and Meeting of Jesuit Brothers

Bro. James Barla, SJ, Coordinator, Brothers' Commission



The Annual Retreat for the Jesuit Brothers of Central Zone was held at Xavier Institute of Social Action, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, from 3 to 11 November 2019. There were 19 Brothers in the retreat, of whom 12 were from Ranchi province. Fr. Oscar Tirkey, SJ (MAP) ably guided us in our journey with the Lord. After the retreat Ranchi Brothers had the opportunity to visit Loyola School, Bilaspur and the Jesuit Provincialate of Madhya Pradesh. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Jesuit community.



The Annual meeting of Jesuit Brothers of the South Asian Assistancy was held at Jharna Spirituality Centre, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand, from 4 to 6 December 2019. Thirty Seven Brothers participated from different Jesuit provinces of the Assistancy. The meeting began with an invocation to the Almighty by Br. James Barla, the coordinator of Ranchi province. Then, Br. Siluvai Nathan, the coordinator of the South Asian Assistancy, introduced the resource person Fr. Sunny Jacob, SJ (JAM), the JEA Secretary. The resource person took the Brothers on a delightful journey through the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs). He explained each UAP with many anecdotes. The resource person gave the following three questions for discussion:

1. How are we Brothers going to help in implementing the UAPs in our areas of works?
2. How far do you see the possibility of making the UAPs priority in our provinces?
3. What concrete measures do you propose and act upon to make the UAPs viable in our mission?

A Brief Summary of The Responses

- Brothers by the uniqueness of our vocation are in a unique position to implement the UAPs. The vocation of a Brother is blessed with spiritual freedom, the freedom from worldly pride and titles. This freedom allows the Jesuit Brothers to be sent on any mission. This is the orientation for walking with the poor and the displaced, accompanying the youth, protecting our common home as well as promoting the spiritual exercises.
- Brothers often perceived by the laity as down to earth and simple persons are easily approached by the poor and the youth. Many Brothers lend a listening ear to the youth and provide advice without alienating the youth. Some Brothers also give the spiritual exercises and give an authentic witness by their life.

On 4 December 2019 evening, the Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Provincial of Ranchi province. During the Eucharist he welcomed the Brothers and expressed his gratitude to the Brothers for their presence and contribution to the Assistancy. He exhorted them to continue the excellent work that they are rendering to the Society. He said that the contribution of the Brothers is unique and indispensable.

The generous co-operations of Fr. Provincial and the Jesuit communities of St. Xavier's college, Ranchi, St. Xavier's School, Doranda, Ranchi, Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi, Regional Theology Centre, Arsande, Ranchi, Manresa House, Ranchi and Jeevan Deep – ATC, Namkum, Ranchi, made the meeting successful, meaningful and fruitful. Thanks a lot for their help. All the Brothers expressed great satisfaction at the excellent arrangement made by the Ranchi Jesuits. They experienced the universal Jesuit companionship and are now looking forward with great enthusiasm and excitement to the next meeting in Mumbai 2020.

Planning for Greater Effectiveness in Mission

Fr. Francis Minj, SJ, Director RTC, Tarunoday



Introduction

How does a “multinational company of religious men” like the Society of Jesus, exercise their effectiveness in a rapidly changing world? Change of structures, personal transformation and allocation of personnel, ways of doing things, making new plans and strategies and implementing them would be some of the strategies required for effectiveness. While taking stock of the global situation and the diminishing number of Jesuits in some geographical regions of the world the Jesuits have embarked upon renewing themselves for availability for global mission. Actually, a call for reflections on the process of enhancing our service to the universal mission began already in 1995 with GC 35. Fr Adolfo Nicolás, the Superior General, through his letter dated 19 February 2008 and another letter in 2011 called upon Jesuits to reflect on the need for renewal and restructuring of our ministries.

Continuing The Process of Discernment

Realizing that our Jesuit vocation can be renewed by rooting ourselves in the Ignatian charism, the Major Superiors of South Asia, at a meeting at Phesama in Nagaland, called upon all Jesuits in South Asia to go through a spiritual process for discernment for restructuring and christened the programme as “Spiritual Animation Process.” As a follow up, a commission set up by Fr George Pattery, the President of the Conference, conducted the “Spiritual Animation Process” in 2016-2017 engaging more than 3000 Jesuits in “spiritual conversation” and “the process of discernment” patterned on the discernment practiced by St. Ignatius and his first companions. It was a whole process of rediscovering of our heritage, hitherto perhaps underutilized by many Jesuits. It was quite timely because the GC 36 of the Jesuits had extensively used the method of “spiritual conversation” in their group deliberations.

Meanwhile, a committee studied the structure and the use of personnel for different ministries in South Asia and recommended rationalization of different commissions by reducing them from fourteen to four commissions. Such a move, it is believed, will free many coordinators and secretaries of different commissions for other pressing needs of emerging time. In February 2017 in Jabalpur, on receiving the report on the experiences at the Spiritual Animation Process, Fr Arturo Sosa, SJ, the Superior General, desired the process to continue and the recommendations implemented in South Asia. And thus started the second phase of the spiritual process now rechristened as Reorienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness (REGAE).

Following the Jabalpur meeting of the Provincials Fr George Pattery constituted a Core Team headed by Fr Fernando Franco (GUJ), and Frs. Joseph A. D'Mello (KAR), Joe Arun (MDU), R.C. Chacko (HAZ) and Francis Minj (RAN) as members. On receiving the task, the core committee members themselves went through a spiritual process and prepared a module for Zonal Training Programme. Subsequently, the Core Team trained the significant number of Jesuits of different Provinces – Provincials, Consulters, and Coordinators of different Commissions in the Provinces – in the four Zones in Pune, Delhi, Jamshedpur, and Bangalore.

During the Central Zone Workshop (Provinces of Ranchi, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Dumka and Madhya Pradesh) 14 trainers were selected to conduct the workshop in Dumka, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Pathalgaon and Hazaribag. Frs. Ajit Xess, Deepak Toppo, Amrit Trikey and Florence Kujur conducted 15 different training programmes in the Central Zone. They conducted 15 programmes in all the five Provinces from October 2018 till May 2019. Altogether 747 Jesuits, that is 64% of the Jesuits (69% priests, 51% Brothers, 60%Scholastics), participated in the programmes as against the target of 70% Jesuits. As far as Ranchi Province is concerned, 195 Jesuits or 55% of the total number of the Ranchi Jesuits participated in the programme. The whole of South Asia conducted 61 such programmes.



Outcome of The Workshops

A curious question would naturally arise here. What was the outcome? It was a spiritual exercise in freedom (SpEx 189) for seeking God's will. Hence, first and foremost it was a spiritual experience, a moment of experiencing God's grace at work in the participants. It was also a moment of being led by the Spirit and of getting energized. Practically speaking, the programmes offered the participants a taste of discernment in common and ways of arriving at a decision by listening to one another non-judgmentally. Inspirational as the programmes were, they offered the participants an occasion to get inspired by others' experiences and expressions. Jesuits learned to respectfully and attentively listen to the speakers not only what they spoke but what they felt. In turn, the listeners learned to get affected by what others felt and spoke. It was intentional speaking and attentive listening. In fact, the participants felt that the programme offered a taste of the method of discernment among the first Jesuits.

Besides the spiritual benefits the programmes instilled in the participants, they also offered opportunities for understanding the intricacies of governance in the Society of Jesus. A strong vibe reverberated among them that a person does not join a Jesuit Province but rather he joins the Society of Jesus in a Province. The participants got to know how the South Asian Jesuits, under the guidance of a President, organize and govern themselves as a universal body for universal mission. In the process, they also discussed how the President can animate our apostolates in future. At the zonal level, the participants saw clearly that we need sustained zonal collaboration in planning, training, execution, finance and personnel for apostolic effectiveness. Already, the Central Zone has been living out the collaborative ventures in Educational, Social and Legal apostolates and Theological Formation.

Two processes were at work simultaneously – REGAE and the Universal Apostolic Preferences. As mandated by GC36 to identify preferences for the Society, the Society of Jesus came out with the four universal preferences: (1) Showing the way to God through Spiritual Exercises and Discernment, (2) Walking with the Excluded, (3) Journeying with the Youth and (4) Caring for our Common Home. Elated, satisfied and inspired by the choice of the Society the Holy Father, in turn, blessed our work and said that the preferences of the Society are those of the Church as well. It must be said, then, that through these preferences the Society of Jesus works at the service of the universal Church. At each of the 61 REGAE programmes, the participants suggested three preferences for the Conference and one for each of the four zones. In sync with the Universal, Conference and Zonal apostolic preferences, each Province was also expected to draw up its own context based preferences. Many Provinces have already done and are implementing them. Ranchi Province will draw up and finalize its Apostolic Preferences during the Province Days in May 2020.

Choice and Relevance of Preferences

In all the fifteen REGAE programmes, the participants prayed over, reflected, discerned, discussed the pressing needs and emerging socio-political and religio-cultural and economic situation in the sub-continent. The participants after spiritual conversation suggested (1) Peace and Reconciliation: Response to Fundamentalism, Casteism and Nationalism, (2) Quality Education and Research: School and Higher Education in particular and (3) Migration: Land Alienation, Displacement and Human Trafficking as immediate preferences while continuing with the current ministries. What sounds confirming is the fact that these preferences emerged almost overwhelmingly in all the programmes that had mixed groups with persons engaged in diverse ministries. Added to the three

preferences for the Conference the Central Zone chose Migration, land alienation, displacement and human trafficking as the key issues for immediate focus.

Humongous menace and crises stare at us after the emergence of Covid-19 and the forced lockdown by the government. Over 14 crores (140 million) landless workers that had migrated to cities for petty jobs felt unwanted by the very people that they served. Finding no assurance, they walked hundreds of miles hungry to their native places only to meet an uncertain future. Already malnourished and emaciated on the way, if left unattended, ill health and death will be their companions. Hundreds of thousands of seasonal migrant workers of Jharkhand working in different parts of the country are left at God's mercy and human munificence after the national lockdown. It looks clear that the issue of migration, land alienation and human trafficking will impact our subaltern population in Jharkhand in a huge way. Implementing the preferences bequeathed by the REGAE sessions will really be helpful in ameliorating the pathetic situation of the poor of our land. Well planned strategies, discerning minds, collaborative efforts and sustained and committed spirit will leave a lasting impact of our service to the people.

Overall, the REGAE programme in the past year brought in a lot of spiritual vigour, mental agility and a desire to serve God's people with renewed vigour and zeal. Diverse groups of Jesuits engaged in diverse ministries reflected, prayed and discerned the needs of the time. As a result, one can hope for focused ministries in the coming days. But only time will tell how each and every Jesuit has internalized the Ignatian vision and practice for effective ministry.





The Golden Jubilee of The Catholic Church Rangarih (19 May 2019)

The golden Jubilee of the erection of the Catholic church Rangarih was celebrated on 19 May 2019, to commemorate the blessing of the church on 24 November 1968, though the construction had begun on 1965 as the inscription on the tower of the church indicates. Ranchi Bulletin of October 12, 1965 carried the news as:

“Yesterday our people, village by village, carried all the trusses for our new church from Samtoli to Rangarih, (Each truss in 2 sections of 36 feet plus the ties). It was a procession worth seeing, 15 to 17 pairs of men to each truss, with a relay-team following behind. Some teams came non-stop; others carried through the night (moonlit) and reached at 2.00 a.m. Till the end of their days they’ll proudly remember it. The operation had taken their fancy; so all men, young and old made sure to be in it. The work at the church is proceeding well.”

The invitation card bears the names of 10 bishops invited to bless the renovated church, but only 4 could make it to the blessing day. His Grace Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ, officiated at the Holy Eucharist assisted by Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, Bishop Angelus Kujur, SJ, Bishop Anand Jojo, DD, and concelebrated by some 100 priests. The nuns numbered about 80 and the faithful 5000.

Enthusiasm and zeal of the people were at the peak with their rushing about, moving hurriedly to get ready, and the elation and joy on their countenance. The drummers beat their drums extra loud and resounding, the dancing women and school girls were unstoppable. Months of preparation had gone by with the hectic movements of the parish priest and his community; the faithful came out to help in any way that was needed: in the collection of money, volunteering and donations. A well planned out Eucharist, felicitation programme and dinner service to the whole public went off smoothly. Everyone put in his/her hand to make it successful and memorable. The choir made up of all the institutions of the parish: the Ursuline High School, Parish Middle School, Boys High School and the Intermediate College made the atmosphere devotional and harmoniously melodious.

The recently renovated church named after St. Anthony has a glorious history. It was first built by Fr. Louis Cardon SJ, in 1906 in a grand gothic style. Proving to be small for a big congregation on Sundays, in 1965 Fr. Henry De Jonghe, SJ, pulled it down and built a massive and imposing structure to house 2000-3000 faithful at a time, which was completed and blessed by Archbishop Pius Kerketta, SJ, on 24 November 1968. Br. George Van Remoortere, SJ and Br. Blacius Ekka, SJ, looked after the construction jointly at that time.

The blessing of the church carried the news thus: “Rengarih’s new church was blessed on November 24, 1968 by His Grace, in the presence of Mgrs Sevrin, Stanislas Tigga and Leo Tigga. The High School Fathers were most hospitable: 24 guests could be put up in the parish and High School. Arrangements had been planned in advance by Fr. De Jonghe and – in his enforced absence – were efficiently executed with the help of Fr. Delporte.

“After the blessing three bishops and twelve priests concelebrated on a huge altar erected under the mango trees on the side of the church. The *swagat* was held on the same place. Fr. De Jonghe and all who had contributed to the erection of the church were duly remembered, with a very special mention of Br. George, Br. Blasius, who had done great work in the parish was among the honoured guests. The best item of the reception was given by the Middle School: eleven boys being carried-in on a “*donga*” who represented various guests present – bishops, former and actual parish priests of Rengarih.”

After 50 years, the repeat was executed on 19 May 2019 at the “Pokhra Ghar” on a beautifully and innovatively decorated altar led by the Ursuline Convent, on the slope in front of the bungalow. In its existence of 119 years Rengarih Parish has given to the church and different religious congregations of the world over 7 Bishops – Lt. Bishop Nicholas Kujur, SJ, Lt. Bishop Pius Kerketta, SJ, Lt. Bishop Leo Tigga, SJ, Lt. Bishop Charles Soreng, SJ, Lt. Bishop Joseph Minj, DD, Bishop Angelus Kujur, SJ, and the Archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar John Barwa, SVD, together with the total of 89 Priests, 133 Religious Sisters and 41 Religious Brothers and Scholastics. The Lord is praised for his wonderful deeds!

First Vows at Ashirvad-Jharna (21 June 2019)



The first vows of the second year novices took place on 21 June 2019 at Ashirvad-Jharna. Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, officiated at the Holy Eucharist together with about 60 Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, about the same number of religious sisters and the faithful of the neighbourhood. The ceremony was held in the courtyard of Ashirvad which was full with the congregation. The sky was overcast and the holy occasion was sprinkled from above just as the pronouncing of the vows began. Umbrellas had to be unfolded for protection even for Fr. Provincial and the pronouncing novices. Defying the drizzling the ceremony saw through the end.

In his homily Fr. Provincial focused on the following points: “That we thank God for the vocation to Ranchi Province. God has called and blessed these 12 young men personally and they have responded to it wholeheartedly for service. You will be sent as missionaries anywhere in the world. There will be success and joy, but with no less challenges and hurdles. For example, Fr. Alphonse Aind, SJ, is today in jail, for one year now, and for no reason. You will have to be ready for such hostile circumstances. Since the Lord has chosen you, He will give you the courage and wisdom. As of now Ranchi Jesuits are working in Rome, Guyana, Cambodia, Africa, Egypt, Assam, Andamans and studying in International and National Institutions. We need more labourers in the vineyard of the Lord.”

Nine Novices pronounced their first vows at Ashirvad-Jharna and three at St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha.

Sch. Anand Ddungdung and Sch. Mathew Tigga joined the 12 for their Juniorate. Hence, seven of them were sent to Patna for their Juniorate and others to St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha.

At the end the Novice Master Fr. Sylverius Chermako, SJ, and his assistant Fr. Edwin Dang, SJ, Fr. Rector, K.C. Philip, SJ, the whole Ashirvad-Jharna Fathers and Brothers including the staff were profusely thanked for the smooth running of the ceremony. It was followed by a hearty dinner with inviting big mangoes from their own orchard.

Golden Jubilee of The Apostolic School, Samtoli (20 October 2019)



The Golden Jubilee of the Apostolic School, Samtoli, was celebrated on 20 October 2019, after a hectic preparation, with enthusiasm, colourful decorations, and joyousness.

Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Fr. Ajay Soreng, SJ, the Secretary and the driver Mr. Rajesh Kiro started from Ranchi at 5.30 a.m. and reached St. Mary's Samtoli at 8.00 a.m. via Karra and Kamdara. At 8.30 a.m. as we entered the gate of the Apostolic School, the Apostolic boys had lined up, clapping their hands to welcome us and so they did for every guest who entered the premises.

The Holy Eucharist began with the entrance hymn, “*Aawa chala re Prabhu ker angna mein.*” The hostel girls of St. Mary’s High School, run by the SJT Sisters, danced to the music of the hymn elegantly. His Lordship Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, was the Main celebrant flanked by Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, and the first batch of the apostolic students of 1969, namely, Fr. Emmanuel Barla, SJ, (Principal, St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi), Fr. Aquinas Kerketta, a Roserian (Ambikapur), Fr. Fulgence Kullu (Simdega Diocese) and Fr. Ajit Saras, SJ, Director of the Apostolic School.

Fr. Sikander Kerketta, SJ, was the MC. After the words of welcome by Fr. Linus Dundung, SJ, Rector, St. Mary’s Samtoli, His Lordship introduced the theme, “A time to thank and praise the Lord.” The Mission Sunday coincided with the Golden Jubilee of the Apostolic School, 20th of October 2019. The students of St. Mary’s English Medium School made the Bible procession graceful.

Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, in his homily spoke of the dream of the Jesuit Fathers to open the Apostolic School 50 years ago to keep alive the vocations of priests to the church of Ranchi Archdiocese as it was then. The Apostolic means to be called and chosen, to be with Christ, as Jesus appointed the twelve disciples to be with Him; called to share the life of Jesus and spread his Gospel teachings to the people of God; called to be baptized and to baptize whoever would be willing to follow the footsteps of Jesus; to learn to pray, to make a relationship with Christ and preach the Good News to the whole world.

There were some 50 concelebrants, about 70 religious Sisters present and about 1500 faithful and students who participated in it. The Minor Seminary of Ranchi, the Apostolic schools of St. Ignatius’ Gumla and Kunkuri made their presence conspicuously.

There have been 8 Directors so far of St. John Berchmans’ Apostolic School, Samtoli, namely, (1) Fr. Paul Frans Terrens, SJ, (2) Fr. Elvius Kujur, SJ, (3) Fr. Dominic Jojo, SJ, (4) Fr. Callixtus Tete, SJ, (5) Fr. Suleman Tirkey, SJ, (6) Fr. Sikander Kerketta, SJ, (7) Fr. Ajit Saras, SJ, and (8) Fr. Isaac Tete, SJ, of whom four have gone to their reward in heaven.

JCSA Ranchi (21-28 October 2019)

The meeting of the Provincials of South Asian Conference (JCSA) took place at Manresa House, Ranchi from 21 to 28 October 2019. From the gate of Manresa House the Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ, and all the Provincials were welcomed to the front quadrangle of Manresa House. In welcome the *Painki* dancers from Dighia Khaksitoli, Bero, trained by the brother of Padmashree Simon Oraon, showed their artistic war dance in rhythmic steps to the drum beats of three big oval shaped wooden drums (called *Dhaank* in Sadri idiolect) and two long Turhi (trumpet) blared away shrill resounding sound. The passersby peeped into the gate to see what was happening inside. After ten minutes the *Painki* dancers were taken over by the students of St. John’s High School, boys and girls, with their tribal dances, draped in red bordered white saris and ushered the guests in to the Manresa House entrance door. Three items of tribal dances were displayed. The feet and hands of the dignitaries were washed and wiped as a sign of welcome acceptance into the tribal family. A *bundi* (a tribal coat) was presented to each of them by the Ranchi Provincial.

Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur presented a brief history of Ranchi Province and of the Jharkhand situation. His Grace gave a message to the gathering dwelling upon the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola and an input about the Jharkhand state as well as the state of the Chotanagpur Church. His Grace Felix Toppo, SJ, the resource persons and the Provincials present were: Fr. Lisbert

D'Souza, SJ, General Assistant (Bombay Province), Fr. Vernon D'Cunha, SJ, General Assistant (Bombay Province), Fr. George Pattery, SJ, POSA (Calcutta Province), Fr. John Guiney, SJ, Resource person (Ireland), Ms Michelle Hennessy, Resource person (Ireland), Fr. William Keith, SJ, Socius to POSA (Gujarat Province), Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, (Ranchi Province), Fr. Arun D'Souza, SJ, (Bombay Province), Fr. Raphael Hyde, SJ, (Calcutta Province), Fr. Denis Ponniah, SJ, (Madurai Province), Fr. Francis Parmar, SJ, (Gujarat Province), Fr. Donald J. Miranda, SJ, (Patna Province), Fr. Roland Coelho, SJ, (Goa Province), Fr. Dexter Gray, SJ, (Sri Lanka Province), Fr. Santosh Minj, SJ, (Hazaribag Province), Fr. Amrit Rai, SJ, (Nepal Regional Superior), Fr. Wilfred John Lobo, SJ, (Darjeeling Province), Fr. Melville Pereira, SJ, (Kohima Regional Superior), Fr. George Fernandes, SJ, (Jamshedpur Province), Fr. Mathew Elanjipuram, SJ, (Kerala Province), Fr. Vargheese Pallipalakkatt, SJ, (Dumka-Raiganj Province), Fr. Amalraj Paramsivan, SJ, (Andhra Pradesh Province), Fr. Ranjit Tigga, SJ, (Madhya Pradesh Province), Fr. Durai Fernand, SJ, (New Provincial Gujarat), Fr. Andrew Fernandes, SJ, (Pune Province), Fr. Jeerakassery Sebastian, SJ, (Delhi Province), Fr. Stanislaus D'Souza, SJ, (Karnataka Province), Fr. Joy Karayampuram, SJ, (Resource person), Fr. Francis Minj, SJ, (Resource person).



The last, but the most important item, was the unveiling of the statue of Fr. Sylvain Grosjean, SJ, (1846-1915) who was the 7th Superior Regular of the Bengal Mission and whose vision and dream for Chotanagpur, established the Chotanagpur (Mission) Church on a firm and solid foundation. He bought the vast Manresa property for Rs. 8000/- in 1886, built Manresa House residence, roofed bungalow where now the infirmary stands, built St. Mary's Cathedral in 1909, started and built the Ranchi Apostolic School with 8 students in 1903, boosted St. John's School and Ranchi

Parish, and most importantly who sent Fr. Constant Lievens and Fr. John Baptist Hoffmann to Chotanagpur. He brought the first members of the Ursuline Congregation, Tildonk, Belgium in 1903 to work among women in Chotanagpur. Today, the church has grown enormously. His statue was unveiled by His Grace Felix Toppo, SJ, Fr. Lisbert D’Souza, SJ, Fr. Vernon D’Cunha, SJ, Fr. George Pattery, SJ, and Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ.

The statue is a humble recognition and honour to a great missionary of Chotanagpur by the Ranchi Jesuits in deep gratitude for his sweat and labour.

Thereafter, the Provincials had their first session in the Conference Hall of Manresa House.

A brief sketch of life and mission of Fr. Sylvain Grosjean, SJ (1846 - 1915)



A brief sketch of the life and mission of Fr. Sylvain Grosjean may help the future generation to emulate his example.

Born	: 4 March 1846 –Martilly, Luxemburg
Entered SJ	: 23 Sept. 1864
Arrived in India	: 31 Dec. 1880
7th Superior Regular of W. Bengal Mission	: August 1882-1891
Succeeded Fr. Desiderius Van Impe	: August 1882
Died & Buried	: 6 Sept. 1915- Kesramal Parish, Odisha

Fr. S. Grosjean was not an imposing personality; he was a lean man of average height, with the high forehead of an intellectual and a square full beard, which hid a shy smile. His lively eyes twinkled, as if, he had just planned a new project or was just setting off on a new venture; he was a wiry and tough, a dynamic and active man.

After his Primary, High School, Novitiate, Juniorate and Regency, he arrived at Louvain in 1873 for his Philosophy and Theology studies and was ordained a priest on 7 Sept. 1879. During these long years, he kept up his interest in the Mission of West Bengal, the only mission-field then of the Belgian Province, by collecting maps and statistics. Already then he was able to get benefactors for the Mission. An excellent student with a deep, personal insight in his faith, he was asked to defend his theological knowledge in a daylong public defense (29 June 1880). In the second half of the same year he made the Long Retreat as a shortened Tertianship and then left for the Mission and arrived in Calcutta on 31 December 1880.

Young Fr. Grosjean was first appointed secretary of Mgr. P. Goethals, SJ, since 1878 Vicar Apostolic. He proved effective in handling the correspondence of the Bishop, who was often absent from Calcutta and in looking after the material needs of visiting missionaries; he made an excellent first impression.

Fr. Grosjean had soon won the confidence of both Mgr. Goethals, who appreciated his energy and judgment and of Father Van Reeth, Belgian Provincial. He was quick and competent and his zeal for the Mission was evident. At the age of 36, in 1882 he was appointed as the 7th Superior of the Mission of West Bengal. He soon learned how to deal with the men in his charge with accommodating authority and practical charity. His priorities were formation and mission. As most scholastics came to the mission from Belgium after their Juniorate or Regency, the Philosophate-Theologate at Asansol became his major concern. Among the missions, he thought that Chotanagpur held the richest promise.

In early 1883, Father Grosjean made his first tour of the Chotanagpur mission and visited Doranda, Jamgain, Sarwada and Bandgaon on horseback. He wanted the missionaries on the spot to probe into the vital human and social problems of this central area and to offer effective help to solve them. This approach, he felt, would start a broad movement towards the Church. For this task he had earmarked two young Jesuits of great potential, studying in Asansol -- Fathers C. Lievens and J.B. Hoffmann. He sent Fr. Constant Lievens to Chotanagpur, who arrived at Doranda at midnight on 18 March 1885.

In August 1888, Fr. Grosjean brought the charismatic leader of the movement, Fr. Constant Lievens, to Manresa House, Ranchi, from Torpa already a flourishing mission work, to be the Director of the Mission in Lohardaga (the old name of Ranchi district). In 1889 when cases were instituted against Fr. Lievens and some tribals by the Jamindars, Fr. Grosjean himself contacted an eminent Calcutta lawyer to plead the appeals in favour of the jailed tribals; he pledged to pay his honorarium and all the expenses for the journey up and down to Ranchi. These appeal-cases had a largely favourable outcome. Again in April-May 1890 and in February 1891, Fr. Grosjean was in the Ranchi Mission to direct his men in the field.

In 1886, Fr. Grosjean bought the vast Manresa House land for Rs. 8,000/. It was a master stroke as it was said and immediately built a bungalow for the Fathers where now the infirmary building is standing. In 1887, Fr. Grosjean bought at Kurseong the vast property on a hill side for Theologate.

In July 1889, he transferred theologate from Asansol to Kurseong. In 1892 he went to Kandy to start the Papal Seminary. He remained Superior of the papal Seminary, Kandy, from 1893 to 1899; He finalized the building plans for the permanent structure of the Seminary, taught Latin, Philosophy and later even Theology. He gave the seminarians a solid intellectual and spiritual training. From 1899 to 1902 he was minister of St. Mary's Kurseong. In December 1902, Father Grosjean was installed as Rector of Manresa House, Ranchi. He was Rector till 1906, and from 1903 to 1906 he was the Tertian Master. Thus a hundred years ago he had proved himself to be a true universal man.

Father Grosjean's immediate concern was, however, how to give new vitality to St. John's School, to Manresa House and to the Ranchi Parish. Fr. Grosjean first got a good teacher from Calcutta, then two scholastics and finally experienced Father L. Bodson, who became Headmaster of the School. The School begun in 1905, was upgraded, to follow the code of education and was thus entitled to receive Government grants. The institution developed into a model High School, for the entire Catholic community. In April 1903, he gathered the first 8 apostolic boys and thus tackled the problem of local vocations. By April 1905, he had constructed for them a new Apostolic School building at the back of Manresa House. He also built the Cathedral, a monumental structure in Neo-Romanesque style. This was solemnly consecrated in October 1909.

Thereafter, in 1909 he became the parish priest of Kesramal in Gangpur (Orissa) at the age of 63 and gave his whole strength for his people till his death and burial on 6 September 1915 at Kesramal.

Today, the Chotanagpur Church and Gangpur (Orissa) church owe him immensely for his vision and execution of his plans because of which the Church stands strongly and so vibrantly. We salute him and in honour, we install his statue today to inspire the present generation of Jesuits.

New Church in Kanke Parish (27 October 2019)



Ready with the Holy Mass apparel His Grace Felix Toppo, SJ, His Lordship Telesphore Bilung, SVD, the concelebrating priests in albs and the Mahila Sangh in their red bordered white sari, the entrance hymn, dance and drums accompanying, began the Holy Eucharistic Celebration at 8.30 a.m. on 27th October 2019 at Christ the King Catholic Church, Kanke. The occasion was the solemn blessing of the newly built church on the first floor, all with generous contributions by the local parishioners. The church was packed with the faithful and the equal number of them witnessed the proceeding of the Holy Mass on the screen in the hall below the church on the ground floor.

The blessing of the holy water, anointing of the Altar, installing the Tabernacle, lighting twelve earthen lamps and placing them at various strategic locations inside the church, in an atmosphere of all devotion and full enthusiasm, the Archbishop began the Holy Mass solemnly.

The Arsande Regional Theology students, together with the local youth, led the devotional choir. Meticulous arrangements for every next step had been foreseen and planned out. The Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh and the Youth were alert and brisk, moving about for every ritual of the ceremony to be carried out accurately. The faithful cooperated generously with their silence and joyous looks at the happenings. It was the first of its kind for many to witness the blessing of a new church. As many as 53 priests concelebrated with the Bishops and more than 80 Religious Sisters were present on the occasion.



Pouring of the Chrisma Oil at 6 places on the Altar, spreading it to all four corners of it, wiping it with a clean white cloth so as not to allow any oily stain remain on it, a relic of the remains of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was installed at the centre of the Altar, spreading a clean thick white good plastic cover upon it and finally the altar cloth well spread upon, four candles and two plates decorated with multi-colored flowers were placed at the fore of it. The Altar was consecrated and thus ready to offer the Eucharist of the Lord on it. The final ritual was by all the concelebrating priests to go along the four walls of the church and mark the sign of the cross on them at certain distance as a symbol of laying hands and blessing it as we lay our hands upon the head of a deacon during his ordination. A sign of blessing to the Church Building!

The parish priest Fr. Elias Kullu, SJ, and his assistant Fr. Ignatius Minj, SJ, were both equally attentive towards the execution of the whole ritual, the ceremony and functions of the day bearing all the joys of the grand church blessing.

The usual Eucharist followed thereafter and it ended with a solemn blessing by the two Bishops. Some five thousand faithful witnessed the whole ceremony. Lunch was served to all present, a herculean task. The cultural programme which followed the lunch included the tribal aspects of life depicted by different units/villages of the parish, such as, birth, death and marriage customs, tribal festivals, transplantation of paddy, displacement, job seeking, hunting in the jungle and tribal dances. At the end, all felt satisfied that a great job had been accomplished. It should be noted that all the parishioners contributed generously towards the construction of the church! Praise the Lord!

Province-Level Golden Jubilee (16 December 2019)



The Province-level golden jubilee celebration of Fr. Ferdinand Kullu, SJ, and Fr. Callixtus Tete, SJ, was hosted on 16 December 2019 at the Loyola Training Centre, Ranchi. Together with them were felicitated Fr. John Lakra, SJ, and Fr. Anthony Dumdung, SJ, for completing 50 years as priests and Fr. Clement Ekka, SJ, Fr. Erik Breye, SJ, and Fr. Aurel Brys, SJ for completing 60 years in the Society of Jesus.

The choir sang the entrance hymn "*Kripa ker Jharna bahela dino rati, prabhu tor angna mein*" and the Jubilarians with the concelebrants proceeded to the altar right at 5.00 pm. The congregation in a festive disposition chanted aloud the hymn in unison. Fr. Callixtus Tete officiated at the Eucharist while Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Fr. Ferdinand and other Jubilarians flanked him either side.

Fr. Ferdinand Kullu delivered the jubilee homily expressing a deep sense of love and gratitude to God, a wonder of the years gone by and the mystery of the religious life. Golden jubilee is not just a celebration, but a time of thinking and thanking. 50 or 60 years of journey has brought us to this jubilee day to screen back on the gracefulness of God and in hope to the future to dedicate ourselves to Him for His love, mercy and kindness.

It is natural that in the heart of a Jesuit to well up the feeling of joy and gladness that is because such words of the Lord were all the time resounding in the ears: “Come, follow me, he who does not carry his cross cannot be my disciple; fear not for I am with you till the end of time; do you love me more than these? Truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me.” These words of Jesus give us energy and strength to remain rooted in Him. What were we and what have we become? Where were we and to where are we placed through various stages of training, assignments and offices? A journey through unexpected circumstances brings to wonder that God makes the weak strong, fearful the fearless.

Our 50 or 60 years of sojourn makes us to ponder as to with whom we have spent our life, with the Lord, with the Society of Jesus, with the church, with the family, with the needy. However, we have experienced spiritual strength, life’s ups and downs, joys and happiness, successes and failures; all these converging to the guiding force “All for the Greater Glory of God.” At the end we can say like the faithful servant of the Gospel: “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”

Fr. Fredrick Kujur, SJ, guided the ceremony smoothly for the convenience and comfort of young and old and Br. Blacius from the kitchen supplemented the cheerful atmosphere with his hot dishes in variety and taste.



Annual Ordinations: Four done, one in waiting due to Covid-19

Double ordination in Tongo (12 January 2020)



Fr. David Minj, SJ



Fr. Anuj Minj, SJ

The ordination of Deacons Anuj Minj and David Minj to priesthood took place at 8.15 a.m. on Sunday 12th January 2020, at the Catholic Church, Tongo. The ordaining bishop Rt. Rev. Paul Lakra, DD, was accompanied by 135 concelebrating priests. There were some 95 religious sisters from different congregations and the faithful numbering about 4000. Jesuits from different communities made their presence visible including the Pre-Novices and the Novices from ATC, Namkum and some 5 Religious Brothers; the whole congregation was eager to witness the solemn ceremony.

It was a bright sunny day but the chillness of winter was still lingering on sending shiver among the attendants. However, the cheerfulness was unhampered. The entrance dance from two sides converged to the altar preceding the array of concelebrating priests who solemnly walked up to the podium behind the Bishop. The faithful occupied their place on

the East, West and the North of the altar. The three hour ceremony draped the congregation with melodious music and hymns accompanied by sweet *Mandar* beat, octopad and *kartal* helping a strong male and female voice a well tuned melody. All attention and focus directed towards the altar to observe the different rituals of ordination – for some being the first time and for others reenacted many a time once again. The school children, in their colourful dress dancing, briskly moving about, were a delight to the eyes. The Mahila Sangh and the Catholic Sabha leaders were alert that the things went on according to plan. The Ursuline Sisters of Tongo managed, directed and helped in every way that the event ended on a fine tuned note of satisfaction and appreciation by the gathering. The pastorally oriented homily of Bishop Paul Lakra was direct and in tune with the people who listened in rapt attention with smiles and approval in between.

Ready to be ordained . 'I am ready and willing.'



Dn. Rohit Kujur, SJ

Ordination in Banabira (14 January 2020)



Fr. Jyoti Paul Baxla, SJ

The ordination of deacon Jyoti Paul Baxla, SJ, was held at 8.00 a.m. on 14 January 2020 at the Virgin Mary Mother of the Poor Church, Banabira, Simdega Diocese.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Vincent Barwa, DD, presided over the Eucharist along with 42 priests concelebrating. There were 20 religious Sisters from different congregations and the faithful of some 2000. Banabira Parish is located 50 kms. away from Samtoli Parish, Simdega, to the west, close to the jungle in the north-west, leading to Jokari and Majhatoli Parishes in Gumla Diocese. The parish was founded in 1940, and since then it has been serving the people in strengthening their faith, reaching education to every home and motivating economic growth strongly.

The atmosphere was calm and composed. The faithful eagerly congregated at the venue, taking their place in an orderly manner, no hassle of any kind, no need of any volunteer to guide or direct, all the children and the elderly occupying a suitable place available and waiting for the ceremony to begin. Everyone had in mind that it was the holy ceremony. The choir comprised school children, teachers, St. Anne's Sisters, the priest Headmaster at the head conducting it, all were in the best gear, singing sweetly, swaying their body, music melodious, everything fitted to the occasion.

Ordination in Mandar (19 January 2020)



Fr. James Peter Balmuchu, SJ

The ordination of Deacon James Peter Balmuchu, SJ, son of late Mrs. and Mr. Scholastica Ekka and Arsen Balmuchu, was held at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday, 19th January 2020, at St Aloysius Church, Mandar, at a gathering of 3000 faithful. His Grace Felix Toppo, SJ, the Archbishop of Ranchi Archdiocese, ordained him a priest along with some 78 concelebrating priests, mostly Jesuits, and a few Jesuit Religious Brothers present and some 50 Religious Sisters witnessed the ceremony. The weather was very threatening to have the ceremony in the open air upon a beautifully decorated platform made ready for the occasion. The Parish Priest was in a great dilemma whether to have it in the open air stage outside or in the Church. At one time he directed St. Anne's Sisters to prepare the altar in the church as it was still drizzling till 8.00 a.m. Earlier there was a considerable amount of shower for more than one hour and the sky was overcast. The Providence guided the Parish Priest and the decision was to have it outside. There was no drizzle or rain any more throughout the ceremony. There was a sigh of relief for all! The ordination rites and the Holy Eucharist solemnly went on for 3 hours.

Final Vows of 5 Jesuits (8 December 2019 & 21 February 2020)

The final vows of Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, and Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka, SJ, took place at 5.00 p.m. at Manresa House, Ranchi, on 8 December 2019. About 100 Jesuit Fathers and Brothers gathered for the ceremony. The family members and relatives of Fr. Amar counted about 70 and that of Fr. Sanjay about 50. Local Religious Sisters, such as the Ursulines, St. Anne's and a few others from other congregations attended the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, presided over the Holy Eucharist flanked by Fr. Amar to the right and Fr. Sanjay and Fr. Rector Amrit Lakra to the left.

Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, SJ, was born on 6 April 1972, entered the Society on 17 August 1991, ordained a priest on 18 January 2006, final vows on 8 December 2019. Fr. Sanjay Dilip Ekka, SJ, was born on 1 July 1976, entered the Society on 28 June 1996, ordained a priest on 7 January 2010, final vows on 8 December 2019.



In his homily Fr. Provincial underlined the theme: “Be not afraid for I am with you to deliver you.” These two young men of our province are tested mettle to work abroad – Fr. Sanjay in Rome in the Vatican Radio which is not easy to fulfill the international expectations and quality. He may have a lot of difficulties in fulfilling the demands. Yet he is bold and courageous to face those challenges and is managing well for the whole of the Indian Section. Fr. Amar Bage, a missionary to Guyana which is a tough and arduous task as there are fewer means of road transport, long distances, flying by 12 seat aircraft is troublesome because of the rough weather and less facilities according to modern standards. Yet Fr. Amar has acclimatized himself with the weather and the mission, and he is moving about and doing great jobs successfully and comfortably. Through our final vows we surrender everything we may own or may have possessed, to the Lord.

A felicitation programme followed the Holy Mass with Fr. Fredrick Kujur, SJ, conducting it and donning them with *bundis* and shawls and a melodious song by the Scholastics. The family members of both the Fathers presented an item each very endearingly, affectionately and with much gusto. Bro. Blacius steered the kitchen efficiently, without any commotion or confusion, and smoothly spreading on the table according to the expectation of the guests- all juicy and tasty dishes of mutton, chicken, pork and fish. There was enough and more for everybody. A jubilant day was over on a satisfying mood!

There was another group of Jesuits who pronounced their final vows at 5.30 p.m. on 21 February 2020 at Loyola Training Centre, Ranchi. Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, officiated at the Holy Eucharist flanked by Fr. Deepak Toppo, SJ, Fr. Sikander Tirkey, SJ, Fr. Florence Purty, SJ, and Fr. Socius Raymond Kerketta, SJ. The Novices led the choir under the guidance of Fr. Edwin Dang, SJ.



Their motto “To love and to serve” rightly depicted the spirit of the occasion that an apostolic vision of a Jesuit is to love the Lord and serve His people. The religious men and women, family members, friends and well wishers all poured in to celebrate the Eucharist in good number filling the Loyola Training Centre to its capacity. Despite a big congregation Br. Blacius Tigga, SJ, was dexterous enough in satisfying all with his delicious dishes.

Fr. Deepak Toppo, SJ, was born on 16 February 1972, entered the Society on 27th June 1992, ordained priest on 27th January 2007 and the final vows on 21st February 2020. Fr. Sikander Tirkey, SJ, was born on 11th July 1970, entered the Society on 30th July 1991, ordained a priest on 24th January 2006 and pronounced his final vows on 21st February 2020 and Fr. Florence Purty, SJ was born on 27th October 1973, entered the Society on 27th June 1992, was ordained a priest on 4th February 2006 and took his final vows on 21st February 2020.

A Jesuit Response to the NPR, NRC & CAA (18 March 2020)

The Central Government carried out a National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state of Assam in 2019 with an intention of weeding out the infiltrators. In the process the striking figure that emerged was that 19 lacs of the Assam population was found out of the NRC. Out of these 19 lacs, 14 lacs were Hindus, 4 lacs Muslims and one lac tribals.

The Central Government was wonderstruck that such a big number of Hindus (14 lacs) were out of the NRC. A law in the parliament called CAA (Citizens Amendment Acts) was passed. Under this Act clauses were provided that the religiously persecuted Hindus, Sikhs, Budhists, Christians, Jains, etc. coming from Pakistan, Afganistan and Bangla Desh would be given citizenship. The provisions of the Act declared the non-NRC population as infiltrators consequently would be deprived of citizenship with no voting rights and can be sent to the detention centre. The central government has declared that it would apply the NRC to the whole country.

To become a citizen of the country a national survey is to be done of the whole country, through a form called NPR (National Population Register). In the form the questionnaire is such that a person has to prove/produce the birth certificate of his/her father, place of birth of his/her father as well as his/her own birth and place certificates. Moreover, while filling the form the government servant may make wrong entries such as wrong spellings, only one name while having two names or vice versa, or fill the nick name and so on, endless mistakes can be foreseen while registering. The government servant sitting in the block office will check all the forms and tally the names entered in the form and the certificates attached therein. The moment the inconsistency is found, the officer will start sending notices to the person to prove/ verify/ justify those entries and certificates. The person will run from pillar to post to prove it.

To avoid the catastrophic consequences Ranchi Jesuits rose up to do something to stop this process of NPR to be started from 1 April 2020 in the whole country. Ranchi Archdiocese along with the Dioceses of Raigarh and Rourkela under the aegis of CBCI Chota Nagpur Region unit had a seminar on 11-12 March 2020 on this issue at SDC, Ranchi. On 12th March 2020 already the JHAAN Bishops presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Jharkhand praying to defer the process of NPR.

The Jesuits of Ranchi Province took an immediate step to call a meeting, chaired by Fr. Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, of all the members who could come to deliberate as to how to go about with this issue of NPR to be processed from 1 April 2020. The meeting was held on 19 March 2020 at 2.00 p.m. at Manresa House. The response was very satisfying. Mr. Gladson Dungdung, a social activist, was the resource person who very clearly explained what the NPR, NRC & CAA are; what the consequences upon the people would be and how we can stop the process. The members came to know about the NPR, NRC and CAA and their disastrous consequences. Unanimously all agreed to move fast towards stopping the process.



Province Infirmary, Manresa House, Ranchi

Fr. Raymond Kerketta, SJ, Socius to the Provincial



Background

Infirmary of Manresa House, Ranchi has been serving as the Province Infirmary which looks after the sick and the aged Province men since many years. In the past the Infirmary had limited accommodation facilities and health assistance. As time passed, the number of inmates increased, and it was the felt need of the Province that the Infirmary be improved with better facilities.

Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, as the Provincial put this plan on the list of his priority. Thanks to his initiative, in coordination with Fr George Kerketta, SJ, the PDD and all the Jesuit communities of the Province, the new plan materialized in 2018 with the first floor with 19 spacious rooms and other accessories. This has also wide corridors for the inmates to sit and read and pray. Besides, there are five good rooms on the western part of the terrace. The infirmary is also provided with an elevator for our aged and sick inmates who would like to go to the upper floors.

Another important improvement that has been brought in is the health staff. To provide better and twenty four-hour service to the inmates. There are six health staff – two St. Anne Sisters, Sr. Lucy Soreng, DSA and Sr. Suchita Kujur, DSA, (both trained resident nurses), Mr. Ranjit & Mr. Ajay (male helpers) and Mrs. Elizabeth & Mrs. Helen (female helpers). Ranjit and Ajay do the night duty in turn. Br. Telesphore Horo, SJ, a trained nurse himself, is pursuing his TTC. But he also avails himself in giving his services when he can afford time. Besides, Dr. Samir gives his service to the inmates once a week on a regular basis as the House Doctor. In emergency he can be contacted at any time.

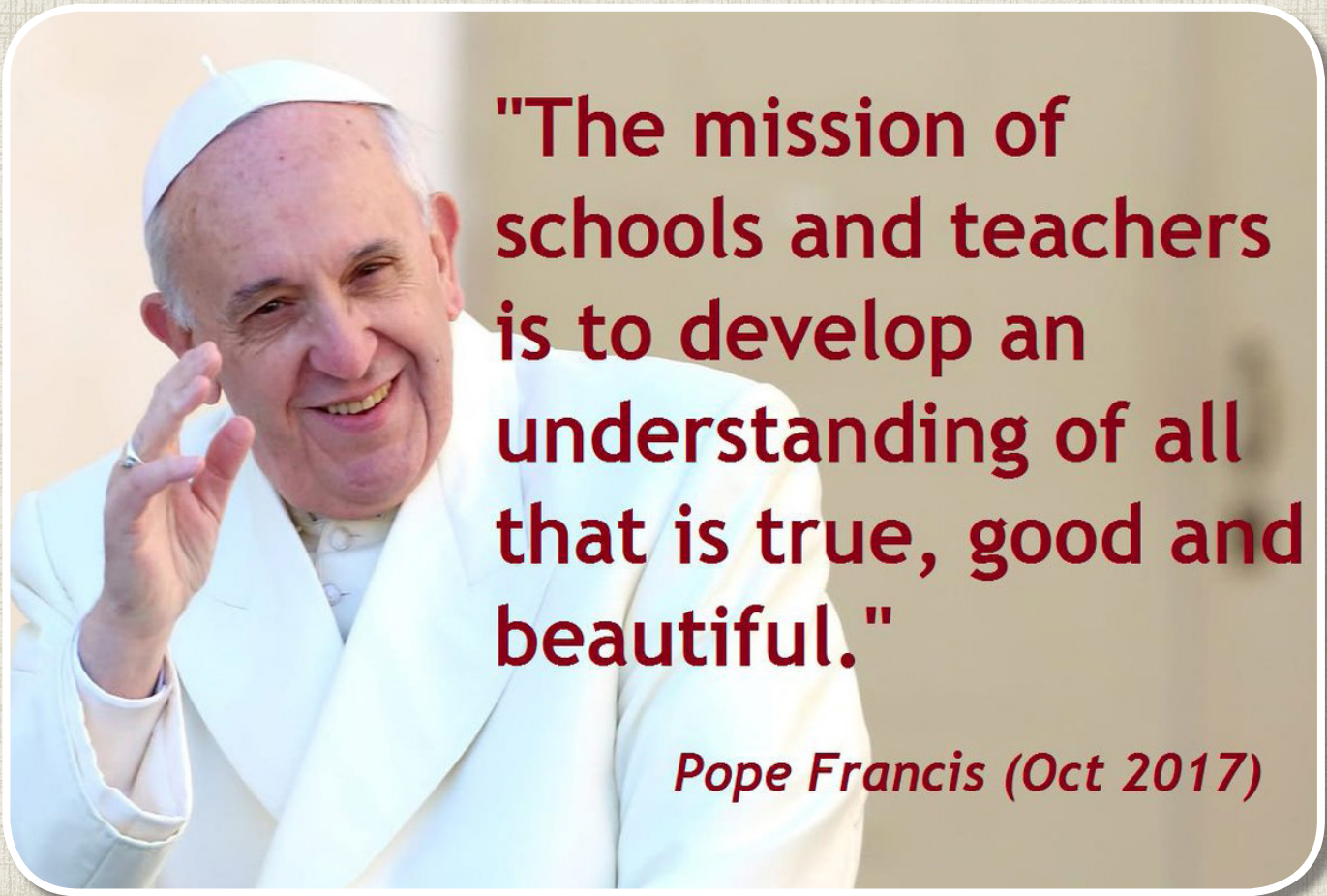


We have nine permanent members in the Infirmary at the moment. Infirmary has a separate chapel for the inmates to pray and to offer the Holy Mass. A priest is assigned by the House Minister on the weekly basis for the morning Mass. There is a separate recreation room with a T.V. set where they can watch the T.V. programme and relax. There is also a small kitchen. But those who can afford and wish, they join the larger Community for prayers and meals. Others are served by the care-takers.

Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) 2019

Ranchi Province hosted the JCSA 21-28 October 2019 at Manresa House, Ranchi, after about 17 long years quite successfully. Most of the participants of the JCSA were accommodated in the first and the second floors of the Infirmary building. Except a few minor things, the whole arrangement was much appreciated by all the participants. It was to a much relief for Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, Provincial Superior, who seemed to have expressed his unwillingness when he was first proposed by Fr POSA to host the JCSA 2019 in Ranchi. Obviously, it was not a simple undertaking to host such an important conference of the Assistency. But once it was committed, things slowly fell in line, thanks to the generosity of some of our Institutions and Houses. Fr. George Pattery, SJ, POSA, in his parting message expressed his deep appreciation to the Provincial and Ranchi Province for successful arrangement of the JCSA 2019 in Ranchi.

It is not out of place to state here that the JCSA 2019 at Ranchi has gifted two important things to the Province: renovation of Manresa House, Ranchi – the Mother House of the Province. The front part of the building wears a new and pleasant look. Better light facility and tiled road around enable the community members to walk freely even during evening recreation. Other things are, the Grosjean Conference Hall and Lievens Dining Hall. While the conference hall of Manresa House has been renovated and named as 'Grosjean Conference Hall, the multi-purpose Rasschaert Auditorium has been constructed on the terrace. Thanks to the generosity of the Province institutions and Houses! The Grosjean Conference Hall is equipped with expensive sound system and LCD projector for any important meeting of the Province. Hence, good care is to be taken.



"The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful."

Pope Francis (Oct 2017)



Release of the Booklet on Formation Policy (2019)



'Let the Fire Continue to Burn..... !'