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Newsletter of the Darjeeling Jesuits

MAY-JUNE ~2017

From the Provincial's Desk

A JESUIT IS ONE who **desires the MORE**. In Darjeeling we say ... Moving from the Good to the More! **He is one who lives simply with LESS**. In Darjeeling we say ... So others can have More!

If there was something close to the heart of St Ignatius, it was POVERTY. This is the latest on poverty from GC 36:

Pope Francis while speaking to the delegates at GC 36 mentioned that for a Jesuit, “The view of St Ignatius is not just an ascetic attitude, as if to pinch me so that it pains me more, but it is a love of poverty as a way of life, as a way of salvation, an ecclesial way”. The metaphor that St Ignatius uses about poverty is a MOTHER and BULWARK, familiar to all Jesuits. It nurtures and defends our spiritual life. **Pope Francis** cautions us that there were clerical disasters in the Church when poverty was forgotten: “Clericalism,” he says, “if not rich in money, is rich in pride”.

There is one line on poverty I like very much in GC 36, Decree 1: **HOW WE CAN LIVE SIMPLY WITH HAVING LESS**. I appeal to all in the Lord to consider this with the depth that it requires. If all the Jesuits in the world tried to live with less, how much we could save for others! If all the Jesuits in Darjeeling in 2017/18 could live with the bare minimum, how much we could save so that the extra could be used more productively for others! I am not asking that we cut down anything specific in the community or from what we really need. But we could all find ways to have less. In an age of wanton consumerism, could we not honor poverty more, as our Mother? For example, turning off lights, a more careful use of water, less wastage at table, less of a consumerist style of living (two to three mobiles and laptops, branded clothes, shoes). All can be put under the spanner of a reality check against poverty - from our mode of travel to our life styles.

HIM DHWANI- APRIL/2017

I repeat that no one is being asked to practice mendicant poverty. That is not the Jesuit way, but simply living with less. Minimalistic! I urge all Darjeeling Jesuits in the Lord to keep this as an important way of being Jesuit in the coming months. And Ah!! A footnote – **THANK YOU ALL** for making effort to be present at NP on the 27th May. This too is poverty, poverty of the spirit!!

APPOINTMENTS BY FATHER GENERAL

- Father **Antonio José España Sánchez** (ESP) as provincial of Spain. He will take office on July 8, succeeding **Father Francisco José Ruiz Pérez** who has been provincial of Spain since June 2014.

- Father **Raphael Joseph Hyde** (CCU) as provincial of Calcutta Province. He will take office in the next few weeks, succeeding **Father Veluswamy Jeyaraj**.

- Father **Andrew Fernandes** (PUN) as provincial of Pune Province.

- Father **Danis Ponnial** (MDU) as provincial of Madurai Province.

APPOINTMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PWPN & EYM

On the recommendation of **Fr George Pattery SJ**, President of the Conference of Jesuit Provincials in South Asia, and with the approval of **His Eminence Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis**, the President of the Bishop's Conference, **P. Frederic Fornos, SJ**, the International Director of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and Eucharistic Youth Movement, has appointed **Fr Jagdish Parmar SJ**, as National Director of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) and of the Eucharistic Youth Movement in INDIA.

IRELAND: BLESSED JOHN SULLIVAN

The first ever beatification in Ireland, that of **Fr John Sullivan SJ**, took place at 11 am on 13 May, 2017 in Gardiner Street Church. The principal celebrant and homilist was **Cardinal Angelo Amato**, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and he was assisted by the Archbishop of Dublin, **Diarmuid Martin**. The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, **Michael Jackson**, was also present on the sanctuary. In his homily, **Cardinal Amato** quoted often from the submissions of ordinary people to the cause of **Fr John**. "Witnesses in the diocesan processes often repeated that **Fr Sullivan** was 'a poor man among the poor', 'the personification of the spirit of poverty'. Even though he came from a rich family, once he became a religious he was oblivious to comforts and contented himself with that which was purely necessary. Faithful to the vow of poverty, he gave immediately to others every gift he received."

DEPENDENT REGION OF DARJEELING

Having considered the various proposals made and the reasons for the same, and after consulting his Counsellors, Father General, by a Decree dated May 24, 2017, has transferred Nepal Region from being a Dependent Region of Patna Province to being a Dependent Region of Darjeeling Province to bring about greater apostolic efficacy and blessings for both Nepal and Darjeeling. The decree has taken effect from 24 May 2017, the feast of Our Lady of the Way.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

JUNE 2017

01-03	Visitation: Loyola College of Education, Namchi
04-05	Visitation: Manresa Jesuit Novitiate, Kalimpong
06-	Ordination: Kalimpong
07-	Visitation: Gandhi Ashram/Parish, Kalimpong
08-	Visitation: St Xavier's Parish, Sakyong
09-13	Leave for Guwahati to Aizawl
16-17	Visitation: St Joseph's School, NP
18-	Visitation: St Mary's Church, Kankebong
19-20	Visitation: St Joseph's College, NP/Singla
21-	Visitation: St Joseph's School, Mungpoo
23-30	GC 36 – Retreat II for the Province, NP

PROVINCE RETREAT

The first of three retreats with inputs from GC 36 was directed by **Fr Bhausahab Sansare SJ [PUN]** from May 16-24 at St Joseph's School, North Point. The 31 retreatants had the opportunity to peek into the history and mysteries, decrees and dynamics, persona and perspectives of people, pedagogue and paradigms at GC 36. **Fr Bhausahab Sansare SJ** made the retreatants aware that 'gratitude needs to be our second nature as Jesuits'; and "mercy/compassion our style of life" so as to be able to (a) become companions in a mission of reconciliation and justice; and (b) to be able to discern, collaborate and network in this mission of reconciliation and justice. The retreat was concluded with the Eucharist of the feast of 'Our Lady of the Way', celebrated by **Fr Cherian Padiyara SJ**.

-Xavier Binay Khandulna

PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

May 26 was one of the auspicious days of the year 2017 as we celebrated, as a Province, the Golden Jubilee of **Fr Joseph Pappadil, S.J.** – 50 years of priesthood in the Society of Jesus. **Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind** of the Bagdogra Diocese was present with us to give thanks to God and share our joy with **Fr Pappadil**. The Jesuit fellowship and gathering in the evening was a toast to the dedicated Jesuit life and mission of the Jubilarian among the people of Darjeeling and it was also broke the ice for the scheduled Province Day gathering on the Decrees of GC 36.

On May 27, the proceedings of the day began with Morning Prayer led by the Scholastics. Our Provincial, **Fr Kinley Tshering, SJ**, then gave us the taste of the methodology adopted at GC 36, namely, Spiritual Conversation with sharing of our individual and personal hopes. During his sharing on GC 36, **Fr Kinley Tshering** rowed deep into the Formula of the Institute, GC 35 and the Autography of St Ignatius, especially the Venice episode to propose a key to read and understand the decrees and documents of GC 36.

Fr Wilfred Lobo SJ then summarised for the assembly, along with the recommendation made in the GC 36, the Decree on Renewed Governance for a Renewed Mission with the triptych – discernment, collaboration and networking.

In tune with the demands and expectations made in the decrees and documents of the GC 36 from the members of the Society Jesus, **Fr Kinley**, also presented the status, the passions and glories of Darjeeling Province. **Fr Paulose Ezhakunnel SJ** released the Nepali translation by **Fr Peter Bhujel SJ** of the English Play, 'Ignatius'. **Fr Cherian Padiyara SJ** released 'Bidhaan ra Bayaan' by **Fr Peter Bhujel SJ** a Nepali translation of 'Testament & Testimony – The Memoirs of Ignatius of Loyola'. **Fr Peter Pappu SJ** released the book 'Education in Sikkim' written by **Fr Francis George Arukakkal SJ**. **Fr Lawrence Maniyar SJ [NEP]** released 'Tapaiko Charanmaa' a Nepali Bhajan album (the third album) by **Fr Peter Jong Lepcha SJ**. The Province Assembly 2017 culminated in the Eucharistic Celebration presided by the Provincial, **Fr Kinley Tshering SJ**. The North Point School was our generous and magnanimous host for the events.

-Xavier Binay Khandulna

HLDRC, LPC, PJR PARISH - MATIGARA

Taking a cue from GC 36, a lot of efforts are being made to create partnership with other social organizations and civil societies. The Darjeeling unit of Lok Manch has extended the collaboration with four social centres in North Bengal to alliance building with about twelve smaller NGOs and civil societies. The aim is towards working together for the implementation of some common issues like minimum wage and industrial ration in tea gardens.

Fr Pascal Xalxo is mobilizing different groups for a convention scheduled for 14 June to address some pressing issues. The **Fr Alvin Minj** led - weaving centre, too, has collaborated, besides TRIFED, with Drishti of Guwahati and two more organizations from Kalimpong for the better production and marketing of handloom products. Now we have also decided to network with many likeminded organizations/agencies campaigning against trafficking of persons. Two of our staff - **Seema Rani Lakra** and **Nirmala Karjee** - have been pasting posters in different gardens warning the people of 'agents' roaming around tea gardens masquerading as job providers in cities. The good news is that, acknowledging the work being done by HLDRC on PF/pension, the managers from Taipoo, Bijoy Nagar, Thangjhora and other gardens have been approaching **Fr Lalit Tirkey** for help and guidance.

Fr Fredrick Baraik has been quietly busy blessing houses of his parishioners. On May 27 the Church witnessed the final profession of four sisters from the Daughters of the Cross presided over by **Bishop Vincent Aind**. A large number of family members of these sisters were accommodated at LPC and on the day of their departure people were seen profusely thanking **John Tigga** who on his part has ensured home grown organic vegetables and meat/fish are supplied to the guests.

-Lalit Tirkey

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The first year trainees of the second semester successfully completed the presentation and viva of the report of their Field Based activities during the second week of May. On May 20 the second year trainees of the fourth semester completed their three month internship teaching in various government as well as private schools in Namchi. The Inter-house sports day was organized on May 24. **Shri Tenzing Loden Lepcha IPS**, the Superintendent of Police, was the Chief Guest. The events for the day were a basketball match between Rousseau

house and Dewey house, a throw ball match between Tagore house and Rousseau house. Other games were javelin throw, shot put, discus throw, sack race and tug of war. The overall winner was Rousseau house followed by Dewey house. **Fr Philemon Tirkey SJ** (HAZ) was the Master of Ceremony and made sure that everything went on well.

Alesia Koush from Italy in association with **Roshinila Gurung** (Child Right Protection Officer, Gangtok) addressed and interacted with B.Ed trainees on Cultural Heritage Protection on May 22. The annual College Day took place on May 30. **Mrs Tsheringkee Chingapa**, Joint Director HRDD, South Sikkim graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

-Francis George

MINISTRY IN NAVJEEVAN HOSPITAL

Fr Marcel Benedict, the chaplain of Navjeevan Hospital, is fully immersed in the Hospital Ministry. He celebrates Mass daily for the staff, nurses, sisters and patients of the hospital at 06.00 A.M. and distributes communion to the patients confined to their rooms soon after Mass. After breakfast in the community he is back in the hospital to teach English to some fifty-six students who have enrolled for various parallel/vocational courses like Lab Assistants, lift-operators, assistant X-ray technicians, etc. The successful students are presented certificates through departments of the govt. He spends the noon and evenings visiting the sick and the invalids praying for and with them, especially before major operations. He is much sought after by Christian and non-Christian patients.

-Marcel Benedict

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE

Mrs Patrizia Bianconi, President of SOS India, spent three days in Raiganj writing an interim report on the ongoing construction work on the TTC building and preparing documentation to be sent to the agency. The TTC building is supported partially by the Bishops' Conference of Italy through SOS India, a non-profit voluntary organization in Torino, Italy.

A new basketball court is being built beside the football ground. **Fr Alex Beck** has been overseeing the work.

Ms Suchitra Mukhia and **Ms Siddhika Moktan**, two candidates from the Sociology Department of the college, have secured University Medals for being the first and the second in the Final Examinations held in 2017. **Ms Suchitra** will receive the Gold Medal and **Ms Siddhika** the Silver medal on June 02, the day of Annual Convocation. Even **Ms Angelika Sinha**, the alumna and the present staff of the college teaching Sociology has secured the first position in M.A. Sociology.

The inspection for starting of Botany Honors this year has been successfully completed on May 23.

The Hon'ble Chancellor of the Raiganj University, His Excellency the Governor of West Bengal, has nominated **Fr Joe Victor**, the Principal of the College, as member of the Raiganj University court.

On Easter Sunday **Fr Joe Victor** along with **Ajay** went to the Jalpaiguri Jail to offer mass for the inmates. In May **Fr Dennis Soosai** gave an eight-day retreat to the Sisters of Missionaries of Charity, Tindharia and **Fr Alex Beck** made his GC 36 Retreat at North Point from May 16-24. In the absence of **Fr Alex**, **Fr Ajay Lakra** took care of the College Boys' Hostel.

-Ajay Raj Lakra

SACRED HEART CHURCH, SINGAMARI

On March 19, the Parish Charismatic Core Group organized a day's retreat for the parishioners. **Frs Peter Lingdamo** and **Fr Alphonse Lingdamo** were the preachers with around two hundred fifty people taking part. Twenty-four Crusvirs along with their animators went on a pilgrimage to the Calvary of Nalichur under Sonada Parish on April 8. After the confessions, the pilgrims had a solemn Mass.

Scholastic Thomson Lopez (BOM) from Vidyajyoti, Delhi, was generous enough to help out the parish during the Easter Triduum. At Easter Vigil Mass there were two adult baptisms from Mount Valley. Soon after Easter Sunday, the House Blessings were completed within a couple of weeks with the help of the priests from the College Community.

On May 6-7 the parish had the Pastoral visitation of the Bishop. On the 6th evening **Bishop Stephen** celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the small community of Soom Tea Estate. The following day at Singamari, during the Eucharistic celebration he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty-nine youth and adults. He also attended the meeting of the Executive members of all the Parish Associations. Soon after he went to Lebong to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to seven youth and adults.

Society of St Vincent de Paul organized on May 28 a Cancer Awareness Program in the parish. This camp, organized with the help of doctors from the Cancer Hospital, Rangia, was open to all people irrespective of their caste, community and religion.

-Jaagdish Parmar

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, GAYAGANGA

The first unit Test for this academic year was held from April 3-7. The school remained closed for the Easter holidays from April 13-17. **Frs Cherian Padiyara** and **Nicholas Christuraj** helped out in village confessions as a preparation for Easter. **Fr Cherian Padiyara** directed a three-day retreat to the FC candidates and on the 17th he celebrated the Easter Mass for the inmates in Siliguri prison. **Fr Christuraj** helped out in the Holy Week services in the parish. On the 18th an Easter day celebration was held in the school and on the same day **Mrs Patrizia Biaconi** visited the school and joined the school for the Easter day celebrations. At the end of the cultural program, she gave a short inspirational message to the students. The construction of the new toilet for the students is in progress.

- Nicholas Christuraj

ST PETER'S HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

The staff and students organised a variety entertainment programme in honour of **Fr Kevin Mktan** on April 6 to bid him goodbye. He has taken over the reins of St Alphonsus School on April 1 as the Headmaster in place of **Fr Justin Thiraveyam**.

The High School received from the government yet another set of bicycles (374) for its senior students.

Three hundred and twenty students, awaiting Class X results and hailing from the local Bengali/Hindi/English medium Schools, successfully completed a month and a half long Spoken English Programme on May 13.

Repairs on the school concrete- roof are progressing well on a war-footing. Also a basketball court is in the pipeline in the South-East part of the school property.

The community said goodbye to **Fr Boniface Joseph** on April 23. He was with us for a little over a year.

-Cherian Malickal

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, LONDON

'Jesuits sell prime London Heythrop site to a developer' – read one of the headlines of *The Tablet: The International Catholic Newsweekly of 10th May 2017*. It further elaborated 'Heythrop College, the 400-year-old Jesuit-run institution in London which specializes in theology and philosophy, has been sold.' This was followed by a private mail to the students from the college administrator confirming the news of its being sold and a few other important details regarding the next academic year. But this has not affected the regular routine of the college. The whole college is busy conducting exams and making an arrangement for probably the last Summer Ball in more than 400 hundred years history of the College. This is scheduled to take place on June 1 in the Grand Queen's House Greenwich London. Some of our scholastics are very excited about this ball. In the meantime, College Chaplaincy under the exceptional leadership of **Sr Elizabeth Ryan FCJ, Fr Paul Fletcher SJ and Joan Conway**, is busy organizing the last college Mass for 2016 – 2017 followed by a tea party. They have also come up with an idea of hosting a gratitude party, '*Not the Mad Hatters Tea Party*' on June 5 for the volunteers who have sincerely contributed in the smooth running of the college chaplaincy.

Meanwhile, the British Province has already decided to close down a few formation houses of the province from the next session. One can easily imagine the shift that is taking place in the political arena as well as the Jesuit Society of Britain. When the whole nation is going through constant terrorist attacks and the vibe of the general election, the British Province of the Society of Jesus is also moving to a new ministerial paradigm. However, this conundrum has not made a severe impact on us who are in formation. This could be due to our academic pressure or our daily lived experience. We have just finished our exams. Scholastic Anuranjan is getting ready to begin his STB class of two weeks followed by a farewell party organised by Deacon Alphonse's Community. With this party, we close this academic year. Immediately after that, both of us are going to Rome for a short visit. Deacon Alphonse will be back to the province by June 20 and Scholastic Anuranjan will fly to the US for his Arrupe month.

-Alphonse Lepcha

REGIS COMMUNITY, TORONTO

The Regis College had its comprehensive exams on May 4-5. **Roshan Kiro, SJ** (DAR) was at Pickering Jesuit community for his diaconal retreat from May 6-14. On May 17 **Most Rev. Wayne Kirkpatrick**, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto, was at Huron Jesuit community for the lunch with the candidates of diaconal and priestly ordination. He enjoyed the company and was happy to meet the candidates before the ordination. On May 20, **Most Rev. Wayne Kirkpatrick**, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto, ordained **John O'Brien, SJ** (CDA) to the priesthood and five deacons: **Penn Dawson, SJ** (US Central and Southern), **Roshan Kiro, SJ** (DAR), **Edmund Kwok-Fai Lo, SJ** (CDA), **Jean Bertin Saint-Louis, SJ** (GLC) and **Artur Robert Suski, SJ** (CDA) at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, Toronto. The church was packed with faithful who came to witness the ceremony. The ordination program was much appreciated by all. The Regis community hosted a BBQ party in the evening at Huron Street. The newly ordained priest **John O'Brien, SJ** (CDA) offered his thanksgiving Mass at Newman Centre, Toronto on May 21, while the deacons went to various parishes for their first Masses. On May 21 **Dn Roshan Kiro, SJ** (DAR) was at St Ann Parish, Toronto and preached his first homily as a deacon.

-Roshan Kiro

REST IN PEACE

Fr Joseph Inchackal (KER 85/67), 04/05/2017

Fr Mark Robson (CCU 75/55), 07/05/2017

Fr A.M. Lourdusamy (MDU 91/66), 16/05/2017