

Calcutta Jesuit Newsletter

কলকাতা যীশুসংঘের বার্তা



Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 619

December 2013

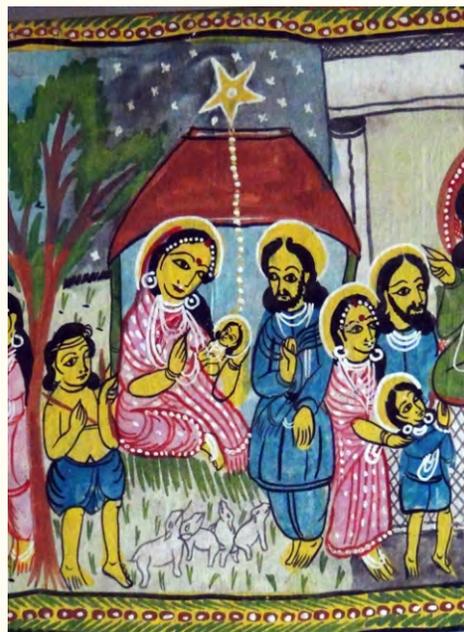
2013/09

FROM PROVINCIAL'S DESK



Fr. Provincial and the CMJL

Wish you a Joyful Christmas And a Happy New Year



A folk painting of Christmas
from Bengal

When the jingle bells ring again to announce the birth of Jesus in the manger on Christmas night 2013, Pope Francis would have completed just nine months in his Petrine Office. But within this short span of time, what Pope Francis has given to the Church and the world is beyond measure or anyone's prediction!

He has brought so much joy and hope into Catholic and Christian homes across the globe; so much simplicity and down-to-earthness into how Christians must live and share the Good News of Jesus in this modern world; so much compassion and caring into how the Church must open its arms towards the poor and refugee brethren living at our door steps; so much healing and understanding to all those whom the majority normally despise and reject; so much fresh and radical thinking into how Religious Heads mustn't make sabbath the end and man the means; so much enthusiasm and forward looking into how our youth must look at life and their vocation. Finally, so much unity into our one common identity as Children of one Father, putting aside all man-made divisions and distinctions as being not so essential before God. Pope Francis was a rare and surprise gift the world could ever think of.

Pope Francis has been able to give us all this and much more so naturally and so bravely, solely because he is able to keep Jesus and His GOSPEL 'at the heart of everything that he plans and does!' The world is eagerly looking forward to celebrating Christmas 2013 with Pope Francis, his first as Pope! Let us welcome Jesus at this Christmas and make Him and his Gospel the "Centre of everything we plan and do!"

- Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 2013

- 01 : Visitation ends-Bankura-Mirga-Jhanti
- 03 : Feast of St Francis Xavier
- 07 : First Profession Mass, Mother House
- 08 : Local CRI meeting
- 12 - 18: POSA Consult, Bhopal & Visitation, Pune
- 19 : CONSULT (Whole Day)
- 24 : Christmas:
- 26 : Christmas Get-together, Archbishop's House
- 27 : Foundation Stone-ceremony by CM at Rajarhat Campus
- 30 - 31: International Seminar, Providence Sisters/GAP

JANUARY 2014

- 02 - 04 : Golden Jubilee Celebrations, St Xavier's Burdwan
- 04 - 06 : Program with Fr Hans from Gregorian University, Rome
- 09 - 11 : Visitation, St. Xavier's School, Haldia
- 15 : Convocation Ceremony, St Xavier's College
- 16 - 19 : Visitation, Raghobpur Jesuit community
- 23 : CONSULT
- 31 : Meeting with Live-In Animators

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

Fr. Francis Parmar : Provincial of Gujarat Province
Fr. Dominic Savio : Rector of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.

APPOINTMENTS BY FR. PROVINCIAL

1. Fr. PC Mathew : Spiritual Father, Adviser to Governing Board Howrah South Point Social Service Centre, Residence at HSP, c/o St. Lawrence Community
2. Fr. Probal Gomes : Curate, Kalna Parish, Asst Director of Boarding
3. Fr. Arulappan Rayappan : Acting Minister at Dhyan Ashram
4. Fr. Shaju Sacaria : Teaches English at St Xavier's College, Kolkata (with effect from 1.1.2014)

PROVINCE JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Frs. Etienne & Pat cutting the cake

Calcutta Province celebrated the Jubilee of its fellow Jesuits at St. Xavier's College on 21 November. **Frs. Patrick Eaton, Charles Pollet and Etienne Degrez** were felicitated for 50 years of Religious Life. **Frs. George D'Campo and Mathieu Schillings** for 50 years of Priesthood and **Fr. Albert Huart** for for 70 years of Religious life respectively.

Fr. Provincial, as main celebrant, along with Frs. Patrick, Etienne, George and Mathieu celebrated the Holy Eucharist at St. Xavier's Chapel. Fr. Etienne gave the homily.

Fr. Maria S., as MC, led the felicitation at Xavier Hall. **Fr. Carvalho** and **Fr. Bruylants** felicitated Fr. George and Fr. Mathieu. In the absence of Fr. Huart and Fr. Charles, **Fr. Mignon** and **Fr. Xavier S.** shared wonderful memories about them. **Fr. Boris** and **Fr. Pierre** felicitated Fr. Patrick

and Fr. Etienne. On behalf of the Province the jubilarians were honoured with traditional Bengali shawls and a memento each. Fr. Mathieu gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Jubilarians.

The choir of the Juniors from Dhyan Ashram led the singing in the liturgy and also sang during the felicitation. A delicious dinner followed the cutting of the cake. For the first time a 20 minutes video clip of the Jubillarians was played for the guests. Credit for the success of the celebration goes to the organizing committee composed of **Fr. Maria I, Fr. Paul, Fr. Maria.S** and **Scholastic Vivek**.



Jubilarians concelebrating with Fr. Provincial

- Sch.Vivek James

CALCUTTA JESUITS :: NEWS & VIEWS**ST. LAWRENCE, BALLYGUNGE**

On 10 October 6 Chinese students with 2 teachers and 1 interpreter were welcomed at the School Assembly with a sharing of gifts and a cultural programme. They were to stay and visit the Durga Puja pandals with our students. This is part of the 'Twinning Project' with students of other countries. Our students will visit China in December this year.

On 4 November the House Consult was held and general

matters concerning the School and Community were discussed, among them help for the Philippine Flood victims.

On 22 November, **Fr. Jose Mase S.J.**, the Secretary for Education (Primary and Secondary) visited us at St. Lawrence's and interacted with the Staff. He spoke of Jesuit education as one of change and adaptation of our teaching methods to students today. He asked the Staff two questions: the positive and negative (challenges) qualities of life here at St. Lawrence's. Good cooperation

between Staff and Management, good educational facilities and remedial classes for the slow learners were some of the positive traits, while more meetings with Staff and Management was recommended.

The students are writing their Final exams. **Sch. Bhusan** has successfully completed his Practice teaching at Julien Day's School, Elgin Road.

- Fr. Joe de Souza

PRABHU JISUR GIRJA

The month of November saw First Communions in the parish of three girls and three boys.

Fr. Anil Mitra has gone to give an 8-day retreat to the Prado sisters at Proggalay, Barasat. **Fr. Peter Dorairaj** has enrolled himself to a Masters program under Madras University's Distance Education.

Our Leadership Training Service National Promoter, **Fr. John Rogers** organized a national LTS

program at St Lawrence's High School, Kolkata in the beginning of November and was happy that there were 11 groups from all over India and Nepal. He is now preparing for an LTS Winter Carnival - Ignite III to be held in December.

Fr. Jean Englebert returned to PJG hale and hearty, after about six months of holiday-cum-medical leave in Belgium. On 23 November, five Scholastics of our province made their monthly recollection at PJG, with **Fr. Timir Singha** giving them the points

and **Fr. Mark Robson** said the mass the next noon. Our other community member, Marist Brother Malangmei likes to go to his own community in Talit, Burdwan on weekends, but is immersed in his B.Ed studies.

Chitrabani is organizing its annual Kolkata Short Film Festival, 10th edition, from Dec. 2 to 7 at Nandan. Seventy five films will be screened in 12 shows, held from 3.30 to 8 pm. Jesuits and friends are most welcome to join any of the shows.

- **Fr. Mark Robson**

RAGHABPUR PARISH AND SCHOOL

On 2 October, **Fr. Roshan** and **Sch. Bijoy** accompanied 50 Altar Servers of our parish to Dishari (Baruipur Pastoral Centre) for an Orientation Programme. Our 'Little Angels' bagged 2nd Prize in 'Dramatizing a Bible Story'. Our Community had a Prayerful Sharing Session on 'De Statu' on 9 October. In the same evening we had the Pre-Puja Get-together. On 10 October, Fr. Roshan conducted a session on 'Ignatian Spirituality' for 42 Catechists of Baruipur Diocese at Dishari.

Lots of things happened during the Puja Holidays. Around 100 children and adults attended the 'Confirmation Classes' from 14 to 23 October. Sr. Benedicta, DSA took their classes. **Fr. Joseph Raj** went to Raiganj to attend the West Bengal CRI meeting. **Fr. Thomas** preached the retreat to the diocesan priests of Krishnagar at Digha Seva Kendra and went to Bengaluru to attend a meeting of the Jesuit Superiors. **Fr. Mathew Jayanth** went to Patna to preach the Retreat to Holy Cross Sisters. Fr. Roshan attended the 'IV Diocesan Youth Convention' at Carmel School, Lalpole and went to

Darjeeling to attend the Mennonite meeting.

When all of us were out **Fr. Arul** supervised the maintenance and painting of our school building.

Mr. Atin Sapui, our Catechist for 15 years (1998-2013), died on 13 November. He was suffering from throat cancer. The funeral service was held at his village of Koikhali. On 23 November, **Fr. Jose A. Mesa**, the Jesuit International Secretary for Education, visited our school and interacted with the teachers of our school.

- **Fr. Roshan Tirkey**

PREMANANDA ASHRAM, CHAMRUSAI

While **Frs. Dipak** and **Johnson** participated in the Province retreat at Dhyan Ashram, **Fr. Markus** moderated the two days each of the adult and youth retreat. **Fr. Chrysostom Hembrom, SJ (DUM)** preached the adult retreat and four youth animators assisted Fr. Markus to conduct the youth retreat. 150 adults and 69 youth participated in the retreats respectively. Frs. Dipak, Johnson and Markus joined their

assigned 'Live-In' groups for fruitful discussion at Dhyan Ashram, Durgapur and Pandua respectively.

Premananda Ashram Boarding Students and staff celebrated the 'Children's day' on 14 November with fun and games at the nearby forest open-space. On 16 November the outgoing class IV students went to Digha for a days' picnic accompanied by the staff and Fr. Markus. Fr. Dipak joined the Calcutta Archdiocesan SSC unit to Goa to participate in the SSC National Convention held at Bom Jesus complex from 18-22 November, where

some 6000 delegates were present.

At the Christ the King procession held at Nirmal Hriday Church at Medinipur, the Ashrams' Musical Band was the main attraction at the concluding ceremony for the 'Year of Faith'. Attractive small pebbles cover the Ashram Compound now. Bees have made their winter return, busy constructing their hives with some 24 beehives already on a single 'pipal' tree. If you like fresh honey, you are most welcome.

- **Fr. Dipak Gomes**

MARIA SNEHASADAN, GURAP

Gurap Mission youth group is slowly getting shape. It is the outcome of our recently held Youth Camp at Gurap. Four youth from our mission participated at the 3rd I.C.Y.M Diocesan Youth Convention held at Don Bosco, Liluah on 1st. of Nov. They help out in the parish activities. **Fr. Salvator Murmu** attended the

National Conference of Vocation Promoters meet at Nagpur held on 12 November. The participants were 110 from all over India, both Priests and nuns.

Our paddy harvesting is over. This year we have a bumper crop. All souls day was celebrated with a meaningful mass at the burial ground. On 12th the Sacred Heart Shool of SCJM sisters was inaugurated by

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza in the presence of the Provincial, **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**.

Prenovice Jobin was with us for two months. **Fr. Jerome**, the Novice Master, visited his three novices **Manu, Johnson** and **Rintu**, who were in different villages. Deacon Arockiaswamy, a Claretian, is here to do diaconate ministry with us for two months.

Thirty catechumens underwent instructions by catechists Bhim Hembrom, Sunil Tudu and Sr. Jacinta, SCJM. They also joined the three day retreat guided by Fr. Joseph

Hembrom of Raiganj diocese. His preaching and singing touched the hearts of our people. We are grateful to **Sch. Sashi Bhushan** for taking care of Gurap Mission in the absence of the

Fathers during the Province Retreat. A Youth Camp was conducted by Fr. Mongal Tudu from 25 to 27 October.

- Fr. Salvator Murmu

JISU ASHRAM, PANDUA

Parish: The outpouring of the sky could not prevent the 35 enthusiastic faithful of Pandua parish in actively participating in the Howrah-Hooghly Deanery SCC Day celebration held on 4 October at Chandannagar. During the Puja vacations, two groups of parishioners of 50 each went to Jalalkhali for retreats. On 2 November, a solemn Eucharist was celebrated at the Parish cemetery. On 9 November **Dn. Masillamani** and catechist Mr. Suklal Soren attended the *Bangio Christio Parisheba* annual general meeting held at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Sealdah. A week long preparation classes were arranged for the catechumen and students who received Baptism and First Holy Communion on the feast of Christ the King. The parish graveyard, which was encroached (apprx 900 sq. ft.) by a neighbor has been reclaimed after surveying. It needs an immediate fencing/boundary wall to prevent further encroachment. Two days (22-23 Nov) leadership training was arranged for village leaders.



Pandua Parishioners with Fr. Mahananda

Community: Frs. Alex, John and Mahananda attended the Province retreat. Dn. Masillamani made his ordination retreat at Dhyan Ashram. Gunaseelan, a pre-novice, is with us for two and half months for Jesuit mission experience. Fr. John participated in All Christians Minority Schools' general meeting held at Archbishop's House, Kolkata on 16 Nov. Fr. Mahananda was on and off to SXC for treatment of his torn ligament in his left leg. **Fr. Chandan** is still under medication.

School and Boarding:

The students returned from Puja holidays on 20 Oct. Class IV students appeared for the state level 'Scholarship Examination'. The admission procedure is on for the next academic year. On 14 November, Children's day was celebrated with a lot of fun and frolic. On 23rd Class IV students went to Kolkata on a Educational Tour after completing their final examination.

- Dn. Masillamani

CHRISTO SEVA ASHRAM, KALNA

Fr. Cyprian Pinto efficiently looked after the spiritual needs of the faithful in the parish while we participated in the province retreat in D.A. during the puja holidays.

Several three-days activities were conducted for the faithful for their spiritual renewal in the villages of Moirapara, Monsadanga, Muktarpur, Mirzabhati, Kulti Baganpara etc. People were revitalized in their faith and inspired to live meaningfully

through Gospel sharing, hymns and meditations. The concluding day programmes always ended with thanksgiving Eucharistic celebrations. The three catechists painstakingly prepared them and organized them for faith renewal programme as part of the 'Golden Jubilee' of our 'Mission' and for 'the Year of Faith.

Sixty-two faithful of Kalna parish went to Burdwan for the pilgrimage on 14 November to mark the Year of Faith. Fr. Antony Raj, the director of the Pastoral Center, Chetana, inspired them by his talks on the relevance of

faith in life through slide shows. To prepare the faithful for the Eucharistic celebrations, there was an hour of adoration and time for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Construction of the long awaited better kitchen and multi-purpose dining hall for the boarding boys has started on 12 November. **Fr. K. Devasy** is supervising the work. We are getting ready to celebrate the feast of "Christ the King" and also preparing for the annual examinations of the boys in the schools.

- Fr. Sebastian Xalxo

DHYAN ASHRAM, KONCHOWKI

October and November have been eventful months in Dhyan Ashram. In the first week of October the Juniors had their first term exams. This stressful week was subsequently followed by an interesting and innovative course on 'Jesus Prayer' by Sr. Rose. Thereafter, the much awaited

Puja holidays began. The Juniors had a gala time visiting different pandals and more importantly, learning about the Hindu religion and Bengali culture. During the Puja holidays about seventy Jesuits of Calcutta province made their annual retreat here. **Fr Julian Fernandez** of the Kohima Region was the retreat director.

Our second year novices left for

their village experiment on the 27 October to Gurap. The very next day, the three first year novices began their month-long Spiritual Exercises, along with two MC Sisters, under the guidance of **Fr. Sajeev**. On 9 November the Juniors had an exciting outing to the Alipur Zoo.

Fr. Etienne Degrez gave us a course on the charism of the society.

Our Rector **Fr. Jerome Francis** is turning out to be a prolific Retreat Director taking up one retreat after another. **Fr. Pierre Jacob** has been in

and out, busy with different programs outside. In the meantime, the Regional Superior of the Kohima region, **Fr Arul Susaimanickam**, came over for the

annual visitation of the Kohima Jesuits. We request your prayers for the comfort of **Fr. Pat Eaton's** ailing sister.

- Sch. Rakesh Mondal

ARUNODAY, BARASAT

We, at Arunoday, are grateful to **Frs. Amulya, Tom Varghese** and **Arul Joseph** for preaching recollections to the pre-novices. After the semester exams in October, MC Sisters, Green Park, animated the Prenovices to see the face of Jesus in the patients whom they would encounter during their stay at MC Brothers Houses. They were divided into small groups and sent to different MC Brothers' houses in Kazirapara, Dum Dum, Nurpur, Khargpur and Howrah. One group was sent to Little Sisters of the Poor, Kolkata. We are grateful to **Br.Varghese MC** for guiding our boys to have meaningful experiences.

We are grateful to **Frs. Pierre Jacob, Pandap** and **Martin** for sharing their vocation stories, mission experiences and call to Jesuit life; to



Barasat Prenovices celebrate Children's Day

Sr. Lucy, Helpers for sharing her Vocation story, to Mr. Sylvester from St. Teresa Parish for sharing his experiences with Jesuits and to Mrs. Luciana Edwards for conducting a session on "Building Vocabulary Journal".

We were delighted to have **Fr. Provincial** with us to share his

experiences of China. We organized a half day seminar on "Church in China: Problems and Prospects" for neighbouring religious houses. We were also happy to have **Fr. Aelred** to share his knowledge and experience of teaching English to Bangladesh Religious formees and to explain a "Speak English" course to the team at Arunoday. We have introduced the method and it is bearing fruit.

On 17 November the Prenovices celebrated Children's Day at Providence Home, a home for poor and marginalized girls. They prepared a Children's Day liturgy to mark the occasion. After the mass, the Prenovices conducted fun-filled games. We also prepared a delicious meal for them.

Congratulations to **Sch. Suresh** for clearing UGC-NET exam for Philosophy.

- Fr. Mourlin Fernando

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

Satya Nilayam Eco-club organized a meaningful celebration of 200 years of the restoration of the Society of Jesus on 2 November, 2013, with a spirit of eco-consciousness by planting 200 saplings in our campus. Followed by a special Eucharistic celebration, the living groups planted the saplings in their respective allotted places and each one takes care of the plant that he planted. On 4-5 November, 2013 we had two days of community day



Satyanilayam, Chennai
Celebrating Restoration the Green way

celebrations which helped us to have reorientation of community dimensions through re-creations.

The sacred triduum cum workshop from 7-9 November, 2013, with the theme of "affective maturity" by Fr Kevin of the Jesuit Province of Ireland, helped us to rewind our lives in order to re-wind the direction of our life in tune with the will of God. After the triduum we began our new semester on 11 November with renewed vigour and zeal.

- Sch. Antony Robert

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

October and November have witnessed packed programs, keeping us on our toes. We were blessed with a large number of Provincials paying frequent visits while staying at St. Xavier's Campus for the JCSA

meeting. The winter chill lost its chillness at the very presence of all the warm hearted Provincials of South Asia. **Fr. Provincial** met all the Calcuttans staying here and encouraged us to continue our life with vigour and enthusiasm. Before his departure we had a thanksgiving mass and get-

together at our residence on 20 October.

On 26 October, Vidyajyoti celebrated its much awaited Community Day, participated by both staff members and students. The second years put up a beautiful and inspiring cultural program on the life

and teachings of Guru Nanak on 13 November. It was not only a feast for our eyes but gave enough inputs for us to reflect on the goodness in other religions.

Fr. Poulouse Mangai was away for three weeks giving courses at Bangalore. **Fr. Vallan Antony** keeps himself busy taking various classes in and out of Vidyajyoti. Our third years,

Schs. Alphonse and **Jeyakumar**, successfully completed their Seminar and are presently busy with their Dissertations.

- **Sch. Narendra Singh**

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, MANGALORE

The third semester made us work round the clock. 'A tremendous growth over a short period' is the feeling of every scholastic here. The industry and field experiences and practical knowledge that we have gained tune our minds to look at our studies as mission. As the college is gearing up towards becoming an

independent university the Fathers keep introducing new courses. Recently the college has been awarded a community college status by the government and has become one of the three degree awarding colleges in Mangalore.

We, the students of media studies, not only learn theories but also witness live-shooting, interact with media personalities and use those ideas in our broadcasting. **Sch. Arun Lucas**

was given the best anchoring award for V4 News channel by the Department of Mass Communication. He also successfully presented a paper on 'Media coverage on Environmental Issues,' in Garden City, Bangalore. The semester exams are on. We are about to finish the third semester and get out of the college for a break.

- **Sch. Arun Lucas**

SRI LANKA JUNIORATE

Reared by our formators we Juniors are preparing well for the next phase of our journey. Our well rounded study programme has been keeping alive in us a healthy angst of finding better and more wholesome ways of learning.

On 6 September all the Tertian Fathers visited our community. The next day we were blessed with the visit of all the Novice Masters of South Asian Assistency who gathered in Sri Lanka for this year's meet.

On the 11th we Juniors performed a

cultural show (dance, music, drama) for all the staff and the novices of our community. On the 13th we all left for Batticaloa to join the ordination of **Deacon Lawrence, SJ**. On the 14th our Dean, **Fr. Vincent Patrick** left for Belgaum, Karnataka to join the South Asian Assistency Juniorate Staff Meeting.

From the 17th **Fr. Benedict** conducted a three-day course for us on Playback Theatre. On the 23rd **Fr. Norris Sinewasan**, the Assistency Delegate for Formation came to visit our community to discuss with us about

the Juniorate program. From 24th to 27th, we participated in the Sri Lanka Province Get together. From 2nd to 4th October we had our first term exams. From 21st to 25th **Sch. Nilan Fernando** conducted a workshop for us on visual communication and mass media. During this course we produced a twenty-minute short film. From 18th to 20th Ms. Geethika Perera, a young and talented artist, conducted a workshop for us on Post Modern Art and Painting. We produced 2 paintings each at the end of the course.

- **Sch. Collins Purification**

KIA JHARNA, SANTAL CULTURAL CENTRE, GURAP

A DASAI ENEC' (dance) competition was organized by Kia Jharna, our Santal Cultural Centre, on 6 October. It was the first programme organized by **Fr. Salvatore Murmu** after he took charge as the Director of Kia Jharna. Five teams took part in the competition. PHURGAL GAOTA of Bandel was awarded the first prize while SUSAR GAOTA, Sanchra won the second prize. All the other teams were given consolation prizes. The Chief Guest, Mr.



Kia Jharna Dance Group

John Mardi encouraged all those who were present to do their best to promote and preserve Santal culture and tradition.

As part of a Marriage Preparation Course, **Fr. Salvatore Murmu** conducted sessions on Santal Culture for a group of 45 young boys and girls of Asansol diocese at CHETANA, Talit on 1 and 2 October. An SCC/BCC Day was celebrated at Chandannagar, on 4 October. Our parishners performed a traditional Santali dance on the occasion.

- **Fr. Salvatore Murmu**

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERVICE

National Camp: Leadership Training Service (LTS) organized National Leadership Training Camp 2013 from 1 to 6 November at St Lawrence School, Kolkata. Sixty LTSers from 7 states and two members from Nepal participated. The major objectives of the camp were leadership training and national integration. The days were packed with activities to help the participants to grow as leaders. They were trained in the art of public speaking, group discussion

skills, team work, time management, panel discussion, personality development and group dynamics.

During the camp, the members had a series of interactive sessions with the LTSers from various stages – the school and college going members along with the adult LTSers. There were plenty of light moments too - Diwali Celebration, a day for marketing and sightseeing.

Ignite III Preparation: Now the movement is geared to the upcoming mega event – Ignite III, a student initiative winter carnival, to be held at St Xavier's Primary School grounds on

22 and 23 December. The students meet regularly on Sundays to plan the event. Fr. John visited most of the schools and colleges to seek support from the school authorities in running the carnival. From this year the plan is to make the event more collaborative promoting the good works done in schools and colleges with regard to social commitment.

Adult LTS wing: The Adult Unit is busy with its library projects and regular meetings. They recently visited two more schools and after a detailed assessment decided to donate libraries to them.

- Fr. John Rogers

PROVINCE LEVEL MEETING OF ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATIONS



Province level Alumni/ae Association Meeting

The Province Level Meeting of the Alumni/ae Associations under the Calcutta Jesuit Province took place on 17 November 2013 at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. The meeting was chaired by **Fr. Felix Raj**, the Province Coordinator, Alumni/ae (PCA) and was graced by **Fr. Zenith Williams**, President, DOXA, Durgapur and **Fr. Joseph Raj**, of SPS, Raghobpur. The Secretaries and delegates from all the six Associations were present. A representative of St. Xavier's School, Haldia also attended as special invitee.

After the Prayer Song of Vande Satchidanandam, Fr. Felix Raj welcomed all the members present and expressed his satisfaction for representation of all the Associations. He appreciated the leadership of all the Alumni/ae Associations of the Province on behalf of Fr. Provincial and all the Jesuit Priests for the dedication, passion, commitment, interest and initiative, shown by the Alumni/ae. He also called for greater collaborations among various Associations under the Calcutta Province.

All the Secretaries and other delegates then shared the activities of their respective Associations including their challenges and opportunities. It was decided to have joint Philanthropic Activity to be coordinated and organised by all the Associations under the Province, which will take place at St. Paul's School, Raghobpur to begin with. Dr. Subrata Das of SLOBA has been made the Convenor of that.

The following representations of the Province to the North Zonal Council and JAAI were unanimously decided in the meeting : North Zonal Council: Mr. S. Ramalingam (ALSOC, Kolkata), Mr. Anit Kumar Gupta (XAAB, Bardhaman), Mr. Amrita Rong (SPOSAR, Raghobpur); JAAI: Mr. G. P. Gupta (SXCCAA, Kolkata). The meeting ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Firdausul Hasan, Hony. Secretary, SXCCAA.

- Mr. Snehasis Sur

FIRST ONLINE/ONSITE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE IN AFGHANISTAN

In partnership with Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC:HEM), a global network of Jesuit higher education institutions, an intensive English as Foreign Language (EFL) course is being specially offered at Herat Technical Institute, Herat, Afghanistan, from November 2013 to February 2014. It will be accredited by Georgetown University and St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.

This online/onsite EFL course is offered as the first Community Service Learning Track (CSLT) of JC:HEM. It consists of 180 hours of instructions coupled with activities for developing four basic language skills



Dr. Margaret and Dr. Stan Fernandes interact with students of EFL CSLT.

of listening, speaking, reading and writing at a high beginner's level.

This course will integrate individual and team based projects and social service together with regular instruction hours. The target group for this EFL course is a select group of 55 economically and socially most disadvantaged Afghan youth who were part of the JRS' English Language Preparatory Programme held at Herat Technical Institute. There are 30 girls and 25 boys. With the support of local onsite team, the EFL CSLT will be coordinated by **Fr. Maria Joseph I.**, the JRS-JC:HEM South Asia Coordinator for

Online Education.

The venue for the JC:HEM site was inaugurated on 30 September, 2013 at HTI, Herat, Afghanistan. However, the online/onsite course was formally inaugurated by His Excellency Farooq Wardak, the Honourable Minister of Education of Afghanistan on 31 October, 2013. The classes began on 2 November, 2013. This innovative pioneering effort by JRS cum JC:HEM will definitely unlock the gates of knowledge and will provide a sense of hope and future to marginalized section of people in Afghanistan.

- **Fr. Maria Joseph I.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. Felix Raj has been nominated by the Government of West Bengal, Department of Higher Education, as a member of the Education Commission of West Bengal constituted by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal.

The West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education nominated Fr. Felix Raj for the "Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Award 2013" on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Moulana Abul Kalam Azad on November 11, 2013 which is also the 'Education Day' and felicitated him for his excellent work towards the Minority Community and the Society as a whole.

The annual national conference of the Indian Theological Association was held at Progalay, Barasat, October 2 to 6. Fr. Felix Raj delivered the opening address on "Inclusive Growth and Human Development - An Economic Perspective". The full paper is available at goethalsnews@gmail.com. An edited version of the paper has been published in the Indian Currents.

NOTICES

Jepasa Silver Jubilee Convention : Theme: "Alert to the Spirit. Alive to the world"

Dates: 18 (9 A.M.) - 20 FEB. 2014 (2 P.M). Place: JDV PG Block, Pune. Contribution: Rs.2000 per person. All the Jesuit Pastors are welcome. For further details contact : Your Pastoral Coordinator and book your place or <georgetps62gmail.com> or jepasasecretary@gmail.com

"The meeting of **Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum** will be held on 15th and 16th February, 2014 at St. Joseph's, Bengaluru. For details contact Fr. Ignacimuthu, SJ at: imuthusj@gmail.com

Navjivan Renewal Centre (NRC), (4 Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi 10054), is a new Jesuit Centre for holistic human wellness in Delhi. About 60 programmes (various kinds of retreats, courses on spirituality, workshops on burning issues, etc) are prepared for the coming year. Email: directornrc@gmail.com / Website: www.nrcdelhi.in for details and application form.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Ripon Rosario will be ordained in Bangladesh on 27.12.13.

Deacon Masillamani Thiraviam will be ordained in Tamil Nadu on 28.12.13

The new website of Calcutta Province is : <http://www.calcuttajesuits.org>

Calcutta Province Catalogue 2014 is out and is being distributed. If you notice any mistake, especially with regard to yourself, please inform Fr. Socius at caljesuits@gmail.com , giving the correction.

GONE TO THEIR REST

Fr. Patrick D' Lima S, (PUN, 82/60) on 04.10.13

Br. Merlin Pereira, (JAM, 78/55) on 12.10.13

Fr. Motilal Hasdak (DUM, 61/44) on 17.10.13

Fr. Terence Lobo (GUJ, 78/ 50) on 23.10.13

Fr. Christian De Brouwer (RAN, 89/71) on 28.11.13

Mr. A.V. Kurian (83), father of Fr. Kurian Emprayil, SJ on 15.10.13

Mrs. Mary Ponodath (73), sister-in-law of Fr. George Ponodath, SJ on 17.11.13