

RANCHI BULLETIN



78/2

Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand

FEBRUARY 2019

FR PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

March

- 04/03 : Handing over all financial responsibilities to the new Bursor of SXC, Ranchi
- 05/03 : Off to Pune – visitation of DNC Scholastics
- 06/03 : Visitation of our Scholastics in DNC, Pune
- 07/03 : Brothers' meeting with Rev. Fr. General at Pune
: Leaving for Goa
- 08/03 : Holy Mass with Brothers in Bom Jesu, Goa
- 09/03 : Back to Ranchi
- 11/03 : Budget session: Gumla zone 9.00 a.m. to 12.00
- 13/03 : Budget session: Simdega zone 9:00 a.m to 12.00
- 15/03 : Budget session: Khunti zone 9:00 a.m. to 12.00
- 18/03 : Budget session: Ranchi zone 9.00 a.m. to 12.00
- 19/03 : Off to Assam
- 20/03 : Budget Sessions for Assam Mission
- 21/03 : Back to Ranchi
- 30/03 : PROVINCE CONSULT at 4:00 p

St Mary's Community, Samtoli

Re-opening of classes : In spite of cold, SXC, St. Mary's H. School and Inter College re-opened after Christmas holidays on January 03, 2019. English Medium re-opened on January 07.

Ordinations : Some of our community members went to Kanke for the ordination of Deacon Edwin Ritesh Dungdung. Apostolic boys too went by reserved buses. Boys were very much excited for this trip. They got up as early as 3.00 A.M., prepared food (nasta) for themselves and started off immediately. After the ordination they had sight-seeing programme in Ranchi. While coming back they had their supper at St. Anne's High School, Torpa. They reached Simdega late night at

11.30 P.M. Some of us went to Tamra for the ordination of Deacon Fuldeo Soreng on Jan. 16. Those who could not participate in the ordination ceremony, went for the first Mass at Sikiriatanr, the village of Fr Fuldeo. It was a tragedy that his cousin expired on the same day so they had to do the burial first. The burial Mass was offered by his cousin priest. Once the burial was over, the new priest, Fr Fuldeo offered his first Mass in his house. There was another ordination on Jan. 27 in Salgaposh parish. Deacon Rakesh Kerketta was ordained priest in this parish. All of us went for the ordination. The first Mass was held at Dumki, the village of Fr Rakesh. The Jesuits of St Mary's Community take special pride in Dumki as it has been their usual and regular ministry place particularly at Christmas and Easter every year. Hence Fr. Rector and

Fr. Sikander honoured the occasion with their invaluable presence.

Wedding : Manisha Barla, one of our employees of SXC Simdega got married at Muria parish. Fr. Emmanuel Barla and Sch. Sameer Bhawnra came from Ranchi to bless the marriage. Fr. Ephrem represented St Mary's Community at the wedding Mass. In the evening the college staff and some of the community members went to wish her.

School Sports : Since Chakrabuha was postponed due to the less number of participants coming from various schools, the committee organized school sports-day on January 11. It was a combined annual sports events of St. Mary's and Ursuline Convent. Mr. Jatashankar Choudhary, the D.C. was the chief guest. In his message he said that St. Mary's has produced many players and it should continue. Sports should enable the students to do better in studies. The institute should prepare the students for tomorrow's better leaders through such programs.

On the same day three guests from Louvain University came to our community. One of them was a professor and other two were the doctoral students from India. They visited St. Mary's H.S., Inter College, English Medium and SXC, Simdega. They may come again for the detail research material next year.

Picnic : This is the month of picnic. Hostel boys and some of the college departments went for picnic to different places and on different dates. Teachers of the High School too planned for themselves to be together and celebrate. All felt refreshed after the picnic.

Guests : Many Ranchi Jesuits and others visited our community. Before the ordinations taking place in nearby parishes, many stayed at St. Mary's. Since we do not have sufficient guest rooms, they had to sleep on the floor. Mattresses and blankets were provided from the tent house.

We had one distinguished guest, namely, Fr. Joe Rodricks who is a missionary in Africa. He belongs to Ranchi Province but he has opted for Africa mission. He stayed here for two days. He visited the hostel, Apostolic school and English Medium. He talked to the hostel and apostolic boys. After hearing him many interesting questions were asked by the apostolic boys and showed their eagerness to go to Africa. Fr. Joe was satisfied with his visit. Many of our community members also did not know him as he had left for Africa long before their entrance into the Society.

Republic Day : The flag hoisting ceremony took place in all the three institutions. In the high school it was at 7.30 A.M. The chief guest was Mr Anuj, the president of OSMA. Since it was raining the flag hoisting was hurried up. After the flag hoisting the boys and girls went to the court ground for the same. In the college Mrs Elizabeth, the Ward member of Mariampur, was the Chief guest. Programme was at 9.00 A.M. In the English Medium, the Principal, Fr. Alexander hoisted the flag at 8.00 A.M. The students were lined up in the corridors.

Farewell : Principal, John Tirkey has been transferred to Janata High School, Noadih as Headmaster. He was given farewell from the school on January 31. All the teachers and students gathered in front of the open stage for the farewell program. He was expected to take up the new assignment on February 01, 2019. Fr John handed over the keys of the school to Fr. Sikander, the acting Principal. In the evening he handed over the files and documents of the school to Fr. Sikander in the presence of Fr. Rector and Fr. Ireneus. We had Holy Mass at 7.00 P.M. followed by supper. The Jesuits of this area were invited for the farewell programme. The whole day Fr. Sikander was busy studying and opening the files and papers of the school.

Linus

ASHIRVAD JHARNA, NAMKUM

We had a family get-together with the ATC Community members to welcome the New Year with joy and happiness. Special dishes were prepared by the ATC cooks under the supervision of Sch. Alok Toppo, who was the in-charge of the picnic. After meal, all shook a leg to the strong beats of DJ.

Our newly ordained priest Fr. Ravi Hemant Kujur offered the Holy Mass for us, on 4th. He spoke on our vocation and prayer in his homily. After the Eucharist there was a short felicitation programme followed by breakfast.

On 5th we were invited to Tumbagutu convent (Missionary Sisters of Jesus the Eternal Priest) to celebrate the New Year with the Sisters. After a cup of warm soup, we ran to the pond for fishing. Nobody caught even a single fish! Leaving the fishing lines in the pond we went for our meal. But before the meal there was a short welcome ceremony. Sisters sang a beautiful song and we kept the rhythm with our continuous applause. We enjoyed the varieties of Italian and Indian dishes.

We witnessed the ordination of Fr. Edwin Riteish Dungdung, at Kanke Parish. Thanks to St. John's School for offering us their bus to ferry us to and from. – Back in

the Novitiate, we had a change of Offices, on 7th. Bro. Ashwin Kindo is at the helm ably assisted by Bro. Abhishek Toppo. Those from the 1st year are in the leading roles of various responsibilities since they must increase while the 2nd year Brothers must gradually decrease!

Fr. Henry had been to Hazaribag for the funeral of Bishop Charles Soreng. On 18th and 20th we attended the funeral ceremonies of Frs. Sylvanus Kiro and Joseph Kandulna. Three batches of two each from the Novitiate took turn to look after Fr. Sylvanus Kiro when he was admitted in the Guru Nanak Hospital. May the departed be welcomed in the Father's home. And may the bereaved members of the families find strength and solace from the risen Lord.

We had a speech competition on 19th. The selected ones had to compete among themselves on 22nd. Judges were from outside. The winners were Bros. Sashi S. Dhanwar, Sumit S. Tirkey, and Ashwin Ekka. As expected, special prizes were given to the winners and chocolates to all the participants. The winners gave speeches at different places on 26th.

Frs. Sylverius and Deepak represented us at the priestly ordinations of Frs. Fuldeo Soreng and Shailesh Lakra, in Tamra and Gumla respectively. Fr. Edwin Dang had been to participate in the first Mass of Fr. Shailesh. – Fr. Henry went to Kurdeg for the death anniversary Mass of his elder brother. Fr. Superior, K.C. Philip, had been to Kerala for a home visit and some family functions.

Blacius Soreng, NSJ

DHYAN ASHRAM CALCUTTA

On 23rd Dec., after the examinations of second semester, we, the juniors were extremely thrilled with the joy of Christmas vacations. With cheerful faces, we went to four different mission stations of Calcutta province for our holidays. It was a fruitful and highly enriching experience as we interact with Santhali people. They always gave us a warm welcome. Their kindness and firm faith impressed us deeply. We returned from the mission stations on December 31.

On the same day we commenced our triduum placing everything in the hands of the Lord and starting our faith journey with Him in the New Year 2019. Fr. Jude S.J., a young priest of Calcutta Province guided us in our triduum with his profound experience of God. At the end of our triduum, we renewed our vows. On 4th Jan, the third and the last semester of our Juniorate began. Fr. Etienne S.J. who came from Kathmandu to take our class on "Charism of the Society" showed us film, "The Mission". The

following day, we had a discussion on the film. Fr. Etienne S.J. commented on the significance of the film that we need to keep in mind. Soon after lunch, we left for St. Xavier School Kolkata, to visit Fr. Carvalho S.J., our English teacher.

On 7th-12th Jan. 2019 we dealt on the Charism of the Society more in detail. Fr. Etienne S.J., with his systematic way of teaching cultivated in us a keen interest and desire to know more about the Society of Jesus. His class was inspiring and enriching. It enhanced our understanding of the Society and gave us new insights. On 13th–18th, we were as busy as bees in writing short stories and Essays for the Assistancy competition. At present, we are engaged in the study of Shakespeare's tragedy and comedy

-Sch. Ranjit Kullu

ASSAM MISSION JESUIT BHAVAN & GANA CHETNA SAMAJ, TEZPUR

Golden Jubilee celebration: Jesuits of KHM Region invited Fr. Xavier Lakra to celebrate his golden Jubilee with them on January 3, 2019 at Ka Rympei Arrupe Novitiate, Mawshohroh, Shillong. Holy Mass began at 6.30 P.M. presided over by Fr. Xavier Lakra. Fr. Ravi Sagar gave an introduction and Fr. Paul Coelho delivered an inspiring homily highlighting the hallmarks of Fr. Xavier Lakra. He congratulated him expressing his gratitude for all his services to KHM Region and wished him all the best for the days ahead. Soon after the Mass, he was honoured with a shawl in the refectory. It was followed by dinner. Fr. Pius was lucky to witness this event.

Blessing of Presbytery & Annual Parish Sabha: On the occasion of Parish Sabha, newly constructed Presbytery at Kathalguri was blessed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil, the Bishop of Bongaigaon on January 6, 2019 in the presence of Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and the faithful of the Parish. It was followed by Holy Mass presided over by Bishop Thomas. Soon after the Mass, cultural programme was showcased and an annual report of Parish was presented to the gathering. Lunch was arranged for all the participants. Congratulations to all the Jesuit Fathers of Kathalguri for making the blessing of Presbytery and Annual Parish Sabha a great success.

Orientation programme: Fr. Pius Xalxo went to Pengaree on Jan 17, 2019 and conducted an "Orientation Programme" on Jan. 18, 2019 for the teachers of St. Xavier's School, Pengaree. He spoke about

“The Characteristics of Jesuit Education”, “Expectations from the Staff” and “Assam Mission”. He requested the teachers to imbibe the spirit of the Jesuit Mission and Vision and work for the full growth of human person. Soon after that Fr. Roshan Bage, the Principal of the school had an Annual meeting with the teachers and brought out areas for improvement and chalked out plans for the new Academic Year-2019. It ended with agape. In the evening, together with Fr. Roshan, Fr. Pius went to Mohong where Adivasi Mahasabha had already set in motion.

Visitors: Fr. Nestore Guria SDB, the elder brother of Fr. Cyril Guria, Fr. Philip Barjo SDB and Fr. Nazarius Kujur SDB and Sr. Nirmala came to our community on Jan. 19, 2019 and stayed for a short time. Fr. George Soreng S.J. came to Jesuit Bhavan on Jan. 28, 2019 in order to attend the marriage ceremony of Miss Lakshmi who worked as a cook for GCS and Jesuit Bhavan for a good number of years. Lakshmi got married on Jan. 30, 2019 at Chepaguri. Fr. George Soreng left early morning on February 1, 2019 to take flight from Guwahati airport.

Ordination: Deacon Michael Mushahary was ordained priest by his Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, Tezpur Diocese on Jan. 20, 2019 at Balipara. A good number of Priests, religious and the faithful took part in the ceremony. Soon after the Mass, there was a felicitation programme for the newly ordained priest and the guests. The program was marked by the presentation of diverse cultures of Assam. Boro, Garo, Santhali, Adivasi and other types of dances were staged and all of them appealed to the audience. Meal was served for all the participants. Sincere congratulations to Fr. Benjamin Lakra, the Parish Priest of Balipara and all other members of the Xavier Sandan, Balipara for making the event a memorable one.

Journey: Fr. Thomas Barla left for Rengarih to attend the priestly ordination of his relative, Deacon Sudhir S.J. scheduled for Jan. 20, 2019 at Catholic Church, Rengarih. He came back late night to Tezpur on Jan. 24, 2019.

First Mass: Newly ordained priest – Fr. Michael Mushahary offered his first Mass at his village named Tarabari. Good number of Jesuits participated in this event and appreciated the arrangement made by the villagers though their number is very small. Soon after the Mass, meal was served and cultural programme was presented.

Community Picnic: Jesuit Bhavan and Gana Chetna Samaj, Tezpur along with their staff members went for annual picnic at the river site close to Bhalukpong, Arunachal. Under the leadership and guidance of Fr.

Thomas, it was a great success. All of us enjoyed the presence of one another, food, dance at the tune of music and sharing. Congrats! Fr. Thomas.

On Jan 29, 2019, three Jesuit communities (Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur, SXC, Sonabheel & Xavier Sadan, Balipara) along with their co-workers went for their picnic to Seijosa, Arunachal. We had our picnic at the river site amidst the nature. All of us enjoyed the company of one another, rich food materials, group and individual dance and sharing of the lighter moments of our lives. Our joy was doubled with the presence of the Ursuline Sisters working at Seijosa, Arunachal. On our way back, we visited Ursuline convent where we were served tea and the hostellers got a chance to dance at the tune of music. Congratulations to Fr. Thomas and Fr. Ashok Sandil who did a commendable job as picnic Co-ordinators.

Celebrations: Two Ursuline Sisters (Sr. Clara & Sr. Olive) who are residing in St. Xavier’s College campus, Sonabheel and working as collaborators in the college, invited us for dinner on January 27, 2019 on the occasion of the Feast of Angela Mericci, their foundress. All of us enjoyed the festive meal that was served to us.

On January 28, 2019, Ursuline Sisters of the Provincial House, Gotlong invited us for the Feast of St. Angela Mericci. Celebration started with the Holy Mass presided over by Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo followed by sumptuous dinner.

On 31, 2019, we joined the Salesians at DBSTI, Tezpur on the occasion of the Feast of Don Bosco, their founder. Celebration started with the Holy Mass at 6.30 P.M. presided over by the Bishop Michael Akasius Toppo, Tezpur Diocese. Soon after the Mass, there was flag hoisting to mark the beginning of the preparation for the centenary scheduled for 2022 of the arrival of Salesians in North East region. It was followed by the welcoming of the guests and presentation of cultural programme. It culminated to festive dinner.

Pius Xalxo

Prothrapur

The Most Rev. Bishop Alex Dias, the Bishop of Port Blair Diocese invites all the fathers and sisters in and around Port Blair for Christmas gathering to share their joys and happiness on the very first day of every New Year. This good tradition has been kept up for years and will continue in future. So the first day the New Year 2019 was not an exception. This gathering became the occasion for our loving bishop to extend his gratitude towards all the collaborators labouring hard in his vineyard. We had the

pleasant and joyful evening as all the communities of institutions, convents and parishes of South zone presented a colourful Christmas songs and dances in traditional costumes giving us the taste of the mainland. Most Rev. Alex Dias delivered the Christmas message and the programme was concluded with fellowship meal.

Chidiyatapu is the sub centre of Prothrapur parish. Like other years, some of the sub centres and villages came for the Christmas gathering. They were accompanied by parish pastoral sisters the Parish Priest. People eagerly waited for them and welcomed them cordially. The day began with Eucharistic celebration followed by various games for children, mothers, youth and men folk too. The items like entertaining games and competitions were conducted in the limited area of chapel's courtyard. After games, prizes were distributed and all others too were provided something. Weather was pretty bad but it did not disturb us while conducting the games. By 3.00 P.M. one could see the ferocious sea waves. Port Blair and other places were so much affected by strong and heavy rainfall.

In order to communicate the news of his resignation, Bishop Alex Dias called for an urgent meeting. People were really shocked when they heard about his resignation. This news, to certain extent, created misunderstanding and confusion among the people and therefore they started asking questions as to why the Bishop had to resign, what has happened and so on. On 9th January after prayer and deep reflection Rev. Father Vishwasam Selvaraj was elected as Diocesan Administrator by the consultors. Congratulations Fr. Vishu and best wishes!

Fr. Benedict Kiro from Ramnagar came to Prothrapur Parish on 7th 2019 on his way to the mainland to be with his sick brother, Fr. Sylvanus Kiro who is serious at hospital in Ranchi. We remember both in our prayer. On 11th Fr. Xavier Xalxo S.J. from Hazaribagh province and Fr. Maurice from Daltongunj Diocese visited Prothrapur. This was a very short visit.

The feast of Pongal was celebrated at Prothrapur parish very solemnly on 20th January with gaiety and enthusiasm. On the eve of the feast, the Tamil Community found itself very busy preparing the Church and the Church campus, with colourful rangolies, decoration with plantain trees, coconut flowers, palm leaves etc. It was fittingly decorated according to the culture and custom of the feast. Fr. Tamil Selvam SDB., was the main celebrant whereas Fr. David Bara, S.J., the parish priest and Fr. Edward Kerketta, S.J. the Asst. parish priest concelebrated. After homily of Fr. Selvam, Fr. David also preached in Hindi.

The meaning and the purpose of these celebrations are to thank the Lord, the giver of life and gifts, who favours and showers His blessings for the cultivation and to thank all who help in the process of harvesting. He connected the origin of the feast from the salvation History. The offertory procession was filled with the first fruits of the cultivations. The well prepared liturgy, the choir and the active participations by the Tamil Community made the Eucharistic celebration very grand and alive. Tamil Community felicitated fathers, sisters and all the presidents of different sanghs and our parish catechist by presenting towels and thereafter SWEET PONGAL was distributed to all. Every one enjoyed the Pongal and thanked the Lord of Harvest for His Goodness and Love.

St. Paul of the Desert Church at new Wimblitan mainly the Tamil speaking community celebrated its feast day with pomp and gaiety on 27th January 2019. As a spiritual preparation the faithful observed Novena. Fr. David extended his sincere thanks to all the fathers who helped him for the smooth running of novena by availing themselves specially for the celebration of the Holy Mass. Prior to the celebration of the Holy Mass, car procession took place. Rev. Father Gabriel Benziger was the main celebrant whereas Frs. David, Tamil Selvam, Devanbhu and Ajit Ekka concelebrated with him. Whole of Tamil Community of Prothrapur and also some from Port Blair parish attended the Holy Mass. Arulandhu thanked all the fathers, sisters and the faithful for their cooperation in making the day memorable and successful. Finally all the faithful were served sumptuous lunch.

Dream of Port Blair Diocese is to transform the Church and the Society by and large through SCC (Small Christian Community), consequently, it is highly recommended that every member of the parish should be the member of any SCC. To make it more effective time to time evaluation and action plan is drawn. To assist and guide the faithful Diocesan SCC team consisted of Sisters of St. Joseph of Apparition namely Srs. Marita, Rajini, Amala and Secunda availed themselves to make a trip to Prothrapur from 28th January to 06th February 2019. They went from door to door to visit the family members and in the evening people gathered for an evaluation, instruction, guidance and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. They have done it untiringly with the great help and guidance of parish pastoral sisters Rosa, Nirmala, Shanti and Velangani and some faithful who guided them wholeheartedly. Thus the week was hard and tiring but they are satisfied to a great extent.

Fr. David.

FOREIGN MISSION

Munich, Germany

During Christmas holidays from 2nd-5th Jan. we attended *Formation Gathering* in Lassale House, Switzerland. We were around 35 Scholastics from seven provinces, namely Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Lituania, Hungary, Ranchi, Goa and Darjeeling. The theme of the gathering was *Youth and their role in the Church*. Our reference text was final document of the synod of Bishops on young people. We discussed on the issue of the involvement of the young people in the Church. We also had two young people who are very active in the church and the auxiliary Bishop Alain de Raemy. All three of them were part of the Bishops' synod on young people in Rome. They shared their experiences of the Synod which was very positive. Later on we had the chance to interact with them in small groups, where they shared about their experiences and expectations from the church for the young people. One of the purposes of this Gathering was also to know Swiss province and their involvement with the youth. We went to Lucerne, a beautiful city in Switzerland. There, we visited Jesuit Church, the first large baroque Church in Switzerland, built in seventeenth century. It is really a beautiful Church, located on the bank of river Reuss. Afterwards we visited the University of Lucerne, guided by a Jesuit who is working as university Chaplain. On the same evening we had a spectacular cultural evening. It was really a good platform to share our day-today experiences with one another. The peak moment of the programme was the one-act plays performed by the Provincials and the PCF who re-enacted the scenes, that take place during the manifestation of the conscience. How wonderful it was, to spend time with our Jesuit companions! This was the moment, we felt nostalgic about the Get-togethers in the Ranchi Province.

After this jolly and happy time we got serious, because the exams were nearing. We had our written exam on 28th. It was tough, but we gave our best and also hoping for the best. This exam helped us to realize the importance of expressing philosophical concepts clearly and correctly. The rest of the exams are in February. We are busy preparing ourselves for it.

Paulus & Sameer

Kandy, Sri Lanka

The whole month of January was dedicated to the prayerful reflection, discussion and study of the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus. On 12th January we made a pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Talawila, about 150 kms far from Kandy. We spent the whole day in the shrine and came back to Kandy by midnight. We also visited a Tea Factory run by a friend of Sri Lankan

Jesuits in Gampola on the 20th, and on our way back we had the opportunity to interact with the inmates of the orphanage run by the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin. We participated in the Priestly Ordination Ceremony of Noel Jayanathan, S.J. (SRI) in St. Mary's Church, Colombo on the 26th. We were very glad to meet a good number of Jesuits, religious people from other congregations and diocesan clergy there.

During this month we were privileged to have the visits of Fr. Joseph Kalathil, S.J. (JAM), Fr. Dexter Fredric Gray, S.J., the Provincial of Sri Lanka and Rt. Rev. Bishop Vienney Fernando, the Bishop of Kandy. Fr. Joseph shared with us about his initiative to build up peace and reconciliation between Pakistan and India by asking students of different schools in India to write letters to their counterparts in Pakistan and vice versa. Fr. Dexter met all the Tertiaries together and listened to our experiences during the long retreat and the experiments, as well as our feedback. Bishop Vienney briefly chatted with us and joined us for lunch on 29th of January, 2019.

Br. Telesphore Horo SJ

Guyana

From 26-29 November the Pre Synod meeting for Pan Amazonia, "New paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology", was arranged by REPAM at St. Ignatius Church Lethem in Central Rupununi. There were 200 delegates representing their respective communities from all over Guyana. The Papal Nuncio, Fortunato from Nigeria; Cardinal Jose from Brazil; Bishop Emmanuel from French Guyana; Bishop Simi from Surinam; Bishop Lison from Netherlands and Bishop Francis Alleyne from Guyana were the dignitaries present on the occasion. Fr. Anil Kishore Tirkey, S.J. enjoyed his two weeks stay in St. Joseph's Mission Kurukabaru, North Pakaraimas with Fr. Elias Surin, S.J. and assisted him in conducting Novena Prayers and celebrating the Holy Eucharist during advent and Christmas seasons. Sr. Sosan Kujur, OSU and Sr. Helen Soreng, OSU arranged youth programme in St. Teresa Church Karasabai on the theme – Pan Amazonia. Our Regional Days 2019 was held in Arrupe House, Jesuit Residence, Georgetown from 3-5 January 2019 under the leadership of Fr. Christopher Llanos, S.J., the new Regional Superior- Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, on the theme, "Frontiers". On 9th January two Second Year Jesuit Novices- Hunter Pierce D'armond (22) and Kevin Thomas (28) from United Central Southern (UCS) Province USA came to Guyana for three months Apostolic Experiments. Brother Kevin Thomas is in St. Ignatius Lethem and Brother Hunter Pierce is in Pakaraimas. 26th January was celebrated 70th

Republic Day of India in Indian Cultural Centre Georgetown. On 27th January was celebrated the Feast of St. Angela Merici, the founder of Ursuline Sisters. We prayed for all the Ursuline Sisters and their missions. On 30th January, His Lordship Francis Alleyne, OSB, the Bishop of the Diocese of Georgetown, celebrated his 15th Anniversary in Immaculate Conception Cathedral Brickdam, Georgetown. Fr. Anugrah Amar Bage, S.J. in the North – West region of Guyana besides the Sacramental

ministries, is preparing the capable leaders for tomorrow by providing youth seminars and informal education.

Fr. Mark Mukul Lakra, S.J., Sr. Nishi Susanna Kujur, OSU and Sr. Crecencia Toppo, OSU are in their three months long home visit in Jharkhand.

Hearty Congratulations to all our newly Ordained Priests of the Province and wish you a very fruitful Priestly Ministries.

- Fr. Elias Surin, SJ

Let us pray for the dear departed souls

1. **Miss Kanta Kerketta**, the younger sister of **Fr Bimal Kerketta, S.J. (Egypt)**, died on 12 February 2019.
2. **Anil Ba'a** about 40 years of age, the cousin brother of **Fr Ephrem Ba'a** expired on 06 February 2019

OBITUARY

FR. SYLVANUS KIRO, S.J. (1937-2019)



In the morning of 17th January 2019, in Gurunanak Hospital, Ranchi, the merciful Father has called to Himself Fr. Sylvanus Kiro, S.J. Born on 14th April 1937 at Gangutoli parish in Simdega diocese, Fr. Sylvanus belonged to a family that was rich in faith and assiduous in practice of religion. He had two brothers and a sister. His younger brother Benedict is a Ranchi Jesuit working in Ramnagar parish, Port Blair, Andamans.

After his primary education in the parish school, Fr. Sylvanus went to St. Ignatius High School, Gumla for his further studies. On completing his intermediate from St. Xavier's College Ranchi, he joined the Jesuit novitiate at St. Stanislaus College Sitagarh, on 6th August 1960, and took his first vows in August 1962. Then, he went through the regular formation stages, namely Juniorate, philosophy, regency and theology. He was ordained a priest on 23rd March 1971 and was finally professed on 15th August 1977.

Though Fr. Sylvanus was engaged in diverse ministries in various capacities in and out of the province, he was basically a formator. As a regent, he worked at St. Mary's High School, Samtoli. As a good shepherd, he took care of the people of Jampani as their Parish Priest, and for a few years he worked for AROUSE, Gumla. Over these few years, his Superiors had seen in him his bent for moulding persons. Hence he was sent for formation work as a Socius to the Novice Master, a ministry that he took over after a couple of years. Possibly he had the longest innings in this responsibility in Ranchi Province. When he was Superior at St. Xavier's, Doranda, he was also appointed PCF to take care of the Scholastics for six long years. He handled these two jobs with care, readiness and concern. Travelling by trains to almost all corners of India to visit our scholastics in the universities was never irksome to him. Though physically of small stature, he was born for greater heights. Very soon his service was required from his home Province to the Assistancy. He was appointed Socius to the Provincial of India (POI). While there (Jor Bagh), he had a fall from his scooty during one of the errands, but escaped with minor scratches though some faint black scars still remained on his elbows. He served for quite a few years the Jesuit Tertiaries as their Instructor at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur and at SSC, Sitagarh. He was also the Spiritual Guide of the young theologians at Vidya Jyoti, Delhi.

To cater to the Spiritual needs of the province men and of the people of Chotanagpur, Ranchi Province erected 'Jharna': a Centre for Ignatian Spirituality in 2008. Jharna needed somebody spiritually well matured to achieve its aims and objectives. Fr. Sylvanus Kiro with his rich, solid experiences and in-depth knowledge in the field of Ignatian Spirituality was the right man for Jharna. He came to Jharna as Assistant Director and soon became the Director of the Centre. He put all his energy and creativity in his new responsibility. He worked hard to ensure the maturity of the Centre and, with his colleagues, gave it a real Ignatian colour. He was always available for any spiritual ministry both in and away from the Centre. Such was his generosity and commitment. The kinds of tasks he had shouldered over the years had fashioned him into a pliable, modest and deeply spiritual person. In fact, his personal holiness seemed to ooze in his interactions with others.

“There is a time for everything,” says Qoheleth. In the beginning of 2016, Fr. Sylvanus began to feel physically weak and his health began to gradually decline. He was under medical care for a year and frequently visited the hospital. He had difficulty in walking, his knees did not cooperate, and his memory also started getting weak. He had also prostrate related problem. Seeing his condition, it was decided in 2017 that Fr. Sylvanus be taken to the infirmary of Manresa House, Ranchi for better medical care. He seemed to be doing somewhat okay with his health, though it was evident that he was getting gradually weaker physically, especially his memory. He always welcomed visitors and his joy knew no bounds when he met someone from Jharna. His memory would seem to bounce back and he would, though painfully, try to connect. Probably he realized his limitations. Whatever the condition he was in, even in his sufferings, his angelic smiles never vanished. But all this came to a massive halt when in January, he had a stroke and his right side was completely paralyzed. He lost his speech and body movement was badly affected. He was rushed to Gurunanak Hospital, Ranchi where he breathed his last on 17th Jan. 2019.

I had a chance of living and working with Fr. Sylvanus Kiro for a few years. I will ever remember him for the following two reasons: **He was a man of prayer.** I don't remember a day when I did not see him in the chapel for his personal prayer. His prayerfulness was well reflective in his relationships. He had a good and happy relationship with all. He not only had the in depth knowledge of Spiritual Exercises but was a man of Spiritual Exercises. The thing that made him special was that he loved and created occasions to share it with others.

His love for the Society and for the Province was big. He loved to read and reflect the documents of the Society. He kept himself in tact with updated knowledge of the happenings of the Province and of the Society. These two characteristics will make any Jesuit a special one and Fr. Sylvanus was so. After having lived for 82 years of his fidelity to the Lord, I am convinced he is happy in the presence of the Lord. Dear Fr. Sylvanus, we thank you for your testimonies of life, filled with love and we offer you our prayers of suffrages. Intercede for us that we know to carry our faith in our mission.

Fr. Deepak Toppo, S.J.

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

03	Tigga Blacius
04	Kacchap Johnson
05	Beck John Anuranjan Kerketta Cherobin
06	Ekka Anup Arvind
09	Kujur Ranjit
10	Kujur Robert Pradeep
11	Minj Anuj
12	Kujur Ignatius
13	Dungdung Paulus
14	Kujur Johny
15	Ekka Sameer
16	Toppo Deepak Lakra Amit Juel
21	Tirkey Suresh John
22	Kerketta Bimal
23	Tete Isaac Ekka Alok
24	Horo Emmanuel Kerketta Edward Kullu Pradeep Kujur Amit
27	Minj Kanchan

	Soreng Sumit
29	Dungdung James W.

MARCH

05	Kujur Frederick Xess Ravi Bhushan
06	Lakra Ranjit Walter Beng Albert
07	Kindo Alexius
10	Kujur Habil
11	Kullu Anil
14	K.C. Philip
16	Dungdung Christopher Tirkey John
17	Barla Henry
19	Horo Sibil Joseph Soreng Jaywant
21	Lakra Benedict Beck Anand Amar
23	Bilung Brice
24	Kullu Ranjit
25	Soreng George
27	Tete Nicholas
29	Kiro Benedict