



JUNE 2017

No.473

MESSAGE FROM FR.PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

The universal church is preparing itself for the feast of Pentecost. We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Risen Lord, will renew the earth and bring Justice and peace into this world. There is an unquenchable thirst for justice and peace in today's world and only the Spirit of God can give that lasting peace in the hearts and lives of people. As messengers of peace and justice we are called upon to experience the same in our lives and then share that experience with our people.

The unrest we see and hear about in our country must cease and peace based on Justice and the dignity of each and every human being must prevail. We cannot be silent spectators but must be proactive in rejecting whatever causes injustice, violence, exploitation and marginalization of human beings and society. Let us pray earnestly to the Spirit of God for a personal conversion and renewal in the Spirit and also for the renewal of the universal church. Let us pray especially for our country that it may strive to safeguard the dignity and freedom, based on justice and peace, guaranteed to each citizen of this country in our Constitution.

WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

The International Director of the *Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network* [PWPN] and the *Youth Eucharistic Movement* [EYM], Fr.Frederic FORNOS SJ proposed the name of **Fr. Jagdish Parmar SJ (DAR)** as **Director of PWPN & EYM for South Asia**. The President of the CBCI ,His Eminence Moran Mar Baselios Cardinal Cleemis approved the nomination. Hence the International Director of PWPN & EYM has **appointed Fr. Jagdish Parmar SJ as National Director of India.**

APPOINTMENTS BY FR.GENERAL

Father **Antonio José España Sánchez** (ESP), Provincial of Spain

Father **Raphael Joseph Hyde** (CCU), Provincial of Calcutta Province

Father **Andrew Fernandes** (PUN), Provincial of Pune Province

Father **Danis Pnniah** (MDU), Provincial of Madurai Province

ASSIGNMENTS BY FR.PROVINCIAL

COLLEGE STUDIES

Francis Hembrom, BA, Loyola, Chennai
Devit Tirkey, BA, St.Xavier's, Ranchi

JUNIORATE

Sushil Hansdak', Dhyan Ashram, Kolkata

Johnson Soren, Dhyan Ashram, Kolkata

Ashim Lakra, Gyanoday, Khaspur, Patna

Cyril Hembrom, Gyanoday, Khaspur, Patna

Samuel Murmu, Gyanoday, Khaspur, Patna

Elias Kisku, Vidyaniketan, Kerala

Prakash Murmu, Vidyaniketan, Kerala

ANNUAL STATISTICS OF THE SOCIETY

On 26th April 2017, the current year's Annual Statistics of the Society were published by the General Curia in Rome. Total membership stands at 15,930 distributed in 86 entities comprising 75 Provinces, 4 Independent Regions, 6 Dependent Regions and one Jesuit Mission (Myanmar). Dumka-Raiganj Province shows a membership of 193 with 13 members applied to other Provinces. Its membership stands at 1.13 % of the total membership of the Society and hence entitled to send to any General Congregation along with Fr.Provincial one elected member..

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROMOTION

The Ignatian Spirituality (Promotion) Commission of our Province met on the 19th of May on the sideline of the Province Days at Jeevan Dhara. Of the four commission members, Frs. Dayal Lakra, Prakash Hansdak, and K.C. Stephen (co-ordinator) were present. Fr. Tom Kuzhively could not attend as he had to stay back at Mundli. After the preliminaries, a discussion ensued searching for various ways to promote Ignatian spirituality in the ministries of our Province. *Here is one of them* : **Fr.Dayal Lakra (9973155481)** makes himself available to give programmes of one or two days on Ignatian Spirituality to our collaborators like religious sisters and teachers. The language used can be English or Hindi. Our school men are requested to make use of the availability of Fr. Dayal for such programmes for teachers and well as for students. (*K.C. Stephen SJ*)

PROVINCE DAYS 2017



The annual Province Days bring together most of the Province members to enjoy each others' company, relax and reflect on Jesuit religious life and mission. Witness the handshakes, hugs and smiles of members as they arrived at Jeevan Dhara, Raiganj, on 17th May. The formal opening of Province Days was the Eucharistic celebration on 18th May at 6.30 am presided over by the Provincial Fr.Varghese Palli SJ. He set the tone for Province Days by noting that they would help us in the renewal of our life and mission as spelt out by GC 36. In the *morning session* at 8.30 am, **Fr.Kuruville Pandikattu**, Dean of Philosophy at JDV, Pune, who represented Dumka-Raiganj Province at GC 36 along with Fr.Provincial, gave two much appreciated inputs, which guided the members in their spiritual conversation in groups. In the *afternoon session* from 2.30 to 4.00 pm, Fr.Provincial explained at some length the agenda of the South Asia Assistency, that is, apostolic planning, formation, net-working, re-drawing of boundaries and collaboration. Then it was open to the House to seek clarifications. At 4.00 pm it was time for tea and then games at St.Xavier's School, Telghani.



After evening prayer, all assembled in Portelli Hall where in an hour long programme of songs, felicitations and reminiscences, in particular by companions who had been recruited by him, the Province anticipated the celebration of the **GOLDEN JUBILEE** in the Society of Jesus of **Fr.Lourdu Irudayaraj Susai SJ** , which falls on 01.07.2017 (He joined in 01.07.1967). The following day, **19th May**, **Fr.Lourdu** presided over the Eucharistic Celebration, with his younger brother **Fr.Thomas Susai** and **Fr.George Uthirakulam**, his co-novice, assisting him at the altar. The singing of choice hymns throughout Province Days and in particular at this Jubilee Mass, was very good and was conducted by **Fr.John Chandran**. Fr.Lourdu spoke movingly of the sprouting of his priestly vocation at home, especially influenced by his mother's religiosity. He briefly recalled developments in his life, his vocation to the Society, the ministries he has zealously engaged in as a priest. He said he wished to celebrate his Golden Jubilee here in the midst of his religious family. After the celebration of the Eucharist, there was a group photo session in the garden.

The *morning session* started at 8.30 am with Fr.Provincial proposing items for immediate group reflection and sharing . The items included apostolic planning for the next five years or so; formation for universal mission; collaboration, and intellectual apostolate. He also requested the gathering to submit the names of two members to represent the Province at the Central Zone Meeting on Restructuring. After the coffee break, the reports of six groups of yesterday's and today's sharings were read out. After listening to the reports and clarifications, Fr.Provincial made his observations. In the *afternoon session*, Fr.M.D.Solomon, Fr.Hilary D'Souza and Fr.P.A.Chacko enlightened the members about the current socio-cultural and economic context.



An hour long programme was put up by the Scholastics before dinner to rejoice with and honour our three new priests **Fathers Manojin Basil, Jacob Chinnappan and Christopher Dungdung**. The following day, **20th May**, at 6.30 am , the Holy Eucharist was led by the three new priests at the altar with the last one to be ordained, Fr.Christopher, presiding. At the start of the celebration Fr. Jacob delivered a beautiful introductory message while Fr.Manojin gave a touching homily. At the 8.30 am *morning-session*, **Fr.Provincial** reminded the brethren of last year's resolution on water harvesting and other matters.After a coffee break Fr.Provincial revisited the Constitutions and Complementary Notes to remind the Jesuit brethren of some important and basic features of Jesuit life. Thanking all for their presence, Province Days concluded at 11.15 am.

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR SCHOOLS

The **ADHYAYAN** team having assessed the performance of seven of our Province Schools in December 2016, sent its observations to help improve their performance. Fr. Michael Panimegam SJ, PCE called for a meeting of all the Heads of our vernacular schools which took place at St. Xavier's Sahibganj on 6-7th May 2017. Fr. Provincial Varghese Palli SJ was also present. On 7th May the new PCE Fr. Alban Minj took over from Fr. Panimegam,

In a letter to the **Heads of our vernacular schools**, Fr. Provincial gave a resume of the decisions taken at the meeting for implementation towards improving the performance of our vernacular schools.

1. The Head of every school will visit the classes at least once every three months to observe the teaching process and to give a written report which will be kept in record.
2. In every class at least two students should be asked to read a paragraph each. The last five minutes of the class should be devoted to encouraging questions from students to be answered by the teacher.
3. Keeping in mind a child-centred education, the child will be directed by the teacher to end the school day with journaling while the teacher keeps bio-data of the child and its family background.
 - Every school will have a students' council with a teacher in charge. It will meet once a month outside school hours. Its concern will be : general discipline, cleanliness in the campus, students' activities, etc.
 - Every school will start at least two clubs, e.g., drama, debate, cultural, etc. with a teacher in charge. It will meet at least once a month.
4. Curriculum : to include moral science/catechism at least once a week in all the classes; the Santali language to be taught as a third language from class I to III.
 - Teachers are encouraged to discover the talents of the students and encourage them to develop one or two or more. Schools should provide opportunities for such development. Moreover educational tours, at least once a year, are encouraged.
 - Schools must have libraries and spend at least Rs.10,000 every year on acquiring books. A library period once a week will help the students.
5. A number of educated and friendly parents or guardians could be involved and occasionally their opinion on educational matters could be sought.

6. It was decided to have a common calendar and diary for all our vernacular schools from next academic year. Moreover the same books will be used in all our vernacular schools. We can also prepare question papers together.

7. We will conduct Inter-Jesuit School Sports this year.

- Frs. D.M. Solomon and Tom Kavala will offer seminars in schools and parishes on socio-political-economic matters especially with regards to Jharkhand. Schools should have such seminars at least once a year.
- Srs. Ranjana H.C. and Alma SCJM will offer seminars for girls in schools and parishes on women's empowerment and the role of women in society. Every school should have a seminar this academic year.
- Fr. A. Vernard SJ offers to conduct seminars on 'Media and Society'.
- JOHAR, Dumka, offers seminars on Career Counseling and Personality Development.

Fr. Provincial ends with words of encouragement , “*The purpose of these exercises is to have networking among all our schools and better collaboration to raise the standard of education we provide. It may look a bit heavy as we are not accustomed to such activities . We can do it and must do it well for the betterment of our schools and students. You will, please, give an annual report about these activities.*”

In another meeting of Fr. Provincial with Heads of our English Medium Schools, it was agreed that **the above directives** for our Vernacular Schools would also hold good for implementation in our English Medium Schools.

FIRST MARRIAGE COURSE AT BELWA

Fr. Ignacy Lazar SJ organized the first marriage course in the new mission of **Belwa** from May 1-7. He writes: “During Lent I visited catholic families in the five centres of the mission. I found that some were living together without marriage blessing. Hence I planned a ‘*babla jut*’ course to rectify these marriages according to the law of the Church. Fourteen couples with their children arrived at Belwa from the five centres on 1st May at around 8 pm. A team of instructors consisting of two catechists , Joseph of Kishanganj and Simon of Jhaweli, Sister Maria Teresa OSU, and Fr. Ignacy conducted the course. Two other helpers were inducted to look after the kitchen. We had a tight programme but all put an effort to make successful and fruitful. The thanksgiving ceremony including the marriage blessings was held on Saturday, 6th May at 4.00 pm. All through the programme the participants and instructing team made do with the bare necessities of place and amenities. In the end both participants and the team expressed satisfaction that the programme was fruitful and thanked God for the gift given them.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

St Xavier’s School, Sahibganj had its 59th Annual Prize Distribution on **29th April** (for Primary) and **30th April** (for High School), 2017. **Mr. Ram Naresh Sony**, the CO of Sahibganj, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest on the first day and **Mr. Sailesh Kumar Chourasia**, the DC of Sahibganj, on the second day. Both were given a warm welcome by the students and the staff. Both programs began with a short cultural show of dances and songs by the students. The Principal, **Fr Hilary D’Souza**, delivered the Annual Report of each school. Students of various classes were awarded the ‘*Roll of Honour*’ and the ‘*Roll of Merit*’ for excellence in academics. Some were also awarded Scholarships.. All the Class Teachers and some Staff members received awards for their dedication and 100% school attendance. On 30th April , the Chief Guest released the **Diamond Jubilee Souvenir** while **Sr Leena, DSH**, on behalf of the Editorial Team thanked all those who made it possible for the publication of the magazine.
(Shyamal Palmer)

LEADERSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

In a solemn ceremony held in St. Xasvier’s School Auditorium at Sahibganj on 3rd May, a new Students Council for the new Academic Year , composed of captains, vice-captains, and girls’ representatives , made its solemn promise in the presence of the Principal **Fr. Hilary D’Souza** and the whole student body and teaching staff. The Council is headed by **Master Shivam Jahnvi Narayan**. The members of the outgoing Students’ Council shared some of their experiences and challenges that helped them in personal growth and proved to be a source of joy in serving others. Fr. Principal also administered the oath and thus inducted into the LTS Unit of the School fifty new members , students of classes VIII & IX who received LTS badges from the animator.
(Shyamal Palmer)

***WE REQUEST OUR ADDRESSEES
TO INFORM US WHETHER WE
COULD SEND THE NEWSLETTER
BY INTERNET. PLEASE INFORM
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Fr.Ignacy Lazar : innasilazar@gmail.com

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RIP

Fr Joseph Inchackal, S.J. 85/67, on 04.05.2017) in Calicut.

Fr.Mark Robson SJ (CCU) 75/55, on 07.05.2017 at Kolkata.

Fr A.M. Lourdasamy, SJ (MDU) , 91/66, on 16.05.2017 at Dindigul.