



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., INDIA

April, 2023

Year 44, No. 04

FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

- Fr. Sebastian J. Jeerakassery (DEL): General Treasurer of the Society of Jesus
- Fr Tsutomu Sakuma: New Provincial for the Japan Province
- Fr John Kobina Ghansah : New Provincial for North West Africa (ANW)
- Father General announced a change of jurisdiction of the mission in Pakistan, as of 1 April, will be under the responsibility of Jesuit Conference of Asia-Pacific (JCAP).

PROVINCE ASSEMBLY 2023:

16-19 May in Asha Deep, Pathalgaon (Arrival by 4:00 p.m. on 16th May and conclusion with supper on 19th May)



FINAL PROFESSION

IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS : MADHYA PRADESH PROVINCE

22 APRIL 2023 , LOYOLA SCHOOL, KUNKURI



FR. ANIL PANNA, S.J.



FR. ARVIND VINAY
TIRKEY, S.J.



FR. ASHOK LAKRA, S.J.



FR. BIPIN KISHORE
KUJUR, S.J.



FR. ELIGIUS KANDULNA, S.J.



FR. IGNACE KINDO, S.J.



FR. MILYAN XAXA, S.J.



FR. MUKTI PRAKASH
XESS, S.J.



FR. PRABHU NARAYAN
KHALKHO, S.J.



FR. SUSHIL TIRKEY, S.J.



FR. THEODORE KUJUR, S.J.

Congratulations & Best Wishes from

Fr Provincial, MAP Jesuits, Family members, Friends and Well-wishers



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

April

- 01 JCSA Online meeting
 03 Meeting of Rectors/Superiors, Directors of Works & Treasurers, Loyola House, Kunkuri
 5-9 Holy Week, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
 11-12 Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
 13 Pastors' Commission Meeting, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
 22 Final Vows, Loyola House, Kunkuri

May

- 05 Ordination, Musgutri
 15 Scholastics' Gathering, St. Xavier's Ambikapur
 16-20 Province Assembly, Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
 30-(7 June): Retreat, Loyola House, Kunkuri
 29 Jubilee, Ambakona

PROVINCE RETREAT

S.N.	Retreat Preacher	Date of Retreat	Location
1.	Fr. Simon Aind	20 th May morning to 27 th May eve.	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon (only for Scholastics)
2.	Fr. Ignace Kindo	20 th May morning to 27 th May eve.	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon (only for Scholastics)
3.	Fr. Patras Kujur	20th May evening to 28 th May eve.	Loyola House Kunkuri
4.	Fr. Stephen Ekka	20th May evening to 28th May eve.	St. Xavier's Ambikapur
5.	Fr. Ignatius Tete	30th May evening to 7th June eve.	Loyola House, Kunkuri
6.	Fr. Agapit Tirkey	30 th May evening to 7 th June eve.	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
7.	Fr. Pancratius Minj	31 st May evening to 8 th June eve.	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna
8.	Fr. Leander Xalxo	1 st June evening to 9 th June eve.	Campion, Bhopal
9.	Fr. Alphonse Tirkey	11th June evening to 19 th June eve.	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon

FR. PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

S.N.	NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
1.	Alok Kujur	Campion, Bhopal	Campion, Bhopal	Vice Principal
2.	Amit Xalxo	St. Xavier's, Pathalgaon	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	Asst. P.P., Youth
3.	Amritlal Toppo (R)	Campion, Bhopal	Campion, Bhour	Principal
4.	Arvind Tirkey	C.A. Baikunthpur	Jeevandhara Ashram, Mauhapali	Minister, Treasurer, P.P. (to be appointed by the Bishop of Raigarh), Dalit Mission, Hostel in Charge, NL Reporter
5.	Ashok Lakra	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	Province Treasurer (w.e.f. 1 October 2023)
6.	Basant Ekka	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	St. Xavier's Residence, Pathalgaon	Minister, Treasurer & Teacher
7.	Bipin Kishore Kujur	C.A. Dhanwarkala	St. Xavier's Residence, Ambikapur	PDD & Asst. Treasurer of Xavier Institute Surguja
8.	Deepak Juan Maria Tirkey	St. Xavier's Residence, Ambikapur	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon	Director, Ignatian Spirituality Centre
9.	Dilip Minj	St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Asst. PDD & Dhanwar Project
10.	Elphiz Minj	C.A. Kotma	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	Parish Priest
11.	Godfried Ekka	St. Xavier's Residence, Ambikapur	Vidya Jyoti, Delhi	Minister (Appointed by POSA)
12.	Gyan Pr. Kujur	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Farm & Garden

S.N.	NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
13.	Ignatius Xalxo	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Jayanti Niketan, Kota	Manager, Hostel in charge, Teacher, Land & Property
14.	Isaac Kujur	Khrist Milan Ashram,	C.A. Kotma	Parish Priest, Farm & Garden
15.	Kamal Lakra	SSC, Sitagarha	Xavier Niketan, Manpur	Minister, Treasurer, Teacher
16.	Mahant Godfried Ekka	Xavier Sadan, Umaria	Vinay Gurukul, Gurgaon	Spiritual Director (Appointed by POSA)
17.	Manoj Lakra	St. Xavier's, Rajpur	St. Xavier's, Rajpur	Minister, Treasurer, Teacher, Discipline, Physical Education (B.P.Ed.)
18.	Michael Ekka	Mariado	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Vice Superior, Manager, Asst. PP
19.	Nazarius Baxla	Jayanti Niketan, Kota	St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar	Asst. P.P., Treasurer
20.	Niranjan Toppo	Manresa House,	Xavier Niwas, Baramkela	Teacher, Vegetable Garden, I Year Regency
21.	Pancratius Toppo	Campion, Bhopal	Campion, Bhopal	Director, Campion Skill Institute
22.	Petrus Minj	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	Minister, Farm & Garden
23.	Polycarp Xalxo	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	St. Xavier's Residence, Pathalgaon	Asst. Parish Priest
24.	Pradeep Ekka	C.A. Boirdadar	C.A. Boirdadar	Vice Principal, Eng. Med. Treasurer
25.	Preetam Prakash Panna	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	Campion, Bhopal	Director, AICUF, AYCM, Public Relations, Asst. PP, NL Reporter
26.	Rakesh Kumar Bara	St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar	ISI, Delhi	<i>Appointed by POSA</i>
27.	Santosh Tigga	St. Xavier's Residence,	Xavier Niketan, Manpur	Vice Principal, Teacher
28.	Shailendra Lakra	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Asst. Hostel Prefect, II Year Regency
29.	Shanti Prakash Ekka	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	C.A. Hasda (Resides in Gariabandh)	PP (<i>To be appointed by the Archbishop of Raipur</i>)
30.	Stanislaus Tirkey	ISI, Delhi	XIDAS, Jabalpur	Vice Superior, Administrator & Research on Nagesia Culture
31.	Sunil Kerketta	Vidya Sadan, Bhopal	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Asst. Hostel Prefect, II Year Regency
32.	Theodore Toppo (A)	Xavier Niketan, Manpur	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	Chaplain at Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur
33.	Vijay Kumar Ekka	Khrist Milan Ashram,	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Head Master, Hostel Prefect
34.	Vijay Kumar Minj	C.A. Hasda	Xavier Sadan, Umaria	Vice Superior, Minister, PP, Manager, Land & Property, Farm & Garden

S.N.	NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
35.	Vikas Kumar Lakra	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	Patna Province	I Year Regency (<i>To be appointed by the Provincial of Patna</i>)
36.	Virendra Toppo	Manresa House, Ranchi	St. Xavier's Residence, Pathalgaon	Teacher (Hindi Med.), Asst. Hostel Prefect, I Year Regency
37.	Virendra Xalxo	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	St. Xavier's Residence, Pathalgaon	Province CLC Director
38.	Zacharias Kerketta	Campion School, Bhour	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Vice Superior, Manager, Hostel Prefect

ADDITIONAL TO PREVIOUS DESIGNATION (*)

S.N.	NAME	COMMUNITY	DESIGNATION
1.	Amrit Kumar Kujur*	Prakash School, Pathalgaon	Minister
2.	Bartholomis Kerketta*	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Treasurer
3.	Binod Kumar Toppo*	Campion, XISA, Raipur	Coordinator, Social Action & Ecology
4.	Casmir Ekka (G)*	Loyola School, Bhaishwar	Minister, Treasurer, Hostel Prefect
5.	Cyril Beck*	Campion, Mariado	Minister, Pastor, Treasurer, Barela Tribe Mission, Manager of the School, Farm & Garden
6.	Eligius Kandulna*	St. Xavier's, Baikunthpur	Hostel Prefect
7.	Eugene Toppo*	Prakash School, Pathalgaon	Treasurer
8.	Ignatius Bara*	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	Vice Superior
9.	John Sona*	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	Minister
10.	Prabodh Barwa*	Jayanti Niketan, Kota	Vice Superior

HIGHER EDUCATION & OTHER STUDIES

S.N.	NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
1.	Cornelius Ekka (R)	Loyola House, Kunkuri	Campion, Bhopal	Parish Priest, Ph.D. Study
2.	Dino Toppo	Prakash School, Pathalgaon	Campion, Bhopal	MSW at BSSS College
3.	Manoj Minj	St. Xavier's, Manpur	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	B.Ed. Study
4.	Sandeep Lakra (S)	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	St. Joseph's, Bengaluru	M.A. English Literature
5.	Sanjay Kujur	XIDAS, Jabalpur	New Delhi	Study in Indian Financial Markets
6.	Virendra Tirkey	St. Xavier's School, Rajpur	St. Xavier's Residence, Ambikapur	B.Ed. Study


TERTIANSHIP 2023-2024

S.N.	NAME	FROM	TO
1.	Anmol Lakra, S.J.	Xavier Niwas, Baramkela	St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha
2.	Sameer Minj, S.J.	C.A. Dhanwarkala	Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
3.	Suresh Tirkey, S.J.	Loyola School, Bhaishwar	Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
4.	Sandeep Tigga, S.J.	Jeevandhara Ashram, Mauhapali	International Tertianship, Kandy

Please Note:

- ♦ The asterisk (*) indicates new assignment(s) in addition to the previous responsibility in the same community.
- ♦ All appointments and transfers, unless otherwise communicated, should take effect before or from 10th June, 2023.
- ♦ All the customary procedures and rules have to be followed, namely:
- ♦ All inventories have to be passed on to the successor.
- ♦ Financial transactions have to be cleared before handing over.
- ♦ Handing over has to take place in the presence of the Local Superior, one member of the Finance Commission/ one member of a neighbouring community, incoming and outgoing persons.
- ♦ A copy of the same has to be sent to the Province Curia by the local superiors.
- ♦ Official appointments of Parish Priests will be given by the Local Bishops.




Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.
Provincial
Madhya Pradesh Province

NEWS & VIEWS

ST. XAVIER'S, AMBIKAPUR

The board Exams for both 10th and 12th classes started at the beginning of March and concluded on March 27. Students were earnest with



their Exams and studied rigorously.

The whole campus was calm and silent. Atmamanthaaan was conducted in St. Xavier's English Medium School by Fr. Deepak Juan Maria Tirkey for the students and teachers separately.

The International Seminar was organized by the Department of Hindi at Rajiv Gandhi Government P.G. College Ambikapur from March 16-17, for which Fr. Deepak Juan M. Tirkey was one of the Resource persons who spoke on the RELIGION and ENVIRONMENT saying that Religions of the world talk about the co-existence and harmony of nature

(environment). Also, he chaired a session during the technical session: on Interrelationship



between Literature and Environment. He guided a two-day retreat to the parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church Dhamtari Raipur Diocese.

A team from the Home Ministry of India came for scrutiny of Xavier Institute of Surguja on our FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act), F.C. Accounts. The officers who came for the Scrutiny were very gentle and gave many guidelines & suggestions for the good operation of our F.C. Accounts. The Community learnt many new things and benefited a lot from this Exercise. The Scrutiny was a very successful one. To fulfil the spiritual

needs of our Abbas, Fr. Kalyanus gave one day of Abba Diwas reflection at Nirmala Ashram Jhingo to the ABBAS of the Catholic Sabha. Also, they presided over the Abba Diwas Solemn Mass on March 19. Under the Curriculum of B.Ed., Fr. Kalyan and one Assistant professor had gone to observe and learn the 'NAAC PEER TEAM Visit Process and Procedures at Loyola College Kunkuri. On March 20, a farewell programme was organized for the outgoing II-year teacher students by College Staff members and First year teacher students. The new office bearers were elected, and charges were handed over to the first years. There was handing over by the Senior college cabinet office bearers to the juniors and oath taking ceremony in the college.

Sch. Edwin Lakra, S.J.

LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

Loyola school campus is very beautiful after some recent facelift. The gallery at eastern side of the playground is coming up as planned by the community.

We celebrated the birthday of Fr. Fabianus Minj on 18 March and the Feast of St. Joseph on 19 March with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyon and some faithful of the surrounding. Two SJL Sisters are collaborators in Loyola school, Bilaspur.

Fr. Arvind Vinay guided a three-day retreat to the candidates of St. Joseph of Lyons from 23 to 25 March. There was a one-day retreat in Shanti Niwas, Bilaspur for the domestic workers of religious



houses. Some 40 members attended and benefited from it. Fr. Arvind Vinay was one of the team

members who conducted it on behalf of CRI Bilaspur.

Fr. Emilius and Fr. Ashok rendered their great service to St. Xavier's Community, Ambikapur during the scrutiny of Xavier Institute Surguja by the agents of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Delhi from 20 till 25 March 2023.

Fr. Arvind Vinay, S.J.

CAMPION SCHOOL, BHOPAL

163 Scouts of the Secondary Section of Campion School, Arera Colony, Bhopal, the three instructors and the Vice-Principal Fr. Amritlal Toppo (R), S.J. attended the five-day Scouts Camp at Panchmarhi in Hoshangabad district. The team was led by Fr. Amritlal Toppo, S.J., Vice-Principal and the Scout in charge of the School. The Campion School teachers Johnsy Koshy, Sanjay Mishra, and Vibhore Tiwari accompanied the Scout Students. The Bharat Scouts and Guides National Training Centre, Panchmarhi, organized it. The Scout Camp began with the hoisting and saluting of the Scout flag by Fr. Amritlal Toppo S.J., Vice-Principal and Sir Johnsy Koshy. On that occasion, Fr. Amritlal Toppo, S.J., Vice-Principal of the School, welcomed all the Campion Scouts and the instructors. After being refreshed by the scenic beauty of Panchmarhi and enriched by the Scout Activities, the scouts and the instructors returned safely on March 14, 2023.

CAMPION COMMUNITY, BHOPAL

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J., Provincial and his team (Frs. Henry Lakra, Virendra Xalxo and Amritlal Toppo (A)) came to Campion Community for Consult-Meeting on March 12, 2023. They stayed in the community for three days and returned to Bilaspur on March 15, 2023. Fr. Provincial stayed in the community for his visitation with the community members. He visited the members of the Arera and Bhouri Campion Communities on March 15 - 16, 2023, and went to the extended Campion

Community, Mariado for his visitation on March 17, 2023. On the same day, he returned to Campion Community, Bhopal and met the members of all three units together at 6.30 p.m. After the dinner with the community members, he left for Jabalpur by night train.

EDMUND CAMPION CHURCH, BHOPAL

Making one full-day retreat during the Lenten Season is one of the spiritual practices of St. Edmund Campion Church, Bhopal. This year the retreat was arranged for all the parishioners on March 26, 2023. The retreat began at 9 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m. with the Thanksgiving Mass. The retreat consisted of talks, adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Mass. First, Frs. Amritlal Toppo, Hriday Raj (Bhopal Arch-Diocese) and Kapil Xaxa gave talks. Then, Frs. Casimir Ekka, Rakesh Richard Bara, Blacius Kullu, Kapil Xaxa, Pancrattius Toppo, Amritlal Toppo and Rinku (Norbatine) heard the confessions. Roughly around 150 parishioners attended the retreat.

VIDYA SADAN, BHOPAL

The atmosphere of Vidya Sadan during the 1st two weeks in March was somewhat different. The Pre-Novices were more serious in their studies as they had to write the Conference Examination on March 13, 2023. Sr. Joaquina, one of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod, came to conduct the exam. Most of the Pre-Novices did well in the examination.

There was an inauguration and blessing of Carmel Convent in Berasia on March 19, 2023. It is around 60 k.m. from Campion School, Bhopal. All the Vidya Sadan Community members attended the Convent's inaugural and blessing ceremony. The Pre-Novices danced *Arti* Dance wearing white *lungis* and white t-shirts, giving the faithful a glimpse of inculturation.

They were highly appreciated, particularly for their dress. The Pre Novices were also happy to see the new place. It was a nice outing for them which they always long for. They also enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Fr. Kapil Xaxa, S.J.

XIDAS, JABALPUR

The Student Magazine Catalyst was released on the 6th of February during the Morning Assembly. Congratulations to the Catalyst Team.



XIDAS organized a two-day orientation programme on Introduction to RURAL areas and Research Methodology for 40 students of BBA II and BBA III year students of St. Aloysius College and PGDM-RM students (Batch 2022-2024) of XIDAS.

Five days XIDAS organized Rural Immersion Field Visit in collaboration with St. Aloysius College, Sadar, Jabalpur. That visit was conducted in view of the MOU signed between the Institutions above. The dates of the Immersion Program were from 6 February 2023 to 10 February 2023. Before going to the field, two days 6 & 7 February orientation program was organized in XIDAS Institution to brief the activities to be conducted during the field visit. The students in the Internship Program visited four villages, namely Deori, Ghana, Sagda and Bamnohda, in the Jabalpur block of Jabalpur district. The participants of the Internship Program had conducted Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques during the field visit.

HR Management Confluence on the theme "Leading and Managing Change Organizational Development

Perspective was organized by the HR department. The Chief Guest and Keynote speaker for the day was Mr. Sachchan Kumar, Deputy Regional Manager Union Bank of India, and the Guest of Honour was Dr. Naveen Rao Principal Leonard Theological College, Jabalpur. The speakers shared thoughts on adapting to the fast-changing organizational scenario. A book titled "Artificial Intelligence and Human Engineering: Opportunities and Challenges were also released" to mark the occasion.

Fr. Fulchandra Kujur, S.J.

ST. JOSEPH'S NIWAS, KERAKACHHAR

To have a profound experience of the Lenten season and its meaning, the people of God of St. Joseph's Church, Kerakachhar, went to St. Mount Mary's Church Gawanga. On 10th March 2023, more than 50 members of the Catholic Sabha and Mahila Sangh went on a pilgrimage to St. Mount Mary's Church Ganwanga, one of the remotest Parishes of Raigarh Diocese. The faithful shared that they were spiritually strengthened, and their faith in God the Father, in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, increased.



On 12th March, a Catholic Sabha, Mahila Sangh, Youth and Crus Veer meeting was held. The agenda for the meeting was Christian life and values in family and the village, Faith formation of Children, a plan for the Lenten season and Easter celebration,



and catechism classes for children in the parish. A massive number of faithful took part in the combined meeting.

Today in this fast-growing world, the youth is looking for inner peace, confirmation of God's love and spiritual strength; thus on 18th March, 56 Queen of Angel youth of St. Joseph's Kerakachhar went for a day of pilgrimage to St. Mount Mary's Church, Gawanga under the guidance of Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. On the day, the youth devoted themselves to Rosary prayer, adoration, walking with Jesus, the Saviour on the way of the cross and the Holy Eucharist. Those devotions were led by Fr. Cyprian Kujur, the Parish Priest of St. Mount Mary's Church Gawanga.

Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J., Ms Ashikala Ekka and Mr. Bhuneshwar visited all the community leaders of Lok Manch and invited them for the training. On 11th March, Lok Munch leaders of 20 adopted villages gathered for a day of training program at RVTC Kerakachhar. The theme was "Gram Sabha" and "Forest Rights Act." The resource persons were Mr. Hemant Lakra and Mr. Jerome. The training program was enlightening and informative. On 20th March, there was "Gram Sabha" at Mahuadarha under the guidance of Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J. and community leaders and trainers.

Fr. Dilip Minj, S.J.

JVM, PATHALGAON

A two-day National Meet of Regional Secretaries of CCBI Commission for Migrants was held at Paalanana Bhavan, Bangalore, from 13-14 March 2023 on the theme "Care of the Migrants in the Multicultural Context of India: A Synodal Way". The total number of participants was 25. Fr. Yacub Kujur, S.J. participated as a Regional Secretary of Chhattisgarh. Arch Bishop Victor Henry Thakur, chairman of the commission, said that migrants need love, acceptance and respect, for they are in

the image and likeness of God. So pastoral care be given to them in teamwork by following the ten-point guidelines. Arch Bishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, the chief guest and host, stressed that migrants are positive contributors and supporters of the economy. So they are more than a mother.

Jesus sent the disciples as migrants, so also we are. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Fabio Baggio, CS under Secretary Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, presented the situation of human mobility in the world, analysis with appropriate data and proposed some action plans. He presented pastoral, ecclesial and missionary challenges in the form of short, middle and long term and in the same way, he proposed action plans too. He concluded that it is not just about migrants but



towards a more significant “We” (Fratelli Tutti). To address the issue, the cooperation of all the actors is needed. Ms Christine Nathan, president of ICMC, spoke on the situation and analysis of the care of the migrants in India. Rev. Fr. Mariano Cisco, CS, General Councilor (Scalabrian Fathers), shared his views on the care of the migrants in India and proposed some action plans. Sr. Meena Godad, Asian Project Regional Coordinator, shared her experience in the care of the migrants in India response to religious.

Regional secretaries presented situational analysis and reflections from the source States, and then the secretaries of destination States did the same. Fr. Jaison Vadassery, executive secretary CCBI Commission for Migrants, moderated the planning session, which was done through spiritual

conversation; Fr. Yacub explained the process. Arch Bishop VH Thakur gave the concluding remarks, and Fr. Joseph Beck proposed a vote of thanks.

Fr. Jacob Kujur, S.J.

KHRIST MILAN ASHRAM, NAMNA

Rev. Bishop Emeritus Patras Minj S.J. joined Khrist Milan Ashram Namna community on 7th of March, 2023. Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna Community welcomed him. So now there are two bishops in our community. Br. Simon Xess S.J. and Fr. Nazarius Baxla S.J. are new community members. For almost two weeks, Fr. Shanti Prakash Ekka S.J., Fr. Gabriel Minj S.J., Fr. Vijay K. Ekka S.J., and Fr. Isaac Kujur S.J. were busy with Lenten tour Mass.

Fr. Provincial brought forward the 23rd and 24th of March of his visitation to Khrist Milan Ashram Namna. He took the manifestation of conscience of every community member. Though some members cannot hear yet, they were happy to share and listen to Fr. Provincial. In his concluding remarks, he said that Khrist Milan Ashram Namna Community is the most significant community in our Province, with 20 members. It is a powerhouse, praying for the entire Society and the Church.

Fr. Isaac Kujur, S.J.

BOIRDADAR

The birthday of Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. was celebrated in series for various reasons: to surprise him and all on 2nd March (since actual was Friday) in staff, on 3rd he offered Holy Mass after the Way of the Cross, on 4th March, during the Staff outing and in the community in the evening. He shared many happy memories and choicest blessings of life which confirmed that it should not be missed. As such, the gift of life is the most cherished moments of God of history.

The Lenten Recollection of CRI Raigarh Unit was held at St. Xavier's Chantipali-Baramkela on 12th March in which Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J. Superior of the house, highlighted the theme of forgiveness on self than others. We often focus on saying, I forgive you,



though the grudge remains in oneself. Fr. Sandeep Tigga, S.J. offered the Eucharist and gave a short meaningful reflection. For the first time, all of us Jesuits were present for the CRI Recollection, though Fr. Pradeep Ekka, S.J. underwent toothache. Fr. Kuldeep IMS, Regional Superior and Br. Lalit IMS of Simdega (Bolba-Gobritoli) gave a Three-day



retreat for the Parishioners of Boirdadar. The healing sessions were not like other hallucinations. Instead, it focused on the Word of God, based on personal experience of God.

The Parishioners were very much edified with the direction of the spiritual journey. Thanks to Catholic Sabha for feeding the Parishioners and Frs. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. and Pradeep Ekka, S.J. during the spiritual journey.

The Lenten tour was confined to Holy Eucharist, whereas the family visits and confession should have been included. There was an excuse given that all were busy. Despite all that, many men have

abstained from drinking habit as it is done and when Easter comes, it is compensated. So one should appreciate the willpower, and it continues thereafter too. The annual exams concluded the session, and new admission has started in St. Xavier's School, and new session has started while Mukti Prakash School will extend the classes till 30th April. The dance master Mr. Gopal Sharma conducted dancing classes of all sorts of dances in the school. It attracted students from neighbouring schools.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

LOYOLA HOUSE, KUNKURI

Our community members were involved in the series of spiritual renewal processes. Firstly, Fr. Jerome Minj, S.J. conducted the guided retreat for 25 DSA Sisters from 17th to 25th March in the St. Anne's Provincialate Kunkuri.

Secondly, Fr. Ignace Kindo, S.J. and Fr. Theodore Kujur, S.J. went



on 21st March for Final Vows retreat at Ashadeep Pathalgaon. Thirdly, our catholic Teachers from Hindi and English medium schools went for one day pilgrimage to Pathrai, Mainpat, on 25th March.

Two inspections took place at Loyola College Kunkuri. The first one was the NAAC inspection. This was held on 6th and 7th March. The other inspection team came on 26th of this month to see the scope for opening post-graduate courses, namely Mathematics, Commerce, Computer Science and Zoology in our college. Both were done successfully and looking forward to executing these plans. In our schools, 10th and 12th students completed their board exams, and the rest will be writing their home exams from 12th April after Easter.

15-day Roller Skating Summer Camp took place with the initiative of Fr. Ravindra Lakra, S.J. Principal and Fr. Cyril Minj, S.J. Vice-Principal. To fulfil that purpose, Fr. Jerome Minj, S.J. Director of Apostolic School Kunkuri, facilitated a Basketball ground for nearly 200 students for practice and training. Mr. Sanjay Mishra, a coach from Champion School Bhopal, was called to train the students of Loyola English Medium. He came along with three of his students who have already participated at national-level skating tournaments. These children's presence made a big difference in the successful training of all other students.

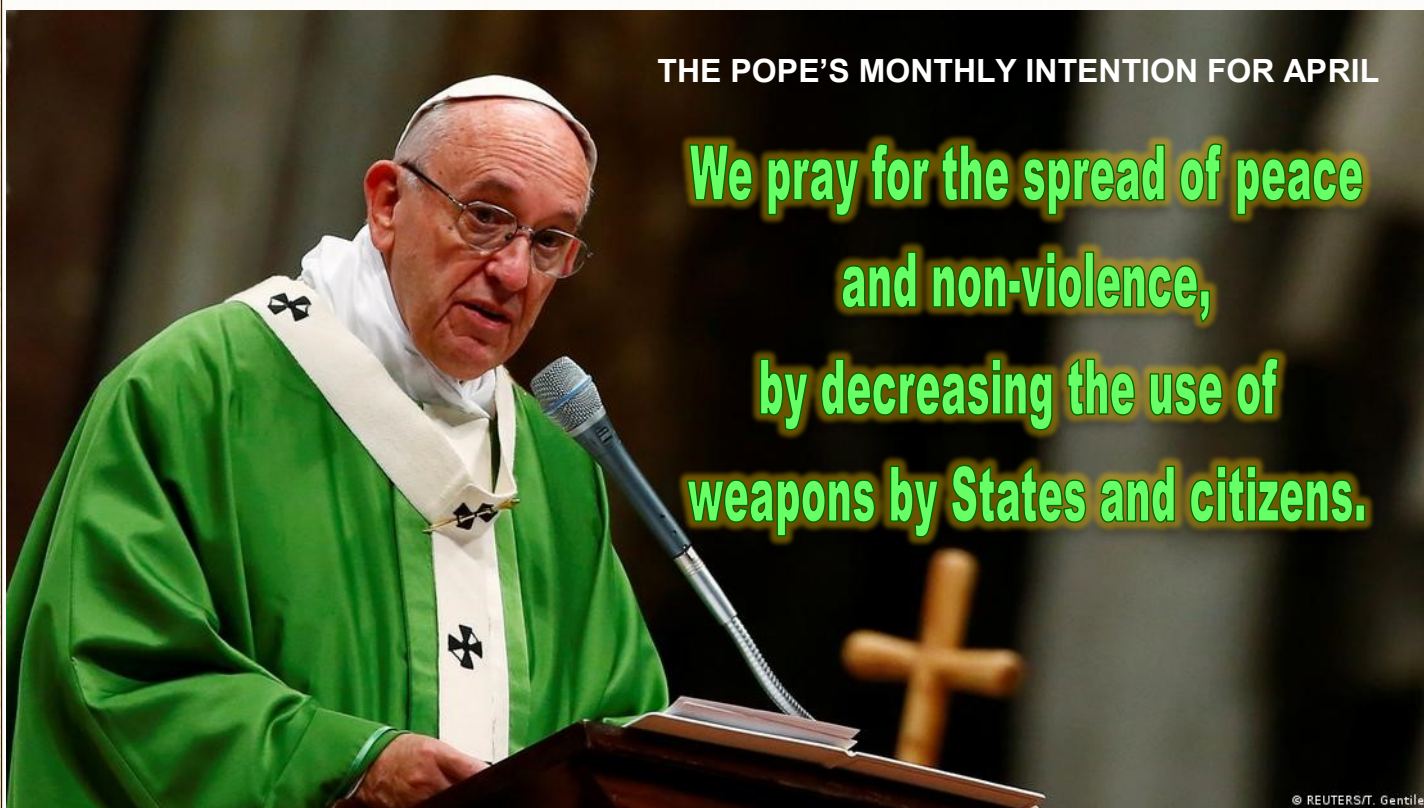
Our community members, including Apostolic and Hostel students, enjoyed fishing in the pond of the

Apostolic School campus. We have already caught nearly 70 kgs of fish. Our fishing continues and surprisingly amount seems to be still in abundance. Our students, too, were served fish curry in their respective places on different dates. All the priests from our community participated in Chrism Mass on 28th March along with all other Priests and Nuns of the Jashpur Diocese. Fr. Dilip Soreng, S.J. and Fr. Alok Toppo, S.J. headed from our community to conduct a vocation camp at Ashadeep, Pathalgaon from 29th to 31st March. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J., our Provincial, visited Loyola Community from 7th-9th March. It was indeed a time of grace for all our community members.

Sch. Pingal Lakra, S.J.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTION FOR APRIL

**We pray for the spread of peace
and non-violence,
by decreasing the use of
weapons by States and citizens.**



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JESUIT MISSION IN MADHYA PRADESH

Article 57

Tana Bhagatism: People felt frightened at the possible approach of *Tana Bhagats*. Pagans were said to want to become Christians, in order to seek protection from the Mission against that terror. Surguja was the chief danger zone, and the *Bhagats* were trying to spread from there into the Khudia. Thence it spread or tended to spread all over the Uraon country of Chota Nagpur causing much trouble. The repressive measures employed in Surguja led to the killing of many. The chief aim of the movement was in the nature of the Birsa agitation of the Munda country some 20 years before: to re-establish the sovereignty of the Uraons. For this they wanted to get rid of all other people, Europeans, Hindus, Musalmans, as it was from their advent that dated the servitude of the Aborigines.

To reach their goal, they felt the need of many sacrifices, incantations, religious practices, many of them truly stupid. In their religious excitement they constantly repeated: "*Tan'a, Tan'a,*" pull-pull, (them out of the country) whence the name of *Tana-Bhagats*. *Bhagat* which means 'devotee' denotes among the pagan aborigines, one who has given up his Tribal religion and has adopted certain Hindu-practices. The measures taken against the *Bhagats* in Surguja were not only repressive but most cruel. The people still speak of thousands having been killed at Jamirpath close to Chechadi (4000 according to some) and many also on the Musgutri side.

The Maharaja had called for military or police help from Ranchi. Mr. Tonnerre, a Catholic, was in charge of the latter. On his return he told Fr. Van der Linden then at Mahudand, "I hope never in my life to see such horrors again." The Maharaja, it seems, ordered to set fire to the village of the rebels. As the people rushed away from burning houses, men, women and children were all mercilessly shot down. Now in 1950-51, that Father's tour for the first time in Surguja, they find a population suffering from real dread and slave-mentality due to the above horrors and other repressive measures.

Since Gholeng district does not touch Surguja or Udaipur, it is not surprising that little reference is made to the *Bhagats* by Fr. Bossaers. On 11 February 1916 we find the following entry in his Diary: "Some people of Deragdih are learning the new religion of the *Bhagats* who aim to establish an Uraon Raj." At his first meeting with the new *Dewan*, he found him determined not to allow them to enter the State. From Fr. Van den Driessche's Diary came the indications. We may add his reference to Udaipur, where he intended paying another visit on 5th March 1917: "The Father starts for a visit to the South and Surungpani of Udaipur; but at Kharibahar he hears that there are no Christians left at Surungpani. On account of the *Bhagats* and cholera they have all fled, to come and establish themselves in Jashpur. So much the better for them and for us."

The next time Fr. Van den Driessche speaks of *Bhagats* is in a letter to the Archbishop, dated 2nd September 1918, which gives him at the same time excellent news: "On Tuesday morning 27th, the Raja sent me a nice leg of *harin* (stag). I went to thank him in the afternoon and, at a certain moment, being quite alone with him, I told him: Raja *Saheb*, whenever I have passed in Nagar, You have granted me some favour; well, I have again a favour to ask, viz. to allow us to have chapels in the villages and among them one with a room attached to it somewhere in the Kakia (present Musgutri district) and another one of the same kind at Tapkara, so that we can go and stay there for some time, now and then." .. The Raja agreed to this at once and added. "You should have your chapel in the Kakia, somewhere near the frontier (of Surguja) so as to keep an eye on the *badmashes* (wicked) who are on the other side. (He was alluding to the *Tana Bhagats* of Maini and Surguja). Then he asked me whether we had any Christians in Surguja, and as I answered that there were none, "Who knows," he said, "when you have a "*Chhota Sabeb*" in the Kakia, perhaps you may get Christians in the Surguja also:"

Such a reflection on his part, agreeing so perfectly with the plan which I exposed to Your Grace, shows I think that I have not been building castles in the air. I hope that with the help of our Lord, we shall gain over the Uraons of Surguja. We may thank Our Lord and St. Joseph for what has been granted so readily that I have no doubt it is an immediate answer to the prayers I had asked for this intention."

The granting of chapels was certainly an astounding favour, after 12 years of fruitless efforts. The gaining over of the Uraons of Surguja was not to become a reality for 30 and more years. Just now (1950) the Missionaries begin to succeed in quietly entering that country.

The gracious way, in which the Raja granted these favours, and the friendliness he evinced towards Fr. Van den Driessche, who himself was so affected that he betrays none of his wonted suspiciousness, would seem to confirm what the Central Provinces higher officials so often maintained that "the Raja is at heart a very kind man." If in his weakness, the Raja had only been able to rid himself of the bad influence of the satellites in his court, his ruling would likely have been far more benign and his relations with the Mission much more happy.

Father Bossaers, after hearing from Fr. Van den Driessche how he obtained permission for chapels in the villages, adds some details not mentioned in the above letter. When the Father asked that permission, the Raja moved, no doubt, by the rising of the *Tana Bhagats* in Surguja, in which a good number have been killed, hastened to grant more than we might have dared to ask. He permits to build, without paying for the wood, chapels in the villages of his State. "When the Father asked to erect two chapels with an adjoining room like at Gholeng, he proposed himself to begin these immediately, chiefly in the Kakia as near as possible to the Surguja frontier. He invites us to go to the Khudia. We should go to Mangarpur (Surguja), to Udaipur. It is marvelous, especially when one remembers the difficulties that existed 3 years ago and before. Let us thank Holy Providence, in particular the Sacred Heart." Diary, 15 August 1918.

On 5 April 1919, Fr. Bossaers was called to the Palace for a confidential talk. There the Raja communicated a message from the Political Agent about the *Bhagats* who had been making themselves conspicuous about Ranchi, some having been arrested. Government warned that these people had not to be tolerated, but condemned and expelled. They preach: refusal to pay rent, expulsion of *zemindars*, victory of the Germans (it was War-time when the *Bhagats* began), expulsion of the *mahajans* that made prices go up. The Raja

asked if there were any in his State. "Nothing in that sense" I replied, "but a whole movement in the Christians direction." "So much the better," he answered; "with you here, Fr. Demonceau over there (Konaraj), Fr. Van den Driessche at Ginabahr, there is nothing to be afraid of. We would know it at once, and if there were *Bhagats*, we would crush them like wheat!"

In the correspondence and diaries of 1918-19, this is the last reference to the *Bhagats*. The movement never penetrated Jashpur, so it appears. Holy Providence took occasion of this terror to grant the Mission the long-delayed permission for chapels in the villages and for the beginning of the two future stations of Musgutri and Tapkara.

Labour Corps. In May 1917, the Catholic Mission at Ranchi was asked by Government to help in recruiting one or more battalions of a Labour Corps. The aim was to train them and next dispatch them to France, where they would work behind the firing-line e.g. at clearing the devastated regions, opening new communications and the like. As most of the recruits were likely to be Christians, Government agreed to send with them 2 chaplains, with the rank of Captain. Fathers Floor and Ory were appointed. Later on new battalions were formed to go and work in the Punjab and Iraq.

On Father Molhant, the young and energetic Director of the Catholic Cooperative at Ranchi, fell the heavy burden of organizing the work of recruiting. Through him, the Catholic Bank offered to take charge of all financial transactions between the members and their families.

Government made also an appeal to the States of Jashpur and neighbours, in Central Provinces. The largest number of recruits from these, was in Jashpur. This was due to the very active cooperation of the Missionaries for which they, and their brethren in Ranchi District., were praised by their respective Governments. The start for action took place, on 31 August 1917 at Nagar. The Raja held a Conference with all the authorities and notables regarding the Appeal to the States as communicated by the Political Agent. Recruiting in his State had to be done. The Rajah expected much help from the Missionaries. Some *zemindars* were not afraid of uttering: "Since the people have become Christians we have nothing to say to them." Fr. Van den Driessche, who was present, said that he would consult Ranchi. Soon the *pracharaks* brought the news that the officials and *zemindars* did nothing serious to obtain recruits (Diary 12 Oct.) On 20th October Fr. Bossaers received a letter from the *Dewan* in which were the following favours promised by the Rajah to attract recruits: they would get: 1) "4 *bighas* of fields, free of rent or *begari*, so long as the man remains on duty. In case of death from any cause, the family will continue to hold the land on the same terms, as long as the widow survives, or till the minor sons enter into majority." 2) "In addition to this the State will also give a sum of Rs. 20/- as bonus, in addition to any sum which Government might give to the labourer." (Diary). This extraordinary liberality will soon lead to trouble!

On 19th November some 30 people came to Gholeng to be enrolled for the France Labour Corps. "The Rajah acts very kindly and wisely with the people wishing to go to Europe: *Bilait*, giving them money, lands at once, writing everything for them before they leave." (Diary) More and more turned up the following days, many of whom also soon gave up the idea of joining.

Fr. Bossaers took by far the largest part in Jashpur-recruiting. From December 1917, much of his time was devoted to this. Much trouble was caused by the exaggerated promises of the Rajah, or by the people having misunderstood them. Documents clearly showing what had been promised, are not forthcoming. In a letter dated: Majhatoli 14-3-18, Fr. Bossaers tells the Archbishop that he is just back from Gholeng with Fr. Molhant who had come in motor-car, the first that appeared in Jashpur. With much difficulty it could reach Jashpurnagar; if it did it was thanks to repairs of the road through Fr. Bossaers and his Christians. The Rajah received them very well; that visit evidently flattered him. "From what the *gomostas* say, the Rajah committed a grievous mistake by promising the recruits on behalf of their families, 4 *bighas* of land free of rent for the duration of the war. Now he retracts that promise, saying what he meant was as follows: whosoever has not 4 *bighas*, he will be given the amount needed to complete 4 *bighas*, the whole remaining free of rent. Those who already possess 4 *bighas*, will only receive remission of rent. "This change in the promise, will evidently lead to much murmuring and may produce serious difficulties. This may reflect on the Mission, due to the fact that many of the recruits are Christians." Fr. Bossaers' expectations of complaints and difficulties were fully verified, as we see from the Diaries and letters. The Diary adds (13 March) that Fr. Molhant tried to go to Ginabahr with his motor-car, but 4 miles

beyond Nagar had to give up the idea.

On 14 February 1918, he wrote to Fr. Molhant whom he had visited at Ranchi: "Please allow me to thank you for all the kind treatment given by the Catholic Mission and yourself during my last visit to Ranchi. I am taking action with regard to certain complaints, made by some of the recruits when I saw them in your company on different works. I shall be very much obliged to you by your kindly taking similar interest in the non-Christian recruits so that they do not feel the separation of the homes. It was a pity to learn that the bonus of Rs. 20/- per head, given by the Raja Bahadur, should have been taken by the Depot Officials as an advance. You have remedied the misunderstanding in case of Christians. Will you very kindly do the same in case of non-Christians who are in the Depot and willing to go to the same place as their brother-Christians? The care of non-Christians like the Christians, here or while on duty overseas will certainly meet with a high appreciation of the Raja Bahadur. He is quite pleased with your cooperation in the recruitment and is ready to remedy anything you might think it necessary to do in case of the recruits." It is a pity that the discrimination between Christians and non-Christians was stressed in the case of Jashpur. But had it taken place?

On 5 April, Fr. Bossaers seems to imply in his letter to the Archbishop, a certain failure in the recruitment. "People are going home. Consequently the question of promises made by the Rajah - promises which afterwards he retracted - fails and saves us from many difficulties. This shows once more that one must not rely even on royal promises."

On 9 April, the *Dewan* sent a long letter 7 pages to Fr. Molhant, in answer to several letters of his. He tells him that he has communicated these letters to the Raja: "The Raja Bahadur was very pleased. The State is really thankful to the Mission for all the kind assistance that its different members are so enthusiastically rendering in the matter of recruits. Touching again the subject of land which seems to be rendering you anxious, certainly for the peace of the State and coolies, I think I have impressed the *Padri Sahebs* of Gholeng and Noadih that there was no breach of promise made by the State. There seems to have been some misunderstanding in the matter which can be easily cleared off." He then says that the wording used by the State in its notification for recruiting was the same as elsewhere in the Central Provinces. Nobody elsewhere could have imagined a construction of the kind surmised by some recruits in Jashpur. Supposing all the recruits had to be given 4 *bighas* of land, where would the Central Provinces Government have found so much available land? Ejectment of others from their land would have led to quarrels and violence and impeded all further recruiting. "

"Each case of new recruitment would only be tantamount to depriving the other tenants of their land and would naturally come in the way of any fresh recruitment." The accusations of breach of promise and *dagabazi* (deception) which he has received from some of the recruits seem to have originated among some Christians. "Others, non-Christians, were prudent enough to take the *parwanas* (certificates) of concessions, (rent and *begari*) before they left Jashpur. The families of the Hindu recruits are in possession of their *parwana*, the office-duplicates of which I showed to the *Padri-Sahebs* of Gholeng and Noadih."

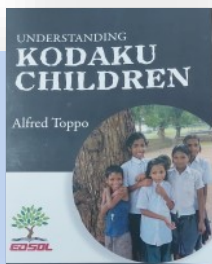
"It is a pity that some of the Catholic recruits should put such construction which nobody would, and come forward with an open abusive language to their administration, which is against all principles of religion, and this spirit requires to be put down." The *Dewan* adds the following proposal which he made to the Raja Bahadur "to be merely indulgent:" "If these recruits, pressed on and put all wrong and selfish constructions, which no Hindu recruit (and I believe several Christians too) would put, I would be prepared to give them an opportunity of clearing up land out of the forest and bring it under the plough. It is for them to understand what profit they can make out of the land during the tenure of one or two years that the recruits are on service."

Excusing himself for all the trouble he expresses the hope that Fr. Molhant will be able to warn the dissatisfied ones. "Remissions of rent from their existing land is to their best interest and *parwanas* of the kind have been welcomed by those who have already received them. If the families of these recruits will come forward they will be immediately given similar *parwanas*. Of course they will be free of their entire *begar* during the period that they hold any portion of their land free of rent... Those whose land falls short of 4 *bighas* of *tand* or 4 *bighas* of *don* (low-land), they will certainly be given an additional land to make up that area. This will be managed anyhow. It will not be difficult as such cases will be very few.

To this, Fr. Molhant sent the reply: "My dear Mr. Krishna Sewak, "You will understand that your letter of the 9th has upset me altogether. I was not slow in making an enquiry, and I have been able so far to ascertain that the blunder - a huge blunder indeed - is the doing of 3 or 4 stupid coolies who understand nothing and did not even seem to realize their guilt. I am glad to see from your letter that you are yourself convinced of the fact that the generality of our men have no hand in this disconcerting affair. I shall see more closely still into the matter, and find out all about it. I may add that the leading men appreciate highly the liberal concessions granted by the Raja Bahadur."

Fr. Bossaers fully believed that the Rajah had made that promise, and that "even royal promises could not be relied upon." Father Bossaers was still a young Missionary then at the beginning of his 4th year in the Mission. Who knows whether his belief in the "retractation" of the Raja, was not based on some false report, or some misconception of the concessions enumerated in the *Dewan's* letter of 20th October 1917 reported above.

Compiled and Edited By Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.



Congratulations to Dr. Fr. Alfred Toppo, SJ on publishing a book.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

- + Fr. Domnic Fernandes, SJ, (BOM), 70/50, passed away in Talashari on 4 March
- + Fr. Britius Ekka, SJ (RAN), 72/52, passed away in Ranchi on 5 March
- + Mr. Patras Aind, the brother of Fr. Simon Aind passed away on 17 March
- + Mrs. Budhani, the aunty of Fr. Eligius Kandulna Passed away on 23 March
- + Br. George Karekatt, SJ, (GUJ), 78/60, passed away in Vadodara on 23 March
- + Fr. Vinod Kumar Bilung, SJ, (RAN), 65/45, passed away in Ranchi on 23 March
- + Fr. Joseph Royappan,, S.J. (MDU), 76/55, passed away in Dindigul on 24 March.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: APRIL

Name	Birth	Death
Fr. Bernard Bara	26 Jan 1937	19 Apr 2018
Fr. Maurice Claeyes	19 Jul 1922	23 Apr 2005
Fr. Francis Daniels	08 Jul 1896	24 Apr 1979
Fr. Godfried Meeus	28 Mar 1907	24 Apr 1990
Br. Clestus Baxla	24 Jan 1968	24 Apr 2021
Fr. Louis Berge	25 Oct 1907	29 Apr 2001

BIRTHDAYS

Date	APRIL	Date	MAY
1	Fr. Lakra Anmol	2	Kujur Amrit Kumar
3	Sch. Toppo Donald	2	Xalxo Santosh
4	Sch. Panna Amarjeet	3	Beck Gulshan
6	Sch. Lakra Ashwin	3	Lakra Sandeep (S)
7	Sch. Ekka Fedrick Vivek	4	Kujur Fulchandra
7	Fr. Kerketta Zacharias	5	Lakra Pawan
10	Sch. Kujur Pranay Wilson	5	Tigga Sushil (D)
13	Fr. Tirkey Juan Deepak Maria	6	Kerketta Kamal
14	Fr. Toppo Alok Kumar	8	Kujur Gyan Prakash
14	Fr. Toppo Sunil Kumar	15	Minj Tej Kumar
15	Fr. Lakra John Crus	18	Xess Anjay
19	Fr. Minj Elphiz	30	Minj Theodore
20	Fr. TIGGA RANJIT	31	Toppo Deobhushan
27	Sch. Kujur Akash		
22	Fr. Barwa Prabodh		
23	Sch. Toppo Vinay		
24	Fr. Kerketta Ajay		
25	Sch. Kujur Arvind		
25	Fr. Minj Kalyanus		
29	Fr. Lakra Sebastian		
30	Fr. Kujur Justin		



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