

himaldhvani

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No.01

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

January~2022

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

As we move into the New Year 2022, we put the old behind us and look to the new. It is a fresh start offering new opportunities and expectations. On New Year's Day, January 1, the Church honors Mary, the Mother of God. She carried Jesus to the world. With her unconditional faith, our Blessed Mother saw the love of God in the sorrowful, the ordinary, and the joyful. She who placed her trust in God saw His glory in everything. At the end of 2021, a challenging year for both our nation and our Church, the model of Mary offers a wonderful guide for our year ahead. Like Mary let us allow God to shape our hearts to "enter into a deeper understanding of mystery of evil in the world and the transforming power of the merciful gaze of God" amidst the difficulties and challenges of our time. Let us continue to remind ourselves that "with Christ, we are called to closeness with all of crucified humanity" especially with minorities in India facing the problem of identity, security and inequity. May this New Year for us be a time of commitment, courage and renewal founded on faith, hope and love that are born of consolation from our encounter with the Risen Lord laboring ceaselessly for the salvation of all people.



APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Roshan Kiro	M.Sc. in Psychology – Bangalore
Fr Oshish Tirkey	Socius to the Novice Director, Kalimpong, (w.e.f. 1 April 2022)
Fr Ajay Lakra	Minister/Treasurer, LCE, Namchi, (w.e.f. 15 January 2022)
Fr Justin Thiraveyam	Vice Superior, Loyola House, Namchi, (w.e.f. 1 January 2022)
Fr Frank Subba	Arrupe House, NP, AICUF In-charge, Asst. Hostel Warden (w.e.f. 1 Jan. 2022)
Fr Vincent George	In-charge of Rimbick Mission, Residing at Kankebong, (w.e.f. 1 February 2022)
Fr Alvin Minj	Assistant Director - Jesu Ashram, & Headmaster of Jisu Niketan School (w.e.f. 1 February 2022)
Fr Immanuel Henrick	Infant Jesus Mission, Sittong, (w.e.f. 15 January 2022)
Fr Binod Kerketta	Tertianship - Shembaganur
Fr Sanjiv Lakra	Tertianship – Hazaribag
Fr Cherian Padiyara	Teacher in Jisu Niketan, residing in the Curia, (w.e.f. 1 January 2022)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM - JANUARY 2022

- 07- Visit to Singla Mission
- 12- Recollection – Gayaganga
- 19-20 Visit to Alipurduar
- 22- Discernment with Superiors and DOWs
- 23-31 Personal Retreat

POPE'S INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

LEFT THE SOCIETY

Dn Anthony Xalxo on 4th Dec 2021

HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA

A workshop on Child protection policy was held for HLDRC staff, volunteers and study centre teachers from 27th to 28th November. **Fr. Stanley, Advocate, and team** mentored the sessions and drew a strategy to implement it in every unit of HLDRC program. 65 youth who are engaged in various programs of HLDRC over last five years participated. **HLDRC T- Shirts** were distributed to all



as a symbol of gratitude to all who serve the community with dedication and commitment. We are extremely grateful to **Canadian Jesuits International** for supporting the core program and all encouragements to live out the real spirit of collaboration and networking with SMART programs. **Lok Manch** completed the Assessment study on the impact of Covid 19 pandemic wave-I and wave-II in tea gardens/villages in North Bengal successfully and data analysis is in process.

510 students of Study Centres were given winter shoes, Christmas cake and other sweet packets. **Special Thanks** to **SOS India** under the care of **Mrs. Patrizia Bianconi**. In the last six months SOS India has helped children with food and medicines. 20 more study centres will be added from January 2022 as there is a huge educational crisis in tea garden region during Covid and thereafter. Students were out of schools for about 20 months. 21 nursing students of HLDRC unit who were trained at Navjeevan at Nursing institute, Dondajhar have completed and 10 of them are placed in Bangalore, 5 in Hyderabad in December 2021 and the rest are in the process of getting jobs in Mangalore. We thank **Jesuit Missions UK** for their great support to these girls from tea gardens. HLDRC organized Pre-Christmas gathering on 22nd December for its staff and associates. **Fr. Edward** was the main celebrant and the chief Guest on the

occasion. **Fr. Joe Victor** and **Fr. Kalyan** participated in the celebration and dinner.

Fr Pascal Xalxo

LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

After a gap of two years, election to students' council was held on 9th Dec. and the election to Magazine committee took place on 13th Dec. The elected members were sworn in on 14th Dec. A health awareness programme was organized by Restoration Health Care personnel for the hostellers on 16th Dec. for the holistic health of the students. **Fr Francis George** participated in a one-day consultative meeting on Integrated Teacher Education Programme, organized by Sikkim Government B.Ed College, Soreng, West Sikkim on 17th Dec. A Pre-Christmas Programme was organized by the College management, before closing the college for winter vacation. The Chief Guest, **Shri Saimon Kulung**, Chairman, Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, stressed the need of disseminating the Christmas message of hope, joy and peace. **Fr Justin Thiraveyam** gave recollection talks to the Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Lungchok on 20th and 22nd Dec. to prepare them for Christmas.

Fr Francis George

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

On Dec 5 and 6, **Br Gabriel Gurung** attended the recollection at Matigara, given by the provincial. On 10th December, **Bishop Stephen Lepcha** of Darjeeling Diocese, presided over the Holy Mass



and encouraged us to follow the "Walking Jesus" in our daily life. He also cautioned us not to leave Jesus behind as we move forward in our vocation to religious life. On 12th December, **Fr Shaji Joseph** returned from his home visit. On 15th December, **Fr Stanley Karakkada**, Rector of St Joseph's School, offered Mass for us. We spent three days (Dec 20-22) for external decorations of the house and the campus. On 23rd December,

we spent half a day to prepare ourselves to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

Fr Roshan Kiro, helped us out in beautifying the surrounding and teaching us new songs which he himself has composed. For the Christmas festive dinner most of the dispersed community members and **Fr Paul D'Souza** were present. On 26th December, Fr Socius left for home for the Requiem Mass for his uncle priest.

Novice Jay Ghale

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

College: The College Jesuits from Rajganj, Namchi and Darjeeling met at St. Joseph's College and had a fruitful sharing of their personal experiences in higher educational institutions and discussed a few issues pertaining to their respective colleges. Masscom Department conducted a one-day seminar on Satyajit Ray and his films, on his death anniversary. **Fr Pragasan** and **Mr Vikram Rai** were the speakers. Four teaching (**Dr. Devika Lama, Dr. Rupa Bhowmick, Dr. Diwakar Thapa, and Dr. Sumita Rai**) and three non-teaching (**Mrs. Rosalind Baptiste, Mr. Evan John Moktan and Mr. Rajesh Gurung**) staff members celebrated the Silver Jubilee of their service to this college. **Fr Donatus Kujur** attended the Annual General Body Meeting of the West Bengal College Principals. Xavier hostellers celebrated the pre-Christmas and Freshers' Welcome before leaving for winter vacation. The college NSS volunteers had a five-day work camp below Kurseong. The college is closed for the winter from 19th December till 6th February 2022. However, the College Offices will open on 5th January 2022.

Arrupe House: **Fr K. L. George** made the recollection given by **Fr Provincial** in Matigara. **Fr George** was also the resource person at the online National Seminar, conducted by Sophia Women's College, Ajmer and made a presentation on Existentialism and Girish Karnad's Plays. The second Cluster Level Recollection was held here. **Fr Donatus Kujur** gave the input. Members from St Joseph's School, St. Alphonsus School and their extended communities, and College community attended the recollection. **Fr Donatus Kujur and Fr. Xavier Binay Kandulna** visited Kalimpong, Kurseong and Sonada areas to collect data for Fr Binay Xavier's research programme.

Fr K. L. George.

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

After a month and a half of offline classes, the college is on Christmas and year end vacation until 2nd Jan. Dec. 21 and 22 were remarkable due to Pre-Christmas celebrations. The staff and students participated joyously to the tune of Christmas music. AICUF unit with **Fr Bijay Kindo's** guidance put up a skit on Nativity besides singing multilingual melodious carol songs. **Fr Gabriel**, delivered the



Christmas message to a gathering of about 500 in the main campus. In Siliguri Campus, the 3rd Year students organized the Pre-Christmas and Freshers' welcome. **Fr Deven** organized a Pre-Christmas programme at Xavier hostel. 1st Semester Internal Assessment tests were held in early December. Departments also organized webinars and seminars to bring in freshness and alternative inputs from invited and international speakers. A seminar-cum-workshop on 'Anger Management' organized by **Ms Priyanka Choudhury** and **Dr Pavanvir Kaur** stood out as it gathered a lot of interest drawing a large number of students. **Fr Lalit**, the principal, besides conducting many meetings to share his 1-year and 5-year plans, also organized a half-a-day session on 'Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm/ Characteristics of Jesuit Education' with young faculty members.

As a goodwill gesture during the season, the community collected clothes and other items from Xavier Niwas as well as staff and handed over to MC Sisters, Jalpaiguri, to be distributed among the needy. **Frs Lalit and Bijay** also participated in Christmas celebration with about fifty tuition children of Kheripara village and distributed cakes and sweets to them.

Fr Lalit Tirkey

ST XAVIER'S CHURCH, SAKYONG

On 3rd December we celebrated our Parish Feast Day of St Francis Xavier. After the mass we had a small gathering with the Parishioners. On 6th and 7th, the parishioners helped construct a kitchen behind the church. **Bro. Pranith Gurung** from Darjeeling Diocese joined us for the Christmas Ministry. From 14 to 17th we had our Pre-Christmas celebrations in twelve S.C.Cs. **Bro. Alphonse Gurung** from Darjeeling Diocese (JTI) came to our Parish on 19th for his Christmas Ministry. On 20th, the Parish Priest and 12 S.C.C animators attended the training session on Synodal Church at St Augustine School, Kalimpong. We had a one day Recollection, confession and Christmas Gathering on 21st for the crusvir, Christeen Groups and youth. **Fr Shaji**, the local Superior, came to hear confessions. On the Christmas Day **Fr Paul D'Souza** was the main celebrant and in the evening we went to Manresa Jesuit Novitiate for the Community Christmas Gathering.

Fr Benny Paul

XAVIER SANGEETANJALI, MATIGARA

Sangeetanjali offline classes are in full swing now. For a month, the staff and students were busy preparing for our Annual Concert. After a gap of two years, we managed to have a meaningful as well as joyful Sangeetanjali Day-2021 celebration on 19th. It was a combined celebration of Foundation Day, Parents Day, Children's Day and Pre-Christmas celebration. Sangeetanjali students put up a variety of music and dance of classical, patriotic and cultural items. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the guests and specially parents. The chief guest of the program was **Fr Joe Victor**, the



treasurer of Darjeeling Jesuit Province. He gave an encouraging message for our students and a meaningful Christmas Message for everyone. We had the privilege of having some of our senior students and our dance teachers performing classical dances. We honored our dance and music

students who participated in Online Music and Dance Competition-2020. We gave certificates, trophies and prizes to the winners of the competition. **Fr Kalyan Tirkey** produced a well appreciated Christmas song in Sadri for Youtube channel. Sangeetanjali students and staff danced for this song.

Fr Edward Arokjaraj

PREMANJALI, MATIGARA

The Pre-Novices are on their toes learning and developing the skills to communicate in English both in written as well as in spoken forms and inculcating the spirituality of St Ignatius, under **Fr Zacheus Dungdung**. There is a tangible improvement in their communication skills. **Frs. Zacheus** and **Edward Arokjaraj** gave retreats in the beginning of this month in Tezpur and Bongaigaon in Assam respectively. **Fr Zacheus** went to Pradhan Nagar Parish for the Mass on 24th evening as the main celebrant. The rest of the community members along with Pre-Novices took part in the Parish Mass at Matigara. We had a sumptuous festive lunch in front of the Premanjali building on 25th, prepared by the Pre-Novices. **Fr Kalyan** left for Ranchi on 26th to bless the marriage of his nephew. The garden filled with vegetables, is taking its shape gradually, which keeps us all evergreen in spirit and mind.

Sch. Rajan Minj

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

Synodal Church meeting of village leaders was organized in the parish with over 170 participants. 307 widows and widowers participated in the Holy Eucharist, sharing about the Synodal Church and participating in the pre-Christmas gathering. All were given blankets as Christmas gift. Pre-Christmas gathering was organized for the village *panch parchars* as well, in the parish. The land for the new church at Gangaram was blessed by Fr Peter Pappu and foundation pillars were blessed and laid by **Fr Cherian Maliekal**. A piece of stone from Jerusalem, brought by Fr Peter was also added to the pillar. The faithful of the village were really excited and happy about this historical event. Many, including children, participated in it by putting a small amount of concrete mixture in the pillar. We thank **Fr Benny Paul and his family** for their immense contribution to this project.

Christmas was celebrated with full of enthusiasm in the parish. The vigil mass timing was shifted to 6.30 pm and it was convenient for many to take part. 'Sangeet Sangam', Hindi Hymn book compiled by **Fr Simon**, was released after the Mass. Thanks to **Fr Paulose** who came to the Primary School for water divining. The water from the new bore well is really sweet and tasty. We are grateful to **SOS India** for this Christmas gift. The School ended the academic year with the annual exams and a beautiful Pre-Christmas Celebration organized by the AICUF students.

Sch. Sujit Minj

ST VINCENT, HATIGHISA

The school conducted online annual exams for classes LKG to Class IX and offline exams for classes X and XII. The results have been declared. Admission for 2022 began on 27th, 28th and 30th. In spite of the prevailing covid situation, the demand for admission to St Vincent's is beyond our expectation. We celebrated Pre-Christmas on different days with the staff and the hostel students. Inspiring messages were given by **Frs Alex and Alvin**. The Primary toilet block is completed and ready for use. Thanks to **Mrs. Patrizia Bianconi and SOS India**. The Vaccination camp will resume from January 2nd. The school will reopen from 6th January. The Candidates and the hostellers have gone home for holidays and will be back on 6th January.

Mr. Theodor, Mr. Ruben, Sr. Anesthesia, Sr. Anthonia and Fr. Alvin were the resource persons for this year's marriage preparation classes. After two years, Christmas was celebrated in a grand manner with a large number attending the service. The villagers extended their helping hand in decorating and making this celebration a memorable one. **Fr Lawrence** attended the recollection arranged for the Superiors at Matigara.

Sch. Gorak Rudum

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

The School is closed for winter vacation after declaring the results. Mark sheets were distributed to the day-scholar students and the results were available on the school website for the boarder students. The boarders of Classes X & XII finished their 1st Semester board exams and went home. However, keeping in mind those taking ICSE and ISC 2nd Semester exams, online remedial classes are

arranged for them for a month. There is no Winter Camp for the underprivileged children this year. The staff at North Point had a wonderful Christmas celebration on the 20th with a meaningful prayer service, a beautiful message by Fr Rector and exchange of gifts. Youth from the adjacent parishes were invited to sing carols on this occasion. **Mr Ashok Sadwani**, a renowned alumnus of North Point based at the US, spent a few days here.

The community members actively participated in Christmas ministry in Lepcha Busty, Singla, Sittong and Sukhia for the Christmas Mass. The Lepcha Busty youth went for Christmas Carols to various places. On Christmas eve, the church organized Carol competition in groups for all the Parishioners. On the 25th, the school held a fellowship dinner. Fathers from Bishop's house and Divyavani, along with the extended community and college community members joined us. **Frs K.J. Joseph, John Banerjee, Leo and Sch. Evan** have gone for home visits; **Fr Leo** will be away till the end of February for a short course at Lonavala.

Fr Anuranjan Ekka

SACRED HEART CHURCH, DARJEELING

The Christmas spirit, dampened by Covid 19 pandemic last year, returned with an outburst of joy this year. The newly renovated church and the newly constructed grotto blessed by **Bishop Stephen Lepcha** on 19 December, were fully decked with lights and decoration filling the hearts of the parishioners with joy and attracting many visitors. The new look we have of the church would not have been possible without the help from others. I, along with the parishioners extend our deep appreciation and gratitude towards all, especially St Joseph's School and College, who helped in renovating and beautifying the house of God. On 5 December the parishioners had a day long praise and worship led by **Fr Peter Lingdomu** and his dedicated team. The parishioners received the sacrament of reconciliation and prepared themselves spiritually for Christmas. The elderly and the sick had Mass in their homes. On 12 December youth from the parish, Soom T.E, and Lebung under the leadership and guidance of youth coordinators **Mr Michael Tamang** and **Mr Marcian Joshi** went for hiking to Sandakphu. **Fr Frank Subba** accompanied them and said Mass for them there.

Fr Patrick Pradhan

HAYDEN HALL, DARJEELING

The Livelihood Domain of Hayden Hall went through a very creative and new training in collaboration with The National Jute Board of India for the Woolenisation of Jute. The first phase of training was conducted from 29th Nov to 3rd Dec., where 18 women were trained to create "The Woolenisation of Jute". The second phase started from 4th Dec. Master trainers **Mamta** and **Bimla** were selected to train new teams and supervise the process. The training will continue till 17th January 2022. The Education department celebrated Pre-Christmas in the 13 centres in Siliguri. More than 400 students participated along with 13 teachers and the Hayden Hall Team. The kids were provided with warm gifts and cakes by HLDRC Team.

The community development workers from all the three districts attended the self-defense and self-esteem class conducted by **Giacomo Colomba** and Menstrual Hygiene Class was conducted by **Pranati** from Auroville, Pondicherry, from 14th to 16th December. The objective of the training was to build belief that women are worthy to defend, respect and love. The importance of menstrual hygiene and taking care of one's body and the environment was taught. 25 workers participated in this two-day training programme.

Ms. Prasanna

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

The most awaited month December, finally arrived with celebrations and festivities. On the 3rd, the community meaningfully celebrated the feast of St Francis Xavier with the solemn Eucharistic celebration in the morning and a devotionally unifying inter-religious prayer service in the evening. All the Philosophers and Theologians were glued to their desks preparing for their exams and completing their assignments. We had our offline/online exams from 13th to 17th; thereafter we had our Christmas break. Soon after our exams, we started our Community Days Celebrations for two consecutive days. It was an enriching experience to celebrate life in the community through the activities with full involvement of its members. Life was at its best during these two days at DNC! Some of our community members are away for their home visits and province visits. Our college re-opens on the 4th January.

Sc. Amar Xalxo

ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

December was indeed a season of joy, peace and love. On 13th December, **Fr Provincial** and **Fr PCF** visited us which doubled our joy. Fr Provincial invited us all to his house for dinner and we experienced warm and generous hospitality. We went for carol singing to our neighbors' houses on 21st December. We also went to

Jeevadana to celebrate Christmas with HIV children; we entertained them with our dance and group activities and also gave them Christmas gifts.

Sch. Kuldeep Topno

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

On 22nd November the four scholastics of Darjeeling and Nepal finally arrived in Vidya Jyoti, our long awaited destination. To mark and commemorate the 'Year of St Ignatius' Conversion', we had 'Ignatian Quiz' on the 10th December in the college. We came to know much more about St Ignatius and the Society at large. On the 17th we had Christmas Celebration in the college. The chief guest for the occasion was **Mr Sumeeth Nath**, the Director of Baptist Church Trust Association. He gave us an inspiring and motivating Christmas message and it was well appreciated by all. Prior to Christmas we had a day of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare us spiritually to welcome the prince of peace in our hearts. We had a wonderful Christmas celebration in the community. The creative carol singing was put up by scholastics from each zone, making it a memorable one. After dinner we had community adivasi dance. On 26th, the 3rd years went for their **Diaconate Retreat** and the rest had their **Triduum** before entering 2022. On hearing the news of his father's illness, **Sch Vinod** rushed home. His father is admitted in the hospital.

Sch. Pankaj Kerketta

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

We were blessed to have **Fr Joseph Kalathil SJ** (Jamshedpur) who shared with us about Kashmir Peace Mission. It was an interesting, challenging and spirit-provoking sharing. On 13 December, we had a special tree plantation dedicated to Ignatian Year 2021. On the same evening **Fr Lindsay** (Goa) gave input on the Ignatian Year. We celebrated Pre-Christmas with our support staff on 22nd and on 23rd we celebrated the Christmas in the community in a grand way. We had Christmas a day early because all the scholastics went for a cultural tour on 25 December to different parts of South India.

Sch. Arif & Sch. Lawrence M.

REST IN PEACE

Fr Joseph (Josey) Kunnunkal (PAT)	84/60	8 th Dec.
Fr Jose Feliu (BOM)	92/74	10 Dec.
Fr Lawrence Pinto (KAR)	88/66	16 Dec.
Br. Maria Michael Santiago (AND)	85/62	9 Dec.
Fr Thomas Vattakunnel (KER),	93/71	26 Dec.
Mrs. Ereena Bara (58), Fr Chiranjit Bara's Sister,		2 Dec.
Mrs. Juliana Kujur (78), Fr Amid Kujur's Mother		27 Dec.

Fr Provincial and the Curia Community wish you all A Grace-filled New Year 2022