



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., INDIA

February, 2023

Year 44, No. 02

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)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February, 2023		March, 2023	
2	PDD & GB (Xavier Institute Surguja) meetings in St. Xavier's Ambikapur and Jubilee at Khrist Milan, Namna	6-7	NAAC inspection, Loyola College, Kunkuri
8	Golden Jubilee, Raipur Archdiocese, Raipur	8-9	Visitation, Loyola House, Kunkuri
10	Visitation, St. Xavier's, Bandiakhar	10	Visitation, Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur
11	Centenary Jubilee of Tapkara Parish, Tapkara	12-14	Province Consult, Campion, Bhopal
12	Visitation, Prakash School, Pathalgaon	15-17	Visitation, Campion, Bhopal
13	Visitation, Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	18	Visitation, XIDAS, Jabalpur
14	Visitation, St. Joseph Niwas, Kerakachhar	19-20	Visitation, Umaria
16-17	Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	21	Visitation, Kota
17	GB meeting of MPJ, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur (Afternoon)	22	Visitation, Bhaiswar
19	Jesu Bhawan, Jamshedpur	23	Visitation, Baikunthpur
19-25	JCSA meeting, Jamshedpur	24-25	Visitation, St. Xavier's Ambikapur
		26-27	Visitation, Khrist Milan, Namna
		28	Visitation, Jhingo
		29	Visitation, Dhanwarkala
		31	Visitation, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

STATUS OF THE SCHOLASTICS – 2023
MADHYA PRADESH PROVINCE

SN	NAME	FROM	TO
THEOLOGY			
1	Sch. Pingal Lakra	Apostolic School Kunkuri	Rome
2	Sch. Basil Hadde	Loyola Hostel Kunkuri	Vidya Jyoti, Delhi
3	Sch. Almon Lakra	Jeevandhara H.School, Mauhapali	DNC Pune
4	Sch. Edwin Lakra	St. Xavier's Ambikapur	RTC Ranchi
REGENCY			
1	Sch. Sanjit Kindo	DNC, Pune	Loyola School (Hostel), Kunkuri
2	Sch. Sunil Kerketta (Ranchi)	Vidya Sadan, Bhopal	St. Xavier's School, Shantibhawan, Jashpur
3	Sch. Amardeep Ekka	DNC, Pune	St. Xavier's English Medium Pathalgaon
4	Sch. Abhay Kispotta	DNC, Pune	Apostolic School, Kunkuri
5	Sch. Amit Toppo	DNC, Pune	St. Xavier's School (Hostel), Ambikapur
6	Sch. Ravikant Xalxo	SN Chennai	Prakash School (Hostel), Pathalgaon
7	Sch. Vikas Lakra	SN Chennai	Apostolic School, Ambikapur
8	Sch. Praveen Ekka	SN Chennai	Vidya Sadan, Bhopal
PHILOSOPHY			
1	Sch. Ashwin Lakra	Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada	DNC, Pune
2	Sch. Shreyash Kujur	St. Joseph's Trichy	DNC, Pune
3	Sch. Virendra Toppo	St. Xavier's Ranchi	DNC, Pune
4	Sch. Niranjana Ekka	St. Xavier's Ranchi	Satya Nilayam Chennai
5	Sch. Khelsai Toppo	St. Joseph's Trichy	Satya Nilayam Chennai
6	Sch. Naveen Tigga	St. Xavier's Baramkela	Satya Nilayam, Chennai
COLLEGE STUDIES			
1	Sch. Akash Kujur	SSC, Sitagarha	St. Aloysius College, Mangalore (Maths)
2	Sch. Kamal Kerketta	SSC, Sitagarha	St. Xavier's College Ranchi (Biology)
3	Sch. Akhilesh Palhe	SSC, Sitagarha	St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad (Economics)
4	Sch. Donald Toppo	SSC, Sitagarha	Loyola College, Chennai (Biology)
5	Sch. Augustus Tirkey	SSC, Sitagarha	St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (Political Sc. / Hindi Literature)

NEWS & VIEWS

LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

The Community began new year's day by enjoying a magic show running in the city. Fr. Fabianus and Fr Ranjit were invited by the magician on the stage. He welcomed them with magical flower and garland.



They also gave a short message to the audience. There was a dinner with the magician after the show.

Fr. Emil, Fr. Sushil and Fr. Arvind attended the PAP zonal programme at St. Xavier's School, Baramkela



on 8 January. The communities of Mauhapali, Raigarh, Baramkela and Raipur participated in the session. Fr. Alfred Toppo facilitated it. After the PAP programme, all enjoyed the picnic in the jungle arranged by the Baramkela community.

Fr. Provincial, Socius and Arvind went to Namna on 11 January, for the funeral service of Fr. Arun Bara, who had died in a tragic road accident the previous day.

Fr. Arvind and Fr. Herman went to Bandel along with other 34 priests and nuns of Bilaspur Deanery for the pilgrimage. The pilgrimage from

16 to 18 January was part of the Golden Jubilee Year of Raipur Archdiocese.



The Republic day was celebrated on 26 January in Loyola School and it was remarkable. The students displayed patriotic songs, dances and parades.

Fr. Arvind Vinay, S.J.

LOYOLA HOUSE, KUNKURI

The Science Exhibition was organized by Loyola English Medium students under the guidance of Fr. Ravindra Lakra SJ, Principal and Fr. Cyril Minj SJ, Vice-Principal, on 7th of this month. Shri S.R. Sao, BEO Kunkuri, and Ms. M.G. Tirkey, ABEO Kunkuri came to appreciate young minds' talents, creativity and innovative ideas. Both students and staff were involved in developing various static and working models. The parents also came in significant number to see the presentation of their children. The Loyola English Medium students had a week-long rigorous School Band Practice. The Principal and the trainers were happy to see them learning with much interest. Apostolic students had three days of intensive English Coaching from 5th to 7th Jan. They were enthused to have tongue twisters, rhyming, vocabulary, and Tense exercises. Both Director and Asst. Director of the Apostolic school taught them using many creative measures. We joined the New Year Picnic that Bishop's House Kunkuri organized on 8th of this month in Jamdarha. It

was for all clergy and religious group of Kunkuri. The day was blessed by each other's presence and filled with festive activities and a variety of food items prepared by each community.

On behalf of the AICUF unit of Loyola College, four students went to Gujarat on 9th January to participate in three days training programme called 'Adivasi Mahasabha'. On 25th of this month, we went to Shantibhavan Community. We offered a special Holy Mass in the name of our late Fr. Arun Bara, SJ, for the repose of his soul and paying homage in front of his portrait. All three educational institutes celebrated the Republic Day greatly and remembered those who contributed to constitution-building and nation-building. The New Year 2023 celebration of ninety Apostolic students of Kunkuri was arranged amidst a green coconut orchard in the college campus. Students were thrilled to see many fruit-bearing trees, ponds and greenery around the Loyola College Campus. They enjoyed the company of each other the whole day and, at the end, sugarcane too. The 43rd Oscar Sevrin Memorial Hockey Tournament began on 15th January onwards. It is organized annually in honour of the first Bishop of the Raigarh-Ambikapur Diocese by the Loyola School. This



time, 54 teams were registered and also participated in it. It was beautiful to see the social harmony among the villagers, team spirit and love for hockey in both young and old alike.

Sch. Pingal Lakra, S.J.

ST. XAVIER'S, AMBIKAPUR

Picnic is the best way to make pleasure and enjoyment in leisure time. From our regular and monotonous life, one needs to take a break and go for a small picnic because it refreshes our mind to work better. Therefore, St. Xavier's Community went on a picnic to Baki Dame, a few miles away from Ambikapur, on 15 January 2023. The Community had a good time & fun and fun.

Frs. Michael Tirkey and Juan Deepak Tirkey have visited the 15 different schools in our province. Fr. Michael made the students conversant with career guidance and, with the staff, shared his vision of the educational apostolate of the Society of Jesus; whereas, Fr. Deepak shared with the team and students the Spiritual Tradition of



St. Ignatius of Loyola (Ignatian Spirituality), the person of Ignatius and the Examen as Discernment in daily life. The Examen in the Spiritual Exercises, the importance of the Examination of Conscience as a daily prayer and discernment was introduced to the staff and students. The dynamics of the Particular Examen and the General Examen were new learning for the staff and students of our school. Fr. Emmanuel Kujur S.J, a missionary in Africa, visited St. Xavier's Community. The Community was glad to welcome him.

Sch. Edwin Lakra, S.J.

AICUF ASHRAM, BHOPAL

The reality of life at times is very shocking and devastating, but it too helps life making



meaningful. On 8th January 2023, under the banner of AICUF, Campion parish children celebrated Christmas cum new year in the Missionaries of Charity, Shishu Bhavan, Nehrunagar. The commitment with which the Missionaries of Charity care for those destitute and impecunious children was inspiring. Witnessing ward children, suffering from mental, polio, depression and mild despondency turned the facial expression of parish children into a pensive mood. AICUF sponsored daily life product lists like- sanitary products, public hygiene products, blankets, sweets etc. Thanks to Fr. Robert S.J., CMC Sisters and AC Sisters for accompanying the children.

On 22nd January 2023, AICUF organised a picnic (



at Kerwa Eco tourist Centre) for Jesuit Fathers and the Sisters working together. This was the first effort and time to observe a specific set of cooking traditions and practices, often associated with specific cultures, at our disposal. A sumptuous meal and captivating community-building games were the centres of attraction. Thanks to Sr. Anupa and Sr. Bertilla. Thanks to all the superiors - Sr. Ina Mary, Sr. Merlin and Sr. Vilma, Sr. Joaquina, sr. Sherlin and Fr. Kapil, S.J.,

for their earnest and diligent effort. Special thanks to Dr. Fr. Athnas Lakra, S.J., for sponsoring gifts for all. Also, appreciate Fr. Blacius Kullu S.J. for his extra effort and Fr. Amrit Toppo, S.J. for providing a bus facility. Keep up the spirit. Your enthusiasm was highly commendable.

Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J. had an opportunity to participate in JHEASA Conference, with AICUF & AYCM background, which was held in St. Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangalore from 26-28 January 2023. The 14-point NEP strategy that was approved by the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) was the centrepiece.

Fr. Alok Kujur, S.J.

CAMPION SCHOOL, BHOPAL

The Central Board of Secondary Education organized the CBSE National Roller-Skating Competition at Shalom Hills International School, Gurugram, Haryana, from 9 to 11 January 2023. Five Roller skaters from Campion School Bhopal were selected for the same competition. Master Tegbeer Singh Std. 10th performed exceptionally well in the competition and bagged the Gold Medal of U-16 Boy Quads Category 300 meters with a timing of 30.46 seconds.

CAMPION COMMUNITY BHOPAL

The Campion Community members (from all three units – Arera, Bhouri and Mariado) had the CAP (Community Apostolic Planning) meeting on 13 January 2023 at 5 p.m. All the community members came prepared and had a very fruitful meeting.

On 16 January 2023, at about 12 p.m., Fr. Rakesh Richard Bara was operated upon tonsillitis in Divya Advance Hospital Bhopal. The operation was successful. He came to Campion Community Bhopal to rest for a few days.

On 20 January 2023, we had a combined birthday celebration of Frs. Athnas Lakra and Blacius Kullu. We had Holy Mass at 7 p.m., followed by a birthday dinner. All the members from all three communities were present for the celebration.

VIDYA SADAN, BHOPAL

On 28 December 2022, Fr. Kapil Xaxa, director of the pre-novices, took all the pre-novices to different parts of Bhopal for one day '*Bhopal Darshan*.' The pre-novices went to the Tribal Museum, National Museum of Mankind, *Sair Sapata*, Upper Lake, People's Mall etc.

Bhopal Arch-Diocese organized a Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus at Assumption Parish, Arera Colony Bhopal, on 4 January 2023 at 5 p.m. for all the Priests, Sisters, Brothers, Novices and Pre-novices of Bhopal Arch-Diocese. Arch Bishop Sebastian Durairaj, SVD, presided over the Holy Mass. All the pre-novices attend the Mass.

Fr. Kapil Xaxa went to JMJ Sisters' Community Lalghati on 16 January 2023, for three days to give classes to the JMJ novices.

Fr. Kapil Xaxa, S.J.

XIDAS, JABALPUR

A New Year gathering was organized at XIDAS with great enthusiasm and happiness to look forward and welcome the new opportunities in the year ahead.



The celebrations began with the readings from the different Holy Scriptures, seeking the divine blessings on everyone, followed by a message on

team building spirit from the Director Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra, S.J.

Various games and contests were organized for everyone to participate in. The celebrations instilled a lot of fun, happiness, refreshment and entertainment for everyone to work hard in the year ahead with power and positivity.



The National Festival, the 74th Republic Day of the World's largest democratic country India is celebrated across the country with great pomp and show. The Day commemorates the Constitution of India, which came into effect on 26th January 1950, holding the importance of the Constitution of India for every Indian. XIDAS also celebrated the Day with a cultural program organized by the student activity committee.

Senior officials from HPCL visited XIDAS and in a meeting with the management and staff, explained the flagship scheme of HPCL Jabalpur LPG RO "Aarogya Uphaar, Which aims at Rural Masses to ensure awareness and sensitisation about the harmful affects of alternate sources of fuel and benefits of using LPG" The areas of collaboration with XIDAS were also discussed.

Elvina

JVM, PATHALGAON

Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ, offered a Holy Mass on the day of New Year Day at Kastura-Saraitoli and inspired and motivated the people with his homily to have new thinking and proper planning and goal setting in life. After the Mass, there was a meeting of villages, Panches and leaders

numbering thirty participants. They shared their experiences individually that they have a significant role in leading and guiding the family, Church and society. During the session, they discovered their quality of leadership. They made an action plan to save tribal culture and traditions, adopt Rabi Fasal and income-generating activities, form a pressure group for healthy politics, attend Gram Sabha to access the benefits of all government schemes, and enter into the register of Gram Sabha in case of migration for safety.

State PUCL convention was held on 20th January 2023 at Mayaram Surjan Smriti Lokayan Bhavan, Rajbandha Maidan, Raipur, on the theme, “Violation of human rights, including minorities in CG”. Fr. Yacub and Fr. Alex Ekka, SJ, attended the convention. Fr. Yacub was one of the panellists and presented his paper on the issue of de-listing. He said that the demand for de-listing tribal Christians from the list of the scheduled tribe is unconstitutional and blinded by vested interests. It will lead to the de-scheduling of tribal areas called the fifth scheduled areas. It has no benefit to tribals but only to the non-tribals. He also raised some questions, like why tribals became Christians. Who is responsible for their conversion? If Mission schools, colleges and hospitals are means of conversion, why do political leaders and high-class people educate their children in them? If so much conversion is there, why Christian population is declining? Is it not a polarization of tribals for some hidden agenda?

Violation of human rights in Bastar was the main focus of the afternoon session. Harassment under the pretext of Naxalism is rampant. Militarization for the exploitation of natural resources is growing. The conclusion seems that what is happening in baster is only for the loot of natural resources. Adv. V. Suresh (General Secretary National PUCL) Mr. Ravi Naiyar, Mr. Janak Lal

Thakur, Ms. Hedme Markam, Ms. Lara Jesani,



Himanshu, Digri Prasad, Ashish Beck, Sr. Sewti Panna, Ms. Rinchin, Ms. Sony Shori, Dr. Goldy George, etc. were the speakers and panellists. Mr. Akhilesh Edgar and Ms. Shreya moderated the sessions. On this occasion, a fact-finding report of PUCL on the violation of human rights was released.

Fr. Yacub visited some affected areas of Bastar-Narayanpur and Kondagaon districts and some NGO workers (members of PUCL too). He talked to



some victims and affected people. At the Church, he talked to the Parish Priest and some parishioners. They told him that whatever happened was very unfortunate, but they would rebuild the damage caused by so-called Hindus very soon. They never think of revenge but only of love which Christ teaches. In the affected villages, police were deployed. Life in Narayanpur seemed normal. He also visited some villages under Rawghat hills affected by the construction of railway lines to transport iron ore. Where mining of iron ore is going on, a paramilitary force is deployed. The life of tribals seems in fear and panic, being harassed by police and Maoists, being crushed by grinding machines from both sides. The PESA Rules are manipulated for the polarization of tribals for political gain, and state

machinery is misused for corporate loot of natural resources, degrading the environment.

On the Forest Right Act, 2006 (Amd. 2012), two reviews and consultation meeting was held at Prayog Ashram Tilda, Newra, from 22 afternoons to 23 afternoon under the banner of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA). Individual and community rights accessed were evaluated. People were more interested in individual rights and community forest rights (CFR). Because of the villagers' lack of interest and commitment, CFR claims are pending. Some action plans are made to speed up the process. However, the forest is being destroyed due to corporate looting of natural resources under state patronage. Therefore, there is a need for a third front for the solution of tribal problems.

The National Voters Day was observed in Thakur Shobha Singh College Pathalgaon on 25th January. The participants were college students and some select voters. Mr. SN Lal, SDM was the chief guest and Fr. Yacub Kujur was the guest of



honour. The chief guest explained the importance of voting with free conscience in democracy. He asked the students to apply for voter cards online, for many still needed them. Fr. Yacub told the students to become voters and representatives. They have to bring revolution in democracy by voting without any allurements. He also explained about MAIN and other migrant issues, asking them to make use of the helpline number 18008912995 in time of need. Ms. Anupama Pradhan thanked the guests and participants. To

some select persons, voter cards were distributed.

Fr. Yacub Kujur, SJ

CATHOLIC ASHRAM, BOIRDADAR

The New year 2023 was welcomed and declared as the YEAR OF CHILDREN in the Catholic Diocese of Raigarh along with the concluding year of Synodal Church. On this Solemnity of the feast day



of the Motherhood of Mary, the New Year 2023 was inaugurated during Eucharist officiated by Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J., along with other concelebrants. In the context of the Synodal Church, the Year of Children will focus on security and a healthy atmosphere and refine values and sacraments for children.

A core team planned the activities and programmes for the whole year in the diocese (11th January), and the Parish started executing the Sacrament of reconciliation (15th January) and Bible Quiz (22nd January) from studying the Acts of the Apostles and BCC (23rd January).



The zonal orientation on PAP took place in St. Xavier's Chantipali-Baramkela on 08th January

under the leadership of Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J., which was finally concluded with the new year picnic. Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. attended the RAJ Mantra Samiti on Health care and healing ministry, uniformity of marriage rite and tradition and Parish organizations (Catholic Sabha, Mahila and Yuwa Sanghs) in the dioceses from 20-21st Jan. at Ashadeep Pathalgaon.

Frs. Michael Tirkey, S.J. and Juan Deepak Tirkey, S.J. had inspirational talks to the students and staff of St. Xavier and Mukti Prakash Primary school on 25th January.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J. concluded his annual visitation (27th January) with the planning session with the community members in three phases that will be finalized with the master plan of the place under the guidance of the architect Shri Awaneesh Nema of Jabalpur.

St. Xavier (02nd January) and Mukti Prakash Primary (03rd January) reopened after the Christmas and Winter holidays. Mukti Prakash School had PTM, but St. Xavier had an inter-school football match conducted by DDA football academy, participated in a drawing competition in Jindal School and got one prize of 5 among 100



participants, and the dancing completion on the Republic Day (26th January) celebration for the first time and got the first trophy in the first attempt. Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J. Provincial and Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. Manager (27th January) jointly felicitated and congratulated the Principal, the staff and the students. Fr. Manager

introduced Fr. Provincial, who addressed the assembly, encouraged and wished all the best for the future.



On the context and occasion of the “Dicastery for Evangelization Section for Fundamental Question regarding Evangelization in the World SUNDAY of the WORD of GOD: Liturgical-Pastoral Resource 2023, the BIBLE SUNDAY (22nd January) was observed in the Parish. It started with the Bible Procession, installed solemnly, and Eucharist officiated by Fr. Pradeep Ekka, S.J., with other con-celebrants. After the blessings on Children during the Holy Mass, the Parish Priest Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. called upon one baby boy and girl as chief guests in the year of Children 2023 to give BCC kit-bags to eight groups of Frs and Sisters working in the Parish to commence it on 23rd January onward. Finally, at the end of the Sunday liturgy, Sr. Arpita, CTC, Fr. Pradeep Ekka, S.J. conducted the Bible Quiz in which youth participation outnumbered the children, men and women. All were very active, vibrant and happy. Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. thanked and congratulated all.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J.

JESUIT MISSION IN MP

Article 56

Father Bossaers was happy to record the great number of new Christians that had come from far in Jashpur to Majhatoli for Easter – there were 150 to 200 present - from every corner except *Konaraj*; there were 50 from Marga, Jadia and Pindih for Palmsunday and some 20 from Ratamati at Tongo on Maunday Thursday. For Ascension he was at Gholeng, where he stopped for 3 days. Many people were prepared for the sacraments, but about 100 had to be postponed. He had 560 Communion in 2 days. On Ascension day there was a *jatra* lasting 4 hours, that pleased the people immensely. *Patratoli*, the famous Catholic village that suffered so much from its cruel *zemindar* Lalu, was not giving satisfaction. Thus on 15th March: “The best news I (Fr. Bossaers) get now is that the people of Patratoli would like to come over again. In fact they will deposit some money as security of their readiness to remain good Christians. Towards the end of May: In Patratoli the *munshi* takes the same view as his master and persecutes the Christians and those who came back.”

In a letter dated 21-5-1916, he tells the Archbishop: “This is Lalu’s *munshi*, and is no better than his master. He takes away the *dands* (high lands) of the Christians, cultivates them himself, exacts more *begari* than the Raja has settled. I told them to make *darkhast* in court.” In August: “The people of Patratoli finally won their case for their lands and the Raja himself gave the decrees freeing them from the *zemindar*’s *begari* and giving back their fields. Now several times already on Saturday some of them come here to church at Majhatoli, 10 miles far.” This last item explains sufficiently why they had become slack but the Raja did not give them another *zemindar*, as they had begged for so much. On 30th October 1916 when at Rupsera he had many grown-up people of Patratoli for baptism or Holy Communion.

Father Bossaers tried to make the feast of the *Nawa* (New-Rice) more religious, so as to make it an appropriate substitute for the old pagan feast. In September 1916, after their retreat at Tongo, the *pracharaks* received a prayer which they had to say over the new rice and afterwards to sprinkle it with holy water. On that occasion a gift of rice was set apart, something for the *pracharak*, the rest for the Father. Here we see the origin of the now fairly abundant donations of rice on the feast of the *Nawa*. This new institution of a Christian *Nawa*, different from the pagan one called *Sohrai* met with opposition: at Rupsera the *zemindar* wanted to fine the Christians, how much is not said. The *Ganjhu* of Siktatoli was much more severe and wanted to make the Christians there pay Rs. 50/- to the Raja and Rs. 10/- to him, as a collective fine. Happily the Christians were clever enough not to pay, and he finally left them alone.

During the October-November 1916 tour, there was much blessing of cattle around 1st November, the old *Sohrai* day, feast of the cattle, many people came to the sacraments, especially on the day of All Saints. That day at Gholeng, there were 396 Confessions and 414 Communion, a very large number for that period. On 3rd November 1916, the Father held the First Friday and the *tarik* at Pindih. He says: “The village has really been transformed: again 11 adults ready for the sacraments, the people also learn – there were 293 Communion.” Speaking of the Majhatoli school, he says in November 1916 : “This year I had 18 boys in that school. The fees were fixed at Rs. 6/- for each, but concessions had to be given, so only Rs. 28/- was paid up. Father Ford had taken 4 boys without fees. But I regret that next year he will discontinue this, except for a clever boy, whom he claims as his.”

On 18 November, Fr. Bossaers started on a visit to nearly one half of his district. At the end he wrote: “I ought to find a means to make chiefly Surjula, Sardih and Dadgaon make some progress. In the first two villages the *pracharaks* ought to be changed, and in the third very few families remain. These villages and Ratamati, although there are some good people, remain out of hand. Much progress has been made at Patkona through two boys, on having taught catechism to some 30 people, the other having started a school on his own hook, without pay.” He returns to the good done wherever he has been able to establish a Christian *panchayat*: “Through the *panches* the general spirit of the people has become more generous and fervent.”

“During this tour and the preceding one, nowhere did I pay anything for my food or *dasturi*, namely, tip when washing of hands was done, the people having been made to understand that the Father besides giving help as much as he can, came for their sake, not for his.” His *totals* this time were: 615 Confessions, 680 Communion of which 71 First, 37 baptisms of adults, 115 baptisms of children, 13 visits

to sick people. In December he visited the villages between Majhatoli and Gholeng. On Christmas day, the last time this was not celebrated inside his district, he counted 118 Jashpurians at Majhatoli.

1917: At the January *tarik*h the Father made a careful enquiry about the produce of the *Nawa* of the last harvest, separating the share of the *Pracharaks* and giving them each one a receipt, and that given for him/which amounted to 11 mds. of *dhan*. The villages were informed. On 15 January he held a great *panchayat* at *Jhadgaon* about the bank, *dhan*, school and Sunday rest. As in the year before, there was the marriage feast at that village on January 27-29, but damped this time owing to very heavy rain. How he must have been longing for a chapel! Happily it would be ready for the following year. In a letter dated 15-2-1917, he tells the Archbishop that he himself was soaked to the skin and the crowd was so great that they did not know where to protect themselves in that small village. He felt most consoled the following morning when he distributed as many as 452 Communion. The Jashpur Catholics continued going beyond the border for religious solemnities: thus on 31st January, at the Tongo Annual Procession, in spite of several days rain, there were people even from far-off Patkona. On Ash Wednesday, at Majhatoli they counted 220 present; on Maundy Thursday and Easter there were 100 to 150 present. Among the villages visited there are none that today are completely *dogla* or pagan, except Kinkel mentioned once.

Until the war broke out, it was the custom in the Mission to have children and adults instructed free of charge at the bungalows, through the system called Catechumenates. Father Van den Bon, at Torpa was the originator or at least the great propagator of that system. It was due to this that the new Christians in a short time received a serious instruction and laid a solid religious foundation. The war prevented the Missionaries from incurring any longer such heavy expenses. The Christians had henceforth to be prepared by their catechists in villages, and when the Father went on tour he baptized those adults that were ready, or admitted to First Communion all those that had been sufficiently prepared. However, it soon became evident that the new preparation was far inferior to the old one, as only few catechists succeeded in doing it well. Hence at the Tongo Conference, after Easter 1917, it was decided to revert to the old system of catechumenates, namely, 2 weeks for the First communion and 10 days for marriage.

On 29th June 1917, Fr. Bossaers received a notice from the Archbishop that the village of Aonrapani, bordering the Rengarih District and attached to Rengarih, would henceforth belong to the Gholeng District. Aonrapani, from what the village people say, was converted by Father Cardon, and visited by Fr. Stoffels, his assistant. In 1917, Fr. Bossaers had 29 boys in Majhatoli School, an increase of 11 over the previous year. Touring for him must have become more laborious as the Diary makes frequent allusion to malaria attacks. He spent nearly the whole month of July with his friend Fr. Bretaudeau at Soso, to get cured. These attacks followed in the wake of his strenuous efforts to get the Gholeng chapel ready.

He next gives some remarks: "The number of Christians has diminished, first on account of the defection of a few isolated houses and of Pakertoli; this village leaves chiefly on account of a few bad people in the village. They never came regularly to their religious duties. Besides this, the 250 well counted have left for the Tea-gardens of Bhutan. The coming of Aonrapani has reduced the total fall-off. "The increase of baptisms of children comes as a sequel to the adults of chiefly Pindih, Sardih and Patratoli having gone in for learning their catechism wholesale. The whole of the village thus in the evening was learning. This I found a serious reason to baptize the children, although for several years this had been refused. The considerable increase in Confession and Communion has, to be attributed, first to more touring, secondly to my stay at Gholeng for the building of the chapel where on Sundays, although my stay was irregular, I had 110 to 150 or 170 Communion. This shows that the centre has been well chosen."

"In October 1917, during my absence the Marga people were condemned to Rs. 70/- fine for having brewed rice beer without license, something which was done everywhere and with the knowledge of the authorities. The fine was paid down by the *pracharak* himself to the magistrate." Fr. Bossaers says that he would enquire from the new *Dewan* whether the law had been changed. It was brewed in connection with the *Nawa*. Perhaps it is a vengeance of the *bhatthidars*, that is, licensed drink vendors. I know for sure they are wild because the Christians generally speaking, have given up drinking *daru*. Several *Bhatthighars* had to close down on this account. In Manora, a pagan village, the *bhatthidars* went to threaten the people with a lawsuit for brewing beer illegally, if they did not come to buy *daru*. So the people bought the whole stock for Rs. 9/- and then were allowed to drink. I do not protest, but highly approve of a tax on rice-beer

as this may diminish a little the present frequent drunkenness.” It is difficult to believe that *daru* had been given up to that extent!

Towards the end of October 1917, at the Tongo Conference it was decided that the Missionaries must induce the people to give more Mission help, that is, by giving it the *Pahani Dhan*, formerly exacted for the pagan sacrifice. Of this $\frac{3}{4}$ part would be given out to the poor, $\frac{1}{4}$ part kept for schools and catechumenates. The Missionaries had to be more strict in realizing school-fees, or getting them from a school fund or other means. In December 1917, Father Bossaers returned to Gholeng and from there visited part of the district. Much time was devoted to recruiting for the Labour Corps to be sent to France. On the 21st he received the excellent news that from January 1918 he would have his residence at Gholeng, no more Majhatoli. He calls it a red-letter day for Jashpur!

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

Fr. Arun Kumar Bara S.J. (33/13)

Born 09.11.1989 - Died 10.01.2023



“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7). Late Fr. Arun Kumar Bara was born on 9th November 1989 in Chhoti Anni village in Koreya district. He belonged to Baikunthpur parish. Shri Antony Bara and Mrs. Taramani Bara were blessed with five children. Among the five, Late Fr. Arun Kumar Bara had the fourth position. As far as I know, his grandfather was the first one to accept Christ. Thus, entire family accepted Christ in their lives and walked in light and became light for others. This is what makes us to say that he came from a very pious and religious-minded family. His academic journey began from St. Xavier’s School Baikunthpur and from there he completed the Primary and Middle schooling. His desire to excel in his academic career led him to St. Xavier’s School, Ambikapur. There he stayed

with his dad and after completing class 10th, deep within his heart, he felt the call of God and expressed his willingness to join Pratap Hostel (Apostolic school). His dad willingly allowed him to join Pratap Hostel for 11th and 12th class.

After completing 12th standard, as usual he expressed his desire to be a Jesuit Priest. After attending a vocation camp, he was selected to go to Daltanganj for his pre-novitiate in 2007-2008, but due to some reason he was not selected but was given the second chance to improve upon language. He was sent to Vidya Sadan, Bhopal for his second year of Pre-Novitiate in 2008-09. There after he was found worthy to be a disciple, and was selected for the Novitiate. He was sent to Jesu Bhawan Mango, Jamshedpur for two years of Novitiate in 2009-2011. After much prayer and reflection about Christ and about the Society of Jesus, on 21st June 2011 he pronounced his first vows along with his companions. Henceforth, in order to be more effective in his ministry, he was sent to St. Stanislaus College Sitagarha for one year of classical juniorate in 2011-12. After completing his classical juniorate he was sent to Loyola College Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh from 2012-15, and completed his studies successfully and came with the flying colours.

In order to know more about the Western as well as the Indian philosophers, he was sent to Satya Nilayam Chennai for his philosophical studies in 2015-17, after completing his philosophical studies he was sent for regency to St. Xavier’s School, Pathalgaon in 2017-19, where he was a mathematics teacher as well as assistant hostel warden. He was a very efficient Maths teacher. Boys and girls understood the subject matter well and he loved to play with number. He also took care of the hostel boys like his own brothers and loved them as much as he could. The Society of Jesus, after having examined him for 10 years, promoted him for theological studies. He was sent to Tarunoday R.T.C., Kanke, Ranchi in 2019-21.

After successfully completing his two years of theological studies at Tarunoday Kanke, he was supposed to go to Vidhya Joyti Delhi for his third year of theological studies but due to pandemic he was held up at Ashadeep Pathalgaon, at least for three months, but he continued his theological studies through online classes and when the situation improved enough, he was called to Delhi along with his friends. He was there almost for seven months and was ordained a deacon with his friends. After completing his studies in Delhi, he came back to Tarunoday for his final comprehensive examination, and he did it well. After his comprehensive exam he was assigned at St. Ignatius Church, Jashpur for his diaconate ministry. Meanwhile, he was very enthusiastic about his ordination and along with his family members he felt that he should be ordained a priest as soon as possible so that he could offer the Holy Eucharist for the people and fully surrender his life to the will of God. Finally, he surrendered himself to God on 26th October 2022 and was ordained a priest by Rev. Bishop Antonis Bara D.D. of Ambikapur diocese. Baikuthnpur parish was blessed to have the first and Jesuit priest after 54 years of its history. The family members were really glad to give their beloved son for the society of Jesus and the entire Church.

But it is said that God has a plan for every one of us. In the same way God had planned for our beloved late Fr. Arun Kumar Bara. On 9th January 2023, after completing all his assigned spiritual duties by the parish priest, he headed towards Pathalgaon to celebrate the First Mass in St. Anne's Convent, Pathalgaon, along with his newly ordained priest Manoj Lakra. Both celebrated the Mass together and after the Mass both of them went back to Rupdega and spent the night there. In the morning as usual they got up and around 10:30 a.m. had their early lunch together. He was supposed to go back to Shantibhawan, Jashpur but he told Fr. Manoj that he had some work so he would go back to Pathalgaon and after having completed the work return to Jashpur. He went back to Pathalgaon and while returning from there he took a short cut from Kansabel thinking that the road would be better. On his way back, he met with an accident around 04:00 p.m. near Bagia, close to the bridge on Maini River. Soon after the accident many people gathered around him and there was a man with whom he talked and told him that he was a Father from Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur. Immediately that man informed one of his relatives in Jashpur and he informed our Jesuit Fathers. By that time news had spread everywhere. That good Samaritan gave his best to arrange for the Ambulance. The accident took place in a very remote area so it took time for the Ambulance to reach. But by God's grace he was able to arrange for it. The accident was massive and due to nonstop bleeding, he was rather weak yet he managed to talk. His last word to a nurse was, *"Maa mera pair siddha kar dijiye, darad kar raha hai"*, and near Dugdugiya, Kunkuri he breathed his last and left us and this world and went back to God from where he came.

Late Fr. Arun Kumar Bara was a gem, filled with lot of talents and good qualities. It is hard to accept that he is no more with us now. He had completed 33 years on this earth and as a Jesuit 13 years and as a Priest two months and sixteen days. He was a versatile man, ever happy and smiling. He was a man of few words. Whatever he did, he did it with full heart and mind. He never spoke a word which would hurt others. He was very sensitive towards the needs of others, ever loving and caring person. Within a short span of his priestly ministry, he attracted thousands of people towards him. Today, he is physically no more with us but he is still alive in every one's heart. Dear late Fr. Arun, the family members, friends, the Society and the Church at large is going to miss you forever. May the Lord grant you eternal peace!

Fr. Tobias Tigga, SJ

REST IN PEACE

- Fr. Benjamin Tigga (DUM, 70/51) passed away on 08.01.2023, at Rampurhat, West Bengal.
- Br. Michael Lopes (GU), 78/55) passed away on 10.01.2023 at Vadodara, Gujarat
- Fr. Casper J. Miller (NEP, 90/72) passed away on 15.01.2023 at Jawalakhel, Nepal. Fr. Paul Vaz (BOM, 77/55) passed away on 16. 01. 2023 at Mumbai.
- Fr. Robert Menezes (Bob), (BOM, 76/48) passed away on 26.01.2023 at Mumbai
- ♦ **Mrs. Tarcila Lakra** the the elder sister of Fr. Micahel Ekka, passed away in Balrampur on 5 February.
- ♦ **Mr. Suleman Toppo** (87) the father of Fr. Binod Toppo, passed away in Raipur on 10 February.
- ♦ **Mr. Ujit Kandulna** the son-in-law of Fr. Eligius Kandulna passed away in Surungpani on 11 February.
- ♦ **Mr. Fidelis Tirkey** (66) the nephew of of Fr. Polycarp Tirkey passed away in Kunkuri on 14 February.
- ♦ **Mrs. Virginia Lakra** the elder sister of Fr. Fulgence Lakra paased away on 15 February.
- ♦ **Mrs. Kusumkanta Lakra** the sister-in-law of Fr. Manoj Lakra passed away in Rupdega on 16 February.
- ♦ **Mr. Anil Bara** the nephew of Fr. Kalyanus Minj died on 17 February.



Death Anniversary: February

S.N.	Name	Death	Birth	
01	Br. Joseph Solozabal	01 Feb 1984	30 Jan 1905	
02	Fr. William Missiaen	06 Feb 2013	12 Apr 1921	
03	Fr. John Ancot	07 Feb 1983	07 Jul 1899	
04	Fr. Jules Hens	22 Feb 1983	21 Sep 1902	
05	Fr. George Lakra	25 Feb 1985	25 Apr 1932	
06	Fr. Henry Geerts	26 Feb 1983	13 Sep 1905	

BIRTHDAYS

February

1	Toppo Amit
3	Minj Sameer
5	Hadde Basil
8	Kujur Ajay Kumar
8	Toppo Virendra
12	Tigga Satyaprakash
13	Panna Preetam P.
13	Xalxo Fabianus
14	Ekka Basant
18	Tirkey Vincent
20	Kujur Albester
20	Kujur Alok
20	Toppo Amritlal (R)
21	Tigga Nilesh
21	Toppo Binod Kr.
24	Tirkey Stanislaus
24	Toppo Manibhushan
26	Toppo Pratap
27	Toppo Silas

March

2	Toppo Anuranjan
3	Ekka Godfried
3	Khalkho Prabhu N.
3	Tirkey Martin M.
4	Ekka Amos
4	Tirkey Sikander
5	Kujur Bipin Kishore (B)
5	Xalxo Ravi
6	Xalxo Amarjeet
8	Tigga Ashwin
9	Badne Rajkumar
10	Ekka Cornelius
10	Kujur Shilanand
11	Lakra Nelson
11	Minj Cyril
12	Beck William
13	Beck Cyril
16	Lakra Pingal
18	Minj Fabianus
20	Tigga Santosh
21	Lakra Edwin
22	Tirkey Michael
23	Ekka Robins
23	Kumhara Amiliyanus
24	Kujur Charles
26	Tigga Robert P.
28	Ekka Michael
28	Kerketta Bartholomis
28	Tirkey Herman
29	Toppo Abraham

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Kindly send your News and Photos by 25th of every month to:

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