



MADHYA PRADESH JESUIT Newsletter



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., INDIA

March, 2023

Year 44, No. 03

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 VOWS

1 Fr. Anil Panna, S.J.	22 April, 2023	Loyola House, Kunkuri
2 Fr. Prabhu Narayan Khalkho, S.J.		
3 Fr. Ignace Kindo, S.J.		
4 Fr. Theodore Kujur, S.J.		

PROVINCE RETREAT

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	20 th May evening to 28 th May eve.	Loyola House Kunkuri
4 Fr. Stephen Ekka	20 th May evening to 28 th May eve.	St. Xavier's Ambikapur
5 Fr. Ignatius Tete	30 th May evening to 7 th 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.	St. Xavier's Ambikapur
8 Fr. Leander Xalxo	1 st June evening to 9 th June eve.	Campion, Bhopal
9 Fr. Alphonse Tirkey	11 th June evening to 19 th June eve.	Asha Deep, Pathalgaon

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

March

- 3-4 Visitation, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 6-7 NAAC inspection, Loyola College, Kunkuri
- 6-8 Visitation, Loyola House, Kunkuri
- 9 Visitation, Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur
- 12-13 Province Consult, Campion, Bhopal
- 15-17 Visitation & GB meeting, Campion, Bhopal
- 18 Visitation & GB meeting, XIDAS, Jabalpur
- 19-20 Visitation, Umaria
- 21 Visitation, Kota
- 22 Visitation, Bhaiswar
- 23 Visitation, Baikunthpur
- 24-25 Visitation, Khrist Milan, Namna

- 26-27 Visitation & GB meeting, St. Xavier's Ambikapur
- 28 Visitation, Jhingo
- 29 Visitation, Dhanwarkala

April

- 3-9 Holy Week, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 11-12 Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur
- 16-19 Four-sheet Exam, Vidya Sadan Bhopal
- 22 Final Vows of Fr. Anil Panna, Fr. Ignace Kindo, Fr. Prabhu Narayan Khalkho, and Fr. Theodore Kujur, Loyola House, Kunkuri

BARAMKELA-MAUHAPALI:

***Baal Pratiyogita* for Government Primary Schools**

Xavier Samaj Seva Kendra, Baramkela organised a *Baal Pratiyogita* for children of Government Primary Schools on February 12, 2023, at Mauhapali. There were 261 children from 13 Government primary schools around Jeevandhara School, Mauhapali. The St. Xavier's School bus, Baramkela picked up all children from their villages for the *Baal Pratiyogita*. The volunteers served snacks to all children on their



arrival at 09.00 A.M. Children went around and played freely in the campus and enjoyed themselves. The whole Jeevandhara campus was filled with children. It was a splendid view of children playing and enjoying themselves freely. The programme began at 10.00 A.M. With a march past. All children participated in it with great enthusiasm. Children tried to do their best with the beats of the drums. After the marchpast, children were grouped class-wise for various academic competitions. All children were led to different classrooms for the written tests based on their textbooks. The following written tests were conducted for them - Hindi and English hand wrings, dictation, writing numbers into words, general knowledge, mathematical tables, simple



mathematical calculations, and drawing. All children tried their best in all academic competitions. The first three top children of all competitions of all classes were given prizes to encourage them. Finally, all children were given a consolation prize one by one. Fr. William Beck, S.J. and Fr. Prabhunarayan Khalkho, S.J., gave away the prizes.

It was realised that some schools' teaching-learning activities were not up to the expected level. Many children do not have the knowledge and skill to understand the textbooks of their standard. Children do not have opportunities and guidance for



acquiring the expected knowledge and skills of their standards. There are a few exceptions to it. Some children did excellently in all competitions, but their number was not enough.

This *Baal Pratiyogita* was part of the Supplementary Education Programme by Xavier Samaj Seva Kendra, Baramkela. The Jesuits from the community, teachers of Jeevandhara High School, Ursuline Sisters, government teachers from the neighbourhood and hostel boys volunteered to make the *Baal Pratiyogita* programme a success. The *Baal Pratiyogita* ended with lunch. All children were dropped back to their villages after the programme.

Fr. Alfred Toppo, S.J.

LOYOLA HOUSE, KUNKURI

The entire Loyola Community participated in Marian Devotion in the Cathedral Campus. It was done on the Episcopal ordination anniversary of Bishop Emmanuel Kerketta, DD Jashpur. All Fathers, Sisters, Students and faithful from the nearby cathedral campus were present for that

occasion. Rev. Bishop Antonis Bara, DD Ambikapur, too, came for that occasion. He delivered a special message on the occasion of the Presentation of our Lord at the end of the rosary.



We have renovated the Apostolic basketball court to facilitate skating training for Loyola English Medium students in March. The final hockey match was played on 5th Feb. The winner was Dumberdih Jharkhand, and the runner was Putukela Chhattisgarh. School Band from Loyola English Medium escorted U.D Minj, MLA and Alumni group called STEPS, who graced the 43rd Bishop Oscar Sevrin Hockey Tournament. On the same day, our Apostolic and Hostel boys wholeheartedly participated and contributed to the anticipated Holy Childhood celebration in the Cathedral campus Kunkuri. For two days, Fr. Marianus Kerketta and Fr. Jerome Minj were involved in St. Anne's province workshop. It was organized to update the roadmap of their education apostolate. 54 Sisters, those involved in education, participated in the workshop. Loyola Hindi Medium Jesuit staff and Lay Staff went for an annual picnic on 9th Feb to Jamdarha. It was the time to strengthen the bonds among the teachers and rejuvenate their apostolic zeal. Mr. Manish Toppo, a PhD scholar, was accommodated in our community. He reached out to our schools and the neighbouring schools in Jashpur district from our community. He specifically came for the research work among the Kurukh students in sports and games. This month, there were two visitors: Fr. Erus Tigga, SOLA and Fr. Ashok Lakra, SJ, Asst. Province Treasurer, who visited their Alma Mater on different days, offered Holy Mass and also interacted with our students. 63 Krusveer students from Loyola Hindi Medium participated in one day pilgrimage to Tapkara that Ginabhar Deanery organized. On 19th Feb, Loyola Campus



welcomed 150 pilgrims (Women's group) from Tongo Parish, spiritually led by Fr. Philemon Ekka, SJ and his team.

Scouts from our schools conducted programmes on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Robert Baden Powell on 22nd Feb. The Priests from our community reached out to the neighbouring parishes on Ash Wednesday. The 10th and 12th



Class students were offered the act of reconciliation and Holy Eucharist for their spiritual, intellectual and physical wellness. The Principal, the Staff and the Students wished all the best to class 12th students on 25th Feb in the form of a Farewell Programme. This month, Loyola College Kunkuri was busy in 2nd Cycle of the NAAC Process. The Principal and the college staff have put their hearts and minds into preparation, departmental presentation and rehearsal. In view of NAAC Process, Fr. Jerome Minj, SJ, also highlighted and gave a special focus on student and staff assessment, connected to B.S. Bloom's Taxonomy. The entire college team was so engrossed in NAAC work that some skipped the dinner. This way, February 2023 was full of preparations for students' exams, the NAAC process and Lenten Season.

Sch. Pingal Lakra, S.J.

LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR

The community went for an outing and picnic on 05 Feb. near Kota dam. It was a refreshing time spent with the collaborators and co-workers. All enjoyed fun games and entertainment.

The Archdiocese of Raipur celebrated the Golden Jubilee. There were various events and activities throughout the year. The Final and concluding Jubilee celebration was on 08 Feb. in St. Joseph's School Campus, Amlidhi, Raipur. Fr. Provincial, Socius and Fr. Arvind participated in the Jubilee.



Fr. Provincial and Fr. Arvind Vinay participated in the Centenary Jubilee celebration of Tapkara Parish on 11 Feb. It was a big celebration to thank God for the mission, which began by Jesuit Missionaries 100 years ago with a tiny seed and which grew into a massive tree in the form of the expansion of various parishes.

Fr. Arvind Vinay, S.J.

ST. XAVIER'S, AMBIKAPUR

The 74th Republic day celebration on 26 January was celebrated with all the students and the staff members of Hindi and English medium schools. On that day, the programme was gracefully attended by Fr. Kalyanus Minj S.J,



school manager and chief guest of the day, who unfurled the National flag and gave an inspiring and thought-provoking speech. The small cultural functions graced the event. Soon after the Model and Half yearly examination of the students, the school staff of Hindi medium school went for a

one-day picnic to Ghunghuta dam. On 17 February, the school bid farewell to the 12th-class students. The students kept the small cultural functions honouring the outgoing students, which was highly commendable. St. Xavier's English Medium School is temporarily shifted to St. Xavier's B.Ed Hostel from the Hindi medium School building. The Regular classes in the new school building have begun already since February. Also, a Minibus is bought for English medium school children.

Fr. Godfried Ekka S.J joined the community in January and has taken charge of full-time Minister of the house. To help the Sisters meet their spiritual needs, Fr. Kalyanus Minj and Fr. Juam Maria Deepak Tirkey were resource persons for the Provincial Chapter of Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk Ambikapur Province. Fr. Juan Deepak went to Indore to lead the General Chapter of St. Joseph Sevika Sanstha Sisters. He played an important role in the election of the New General for the Congregation.

Under the curriculum of B.Ed, the second-year teacher trainees were taken on educational tours to Amritsar, Manali and Shimla. They enjoyed the Wagah border parade, Manali snow and the



beautiful scenery of Shimla and learnt a lot from every observation. Similarly, the teacher trainees of B.Ed first year were taken to the sugar factory for an industrial visit. They observed the process of making sugar from sugarcane and learnt by seeing the factory system directly. Both programmes were organized successfully by Fr. Sushil and Fr. Kalyanus, Br. John Sona also joined the educational tour.

Sch. Edwin Lakra, S.J.

BOIRDADAR

The JMJ Community started a "local chapter" in preparation for the Province Chapter, and Sr.

Arpita CTC celebrated her feast and vows day and Fr. Zacharias his Final Vows day.

The religious communities of the Boirdadar (SJs, JMJs and CTCs) went to Rabho dam and discussed the ministry of BCC in the Parish.

The yearly pilgrimage of the Diocese of Raigarh at



Jagat Janani Ish Mata centre, Banhar was inaugurated on 1st Feb with the Charismatic prayer service by Fr. Ritesh, IMS and concluded with the grand Eucharistic celebration solemnized by His Lordship Paul Toppo DD Raigarh along with many priests and religious. Fr. Pradeep Ekka, S.J., along with other members of the Community, joined the “Kalash” procession and celebration of the conclusion of the pilgrimage. Prior to Banhar Pilgrimage, Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. officiated the sacraments of reconciliation and Holy Mass for the pilgrims of St. John’s Church Kharsia (Mahila Sangh) at St. Monica Church, Urdana (29th Jan-29th Jan) and secondly, graced the visits of the would-be pilgrimage centre of Mount Mary and parish Gwanga on 18th and 25th Feb with community members and relatives of Fr. Cyprian Kujur Parish Priest of Gwanga. Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J. has donated tents and mats for this upcoming pilgrimage centre.

On the theme: “Take Care of him (Lk 10: 35), Compassion as a synodal healing exercise, the World Day of the Sick”, was observed. Fr. Zacharias offered the Holy Mass in OPD of Morning Star JMJ Hospital on 11th Feb. We came together to pray for the sick and all those who were in their Care.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. attended (17th Feb) a seminar on the Health Care ministry in RAJ Dioceses organized by His Lordship Emmanuel Kerketta DD, Jashpur.

The Holy Childhood Day was kept in the Parish on 12th Feb. Since the diocese has kept the year 2023 as the year of Children concerning security,

good atmosphere and best values (sacraments), the faithful have shown greater generosity, charity, and prayerful support. The efforts of Krusveer and the children of Mukti Prakash primary School under the leadership of Fr. Stephen Xaxa, S.J. credited high appreciation and magnanimity. Fr. Stephen Xaxa, SJ attended the LEAP programme in Hazaribagh.

St. Xavier’s School hosted the PSC exam peacefully on 12th Feb. after its annual exam, and from 25-26th Feb., the Chess Competition 2023 was organized by the District chess organization. This competition was held for the first time at the district level, in which almost 170 to 175 men and women, and children participated. The winners and participants were given cash, mementoes and certificates. Kudos to Fr. Martin M. Tirkey, S.J., the Principal and all the members of the Xavier Family.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra, SJ.

XIDAS, JABALPUR

Dr. Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra, Director XIDAS attended the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA) Annual Conference held at St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru, dated from January 26 – 30, 2023. A short programme was organized as Mr. Chotelal Yadav superannuated on the 31st of January 2023 after completing 17 years of dedicated service at XIDAS. Asst. Prof. Anchal Mishra, XIDAS, Jabalpur, is being elected



as the Joint Secretary of the Jesuit Alumni Association of India (JAAI) for Central Zone M.P. The XIDAS fraternity extended its best wishes to him for a fruitful and splendid tenure. A one-day workshop was organized for PGDM-RM students on Project Proposal writing – Current Methods and Trends by Mr. Alok Tripathi, Manager of Development Support Child Rights and You (Cry).

XIDAS extended its gratitude to Mr. Alok for the fruitful deliberation. The Rural Immersion Programme was conducted as a part of their courses curriculum for PGDM-RM Trimester II students in four villages, namely, Deori, Ghana, Sagda and Bamnohda of Jabalpur Blocks in District Jabalpur from 07 – 10 February 2023. XIDAS has also conducted a Live Study and Individual Social Responsiveness programme in the same village as a part of their course curriculum to enhance their innovative and creative learning from 20 February 2023.

Fr. Fulchandra Kujur, S.J.

ST. JOSEPH'S NIWAS, KERAKACHHAR

On 5th of February 2023, the Catholic "Mahila Sangh" of St. Joseph's Church, Kerakachhar hosted a "Day of Deanery level Women's Meet" at Kerakachhar Parish. Udaipur Deanery consists of seven Parishes: Pathalgaon, Taragarh, Lureg, Beoradand, Karangabaha, Haldijharia and Kerakachhar. The Dean of Udaipur deanery is Fr. Silas Kujur. Approximately 1500 hundred members of "Mahila Sangh" from seven parishes actively participated in the "Mahila Sangh" Meet. The theme of the meet was "Khrist Kendrit Maa Parivar Ki Sanrakshika" The "Mahila Sangh Meet" began with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rt. Rev. Emeritus Bishop Patras Minj S.J. Fr. Robert Tigga S.J. was the resource person who gave inputs to ponder over the theme. He presented and emphasized that Mothers are the centre of family living. He said every aspect of a father, son and daughter's life is centred on mother's love, care and concern. He also brought about the challenges that every family is facing today. After the talk, there was a report presentation of each parish. There was also a thematic cultural program put on the stage, which was inspiring. Before the "Mahila Sangh Meet" ended, a new Mahila Sangh committee was elected. The Meet was a successful one. All the Parish Priests and Mahila Sangh animators worked hard to make the day wonderful and inspiring.

On 9th of February, the village catechists of St. Joseph's Church Kerakachhar went for a day of outing near Tamta Dam. They were happy to organize the outing together they had devoted themselves to the mission of Jesus. There was a

short sharing session among them. Practically all



of them shared about the chaos the Covid-19 pandemic had created in villages. They also shared that during these three years, faith in Jesus Christ was shaken, leading the village Churches was difficult, meeting people was like spreading sickness, and telling and breaking the word of God was challenging. However, now they say that everything is settling down, and people of God are coming to Churches. Therefore, the outing was enriching and faith-strengthening.

RVTC Kerakachhar is on move. The third batch of driving trade has begun. Tailoring and cutting trade will complete six months of courses this month. Under the guidance of Fr. Rajesh Xalxo, SJ, Fr. Rakesh Bara, S.J. and Fr. Dilip Minj, SJ DCA and PGDCA, students are getting skilled in computer operations. In addition, the students of the electrical trade have busied themselves with learning and practising all kinds of motor winding. Loyola School Gorrapara is performing better academically. Fr. Ajay Bernard Ekka SJ and all the teachers regularly mentor and motivate every student. Students' presence in classes looks encouraging. Every Saturday, extra curriculum attracts students to learn new things in school. On 18th of February, there was a picnic day for the students and the staff at Pakpani Dam. All the students and the staff were happy after spending some time with the class mates and with staff.

Dilip Minj, S.J.

ST. XAVIER'S, PATHALGAON

On 10th February 2023, Fr. Provincial visited our community. On the same day, Fr. Ranjit Tigga SJ Provincial blessed a well-equipped new lab and library building of St. Xavier's English Medium School, Bandiyakhar. On the same day Fr. Sunil Xalxo, SJ Principal, organized a photo session for the school. Thanks to Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey SJ,

who patiently organized everyone to smile before him.

On 20th February 2023, St. Xaviers' Primary and



Middle school, Bandiyakhar organized a special programme where half-yearly examination results were declared. Parents of all the students were invited, and the toppers of the classes received rewards. Soon after that, there was a short meeting with the parents where Fr. Anup Tigga, SJ, headmaster, made aware to all of them of the negative effect of the pandemic Corona and the negative effect of the Mobile phone in the life of the students.

22nd February 2023 was Ash Wednesday. On the same day, St. Xaviers' Bandiyakhar Pathalgaon community members were busy with events like Ash Wednesday services in Parishes and other places; Hindi medium school celebrated Scouts and Guides day on the birthday of Robert Baden Powell. In Middle School Hindi medium, many well-qualified teachers care for our Scouts and Guides. Thus every year, Baden Powell's day is celebrated with full enthusiasm.

Fr. Santosh Tigga, S.J.

KHRIST MILAN ASHRAM, NAMNA

On 2nd of February, Khrist Milan Ashram Namna Celebrated- the Golden Jubilee of the Final vows, 50 years, 2/2/1973; Diamond and Sapphire Jubilee of Ordination, 68 years 31/7/1965; and Platinum Jubilee, 70 years in the Society of Jesus, 20/6/1953, of beloved Arch. Bishop Emeritus Pascal Topno S.J. There was thanksgiving Holy Mass at Khrist Milan Ashram chapel at 5 p.m. The local religious communities were invited to the celebration. Excluding Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, many Fathers and Sisters, including a few lay people, were present for the celebration. Some Fathers and Sisters relatives of Swami Ji also came from Jharkhand to participate in the Jubilee

celebration. Thanksgiving Holy Mass was followed by short felicitation and a simple dinner.

A new member of the community, Br. Simon Xess SJ has joined Khrist Milan Ashram Namna Community. He is convalescing after getting operated upon his thigh. Fr. Nazarius Baxla SJ was successfully grafted the skin on his left ankle and got discharged on 28th of February, and at present, he is resting at Khrist Milan Ashram



Namna. There was a community meeting on 26th of February, and the agenda was - the Lenten Season cum Easter celebration. On 1st of March, Fr. Gabriel Minj SJ went to Raipur for School work related to EPF. Rev. Bishop Patras Minj SJ (Emeritus.) will join Khrist Milan Ashram Namna on 5th of March. Khrist Milan Namna community is eagerly waiting for him.

Fr. Isaac Kujur, S.J.

BAIKUNTHPUR

St. Xavier's H. S. School Rampur Baikunthpur had many extra-curricular activities in February besides regular classes. There were special extra coaching classes for 10th and 12th standard students from Feb. 1 to Feb. 20 to prepare for the upcoming board exam. The rigorous practice of essential questions, followed by daily tests, has helped the students. Now the students of classes 10th and 12th look confident to write their board exam without fear. We, the staff members, do hope and feel that our students from their part will labour hard to pass with a high percentage.

On Feb. 16, 2023, the students visited nearby villages for 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan'. First, the students and the teachers arranged all the necessary things and made attractive posters for the campaign. Then, the school children went around the villages shouting slogans to draw attention to the importance of education. This campaign of 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' has undoubtedly brought great awareness to the minds and hearts of the village people.



Continuing the social duties of a school, on Feb. 19, 2023, the students and the staff carried out "Swacchata Abhiyaan" in the villages. They went to roads and streets, cleaning places and picking plastics and other waste. After collecting such things, they were brought to a place and disposed off properly. Many slogans related to cleanliness were made during the campaign. The students enthusiastically participated and spread the message of cleanliness among people.

On Feb. 22, 2023, there was a special prayer for the 10th and 12th stand and the students and a farewell program for the students of class 12th. The prayer session was well organized and conducted by the students of class 11th. The outgoing students brought many good memories of the school in their sharing. The students appreciated the school for the excellent discipline, teaching and good practices which are done in the school. They expressed that they cannot forget the school and the teachers who have taught them in the school. Finally, Principal Fr. John Crus Lakra delivered his message to outgoing students, wishing them the best of luck for the coming board examination.

St. Ignatius Church Baikunthpur witnessed many faithful turning for Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22.

Seeing such a crowd was a great surprise for the Parish Priest. The crowd was large, and some faithful had to be outside the church. The CORONA pandemic has, in a way, strengthened the faith of the people.

Fr. John Crus Lakra, S.J.

XISA, RAIPUR

CARITAS AUSTRALIA launched a "Khushhall Bachpan" project promoting Happy Childhood in collaboration with Caritas India, Delhi, at Xavier Institute of Social Action, (XISA) Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on March 1, 2023, in the presence of dignitaries Mr Robert Fitzgerald, Chair, Caritas Australia, Mr Richard Francis Landels, Advancement Director, Caritas Australia, Most Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, Archbishop of Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Dr. Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, AED, Caritas India, Dr. Fr. Paul Moonjelly, Executive Director, Caritas India, Delhi, Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna, Bihar, Chairman, Caritas India, including Directors of Social Work Commissions and 200 select audiences of 5 dioceses Jagdalpur, Jashpur, Ambikapur, Raipur and Raigarh of Chhattisgarh, India.

In his keynote address, Archbishop Henry Victor Thakur insisted that if we want to see our children happy, we have to keep our families happy. Family is the Temple of God. If family and family members are disconnected from God, He cannot be found in the broken family, warned. Robert Fitzgerald said he was overwhelmed by the rich culture, children, poverty, migrants, and women of India. He assured the audience to support the beneficiaries of India. He affirmed that Mr. Francis Landels was amazed to see India's generosity, significant children, dignity, protection, and leadership and to collaborate with like-minded partners to shed light on the beneficiaries through Caritas Australia. Mr, Sergius Minj(Rtd IAS): Speaking on the Rights of Children, informed that Children have the basic Constitutional Rights of health and hygiene, education, security, play, enjoyment, and happiness. The government of India has many projects for the development of children, like midday meals, ICDS, livelihood etc., but unfortunately, he lamented that children are

denied essential facilities. He wished Caritas Australia and Caritas India to fulfil the Rights of children. Children from Gram Nirman enacted the role play on children's rights to live, participate, develop, and secure for Jeevan Nirman.

Alexander Ekka,SJ

Campion Community Bhopal

Frs. Amrit Lal Toppo (R) and Alok Kujur were born on the same day on 20th February. On that particular day, not only the Jesuit community members were happy to wish them a happy birthday, but also many others (Sisters from different communities, teachers, friends and other well-wishers) came to wish them. We Jesuits of all three units: Campion Arera Bhopal, Campion Bhouri and Campion Mariado came together in the evening at 7 o'clock to celebrate their birthday. We had a meaningful Holy Mass offered by Frs. Amrit and Alok followed by birthday dinner. As we were about to start our dinner, the youth of our parish, along with the youth of some other parishes, gave a pleasant surprise to Frs. Amrit and Alok by their sudden and unexpected presence. They were more than 30 in number. They came with a big birthday cake, two garlands and some beautiful roses. They made Frs. Amrit and Alok feel very special by their meaningful prayers and birthday wishing songs.

Frs. Amrit Lal Toppo (Ambikapur), Fabianus Minj and Emilius Ekka came to Campion Community to help resolve some land issues. They left for their respective places on 24th February 2023. The Bishop of Jashpur Diocese (**Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta**) came to Campion Community Bhopal on 27th February 2023. He, along with Frs. Kapil and Panka went to Campion Community Bhouri in the evening to meet our Jesuit Fathers and, after supper, came back to Campion Arera Colony for a night rest. He left for Mumbai the next day. Fr. Panka accompanied him to the Airport.

St. Edmund Campion Church, Bhopal

Going for a picnic once a year is one of the customs of St. Edmund Campion Parish, Bhopal. This year the parishioners had planned to go to Kerwa Dam for the picnic at 9.30 a.m. soon after the Sunday Mass on 5th February 2023. All the parishioners were so excited and joyous. However, their excitement and joy turned into sorrow and sadness as soon as the sad news of the death of one of the

parishioners (Late Mrs. Trijya Paulina Tirkey, 69 Years old) reached us at around 8.30 a.m. while the Sunday Holy Mass was going on. After hearing the sad news, the parishioners postponed the parish picnic.

Campion School, Bhopal

We all have 'Time-Machines', "some take us back they are Called Memories and some take us forward they are called Dreams", by this teary-eyed quote in mind, the students, the staff and the management of Campion School, Bhopal bade Farewell- 'A Day to mark an End for a New Beginning' to the outgoing students of class XII, on 4th February 2023. The Programme commenced in the Loyola Auditorium with Lighting the Lamp by Principal Fr. Dr. Athnas Lakra S.J., Vice-Principal Fr. Amrit Lal Toppo S.J., Fr. Blacius Kullu, S.J., Sr. Lavita the Headmistress and some senior teachers. The juniors sang a prayer song followed by thought-provoking speeches, recollecting the memories and the time spent with their seniors in the school. Class XI students organized and presented various items like- foot-tapping dances, different songs, various cultural and Bollywood-style dances on different Bollywood songs etc. The students of class XII did the Ramp walk and Modelling. The pick of the day was the dance by the junior boys, which enthralled the gathering with their rhythmic dance steps on different Bollywood songs.

Campion School always focuses on providing children and youth with quality education, equal opportunities, and an environment to develop the talents of the students holistically. To move forward in this way, 245 Tiny Tots of class V, from the Primary Section of Campion School Bhopal, celebrated "the Cubbing Day Camp" on 17th February in the Loyola Auditorium and premises of Primary School. The day began with the welcoming of the Chief guest, the Superior & Manager Fr. Kapil Xaxa SJ, Mrs. Bhagwati Sharma, Leader and Trainer, Mr. V.K. Shrivastava, and the Vice Principal Fr. Amrit Lal Toppo SJ, and the Headmistress Sr. Maria Lavita A.C. The programme started with the hoisting of the Scout flag by the Chief Guest of the occasion in the primary assembly ground. All the cubs lined up for the flag hoisting with their in-charges. Thereafter, the Cubs 'Grand Howl' was inspected by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. *Then, the entire scout Cubs sang Baal Geet and Jhanda*

Geet of the primary section. And then the rest of the 'Cubbing Day Camp' activities continued.

VIDYA SADAN, BHOPAL

In order to broaden the world view of the pre-novices, occasionally, the pre-novices are exposed to different extracurricular activities. In February, they were given three such occasions. On 15th February 2023, 'A one-day Orientation/motivational class' was given by (Mrs Tresa Chako), one of the senior members of St. Edmund Campion Parish. During her class, she focused on what laypersons expect from Brothers, priests and religious. She took some examples of Jesus from the Bible to inspire and motivate the pre-novices.

Campion School Bhopal organized 'the Cubbing Day Camp' for the students of class V on 17th February 2023. The pre-novices were given an opportunity to see the creativity and confidence of the young students and learn from them.

The seminarians of K.P.R.P. Seminary celebrated 'Seminary Day' on 18th February 2023. The pre-novices were given yet another opportunity to see and learn from the activities of the celebration. The seminarians performed various cultural items e.g., skits, mimes, singing and dances of different cultures. The pre-novices expressed that they were immensely inspired and motivated by the performances and cultural items of the seminarians.

Fr. Kapil Xaxa, S.J.

DNC, PUNE

On 03 February 2023, a one-day intercollegiate conference was organized for philosophy students. At this conference, students from 5 colleges and Universities participated. It was an enriching experience for us all. From 6th to 10th February, Jnana Deepa organized a basketball tournament for



the students of philosophy and theology. Some of our brothers joined and entertained us with their incredible sports skills. From 8th to 11 February, Fr. Dilip Soreng (PCF) paid a visit to DNC and took account of our studies and stayed over here. 19 February was an auspicious day as 9 of our Jesuits brothers were ordained as deacons. Dn. Ravindra

Bara was one among them—hearty congratulations to him. On the 23rd a one-hour talk was arranged for the house regarding the Vatican Observatory. Fr. Richard D'Souza SJ, Superior of Vatican Observatory, spoke about the prestigious institute and the marvellous contribution Jesuits make to the world.

Sch. Abhay Kispotta, SJ

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

The year 2022-23 is the Golden Jubilee for Vidyajyoti College of Theology Delhi, due to which the month of February was packed with many activities in the college and our ministry places. Most of us organised programs and fun game activities for children in our ministry places. Our college organized a three-day National seminar on "The Role of Theology in Nation-Building". The focus points were Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The first day was opened with the lightening of the lamp by the most influential personalities, Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi, and the patron of our college, Bishop Em. Thomas Menampampil SDB of Guwahati, Justice Kurian Joseph, the retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Fr. Nirmal Raj, the Rector of the community, Fr. P.R. John, the Principal of the VI College etc., Fifteen speakers presented their papers on different themes. It was a wonderful one; the staff, students, and some religious participated actively. It was great learning for all of us.

On 18th Feb., Archbishop of Delhi Rev. Anil J.T. Couto ordained thirty-eight third-year brothers as Deacons in St. Xavier's Millennium hall. This was the most significant before for Bishop to bless the Deacons he



shared. Congratulations to Dn. Arvind Kujur and Dn. Anuranjan Tigga from our province. Many faithful, family members and people from ministry places joined us for the diaconate ordination and prayed for the newly ordained deacons. We continue to pray for the good vocation in our province.

Sch. Adesh Lakra, S.J.

Ginabahar

From 7th November 1913, Fr. Van den Driessche received as companion Father Gustave Op de Beeck fresh from Theology at Kurseong and Tertianship at Ranchi. From 11th November till about 10th December they toured together in Jashpur. Then Fr. Op de Beeck returned to Kurdeg and Fr. Van den Driessche remained on till the end of December, celebrating Christmas at Ginabahar. During the last 3 months he had 2230 Communions and 713 baptisms of which 228 to adults. In October 1914, Mgr. Meuleman made his *second* pastoral visit to Jashpur, coming from Kurdeg to Ginabahar and thence went *via* Charaidand to the *Upar Ghat*.

In 1915: After the first Mass had been celebrated in the Ginabahar hut, on the feast of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Van den Driessche divided the country around into sections. The *pracharaks* of each section had their monthly Sunday fixed on which they had to bring their wives and the communicants to holy Mass and Communion. As item, which has nothing to do with the spiritual side, but has its place in the history of the district is the following: "31st July: we hear that instead of 4 *thanas* (Police-Stations) in the *Nich Ghat*, there will remain only two: one at Marol, the other at Pharsabahar. On 27th November, there was a visit of the Ursulines of Rengarih: Mother Josepha and Mother Constantina (niece of Fr. Lievens) with some 20 girls. They remained for 3 days." From 8th December 1915, Ginabahar District became attached to Tongo, so that hence forth the whole of Jashpur is joined to the Vicariate of Barway. Fr. Superior paid his first visit to Ginabahar as superior on 20th December. The first time the feast of Christmas could be celebrated at their hut-bungalow. There was midnight Mass in which there were 483 Communions.

1916: The first marriage catechumenate held in the district began in January at Ginabahar under very primitive conditions. The boys and girls were lodged in sheds made of branches. They had to bring their own food, a good start. The catechumenate probably went on for successive groups. On 30th January, the shed of the girls took fire and was reduced to its mere frame in 10 minutes. Happily the boys on the following day covered the sheds again in 2 hours. That month, Mgr. Meuleman made his *third* pastoral visit, after which he received at Nagar, the splendid welcome from the Raja. The Superior, Fr. Perier came for his visit on 20th February, and again on 29th November. In June, Fr. Van den Driessche visited *Kakia*, Musugtri district, and at *Ubka* inaugurated the first *Dehat* chapel in Jashpur by order of the Raja.

There he learned that Khudia was becoming *Bhagat* and in July, the *Pracharak* of Tamamunda said that the *Bhagats* were trying to penetrate Jashpur from Udaipur. People got frightened and thus *Bhagatism* led to several pagan villages of Kakia asking to become Christian. They heard that the police were after the *Bhagats* in Khudia and in Surguja. Father Op de Beeck was often sick of malaria (spleen and fever). On 22nd November, he was carried to Gumla to see the doctor. At the end of the year, he was taken away from Jashpur and replaced Fr. Feron, who was at Kurdeg. In December Father Liefmans from Tongo, came to help for some days. For several months cholera was claiming victims in the district, for example, at Rampur.

1917: Due to the prevalence of cholera, Christmas at Ginabahar had to be limited to the *girja-ilaaq*, that is, the villages close by and the solemnity was put off till 4th February 1917 but this solemnity was largely spoiled due to heavy rain. However, the 400 future brides and bridegrooms, residing in the catechumenate sheds enjoyed what had been prepared for many more people. On 6th February 1917, the Archbishop had granted dispensation to have marriages if the Father judges that there is sufficient reason for such exceptions. In September, some 30 *pracharaks* were at Ginabahar for a "fortnight's training." This was the right thing to instill more zeal and also better method into them.

Ambakona

In April from 19th till 25th 1914, Fr. Van der Linden visited the Jashpur villages where the

persecution, which had come to an end in the other districts was still on. The famous *Gossain* of Galonda, *zemindar* also of Dhasma, was terrorizing the remaining Christians to apostatize. No one dared to approach the Father as the *Gossain* was taking away their fields. The only exception was Boddhe, whose family was the only one that remained faithful. The *Gossain* threatened him also and when in May 1914, Fr. Van der Linden paid his last visit before the rains, he learned that the “mad *Gossain*” continues his threats against Boddhe of Dhasma.

In July 1914, the Father heard that the *Gossain* was cultivating by force the fields of Boddhe. He sent him to Nagar to make a lawsuit. When in October 1914, the Father made his next visit, he heard that the court had passed a decree more or less in favour of Boddhe. The *Gossain* was obliged to give Boddhe as many fields as he had stolen from him. By this, adds Fr. Van der Linden, “The court recognizes that the *zemindar* has the right to change the fields of the *Assamis* (cultivators), which is against all the customs prevailing in Chota Nagpur.”

In a letter to Father Hoffmann, dated Noadih 25-5-1914, Fr. Van der Linden says, “This *Gossain* of Galonda was managing the village of Dhasma for another *Gossain* who is living at Dhasma but unable to move on account of his lameness. Notwithstanding the protests of this lame man, the Galonda *Gossain* had the fields of Boddhe sown in his name and in his presence. A *Jamadar* came to make an enquiry and the lame *Gossain* told him everything whilst the Galonda one refused to come.” Fr. Van der Linden was waiting for the Judgment of the court. Fr. Demonceau says that when he was put at Noadih in 1913, Dhasma except Boddhe had already left the Church. Several of these apostates have since left the village. The majority of the people are now Catholic. Boddhe, who never left, is a well-to-do man with many fields. This of course excited the greed of the *Gossain*.

1915: Fr. Van der Linden paid his first visit to his district in January 1915. This time also there was oppression. The *thikedar* of Mando wanted the people to give up to him good fields for far inferior and smaller ones. From Jaga, one of our Christians, he wanted to take two *annas* (a land measure) of fields without giving anything in exchange. The Father sent him to Nagar to make a lawsuit but Jaga was threatened by the *zemindar* and ran away. Thereupon the *zemindar* took 4½ *annas* of land, leaving only one anna to Jaga’s wife. It was only at the end of the year, in December 1915, that Jaga was found back. This time he went to Nagar and made his *darkhast*. After many delays he won the case to a certain extent. Like Boddhe of Dhasma he had to be satisfied with other fields in exchange. The Father paid frequent visits to Jashpur, for example, up to Gulu, the utmost extremity where he had great difficulty to get down the slope on horseback.

1916: On 29th January, His Grace, on examining the map, finds that Jhadgaon, Alori and Gulu are too far from Noadih and would be visited more easily from Ginabahar. “I (Fr. Van der Linden) am of the same opinion and at the February meeting at Tongo, I settled this with Father Superior of Tongo and Fr. Van den Driessche, on condition that Rs. 10/- of the Noadih allowance be transferred to Ginabahar. Remains the consent of Father Superior in Calcutta, who paid the allowances for masters and catechists. Sanction was obtained in June.”

In April, there was another visit to Jashpur. During that visit he hears that Mr. Crawford, Political Agent, is on his way to Jashpur. His typist, a Catholic, came to see the Father at Talasilih so that very likely they were going to Jashpur from Surguja via Khudia. Jaga of Mando accompanied him to go and expose his case to the Political Agent. The latter ordered the restitution to Jaga of all the fields stolen by the *zemindar*. In July, the Father went to Andhla where the cattle were sick, and where the people were on the point of making a *puja*. He said Mass for their intention, very likely after a good warning to those Christians.

His last visit was in December and ended with a consoling note: “December 17-23, visit to Jashpur where all seems to go well. The Christians are much better considered. Two *zemindars* came to offer me presents.” That month he received news of his transfer to Mahuadand, where *Bhagatism* had almost ruined the Mission through the loss of 4000 Christians. Jashpur lost one of its pioneers, very reasonable, prudent, and extraordinarily zealous Missionary. If all had been as kind and prudent, the

Jashpur Mission would very likely have been spared many of its troubles. Fr. Van der Linden was for 19 years connected with Barway and Mahuadand. Being in charge successively of Katkahi, Tongo, Noadih; his services to this part of the Lord's vineyard have been most conspicuous. Thousands of *doglas* were brought back to the fold. After Mahuadand, he was placed in charge of Dighia where he died of heatstroke on the road, on a Sunday whilst returning from Mass on 10th June 1923. His fellow Missionaries jokingly called him "King of Barway" because in their opinion, there was in the whole country no one, not even among the big landowners and officials, that exercised influence equal to his.

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

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr Mathew J. Moollel (MDU), 90/ 71, passed away on 19 February 2023 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

Fr Fernandes Jesuadimai (MDU), 76/47, passed away on 24 February 2023 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

Fr Britius Ekka SJ (RAN 53/38) passed away on 5 March 2023 in Ranchi



BIRTHDAYS

Date	MARCH	Date	APRIL
2	Toppo Anuranjan	1	Fr. Lakra Anmol
3	Ekka Godfried	3	Sch. Toppo Donald
3	Khalkho Prabhu N.	4	Sch. Panna Amarjeet
3	Tirkey Martin M.	6	Sch. Lakra Ashwin
4	Ekka Amos	7	Sch. Ekka Fedrick Vivek
4	Tirkey Sikander	7	Fr. Kerketta Zacharias
5	Kujur Bipin Kishore (B)	10	Sch. Kujur Pranay Wilson
5	Xalxo Ravi	11	Fr. Ekka Marcel
6	Xalxo Amarjeet	13	Fr. Tirkey Juan Deepak Maria
8	Tigga Ashwin	14	Fr. Toppo Alok Kumar
9	Badne Rajkumar	14	Fr. Toppo Sunil Kumar
10	Ekka Cornelius	15	Fr. Lakra John Crus
10	Kujur Shilanand	19	Fr. Minj Elphiz
11	Lakra Nelson	20	Fr. TIGGA RANJIT
11	Minj Cyril	27	Sch. Kujur Akash
12	Beck William	22	Fr. Barwa Prabodh
13	Beck Cyril	23	Sch. Toppo Vinay
16	Lakra Pingal	24	Fr. Kerketta Ajay
18	Minj Fabianus	25	Sch. Kujur Arvind
20	Tigga Santosh	25	Fr. Minj Kalyanus
21	Lakra Edwin	29	Fr. Lakra Sebastian
22	Tirkey Michael	30	Fr. Kujur Justin
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		



DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Name	Birth	Death	
Fr. Robert Phelan	14 May 1903	06 March 1988	
Fr. Benjamin Ekka	21 June 1940	07 March 2015	
Fr. Victor Tucker	19 July 1909	13 March 1988	
Fr. Emile Van Eynde	13 June 1910	25 March 1980	
Fr. Gabriel Ekka	24 March 1944	25 March 2006	
Sch. Joseph Jugal Baraik	17 December 1957	26 March 1989	



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