



Ranchi Jesuits

YEAR BOOK 2016



**“Let the Church always be
a place of mercy and hope,
where everyone is welcomed,
loved and forgiven.”**

-Pope Francis





**Ranchi
Jesuits
Year Book
2016**



Imprimi potest

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Provincial Superior

Ranchi Jesuit Society

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Foreword

REVITALISING OUR LIFE FOR MISSION SEEKING DEPTH – SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL

Fr (Dr) Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ
Provincial Superior, Ranchi Jesuit Society



The Year Book 2015 had an unprecedented reception by people from all walks of life irrespective of their religious identities. The Year Book 2016 (YB-16) is now in our hands with the same aims and objectives, viz. firstly, to highlight the operationalization of the mission-vision of all commissions; secondly, to recognize and appreciate the contribution of every Jesuit of the Province; and thirdly, to spell out a roadmap of the Ranchi Jesuit Society for the coming years in the context of the emerging trends—locally, nationally and globally. Since the first two objectives of the YB-16 are treated well enough in this volume in various write-ups, the focus here will be on the third. However, prior to going into the details and other intricacies of the vision for the province, it is crucial to understand the context in which the Province is trying to consolidate and expand itself to the peripheries of the world in the frontier missions within the framework of the Universal Mission of the Society. It is precisely for this ‘Mission’ that we Ranchi Jesuits need to revitalize ourselves, in response to the Call of the Eternal King, to experience God’s Mercy and facilitate others to experience the same, in this hostile and strife-torn world.

Province at the crossroads

Yes indeed, we are at the crossroads of the history of Jharkhand! While the restructuring discourse in the Society amidst the emerging trends of a global decline in the religious vocations has become the talk of the town, the framework of the state and democracy in the context of Adivasis in India in general and in Jharkhand in particular, grips the Jesuits of Ranchi, even as they strive to be part of Universal Mission of the Society.

A welfare state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens. It is a system whereby the state undertakes to protect the health and well-being of its citizens, especially those in financial or social need, by means of grants, pensions, and other benefits. However, the questions that the marginalized sections of society today ask are as follows:

- Whether there is a shrinking space of democracy in which the institutions of dialogue, secularism, tolerance and freedom of expression are the first casualties;
- Whether the state is able to protect them, their rights and properties;
- Whether the state is willing to take care of their socio-cultural and economic needs;

- Whether the state herself is the biggest perpetrator of their human rights violation;
- Whether the state is in nexus with the mafias in the fields of timber, land, health, education, services, etc., as a result of which the victims start perceiving the state as ‘a terror state’ where terror and injustices are institutionalized under the garb of maintaining ‘law and order’;
- Whether there are experiences of paradoxes and inner contradictions in everyday life of the less privileged citizens of the country, which contest the very idea of the state being just and unbiased;

The Constitution of India lays down that the people shall be the ultimate repository of power and authority. The preamble declares that the Indian democracy is committed to the task of creating a new social order founded on social equality and political and economic justice. However, the victims of the institutional violence observe that:

- Rather than listening to the aggrieved victims of displacement and forced migration, the state machinery allegedly indulges in repressing people’s voices, apparently to give benefit to the perpetrators of dehumanizing, discriminating and exploitative practices.
- The slogan of “democracy for the people, of the people and by the people” sounds empty as democracy seems to be under the control of the rich and the powerful.
- There is enormous technological and scientific progress due to the process of globalization, but the majority of the population is still not part of that development.
- This is why the underdogs of the society, primarily the Adivasis ask: “whose development” and “why is it that the Adivasis have to pay the price every time for the so-called national interest?”
- This being the case, they also have serious doubts whether the Indian democracy is the same for different sections of the society. There is a perception among the less privileged in the society that different yardsticks are used for the elite and the underdogs. While the under-privileged languish in jails for years without any valid reasons, the powers-that-be seem to go scot-free due to their socio-economic and political clout.
- Rampant and indiscreet corporatization is further supported by the process of democratization of unjust structures.

The BAGAICHA recently conducted a study of 102 sample under-trials in Jharkhand and found out that about 97 per cent of the sample under-trials were arrested under false allegations of hobnobbing with the naxals. Their apprehension and harassment were based on misinformation and misuse of power. Moreover, such draconian law as 17 CLA Act, UAPA, seems to have been misused in the context of the sample under-trials. Thus, in the given context one is compelled to believe that all that is lawful is not necessarily just. The book takes the tribal development discourse from the closet

of the 'economic growth' agenda to 'human development', of which rights of the Adivasis and other marginalized sections of society as humans and citizens of the soil, are an integral part.

The above observations do not deny the fact that there has been enormous 'human'



development in the last two decades in areas of critical thinking, human rights, women's empowerment, and a life of dignity and self-esteem. However, it is also a stark reality that during the summer 2016, more than 330 million Indians are struggling for a single drop of water for their survival. The state of Jharkhand is also grappling with water shortage. As regards education, according to the 'All India Survey on Higher Education (2013-2014)', the gross enrolment ratio in higher education institutions in Jharkhand stands very minimal at 10.1 per cent only as against the national average of 23 per cent. In government's own admission, Jharkhand requires 700 more colleges

in the state setting up which will require 7,000 crore. The context, in which the Ranchi Jesuits bear witness to the Gospel values, is well articulated in the letter of Father General to the whole Society (*Rome, 8 September 2015, Feast of Nativity of Mary*):

- To be joyful witness to the Gospel and to care for His Church.
- To be ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation; thus to be agents of his peace, mercy and justice – as individuals and as communities.
- To a path of spiritual renewal through a fresh appropriation of our Ignatian spiritual heritage.
- To foster an inclusive yet critical dialogue about the future of our planet, engaging nations, cultures, religions and economic and political systems in this search.
- To be present among people who have been agonizingly uprooted from their homes in overwhelming numbers; in particular, to accompany vulnerable migrants, refugees, indigenous and homeless people.
- To care for our human and natural environment, to develop sustainable ecological and social practices both within our Jesuit communities and apostolates, as well as in our local communities, that will heal our broken world.

The roadmap

The roadmap of the Province, captured in the Phesama Statement–2014 (*JCSA, Phesama, Nagaland, 27 Oct-01 Nov 2014*), focuses on the following aspects:

- » Desire to give a generous and bold response to the invitation of Father General regarding restructuring as a corporate body.
- » Recognizing the *kairos* in the church, in the style and ministry of Pope Francis, in the paschal joy experienced by our companions at the bicentenary celebrations of the restoration of the Society and in the imminent convocation of GC 36.
- » Acknowledging and rediscovering, in practice, that our Jesuit vocation is to the universal Society. We join the Society of Jesus, not a province, and are available to be sent anywhere on mission that is both universal and local.
- » Searching for the *magis* of more interior freedom for greater and more universal availability, striving for renewal of our structures at the service of our mission, and reminding ourselves that we are invited to creative fidelity, leaving aside all traces of mediocrity.
- » Taking up frontier missions with ‘commitment, competency and collaboration’ in a spirit of Ignatian discernment, keeping in mind the need to optimize our human and material resources.
- » Setting aside five per cent of our men for the common works of the South Asian Conference and five per cent for the needs of the universal Society.
- » Taking forward the process of redrawing boundaries for greater apostolic availability, without being unduly conditioned by the exigencies of language, culture and civil borders.
- » Revisiting our formation programme in order to instil in our men a greater passion for Christ and His mission, and to become learned, and skilled in ministries, imbued with the spirit of collaboration and dialogue.
- » Working out viable and concrete programme of collaboration at the inter-provincial, zonal and Assistancy levels, and thus maximizing the use of our resources.
- » Rationalizing our commissions at province, zone and Conference levels and supporting structures of collaboration with the Ignatian family of the laity and the religious, in order to promote the Ignatian charism.

Concrete steps to promote spiritual and intellectual temper

We need to groom our youngsters to be mature spiritually and intellectually. Like Missionaries in the past, who came and addressed the novices inspiring them, researchers and others with caliber be encouraged to address and interact with them periodically. Right kind of inputs need to be given right from the beginning. Skill development of our men and exercise in critical reflections and their publication can be done in newsletters all through their Jesuit life. A holistic formation needs to be emphasized right from the beginning – a formation that integrates spiritual, social, psychological,

political, cultural and intellectual dimensions and does not only focus on the naïve understanding of spirituality. Writing capabilities of our scholastics can be made visible in the publication of quarterly or biannual journals, bulletins or magazines. Reflection and critical thinking with non-Jesuits and civil society groups should be encouraged.

There is need to revisit Novitiate: to make spiritual

exercises and experiments as sites of in-depth reflections, analysis and articulation in today's context, which calls for a change in our pedagogy; Juniorate: which is not only a place to learn English language but also a centre to sow the seed of intellectual temper; and College studies/PG: to chalk out concrete programmes to see how a Jesuit reflects on the social realities and signs of the times. Spiritual and intellectual ministries need to be visible. Hence, there should be spiritual and intellectual inputs in all others ministries. It will be helpful to make critical reflection accessible to all – looking at things from different angles. Good practices can be collated and shared with others.



Motivating Jesuits to make learned ministry as a way of life

This should be the defining characteristic of every Jesuit. We should bring in visibility in the intellectual apostolate; make it more attractive. We should call eminent people – academics, scholars, intellectual activists and others – to speak to us from time to time. We need to encourage reading practice and provide opportunity for our men. It will be good to make our conversations in the community -- in the dining hall and in other places -- of some depth and not casual, as is the case in many of our Houses. Our daily homilies can also be of certain standard, which call for our regular reading habits and updating of our knowledge. Our presentations at various fora can reflect intellectual rigour and research. If a Jesuit of a community goes out for some programme or the other, when back, he shares with the community about his experience and engages the community in a serious reflection. Let us identify potential men and send them for higher studies in social sciences and other disciplines. Those in higher education should contribute minimum two articles annually. Ph. D. scholars should contribute minimum one article annually.

One thrust area needed for the Province at this point of time – ‘Depth’

‘Depth’ – spiritual and intellectual – is desirable at every stage and in every sector, whether it be spiritual ministry or intellectual, educational, social and pastoral. There is to be a learned approach to all ministries. Hence, the study of scientific and other academic disciplines will help us go to the root causes of human exploitation and of wounded creation, and guide us in serving the common good. With a sound spirituality and balanced intellect, we will be able “to follow new paths together,

seeking and nurturing authentic partners for our common mission: fostering a genuine culture of care for one another and for our environment". The 'Laudato Si' of Pope Francis poses a challenge before the Ranchi Jesuits to protect 'Mother Earth' before she is destroyed completely. We need to protect our common Mother for the sake of present and future generations so that we "seek a world of peace and harmony".

Depth dimension in various ministries – is one thrust area that is so very important for the Province at this point of time. This depth dimension calls for intellectual, spiritual and emotional maturity. The expectation of depth in all we do calls for training of our men in social sciences, pastoral psychology, spirituality, counseling, indigenous knowledge system and others, to inculcate in them intellectual rigour. In order to promote depth in our Assistancy, we should encourage at least a Master's Degree of our men in whatever ministries they are engaged.

My appreciation and thanks to Ajit Xess, the Chief Editor and his Team, for making the 'Ranchi Jesuit Year Book 2016' a reality in record time. Thanks to the Team for taking care of the minute details in the present publication. I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the province curia for his support. I am grateful to the socius, province consultants, treasurers, province development director (PDD) and province coordinator for formation (PCF), for their guidance and support. Thanks to all the coordinators and members of various commissions of the Province!

My sincere thanks to all Superiors, Rectors and directors of works of various Houses of the Province, including Assam Mission and the Andamans, for their dynamic spiritual and intellectual leadership, which is core to the well-being and vibrancy of the entire Province! We are proud of our men in the mission territories and international and common Houses in Africa, Cambodia, Guyana, Egypt, Israel, Rome. We also take pride in our men contributing their knowledge, wisdom and administrative skills in St. Peter's Seminary Bengaluru, Vidya Jyoti Delhi, Satya Nilayam Chennai, and Tertianship and Juniorate in Sitagarha. We appreciate those at the helm of affairs, to make the zonal collaborative ventures – Central Zone Education Bureau (CZEB), Regional Theological College (RTC), BAGAICHA, and Hoffmann Law Associates -- work. We are encouraged to expand our zonal collaboration to the areas of vocation promotion, formation, higher education and pastoral engagement, etc.

My grateful and prayerful thanks and appreciation to all our benefactors and well-wishers, whose support and good wishes keep sustaining us despite difficulties and hostilities of various kinds. If not for their timely intervention, many of our dreams would be shattered and hopes belied. We keep them and their dreams in our prayers so that this world can be a little better place to live in. The last but not the least, I thank each Jesuit of the Province for his moral and prayerful support which keeps me going in spite of tensions and crisis at various points of time!

God bless us all! God bless Ranchi Province!

The best way to go forward is to go back to the roots!

From Editor's Desk

Ajit Kumar Xess

We are exceedingly happy that we have been successful in publishing yet again another issue of the 'Ranchi Jesuits Year Book 2016'. The last edition in 2015 received tremendous and unprecedented support from all corners. Besides, we got copious applauds on its success and numerous responses on how to make it look brighter as a mark of legacy for the future.

In our last publication, we explored our past and tried to draw the embedded inspiration from our Jesuit heritage. Often, we move away from our roots in the search for our identity. The last edition, as such, had aimed at researching on our past endeavours. We also had intended therein an inward journey ... into the core of our society and its mission. We had tried to look into our strengths and discovered, consequently, an invaluable treasure of positivity among us.

The Ranchi Jesuit Society is proud to acknowledge the great contributions made by the erstwhile Jesuits. In spite of living amidst endless harrowing times, our predecessors lived their Jesuit life magnificently drawing enough inspiration from Ignatian Spirituality. Let us look at how St. Ignatius himself faced troubled spells during the Reformation and how he succeeded in wading against the floods of little philosophy and no faith. He purposefully studied and reflected upon the then opposing forces that almost had drained the whole world of its faith. However, with his resolute fortitude, he did well in retaining the faith of God among the people.

Ours is a fast paced world. Before we even blink, things change for good. Hence, we need to keep pace with the changes around. Adaptation and perseverance are the integral elements for one's survival. As the inheritors of the Ignatian legacy, we have to first appreciate what has been handed down to us. There is huge amount of energy among us. The fire of Ignatian Spirituality is still on and we have to keep its flames burning. The present challenges are undoubtedly very different but with our firm tenacity and trust we are capable of sailing across these obstacles.

The future is definitely bright but we also need a lot of light and hope to see this brightness. We are here to stay come what may. Learning from the past experiences and energized by present accomplishments, we are ready to create our own ways among the people. As the torchbearers, we are to become paragons who discover right paths for others.

Let us then remember words of Benjamin Franklin:

*"If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead,
either write something worth reading or do things worth writing."*

The present issue, therefore, is a clarion call to all of us. Let us put in some precious words to encourage our brethren. Let us write because when we do it, we add our hearts, souls and creativity. The art of writing certainly shares a part of our life with others. Writing is a tested and proven practice to paint our voice that dwells somewhere in the depths of our life. We must express those voices through our writings. As we go through this copy of Annual Year Book, let us resolve to pen

down something. Let us leave our footprints in the sands of time so as to lead a great number of people towards God.

I thank the members of the editorial board for dedicating their fruitful time in reading through your writings and thoughts. Their efforts have borne richer harvest in the past and will bear even more in the future. Without the supervision and foresight of Fr Provincial, this issue of the book would not have been complete in record time. His endeavours are, therefore, indeed commendable.

Finally, let us remind ourselves with these famous lines from St. Ignatius,

“If you want to be of use to others, begin by taking pains with yourself:

The fire that is to enkindle others should be lighted at home.”

A Happy Reading!

Editorial Board

First Row from Left - Ajay Soreng, Xavier Soreng, Michael Kerketta, Francis Minj, Joseph Marianus Kujur (Provincial), Ajit Kumar Xess(Chief Editor).

Second Row from Left - Cyprian Ekka, Francis David Kullu, Aurel Brys, Alexius Tirkey.



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OUR HERITAGE

1. Old Yet Ever Young
2. From Ordinary to Extraordinary
3. India Desk
4. Thy Kingdom Come
5. Fruits of the Mind



India Day Eucharist in Drogenen (Belgium)



Collegians of Manresa House, Ranchi



With Gilbert Lievens at the Chapel, Lievens House



Br Francis Bilung Feeling Young among the Scholastics



Fr Marianus with the sister of V. Van Bortel



Old Bungalow of Apostolic School Ranchi

Old Yet Ever Young

Aurel Brys



First Manresa House Building

“A welcoming Mother House, here we feel at home,” was the spontaneous reaction of many Jesuits when asked what Manresa House meant to them. Even recently Brother Vincent Soreng who has been in East Africa for 43 years said, “Africa is my home now, yet I love to come back to Manresa House Ranchi. I feel very welcome and at home here.” To know Manresa House, the hub of the Province, to be a welcoming mother-house is indeed encouraging.

This Jesuit Residence-cum-Formation House has been in its present shape since 1887. Manresa House has fulfilled the purpose for which it was built for 130 years. In its corridor and chapel great Jesuit stalwarts have stayed, worked, prayed, retired and found solace. Novices, juniors and tertians have found their way and spirituality in the Society of Jesus in Manresa House. The walls, chapel,



Lievens Dera in the Coffee Bagan

refectory and corridors of Manresa House have been a witness to many celebrations and the stories of their bravery. It is in the spacious corridors that the

Fathers and Brothers, seated in the traditional **morhas** (chairs), narrated their inspiring stories and also found new strength. A centre of apostolic activity, a welcome home, a spiritual powerhouse!

In the very beginning Doranda, visited since 1873, was close to the ‘cantonment’ where most of

its Catholics lived (115 confessions in 1876). However, the explosion of missionary activities, the growing numbers and the need for more organization, made it necessary to have “a central house to which all the stations of Chotanagpur Mission could come, where Fathers and Brothers coming to Ranchi on business could stay or make their retreat, where they would recuperate from exhaustion and sickness, and where there would be facilities for formation” according to the words of Fr Motet SJ, in 1885. All felt that “a Superior of ours ought to be in charge of a house of the Society, an important one whose works and schools, etc...would serve the whole



A RANCHI EN 1895 (P. 210)
 Sur l'escalier : FF. Lemoine, D'Cruz, Paquis, Dustin, H. Sabaa
 3^{me} rang : PP. Van der Linden, Berghmans, Seitz, Crohan, Niclas, Laurent
 2^{me} rang : PP. Walrave, Van Hecke, Dasnoy, Desmet, Hoffmann, Cardon,
 Norman, De la Croix, Huyghe, Dehon, Van den Boa
 1^{er} rang : PP. Frencken, Meurice, Depelchin, Banckaert, Mgr Goethals,
 PP. Haghenbeek, Van der Stuyft, Sapart

Manresa House Community in 1895

district.”

Hence, on June 10, 1886, Father Grosjean bought a 45 acre property, famously known as Coffee Bagan (garden), though it was almost only tea, for 8,000 rupees. It was a 1150 by 220 meter plot along the Purulia Road in the heart of Ranchi, divided in two by the Karbala Tank Road. A dream was



Manresa House Building in 1890 and 1911

coming true. It was a challenge, but those missionaries with their deep trust in the Lord thrived on challenges. Fr Mullender, already in 1881, at the sight of the Lutheran compound with its residence, school and church, had said, "This is indeed what we need!"

On October 15, 1886, the first stone of MANRESA HOUSE was laid by its first Superior, Father Motet, who also was the District Superior. The name, suggested by scholastic Van Gerwen, who had spent part of his novitiate at 'Manresa House' Roehampton, in the English Province, takes us to the sacred place in Manresa where St. Ignatius Loyola spent nine hard and defining months. For seven years the missionaries had been impatiently waiting for this central house to which all the residences in Chotanagpur would be attached.

Manresa House – At first, two modest bungalows in one line with a passage in between were built with sun baked bricks from the garden as cement – 185 by 47 feet, with both sides a 14 ft verandah (the famous recreation place), twelve large rooms and two smaller ones. Barely five months later, on March 10, 1887, the Juniorate began with two scholastics, and on April 15, the rest of the community followed. By the end of 1887, Manresa House housed the apostolic community and the tertianship, besides the novitiate and Juniorate, which however would be discontinued soon. The year 1887 was indeed very memorable for Manresa House.

Yet it was only the beginning. On August 7, 1889, Father Lievens shifted from Torpa to Manresa House Ranchi, where at some distance in the west, was built a simple *dera* (accommodation) and chapel which became a hub of missionary activities as crowds began pouring in to Ranchi to see the "Liben Saheb", who in seven heroic years would lay the foundation of the "miracle of the Catholic Chotanagpur Mission".



Wide Corridor of Manresa House

In 1890, the new and more spacious two-storey Manresa House was built with kiln-baked bricks in the prolongation of the old building – ground floor for the community and first floor for the only tertianship at that time in India. Moreover, a broad verandah and two parallel wings were

attached. In 1911, ten more rooms were added on the eastern side to accommodate the 40 members of Manresa House community, including 16 tertians. This is the present Manresa House.

It was from Manresa House that other buildings rose up as part of its apostolic activity. From the very beginning the education and formation of future indigenous priests was a priority. Hence, while St John Berchman's School began in 1887, its imposing building was erected in 1914. St Aloysius Apostolic School came into existence in 1903 and during Fr Grosjean's second stint as Rector of Manresa House, the cathedral (1906 - October 3, 1909) was constructed. The pond of Manresa House was dug for the mud of the bricks with which the cathedral was built. All these were part of Manresa House community, including the Regional Superior's/Provincial's Office until 2002.

The Province Infirmary (1978) came much later, pulling down the 90 year old 'provisional' building, the new refectory with a new kitchen on the ground floor and a hall on top (1976), which departed from the architectural style of the old Manresa House. Lastly, the new wing with 45 rooms and other facilities for the Juniors came up in 1978. While moving along with the changing times, Manresa House has remained true to its tradition and initial purpose – an attractive and much appreciated combination.

Manresa House has been a welcoming mother-house for the whole Chotanagpur Mission and beyond. Besides being a Formation House, it also has remained till today a centre of different apostolic works of the Province. This explains the present constitution of the community:

- The Administration, which till 2002 included the offices of the Provincial, Rector, Minister, Treasurer, in-charge of the kitchen and in-charge of the farm and garden.
- The Province Infirmary and Retirement Home for 12 sick and elderly Fathers and Brothers who officially "Pray for the Church and the Society"! They are a source of inspiration and spiritual support through their prayer and the exemplary way in which they accept their situation. Brother Infirmarian and three lay helpers take loving care of them.



- The Juniorate under the direction of Fr Dean, Fr Prefect and two Spiritual Fathers have 32 scholastics and two priest students who study at St Xavier's College Ranchi.
- One section which makes Manresa House particularly rich houses 13 Fathers and Brothers who are in-charge of or are involved in a variety of Ministries directly depending on Manresa House or which run independently, such as St. Aloysius Minor Seminary (1903), Catholic Press (1928), Xavier Publications (1980), Satya Bharati (1982), Dr Camil Bulcke Institute (1983), Lok Netritwa Nirmaan (1994), Hoffmann Law Associates (2010), and Education Bureau (2014).
- Besides these, Manresa House is open 24x7 for Jesuit and non-Jesuit guests. It means about 3000 guests on an average of nine per day; enjoy the hospitality of Manresa House.

This Mother House called 'Manresa House', where people feel at home, has been a reflection of what the Ranchi Province is all about. Welcome!



Front View of Manresa House Today

From Ordinary to Extraordinary

Aurel Brys

The year 2015 has been memorable for the figures of Rasschaert and Lievens and for India Desk.

Fr. Herman Rasschaert



Memorial of Fr Herman Rasschaert at Gerda

On January 9–10, Fr Provincial Joseph Marianus Kujur, together with Fr Aurel Brys and Fr Cyprian Ekka, visited Kutungia, the memorial place of Martyr Fr Herman Rasschaert. This was in view of a requested article which consequently appeared in 'Jesuits, the 2016 Yearbook of the Society of Jesus' (pp. 88–90).

This article occasioned the Jesuit Curia in Rome to encourage the Ranchi Province to initiate the process towards Beatification of Father Rasschaert. H.G. Vincent Barwa, Bishop of Simdega, to which

Kutungia belongs, has in the meantime given the permission to do so. Fr Rasschaert, a man of deep convictions and sensitivity to the poor and unjustly treated, with a robust physique, considerable religious piety and a deep commitment to Jesus and the people as a missionary, and who was ready to give his life, "will remain a source of inspiration and courage" as Fr Francken expressed in the article. There is considerable devotion to Father Herman Rasschaert SJ and it is hoped that 2016 will set the process on a firm footing.

Fr Constant Lievens

While the "Causa Lievens", the process towards Beatification of Servant of God Constant Lievens, was permitted on 1 November 2000 and initiated on 5 March 2001, and a lot of preparatory work had been done, it was only with the appointment of Rev Bart Geryl in 2001 that the work made good progress. It included much historical research and collecting of witnesses of his



Bishop of Brugge Signs Dossier for Beatification

Fama Sanctitatis. The late Father Flor Jonckheere, Vice Postulator for India, was of great help from 2004 till 2013, after which Father Aurel Brys took over.

On October 17, 2015 during a Solemn Eucharist presided by H.G. Jozef De Kesel, Bishop of Brugge, in Moorslede, the birthplace of Fr Lievens, the dossier of 3500 pages of the Causa Lievens was handed over to and signed by the Bishop. Having been brought to Rome, on January 22, 2016, the process for scrutiny leading hopefully to the Beatification of Fr Constant Lievens SJ, Apostle of Chotanagpur, was solemnly started. Fathers Prem Xalxo SJ and Linus Kujur SJ, both Ranchi Province Jesuits and professors at the Jesuit Gregorian University in Rome, are closely following the process and are ready to give a helping hand if needed. We continue to pray more than ever that the Beatification may, in due time become a reality. It would mean very much for the faith and identity of the faithful of Chotanagpur.

India Desk

Aurel Brys

India Desk had many activities in 2015 for which it was directly responsible or/and in which it has been involved in varying degrees.

Many people and different groups came to India and specifically to the Chotanagpur Mission. A lively group of eight nieces and nephews of Father Brys came in March. Twenty five students of Our Lady's Jesuit High School, Antwerp, came for Live-In Journey in April. A doctor who had just graduated, came for three months and three others studying medicine, came for a month. All of them had tough, fruitful and enjoyable experience at St Ursula Hospital, Lohardaga. Four of the students who

had come before on Live-In Journey, re-visited the places in Ranchi in July which had left a lasting impression on them. Two students came for volunteer service at Kishor Nagar in August. Five Law students came to XISS on an exchange study programme in August. Five relatives visited the places where their aunt and great aunt, the Ursuline Sister Maria Henrietta lived, worked and died. It was



Fr Joseph Marianus Flagging off Lievens Race in Roeselare, Belgium

an emotional and inspiring pilgrimage. At the end of the year 30 students from St Jozef's High School Aalst came on their two-yearly Live-In Journey.

There was plenty of movement in the other direction, from Ranchi to Belgium, in which India Desk gave a helping hand. Fr Thomas of Lievens' Academy Lohardaga visited Belgium with a group



USOS Exchange Programme Antwerp Univ and XISS

times to Belgium, and in particular to the birthplace of Father Lievens in Moorslede. India Desk helped them find their way and make the best of their visit, including three guest lectures by Father Marianus in Leuven and Antwerp Universities respectively.

During the three-month annual India Desk visit of Fr Brys to strengthen the bond and cooperation between Belgium/Holland/Europe and the Chotanagpur Mission, there were several functions. On top of the list was the India Day for 120 friends and benefactors of the Mission. The Adivasi Ursuline Sisters and Brothers of Charity, and Father Xavier Lakra SJ, made the India Day on 27 September in the big Jesuit House of Drongen and the earlier mentioned celebration on 17 October, a very colorful and lively one, which was very much appreciated.

The bond between the people of Belgium and Chotanagpur is very much alive and with the modern communication and easy access, it is growing with the passage of each day. India Desk helps to deepen and strengthen this bond.



Family of Fr Brys visiting tomb of Fr Lievens in Ranchi

Thy Kingdom Come

Ajay Soreng

In the years 1884-1985, the first Missionary to set his foot was Fr Joseph Mullender, SJ, who came from Sarwada Mission Station to Maranghada Market and met some people there. The people welcomed him. Fr Joseph bought one acre of land in the name of R. C. Mission, Maranghada. In 1892 Fr Emile, SJ, established Khunti Parish and Maranghada remained its village chapel. In 1895 Fr Joseph started to build a church there which was completed only in 1915.

Jubilee year is a time of grace. God has been gracious to us. The missionaries brought the Light of Christ to the people of Maranghada. This land must have been wild with forests and jungles, wild animals, no roads, no facilities and hard life. We have to thank the Lord for all that we are today after a hundred years.



The Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration of Maranghada Parish began at 8.00 a.m. with Rt. Rev. Binay Kandulna, DD, Bishop of Khunti Diocese. officiating it and Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Jesuit Provincial and 10 other priests concelebrating with 1500 faithful.

At first a memorial stone of about eight feet high was blessed in which are inscribed all the names of the Parish Priests and Headmasters of Maranghada, an indelible sign of the gratitude of the people to their Pastors and Priests for their presence and contribution.

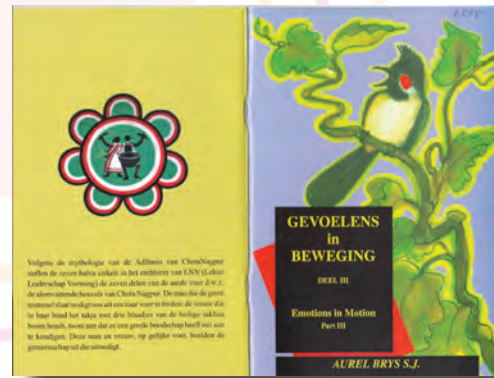
In his homily, His Lordship stressed upon the contribution made by the Jesuit Fathers who worked from the beginning of the foundation of the Parish to this day. He drove this point home through a short story that there was an old man who was planting mango trees all over his compound. A young boy inquired from him, "Will you eat the fruits of the trees you are planting?" The reply came, "Yes, I'm eating the fruits of the trees somebody else has planted around here." The young boy got the message. We have to become men for others. The missionaries who came here were men for others. They did everything for others – started the parish, opened the school, invited the Sisters to come here, and so on. Today we have to do for others what they have done for us.

Fr Provincial in his message to the people stressed the need of keeping up and promoting tribal culture and customs. He said that our language, culture and traditions gave us the identity as tribals. Therefore, while keeping the local identity he also emphasized the need of our becoming national and global.

Publications and Book Reviews

1. Brys, Aurel, *Emotions in Motion, Part III, Ranchi: Sumudran Press, 2015 (76 pgs)*

When reaching the ambiguous landmark of fifty years in the Society of Jesus one looks back with a tinge of regret maybe, but especially with tons of gratitude, and a healthy mixture of emotions that have been swirling within all these years. It's a pleasure to watch them – past and present – in a continuity of motion. 'Emotions in Motion' is a written exchange of emotions, partly autobiographical, and in interaction with others. Giving voice to these feelings in what one daily encounters is a royal path to self-knowledge over the years from the particular to the universal. It is an invitation to the reader to a similar inner journey towards oneness with oneself and with others. Part I of the same appeared in 2009 as the musings of a Jubilarian of 50 years in the Society of Jesus. Part II appeared in 2011. The immediate reason for this Part III of 'Emotions in Motion' in 2015 is the author's 75th birthday and 50 years in India. Originally written in English each poem has been translated in Flemish. In this way 'Emotions in Motion – Gevoelens in Beweging' is a symbol of the bond that exists since more than 150 years between the Flemish people and the Adivasis of Chotanagpur, a treasure which the author fosters through India Desk of which he is in charge.



2. Tirkey, Justin, *Divya Vachan Chintan, Parts A (240 pgs), B (240 pgs), C (243 pgs), Ranchi: Satya Bharati, 2015*



It is a three-volume collection of reflections on the Sunday Gospel readings. They have already been broadcast through Radio Vatican from 2007 to 2015, when the author was head of the Hindi Section of Vatican Radio in Rome. In his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelium Gaudium* Pope Francis says, "In fidelity to the example of the Master, it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded (EG 23). To proclaim the Good news one needs to accept and understand it. 'Divya Vachan Chintan' is a humble effort to help people to read, reflect, and understand the Divine Word proclaimed on that particular Sunday in the Church in the whole world. Each Reflection has the four classical parts of Christian prayer viz. lectio, oratio, meditatio and contemplatio: reading, praying, meditating and contemplating. Responding in daily life is, of course, a logical outcome of this. Appreciating the initiative of publishing the book, Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi, India said, "The Reflections on Sunday Gospel – 'Divya Vachan Chintan' – is a unique gift to the fast growing Hindi speaking Catholic Church in

India. It will definitely inspire, enlighten and encourage the pilgrims to deepen their faith, live their faith and give witness to their faith courageously to one and all.”

3. Dungdung, Mathias, *Udjale Yadon Ke*, Ranchi: Xavier Publications, 2015 (115 pgs)

The present original Hindi book by Dr Fr Mathias Dungdung, SJ, is a masterpiece – a precious gem of his life journey. It is a simple and humble acceptance of God’s blessings and a grateful self returning gift to God. In his autobiography, the author has actually journeyed back with openness and courage recalling only the brighter side of his life and how he has gained grace and confidence to move on. The title ‘Ujale Yadon ke’ itself attracts the attention of the readers. Life is a journey. From eternity we come to this world and into eternity one day we return. In the book, the author has so aptly and skillfully narrated this life journey – ‘Desh Se Videsh’ and ‘Videsh Se Desh’. It is not just a description of his life events; it is an enunciation of his spirituality, philosophy and theology of life. The author has also showed his sense of history of his time. In reading this auto-biography we not only know the author as a person but also find some inspiration and enlightenment for our life.



4. Ekka, Peter Paul, *Palas ke Phool*, trans. Ravi Nandan Sinha, *The Palas Blooms*, Ranchi: Joshi Printers (100 pgs).

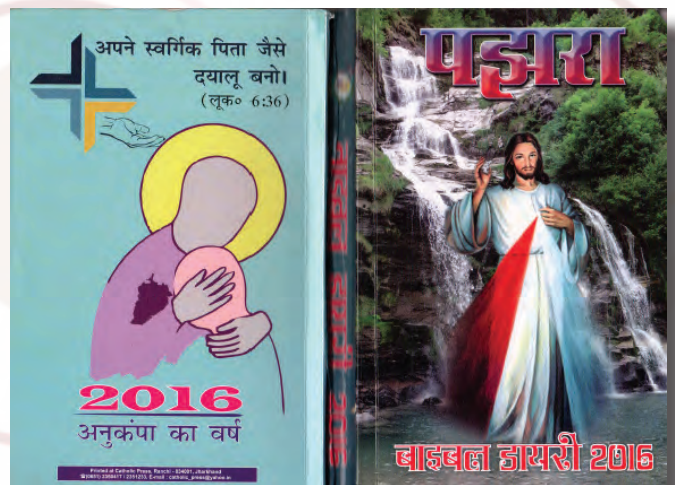
The original Hindi version of ‘Palas Ke Phool’ by popular novelist Fr Peter Paul Ekka SJ was published five years ago. The English translation ‘The Palas Blooms’, beautifully translated by Mr Ravi Nandan Sinha and published by Joshi Printers, appeared in 2015.



5. Jesuit Parish Priests, *Pajhra – Hindi Bible Diary 2016*, Ranchi: Satya Bharati, 2015 (620 pgs).

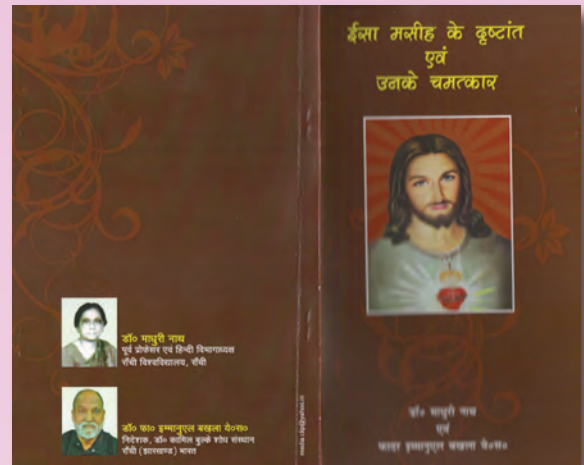
Pajhra – Hindi

Bible Diary 2016 is a collection daily Mass reflection, contributed by the Jesuit pastors of Ranchi Province. It offers rich insights into the Mass readings, especially for those who, due to their busy schedule, do not find much time for preparing their homilies. This collection of reflections, which has insights from the everyday life of the people, makes it a popular handbook for the pastors and laity alike. There is little wonder as to why the subscription in the last one year has increased by more than fifty per cent.



6. Nath, Madhuri/ Baxla, Emmanuel, *Isah Masih Ke Dristant Evam Chamatkar*, Ranchi: 2015.

This book consists of ten parables and ten miracle narrations of Jesus in verse form. This book has been written keeping in mind the four objectives: (a) That children in schools may recite them in religion classes, (b) That these can be made use of in Radio Programmes, (c) That musicians can compose devotional music from them, (d) That they can be made use of for dance dramas. The book is dedicated to Fr (Dr) Camil Bulcke, SJ.



7. Audio cassette production

1. Sandil, Ashok and Tirkey Alex, *Hey Saint John Tu* – A song of St John's School, Dorea.
2. Kandulna, Ashok, *Tor Seva Lagin* – A Sadri devotional song.



MISSION WITNESS

1. Sharing Ranchi Spirit in Rome
- 2. Creating Opportunities in Conflicts**
3. From Eiffel Tower
4. Life of a Missionary in Guyana
5. New Directions
6. Life and Works in the Andamans
7. Instilling Hope Towards a Fuller Life
- 8. Nepal Earthquake: A Theological Reflection**
9. You are Lucky
10. Roots in Ranchi, Heart in Cambodia



Fr Prem with Holy Father in Rome



Vatican Radio Hindi Section in its Golden Jubilee



Ranchi Jesuits with Cambodian Bishop, Priests and Buddhist Monks



Vatican Radio Indian Section



Fr Bimal at flag hoisting in Indian Embassy, Cairo



Fr Manoj with Cambodian Bishop



Fr Isaac invoking gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sharing Ranchi Spirit in Rome

Prem Xalxo

The number of Ranchi Jesuits either studying or having been missioned in Rome has gone up this year. Edwin Ritesh Dungdung, Ravi Hemant Kujur, Kulwant Minj, Edwin Dang and RTC Professor



Biju Sebastian (DUM) form an inimitable group among the students' body of International College of Gesù and Collegio Bellarmino. Sanjay Dilip Ekka has successfully established himself into the vast web of Radio Vatican. Linus Kujur and Prem Xalxo have incorporated themselves fully into the academic ambiance of study and research of Pontifical Gregorian University. Although their experiences of being in Rome vary according to the mission entrusted to them, their common experiences seem to be highly positive resulting from the continuous in-flow of life-giving dose of mutual help, support, encouragement and an exemplary spirit of collaboration amongst them. A brief sketch of their activities could well summarize their experiences in Rome and their fraternal bond.

International College of Gesù

International College of Gesù is well known in Rome for its pleasant atmosphere, hospitality and vibrant community spirit. That is why as soon as Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant landed in Rome in June 2015 for their theological studies, they felt at home within no time. The presence of Kulwant as the senior member and the House Coordinator of the community made their life still more comfortable and relaxing. Both were incredibly fast in picking up the basics of Italian



language, culture, atmosphere, people, food habits and Roman life style. The common language classes for the new comers in the Jesuit Novitiate at Genova and later in Rome helped them not only to learn the Italian language, culture and history, but also to build the community bond. On the first day of regular classes in Gregorian University, both were thrilled to meet and interact with the students from different corners of the world. The rich socio-cultural and linguistic contour of the University has broadened their vision and enthused them to dedicate their full time and energy to pursue their theological studies sincerely. Their senior brother, Kulwant continues to guide and inspire them in the community as well as in their study and spiritual life. Along with other,

he found the community exercise of planning the whole year very effective and fruitful. Suitable planning is sketched out in advance to ascertain the intellectual, spiritual, physical and relational growth of the scholastics. Apart from the studies, the scholastics are encouraged to involve themselves in various apostolate and extracurricular activities of the community as well as those of the University. All of them highly appreciate the occasional community as well as Living Group outings which help them get in touch with the Italian life and culture and to strengthen the fraternal as well the community bond.

Collegio Bellarmino

Edwin Dang feels fortunate to be accompanied and guided by the paternal care of the teaching staff of the Institute of Psychology. The proficiency and the efficiency, with which each seminar and group dynamics are conducted, demand great attention and active participation of all participants. The uniqueness of the Institute rests not only in fostering and creating a collaborative learning ambiance but also in personal accompaniment by means of individual growth sessions or personal didactic psychotherapy. The aim of this collaborative and individual accompaniment is to prepare specialists who could integrate the spiritual and psychological dimensions in the apostolic and educational activities to serve the Church as the effective instruments. He proudly shares with others how the Institute of Psychology has equipped him with the capacity to understand the psychodynamic structure of human person and the basic dialectics of human life. He is gradually learning to discover and grasp the deeper understanding of human behavior and personality traits. The teaching and guiding experiences of Biju Sebastian (DUM) in Ranchi RTC have been instrumental in building a good rapport with the students from Ranchi. Apart from making steady progress in his doctoral studies, he enjoys inspiring and guiding the younger theology students, especially Edwin Ritesh and Ravi Hemant. His excellent culinary talent paves the way for sudden and informal gatherings, which in turn provide apt opportunity for sharing and listening to one another for support, help and guidance.



Radio Vatican



After making a close introspection of his life and mission of eight months at Vatican Radio, Sanjay Dilip finds himself happy and content with the progress made by him within a short period. He fondly recalls the first few weeks in Rome when despite his most basic knowledge of a new language, his community members, young and old, extended every help possible to make him feel at home amidst them. He felt their genuine care and concern for his wellbeing. San Pietro Canisio, the Jesuit community to which he belongs, is also the Infirmary of the International Roman Houses. Hence, his community resembles that of the community of Ranchi Manresa House, where the seasoned Jesuits now confined to the Infirmary always show great interest in meeting, talking and interacting with him. Even outside the Infirmary, he could feel tremendous measure of love and care by the entire community because of his being a young, serviceable and sociable priest. The work proper at Vatican Radio seemed tough in the beginning, but the toughness handled with extra-toughness gave rise to confidence. Now he feels at ease amidst diverse temperament and personalities at the work place, and he is determined to carry forward the mission entrusted to him with diligence, dedication and sincerity.

Pontifical Gregorian University

Like the students of Pontifical Gregorian University, Edwin Ritesh, Ravi, Kulwant, Edwin and Biju Sebastian, Linus and Prem are making the best use of the opportunities, facilities and time for serious research and study apart from their primary mission of teaching and writing-publishing as required by the University. Last year, 'Gregorian Centre for Interreligious Studies' was brought into existence by R.P. Rector to bring persons of different cultures and religions together, respecting their own freedom to search for that truth which liberates human beings and helps live together in harmony and peace. The Center aims to go beyond the boundaries of the University, but the working ground remains the Gregorian campus. The Centre has two Directors: one for Islam and another for Religions of Asia. While they coordinate the



Wine to Promote Lievens Beatification

studies and invite scholars of different religions for public conferences, Linus coordinates those conferences and seminars to ensure participation and the desired outcome. After the promulgation of *Laudato si'*, the Ranchi Jesuit Province had organized a Round Table Conference at XISS on 13 August. After many sessions of serious reflections and discussions amongst a group of Professors coordinated by Prem, a similar Round Table Conference was held on 30 November. Enthused by the growing curiosity, awareness and interest on ecological questions, the students of the Faculty of History, Art and Culture created a beautiful ecological Crib in the quadrangle of the University under the guidance of Prem. Except for the water colors, all the material used were either recyclable or discarded ones. An excellent way of propagating and putting into practice the ecological message of Pope Francis was appreciated by one and all.

Submission and Public Opening of *Acta* for the Beatification of Fr Constant Lievens

The submission of the documentation of the testimonies about the life and virtues of the Servant of God, called *Acta* (Acts) to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and its public opening were two significant events connected to the beatification process of Fr Constant Lievens. Thanks to Rev. Don Bart Geryl and his Collaborators, who dedicated their time and energy to complete the *Acta* and came down to Rome from Belgium on 2 November 2015 to submit it to the Congregation. On 3 November 2015, Linus and Prem, and three St. Anne's Sisters Mata Alma Xalxo, Anupa Kujur and Ranjita Minj accompanied Don Bart to the Congregation for submission of the *Acta*. They, in fact, represented the full-flowering of the missionary works of Fr Lievens, and also bore testimony of a vibrant and ever-growing Church of Chotanagpur. On 21 January 2016 the beatification process moved one more step forward with the public opening of the *Acta of the Process* in the Aula Magna of the Congregation. The letter of H. Exc. Josef de Kesel, Archbishop of Brugge, which communicated the completion of the diocesan phase of Postulation, was opened in the presence of P. Anton Witwer, Jesuit Postulator General, his assistant P. Marc Lindeijer and the Canon Law students of Gregorian University. Then the seal of the Box containing the layers of the documentation of the testimonies about the life and virtues of the Servant of God was broken. To celebrate those two significant events, R.P. Provincial was offered by Ranchi Jesuits a bottle of wine especially marketed by the Diocese of Brugge to propagate the cause of Fr Constant Lievens. Now with completion of the Diocesan phase of the beatification process, the responsibility of the faithful of the Church of Chotanagpur has increased manifold to pray ardently and bear fruits of faith sown by Fr Constant Lievens so that the fire continues to burn ... And he receives a place in due time in the company of the Saints!



Preparing the Documents for Presentation

Creating Opportunities in Conflicts

Bimal Kr. Kerketta

The year 2015-16 was an eventful year for me. For the first time in the history of Near East Province, three Egyptian Jesuit Deacons were ordained priests on three occasions (January 17, July 23 and July 25) in their own Coptic rite dioceses. Majority of the Jesuit candidates join after having a job experience in various fields in the competitive world. I had seen all of them from the time of joining the novitiate. To add to the bounty, three Egyptians and one more from Lebanon took their first vows. Two joined in the first year; one from Alexandria, a Jesuit vocation after 33 years from that place. The other candidate is from Jordan who had come to know the Jesuits through websites/Jesuit publication books. He had a very good job in Dubai for the last eight years. Thus the Lord keeps working wonders. To be the Socius to the Novice Director for the Adult novices is a unique experience.



It takes you to learn and teach, sharing their life journey in the field of computer, business, art, spirituality.....etc. God bless their decision and guide them as they leave the lucrative jobs and join the Society of Jesus.

Fr Bimal with Near East Provincial at Maronite Holy Mass

I was equally occupied full time in one of our French medium boys' middle school in Cairo. Being there for two years, I had known the students, parents and the system of the school as it has a history



of more than 130 years. Majority of the children come from well off nuclear families and here the challenges begin. For vacations, foreign trips are common. Parents are busy in their jobs day and night. Hence, scarcity of time for their children is a perpetual problem.

August 1-5 were celebrated as Jesuit Youth Conference Days in Alexandria. About 500 participants were accommodated under a huge campus with all the latest facilities. Benefactors and sponsors generously supported for the success of the cause. More than 30 Jesuits and religious nuns were there as moderators. Many youth do not get the opportunity to participate in other international events. Hence, the Jesuits try to arrange it once in three years for the youth coming from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and Palestine. It was amazing to see various cultures coming together under one umbrella.

Whenever time permits, I avail myself for any need such as the celebration of Coptic/Latin rite Holy mass celebrations in Arabic and English, sacrament of reconciliation, spiritual guidance, talks, etc. My work and mission began in Egypt 13 years ago. It keeps unfolding everyday as it is the land of civilization, history, religion, culture and art. There is hardly a day which passes unnoticed without talking/sharing about incredible India.

God bless Near East & Maghreb Jesuit Province!

Would you like to become a Jesuit?



From Eiffel Tower

Samir Dungdung

The historical city of Paris with its Eiffel Tower welcomingly greets people from all over the world from all walks of life. Two years ago when I landed here, I had mixed feelings of uncertainties, doubts and fears of the foreign land, language, culture and rigorous learning and that of enthusiasm to discover new avenues of life. It is rightly said, if you begin with certainties, you end up with uncertainty and if you begin with uncertainty, you end with certainty. Having spent two fruitful years I have such sentiments and I am content to gather and share the moments of struggles and joys of growing. My Paris-mission could be presented in three parts, namely academic, apostolate and exposure to the Ignatian places.

The Academic

Learning French: Scarcely had I arrived at Paris on 11 July 2014, I started learning French. Learning a new language with students from different nationalities, younger than I, was altogether a unique and different experience though sometimes quite painful giving me an inkling of Ignatius' experience of learning Latin.

Studying Ignatian Spirituality

Going through some of the principal Ignatian sources brought me immense joy which enhanced and deepened my understanding of Ignatian Spirituality and that of the Society of Jesus. Having pursued them painstakingly for the first time, I discovered the rich heritage ingrained in them. I basically



went through: *Introduction to Karl Rahner's Theology*, *Pedro Arrupe's Spiritual Writings*, *Ignatius's Spiritual Journal*, *Autobiography of Ignatius*, *The Constitutions*, *The Exercises*, *The Jesuits: A history from Ignatius to the Present*, *Theology of the Religious Life*, and few articles related to Ignatian Spirituality.

The Apostolate

In so far as my apostolate is concerned, I accompanied a young group of people in the camp (MEJ-Eucharistic Movement of Youth). Every morning, I gave them a short reflection on the Gospel reading of the day for prayer. Celebration of mass with them and confessions were usual spiritual activities. I also had opportunities to administer the sacrament of confession in nearby Jesuit school in preparation of Christmas and Easter besides celebrating mass with Assumption sisters twice in a month. Though in small ways, these experiences helped me to break from the monotony of the routine life.

The Exposure to Ignatian Places

I visited a few places of Ignatian importance in order to understand the Ignatian sources well and grow in the experience, namely: Rome, Loyola, Xavier Castel, Montserrat, Manresa, Barcelona and places in Paris. I am very grateful to my Jesuit brothers who showed me great affection for accommodating me in their communities and as guides to the above-said places. It gave me a sense of belonging to the same Universal Society. It was thrilling and joyous to witness the places where St. Ignatius lived.



Life of a Missionary in Guyana

Amar Bage



In Guyana mission, with the coming of Fr Mark Mukul, we are now four Jesuits, Fr Elias Surin, Fr Anil Tirkey and Fr Amar Bage. Each one of us is commissioned in four different areas. Fr Anil serves as an assistant in the city with mixed culture of Indians, Africans, Amerindians, Chinese and in recent time Brazilians with Fr Tony SJ, shepherding ten parishes altogether. Fr Anil says that they are very friendly and welcoming people. Mark Mukul is in Berbice a small town where majority of the Indian communities live. This was the community brought by British government to work in the cane and paddy fields. The atmosphere of Berbice is very much Indian so he feels very close to India and rather he feels, as if he is in India. Fr Elias is

in the mountain called Pakaraimas with beautiful creeks and water springs. Though in the midst of natural beauty, this is the most difficult mission area in Guyana. Amidst lack of transportation and communication, life could be miserable. However, Fr Elias because of his missionary spirit and zeal has proved to be strong and did overcome all those hardships and difficulties and is enjoying his mission. He works among the indigenous people of Guyana. Similarly Fr Amar also works among Amerindians with the indigenous communities in the North West of Guyana. He takes care of 31 communities/parishes with two other Guyanese priests Fr Malcolm and Fr Marlon as his assistants.

Our work in Guyana mission comprises sacramental, pastoral and social and lay formation activities. We are busy organizing seminars and workshops for the formation of lay leaders. The role of the



Lord save us...



Sermon on the Mount

ministers of the Holy Eucharist is very important in this mission. Fr Anil provides food to the poor students, sick and old citizens in many different places.

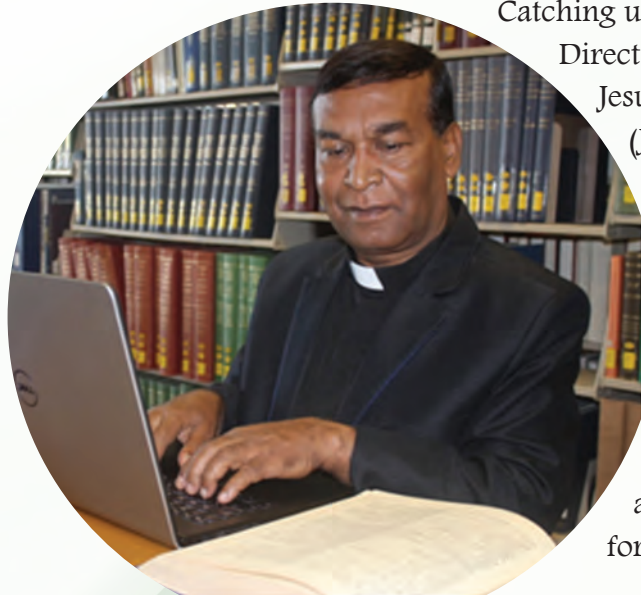
In the interior mission, believers thrive innumerable, but they lack abode of worship in some of the communities, especially in the North West mission. They worship in the school buildings or in some families. Fr Amar is trying to help the communities to put up some structures by motivating them. So far there has been very positive response from the believers.

In Guyana mission we feel that we are privileged to serve the people of God. He has blessed us with good health, joy and happiness. We extend our best wishes to all the missionaries, religious and lay collaborators happy and joyful mission. May God bring fruits in abundance in this mission!

New Directions

Sudhir Kumar Kujur

Catching up with the periodic assignments for the courses, ‘Spiritual Direction Practicum’ and ‘Ignatian Vision and Cultures’, at the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University Berkeley (JSTB), California!



Founded in 1973 as the Institute of Spirituality and Worship, the ‘New Directions’, now more than 40 years since its inception, it continues to maintain the programme legacy. It aims at a desirable depth of interaction among participants who, after many years of ecclesial ministry on various capacities – administrators, formators, and pastors – seek personal integration, vocational renewal and guidance for new direction, orientation and meaning for the next phase of their life.

In the increasing globalization of the 21st century, Church always reforms. Today, more than in the past, the ecclesial ministers need to understand the Councilor teaching to internalize its spirit and to grow in every way possible in its grace. Reflecting Pope Francis’ exhortation in “Evangelii Gaudium” to all ecclesial ministers to become effective witnesses to the Gospel, ‘New Directions’ programme at JSTB equips them with interior resources and mature interpersonal and pastoral skills so as to be effective, joyful missionary disciples.

Programme stability is rooted in a broad spectrum of fundamental resources – the vibrant JST worshipping community, which includes over 80 Jesuits from different Provinces round the globe, profound theological and spiritual resources, competent and recognized spiritual directors and, of course, to the joy of all, the natural beauty and cultural bounty of the San Francisco Bay Area on the Pacific Ocean.

Life and Works in the Andamans

David Bara

The Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises about 525 Islands situated in the Bay of Bengal. Its total area is 8249 sq. km. with a population of 356,265 (Census 2001). Port Blair is the Capital of the Union Territory. In the Diocese of Port Blair, we have people from all over India belonging to different religions. There are 14 parishes in the Diocese and 7 Jesuits are working in 3 parishes remarkably – Diglipur, Ramnagar and Prothrapur. Spiritual Director of the Diocese Fr George Beck from Dumka Province is residing at Stella Maris Cathedral.

Small Christian Communities (SCC)

Small Christian Communities, known in Hindi as Laghu Christia Samudai (also known as Basic Christian Communities) are the communities that help Christians to live like early Christian Communities, which were believing, praying, loving and sharing. They offer personal insight into the Word of God and its significance for daily living. “They are a solid starting point for a new society based on a civilization of love” (Redemptoris Missio 51).

In the diocese of Port Blair, promoting small Christian Communities is of topmost priority in all the parishes (ER 705.15). The priests/religious are expected to be active in this pastoral apostolate of the parishes and the diocese (ER 107.a.1, 303.10). The indispensable role of the laity in the mission of the Church needs to be emphasized here. The laity is the most important missionaries of the Gospel to reach out to the people. Hence, once established, these SCC shall effectively provide a forum at the grass-root level to participate in the life of the Church.

Spiritual Ministry

My main mission is spiritual ministry. Here people have a deep faith and they are very eager to listen to the word of God. In the parishes there are many Associations like *Mahila Sangh*, *Catholic Sabha*, Youth, Charismatic group and *Maria Sena* (Legion of Mary). The parish priest is very much associated with these groups. His responsibility is to cater to the laity through talks, seminars, recollections and sacraments. People also come seeking spiritual guidance.

Youth Ministry

The central body of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Youth Association is called ANYMA (Andaman Nicobar Youth Movement and Action). It has its units in every parish. As we are looking after the three parishes of the diocese we are also involved in youth ministry. Looking at the present scenario, youth ministry becomes very challenging when youth is bombarded with so many ideas from all directions. There is influence of modernization, ‘use and throw’ culture, mass media, print media, electronics media, etc. Most of the Adivasi youth of Chotanagpur cannot go for higher studies due to their poor economic condition. Some of the youth are working as daily wagers in different offices and places in order to earn their livelihood. Another burning issue we find is that the youth,

especially boys have no interest in the Church activities. They have almost drifted away from the Church.

Another glaring concern is their aimlessness in life. They study but have no purpose in life. The Adivasi community is under General category. As a result, it becomes very difficult to get job in government departments.

In this critical situation, we are carrying out our youth ministry through activities, such as, seminar, workshop, youth festivals, retreat, games, sports and cultural show in order to give them awareness, to set their aim and discover meaning in life. They may become aware of their social, economic, political, moral and religious life situation. The aims and objectives of arranging these activities are: to develop leadership quality, to make them aware of social evil and their solutions, to deal with problems of youth and solve them, to organize cultural activities to give them a sense of unity and identity, and to foster Catholic principles and ideals.

Vocational Training Programme

Typing Centre: The typing centre is for the youth of Diglipur to have better job opportunities in Government and Private Sectors. This centre has been started and is running successfully benefitting many students irrespective of caste and creed. To have the knowledge of typing is quite important in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The students who cannot afford to pay high fee in the city come to our typing centre and learn. The centre has both Hindi and English type writers. Short and long courses of six months and one year respectively are offered by this institute. After the completion of the course students are issued certificates.

Computer Centre: Along with typing, the basic knowledge of computer is a must. The centre gives special attention to the poor and the marginalized, who do not have the means to meet their expenses in the town. It offers certificate and diploma courses in computer application. At present there is only one computer center at Diglipur in which 16 students are pursuing their computer education.



Instilling Hope Towards a Fuller Life

Xavier Lakra

The Assam Mission is a budding mission.

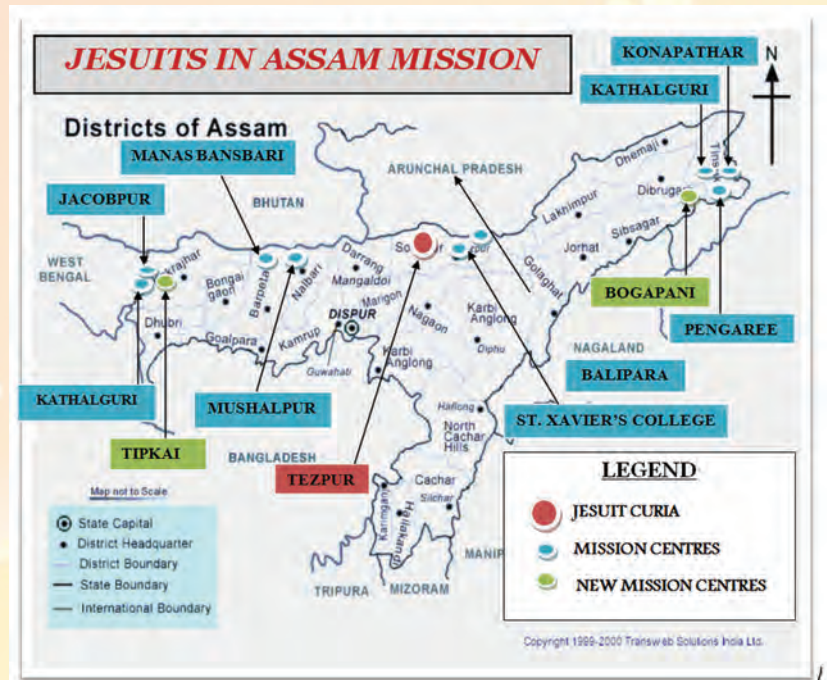
New initiatives have already begun from the scratch and it clearly enumerates the existential situation of the mission. There is no gain without pain and Assam mission is not an exception. The flashback of the mission is a reminiscence of its survival even in the darkest and the most difficult circumstances.

There was no proper infra structure to start

with. Assam Mission, today, is steadily marching ahead with its glorious past, challenging the present and a hoping for a successful future. Assam Jesuit Mission consists of 7 major centers aligned with different sub-centers where a lot of developmental activities are going on.

Balipara Parish

Balipara is one of the main mission stations of the region. A multipurpose hall which is recently constructed on the top of parish church building adds up a new aesthetic outlook to Balipara parish. The hall is equipped with all the necessary facilities: ceiling fans, electric lights, a stage and 400



chairs to accommodate people for various gatherings, such as cultural programmes, marriage classes, meetings for Mahila Sangh, Catholic Sabha, Youth and Krusveer, etc.

St. John's school Balipara

St. John's English Medium School is the first Jesuit school in the mission, which was started



at Balipara in 1999. Of late, the matriculation results are getting better than before. The improvement in the quality of education is catching the attention of many parents far and wide. The school hostel has around 100 students who are making the best use of the available facilities. Scholastic Marius, the hostel in-charge, is efficiently discharging his duties. A new Refectory for the hostel boys was constructed last year. A new cooking system with steam is installed to avoid unnecessary firewood consumption.

To cater to the need of students coming from far flung areas, the school bought a new school bus last year. More than 80 students commute by bus every day. The Holy Cross convent and the Girls' Hostel are equipped with solar light and clean drinking water facility in their campus. Kochubil village chapel was completed and blessed on 11 October 2015 by Fr Xavier Lakra, SJ

Kathalguri in the western part of the Mission

Kathalguri mission centre has no electricity connection from the government. Nevertheless the solar power plant of 15KVW which is installed in the school campus, sufficiently serves the daily purpose without interruption. Twenty-five computers are running everyday during the practical classes. Last year a new school bus was bought to facilitate the students from different centres. The number of the students now has swelled up to 900.

Jacobpur

St. Joseph school Jacobpur is the first school which was started in the new mission station in 2002. Till last year the school building had no roof to shelter the students. Both children and staff had to face natural difficulty of heat and rainfall. Children run around and enjoy their leisure time under the blue-colored tinned roof. It looks beautiful and is fast attracting many. As a result, the number of students has gone up this year.

St. Xavier's School, Tipkai, is one of our feeder schools, 40 km away from Loyola School Kathalguri. There are 70 students up to class IV. The school building was in a thatched roof but now we have made 6 concrete rooms. We optimistically see a ray of hope here.

Pengaree

Pengaree centre is much developed under EDUCO, the brainchild initiated by two Irish lay people, namely Mr Owen Finnegan and Mr Grattan Boylan. Last year a Convent for the Daughters of St. Anne was constructed. A Multipurpose Hall-cum-Parish Church of Pengaree is getting ready with only finishing touch to be given. The blessing of the Church-cum-Convent is fixed on 31 March 2016. Prabhat Tara School, Bogapani which is close to Digboi has now got 2 new rooms for LKG and UKG and a good cycle stand.



Manas Bansbari

The foundation of a multipurpose hall for St. Xavier's School was laid on 5 October 2015, which is taking shape at a good speed. St. Xavier's School, Manas Bansbari, had no hall for any function of the school. This was one of the great needs of the school. The casting of the roof is done and the brick works are in progress and soon the fixing of windows, doors and ventilation will be completed. Along with this the Presbytery construction has also started in the month of November 2016, as for a long time we were staying in the teachers' quarter with limited conveniences.

Mushalpur

The construction of the Convent for the Sisters of Our Lady of Graces was completed last year.

St. Xavier's College Sonabheel

A 300-bedded boys' hostel is coming up very fast. The third storey is getting ready. In the meantime, there is also a great need of clean drinking water facility. The setting up of fire extinguishers is also pending. Last year, the 20 feet broad road all along the college campus was made and the building is connected with the roads for easy accessibility. Two new staircases were made



in the Junior College section. One big cycle shed was also build. All along the College compound a variety of trees are planted.

Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur

A new computer section was started for the poor and marginalized section of the people in Gana Chetna Samaj to empower our people through the knowledge and skill of computer science. In the month of September–October 2015, the tribal dance competitions were organized in many places, to promote and preserve the culture. A new audio–visual cassette was produced by Gana Chetna Samaj.

Jesuit Curia Office Tezpur

The Treasurer’s Office has been furnished with new almirahs to keep the files intact and in a proper way. More almirahs were purchased for the Delegate and for the Office of the treasurer to keep the records safe and intact.



Fr Provincial with the Directors of the works and the Treasurers in Assam

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE - A Theological Reflection

Bipin Tirkey

Vidya Jyoti, Delhi

It was a fulfilling experience to be part of the Nepal Jesuit Social Institute's (NJSI) relief work. We stayed constantly with the affected people. We went as volunteers through NJSI and visited the three most affected districts – Gorkha, Dhading and Sindhupalchowk. This exposure programme helped us understand comprehensively the life situation of the survivors of the Nepal earthquake.

Under the leadership of Fr Boniface Tigga SJ, the Nepal Jesuits focused primarily on immediate relief. The NJSI was established in response to the disaster. Its guiding principle being “Reach the unreached, most vulnerable”, the NJSI through various Jesuit institutions, students, staff and collaborators, supplied emergency relief assistance to six thousand plus households in 34 villages in the ten most affected districts of Nepal.



What remains evergreen in our memories is the smile on the face of every child we met in the schools and on the winding mountain treks. Their smiles were as pure as the mountain air and the streams flowing down the hills. This must have been the Transfiguration experience too, so much so that Peter wanted to remain there.

- » **A Sense of being sent:** Being with them in their sorrow, we were energized as they allowed us to enter into their lives. We did not preach the good news of Jesus Christ, but went around visiting families and listened to them. By listening to their stories, we were often confronted with many disturbing questions. We made efforts to share the act of charity which is the tangible expression of God's mercy, compassion, love and support to the people in great need. Through this act of ours they experienced the presence of divine in their lives.
- » **Experience of healing:** Seeing the massive catastrophe one instinctively cries out – why this God? However, looking at it from the point of view of blessing in disguise, although the disaster has broken the houses, it has also united many families. The lost ones have been found, and their unity has vanquished the air of discontent in life. A new lease of life sparkles as many have decided to remain with their elderly parents, who once were deserted.
- » **People's will power:** The people displayed tremendous will power, overcoming all their traumatic experiences. Though their earnings are lost, they live content without cursing God. They took the disaster positively and accepted the reality. For instance, one of our companions shared that an elderly woman said that God took away everything that He had given her, but He would surely give back what she had lost, which is very biblical found in Old Testament Job 1:21, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”
- » **A sharing Community:** The replica of the early Christian community was blissfully evident

as they shared their belongings with the needy. After the earthquake, the amount of sharing with the needy that was witnessed in Nepal even from beyond the borders, was incredible.

» **Laborious Nation:** As Nepal limps back from this massive blow, we see a silver lining. It pointed to us the great strength the Nation has and how God operates so uniquely and mysteriously through different agents and individuals (Nepalese or foreigners), many organizations (at home and abroad), and the local governments. The Vidya Jyoti students and many others played a significant role in helping Nepal rebuild itself. We applaud their works.

» **The Good Samaritans:** We have fascinating examples of Good Samaritans, like a Doctor from Sindh, Pakistan, who rushed to the remotest village of Melamchi to provide medical camps, and a business man from Punjab who rushed to the same spot with tin sheets. Even today there are many who are willing to walk their extra mile to reach out to the needy brothers and sisters.



» **The unseen presence of the Holy Spirit:** The formation of New NGOs, like NJSI and others as a response to this calamity is yet another mighty work of Holy Spirit. The Nepal Jesuits, besides contributing to the education of the urban elites, are now able to spread their wings in the rural areas by establishing their social and educational units in various backward districts of the country.

» **Death and resurrection Experience:** Loss of property and loved ones was the Good Friday for these people. But what has happened to them and what has been done for them subsequently is a resurrection experience for them. They don't have resentment against God or government's apathy. In spite of the agonizing experience they smile, laugh and appreciate the present moment with hope.

» **Life of Hope:** The earthquake has shown us the strength that we find if we work together. We participated in the suffering of the survivors in a limited way but experienced the imminent power of resurrection. In our encounter with the survivors we were inspired by their dignified life in spite of the catastrophe. We learned to give and receive during our stay. As the tremors continue to shake Nepal, let us continue to extend our solidarity so that the tremors don't break them. Withstanding all rumors, negativity and pessimism, may they charge ahead with courage and determination!

“You are Lucky”

Alexius Tirkey

I am very lucky to have met Pope Francis personally in Rome during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Vatican Radio, South Asia Section. The Jubilee celebration started on 16 May 2015 with a thanksgiving Mass in Palatso Pio, the Chapel of Vatican Radio. Fr Lisbert D’Souza, SJ, the Regional Assistant of South Asia was the main celebrant. After the Eucharistic celebration Fr Andrea Koproski, SJ, the Programme Director of the



Vatican Radio, officially inaugurated the Jubilee and most significantly “Divya Vachan Chintan” (Sunday Reflection Year A, B and C) of Fr Justin Tirkey, SJ, was released.

Miss Juliet Christopher informed the assembly that in 1965 three Indian languages, namely, Malyalam, Hindi and Tamil were added in the Vatican Radio. It was 1985 when these three languages of Vatican Radio continuously broadcast the events for hours when Pope John Paul II visited India from 31 January to 11 February 1985.

Since then the Vatican Radio Hindi section, has expanded to all Hindi speaking areas. Now there are more than 4000 radio listeners, among whom more than half are Hindus and Muslims.

I went to Belgium from Rome and visited Fr Constant Lievens’ village. Mr Erik Leveugle, the man on the spot for India Desk, took me round. In the farmhouse where Fr Lievens was born, I met Gilbert Lievens, his great grandson and family. I visited all the historical places of Fr Lievens. This was another lucky event in my life that I will always remember. In Louvain, I met the missionary Fathers Antony Delporte, Raymond Jacques and Karel Van who went back to Belgium after many years of missionary works in India.

I am grateful to Fr Provincial, Fr Andrea Koproski, Fr Melwin Pinto, Fr Justin, Fr Prem, Fr Auel Brys, Mr Erik Leveugle and the Ursuline Sisters in Belgium in a special way; because of them my trip to Rome and Belgium was possible.

Roots in Ranchi, Heart in Cambodia

Manoj Ekka

As a Missionary, since last 11 years I am serving the Lord and His People in Cambodia, especially the handicapped, the poor and needy. Working with the poor is a blessing; they teach me a lot how to be more human. The smiling faces of the poor are my strength. They become my new family in foreign land.

For the last five years I have been working specially with youth and children in a Parish. It is a great joy to be like children. They are the future hope of the Church. In the context of Cambodia, the church is taking rebirth after the war. The people of Cambodia have suffered and given their lives for their children. The fight is still on. In this situation, the church is playing a prophetic role.

Missionary Approach: When I was Assigned as a parish Priest of St. Andrew Church Nikum Battambang, very few children and youth were participating the church activities. There was no life in the church; youth did not know to sing church hymns. I took this as a challenge for myself. To make church more alive and vibrant I started Cambodian traditional dance practice for children and youth in the church compound. This dance practice brought them together. These children are participating not only in dance practices but also in other activities of the church. I allowed them to participate in catechism, faith formation, and value education classes for those who wish. The dance practice is the means to sow the seed of faith in their lives. Now these children who were in the first batch became the leaders for other children. Because of these children now parents are also coming to the church even though they are Buddhist. Some of them express their desire for Baptism.

Challenges: My life in Cambodia is full of challenges and opportunities. I spent years in learning the peoples' language and adapt and accommodate the new culture and way of life in Cambodia. However, once I communicated with them in their own language, I was accepted as one of them. As they have many differences among them due to conflicts and war situations, they seem to be losing their hope and trust in one another. I tried to be part of their hard realities of life and trying to instill in them faith, hope and love. This is how, I am trying to build human communities.





MISSION THROUGH COMMISSIONS

1. Shaping Young Minds
2. Much to Communicate
3. Province Power House of Another Kind
4. Forming Men for Universal Mission
5. Broadening the Formation Horizon
6. Ever to Love and to Serve
7. Shepherds with the Smell of the Sheep
8. Giving Everyone a Voice
9. Education: A step Towards Boston Thrust





Inter Jesuit Schools Sports & Cultural Fiesta



The Visit of Jose Magadia, the General Counsellor for Formation to Ranchi Province



Natioanal Athletes and Basketball players with Mr Hemant Soren, the Leader of the Opposition



Inter Schools co-curricular Activities



Shaping Young Minds

Anand Amar Beck

Ranchi Province Youth Commission functions in 4 different segments namely – Jeevan Prawesh, AICUF, CLC, and Parish Youth. These four segments have their own space and time for organizing the programmes for the youth at different levels. We do bring all these groups in one platform, under the umbrella of MAGIS. Many significant efforts have been made and quite a good number of events and activities were organized by different entities of the Youth Commission.

Jeevan Prawesh

Fr Solomon Barwa, SJ, the director of Jeevan Prawesh (a life orientation programme), has been working for the youth for two decades or so along with three of his well experienced youth animators. According to him, working with youth is interesting and adventurous. His seminars are mainly conducted for the high school boys and girls. From June 2015 to mid February 2016, he has conducted 13 Jeevan Prawesh seminars in 13 schools. Approximately, 1238 students (590 boys and 648 girls) have so far actively participated and enormously benefitted from them.



All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF)

AICUF, a young and powerful brigade of the college going students has always been trying to channelize the energy and creativity towards People's Movement and conscientizing the people



towards welfare. Fr Swarn Tigga, SJ, the person in charge of the AICUF, has been able to lead and guide it in right ways.

In March 2015, AICUF, with its 200 hundred students actively participated in an annual anniversary of protest against Netarhat Field Firing Range at Joki Pokhar. The students stayed overnight in the Netarhat valley and supported the People's Movement and joined their voices for the cause. The energetic students gave their helping hands to the organizers of the protest rally by taking up full responsibility of the stage and the program.

A four-day Social Analysis course had also been arranged for the AICUF students at Paramveer Albert Ekka Memorial College, Chainpur. About 100 boys and girls gathered from Ranchi, Torpa, Gumla and Chainpur. Talks and documentary films on the tribal issues, like witchcraft, Land Acquisition Bill, History of Tribals, PESA Act, etc. triggered the interest of the students to discuss, deliberate and reflect on these socio-economic-political concerns.

A Leadership Camp had been arranged in Tongo from 17 to 21 October 2015. Roughly, 70 students, who were mostly new members of AICUF, participated in it and learnt some basic leadership skills. The new members were introduced to the history and the ideology of AICUF so that they could understand the purpose of their joining the group.

Fifteen AICUF members had gone to AICUF Ashram Bhopal for the National AYCM seminar. It was an enriching experience for them as topics like – fundamentalism, tribal heritage, tribal history, culture and its challenges, human trafficking, AICUF History, etc. were dealt in detail. A similar National AYCM Seminar will be hosted in Ranchi in 2016.

Parishes and Schools

Youth ministry has expanded itself far and wide and has made its precious presence felt not only in the bigger institutions in the cities but also among the small units of society in the rural areas, especially in the parishes and schools. Tongo is the oldest mission station of the Jesuits in Gumla



Diocese. The youth here mainly comprises Oraon speaking boys and girls who are mostly school and college going students, besides a considerable number of unorganized village youth. It's overwhelming to see 2000 young boys and girls who are the active members of Tongo Parish Youth. Frs Philemon Ekka and Tej Kumar Baxla shepherd them in their human-Christian life.

This year, the youth of Tongo had organized many activities in order to give good formation to the youth. In this initiative, they started with a three-day Jiwan Prawesh seminar under the leadership of Fr Solomon and his team. They also had a three-day retreat under the guidance of Fr Sylverius Chermarko. In the month of November 2015, the same group of youth had a one-day motivational seminar by Fr Ashok Kujur, SDB. Fr Ashok, with his powerful words and actions inspired the youth to live a better life. Having attended these programmes the youth seemed stimulated intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. Most of them expressed that through the programmes they collected enough of gems for their life. Having attended these programs, the parish youth looks look very energetic and organized at the moment.

It is remarkable to find regular gathering of big chunks of youth for their meeting every month. Undoubtedly, these types of gatherings give opportunities for the young boys and girls to express themselves. Consequently, whenever there are programmes or functions in and outside the Church campus, youth is ever ready to help the Church. It is a significant point to be noted. Thus, they have been playing their roles effectively in the making of the Church.

With their own initiative, Tongo parish youth had organized a very successful football tournament both for boys and girls under the supervision of Tongo youth coordinator, Fr Philemon Ekka, SJ, in September 2015. The purpose behind organizing such tournaments is to bring the youth together and to motivate them to be in unity. Cheers for the football team of Tongo which participated in the Inter Jesuit football tournament held at Gumla and winning the third place!

A three-day seminar-cum-rally was organized for the Christian Living Communities (CLCers) of Khunti Diocese from March 22 to 24, 2015. About 700 boys and girls from 12 schools and parishes participated in the programme. His Lordship, Bishop Vinay Kandukna,



officiated at the liturgy and inaugurated the programme on March 22, 2015. Fr Augustine Kujur, SJ, Frederick Kujur, SJ and Deepak Toppo, SJ, stirred up a huge gathering of youth speaking on the theme of 'Ignatian Spirituality'. In his talk, Fr Augustine spoke on MAGIS and DISCERNMENT whereas Fr Frederick highlighted the place of Mother Mary in St. Ignatius' life as well as in the life of a CLC'er. Fr Deepak gave valuable tips on finding God in all things.

It is very significant that the CLCers propagate Christian values through their life-style and actions. Therefore, just to become a member of CLC is not enough. Keeping this in mind our schools try to provide the students some platform to practice the values of Christ. The CLCers of Khunti, therefore, got themselves involved in alms collection to help the earthquake victims of Kathmandu. They collected quite a good sum of money and sent it for the relief work. Hats off to such initiatives! Let there be many more examples like this!



Much to Communicate

Alexius Tirkey

Communication Commission consists of three apostolates, namely, culture and communication through Satya Bharati, Ranchi, spreading God's message through Catholic Press, Ranchi and rural animation and empowerment through AROUSE, Gumla.

Satya Bharati

Jesuit Communication Centre, Ranchi is trying to follow the objectives of diffusing social, religious, secular and scientific knowledge through the means of social communication such as printed matter, audio-visuals, radio, art and music.



Xavier Publications, Ranchi

- **Jesuit Lectionary** translated by Fr Seraphim John SJ in Hindi with a short sketch on the lives of Jesuit saints.
- **“Kurukh Panchbalo”** Oraon poem by Albinus Minj
- **“Kheeri Mena”** Oraon Stories by Albinus Minj
- **“Kurukh Granth”** Oraon's Spirituality by Albinus Minj
- Jesuit Parish Priests, *Pajhara – Hindi Bible Diary 2016*, Ranchi: Satya Bharati, 2015.
- Tirkey, Justin, *Divya Vachan Chintan, Parts A, B, C*, Ranchi: Satya Bharati, 2015.

Audio Production

- ☑ ‘Jeesus Mekha Lagdas’, Vol. 2, Oraon devotional song by M.P. AICUF
- ☑ ‘Sona’ & ‘Jubilee’ by Fr Agapit Tirkey SJ
- ☑ ‘Jago Adivasi Jago’, anthem for Tribal meet in Ranchi by Fr Agapit Tirkey SJ
- ☑ ‘Hey St. John Tu’, School song for St. John's School Dorea by Fr Ashok Sandil and Fr Alex Tirkey SJ
- ☑ ‘Khushi ker Chan’, Sadri Christman song by Emmanuel Ekka.
- ☑ ‘Tor Seva Lagin’, Sadri devotional song by Fr Ashok Kandulna SJ
- ☑ ‘Utsaah ki Aag’ by Society of Pillar, on 50th Jubilee year in the Andamans.

JESCOM

Fr Alex attended the annual meeting of JESCOM Held at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar from 07 to 09 November 2015. Eleven provinces were present in the assembly besides Fr Benny, the assistance secretary and Fr Lourduraj, the Central Zone coordinator. On the first day of the assembly, all the delegates participated in an international seminar on “Mass Mediated Culture and Trends Today: Challenges and Opportunities” jointly organized by Xavier University of Bhubaneswar and Xavier School of Communications. Many scholarly research papers were presented during the seminar with JESCOM delegates actively participating in it. It was a learning process for all of us. It was followed by the sharing session from all the Provinces about the work done in the provinces.

SIGNIS BIJHAN

We had the Annual Signis Bijhan Meeting 2015 in Satya Bharati on 21 and 22 of November. Members working for Communication in Bihar and Jharkhand gathered in Satya Bharati. On the first day all shared about the activities, progress and problems of SIGNIS Regional members and on the second day we deliberated on “Family and Media”.

Vatican Radio

As usual many listeners from Vatican Radio sent their letters, appreciating, commenting and suggesting for the betterment of the Vatican Radio. The monthly magazine ‘Vatican Bharati’ was published every month and sent to the listeners. Recently many more readers of the magazine were added to the list. The prime point of Vatican Radio was the Golden Jubilee of Vatican Radio, South Asia desk. It completed 50 years and so Golden Jubilee Celebration was organized in Rome on 16 May 2015.

Art and Music

Throughout the year many students came for guitar, keyboard and vocal class.



Province Power House of Another Kind

Sudhir Kumar Minj

“Good health of a Jesuit is important for carrying out the works of the Society. Whether one has the strength required to perform the task entrusted to him depends on it” [Cons. 107]. This is obvious when one of the members suffers from illness or when one is physically or mentally not well-disposed in carrying out his [priestly ministry and] apostolic duty. It is an important factor, therefore, while examining someone’s admission in the Society as also for promotion of someone to sacred orders and for four vows [MJP 21; 26; 95.5]. It relates not only to physical and mental health but also to spiritual care of its members. In attending to physical and mental wholeness of its men, the Society also keeps in mind their spiritual needs as necessary parts of life. Praying for the sick members, visiting and comforting them and spiritually preparing those who are dying, supporting and strengthening them in their faith, becomes a ministry in itself and an experience of brotherly union.



Although Socius to the Provincial is officially in charge of health of all the members of the Province, it is not always possible for him to take a good care simultaneously and certainly not without the help of other members of the Province and in particular, those of the respective communities. Our brotherly concern reflects itself in such sharing of responsibility towards caring of the sick and the aged which has been a big source of healing and comfort for the sick brethren. Thanks to ever ready and available Province Infirmarian, Brother Telesphore Horo SJ, who has been cheerfully attending the sick members and accompanying them whenever they have to visit the doctors and undergo check-up in clinics or in the hospitals or in any other need.

As on 1 January 2016, The Province has 374 members with 221 priests, 131 Scholastics [including 36 novices] and 22 Brothers. Thus, there is an overall increase of two members over the previous year. According to the age-group, the Province has the following index of the members:

Age	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
No.	94	55	61	72	44	26	15	7	374

According to this data above, 48 members of the Province fall within the age-group of 70-90+ but if it is lowered up to 60 and above then their number is nearly doubled with 86 members who will

require sooner or later some medical care. However, age-group alone cannot be a determining factor for necessity of such medical care. There are quite a few Jesuits in the Province in the higher age group who enjoy fairly good health so far. On the other hand, there have been number of cases where the Jesuits from lower age-group had to undergo medical treatment.

There were 18 Jesuits, 8 priests and 10 scholastics of the Province, who were admitted in the Health Centre at Ara Gate for treatment in the last quarter of this year. Besides these, 10 others [9 Priests and a Brother] were also admitted in the Health Centre or in hospitals during the year. Moreover, there were some others who had to consult physicians for one complaint or the other.

Apart from these, there are twelve Jesuits [8 Priests and 3 Brothers] in the Province infirmary or in Manresa House who require constant medical care and assistance because of their old age, physical disability or permanent nature of their ailment. Two elderly Brothers stay in Agricultural Training Centre Namkum while two others in St. John's School Community and St. Xavier's College Ranchi. It helps the community members to be a little more sensitive towards our senior members of the Province. Health care of the Province men requires annually a huge sum of money. The Province is lucky to have a good amount in its Aged and Sick Fund to bear all the expenses of its members.

The Province Infirmary can accommodate currently 10 inmates at the maximum. Besides, it has its own chapel, one doctor's visiting room, one Nursing station cum a living room for the person in-charge, one small kitchen and dining room with TV/recreation. Thanks to the House Physician,



Dr Samir Kujur, who visits the inmates in the infirmary every week and others who may need some consultation. The infirmary has three lay attendants to assist the infirmarian in taking care of the inmates day and night. Due to the growing number of members in the higher age-group, need for expanding the present Infirmary of the Province seems necessary. There is a plan of adding another floor to it. All the communities of the Province have contributed a substantial amount for its construction. Additional facilities are also thought of so that our inmates find it more comfortable to rest and recuperate and to spend their aging in prayer and spiritual preparation. It is no wonder that the Province Infirmary has been a real centre of spiritual force of the whole Province where the life of some of the inmates – Fathers and Brothers – has been very inspiring.

Eight of our Companions were called by Our Lord to their heavenly reward over the last one year. Fr Vijay Kamath (16/7/1935-20/10/2014) – a skilful teacher and administrator and Br Jozef De Bock (21/1/1925-25/10/2014) a quiet but assiduously dutiful man – passed away respectively in Ranchi and in Leuven, Belgium, due to their age related problems. Fr Albinus Tete (1/4/1943-20/4/2015), an innovative teacher and lover of nature died in Lohardaga due to his age and heart problem, while Fr Albert Kullu (12/1/1957-15/5/2015) had long sufferings due to diabetes. He was quiet but insightful person and had made significant contributions to the Sisters of the Daughters of St. Anne, Ranchi. He died in Holy Family Hospital, Mandar. The sudden death of Fr Isayas Xess (4/9/1969-17/10/2015) at Orchid Medical Centre Ranchi, after he suffered a massive heart attack while he was preparing himself for his final vows at the Spirituality Centre, Jharna, came as a big pain of loss of the man who was known for his simplicity and hard work. The death of the NS Jugal Naresh Kujur (22/9/1993-6/11/2015) by drowning in the pond of Manresa House Ranchi was very shocking for us all. Br Blacius Ekka (28/1/1933-9/12/2015) quietly passed away in his room in the Province Infirmary due to his age-long trouble of breathing. Number of buildings in the Province and elsewhere are memorials of his building-construction skill. Sudden death of Fr Florent Jonckheere (29/8/1925-29/1/2016) by falling from the staircase in St. Albert's College Ranchi, was very saddening. He left behind a legacy of discipline and spirituality for the house of formation like St. Albert's Seminary Ranchi, where he lived for over 40 years. May these good souls rest in Peace!

Care for the sick and the aged is a great challenge. It calls for immense measure of kindness, patience and humility in serving during their illness, recuperation and rehabilitation. There have been moments of deep pain and touching experiences when they are nearing death – their last yes to the call of their Master. In that hour and at that moment, more is required of us – our human concern, spiritual strength and comfort for the dying through our nearness to them. At times these seem to be lacking among us but it is here that we are called to experience our real communion with our companions.

Forming Men for Universal Mission

Michael Kerketta

The Province Commission for Formation aims at preparing personnel who could carry forward the works of the Society with commitment and competence. The mission-vision of the commission is oriented toward preparing our men academically competent, spiritually well-grounded, affectively



mature and apostolically well motivated and committed. This goal can be achieved when formees are well disposed, and formators are able to cordially and competently accompany the formees at different stages of formation.

The task begins from Apostolic Schools onward. Two Apostolic Schools of Gumla and Samtoli help the boys of High School in their human, emotional, intellectual, spiritual growth. Daily routine promotes healthy ambiance for personal and spiritual growth.

Several co-curricular activities like Spoken English Classes, Speech Competitions, Tribal Dance Seminar, retreat, etc., help the boys to



gain personal confidence. Similar kind of attention is given to the boys of St. Aloysius' Apostolic School Ranchi. These boys in their Intermediate Studies at St. John's Ranchi get ample opportunities for their holistic growth. They get personal attention and care as the future candidates for the Society. At Jeevan Deep Pre-novitiate Khunti close and personal care and accompaniment is given to all the candidates. It also prepares them for the Novitiate. This year 40 candidates came for the programme and 15 of them are still persevering. Fr Ferdinand Kullu, Fr Sylverius Chermako and Sch Jyoti Paul Baxla (Regent) constantly guide them towards discernment of their vocations.

From Novitiate to Theology, following is the status of scholastics in formation:

Stage of formation	Place	Total number
Novitiate	Namkum	29
	Hazaribag	2
	Jamshedpur	3
	Darjeeling	2
		36 (1 st yr-19; 2 nd yr-17)
Juniorate	St. Stanislaus Sitagarh	12
College	Loyola Chennai	4
	St. Joseph's Trichy	3
	Andhra Loyola Vijaywada	4
	St. Xavier's Ranchi	23
	St. Paul's Ranchi	1
Philosophy	JDV Pune	5
	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	5
Regency	Assam	4
	Ranchi	12
Theology	RTC Ranchi	9
	Vidya Jyoti, Delhi	4
	Spain	2
	Rome	3
Total		127

The Visit of Fr José Magadia SJ

Ranchi Province was glad to welcome Fr José Magadia SJ, the General Counselor for Formation. His visit to the Province was one of the significant events. He arrived at Ranchi on 30 November 2015 for his 4-day visit to Ranchi Province. Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, (Provincial) and Fr Michael



Kerketta (PCF), received him at the Ranchi Airport. The purpose of the visit was to get the first-hand knowledge about the formation and formation centres. In the evening of 30 November, he had a meaningful interaction with the Novices and Jesuits of Jharna-Ashirvad community. The second day he had the opportunity to meet the Pre-Novices at Khunti in the morning while in the afternoon he had sharing and interaction with the staff and students of Regional Theological College, Borea. On 2 December he made a flying visit to the Jesuit communities of Samtoli and Gumla where he mostly interacted with the Apostolics. He also met some Jesuits working as vocation promoters. On 3 December he joined the festive Mass at St. Xavier's College Ranchi followed by meeting with the Collegians of Manresa House. In the evening he was in St Aloysius' Apostolic School Ranchi, where the Apostolics were glad to interact with him. The next day on 4 December he celebrated Mass for the Manresa Scholastics. He left for Hazaribag in the afternoon.

Fr Magadia returned to Ranchi from Hazaribag on 9 December 2015. In the evening, the Jesuits of the nearby communities had a very meaningful interaction with him in the Aula of Manresa House. Many Jesuits turned up and hall was almost full. The sharing and interaction lasted more than two hours in which he shared about the present global scenario and orientation of the Jesuit Formation. In the global context of Restructuring of the Society, he beautifully presented the strengths of the Jesuit formation and its present challenges. Thereafter, he highlighted some of the strengths of Jesuit formation in Ranchi Province and its challenges:

In the present context of re-orientation of Jesuit formation, one of the major challenges is how to prepare the future Jesuits who could respond to the call of effective universal mission with greater freedom and detachment. How to make our formation more relevant and effective? This orientation has to be inculcated from the initial stages of our formation. Therefore, one of the new initiatives taken was the motivational programme for the pre-novices. It was facilitated by Frs. Medard Xalxo and Deepak Toppo from 24 to 27 February. The purpose was to enable the candidates to clarify their life-objectives by knowing themselves better. It has helped them to understand their own strengths and challenges. This sort of programme will definitely enhance the performance level.

Fr Michael and Fr Sylverius Chermako took part in the workshop on COMPETENCY MAPPING held at XLRI Jamshedpur from 6 to 9 March for all the PCFs plus one from each province of the Assistency. The aim was to enable the formators to identify the competencies of the candidates and help them for higher performance.

Broadening the Formation Horizon

James P. Balmuchu

Anuj Kr Minj

Coming to Spain for our theological studies is not less than a dream. We believe that it is very much in conformity with the vision of the Society of Jesus and its universalism. It's indeed a great opportunity with a challenge to be formed in such a way that in the future we become locally rooted but globally missioned.

We stay in Salamanca, one of the most historical cities in Spain. In 1918, with the establishment of a new Spanish Province Leon, Salamanca was thought of as a House of formation. In 1926, the House was named as St. Stanislaus collage and the Novitiate, Juniorate, and Tertianship were started. Today, the House with 75 Jesuits consists of a spirituality centre, an infirmary, Tertianship and the Juniorate (Philosophy).

With a conducive atmosphere and modern accessibilities, Salamanca remains the best place to learn Spanish. Two universities make the city young and architectural treasures in the city become the centre of attraction. Besides the present scenario, the life and struggles of St. Ignatius in the year 1527 also become a point to reflect upon.

It is really a big task allowing oneself to acclimatize to a new culture altogether. The cultural diversity and the way of life always mesmerize us. We often find ourselves dumbfounded in terms of our rationalization and perception of new ideas. The advantage of this exposure is not only helping us to understand the diversity of life and culture but also to study comparatively our own traditions and background. The more we learn, the better we understand this diversity. It is

an extraordinary thing comparing two cultures which are very different and unique. The Jesuit community, on the other hand, helps us in every possible way, to be comfortable with ourselves.

As tribals, it is always challenging to manifest our way of life to people who have absolutely no idea about indigenous



peoples. Our sharing often leads them to a new world. Coming from a less speaking culture we always wonder to see people talking much. We are forced to speak because silence is normally misunderstood by all. it is amazing to see the young people lead an independent life.

The language academy (Enforex) in Salamanca provides us an apt atmosphere to master the language. From Monday to Friday we have classes from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and the rest of the day is utilized in community activities and assignments. There are students from 6 to 7 countries. The lessons are contextually based and there is enough room for comparative analysis. The sharing of one's own culture and traditions also becomes a learning experience.

During the time of frustration, loneliness and aridity, personal encounter with God always remains the biggest strength and this way we perceive a spiritual growth in our life. Apart from this the spirit of the community life is such that we never feel at sea. The all round growth of each individual is the prime concern of the community. The situation and the way of proceeding is helping us to overcome our mediocrity of life and haphazard mentality. It is also an occasion for both of us to reflect over the lives of those missionaries who went to India from different countries and faced the problem of language. They did not turn back; they learned the language, assimilated the culture and gave their life for people. May Almighty God fill us with this type of missionary zeal.



Ever to Love and to Serve

James Barla

Jesuit Brothers of Ranchi Province participate actively in the mission of the Society of Jesus. They appreciate their vocation and collaborate with one another to live in our communities in deeper companionship, finding happiness, meaning and fulfillment in their vocation, attracting many young ones to join the society and carry out the mission. At present there are twenty one Brothers in the province and they are working in different Jesuit communities.

Br James Barla, SJ, is the province coordinator for the Brothers' Commission, with Fr Ephrem Ba'a, SJ, Fr Sylverius Chermako, SJ, Fr Francis David Kullu, SJ, Br Isidore Ekka, SJ, Br Stephen Kandir, SJ, Br Telesphore Horo, SJ and Br Blacius Tigga, SJ, as the members of the Commission.

The main goal of Brothers' Commission is to promote vocation for Brotherhood. The commission has made an action plan to promote vocation for brotherhood for three years. An advertisement for Brothers' vocation in the Nishkalanka is the feature of every month. A brochure or leaflet was prepared and distributed among the students of our Jesuit parishes and schools. Vocation camps are organized every year, so that selected ones could be sent for one month summer course with other Jesuit candidates. It was planned to regularize the meetings of the commission and to arrange refreshers' courses for the Brothers. The fruits of the action plan are visible in two candidates Johnson Kachhap from Ulhatu parish, Ranchi diocese, and Felix Hassa Purty from Sarwada parish, Khunti diocese, who joined Jeevan Deep pre-novitiate, Khunti.

The Brothers of the Province regularly participate in the common annual retreat which is organized every year for Brothers in different places. Last year they had gone to St. Francis Monastery, Mussoorie, Dehradun, Uttararakhand. Those who were not able to go for the common retreat, went to Jharna, Namkum, Ranchi, for their annual retreat. The Brothers also attend the coordinators' meeting-cum-seminar organized by the coordinator for the Brothers of the Assistency of South Asia. It gives enriching and fruitful experiences for the participants for their ministries.

Ranchi Jesuit Brothers come together for the annual gathering every year after Easter. In 2015 it was arranged at Agricultural Training Centre, Namkum, Ranchi. They also actively participate in the programmes of Jharkhand Assembly of Religious Brothers at Christmas gatherings, recollections and picnics.



Shepherds with the Smell Of the Sheep

Lalit Tigga

Stalwarts like Stockmann Augustus, Mullendeb Joseph, De Cock Ferdinand, Ference Jones, Livens Constant, J.B. Hoffmann, Cardon Louis, De Meulder, De Frijn, Ponnette, Moens, and in the not so distance past Emil Kerketta, Joseph Kandulna, Leo Bara, Elvius Kujur, Patrick Tete, Victor Surin, and Vital Ekka, gave a definite direction to the Pastoral ministry in Ranchi Province.



Right from the beginning Jesuits are front-runners in establishing numerous parishes in the remote rural areas, some of which have been handed over to the Dioceses to ensure availability for the universal mission of the Society of Jesus.

The direct contact through the village tours during the liturgical calendar year has remained the main method of evangelization and pastoral care. Learning the regional languages of the people became very crucial. In fact, many of them not only learnt the regional and local languages but also mastered them. The parish priest was ably supported by the catechists. Under the leadership and guidance of Fr Walter Pillan, the Catechists Training Centre at Tongo produced strong men of faith who helped the parish priests in their pastoral works

At Present Ranchi Province caters to the pastoral needs of the people in many parishes in the Dioceses of Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, Gumla, Assam, and the Andamans. There are 61 Jesuit pastors shepherding 74429 believers in different dioceses of Jharkhand while 6 are looking after 5676



Christians in the Andamans. Similarly, 12 Jesuits are engaged in the pastoral field in Assam leading 74429 Catholics.

We expect to achieve a gradual enhancement and strengthening of the life conditions of the people encompassing spiritual, physical, moral, social, political, intellectual and economic dimensions.

We also expect to foster the attitudes and spirit of greater communion, cooperation, consensus, equality and co-existence among people under our care irrespective of caste, creed and culture.

We further visualize improving the economic condition of the people, their knowledge, skills, their personality, and promote leadership – strong Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh and Yuva Sangh.

Activities

- Training programmes – Leadership, Skill development
- Agricultural training programmes – New methods of production, Marketing
- Networking with Social Apostolate of the Province
- Build Self Help Groups (SHGs), Kisan (Farmer) Clubs, Cooperatives
- Emphasis on sacramental life
- Promotion of Popular Devotions
- Promotion of Basic Christian Communities.
- Organize Seminars and Meetings on issues that concern people.

We were happy and proud to host a seminar for JEPASA at Ranchi from 22 to 26 October 2015. It was very interesting and inspiring to share our strength and to learn from our weaknesses.

Fr Francis Minj gave a Keynote address on the theme “Re-reading the Missionary Methods in Chotanagpur for Effective Pastoral Apostolate today”

Bishop Telesphore Bilung DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, gave the inputs on “Why Jesuits should engage themselves in pastoral ministry?” Fr Vincent Toppo spoke on “Pastoral Care of Families”. The JEPASA coordinators got a chance to visit some of the parishes, such as Kanke and Sarwada.



Giving Everyone a Voice

Xavier Soreng

Thanks to Fr Thomas Barla SJ a young and energetic Social Apostolate Coordinator of Ranchi Province for his valuable services in the past years through his able and efficient leadership. On account of his new appointment as the Director of Gana Chetna Samaj, Assam, there is a change of guard as far as Social Apostolate in the Province is concerned. Fr Xavier Soreng has been appointed as the new Social Action Coordinator of the Province.

The year 2015–2016 has been full of activities for all of us in the Social Apostolate. The Social Service Institutions, like Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Kishor Nagar (KN) and Agriculture Training Centre (ATC) have their own formal and/or regular activities. Our Social Centres, like Animation Rural Outreach Service Society popularly known as AROUSE (Gumla, Simdega and Lohardaga), Gan Chetna Samaj, Assam, Hoffmann Law Associates, Lok Netritwa Nirman (LNN), Gram Utthan Kendra (GUK), Gumla, have been busy with issue-based and rights-based awareness building programmes, livelihood development activities (agriculture, goatry, poultry, fishery, vegetable cultivation, etc.). The Skill Training, like tailoring, computer, weaving, etc, Building and empowerment of social institutions like Gram Sabhas, Panchayat, Women Self-Help Group (WSHG), Youth Club, Kisan Club, Pragyan Kendras (Wisdom Councils), Village Councils, lay leadership formation, promotion of culture, education of the children in Ranchi and Assam, legal education and assistance to the litigants and peoples movements, etc., are some of the other important areas of our engagement. We also appreciate and acknowledge the outreach programme of St. Xavier's School, Doranda, in educating the slum children and preparing and accommodating them for formal education. However, it would be good to highlight two of our important activities during the previous year. They are Jan Netritwa Pahal Manch (JNPM) and Lok Manch (LM).

Jan Netritwa Pahal Manch

Platform for Peoples Leadership Initiative is the brain child of Jesuit Social Action (JESA)

Secretariat in order to strengthen and capacitate the local Leaders (youth and traditional leaders - women and men) of rural Adivasi and Dalit communities of Central India so that they can take the responsibility of defending their Constitutional rights for inclusive





development. The Jesuit Social Centres in the Central India (Darjeeling, Dumka Raiganj, Jamshepur, Hazaribag, Madhya Pradesh and Ranchi) are partners of Jan Netritwa Pahal Manch. Understanding very well the agonising importance of grooming local leaders and empowering them in today's context, Social Centres are active in different Provinces identifying people to be formed as Trainers in

Leadership. They have their orientation in their Social Centres. They are trained and equipped with leadership skills and personality development tips, government schemes, legal and other human rights issues, resource mapping, etc. As the Training of Trainers (TOTs) is formed, the village level leadership is also to be fostered simultaneously along similar lines by the very same TOTs. The existing local systems or institutions and infrastructures are to be utilised for the purpose of building up and promoting leadership at the village levels. 'Jan Jagran Manch' is formed in each village and burning issues are identified and issue based rallies are held with view to assert and obtain individual and community rights of the affected people. Finally, at least one common action, (this could be first at the centre level and then at the province level) every year, is to be organised in coordination with several villages of the same region. Serious efforts are to be geared towards building and spreading this manch (forum) as per the mandate of the JNPM.

An Annual three days Convention is an integral part of the program of JNPM. The purpose of the convention is to gather all the leaders who have been trained, especially those who have made use of the training well. JNPM already had its first Convention on 4 to 7 December 2015. There were about 111 participants from the 6 Jesuit Provinces. We were fortunate enough to have the august presence of Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Jesuit Province, for the inauguration who highlighted the importance of good leadership in the present day context in society and threw light on different aspects of good leadership. We were also privileged to have Mr Marcos form Alboan who has been supporting this program with keen interest. Mrs Louis Marandi, Tribal Welfare Minister (including Minorities Welfare and Welfare of Women & Children) joined the inaugural session later. She emphasized on the importance of the leadership of Gram Sabha as being crucial to the development of a village.

On the second day, we had the Convention Program. Mr Stephen Marandi, the present Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Madhubani was the Chief Guest. In his message to the participants

he shared his personal experiences about leadership which was very touching and inspiring at the same time. The ToTs shared about their training experiences. The participants shared about their good practices and the lessons learnt on account of the Jan Netirwa Pahal Manch program. The sharing was followed by the release of the book prepared as a guideline for the ToTs and distribution of certificates.

Lok Manch (Peoples Forum)

Lok Manch is a Peoples Forum for improved access to their entitlements. This is another program which has been initiated by JESA Ranchi Province is very much a partner to this programme as well. Lok Manch has emerged as a result of collective deliberation and discernment of JESA Indian Social Institutes Delhi (ISI-D) and Indian Social Institutes Bangalore (ISI-B), Province Coordinators of Social Action on the prevailing national socio-economic and political scenario vis-a-vis the local/regional socio-economic and political situations.

Lok Manch envisages:

- a) to build a vibrant national platform of the priority groups, namely Adivasis, Dalits, Minorities and other marginalised communities of society so that they have enhanced access to their entitlements, linking 12 States with 100 (50 Jesuit + 50 non-Jesuit);
- b) to improve the access of people to National Food Security Act (NFSA), Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe Sub-Plan and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and other related government schemes which will be closely monitored by the community leaders in the select areas; and
- c) to identify the gaps between the policies and implementation through the community leaders and monitoring persons for lobbying with the decision makers at the state and national levels to further improve the situation.

In order to realise the above said dreams Lok Manch seeks to reach out to 3, 00,000 families and prepare 3,680 Community Leaders and 1840 Monitoring Members at the grass root level.

Manch has already been formally inaugurated in its national workshop held at ISI-D from 5 to 8 April 2016, where 100 organisation heads participated. Its web-site: www.hamaralokmanch.



net was officially launched which has been designed by Franciscan Solutions. Resource material on Food Security was released as well. National Workshop was basically to learn from the experts about different aspects of Food Security Act, 2013.

Delivering the key note address at the workshop, Mr Harsh Mander, Director for Equity Studies and a Special Commissioner to the Supreme Court of India said that Indians were going hungry while 80 million tons of food grain is allowed to rot in government store houses which is a criminal waste and abomination. Fr George Pattery, Provincial of Jesuits in South Asia wanted participants to cooperate in creating a hunger-free India, which he said was “an unfinished agenda of the country’s freedom struggle”.

Important panel discussions on different aspects of NFSA were held in which the participants had an opportunity to listen to the experts in the field like Aditya, Rajkishor, Sachin Jain, Balram ji, Anjali Bhardwaj, Amrita Johari and Nikhil Dey and learn from their inputs and their experiences. Some of these experts also accompanied the participants understand at depth the state specific issues related to Food Security in the state-wise group discussions. There were also time slots for silence and interiorization as part of the workshop. With state specific action plans and common evaluation, the national workshop ended. The partners are now ready to implement the program in their respective areas. To top it all, the inspiring presence of Mr Marco form Alboan (Spain), one of the well wishers and supporters of Lok Manch Programme and Fr Renato of Italy, who has been supporting one of our projects in Gumla, added an international flavour to the workshop.

National Food Security Act was passed in 2013 which promised subsidized grains to the poor, who constitute some 400 million people, around a third of the population of the country. While some of the States have implemented it partially, a full nation-wide implementation of the Act is still awaited.



Fr George Pattery, Provincial of South Asia, addressing the gathering of Lok Manch

Education: A Step Towards Boston Thrust

Augustine Kujur

Networking and Collaboration:

Ever since the “International Colloquium on Jesuit Secondary Education (ICJSE)2012 held in Boston, USA, Ranchi Province has taken a step ahead with the thrust networking and collaboration. The Province has organized number of initiatives within a period of last few years especially in 2015 – 2016.

1. Assistency Level

Fr Sunny Jacob, The JEA Secretary of South Asian Assistency convened a meeting of the coordinators of Zones (North, South, west & Central) on March 26th 2015 with a purpose of revitalizing the Boston thrust. Fr George Pattery, SJ, POSA invited the coordinators to reflect on the following points in his keynote address.

- How can we enhance 'Human formation perspective' more visible in our educational institutions: care for the personal growth of students, respecting their dignity; self-worth, senses of Justice etc?
- How can we encourage Jesuits to engage the classrooms with actual contact with students and divest our 'administrative' role to lay partners?
- How can we have one brand-name for 'Social out-reach' in our schools across the Assistency and make it more biting on our school communities?
- Can we think on net-working among Jesuit Schools that are poorer/rural with a brand-name across the Assistency (like Fe Alegria) with Asian Jesuit thrusts of 'Dignity and respect' for all?
- Can our schools become/provide 'public space' for social sensitivity and interaction with neighborhood creating 'intelligentsia' in the area, involving parents or concerned citizenry?

The same thoughts were further reflected in the JEA annual meeting in Darjeeling from Nov.10 to 13, 2015.

Fr Sunny convened the meeting of the National resource team comprising of 11 members including Frs Ajit and Augustine at Jor Bagh, New Delhi on April 9 and 10, 2016 attended by Provincial of South Asia (POSA) Fr T. K. John, SJ and Tom Kunnukel. In the meeting, the members tried to find new ways and means to enhance quality education in Our Jesuit Schools.



2. Zonal Level

Long awaited dream of the Central Zone Provinces has been fulfilled with the formation of Central Zone Education Bureau (CZEB) with well defined Aims and Objectives, Administrative Structures and Modality of its operation/Function. Fr Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ and Fr Florence Kujur, SJ have been appointed as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively. The Primary aim of the Bureau is to provide leadership in true spirit of “Magis’ to Jesuits and collaborators in the ministry of education for better and effective functioning of our Educational institution and other educational initiatives according to the mind of the Society and demands of the time. The office of Bureau has taken the call to structural changes and Promotion of Jesuit Legacy seriously. Thereby it has started to associate with Porticos. The process has begun with the agreement with 'Adhyayan' which may begin the work of the evaluation of our Schools in the course of time.

The Central Zone Education Bureau is organizing the Educator meet scheduled on August 5-7, 2016 to be held in Ranchi.

3. Province level:

The Ranchi Province has been trying to spell out the Boston thrust through various ways and means. Many common programme and activities are conducted in the Province to highlight our networking and collaboration among ourselves. The Education Commission chalked out programme for the whole province for the Academic year 2015-16.

Fr Norbert Menzes, SJ conducted a two days workshop in Jharna on Jesuit Legacy for all the Jesuits of Ranchi Province working in the schools.

Speech, Declamation and Solo Singing competitions for High Schools and Inter Colleges were organized in Noadih in May, 2015 while the same events for Middle Schools were held in Bundu.

Inter Jesuit Schools cultural fiesta and sports activities for the students of High schools and Inter colleges were organized in Ranchi from September 24 to 27, 2015. The same events for Middle schools took place in St. Mary's Samtoli between October 17 to 20, 2015. Loyola High School Khunti hosted Hockey competition for the Middle Schools from November 20 to 23, 2015.

St. Ignatius' High School Gumla organized the **Chakravayah (Athletics)** in February 2016 which had a grand show of athletic as well as the cultural performances of our students.

It is a point of pride and joy that a long awaited



Province Education Policy: Rules and Regulations governing the Jesuit Educational Institutions of Ranchi province has come to its completion. This Policy will be a light and guide to all the Jesuit Principals and educators.



OUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

1. Ranchi Jesuits Response to Laudato Si'
2. Collaboration at the Heart of Jesuit Mission
3. Fifth JEMAI National Tribal Festival at Ranchi
4. Prison Ministry
5. Expanding the Jesuit Higher Educational Network: Collaboration for Social Justice
6. International Society of Jesuit Ecumenists
7. Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN)
8. Central Zone Education Bureau (CZEB)
9. Creating a Place of Hope and Mercy
10. Broad Palette of Collaboration





Ranchi Jesuits Response to *Laudato Si'*

Francis Minj

Ever since the encyclical *Laudato Si'* was promulgated on June 18, 2015 by the Vatican; it ignited worldwide discussion and debate. Ranchi was no exception. True to the pioneering Jesuit spirit, Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, as Provincial seized the opportunity and tasked a committee by



organizing a *Round Table Conference* on the encyclical, perhaps the first of its kind in the history of the church in Chotanagpur. The committee for organizing the conference included Frs. Alex Ekka, Ranjit Pascal Toppo, Prem Xalxo, Francis Minj, Dr. Sanjay Bosu Mullick, Mr. Prem Prakash Verma and Sr. Lalita Roshni Lakra, DSA. Quite unexpectedly, the encyclical of Pope Francis on environment drew such a keen interest among scientists, politicians and church personnel that even before the conference many activists from different religious traditions read, circulated and discussed the document. Eagerness for the conference was already palpable.

On August 13, 2015 a select group of educationists, social activists, environmentalists and media friends and religious communities filled the auditorium of Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi for a Round Table Conference on *Laudato Si'*. While giving his inaugural message at the meticulously organized conference His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo, D.D., the Archbishop of Ranchi added his personal note on the person, thinking actions of Pope Francis and invited the audience to emulate Papa Francisco in making our world a better place to live. Broadening the perspective on environmental issues, Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Provincial, invited the participants to emulate the indigenous people in protecting the earth. Fr. Prem Xalxo, a

professor of Moral Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, gave the keynote address summarizing the main ideas of *Laudato Si'* from a moral-pastoral perspective.

Inter-religious (Hindu, Christian, indigenous) and inter-disciplinary in nature, the conference provided rare reflections from different perspective on a Catholic encyclical. Dr. George John, the Vice Chancellor of Birsa Agriculture University espoused a scientific approach to solving ecological problems without neglecting the time-tested indigenous wisdom and practice. Mr. Vinod Kispotta, a retired bureaucrat, stressed the need for vigilant public in order to ensure environmental health. Dr Ramesh Sharan of Ranchi University castigated the mindset of rat race for economic growth with scant concern for environment. Similarly, Dr Anjani Srivastava proposed scientific approach to promote ecological health. Sr. Sosan Bara emphasized the need for conscientizing the students about environmental degradation. Mr. Anuj Kumar Sinha, a senior journalist of *Prabhat Khabar*, a local Hindi daily rued the lopsided development of the state while disrespecting the human and environmental issues. Dr Sanjay Bosu Mullick, an environmentalist and forest conservator called for just policies and their implementation in safeguarding the environment. Like a mind reader, Mr. Prem Prakash Verma summarized the Pontiff's message quite tersely. "consume less!" Fr Alex Ekka shared the insights of the tribal or indigenous people of Jharkhand in promoting ecological health and invited the people to emulate the *Adivasis* in protecting the environment. Echoing his solidarity with the Papal thinking on environment, the Secretary of the Ranchi based Rama Krishna Mission, Swami Bhaweshanand expressed the hope that both Hindus and Christians can work together for protecting the mother earth. Through her reflections, Ms. Tulika Ravin, a student of XISS, ignited hope that the conscientized and well informed young people will contribute their share in transforming the world for a better future.

How will an exercise like August 2015 *Round Table Conference* impact the common people to work for our common home? Part of the answer came from the conference itself as it brought people from different walks of life and faiths – Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Pope Francis and his predecessors call it 'human ecology and *Laudato Si'* reiterates that insightful phrase. In fact, in his inaugural address His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo emphasized human ecology and invited the participants to care for the earth as well as the disadvantaged persons and communities of humanity.

How to impart the message of *Laudato Si'* to the ordinary people? Personal or group reading, discussion and action would be sure ways of implementing the thoughts expressed in the encyclical. Language became a barrier to the ordinary people as the encyclical was available only in English. Realizing the importance of the insights contained in the encyclical, Fr. Francis Minj, SJ, translated *Laudato Si'* into Hindi. Individuals, families, institutions, social and political groups and ordinary people can benefit much from this translation. One can hope that the Pope's message enters the minds and hearts of people, especially those who ought to own greater responsibility – corporate houses, entrepreneurs, governments, scientists and political leaders, policy framers and implementers. Of course, the Ranchi Jesuits will have to work in tandem with all the people of goodwill for a clean, affordable, and responsible and pleasant environment.

Collaboration at the Heart of Jesuit Mission

Francis Minj

When Jesuit Fr. Augustus Stockman came as a missionary to Chaibasa in 1869, he came to work in what was known as the Bengal Mission of the Jesuits under the Bengal Vicariate established in 1834. Some parts of the territory, especially Doranda and Hazaribag were part of the Patna Apostolic Vicariate since 1847 and were originally administered by the Capuchins followed by others. Doranda (near Ranchi) at that time was a military garrison centre and had some South Indian Catholic army men and Hazaribag had some sizable European and some prominent Catholics. In Chaibasa area Stockman reconnoitered the rocky plateau and settled his neophytes in the Munda belt, their homeland, in 1873. By the time the Jesuits came to Ranchi the areas belonging to Patna were ceded to the Bengal Vicariate. This short historical background brings to the fore the core of Jesuit mission Spirituality: that the Jesuits are at the service of the church, both locally and globally.



Collaboration with the local church became more visible when Ranchi became a diocese in 1927 with a Jesuit Bishop at the helm of the affairs. Although the Jesuits continued to remain part of the Bengal Mission until 1935 but were rooted locally and served the local church in umpteen ways. Recent decades have seen creation of many dioceses and the Ranchi Jesuits are working in as many as eight dioceses in Jharkhand, Andaman and Assam.

Ranchi Jesuits are involved in collaborating with the local Bishops by sharing personnel, helping in planning and other resources. For instance, Ranchi Jesuits collaborate with the Bishop of Khunti in the pastoral care of God's people in seven parishes of that diocese. In the Ranchi Archdiocese, the Provincial Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur himself has been instrumental in working in collaboration with other Ranchi based Major Superiors to help the local church in managing and administering resources, personnel and works. Accordingly, two of the Ranchi Jesuits – Fr John Ekka and Ajay P. Minj are assisting the Archdiocese in financial management.

Similarly, Jesuits work in different commissions of the Archdiocese. Fr Francis Minj functions as the secretary to the Jharkhand-Andaman Bishops doctrinal commission. Moreover, four Jesuits – Fr Erik Breye, Fr Sudhir Kujur, Fr Vincent Toppo, Fr Sudhir Kujur teach at the St. Albert's Regional Major Seminary. It may be noted that the Jesuits shaped the Seminary since its inception in 1914 and served it for 88 years before handing over the administration to the Board of Bishops on December 1, 2002.

Fifth JEMAI National Tribal Festival at Ranchi

Alex Ekka



The 5th JEMAI National Tribal Festival was held at St. John's School premises in Ranchi from 23 to 26 October 2015, for more than 500 tribals and their collaborators from various states of the country. A conference was part of the festival with the theme *Promoting Livelihood among Tribals in India*. It started on 24 October with *Prabhat Pheri* (morning procession) from 7.30 to 8.30 a.m., when all the participants in their cultural attires sang, danced and chanted slogans marching on the roads of Ranchi city. This was not so much to show to the world the tribal might and power but to praise God for his creation and experience union with nature and one another so early in the morning.



At the inaugural function two delegates each dressed in their cultural dress (a man and a woman) from various states walked up to the stage of the conference hall in procession holding placards with the maps and names of their states written on it followed by the JEMAI Province Coordinators, the Chief Guest and the Pahan (Gunjal Ekir Munda, son of late Ram



Dayal Munda) at the blowing of *bhenr* (the tribal trumpet). After the lighting of the lamps by them a tribal prayer was led by the Pahan and recited by all – a real praise to God for his creation. Thereafter a song in Hindi *Jago Adivasi, Jai Jai Adivasi* was sung by all in great gusto.



In each of the five panel discussions four persons made presentations in Hindi on the various sub themes of livelihood promotion like – threat to the Adivasi people's lives on account of the Government's Land Acquisition bid through ordinances and amendment to the existing laws on the Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation, non-implementation of the 5th Schedule Provisions, human trafficking affecting livelihood, *jhum* cultivation for sustainable development, sustainable development through organic farming and micro thermal

plants, measures to get remunerative price of the agriculture products of farmers including forest produce, etc.

After a lot of discussion and reflection a consensus was arrived at on the following points: that the village forest was still a good source of people's livelihood, that they will establish community control over the forests through the implementation of Forest Act 2006, that they will eat non-contaminated food produced by them to strengthen their health, that they will adopt organic farming and abandon chemical based and fertility losing agriculture, that they will struggle to protect their farming land from being acquired by the government or the private companies, that for the promotion of livelihood even through migration to cities for different jobs they will live their culture and maintain their identity.

JEMAI stands for Jesuit Ministry among the Indigenous Peoples. This specific apostolate was started in 1984 in the National Convention of Jesuits in Social Action (JESA) at Bhopal with the focus on promotion of tribal culture and identity and tribal people's sustainable development and empowerment. Structurally there is JEMAI Secretary appointed by the Provincial of South Asia (POSA) and the Province JEMAI Coordinators by their respective Provincials. JEMAI National Tribal Festival is an annual event organized at different places each year on a specific theme. It is amazing to see how tribal people are so articulate and can communicate with one another despite so many different languages. The song *Jago Adivasi Jai, Jai Adivasi* expresses their values of equality, solidarity, self-esteem, symbiotic relationship with earth and nature as well as assertion of their identity and rights.

Cultural Performance

Evenings were marked cultural programmes by different groups making the gathering a mini India of tribal people with abundant richness and colour. What was most enchanting was the common dance on the local *adivasi* numbers every evening during the festival. Besides joining hands in various struggles of life the tribal people also sang and danced together experiencing their uniqueness as human beings and social groups in the wonderful mosaic of India's cultural diversity and unity.



Exhibition-cum-Sale

There were also stalls for exhibition of tribal arts and crafts as well as of handicrafts, books, CDs, and herbal medicines put up by various Provinces and their units. And finally on 26 October there was a sightseeing programme for all the participants to the Earth Science Museum at CMPDI and Birsa Agriculture University for organic farming on Kanke Road and to the Urimari Open Cast Coal Mines at Patratu.



Briefly speaking the three-day 5th JEMAI National Tribal Festival held at St. John's School Premises was a wonderful experience of tribal solidarity, assertion of tribal identity and sharing of best practices on promotion of livelihood among tribals in India. From Ranchi Province the participants were from AROUSE Gumla, Lohardaga and Simdega and the AICUF students of St. Anne's College Hostel, Circular Road, Ranchi. The organizers of the event were the XISS staff and students and hosts were the members of St. John's School Community. The boarding and lodging as well as the venue for the conference and the cultural programme were excellent. All the participants from different Provinces have fond memories of the very well organized 5th JEMAI National Tribal Festival at Ranchi.



Prison Ministry

Francis David Kullu

Typically, Prison Ministry has been an important initiative of the Jesuits from the beginning. Ranchi Jesuit Province also does engage itself in its own way. There is lot of scope in this ministry. Till February 2002, Prison Ministry was confined to just offering Holy Mass for the Christians in various prisons of Jharkhand state.

When Fr Ephrem Ba'a SJ took over from late Fr Christian De Brouwer, he was asked by the National Coordinator Prison Ministry India (PMI) sometime in April 2003, to give a new direction to this great initiative. Then, of course, no one in Jharkhand was aware of the existence of PMI and its activities. In December 2005, with the kind permission of Mr Abraham Minj, the Jail Superintendent at that time, Fr Ephrem could arrange first Christmas Gathering in the prison. In 2006 when the Prison was shifted to Hotwar, its present location, about 10 km. away from the previous location, Fr Ephrem requested on 24 October 2006, to have more activities for the prisoners; and on 8 November 2006 Mr. Sabhapati Prasad Kushwaha, the I.G. Prison granted permission to have Personal Counseling and Cultural Programmes in the Jail Premises. After that for the celebrations like Christmas Gathering, Sarhul and Karam more persons joined PMI. From the year 2007, Fr Pradeep Kujur, another Jesuit priest from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi was also permitted to say Mass in the Jail.

There was a meeting held on 16 January 2007, in which Fr Marraih, the central Region Coordinator of PMI from Nagpur to discuss the future course of plans and actions and the objectives and the vision and mission of PMI. Some 11 members attended the first meeting and decided to meet again to form an Executive Committee. Meanwhile, Sr. Joel Mathew Pathalil, an Executive member of PMI, from Sadaquat Ashram Patna, Bihar, also visited Ranchi and encouraged the group by sending Snehanjali Magazine for the prisoners.

Yet, in another meeting of 9 August 2007, presided over by Fr Marraiah, following Executive Committee members were chosen: Fr Ephrem Ba'a – Coordinator, Fr Pradeep Kujur – Asst. Coordinator, Smt. Shashi S. Minj – secretary and Mr. Basil Kiro – Treasurer. Then a list of 12 members was submitted to His Eminence Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo for his approval. With certain correction the same was approved. In order to involve more people in this ministry, one day Prison Ministry Seminar was arranged on 8 April 2008 in the hall of St. John's High School, Purulia Road, Ranchi. This meeting was presided over by newly appointed National Coordinator Fr Jose. Fr. Marraih, and Sr. Joel was also present. About 80 persons, mostly women religious participated in this Seminar.

In March 2010, Fr Ephrem and Sr. Nivedita met His Lordship Bishop Binay Kandulna, the Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi at that time to get his blessings and permission for raising some fund for PMI. Bishop Kandulna was very kind to guide and support PMI. Both Fr Ephrem and Sr. Nivedita attended the Silver Jubilee Celebration of PMI held at Kottayam, Kerala from 11 to 14 October 2010. To ensure the regularity of the PMI activities of a meeting was convened on 4 December 2011, and some collection was made for celebrating Christmas Gathering in the Jail on 22 Dec. 2011. PMI meeting

was again held on 6 May 2012 which was attended by 13 persons more interested and committed. Ever since then, the prison ministry has got organized and undertaking it quite remarkably.

On 17 July 2015 (Friday) a meeting was held in Manresa House Ranchi to begin some concrete programmes in the Jail. The members felt that as the Superintendent was new, we should first visit him before starting the Counseling Programme.

On 3 August 2015 a short meeting was organized in Manresa House, Ranchi to thank and bid farewell to Fr Arogyaswamy. During this meeting various PMI committees were again reorganized. Sr. Nivedita SSH was appointed as the Jharkhand State Coordinator. The committees for various units were also reorganized.

At present the number of sisters attending the Sunday Mass in the jail has increased up to 12. Many other fathers have said Mass in the Jail apart from those appointed. The Superintendent has given permission for the Personal counseling and other activities. But from the month of August 2015, fathers are asked not to go to the Female ward to say mass. The sisters, however, continue to visit the women in the Jail and have short prayer service on Sundays. We are hopeful that soon the fathers will be allowed to visit Ladies Ward as well for the Eucharist.

The PMI activities are being carried out in the following places.

In Ranchi Central Jail – Fr Ephrem Ba’a SJ and Fr Padeep Kujur SJ from St. Xavier’s College, Ranchi and the sisters of various congregations.

Gumla District Jail – Fr Anselm Ekka SJ from St. Ignatius High School, Gumla and some M.C. Sisters

Simdega District Jail – Fr John Tirkey SJ and Irenius To’ppo SJ from St. Mary’s High School Samtoli

Daltonganj Central Jail – Fr Barry SJ of Hazaribagh Jesuit Province and some M.C. Sisters.

Dumka District Jail – A Jesuit priest of Dumka province.

Hazaribagh Central Jail – Fathers from Bishop House, Hazaribagh

Khunti District Jail – Fr Gabriel Aind, a diocesan priest from Bishop’s House, Sr. Sneha Phje, and some Ursuline Sisters



Expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network: Collaboration for Social Justice

Alex Ekka

At the invitation of Fr Michael Garanzini, SJ, Secretary for Higher Education of the Society of Jesus, about 200 Jesuits and their collaborators participated in the International Conference on the theme Expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network: Collaboration for Social Justice, at the Catholic University of Melbourne, Australia, from 7 to 10 July 2015. There were 50 delegates from India from different Provinces. Fr Nicholas Tete, SJ, and Fr Alex Ekka, SJ, represented Ranchi Province. The main papers of our interest are briefly outlined here.



At the end follows a summary of collaboration within South Asia, particularly in India and the proposed area of collaboration along with the recommendations to the international Society.

Thrust on the Social Justice Mission

It was significant to note how the Social Justice Mission was taken so seriously at the conference. Today over 51 million people experience forced human migration, often in isolation without access to higher education. In this presentation the panelists brought to life what it meant to collaborate across geographic boundaries, to bridge Universities, on-site partners and students at the margins. A candid discussion addressed the benefits, joys and challenges of the collaboration and of navigating the network. The panel perspective was multifaceted and included the view of on-site partners, addressed by Jesuit Refugee Service, the view of Universities addressed by Regis University, and the view of the JC: HEM, including reflections from students, site coordinators and faculty.

International Jesuit Ecology Project: Healing Earth Electronic Textbook in Environmental Science, Ethics, Spirituality and Action

This was the second topic under the Social Justice Mission. In late 2011 a worldwide collaborative international Jesuit Ecology (IJEP) was conceived – a living environmental science text that provides the scientific basis of the primary environmental threats to the planet, while integrating an ethical analysis of the conflicts, formation in an environmental spirituality, and a call for action. The text is called Healing Earth and is a project developed within the Jesuit Education Directorate in service to teachers and students in Higher Education, Upper Level Secondary Education, students and adult

learners who are living in refugee camps around the world, and to all those at the margins without access to textbooks.

During the past three years, 90 Jesuits and Jesuit colleagues including students, University Faculty, High School Teachers and Principals, language translators, and online production specialists from 11 countries representing all six regions of the world had participated in designing, writing, editing, evaluating, and piloting all aspects of the Healing Earth living text. Since the fall of 2015 chapters of the Healing Earth are in use in pilot mode in seven High Schools and four Universities around the world. January 1, 2016 was the formal living textbook launching date and so the faculty and teachers in English, Spanish and potentially Polish speaking counties can have access to use the textbook in its entirety.

Developing Social Entrepreneurs: Jesuit Business School Collaboration

The third topic dealt with collaboration for social entrepreneurship in Jesuit B-Schools. In 2013, Pope Francis articulated a call to the world to eradicate poverty. His most recent Encyclical *Laudato Si* is a summon to care for creation, sustainable development, and to mitigate the impact that climate change is having on the world's poorest people. This call to action gave us the opportunity to ask the question: But how? The panelists answered: "Social entrepreneurship is the solution".

The Ignatian Spirituality Project

The fourth topic was the Ignatian Spirituality Project. It stressed that today there is an urgent need to train more scholars (particularly Jesuits) in Ignatian Spirituality/Theology since there are not many scholars in the world. Even among those available, most of them are in Europe or in the US and quite a few of them are aging. In other parts of the world – Africa, Asia and Latin America – they do not



have an adequate number of scholars proportionate to their number. Hence, there is a critical need to evolve a strategic plan to train more scholars in Ignatian Spirituality.

Fr. General has been emphasizing upon the need for ‘collaboration’ among Jesuit Universities. In his address at the last Jesuit Higher Education Meeting at Mexico City in 2010 he said, “To be concrete, while regional organizations of cooperation in mission exist among Jesuit Universities, I believe the challenge is to expand them and build more universal, more effective international networks of Jesuit higher education.” It also generates greater synergy. In this era of globalization which is marked by interdependence and inter-connectedness, new technologies have made it possible to optimize our limited resources efficiently.

Exploring Future Collaborative Opportunities

In this section the important topic was **Global Jesuit Case Series**. The Global Jesuit Case Series (GJCS) aimed to harness the latent intellectual power, global reach, moral authority and moral responsibility of the Jesuit colleges and universities, the largest and oldest educational network in the world. In partnership with over 200 Jesuit colleges and universities globally, the objective of this project is to produce and disseminate a series of business and social policy cases that embody the values of social justice, human dignity, moral leadership, and sustainability while concurrently fostering organizational innovation and profitability.

The Collaboration within South Asia

On the last day of the conference, Assistancy wise groups were made to share the structures and experiences for collaboration. All the delegates from different Provinces of India as members of Jesuit Higher Education Association South Asia (JHEASA) shared the best practices and proposed the areas of collaboration as follows.

The Best Practices

1. There is inter-collegiate collaboration between students of colleges by which students of a college spend a week or more of exposure to gain intercultural experience and gather some understanding of Jesuit Colleges’ traditions.
2. Faculty of a college collaborates with faculty of another college by having collaborative research and joint conferences and seminars.
3. Young Jesuits pursue their higher studies in colleges of other Provinces. Both in South India and in North India the colleges provide the facilities for their studies resulting in obtaining of certificates and degrees.
4. XLRI and LIBA since the past many years conduct week long training programmes on leadership and skills for the young Jesuits.
5. The Provinces in India share their competent personnel with Provinces that need their services.

6. We have been having JESCALL programme by which we train lay faculty in Jesuit heritage and traditions.
7. We share special expertise between Provinces, for example, legal expertise of Jesuits in Madurai Province is shared with other Provinces.
8. Beyond our colleges, our students and faculty have exposure to colleges and institutes abroad.
9. Icam group in France and Loyola College, Chennai have collaborated with each other to found an engineering college by which there is a networking with French Jesuits.
10. XISS has exchange programmes with the University of Antwerp, Belgium wherein the students of Law Faculty come every year to XISS for a month's internship and the students of XISS go to Belgium for a month's programme on Human Rights for Development. Joint research studies have also been conducted by the faculty of these two institutions.

Proposed Areas of Collaboration

1. We propose to start an Academic Staff College in which we would like to train our faculty for skill development and in Ignatian tradition.
2. As XLRI sets up new campuses in Andhra and in Delhi we need human resources to provide leadership in these campuses.
3. Xavier University, Bhubaneswar needs competent Jesuits to work in three centres that have been started recently: Xavier School of Sustainability, Digital University Network and Centre for Ignatian Spirituality.
4. We propose to strengthen the sharing of personnel among Provinces.
5. We want all our B. Ed. Colleges to run full-fledged course on Ignatian Pedagogical Programme (IPP).
6. Modeling after ICAM-Loyola project, we want to collaborate with Icam to train faculty in new pedagogy.
7. We propose to have collaboration between departments that are strong in research and teaching in a college and similar departments in another college in another Province.
8. We need more scholars to use the Scholar in Residence Programme that XLRI has and which has been minimally used.
9. We want our colleges to educate at least 5 JRS students.
10. We propose that all our colleges start running a course on Ecology and Sustainability.

11. Like Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, we want all our colleges to aim at becoming universities to be freed from stifling restrictions by the government agencies.
12. We propose that we have a formal office of Jesuit Higher Education in Delhi to interface between government regulating bodies like UGC, AICTE etc. and our colleges. To assist this, we should have a website or strengthen the site we have where we could pool in information, post official documents and government orders.

Recommendations to the International Society

1. We recommend that an International Secretariat for Higher Education is set up in Rome to coordinate activities and ventures that are connected to regional secretariat for collective action. This secretariat should be given power to negotiate with Provincials for sharing of resources and building effective networks.
2. College and Universities of USA, Africa, Latin America and East Asia must be invited to build networks and exchange programmes with colleges in South Asia.
3. The Society should set up a Virtual University to provide education to the people at the margins.
4. The initiative of Healing the Earth should be concretely realized in all our institutions.
5. The Society should set up a Global Education Resource Centre that achieves the best practices in higher education and makes them available for every other institution in the world.
6. We recommend that this international meeting is convened in three years instead of once in five years.

Follow Up

Back home in India there was a follow up meeting of the delegates at the Melbourne Conference under JHEASA from 22 to 24 October 2015 at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar. After recapitulating the experience of the Melbourne Conference there was some more sharing on the initiatives on Healing the Earth Project. Some of these were

- (1) Replacing tube lights in the campus of Jesuit colleges with energy saving tube lights,
- (2) Installing solar panels for solar energy, preparing vermin compost out of the waste collected,
- (3) Planting of trees,
- (4) Awareness rallies to stop deforestation, pollution of rivers and exploitation of mines and
- (5) Value formation among the students through environmental education.

For the further action plan for promoting collaboration among the institutions of higher learning some projects were identified as follows:

- (1) Forming a fact finding committee for South Asian Countries to look into the need for collaboration in Higher Education,
- (2) Promoting LIVE – diploma programme in Sri Lanka and distance education in Sri Lanka,
- (3) Opening distance education for students of other countries,
- (4) Catering to the needs of the students of the neighboring countries,
- (5) Sharing of personnel for other colleges in SA countries,
- (6) Video conferencing programme for SA countries,
- (7) Developing exchange programmes with institutions of SA countries,
- (8) Being a nodal digital centre like Xavier University Bhubaneswar’s data centre,
- (9) Availing one credit course in JDV Pune, on sexual abuse and
- (10) Having a discourse on tolerance.

Under the leadership of Fr. Swebert D’ Silva, SJ the Coordinator of JHEASA the learning, experiences and insights of the Melbourne Conference 2015 as well as the various initiatives on Healing the Earth and other projects envisaged for collaboration among Jesuit Higher Education Institutions are certainly clear instances of collaboration for social justice by expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network in South Asia.



The Delegates of JHEASA at the Meeting in Xavier University, Bhubaneswar

International Society of Jesuit Ecumenists

23rd Conference, July 13 -19, 2015

Kardinal Konig Hous, Vienna, Austria

Xavier Soreng

Thanks to Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, the Provincial Superior of Ranchi Jesuit Province, who thought of sending two Jesuits from the Province to represent Ranchi in the 23rd Conference of the International Society of Jesuit Ecumenists. Fr Pius Xalxo, Rector of Manresa House, Ranchi, and I were sent for the Conference. We had the privilege of being part of this Conference which was held from 13 to 19 July 2015, in Kardinal Konig Hous, Vienna, Austria. This was our first International Conference and a maiden visit to Vienna and therefore the place and participants were completely new to us. In all, 25 Jesuits participated in this Ecumenical Conference and most of them were theologians of repute. South Asia was represented by Sunny Th. Kunnappally, SJ (KER), Antony Mechery, SJ (KER), Cedric Prakash, SJ (GUJ), Pius Xalxo, SJ (RAN), Mariyesevram Suvakeen, SJ (SRI) and Xavier Soreng, SJ (RAN).

The Conference began on Monday, July 13, 2015 and ended on Sunday, July 19, 2015. The running theme of the Conference was: "Thinking and Feeling with the Churches". Paper presentations followed by interactions among the participants was the hallmark of the Conference. Each representative was given an opportunity to present his paper. Practically all the presentations from other Conferences were centered around theological reflections on the status and realities of ecumenism in different parts of the world. It included how ecumenism can be understood from different perspectives like 'Sentire in Ecclesia', 'Principle and Foundation', 'Theology of the Heart', 'Catholic-Orthodox Cultural





Encounter’, ‘reformation in Sweden’, ‘inculturation in Africa’, ‘Ignatian Spirituality’, ‘interfaith differences and commonalities in supporting people with mental illness’, Islam, etc. The presentations from South Asian representatives were focused on the case studies on Indian realities, indigenous movements in Kerala, GUCFHR (Gujrat United Christian Forum for Human Rights), Nemha Bible and status of ecumenical movement at Ranchi.

Fr Pius Xalxo presented his paper on the ‘Emerging Issues leading to Church’s Collective Response with special reference to “Nemha Bible” and difficulties of writing and publications on tribal matters’. The presentation was appreciated by one and for its in-depth and detailed analysis of the “Nemha Bible” episode and its impact on different Churches of Jharkhand which eventually led to the strengthening of unity among Churches around the issue. The presentation also highlighted that the “Nemha Bible” episode was instrumental in the emergence of “Adivasi Maha Sabha” which resolved to work for the unity of the tribal Christians and non-Christian tribals around issues which adversely affected the tribal interests.

I presented a paper on the theme of “Ecumenism – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (with special reference to the Churches in Jharkhand)”. The paper is an effort to look briefly at the history of ecumenism in Jharkhand, its present state of affairs and its future. In short it brings to the fore what ecumenism is in practice in the Churches of Jharkhand and visualizes its future on the basis of the present.

Thursday July 16, 2015 was a Break Day. We left for the City Centre, Vienna soon after our breakfast. As soon as we reached the City Centre, we had our Eucharist at the Chapel of St. Stanislaus Kostka. This was followed by our visits to the Jesuit locations in the City Centre like Jesuit Church, Dominican Church, Hofkirche, St. Anne’s Chapel, Crypt of St. Stephen’s Cathedral, etc. After we had finished with our visits, we had our lunch with the Jesuit Community at Vienna of which the Mission Procurator’s office is an integral part.

In his letter dated 29 June 2015, addressed to the members of the 23rd meeting of the Internal Congress of Jesuit Ecumenists, Fr Superior General, Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, has referred to two significant observations from the 2013 Congress in Tampa, Florida. The first is that the interests among Jesuits in intra-Christians relations seemed to have faded for various reasons and at times has been replaced by inter-religious relations. Secondly, he has intoned a concern of the Florida Congress saying that the average age of participants has increased significantly and that Jesuits from outside Europe and North America do not take part in the Congress. On the commendation of Fr General, Markus Schmidst, the Secretary of the Ecumenical Congress, took an initiative to ask all the Provincials to send at least one younger Jesuit to the meeting. It would not be an exaggeration to say that both Pius

Xalxo and I landed in Vienna for the Ecumenical Congress under reference because of the efforts and support of Marcus, and of course Fr Provincial's periodic reminders.

In 2016, the Orthodox Church will hold its long awaited "Great and Holy Council", which will deal, among other things, with unity among other Orthodox Christians and potential steps towards unity with the Catholic Church. The year 2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's writing of the "95 Theses" which led to the split in the Western Church. These two events suggest many opportunities for reflection and discussion, and they illustrate the continued importance of inter-Christian unity (Letter of Fr. General dated 29 June 2013, p. 2).

For Fr Pius and me 23rd Conference of the International Society of Jesuit Ecumenists was a God given opportunity first and foremost to visit Vienna, a beautiful city of Austria and most importantly to sit together with the veteran Jesuit Ecumenists and deliberate upon difficult issues related to ecumenism in the context of the Churches in the world today and learn from other diverse experiences on the matter. Back home, Jesuits have been the initiators and prime movers of the ecumenism movement as far as the Churches of Jharkhand is concerned. We have a glorious past in the ministry of ecumenism with Fr M. Van den Bogaert, SJ, who initiated the movement and Fr Jose De Cuyper, SJ, who gave it a momentum and contributed to its growth immensely. One of the questions which was tabled for our reflections during our Conference was: What can we do as Jesuits to equip ourselves in the Society that Christ's call for unity becomes part of our mission? This is the question which keeps ringing into my ears when I start thinking of the ecumenical activities in the given context of Jharkhand.



With Participants in the Conference

Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN)

(Networking for Justice Meeting: Loyola 17-20 November, 2015)

Xavier Soreng

Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) is an issue based advocacy network of the Jesuits and Collaborators basically to work with the Government and Multi-national Corporates for policy change which adversely affect people or groups of people in various parts of the world. Advocacy can be used to build bridges between those who hold power and those who are powerless. Networking is an important aspect of advocacy. Through our contacts with persons in position in the governments and corporates and due to the presence of the Society and its institutions in various parts of the world, the policies can be influenced in favour of the victims so that justice and common good prevails.

Advocacy work in the Society of Jesus is not entirely new. The Jesuit Refugee Service to reach out to the refugees began under the dynamic leadership of Fr Pedro Arrupe, SJ. It is a valuable advocacy initiative and is looked upon as a model for other potential initiatives and institutions. What is new in GIAN is that it seeks to influence public policy and law making that would serve the interests of the poor and marginalized in a far more efficacious manner.

When GIAN began it was meant to cover five different areas for its interventions:

- a) Education (Informal Education),
- b) Displacement and Migration,
- c) Peace and Human Rights,
- d) Ecology, and



South Asian Representatives in the Conference

e) Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources

Of the five areas 'Peace and Human Rights' has been dropped for some unavoidable reasons. Besides, it was felt that the same could be integrated into all the other four areas.

As far as South Asia is concerned, (a) for 'non-formal education', Fr Trevor Miranda (BOM) was the Core Group member who has been replaced by Fr John Chathanatt (DEL); (b) for 'Displacement and Migration' Fr Anthony Dias (BOM) is the Core Group member; (c) for 'Ecology' Fr. Xavier Savarimuthu (KOL) is the Core Group member and (d) for 'GNMR (Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources) Fr Solomon David (DUM) the Core Group member and Fr Xavier Soreng (RAN) was invited to replace him. Fr. Stanny Jebamalai (present JESA Secretary) is the Coordinator for all the GIAN activities in South Asia.

Networking for Justice Meeting of GIAN Core Group Members was held in the Retreat House (Casa de espiritualidad) of Loyola, Azpetia (Spain), from 17 to 20 November 2015. The main objectives of the network meeting were to assess the situation of GIAN Networks, deepen the understanding of the network by sharing of experiences and learning from one another, explore the possibilities of helping the Society progress in the field and to communicate to the Society the new developments in the area. There were as many as 55 participants belonging to different networks. ALBOAN, Spain was the host of the whole meeting and its staff members executed their responsibilities wonderfully well.



Deliberation in the Conference

As Solomon David from Dumka Raiganj Province had expressed his inability to continue with the network, I was asked to represent GNMR (Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources) on behalf of South Asia. I accepted to go with great amount of hesitation as I was very new to the network and knew absolutely nothing about it. I am very grateful to the Province for allowing me this privilege to go to Spain and attend this important meeting.

In the first two days (17 & 18 November) of the meeting, all the four networks had a common agenda which basically comprised of the presentations from all the GIAN networks followed by group sharing on what the participants had learnt and how they can help the Society grow in 'networking for justice'. I found the second day very interesting and meaningful which consisted of the sharing on 'Good Practices' in the existing networks. Ten good practices were shared. Each good practice was presented by one person. The rest of the participants were free to choose and visit

different good practices as per their interest. I chose to visit presentations on Migration, EcoJesuit, EduJesuit and Advocacy Honduras. These were very interesting and enriching for me.

For the last two days (19–20 November, 2015) of the meeting, all the networks had their own agenda. GNMR (Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources) of which I am a member, spent the rest of the two days on conference wise updates, review of the Action Plan 2013, revisiting goals, purpose and structure, potential areas of concern and action, joint session with ecology network and developing and finalizing action plans for the coming year.

Besides what happened in the sessions, we took time off for an inspirational and motivational visit to the House of St. Ignatius and the Conversion Chapel on 17 November. On the 20th of November, we had a Eucharist at La Magdalena (the hospital where St. Ignatius stayed in Azpetia when he visited it from Italy) commemorating El Salvador martyrs with the sizeable number of representatives of the local Church. For lack of space, I would not like go to detail, but these two important visits have been memorable and a great source of inspiration for me.

Special mention can be made of some of the best practices in respect of GIAN GNMR which can perhaps add to the South Asian experience of advocacy. **Advocacy Honduras – United States** took the issue of environmental justice. The communities living around Honduras mining were forced to drink contaminated water which was affecting their health. At the initiative of Jesuit University at Honduras the water samples were collected and a scientific study was conducted. The study proved that the water which the people were drinking was contaminated. The matter was then taken up with the mining company and a remedy is being worked out with the affected community. Secondly, **Advocacy ALBOAN (Spain)** has taken up with local government a drive for policy change on mining. Draft policy proposal has been meticulously worked out and is pending for final decision on the matter. **European Campaign on Minerals** (Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zaire, etc) has been working on awareness building and capacity building projects systematically so that affected people can bargain for an alternative mining. Research is an integral part of the campaign.

It would also be worth mentioning at this juncture that a company in Australia was involved with mining in **Karanpura of Hazaribag District**. As a result of the advocacy work taken up with the mining Company in Australia, the Company withdrew its contract with the Indian Government; but unfortunately, the same has been given away to CCL at the moment.

After our meeting in Loyola, a meeting of the Core Group members (South Asia Representatives) of different networks of GIAN was held at Jor Bag, New Delhi on 20 December 2015. Besides the Core Group members, Fr. George Pattery (POSA) and Fr Keith Abranches (Socius) were present for the meeting. After a fruitful review of the status of GIAN Networks, it has been decided that each network must identify one issue which is going to be the focus of our attention and resources in the coming years. Each one is supposed to come out with one issue after due consultation by 25 June 2016.

Finally, I would like to end with a footnote that I was under the impression that most of the participants in the meeting were Jesuits. My presumptions were falsified when I came to know that big majority of us were lay collaborators and in many instances they are heading the Jesuit Institutions and networks which was wonderful. I found them very committed to their responsibilities. It was a memorable experience of an extended Ignatian family in effect. Probably, we as a Province, have a long way to go in this direction.

Central Zone Education Bureau (CZEB)

Provinces: Dumka, Hazaribag, Jamshedpur, Madhya Pradesh and Ranchi

Ajit Kumar Xess



Educational Data of Central Zone Provinces

Provinces	Total Number of Jesuits	Number of Educational Institutions	Number of Jesuits In Ed. Institutions	Number of Lay staff	Number of Students	Number of Hostellers
Dumka R. (Jharkhand)	185	26	44	475	21622	5884
Hazaribag (Jharkhand)	228	44	45	513	25790	4016
Jamshedpur (Jharkhand & Odisha)	212	33	69	1091	37332	2145
Madhya Pradesh (Chhattisgarh & M.P.)	252	39	105	1052	26304	2925
Ranchi (Jharkhand, Assam & Andamans)	374	106	103	1489	54374	3409
Total	1251	248	366	4620	165422	18379

Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, Provincial of Ranchi Province, officially blessed and inaugurated the office of the Central Zone Education Bureau On July 17, 2015

The Office of the Bureau started functioning from September 1, 2015. Fr Ajit (Principal St. Xavier's School, Ranchi) and Fr Florence (Principal St. John's School, Ranchi) are appointed as the Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively, of the Bureau. Mr Roshan Tete is appointed as the full time Assistant Secretary (Lay Person) and Mr Robert Ekka as the IT expert of the Bureau.

Aims and Objectives

1. To provide leadership, in the true spirit of 'Magis' to Jesuits and our Collaborators in the ministry of education for better and effective functioning of our educational institutions and other educational initiatives, according to the mind of the Society and the demands of the time.
2. To function as a link between our Educational institutions and the government (HRD). However, our services will not be confined to Jesuit Educational works alone, but will be open to all who wish to avail our services.
3. To provide a platform to address common issues which affect our education ministry in the Central zone.
4. To promote greater understanding and collaboration among Jesuits of Central Zone involved in education, particularly in sharing our resources; personnel, finances, expérience and expertise.
5. To promote collaboration among the Jesuits and the other existing institutions, such as JHACMEA and GRAM GURU.
6. To provide adequate and timely information regarding the latest developments in the field of education, the verdicts of the Courts of Law related to education and other assistance in case of doubts and difficulties.
7. To organize workshops/seminars/orientation program and in-service training to the Principals and staff.
8. To affect/influence in making of the government education policy for minority schools.
9. To enhance and strengthen the quality Jesuit Education.
10. To Share the Jesuit educational initiatives and legacy.
11. To deal with day to day challenges in our ministry.
12. To facilitate the implementation of IPP.
13. To prepare the syllabuses, methods and techniques of teaching, setting question papers etc.

Administrative Structures

1. Apex Body: Provincials of Central Zone headed by the Coordinator
2. Secretary (Jesuit)

3. Assistant Secretary (Jesuit)
4. Assistant Secretary (Lay person)
5. Office Clerk (lay Person)
6. Resource persons - As per the need
7. Legal Cell - Hoffman Law Associates
8. Expert Legal consultation -
9. Working committee - PCEs of various Provinces

There is a greater need of inter-provincial and inter-ministerial collaboration in our central zone provinces. We have taken a step ahead in this regard. We are sure of harvesting a manifold fruits from central zone education bureau.



Fr Francis Kurian, Chair, Central Zone: Meeting with the PCEs of CZ



Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur and PCEs with Mr Nathan (Porticus)

Creating a Place of Mercy and Hope

Sushil Tirkey

Lohardaga is one of the smallest districts in Jharkhand with 60.3 per cent of the tribal population. The Oraons are the major tribal inhabitants followed by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), namely, Asur, Birgia, Birhor, Lohra, etc. They are settled in 353 villages of Kuru, Kisko, Senha, Bhandra, Lohardaga, Kairo, Lohardaga and Peshrar blocks of the district. These villages come under 66 Gram Panchayats but the villages again are divided into 803 wards which have the provisions of Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas.

At present we are working in different villages of 6 developmental blocks, namely, Kairo, Kisko, Senha, Lohardaga, and Peshrar of Lohardaga district.

Keeping in mind the aims and objectives of the AROUSE to bring about socio-economic and political change among the poor and tribals, following programme and activities have been carried out.

1. Youth Club (Yuva Jhankar): We have focused on the unorganized youth of 20 villages through youth clubs (Yuva Jhankar) for their formation and development.

To curtail the migration of the tribal youth to the cities and brick kilns and to mobilize them for education, entrepreneurship and development we kept up links with the village youth through village meetings and discussion on various issues and socio-cultural activities and carried out the following programmes-



Youth Programme

Sl. No	Particulars	No. of Sessions/teams	Participants
1	Village Sports	2	224
2	Football Match	16	256
3	Cultural Programme	1	50
4	Village level Seminars	18	360
5	Leadership Training	1	32

2. Women Self Help Groups: Till date we have promoted 157 Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) comprising an average of 15 members in each group. The 73 SHGs, under our monitoring and

supervision, are in the process of forming a federation for better cooperation, sustainability and empowerment.

3. Farmer Clubs: We have promoted 24 Farmer Clubs in different villages. They are supported by NABARD for three years. We have applied for the approval and assistance from NABARD for 11 new Farmer Clubs in new villages.

4. Joint Liability Groups (JLGs): Promotion of Joint Liability Groups consisting of 4 to 10 members is basically meant for obtaining credit facilities from the banks. Till date we have promoted more than 35 JLGs and 9 JLGs, comprising of 45 members, who have received Kisan Credit Cards. The AROUSE has been assisted by NABARD for promoting 100 JLGs.



Kisan Credit Cards through Joint Liability Groups as at 30 November 2015

Blocks	Banks	No. of JLG Promoted		KCC Received		Total amount sanction (Rs)
		No. of JLGs applied for KCC	No. of members	No. of JLGs	No. of Members	
Kisko	BOI	20	90	7	32	800000
	JGB	5	30	0	0	0
Kuru	JGB	2	10	2	10	400000
Lohardaga	PNP	2	4	0	0	0
	OBC	1	4	0	0	0
	UBI	1	4	0	0	0
Total		31	142	9	42	1200000

5. Health Awareness Programme: To enhance the capacity of the villagers so that the awareness on tuberculosis (TB) and services may reach door to door, AROUSE Sub-Centre, Lohardaga under



the supervision of Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) has conducted TB awareness and referral programmes in the villages of Kisko, Senha and Peshrar blocks.

Data of Health Awareness Programme

Blocks	Akshya SAMVAD			Community Meetings			Mid-Media Prog	
	No. of Villages	No. of House-hold	No. of Suspects Identified	No. of Villages	No. of Participants	No. of Suspects Identified	No. of Prog.	No. of Participants
Kisko	20	1055	8	27	578	13	0	0
Senha	19	876	3	9	192	6	2	236
Peshrar	3	152	5	0	0	0	0	0
Kuru	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	300
Total	42	2083	16	36	770	19	3	536

6. Jan Netritva Pahal (Peoples Leadership Initiative): Under this programme TOTs organised and conducted Leadership and Legal Trainings during the month of May 2015 and Gram Sabha Meetings and discussions in 5 villages, in which 73 persons participated.

7. SOUL Project: Under this programme 8 youths went through the training on Nursery & Horticulture, Integrated Farming and Lac Cultivation who, eventually, become community resource persons.

8. Other activities: As many as 648 participants were present during the workshop and seminars on Gram Sabha, PESA and the Forest Right. While 8 persons took part in the Agriculture Training, 90 participated in the training for the SHGs. The UNICEF Programme covered 90 villages.

Broad Palette of Collaboration

Aurel Brys

Marriage Encounter

After the celebration of the World Marriage Day on February 16, 2015, there were few programme during the first half of the year due to Father Vincent ill health. Yet the team of lay people carried on for the Engaged Encounter from 27 to 29 March. This was certainly an encouraging sign.

After that there was the usual spate of various programmes as follows:

- For the Seminarians on 6-9 August (20 participants).
- The Marriage Encounter Weekend on 21-23 August (5 couples).
- Hindi Deeper Team Training weekend on 17-20 September (3 couples and 1 priest)
- The Flagship of Marriage Encounter, the ME Week (the traditional Shadi/Marriage School) on 6-9 November (125 couples), and

- Marriage Encounter from 13 to 16 December (100 couples).

Lok Netritva Nirman (LNN)

While 2015 has been rather a quiet year for the LNN, the following programmes and activities took place under its patronage:

- » The Newcomers Training in Vikas Maitri, Ranchi, from 13 to 15 February for 18 persons.
- » The yearly Aam Sabha at Jharna, Namkum from 17 to 19 April for 30 people. During this gathering the report from the Centre and different Units were presented. The issues of the domestic workers and trafficking were discussed with Fr Chetan IMS, in charge of the Jharkhand branch of Sr Jeanne Devos' National Domestic Workers Movement. This was a real eye-opener for us. We also planned for the coming year, besides praying and dancing together.
- » The yearly One Month Training (OMT) from 17 May to 12 June was attended by 9 men and 13 women. There were mainly young people, Adivasis and Dalits this year. Besides the new knowledge, the OMT is an experience of growing in self-confidence and self-worth, and the discovery of one's vocation for the service of leadership. It makes the month a truly life-experience.
- » From 20 to 28 September, LNN conducted a weeklong Training in Social Analysis during which Father Tony Herbert was the main resource person. It was attended by 34 persons.
- » Drawing from the One Month Training and other Inputs some Units took up locally smaller training programmes and was active during the Panchayat elections. Six LNN members were elected as Mukhiya, and eight for other posts, making LNN true to its name: an Integrated Training for Leadership.
- » The LNN Published the yearly Jagruti Calendar which has become a standard publication sought after by thousands of people all over Jharkhand and beyond.



Activities of Christian Life Community (CLC) during 2015

- » On the Feast day of Assumption (15th August) members of CLC (High School & College units separately) in different dioceses of Ranchi Archdiocese celebrated Our Mother Mary's feast with a Special Prayer service followed by cultural activities.
- » Several recollections were organized in different units (hostels) to prepare the members of CLC for New Membership and for grading of the old ones before the Feast day of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary (8th of September). The new membership enrollment and grading of old ones at Ursuline College Hostel, Ranchi.
- » Animators' Training Program at Gumla Diocese took place with 49 animators from 13 to 14 April 2015. The CLC national President, Mr. Robert D'Souza from Bombay CLC Secretariat, was present on the occasion.
- » The CLC annual Rally was held at Gumla for the Gumla diocese from October 13 to 14. As many as 1900 CLCers participated in it.
- » Three days' seminar was organized from April 21 to 24, to form the members of CLC under Khunti Diocese. The topic was 'Ignatian Spirituality & Problems of Youth today'. Fr Deepak Toppo SJ, Director of Jharna Spirituality Centre, Fr Fredrik Kujur SJ, CLC Director Ranchi, Fr Ashok Kujur SDB, Director Youth Centre Bariatu, and Fr Augustine Kujur SJ, Principal Loyola Khunti, were the resource persons. There were 800 participants.
- » The Animators' Training Program was held at Simdega for Simdega Diocese from August 27 to 28. About 25-30 animators participated in it. Fr Augustine Kujur, SJ, and Mr. Robert D'souza were the resource persons.
- » A vibrant Get-together was organized before Christmas holidays for all the high school boys and girls in Simdega.



PROVINCE IN REFLECTION, ACTION AND EVALUATION

1. Spiritual Animation for Inner Freedom
2. Interaction with the Bishop of Cambodia
4. On to the Road
5. Final Commitment in the Society of Jesus
6. Much to be Grateful for



Spiritual Animation for Inner Freedom

Florence Guria

A workshop on Spiritual Animation Process was held at Jharna, Namkom from March 9 to 11, 2016 on the theme “A Universal Body for a Universal Mission”, facilitated by Fr Julian Fernandes SJ and Fr R.C. Chacko SJ. The assembly itself was a replica of the universal body as it was represented by the members from all the provinces of central zone of South Asian Assistency.

Fr Julian invited the assembly to revisit the foundational experience of the Society of Jesus. He further animated the house to rediscover and reassert Jesuit vocation to the universal society. He stressed on the felt need to deliberate as a corporate body to join in the spiritual process of structural renewal at all levels.

He underlined the aspect of universality in the life of St. Ignatius which was reflected in the history of the Society of Jesus and as to how Ignatius was never static but on constant move as a pilgrim. “Ours is the spirituality of embracing the whole world,” he said.

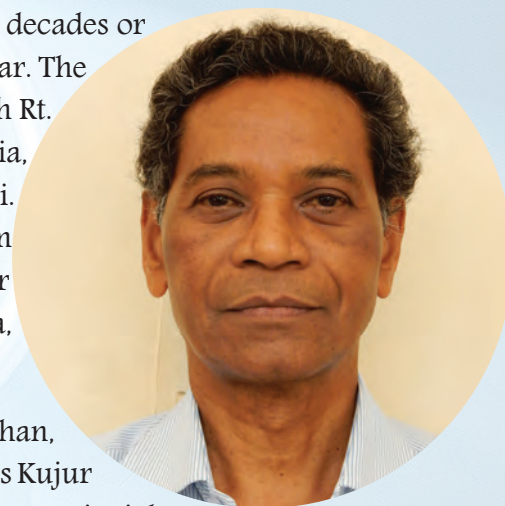
Fr Chacko led the house to delve deeper into the Call of the Eternal King enumerating the qualities of Jesuit vocation and mission, i.e. universality, mobility, availability and promptness. He emphasized upon the need of personal preparation through affective prayer. He pressed upon the need for Restructuring Jesuit Governance for greater Apostolic Effectiveness. He invited the assembly to reflect and pray over various elements, i.e. apostolic planning, sharing of personnel and finance, restructuring province boundaries, empowering POSA and restructuring the process of formation. He shared his reflection on how a deep inner freedom and discernment could lead members towards achieving the goal.

Interaction with the Bishop of Cambodia

Ajay Soreng

Ranchi Province has become a missionary province in the last two decades or so. Hence, it keeps drawing many visitors regularly from near and far. The Ranchi Jesuit Society organized a wonderful interactive session with Rt. Rev. Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez SJ, DD, the Bishop of Cambodia, and other religious on 14 January 2016 at Manresa House, Ranchi. The occasion also created a platform for other missionaries from Ranchi Province, namely, Br. Vincent Soreng, SJ, in Tanzania, Fr Elias Surin, SJ, in Guyana and Fr Rajat Hassapurty, SJ, in Cambodia, to share the experiences of their respective mission land.

Prominent among the audience were Mother Linda Mary Vaughan, DSA, Mother General of St. Anne’s Congregation, Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ, the Provincial of Ranchi Jesuit Society, Sr Suchita Shalini Xalxo, Provincial





of the Congregation of St. Ursula, and Sr Monica Kujur, DSA, Provincial of St. Anne's Congregation. The entire session was effectively managed by Fr Cyprian Ekka.

Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur SJ, the Provincial, in his welcome note underscored that Ranchi Province was born as a mission province, but today it has become a missionary province. This is the sign of God's providence to Chotanagpur and its people.

The most powerful expression of the session was Bishop Enrique wearing a cross with one broken leg of Jesus symbolizing the thousands of Cambodians losing some limb or the other in the land mines planted during the protracted Cambodian war. Tens of thousands died in the conflict. Country was destroyed, family life has disappeared and the society has become just a conglomeration of individuals of the elderly, adults and children. The main task of the diocese is to establish the family life and build a communitarian church.

Br. Vincent Soreng has been working in different Provinces of Africa for the last 42 years providing vital logistical support to the Provinces. One of the Ranchi Jesuits jestingly asked him to stay back in Ranchi and not to return to Africa. He shot back, "I love my mission land and its people and they do the same to me." He has fully immersed himself into the life of Africa.

Fr Rajat Hassapurty, SJ, is a co-missionary with his Lordship Enrique Figaredo. He shares the same situation and conditions in Cambodia. He contributes in the field of education and parish ministry in strengthening the family life of the war ravaged people.

Fr Elias Surin, SJ, in British Guyana applies himself more innovatively reinventing new models of Christian life and worship with a flare of Chotanagpur in singing and prayer. He is given a parish ministry with extremely difficult terrain of mountainous region. But the missionary spirit of Fr Elias supersedes all these. Bravo, Elias and all our men in Guyana!

At the end all our missionaries and the special invitees were presented with a Mahogany tree sapling each.

On to the Road

Ajay Soreng

Ordination of Pradeep Tirkey SJ



The ordination of Deacon Pradeep Tirkey SJ, took place at 9.00 am on 03 January 2016 at Talesera Parish in Gumla Diocese. Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, officiated at the Holy Eucharist. More than 80 priests concelebrated with his Lordship and about 20 Religious Sisters, two Deacons, 6 Coadjutor Brothers and more than 3000 faithful participated in it.

In his homily his Lordship stressed upon the three main points of the priestly office, namely,

- » That the priest is a mediator between God and human offering sacrifices for the people and dispensing sacraments to them.
- » That he is a teacher to teach the people of God the sound doctrine, and
- » That he is a shepherd to the people of God leading them with care, protection and holiness.

Father Patrick Minj, the parish priest, was brisk and active supervising and directing all movements of the ceremony. Many innovative items were displayed in the ceremony such as the stick dance in the entrance tribal dance and the Bible procession dance with a 'Manjusha'. The faithful from surrounding parishes, Noatoli, Loakera, Gumla, St. Ignatius' School, Gumla, Keondtanr and Mamarla made it to witness this great occasion as it was the first ordination in that three-year old new parish.

Ordination of Fr Ashok Kandulna SJ

Ashok Kandulna SJ was ordained priest on 14 January 2016 at Gangutoli Parish by Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, Bishop of Gumla Diocese and with him concelebrated some 85 priests. Among the participants were some 30 religious Sisters, 5 Coadjutor Brothers, Manresa Scholastics, Minor Seminary College students, St. John's senior students and about 2 thousand faithful of Gangutoli and around the place.

Three hours long ceremony was captivating, singing being melodious and atmosphere devotional. His Lordship Bishop Paul Lakra, DD, in his message stressed the point that it takes long years of study and training to become a priest and deacon Ashok has gone through all these which is an inspiration to the modern youth to follow. A priest is



ordained teacher to bring God's love among the people with a responsibility to take care of them and be a prophet of hope to them.

Final Commitment in the Society of Jesus

Ajay Soreng

We had enough reasons to thank God as Fr Sikander Kerketta, Fr Kamal Chandra Bage, Fr Praful Ekka, Fr Manohar Khoya, Fr Alexander Tirkey and Fr Jaywant Soreng made their final commitment to the Society of Jesus.

The ceremony of Final vows was presided over by Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, the Provincial. He aptly illuminated the meaning and significance of the final vows in the Society of Jesus lucidly in his own characteristic style with a special strike on the vows of poverty that frees on all occasions.

this

Late Fr Isayas Xess SJ was supposed to have taken his final vows in a group of six on 31 October 2015. Unfortunately he could not do so but in a way he finally submitted himself to the Lord. He was making his retreat at Jharna Spirituality Centre, Namkum, in preparation of it during which he suffered a stroke which he ultimately succumbed to.

Much to be Grateful for

Ajay Soreng

Ranchi Province is much grateful to God for His graciousness as many of our brothers completed their 50/60 years in the Society of Jesus. Bishop emeritus Charles Soreng, Frs Gilbert D'Souza, Vital Ekka, Benjamin Lakra and Dominic Topno were filled with joy and happiness and with them the province men sang – "my soul glorifies God..."

- » **Bishop Charles Soreng SJ** hails from Chirratoli in Rangarih Parish who was consecrated as bishop of Daltonganj on 9 February 1990 at Mahuadanr.
- » **Fr Vital Ekka, SJ** from Tangertoli, Tongo Parish, and Fr Dominic Topno from Marcha in Kuda Parish have been zealous missionaries and Parish Priests for most of their life.
- » **Fr Benjamin Lakra, SJ** comes from village Gajmara in Kurdeg Parish. He has been a trained agriculturist and now a missionary in Assam.
- » **Fr Gilbert D'Souza, SJ** from Pillar, under Shirwa Parish, in Mangalore Diocese, has been all along an educationist being a professor and Principal before retiring. He has the credit of starting colleges in many places in different provinces.
- » **Fr Paul Terrens, SJ** and **Fr Anthony Delporte, SJ** celebrated 60 years of their priesthood. Their service will be remembered always by the people for whom they have spent their life.



THOSE GONE BEFORE US...

1. Br Blacius Ekka
2. Fr Florent Jonckheere
3. Fr Albinus Tete
4. Fr Isayas Xess
5. Albert Kullu

Brother Blacius Ekka SJ

January 28, 1933 - December 9, 2015

Born on 28 January 1933 to immigrant parents at Donkamokam, Dibrugarh region, Brother Blacius Ekka was third of the 11 children (5 girls & 6 boys) born to his parents. His parents returned to their native place, Bhikhampur, where he started his school education rather late. For his Second Standard, Blacius was brought to Tongo under the care of Fr Limpens. Then for the 3rd Standard, he was sent to Gumla. However, for his 6th and 7th Standard, he was taken back to Bhikhampur, as his parents were unable to pay his educational fees. His formal education ended with the 10th Standard.



Having completed a Builders' Training Programme at Sitagarha under the tutelage of Br Solozabal (later of Madhya Pradesh Province), the Brothers' group cleared an examination thereof at Madras. Br Blacius also underwent a carpentry training programme at Sitagarha itself under the guidance of the late Fr Carsy (Bombay Province), an accomplished architect who later designed and implemented Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Kunkuri.

The most active years of Br Blacius were devoted to building construction. By his own admission, he constructed a large number of structures : the school hall at Banabira, the science wing and study hall at Samtoli, the Munshi Office, store room and repair work at Rengaraih, the Bangalow and the Church building at Dighia, a part of Barway High School and enclosure wall at Chainpur. He stayed for a year at Sitapahar to build the Jesuit residence. Back home, he undertook construction of the Chainpur College that included class rooms, refectory, farm house and a well. He was commissioned to construct the Church and living quarters at Pathalgaon.

Br Blacius was also lent to Jamshedpur Province for over 17 years, chiefly for supervising the building construction. He built the priests' residence at Bandgaon, a hall at Lupungutu, a convent and high school at Golmuri and a convent at Mango. He was then assigned to Muri as the hostel-in-Charge. Additionally, he constructed a store house there. He also had stints as farm-in-charge at ATC Namkum and Bundu.

Having been diagnosed with T.B. while at Kishore Nagar, Br Blacius was put under treatment. As his condition seemed relentless, he was shifted from Seva Nilaya to Orchid Hospital where he was found to have been additionally affected by pneumonia. With the situation considerably under control, he was shifted to the Manresa House infirmary. When necessary, he would be artificially supplied with oxygen. A sudden attack of cold was enough to worsen his condition and he breathed his last on December 9, 2015. A man of few words and strong determination, Brother Blacius Ekka rendered praiseworthy service to the Local Church. May he now be rewarded with eternal peace in heaven.

Fr Florent Jonckheere SJ

August 29, 1925 - January 28, 2016

While the entire St. Albert's community was at a Solemn Thanksgiving Mass for the two jubilarian former rectors, Bishop Charles Soreng, SJ, and Fr C R Prabhu, it was reported that Fr Florent Jonckheere had fallen down the staircase leading to the hall where the two jubilarians were to be shortly felicitated. That the end would come to the 91-year old in such a manner shocked everyone, particularly because Fr Florent Jonckheere had not in any manner had seemed ill disposed.

Fr Florent was born at Roeselare on August 29, 1925 in a devout Christian family. His parents belonged to the Lievens' clan. He had a couple of brothers and two sisters, one of whom became a religious. Florent was the youngest and the last living member of his family. His entire school education up to high school level was completed locally at Het Klein Seminarie. This was the same school where Constant Lievens had



studied. At the end Florent joined the Society of Jesus on August 4, 1944 with the purpose to come to India. After his novitiate and Indian juniorate he studied philosophy and while waiting to obtain his visa he studied sociology at the Katholiek University of Leuven. He had his regency in St. Jozef's College (equivalent to high school in the Indian system) Turnhout. In 1952 he arrived in India, had some language study and a year of regency at St. Ignatius', Gumla. Then he was sent for theology to Kurseong, where he was ordained on 19 March 1958.

His first appointment was as the hostel prefect at St. Mary's High School Samtoli during 1959-1961. He remembered his stay there with great relish. However his tenure there lasted only till his tertianship (1961-62) at Hazaribagh. He was appointed at St. Albert's College, the seminary which the Jesuits ran. He joined the catechetical team of Ranchi Archdiocese.

Even though an emeritus, Florent continued to teach philosophy at St. Albert's till 1999. In that year to the surprise of all and also his own, Florent was taken out of St. Albert's to become the superior of St. Xavier's School in Doranda. With the school principal, he started OUTREACH programme that sought to help children of the poor families get proper education. Florent Jonckheere was a really dedicated Jesuit Priest. He was totally committed to Christ and tried to bring the Love of Christ into the hearts of all who approached him. He loved the people he served. He was a truly humble person and very approachable. In his younger days he could be abrupt, 'No wasting time; we are here to work.' He tried to bring that attitude also in the seminarians. Even as his old age had slowed him down, he would not like to waste time. With much less to do, he spent his time in prayer and reading recent books so as to update his scriptural and theological knowledge. His heart was in India, but through his contacts with his family in Belgium, he expressed deep love for them and

encouraged them to teach and form their children into authentic Christians. He suffered to observe the lack of commitment to faith and the Church in Europe.

What significantly delighted Florent after coming out of Doranda was his appointment as vice-postulator for the cause of Lievens. He studied the technical aspects of promoting the cause. He also visited Belgium a couple of times to contact the people who would gather information about Lievens. He also collected here all information he could regard the devotion to his 'saint'. To propagate the cause of Lievens and the devotion, he had every year a Lievens calendar printed. Despite his advanced age he took pains to sell it in all parishes. Only this year he felt he could not do it anymore.

Fr Albinus Tete SJ

April 1, 1942 - April 20, 2015

For all that has been, thanks; for all that will be, yes! Such was Fr Albinus Tete's basic attitude to life. On 20 April he was taken to St. Ursula's Hospital, Lohardaga, for a formal medical checkup. Except for his chronic peptic ulcer causing perennial dietary problems, he was declared as fine. Back home, he took lunch with the Community and went for the usual afternoon siesta. Around 3 o'clock he succumbed to a massive heart attack. He was 73 years 20 days old.



Born on 1 April 1942 at Paikpara Sunatoli, a small village in Rengarih parish of Simdega District, Fr Albinus Tete was brilliant at studies. He did High School studies at St. John's Ranchi and finished his Intermediate studies at St. Xavier's College in 1962. Then having completed his novitiate formation at St. Stanislaus Sitagarha, Hazaribag, he pronounced his first vows on 20 June 1964 and proceeded to Mount St. Joseph's, Bangalore for his Juniorate studies. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree from St. Xavier's Ranchi in 1968. Having then completed his philosophical studies at Shembagnur, he obtained a B.Ed. degree from St. Xavier's Calcutta in 1970. Having then completed his regency at St. John's Ranchi, he was sent to J.D.V. Pune for theology in 1973. He was ordained a priest on 15 May 1976 at Rengarih, his home parish. While co-coordinating his pastoral ministry with educational apostolate, he served as the Vice Principal and later as Acting Principle of St. John's Ranchi. Having then completed his Tertianship at Sitagarha during 1980-81, he was appointed as an assistant teacher at St. Peter's School Tongo during 1981-1983. During a brief stint at Loyola High School Khunti, he pronounced his final vows in 1984.

In the same year Fr Albinus was commissioned to begin a new High School at Lohardaga. As the founding Principal, he virtually nurtured with consummate care the school and its surroundings. His saplings, both human and botanical, were indefatigably tended during his sixteen long years in office. In 2000, he was assigned at Loyola High School, Khunti, as the Principal. At the age of 62 in 2004, he retired as Principal, but continued for two more years as hostel prefect cum assistant

teacher there itself. In what proved to be the last phase of his life, he was back to St. Stanislaus', Lohardaga, as Superior of the Jesuit community. He, however, continued teaching.

A man of few soft spoken words yet extravagant in action, Fr Albinus was generous to the extent of self emptying. He never denied a help to the needy, sharing with everyone whatever he had, both spiritual and temporal. His quest for academic excellence, spiritual growth and theological update kept him intellectually busy and alert. He was a mystic of his own right. "I may see Christ in the face of the students," was his intimate wish and hope before encountering the students in the classroom. "Seeing God in all things and all things in Him" was reflected in his unparalleled love for Florenta and fauna. Class, spade and axe (Klass, Kudali and Kulhadi, in Hindi) were his instruments for contemplation in action.

Fr Albinus was a genuine Jesuit and gem of a person. He never complained about anything or expected any special favour. December 2014 onwards, with his lungs infected by frequent intake of cold and liquid food, he suffered from chronic cold and weakness. A week long hospitalization later, during 2015, he had improved and resumed teaching and pursuing his hobbies — watering the plants, feeding chicken and rabbits, and cutting the fire wood. His inability to take hot food had its adverse effect; his body would turn cold and even a minor fall in the mercury would cause him unbearable discomfort. Not that the Superiors did not wish to shift him to a warmer facility near Ranchi, with better dietary and medical arrangements, but the very mention of a transfer caused him mental and physical distress. One might assume, he had a premonition of his final departure. He would, therefore, not part from the habitat he had nurtured with sweat and blood. While silently enduring his physical discomfort, he quietly slipped away from this world on 20 April 2015 to partake of the eternal life the Risen Lord has guaranteed.

Fr Isayas Xess SJ

September 4, 1969 - October 19, 2015)

The sudden demise of Fr Isayas Xess spread like wild fire and stunned everyone who knew him. The end came to him, while he made a retreat prior to his final vows, scheduled to be held on October 31, 2015. Having suffered a stroke, he was rushed to Ranchi for treatment. However, his condition continued to worsen and that he breathed his last on October 19, 2015.

Born in a family of six siblings in Bardih Parish, Isayas was the fifth. Having done his school studies at St. Ignatius' Gumla, he completed his intermediate studies from St. Xavier's College, Ranchi. During that period he had stayed at St. Aloysius' Minor Seminary. Inspired by years of his association with the Jesuits, he entered the novitiate in 1991 and subsequently pronounced his vows. After completing his Juniorate studies at Sitagarha, he obtained graduation from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. He then completed his philosophy studies at Chennai and did the regency at Catholic Ashram, Muri. After his theology



at Pune, he was ordained a priest in April 2004. His academic studies were completed with a B.Ed. degree from St. Xavier's, Ranchi. Fully equipped academically, Fr Isayas was placed at the newly started Jharain Parish to teach in the Middle School. Additionally, he assisted the Parish Priest for nine years till his demise.

Endowed with strong physique, Fr Isayas was a humble, soft-spoken and hard working person. His cheerfulness made him particularly approachable for help. His body was laid to rest at Jharain itself. The funeral ceremony was attended by his students, relatives, parishioners, priests, religious and more. His long association with the people of Jharain was fittingly paid tribute to. With just ten years of priesthood, a young labourer at the Vinyard bade all of us good bye. May Fr Issayas be granted eternal reward and may his family come to discover God's will in his unexpected demise. We all miss him too.

Fr Albert Kullu SJ

January 12, 1957 – May 15, 2015

Fr Albert Kullu, SJ was born on 12th January 1957 in a humble tribal family in a village under Barwadih Parish of Simdega diocese. After his primary education in the village school he joined Apostolic School Samtoli in the year 1970. He passed his matric with a very good result and went to St. Xavier's College for his intermediate and then proceeded to Sitagarha and joined Jesuit Novitiate there in the year 1977. There he began his journey as a Jesuit.

He was ordained a priest on 5th April 1991 and professed his final vows on 16th September 2000. Fr Albert lived his life with simplicity. He was given a responsibility to teach the students of theology in the Regional Theologate –Tarunoday, Borea, Ranchi, which he shouldered with humility and simplicity. He was made the superior of the institute. At times his soft-spoken nature was taken as his weakness, but he was firm and quite balanced, as a Jesuit, in his opinions and decisions. He was intellectually sound and objective.

As the treasurer of St. Ignatius School Gumla he tried to streamline the finances of the school and other endeavors in which the community was involved – such as AROUSE, Apostolic School etc. As a Rector of St. Ignatius School Gumla he looked after the Jesuit community quite well in terms of spiritual and temporal well-being of the community. But there he lost his health and contracted high blood sugar. Because of his diabetes his eye-sight was affected very badly and was compelled to step down from his office and forfeit his responsibilities. He came to Agriculture Training Centre Namkom Ranchi where he lived a silent retired life.

The Mother General of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Anne was in high praise for his contribution in framing the constitutions of their Congregation. After suffering silently Fr Albert Kullu, SJ was called by the Lord for rest to his true eternal home on 15th May 2015.



घुड़र आबे रे
सोना बेटा मोरा
घुड़र आबे रे
बेटी मोरा

**Come back
O! My Golden Son
O! My Dear Daughter**



11/05/16

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.”

-Pope Francis

