

RANCHI BULLETIN



79/5 Ranchi Jesuits, Sadbhavna P.B. - 4, Ranchi - 834 001, Jharkhand May 2020

Information

Dear Fathers & Brothers,

Peace of Christ!

The last issue of the Province News Bulletin has announced the date of the Province Days' 2020. Kindly be informed that the Province Days 2020 has been cancelled due to the prevailing situation of COVID-19 crisis..

Fraternally yours,
Raymond Kerketta, sj
Socius RAN

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL OF RANCHI PROVINCE

On 23 May 2020, Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ, during a very modest but meaningful guided evening prayer at



Sadbhavna, Provincial's Residence, Ranchi at 7:00 PM handed over his office as the Provincial of Ranchi Jesuit Province to Fr Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, his successor. Due to the strict health guidelines of the Government at this situation of COVID-19, participants were a chosen few, i.e. Consultors, Rectors, SXS Doranda Superior, Fr Alex

Tirkey, the camera person and the Sadbhavna community. His Grace Archbishop Felix Toppo, SJ and Bishop Theodore



Mascarenhas, SFX graced with their meaningful presence during the prayer hour and handing over ceremony and imparted their paternal blessings upon the outgoing and the incoming Provincials.

As part of the prayer, Fr Francis Minj, SJ, expressed words of gratitude to God on behalf of the Provincemen for the gift of Fr J Marianus Kujur, SJ in the following words:

Lord our God, Creator and Protector,

We believe that you love us, feed us, and trust and guide us. We have gathered here to thank you and one another at a moment when our world, especially of the poor, is reeling under the debilitating impact of Covid-19; we also remember your servant Fr Adolfo Nicolás, who was buried a few hours ago.

But we wish to thank you today for giving us Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur as Provincial for the past six years. We thank you for giving him indefatigable energy, conviction and enthusiasm to carry out the task entrusted to him. As a quick decision maker, fast worker, risk taker, communicator, visionary and planner and audacious leader, he led the Province, at times singlehandedly, to new heights. You made him an institution builder by inspiring him to establish Central Zone Education Bureau, St Xavier's College, Simdega, and English Medium Schools in Khunti, Gumla and Diglipur.

While consolidating our ministries, he centralized finance, created funds for private teachers in our schools; he also settled School issues in Muri and forged collaboration with DSA in Manresa, Gumla, Khunti, Kishor Nagar and with the Loreto Sisters in Gumla. He worked for improved infrastructure for XISS, St Xavier's Simdega, Prabhat Tara and purchased land in two places. Future generations will be grateful for the improved facilities and additions at the infirmary, halls, refectory and rooms at Manresa House and in parishes like Rengarh and Soso.

Lord our God, we thank you for his contributions at CRI and BIJHAN meetings and his role in relating to the government in critical times in socio-political and livelihood issues of the people of Jharkhand. We thank you for work initiated for the cause of martyr Fr Herman Rasschaert and for the homecoming of the mortal remains of Fr Camille Bulcke.

We also thank you Lord for facilitating studies for our Scholastics in Europe and for collaborating with the Jesuit Provinces of Delhi, Nepal, Cambodia, Japan and Bombay.

Lord our God, we can do nothing without you. As we thank you for the umpteen blessings we have received during the past years through Fr Marianus. We also pray for his good health and quality service in the days to come. Amen

At the end of the prayer they exchanged shawls as a mark of transfer of office and Fr Marianus handed over the relevant documents to Fr Ajit.

Emotion-filled words of gratitude by the outgoing Provincial, Fr Joseph Marianus Kujur made it very personal and exhibited a sense of concern and hope for the Province. On his part, Fr Ajit Kumar Xess, the new Provincial, expressed his humility and trust in God and the Provincemen. Incidentally, this is his first transfer after his ordination.

The whole prayer planned by Fr Raymond Kerketta and Fr Francis Minj and with technical assistance with PPT by Fr Ashok Kandulna made the prayer meaningful, effective and memorable.

Raymond Kerketta, SJ
Francis Minj, SJ

Newsflash 20 May 2020

Former Superior General, Fr Adolfo Nicolas passed away

The General Curia of the Jesuits in Rome announced today that the former Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, has passed away today, 20 May 2020, in Tokyo, Japan. The Jesuits in Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region, his family and compatriots in Spain, as well as his many friends around the world, deeply regret his loss.

Message of Fr. Arturo Sosa

Fr. Arturo Sosa, the present Superior General, expressed his sorrow and condolences on this occasion. He added:

“Fr. Nicolas gave of himself throughout his life. It was a life marked by intense service, serene availability and a profound ability to live inculturation in Japan, where he went as a young Jesuit. It was a culture that he loved very much and in which he invested himself. The period of his Generalate was marked by his sense of humour, courage, humility and his close relationship with Pope Francis. Due to current travel restrictions, I am unable to travel to Japan for the funeral, but I assure all his many friends there of my closeness, compassion and condolences.”

“All those who worked with Father Nicolás at the General Curia greatly appreciated his presence during his term as General. He will be greatly missed throughout the Society as a wise, humble and dedicated Jesuit, a man of grace and wisdom, simple, unpretentious,” Father Sosa also said.

Commemorative Mass

The funeral of Father Adolfo Nicolás will take place in Tokyo on Saturday, 23 May at 5 p.m. at St. Ignatius Church. The celebration will be broadcast live, in English, on the internet.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated in Rome in the Church of the Gesù at a date to be determined. It will be available live on our YouTube channel.

FROM GENERAL CURIA OF THE JESUITS

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. PROVINCIAL 2020

1. **Bage, Roshan** Principal, Loyola Academy, Diglipur, N/Andaman
2. **Balmuchu, James P** Incharge, SXS, Tipkai & Asst. Teacher, SXS Kathalguri
3. **Barla, Rajenius** Headmaster of RC Middle School & Asst. Parish Priest, Jharain
4. **Barla, Henry** Counsellor & Spiritual Ministry, SXS Doranda
5. **Barwa, Solomon** Parish Priest of Catholic Church, Bingaon
6. **Baxla, Jyoti Paul** Socius to the Novice Director, Ashirvad Novitiate, Namkum
7. **Beck, Walter** Principal of the School & Asst. Director, Kirshor Nagar, Namkum
8. **Dang, Edwin** Director, JHARNA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE, Namkum
9. **Dungdung, Alexius** Manager, Loyola Academy, Diglipur, N/Andaman
10. **Dungdung, Anthres** Parish Priest, Catholic Ashram, Muri
11. **Dungdung, James V.** Director & Treasurer, Kishor Nagar, Namkum
12. **Ekka, Cyprian** Assists Archbishop House & Media Desk, Satya Bharati, Ranchi
13. **Francken, Louis** Advisor, Kishor Nagar, Namkum, resides at Sadbhavna
14. **Guria, Florence** Vice-Principal, Coordinator Inter

15. **Horo, Telesphore** College, Asst. Teacher & Hostel Prefect, St. Mary's High School, Samtoli, Simdega
16. **Kandulna, Justin** Over-all Incharge of Manresa House Infirmary & Asst. Teacher at St. John's Middle School, Ranchi, resides in Manresa House.
17. **Kerketta, Camil** Asst. Parish Priest, Catholic Church Ramnagar, N/Andaman Staff, JHARNA Spirituality Centre & Minister & Administrator, Jharna-Ashirvad, Namkum
18. **Kerketta, Edward** Parish Priest, Catholic Church Keondtanr, Gumla
19. **Kerketta, Elvius** Parish Priest, Catholic Church Balipara, Assam
20. **Kerketta, Rakesh** Asst. Teacher & Hostel Warden, Loyola School Kathalguri
21. **Kerketta, Sanjay** Principal, St. Xavier's School, Doranda, Ranchi - 2
22. **Kerketta, Sikander** Vice-Principal HS, Coordinator Inter College, Asst. Teacher (Eng.) & Hostel Prefect, St. Ignatius' High School, Gumla
23. **Kullu, Clement** Parish Priest, Catholic Church Kanke, Ranchi
24. **Kullu, Elias** Principal, St. Mary's English Medium School Samtoli, Simdega
25. **Kujur, Fredrick** Acting Principal, St. Mary's High School Samtoli, Simdega
26. **Kujur, Ignatius** Headmaster MS & HS & Asst. PP, Asha Niwas Keondtanr
27. **Kujur, Rohit** Acting Headmaster, Prabhat Tara HS (Mindi Medium), Dhurwa
28. **Lakra Benjamin** Recuperating in Manresa House Infirmary, Ranchi
29. **Lakra, Xavier** Superior, SXC, Sonabheel Solabasti, Sonitpur, Assam
30. **Minj, Ajay Arun** Dean of the Collegians, Manresa House & Teaches at SXC Ranchi
31. **Minj, Ajay Prakash** Assists Treasurer & helps in streamlining the finance of Assam Mission & pursues B.Ed. studies, Jesuit Bhavan, Tezpur
32. **Minj, Anupchand K** LCHR, Jorphukripur South, Uzan Bazar, Guwahati
33. **Minj, Dam C.** Catholic Church Sarwada under the care of Fr Provincial
34. **Tigga, Swarn** Principal, Prabhat Tara English Medium School, Dhurwa
35. **Tirkey, Alexander** Principal, St. Xavier's School & Asst. PP, Pengree, Assam
36. **To'ppo, Ireneus** Asst. Teacher, St. John's High School, Ranchi
37. **Xalxo, Patric** Parish Priest, Catholic Church Noadih, Gumla
38. **Mosahari, Rosario** B.Ed., Loyola College of Education, Namchi, Sikkim
39. **Tirkey, Sikander** Administrator of Kishor Nagar & prepares for Pastoral Leadership Programme in Manila
40. **Beck, Anand Amar** Tertianship in Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
41. **Minj, Anuj** M.Th. (Systematic Theology), Spain
42. **Minj, David** M.Th. (Biblical Studies), JDV, Pune
43. **Sandil, Ashok R** Tertianship in Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
44. **Toppo, Suman P** Tertianship in St. Stanislaus' College, Sitagarha
45. **Toppo, Deepak** Lic. Ignatian Spirituality, PUG, Rome

Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur, SJ,
Provincial Superior

Manresa House Ranchi

Our Service in the Covid-19 Crisis: The month of April commenced with an emergency meeting, held at 2 P.M. at XISS Auditorium, for combatting against Covid-19 pandemic crisis. His Lordship Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, Rev. Fr. Joseph Marianus Kujur S.J., Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province and Ms Smita Mutt from DC office were present as the resource persons to give clear guidelines to the coordinators and in charges of various shelter homes of Ranchi Archdiocese. There was another meeting in the evening in Manresa House Conference Hall for juniors and coordinators of Manresa House to make a strategic plan for serving the stranded people. Frs Rector, Dean, Binod and Martin gave them some instructions on taking essential precautionary measures while serving the people in shelter homes. On 2nd April, Fr Binod Toppo and seven juniors left for Muri Shelter Home to make all necessary arrangements before the arrival of the migrant workers. The following day, sixteen juniors with Fr. Ravi Bhushan Xess from Bundu set out for Dorea, Tamar Shelter Home to render their service to the inmates. Juniors kept going in groups turn by turn to these Shelter Homes to take care of the inmates. Fr Camil Kerketta, the Dean together with some of the community members visited these Shelter Homes frequently to support our juniors and people over there.

The packing of food material (Mukhyamantri Aahar) began at XISS from 18th April. Our juniors under the leadership of Fr. Camil Kerketta and Fr. Peter Martin worked day and night to make packets to be distributed to the people of Hindpiri, the hotspot of the State Capital. They worked tirelessly for more than a week, in collaboration with some sisters and Jesuits of other communities, and made about 8000 packets consisting of rice 10Kg, dal 1 Kg, chana 2 Kg, potato and onion 3 Kg each, sugar 1 Kg, 2 soaps and a pouch of oil, salt, haldi, sattu and tea etc. Some of our fathers also gave their valuable service to making packets. Bro. Blacius Tigga, the Minister of the House, gave some

packets of food materials to the poor and needy people.

While our domestic workers were safe at home due to Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and juniors busy serving people in Shelter Homes and XISS, Deacons and Scholastics from DNC Pune managed the kitchen and other domestic works. They prepared delicious dishes with limited material available during lock down.

In the time of pandemic lockdown, Fr. Mahendra Peter Tigga set up a Covid-19 Control Room in Hoffmann Law Cell and Satya Bharati. And with the help of Fr Cyprian Ekka, Sch Ashish Digal and with the collaboration of some sisters, Fr Mahendra worked ceaselessly and tirelessly to attend the calls from the stranded migrants in various cities of the Indian states. Fr. Mahendra and Sch Ashish joined the team in Nepal House helped tracking thousands of stranded and helpless labourers, find shelter and food, receive financial help from government, and get transport facilities to get back home. Moreover, the team patiently listened to and consoled them in the time of frustration and anxiety. Congratulations to Fr Mahendra, Sch Ashish and the team for the commendable job.

Under the aegis of St. Xavier's School, Doranda, the Doranda Old Xaverians (DOX) organized a Blood Donation Camp at Manresa House on 14th April. A few of ours also donated blood selflessly and generously. This Blood Donation Camp was organized in order to help the children suffering from Thalassaemia in Sadar Hospital, Ranchi.

In April all the feasts and birthdays fell in the lockdown period. This forced us to make our celebrations very simple. But such situation did not stop us to pray for birthday babies and wish them 'Happy Birthday'. We had a golden opportunity to celebrate Easter at home as a community. But due to lockdown restrictions we were not able to celebrate it in a grand manner. All the celebrations were simple and according to the norms of lockdown.

Amrit Jakra

Covid-19: Experiences of the Scholastics

My experience of shelter home Muri

In association with Ranchi archdiocese the Jesuits opened shelter homes as a concrete response to the crisis of Covid-19. We Scholastics were privileged to get an opportunity to serve people, not only to help them with our prayers but also with food and shelter, not only sympathize with them but also share their lives with them. Here are some of my experiences of shelter home Muri that I wish to share with you.

◆ God's grace

Just as a new road seems long and frightening, so were our feelings, when we left for shelter homes. Unknown and unfamiliar situations, preoccupied mind, and more than that fear from unknown enemy (virus) made us uncomfortable. But we put our faith in God's grace and strength deep within us. And we were able to give our service without fear. And

I am confident to say that our service was a fruitful one.

◆ Involvement in different works.

We had 80 inmates to feed and to take care of them and to guide them from time to time on how to cope with the present situation. Before they landed in Muri shelter home, some migrants had been badly beaten up and driven away by their own people. They were utterly helpless. Some others were worried about their family members. All felt helpless but not hopeless, always responding to our queries with smile in their faces. They were satisfied with our service and showed much patience till the end of quarantine. The cruelest fact that we were witnessing was that these people who served others through their sweat and blood are now totally abandoned, no one is there to care for them in difficulties. Finally the buses were arranged for them and with great joy they departed. It made me joyous too.

The mission cannot be accomplished by words but by genuine effort and hard works done in love. As Saint Ignatius said, 'love is manifested in deeds rather than in words'. A service with love is the only thing that people will remember.

The outbreak of the pandemic Covid-19 gave us the chance to serve people in need through our shelter homes. It was a learning experience for us all specially dealing with people in despair. We had deeper understanding of Jesuit availability, patience and adaptability. These experiences will surely be beneficial for our life and ministry. It was a dream come true as expressed beautifully by Ravindra nath Tagore "I slept and dreamt that life was joy I awoke and saw that life was service I acted and behold service was joy". Thank you!

Sch Ranjit Kullu

Experiences of Shelter Home Dorea, Tamar

We commenced our service To Dorea Shelter Home during the time of the Holy week. We felt that the best way to participate in the passion of Jesus Christ was to give ourselves in the service of others. Following the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others", we all were filled zeal and eagerness.

Experience is not what happens to you, it's what you do with what happens to you. When I recall my life at Dorea, Tamar, I have two points to put before you:

1. Our Readiness/ Availability.
2. God's love and presence in our Service.

Availability: A couple of days back with a challenge, Fr. Provincial put a pointed question before us, "Are you ready to give your service? With gentle smile and enthusiasm our response was "yes". The moment I heard "Yes" I was thrilled and replete with happiness. But more than that what struck me personally was the Jesuit availability which means readiness to go anywhere at any time to render our service to people no matter what obstacles and challenges may come on the way. All of us were filled with the spirit of eagerness.

God's presence: To render our service to the people of Dorea shelter home was a great privilege indeed but not without fear and nervousness as we had to live close beside them. However, putting aside all our negative thoughts, keeping deep faith in God and armed with basic precautionary measures we plunged into the field. Mostly, we were assigned to look after the kitchen works. For some of us cooking was a new experience. Getting up early in the morning to prepare food was another challenge hard to face with. We often failed to prepare food on time. In general whatever food we prepared was acceptable to them. However, sometimes some of them did ask for chapattis instead of rice. At times they shared their painful stories with us. This made us feel one with them.

With great zeal we carried out our daily tasks. No doubt this was a great opportunity to learn precious things of life. We learned to cook food. We learned to adjust ourselves to different situations. It is well said, "In life you'll realize there is a purpose for everyone you meet. Some will test you, some will use you, and some will teach you. But most importantly, some will bring out the best in you".

The best in us that we found was the experience of God's presence and blessings and His love in and through our service to people in need.

Sch Fulit Dhanwar

JESUIT BHAVAN AND GANA CHETANA SAMAJ, TEZPUR

Donation & Relief work: Expressing solidarity with Government, Fr Xavier Lakra S.J., Fr Pius Xalxo S.J., Fr Cyril Guria S.J. and Mr. Anand, a GCS staff went to Deputy Commissioner's office, Tezpur on April 07, 2020 to meet Mr Manvendra Pratap Singh, D.C of Sonitpur and donated Rs. 2,00,200/ (Two lakhs and two hundred only) to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Assam to fight against the pandemic COVID-19. Fr Xavier handed over a cheque of Rs. 1,00,100/(Rupees one lakh only) in the name of Xavier Trust and Fr Pius another cheque of Rs. 1,00,100/(One lakh and hundred only) in the name of Purvodaya Seva Samaj to D.C while Fr. Cyril a letter seeking permission for the distribution of COVID-19 protective provisions such as masks, sanitizers, soap etc and some dry food materials to the poor people falling under Chariduar circle. On April 13, 2020, Fr Thomas along with GCS staff and Fr Benedict Lakra went to Thakirbari village falling under Balipara Parish to distribute food materials for 26 families some of which were without food for the past two days. Each family was given a measure of 7 kg rice, 1 kg dal and 2 kg potatoes. While going to Thakirbari village, Fr Thomas had seen some gypsy families begging for food on the road side and he wanted to provide with some food materials to them also on the following day. On April 14, he went out in search of them in the same location where he had seen them the previous day but failed to spot them. His compassionate heart forced him to look for them in different locations but his mission failed as they were found nowhere. These days Fr Thomas is very much in contact with the AASAA(All Adivasi Students of Assam

Association) PAJHRA and likeminded groups which have taken up an initiative of helping the tea garden people who have been badly affected by lockdown. On April 16, 2020 he once again went with food materials to distribute to 99 families of Binduguri and 64 families of Rangapara. Each of these families received a measure of 5 kg rice, ½ kg dal and 2 kg potatoes. On April, 19, 2020 SXC, Sonabheel distributed food packets (rice 5kg, Dal 1 kg, Potato 2 kg) to 30 families of Bakoli basti, 10 families of Thag basti and 60 families of Sonabheel. The team also distributed masks – 450 pcs and soap – 200 pcs to the needy. On April 22, 2020 Fr Thomas along with his staff members once again went out for relief work and distributed food materials and gave a measure of 05 kg rice, ½ dal and 2 kg potatoes to each of 12 families of Chapaguri, 100 families of Tiniguria, 22 families of Molanpukhuri and 25 families of Bakola. They came back home safe after the distribution of the food materials. On April 23 food materials measuring 5 kg rice, ½ dal and 2 kg potato were distributed to each of the 32 families of Adabari, 53 families of Amaribari and 149 families of Sessa TE. On April 24 a measure of 5 kg rice, ½ dal and 2 kgs potato were distributed to each of 60 families of Milanpur & Amloga, 119 families of Kolabil and 81 families of Rownathpur. Congrats dear Fr Thamas, GCS staff members and SXC community, Sonabheel, for such an urgent and timely service offered to the deserving people!

Birthday celebrations: Jesuit Bhavan celebrated two birthdays that of Fr Cyril (8 April) and Fr Pius (14 April) with less festivity and solemnity because of the COVID – 19 lockdown. All the same, Holy Masses did not lose any spiritual fervor on the respective dates and moderate dinner was served to the satisfaction of everybody. Unlike other years it was a community celebration with a difference yet meaningful.

Holy Week and Easter celebration: On account of COVID – 19 lockdown we remained confined to our houses and had ordinary liturgies with our servants at home on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and even on the Easter Sunday. At the request of Ursuline Sisters, Fr Cyril went out to offer Holy Mass to the Sisters at Ursuline Provincialate, Gotlong while Fr Pius went to Shanti Bhavan, a college hostel being run by the Ursuline Sisters. Fr Thomas offered Holy Mass for the domestic workers in the house chapel. Easter celebration lost all the festivity in solidarity with the common people who are facing difficulties following the COVID – 19 lockdown.

NGOs' meeting and action plan: On April 24, 2020, Mr. Farouk Alam, D.D.C of Tezpur, Sonitpur convened a meeting of all the NGOs working in the district of Sonitpur and highlighted the crisis moment caused by COVID – 19. He acknowledged the service of NGOs and sought their pivotal role in joining forces with the district administration in several critical areas in supplementing Government efforts to the migrant population, extending a helping hand for relief support and also to prevent the spread of COVID – 19. He asked the NGOs to draw action plan for the month of May and extend their helping hand in whatever way it is

possible from them. He, too, enumerated certain area of works which could be taken up by the NGOs. He asked the NGOs to submit the reports of their relief work which they have carried out so far and action plan if any for future. He also asked the NGO members to identify any one NGO which could work as the mother NGO to coordinate with other NGOs and local administration. TSSS, an NGO being run by the Diocese of Tezpur has been identified as mother NGO which will play a pivotal role in coordinating with other NGOs and local administration in carrying out preventive measures, the relief support work and to combat the spread of COVID – 19.

In the light of the above meeting and its direction we had a meeting on April 25, 2020 with the staff members of Gana Chetana Samaj and domestic workers to chalk out an action plan for the remaining days of April and the entire month of May. We have identified as many as 22 Bastis including Tea Estates falling under the Panchayats of Ghoramari, Namonigaon, Singlitolli and Phulbari in Chariduar circle as the operational areas of work and submitted our action plan to the local administration. Just now we are waiting for the permission and pass from the local administration to get our action plan translated into reality.

Fr. Pius Nafso, S.J.

Foreign Mission Rome

In the Jesuit General Curia, Anselm Ekka had rich and transformative experiences amidst lockdown, sense of uncertainty and claustrophobia. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 lockdown has deeply affected the personal and community life and work in the Jesuit Curia, and the movement of its community members. All are forced to change their usual mode of functioning. The Office Works continues as all of them including the co-workers have been using the modern techniques for the conferences, meetings and discussions to avoid physical contact and travel. The Economato has opted for a ZOOM Coffee Break with all the staff members twice a week to discuss the issues pertaining to life as well as office works. Such innovative ideas have generated a caring attitude toward the co-workers who are working from home.

One thing was obvious that the Curia members were cautious of one's own health and much more concerned about others wellbeing. The Community Mass and Community Prayer have become more prayerful and meaningful, and strengthened the sense of union with the Church and with the victims of COVID-19. To express their concern, the community members contributed a sum of amount from their monthly allowance and community, and sent to the Vatican for the homeless people in Rome.

In the absence of the co-workers, all volunteered to keep the house, offices, and toilets clean and tidy. All these voluntary services, reminded Anselm of his Novitiate life and spirit. All were happy and active to contribute their help irrespective of age, education qualification and post. From May 04 onwards, the co-staffs have joined the office, but general life and work have not yet become normal. There

is always fear of being affected by COVID-19. They are instructed to come for the work only thrice a week till the further notice is served.

International College of Gesù has taken very strict precautionary measures inside the Community during the time of quarantine. There were some important events during the period of lockdown. Fr Johan Verschuren, the new delegate of Rt Rev Superior General for the International Houses of Rome, made his annual visit for the manifestation of conscience to various communities in April. Since he could not come in person due to the lockdown, he utilized Zoom Video Conferencing – a new experience for all the Community members! He met individually all the 55 Community members in a stipulated time of two weeks. On 24 April, the Community had South Asian cultural Holy Mass in a grand manner. It was a special occasion for the 16 Scholastics from South Asian Assintancy to introduce their diverse and rich cultures to the whole Community during the Eucharistic celebration. On 3 May, four Scholastics from Second Year and five Scholastics from the First Year received the Ministry of Acolyte and Ministry of Reader respectively during the Holy Mass in Gesù Church. Nirmal was one of them to receive the Ministry of Acolyte. After the Easter holidays, Professors of Gregorian University resumed their lectures and sharing the course materials using different available online means, which kept the Scholastics engaged in reading, writing and reflecting during the quarantine period.

With the easing of restrictions imposed to stem Covid-19 infections by the Italian Government, the co-workers returned to their works – with a mixture of anxiety and excitement on 4 May 2020. However, the community still maintains strict social distancing so as to avoid any infection of the virus. Kulwant was quick to note that despite a sense of fear and uncertainty amongst the inmates of Collegio Bellarmino, the atmosphere of the community in general remained serene. At this moment of life, certain creative fidelity to each member in the community could be seen in community activities (daily prayer, Mass, meals, cinema, etc.), and in the academic activities (readings, writings, online lessons, etc.). As for the academic activities, studying at the time of Covid-19 is a challenge for everyone; however, the academic commitment remains stable. Almost everyone spends time in front of the computer following the online lessons daily. Through the use of the recent technology such as YouTube, Skype, Zoom, Google Meet, Webinar, etc., the Professors make sure that the students continue learning during the lockdown period. In a way, the Professors are showing lot of generosity, concern and commitment in helping the students in many different ways. The students, on the other side, have become more disciplined and responsible to benefit from these online lessons. Besides, at this juncture, all hope and pray daily that a normal life of peace, joy and enthusiasm may come back fully.

Similar to the experiences of Anselm, Nirmal and Kulwant, the Community of Gregorian University Professors too seems to have experienced profound and enriching transformation in the community spirit. Soon after the start

of the lockdown period, the community gathered together at noon in the Chapel for the Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament with special prayers invoked and hymns sung for the protection from the pandemic. A sense of gratitude and appreciation prevailed for the commendable services rendered tirelessly by the medical personnel to the victims of COVID-19. In the absence of the co-workers, all community members generously offered their helping hands in running the daily chores of the house in cleaning and arranging refectories, washing plates and utensils, cleaning and disinfecting toilets and bathing rooms. Fortunately, two cooks opted to stay back in the University campus during the whole quarantine period; and so, kitchen and cooking were taken care of by them. The enthusiastic collaboration and mutual help in carrying out various house chores enhanced the community spirit. While dedicating part of the day to assure the smooth running of the House, all the Professors continued exploring various creative and innovative means and methods to reach to the students. Some of the recently developed technologies, viz., Google Meet, Zoom, Webinar, Virtual Office, Forum Online, YouTube, and even WhatsApp, became extremely useful and handy in conducting Online classes and sharing the didactic materials. One of the Workshops of Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology was conducted online; and the enthusiasm and active participation of the students kept hope alive for the future – successful use of new and innovative means provided by the spectacular technological development to reach out to the students in adverse situations.

From 4 May 2020, a new government decree has come into force, replacing the strict lockdown rules that had been in place nationwide for more than seven weeks. While it gives back some liberties, including going to the park and exercising outdoors, freedom of movement remains limited, especially over longer distances. For the moment, no one is certain whether the Schools and Universities will allow the students to come back to the campus before the end of the current Academic Year. In Gregorian University, some of the Office Bearers are being allowed to resume their work only after a strict control at the reception – if the body temperature is more than 37.5 degree, one is not allowed. Those who are allowed have to dispose the mask and gloves, sanitize themselves thoroughly, and wear the new ones provided by the University. Keeping the uncertain situation in mind, the University has come up with some feasible guidelines to conduct exams at a distance. The exams are scheduled to begin from the last week of May. All have kept their fingers crossed hoping for a better future – in the days to come!!!

Prem Xalxo

UGANDA

President Museveni declared that schools and Colleges be shut down from 18th March, even before the advent of Corona virus in the country. The whole country was shocked by sudden announcement of closing schools and Colleges. Some students were excited for holidays but many were sad because it was hardly a month since

the new academic year had begun. Lockdown in Uganda was well implemented. People were given sufficient time to get back to their villages and towns. People in northern Uganda didn't take lockdown seriously for long time, their argument was that they had already gone through painful experiences of Aids, Ebola and rebelian's wars in the past, so suffering was not something new to them. With God's grace till the end of April the corona positive case reported was 85, recovered 46 and death 0. Most of the victims were truck drivers. Corona virus pandemic in Uganda was under control so far. But in the neighbouring countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo etc. the cases were increasing faster.

In our school, the construction work of girls' dormitory for A level and Farming in the agricultural garden was still on. Construction is likely to be completed by April 2021. The workers were staying within the campus.

Life in the community became unusual. Keeping in mind the directives given by the Archbishop of Gulu, we no longer had community mass where our collaborators (Sisters) used to participate. Priests began saying private Masses. The rest of us were free to attend any Mass provided we were less than 4 people. However the Easter Celebration was as usual. Sisters were invited for the Eucharistic Celebration and festive lunch followed by recreation and Playing cards.

During the lockdown in April each Jesuit was busy doing his creative work. Sch Johny constructed a raft for leisure, fishing and cleaning the pond. Fr Joe Rodriguez prepared mango pickle that was so delicious that consumption rate went high. Bro Cyprian beautified the Prayer garden. Fr Mallya worked in the vegetable garden. Sch Boniface was busy with his work of maintenance. Fr Pascal, the minister and acting superior went for marketing. Once he was taken to the police custody for driving school van by some police who had no clear idea about the type of vehicles to seize. He was soon released after the matter had reached to the higher Officer. Some were busy reading books and doing personal works. In the evenings during recreation we played cards, watched News and movies. That's how we spent the days in the community. Thanks !

Sch. Johny Savio Dungdung SJ

Ocer Campion Jesuit College, Gulu, Uganda, Africa.

Munich, Germany

I think it must be a strange feeling to attend Holy Mass online as the spread of COVID-19 forced us to do so. We haven't had the chance of attending online Mass yet, because our community is lucky to have three priests who could celebrate Mass for us. We celebrated the Palm Sunday in amazingly simple way. The procession began on the terrace of our community and ended in Living room. We had a ten metres long procession and that was it for the corona-stricken time. Since the coming of COVID-19, living room has been our prayer room. It was the simplest Palm Sunday ever celebrated. No long procession, no hymns like "jaitun hathon me liye". It was simple. We felt sorry for those who long for the Holy Masses but due to

COVID-19 could not go to Churches.

The Holy Week too was well arranged in the community. There were three groups to take care of the liturgy on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and for Holy Mass at 5 A.M. on Easter Sunday. Jesuits from Arrupe community (our neighbouring community which is attached to our fourth floor) joined us for the Mass and for Easter breakfast. We were altogether 14. The special bread and special Easter eggs were prepared by the Scholastics.

We were still on holidays, when on 19th April we welcomed a second Year Novice Philipp Rode into our community. He will be doing his study experiment. His study experiment is to start his philosophical studies. He is joining summer semester with us and after the Vows, he will continue his studies. We began our summer semester on 20th April. Our semester will probably go up to the second week of August. This is our last semester. After that we will be back to the Province. We are waiting eagerly, soon to be back to the province happily.

Sch. Paulus and Sch. Sameer

Nepal

As the cases of Corona go higher and higher worldwide, Nepal also has seen a sharp rise in a few weeks time. Our Province has been alerted by the medical experts as a red zone and movements are bit more restricted. For the first time in the history of the school, the annual results were being published via SMS. So much so, the class eight Local Board Exams results were also sent through personal Gmail account of the students. Besides this we have been praying for the victims of Covid-19 during holy adoration. We have also started online classes for our students through Google classroom. Thanks to the technology that has made all this possible. Around 70% of our students are connected through the Google classroom and attending classes every day. It is really amazing. Sending materials to conducting exams through online are possible. Students can clarify doubts directly by texting. It is indeed an experience of a new learning for most

of us. In a simple manner, we had birthday celebrations of Fr. Dennis and Sch. Wilson in the month of April respectively. We are making use of time in a creative way in beautifying gardens and have planted some vegetables and tapiocas. Fr Boniface Tigga, S.J. joined the community on 10th May as a new member. He would take over as a new Principal of St. Xavier's School, Deonia in this new academic year 2020-21.

Sch. Wilson Kandulna, S.J.
Jhapa, Nepal.

Let us pray for the dear departed

1. Fr Michael Hawkins, SJ (DAR), 83/63 died at 8.30 pm IST (11 am Toronto Time) on 30 April at Pickering, Toronto, Canada. He was sick for a long time in the Canadian Province Infirmary. But the immediate cause of his death was Covid-19.

He was applied to Canadian Province. He left Darjeeling in 2007.

2. Fr. Jerome D'Souza SJ (BOM), 70/45, passed away yesterday (1st May) at Andheri, Mumbai. He had been suffering from a weak heart condition for several years.

3. FR THOMAS ANTHRAPER SJ of Kerala Province (90/70) passed away yesterday (06.05.2020) at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

01 Soreng Xavier
02 Minj Ajay Prakash
Kujur Hemant
03 Barla Amit, Minj Erentius
Soreng Hemant
04 Toppo Erenius,
Dungdung Samir
Lakra Shailesh
05 To'ppo Ireneus,
06 Ekka Ishak
07 Minj Gyan Prakash
Soreng Pradeep

08 Xalxo Jerome Stephen
09 Minj Bimal, Xess Gabriel
10 Dungdung Kuldeep
11 Minj Anand
12 Khoya Manohar
14 Soreng Alok, Soreng Blacius
15 Kerketta Xavier
16 Kerketta Benjamin
19 Dungdung Alexius
20 Ekka Praful, Kujur Ajit Kalyan
22 Minz Ajay Paulus
24 Ba'a Ephrem
28 Chermako Sylverius
29 Tigga Lalit John
30 Kullu Francis David
Minj David
31 Horo Peter Paul

JUNE

01 Kerketta Stephen
02 Oreya Suman Shishir
Dungdung James V.
Jojo Joachim
03 Kerketta Ajit
Dungdung James Vik.
06 Kerketta Sylvanus
07 Xaxa Anil
12 Tete Patrick
15 Minj Elias
17 Dungdung Jerome
Xalxo Medard
18 Kindo Ashwin
19 Tirkey Sushil, Minj Kulwant
20 Ekka Isidore, Minj Ignatius
Ekka Nitish
21 Lakra John
Beck Alois, Toppo Manohar
22 Burh George, Barla Gilbert
Dungdung Sanchilit
23 Kujur Sandeep
24 Bara Amar
Osga John Fisher
25 Tudu Simon
28 Minj Akshay
29 Basumatary Lazarus
30 Dungdung John
Kullu Henry