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Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

February~2022

FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

There is one promise we MUST make as leaders, and it is the promise to lead. It may sound strange, but many of us have abdicated our primary responsibility of leading and have become self-absorbed, self-serving, and unloving. **Chris Lowney**, a former Jesuit turned investment banker- turned motivational speaker- says, "We're all leaders and that our whole lives are filled with leadership opportunities." He goes on to say, "We can be leaders in everything we do – in our work and in our daily lives, when teaching others or learning from others."

Leadership is something we all can do. It is not just for those who are atop or on stage at work. All of us who have had many years of formation need to understand what leadership is, and having understood this, we all need to make a promise to the people in our lives that we will be that kind of a leader. Chris Lowney highlights four pillars of great leadership: "self-awareness", "heroic", "ingenious", and "loving". That is, they "know themselves deeply" – their strengths, weaknesses, values and worldviews; "live for heroic purposes greater than self" with heroic ambition and a passion for excellence; "innovate confidently and adapt" to a rapidly changing world; and "respect the dignity and potential of those around them" with a positive and loving attitude to unfold their potential.

No doubt, we spend so much of time to accomplish our works today that sometimes we forget that there is still much to be learned by looking back (Examen) in humility. Understanding clearly what we need to do and what we need to know in the context of our past doings, can free us to be more productive, and perhaps even more apostolically effective. Hence, let us take personal responsibility to be leaders as priests and religious wherever we are, in everything we do in our communities, parishes, social centres and educational institutions, by making the four pillars of leadership articulated by Chris Lowney in the light of the Spiritual Exercises.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 2022

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| 02- Scouting for a place for new ministry in Birpara | 12- Workshop on PMVA - Lay Staff at LPC |
| 04- Province Consult at 5.30 p.m. | 16-17 Young Priests Meet |
| 05- Superiors and DOWs Meeting – II at Matigara | 17-18 Service of Faith Commission Meeting |
| 08- Vocation Promoters Meeting | 19-20 Blessing of a village Church in Sakyong |
| 11- Workshop on PMVA - DAR Jesuits at LPC | 20-27 JCSA online Meeting |

POPE'S INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

For religious sisters and consecrated women: We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

The day-long cluster level recollection, organized as part of the Ignatian Jubilee Year celebration, brought together Jesuits of the Terai and Dooars regions of the province on January 12th in Gayaganga. Special thanks to the resource person **Fr K C Stephen, Provincial of Dumka- Raiganj Province**, who travelled to Gayaganga against all odds. The community held a week-long special prayer service to mark the occasion of Christian Unity Octave. **Fr Simon Kerketta** was the acting parish priest from January 07 to 28 as **Fr Peter Pappu** was away for the home visit.

651 students of St Peter's High School in the age group of 15 to 18 were vaccinated against Covid. Government books distribution, other governmental schemes and construction of the government supported new wing of the boy's hostel are in progress. A new hostel is in the pipeline for girls. In the Primary school, new admissions and re-admissions are over and distribution of study materials is on. We thank the province for the help in the extension of the rain-shade in the primary school building to prevent rain water entering the corridor.

Sch. Sujit Minj

HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA

To effectively monitor the various programs of HLDRC in Dooars, a Help Desk Office was started in Gaikata. It'll coordinate Community Development, Lok Manch and Skill training programs besides the study centres. 13 people have volunteered to train youth in Computer Hardware and courses by Tata Consultancy Services. HLDRC is grateful to the donors **SOS India, Canadian Jesuit International** and **Jesuit Missions UK** for this initiative.



In view of increasing demand from parents, 10 more study centres in tea gardens of Nagrakata and Dhupguri blocks of Jalpaiguri district and 9 in Phansidewa block of Terai region have been started. Chengmari, Lankapara and Tulsipara near the Bhutan border are the other new areas covered. During lockdown these study centres for poor children are extremely useful for their studies. More requests are pouring in from other areas for these programs. Fr Pascal Xalxo is planning a cluster of 10 tea gardens study centres to make the teaching-learning more effective. Separate trainers and coordinators will be employed for each cluster. Now there are more than 40 study centres, thanks to **SOS INDIA and Canadian Jesuits International** for their generous help.

Fr Pascal Xalxo

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

The school is on winter vacation. The new academic session will begin from 21 February, if things are normal. Due to the pandemic, the Winter Camp for the under-privileged was cancelled. The ICSE and ISC students are having online Second Semester School exams till 31st of Jan. Keeping in mind the second half of the ICSE and ISC Board exams, an online coaching is conducted as well for them. Admission for the boarding for the academic session 2022 is still on. The school had a vaccination camp managed by the Darjeeling Municipality on 17 Jan, for the students of St Joseph's and Mount Hermon of the age group 15–18. The annual maintenance work is going on at the school before the new academic year begins. **Frs Stanley Karakkada, KJ Joseph, Anuranjan Ekka** and **Br PD Vincent** had their home visits. **Fr Leo Alphonse** is having a short program at Lonavla until February end. **Frs John Banerjee and Anuranjan** have been helping with the Sunday masses at Lepcha Busty and Rimbik.

Fr Anuranjan

HAYDEN HALL, DARJEELING

With New Hope and New Plans, Hayden Hall reopened on the 17th January 2022. All the members were excited and re-energized to start on the work of creating change. All Team Heads took on the duty of re-connecting with their team members, understanding their agenda and supporting them with preparing monthly plans for each department. Members of the Core Team visited many village centres of Darjeeling and

Kalimpong for Monitoring and Evaluation processes; the objective was to assess the centres on its Goals, Outcomes, Processes, Challenges, and possible partnerships.

The findings of the visits are: the engagement and leadership of the CDWs to conduct the programs in the community to help and bring awareness on health and other practices has been positive and is appreciated by the community as a whole. The Teachers are running evening centres with 15+ children on an average even when schools are closed. The CDWs are connected with SHG groups and support them in their trainings and linkages with government departments. The women of the Livelihood Team are channeling their creativity by making products out of waste: hundreds of bags out of old calendars that were of no use and have used it for packaging the items in their store.

Ms. Prasanna

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

The community was glad to have **Fr Peter Chhetri SJ** (NEP) on the New Year day who met the novices of Nepal region. On 5th January, **Fr Roshan Kiro** returned from a short home visit. Due to pandemic restriction the community had a dry picnic at St Augustine School campus on 8th. The Jesuit and Cluny novices had two days (Jan 11- 12) of workshop on Psychology, facilitated by **Fr Xavier**



Alangaram. The novices appreciated it a lot because of its practicality and relevance. On 11th, Manresa dispersed community had a meeting to discuss the Mizoram ministry and other developmental issues in the province.

On 13th Jan, four first year novices left for a month long village experiment- two each to Sakyong and

Sitong. On the same day **Fr Anuranjan Ekka** and **scholastics Amit Kullu, Rasal Xess** and **Binod Toppo** visited us from Darjeeling. On 14th **Fr Anuranjan Ekka** presided over the Mass for us. The combined classes on the *Discernment of the Spirits* by **Fr Shaji Joseph** were held from 17th to 19th. The novices received some familiarity with the dynamics of the different spirits working in their lives. On 21st January, **Fr Shaji** went down to Matigara to attend a meeting in Matigara. **Br Gabriel Gurung** also joined him as he went to attend the marriage ceremony of his relative in Siliguri. The Manresa dispersed community celebrated the birthday of **Fr Benoy Lama** on 25th January at Joseph's Church, 5th Mile. On the 73rd Republic Day, the national flag was hoisted by **Br Gabriel**, the chief guest and a powerful speech was delivered by **Markush Narzary**, a second year novice.

Novice Bipin Tirkey

ST VINCENT, HATIGHISA

Our School started the academic session on 6th Jan. The administrative work and the online classes are



on. 95 % admissions are over both in Primary and High school. The staff went out for a picnic to St. Xavier's, Rajganj on 24th Jan. A Basketball court is under construction. It will augment the existing games facilities for students. After a short break, the vaccination camp resumed on 22nd and our students from the age group 15 to 18 got their first dose. Till date, we have vaccinated more than 13,000 people.

On 1st Jan, *Parivar Diwas* (Family Day) was celebrated in the parish. The faithful had come in huge numbers. On 6th Jan, village catechists and Heads were invited for a Christmas and New Year gathering in which they exchanged gifts. **Fr Alvin Minj** animated a day of prayer for the newly elected

Provincial and her team of Daughters of St. Anne's, Jalpaiguri province at Goomgoma. **Fr Xavier Alangaram**, the PCF came for the annual visitation to meet Schs. Gorakh and John. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** went to Belgachi, under Panighatta parish for the New Year celebration. Candidate **Rithesh** continues to help in the vaccination camp and designing the software for the school. Besides, he is learning prayers, Hindi and about the Society.

Sch. Gorakhi Rudum

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

The restriction notification by the government was rather sudden and most of the hostellers had already arrived. So, only before the extension of the order could all of them be vacated. Meanwhile, English, Geography, Zoology and Commerce/Management departments conducted webinars by inviting national and international speakers. We also used this time to start the construction of another basketball court and other sports facilities. The new Jesuit residence is nearing completion while the 1st floor of the third College building has been completed.

After Christmas, **Frs Lalit Tirkey and Bijay Kindo** visited their respective families in Gayaganga. In early January **Fr Gabriel Tirkey**, after missing two years, visited his family and relatives in Chhattisgarh. Earlier we had the pleasure of having almost all Jesuits working in Jalpaiguri Diocese (Kalabari and Alipurduar) for the twin birthday celebrations of **Frs Gabriel and Bijay** on 13th January. On 24th, we hosted Fr Lawrence and his entire staff from St Vincent's School, Hatighisa, who came over for their annual picnic.

Fr Lalit Tirkey

ST XAVIER'S CHURCH, SAKYONG

From 3rd Jan onwards we began the First Holy Communion preparation for the children. On 4th Jan, parishioners contributed their valuable time for the construction of the new kitchen behind our church. We have three Masses on Sundays because of the pandemic situation and many of our parishioners are suffering from cough and cold. On 11th Jan we had a community meeting at Manresa Jesuit Novitiate. On 25th Jan we joined the birthday party of **Fr Binoy Lama**.

Fr Benny Paul

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

Skill based education for the youth is very much required, especially for the poor. Every year Jesu Ashram admits 18 young women for the 3-year **public Health workers** nursing training. Often a few drop out and around 15 finally complete the course. This year a record 51 candidates appeared for the selection test and 18 were selected. They joined the



training on 3rd Jan. **Fr Vincent George, Sch. Angelus Ramhorchan** and **Sr Geetha** conducted a two-day orientation for them. The new entrants began Spoken English courses from 6th Jan given by **Fr Joe Victor, Sr Geetha** and **Sch. Angelus**. All three years put together there are 51 public health trainees right now. The 3rd year trainees completed their NIOS final examination on 11th Jan. Recently 18 inmates, **Fr Vincent** and **Sr Julita** were infected with omicron. All of them were isolated, classes were suspended and admission of new patients stopped for 15 days. At present except two all the others are out of isolation. Classes and admission of patients have resumed from 27th Jan. Construction work is going on smoothly.

Fr Julius Kujur

JESUIT NIVAS COMMUNITY, BANGALORE

Fr Xavier Alangaram, PCF, visited the scholastics studying in Bangalore from 15th to 19th December. Jesuit Nivas community members were happy to receive him since he was a former community member during his studies. The community went for a pilgrimage to Goa from 26th to 30th December. It was a graceful moment to visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus and attend the Holy Eucharist at the altar of St Francis Xavier. Goa Jesuits were very cordial and hospitable to us. **Fr John Kennedy** visited Bangalore for vocation promotion on 7th January. **Sch. Reuell**

Paul accompanied him to meet the youth. **Fr Cedric Prakash SJ** gave us a talk on 'A Call to be a Prophetic Witness' as part of the monthly recollection on 11th January. Some of the community members tested positive for Covid. Fortunately, it is mild. Some have already recovered and others are recuperating. Semester exams, scheduled from 19th January, have been postponed due to the cancellation of classes on campus as per the government directives.

Sch. Roshan Gyan Topno

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

We began the New Year with a triduum and renewal of our vows was on the last day. Some of our community members returned from home/province visits by 5th of January. **Fr Jagdish Parmar** tested positive for Covid and recovered. The community meaningfully celebrated Pongal on 16th Jan. **Fr Nishanth Irudayadason**, the dean of philosophy, was the main celebrant for this occasion. New wing for 'Safeguarding and Human Formation Center', with smart facilities was inaugurated by the POSA at DNC. The Republic Day was celebrated on a small scale adhering to Covid protocols. **Fr George Beck** was the main celebrant and the chief guest on the auspicious occasion. The Second year philosophers are pretty busy with their seminar paper and thesis work.

Schs. Prabhu & Amar

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

The Third year theologians returned to Vidyajyoti on January 3rd after finishing their Diaconate Retreat and classes resumed on 5th January. Due to the rise in Omicron in Delhi, we were forced to revert to online mode. Omicron was at its peak in January. Some of our fathers and brothers, including **Sch. Vinod Kerketta**, got infected and kept themselves isolated. Besides this we experienced a severe cold. Thanks to God Vinod is back in the community with full vigour and gusto. We had a well enjoyed 'Pongal' celebration on 15th January. Badminton and Table Tennis matches made the Republic Day a memorable for each one of us.

Sch. David Ekka

DHYAN ASHRAM, CALCUTTA JESUIT JUNIORATE

On 22nd we, the Juniors, enacted the play "A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens" to the community. It was a sterling performance. On 23rd we dispersed to the different mission stations of Calcutta Province to spend Christmas vacation,

which gave us the first-hand experience of the mission of the province, especially among the Santhal tribals. On 2nd January, **Fr Vivek** directed us Triduum which rejuvenated our spirit as well as reminded us of our commitment in the Society. On 5th we renewed our Vows during the Benediction. The next day, we earnestly began the Third Term with an Introduction by **Fr Dean**. On 11th we celebrated the birthday of our Rector, **Fr Sunny George SJ**.

Sch. Ashish Basumatary

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY (CLC)

On 19th December, the Diocesan CLC Office was inaugurated by **Bishop Stephen Lepcha** of Darjeeling Diocese, at Sacred Heart Church, Darjeeling, in the presence of CLC members and few priests and religious. This office is a requirement according to the General Norms of the CLC. I thank **Fr Provincial** for establishing this permanent CLC office for documentation and smooth functioning of the CLC ministry in the province and diocese. I also thank **Fr Patrick Pradhan** for generously allotting a room for this in **Our Lady of the Snows** premises. The annual retreat of CLC Youths and Adults were postponed due to Covid restrictions.

BIBLE COMMISSION, DARJEELING DIOCESE



The first **Nepali Bible Diary** was released by **Bishop Stephen Lepcha** on 16th January soon after the Mass at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Darjeeling. It is the fruit of the joint venture of Claretian Word Ministry Publication, headed by **Fr Jojaiah Chinnabathini CMF** from Sonada and **Fr Frank Subba SJ**, Bible Commission, Darjeeling Diocese. We will publish Nepali Bible Diary every year for the Nepali speaking population. The purpose is to spread

the Word of God and invite the faithful to read the Word of God daily in their life.

Fr Frank is preparing modules for **Bible correspondence course** in Nepali for which registration will begin from March 2022 and the course will begin from June 2022. It is a Two Year course at the completion of which students will be awarded a certificate from the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI). **Fr Frank** took online classes on **Gospel of Mark** to the First Year B.Th. Students of Vidyajyoti, Delhi, from 29 Nov. to 16 Dec. 2021, and for the Third Year from 17 to 21 Jan. 2022.

Fr Frank Subba

parishes and schools too. A few days later, **Sch.**



VOCATION PROMOTERS AND PRE-NOVITIATE DIRECTORS MEETING

The annual meeting of Vocation Promoters and Pre-Novitiate Directors of the assistancy was held in XLRI, Jamshedpur, 26-28 November 2021. **Fr John Kennedy** represented our province. In the meeting the universal dimension of the vocation promotion was emphasized. Provinces which have more candidates are open to allow other province vocation promoters to recruit candidates for them. **Fr Zacheus Dungdung** presented an elaborate document on pre-novitiate which was well appreciated and circulated among the members. Fr Kennedy's Spoken English book "Let's Speak English" is being used in five pre-novitiates.

Fr John Kennedy

Reuell Paul and **Fr Kennedy** went to Karnataka pre-novitiates in Hassan and Mangalore and spoke to the pre-novices about the missions in Darjeeling. They were thrilled to know about the unique apostolate of Darjeeling Jesuits. **Fr Pramod Dhabhi** and **Fr Kennedy** attended Ahmedabad diocesan youth meeting at Nadiad on 16th Jan. They addressed the youth and shared about the mission carried forward by Darjeeling Jesuits. The vocation promoters are grateful to the Jesuits and parish priests for their generosity and facilitating this visit.

Fr John Kennedy

VOCATION PROMOTION

Fr Dennis Soosai addressed students of classes 10-12 in seven Higher Secondary Schools in Tamil Nadu, as part of vocation promotion, in mid December. A few boys have expressed their willingness to consider and gave their contact details. In early January, **Fr Divyanandam Irudayaraj** and **Fr John Kennedy** talked to the pre-novices of Madurai province at Velangudi, TN. They visited the nearby

REST IN PEACE

Fr Michael Panimegam (DUM)	72/53	3 rd Jan
Fr Jose Luis Arana (GUJ)	91/73	8 th Jan
Fr Mathew Pichalakkattu (GUJ)	61/81	9 th Jan
Fr Viaguladasan Manickam (MDU)	83/64	10 th Jan
Fr James Xalxo (MAP)	78/56	12 th Jan
Fr Levis Gomes (GOA)	57/36	24 th Jan
Fr Jeyaseelan Barnabas(MDU)	69/51	26 th Jan
Fr Lucas Rayappan (Guj)	59/39	27 th Jan
Mr John Paul(43), Brother of Fr Lawrence T., 30th Jan		

FR RUTILIO GRANDE, TOGETHER WITH TWO LAY COMPANIONS, IS BEATIFIED IN EL SALVADOR

Fr Rutilio Grande was murdered on 12 March 1977, as he was travelling with two lay collaborators in his pastoral mission. This Salvadoran Jesuit is now recognised as an exceptional witness to the faith. On 22 January 2022, less than 45 years after his murder, he is being beatified in San Salvador. The circumstances of the deaths of the three men made it clear that they died because of their Christian commitment. They are 'martyrs', witnesses to the faith. He had been sent to minister in poor peasant communities.

