

Calcutta Jesuit Newsletter

কলকাতা যীশুসংঘের বার্তা



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CJNL - 632

MARCH 2015

2015/03

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

MARCH 2015

- 01 : POSA Consult
- 02 - 05 : Visitation: Pune
- 06 : Prov.Cong Coetus Praevius Meet
- 07 : Holy Mass at MC General Chapter
- 07 : Meeting with HMs
- 08 : Reg CRI Ex Council, Krishnagar
- 11 - 14 : Visitation: VJ Delhi, Kauli seminary
- 13 : ISI Delhi GB Meeting
- 15 - 25 : Visitation: St Xavier's Kolkata
- 17 - 18 : CONSULT

- 26 : CHRISM MASS at Cathedral
- 27 : Assistency Ecology Seminar at DA
- 28 - 31 : Visitation: Dhyana Ashram

APRIL 2015

- 01 - 03 : Easter Triduum
- 04 - 08 : Preparation: Prov Congregation
- 09 - 12 : Province Congregation at DA
- 17 - 18 : SXC GB & Trust Meetings
- 23 - 24 : CONSULT
- 30 : National CRI Assembly, Bangalore

FR. ANTE GABRIC, SJ

THE BEATIFICATION PROCESS HAS BEGUN



28th February was the 100th birth anniversary of Fr. Ante Gabric, a Calcutta Jesuit from Croatia, who worked tirelessly as a missionary in the 24-Parganas. This anniversary in 2015 was special because on that day Fr. Gabric's beatification process

was inaugurated by Cardinal Josip Bozanic, Archbishop of Zagreb in Croatia.

The same evening in the Sacred Heart Basilica of Zagreb, the Cardinal celebrated a solemn Mass to mark the occasion. The final element of the day was the new film about the life of Fr. Gabric, known as the 'Apostle of the Sunderbans'.

FR. ALEXIS PREM KUMAR RELEASED

After more than eight months Fr. Alexis Prem Kumar was released from captivity on 22 February 2015. He is now home, safe and sound. On 2 June 2014, Fr Kumar was taken by a group of unidentified men in western Afghanistan while on a visit



to a JRS-supported school for returnee refugees in a settlement 34 km from the city of Herat. He was forced at gun-point into a vehicle by a group of armed men. JRS has worked in Afghanistan since 2005. Even during the difficult months of Fr. Prem's captivity, however, JRS continued to run its programmes in the country in order to ensure that Afghan students had continued access to quality education.

DIACONATE IN LONDON

7 February, 2015 was a significant day in the British Province for the ten Jesuit Scholastics who were ordained Deacons at St. George's Cathedral by Archbishop Peter Smith of Southwark Diocese, London, in the presence of around forty Jesuit priests along with the Provincial of the British Province. The Diaconate ceremony was witnessed by more than five hundred faithful.

The ten ordained deacons from India, Bangladesh,

Zimbabwe and Portugal made the ceremony more global with their invited guests from across the diverse nations. Deacons **Francis Dores**, **Probash Pius Rozario** and **Milton Costa** who could not make it possible to get their own family members to be present on that special day, were indeed very happy to have their ceremony witnessed by the guests, parishioners and the Bengali Catholic community here in the UK.

Dn. Probash Rozario gave a vote of thanks on be-



half of all the Deacons to those who had helped them in their formation, particularly the Staff at Heythrop College of the University of London. He also thanked the congregation and the Archbishop and promised him to endeavour to assist him in the local pastoral services. After the mass

and diaconate ceremony, the British Province hosted a wine reception and finger buffet for the whole gathering in the Cathedral hall. In addition, each Scholastic's House of the newly ordained deacons, also hosted a grand reception for the close relatives and guests in the evening of the same day.

The very next day of the diaconate ordination, Deacons Probash and Milton were assigned to preach at the Sunday Mass in the Parishes of their respective ministry places and were given a red-carpet warm reception by the Parishioners. At the same time Dn. Francis exercised his first ministry as a Deacon in baptizing people in his parish. **-Dn. Francis Dores**

CALCUTTA JESUITS :: NEWS & VIEWS

NAVJYOTI NIKETAN, MATHBARI

When the ongoing political turmoil seems to create a panic and fear everywhere in Bangladesh, we observed the St. Valentine's Day on 14 February, as a day of prayer for the country. The day-long programme began with a Eucharistic adoration at 9:30 am in the Divine Mercy Chapel of our centre, where people of the locality (Bhawal region) participated. It was followed by speeches, chanting the name of Jesus and silent meditation. The day concluded with the Eucharistic celebration in our quadrangle as the chapel was too small for the crowds. **Fr. Srijon** made it 'a spiritually uplifting experience' for the people.

The international Mother Tongue Day was celebrated on 21 February in a befitting manner in Navjyoti Niketan by the Kuchilabari Loyola Jubo Songho, a newly formed youth club of the locality. The day-long programme included the Eucharistic celebration, different competitions and a cultural function. Our pre-novices led by **Sch. Subas** gave a helping hand to make it a meaningful day.

The Navjyoti Niketan community under the initiative of **Fr. Ripon** has added another programme in its activities when it commenced a spoken English course for the local Catholic students. Over fifty students have enrolled for the course, which is being supervised by Sch. Subas.

The pre-novices are fully immersed on the last leg of their pre-novitiate programme. Apart from their regular English classes, they are being introduced to subjects like – Jesuit spirituality, history of the Society of Jesus, lives of Saints and Scripture by the different Jesuit Fathers. Their weekly ministry among the physically disabled children in a nearby convent is much appreciated.

-Fr. Ripon Rozario

ARUNODAY, BARASAT

Fr. Sunny G. Kunnel preached the Annual Retreat for the pre-novices at Dhyana Ashram. He conducted two days of motivation sessions followed by the retreat. The Pre-novices were happy to have Fr. Sunny in their vocation discernment process.

Meanwhile, **Fr. Mourlin Fernando** attended the annual Prenovitiate Directors meeting at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. On his way back, he visited the Patna Prenovitiate and the Karnataka Prenovitiate at Bangalore. It was an enriching experience. **Sch. Anmol** attended a Mega city seminar on "Class Room Management" at Praggaloy, Barasat. We are grateful to **Fr. Sebastian James** for his kind gesture of sponsoring a LED TV. Much of

the PC facilities are configured in the new LED TV.

Arunoday community celebrated the fifty years of the final vows of **Fr. Aloysius Carvalho**. Local Religious communities were invited for the Holy Eucharist followed by an agape. Fr. Aloysius gratefully remembered Mother Society for helping him to deepen his commitment to the Society.

The formees gathering was organized on 21 February at Auxilium High school, Barasat. There were around 164 formees to reflect on the theme: "Called to be Joyful witnesses". **Fr. Sajeev Painunkal** was the resource person and he kept them vigilant throughout the session by his lively, creative and interesting presentation, life examples as well as his own personal experiences.

Fr. PCF visited Arunoday for his visitation. His presence added colour to our life. Fr. Mourlin presented a research paper titled "Applications of HRM practices in NGOS: An Emperical evidence from West Bengal" at J.D.Birla Management Institute, Kolkata.

-Fr. Mourlin Fernando

DHYAN ASHRAM, KONCHOWKI

Though the colourful winter flowers have begun to fade away, the season of spring has once again renewed the spirit of Dhyana Ashram Community. The variety and abundance of vegetable cultivation in the campus have already satiated the appetite of many hungry mouths. The arrival of spring provided us with plenty of dry leaves for fuel and the bare branches with an affluence of sunshine. Nature's bounty is elegantly blended with a relentless effort to beautify the campus. It is getting a face-lift with well-laden paths that cajoles one to every nook and corner of the campus.

The novices came back from their month-long experiments and are getting ready for another round. One group of first year novices worked in the leprosy hospital run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters at Shantinagar. Another group worked with the street children in Ashalayam run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. Meanwhile, Novice Manish, the lone second year, had a very enriching experience at Ashaniketan. While the novices were out the novice master **Fr. Sajeev** paid a short home visit and **Fr. Sunny**, the Socius, took off for a retreat to the SJ Scholastics in Nepal.

The Juniors have commenced their third and final trimester. The visitation of RCF and Regional Superior of Kohima Region and the PCFs of Calcutta and Sri Lanka revived their spirit. Juniors had an Educational Tour to Santiniketan accompanied by Fr. Sunny. The treasury of infor-

mation about Rabindranath Tagore and an insight into his vision greatly enriched the Juniors.

On 16 February the whole Dhyana Ashram Community went for a long-awaited picnic to Nico Park. It was a wonderful time enjoying various kinds of 'rides'. It was heartening to see the otherwise serious **Fr. T.J. Thomas** (who stays with us now) seriously rediscovering his childhood through all the fun rides in the Park. Fr. Jerome, the Director of the Retreat House has his hands (and head) full with the inflow of retreatants and different other groups. We hope that the add-on facilities, renovations and beautifications will attract many more to the Retreat House.

-Sch. Rintu Mondal

JISU ASHRAM, PANDUA

Fr. Alexander accompanied some Holy Cross Sisters and parishioners to Jalalkhali to participate in the 'Mega Bible Convention' held from 5 - 8 February. He enjoyed the charismatic experience. **Fr. Masillamani** gave a talk on 'Motivation' to the boarding girls at Holy Cross School, Beruimore, Pandua. We were delighted to have Frs. James Sebastian, Joseph Toppo and Shaju for a brief visit and exchange of views regarding the development of the school and our mission at Pandua. Fr. John along with a few of our Parish Pastoral Council members attended a meeting at Bandel.

We had the KGP community discussion and sharing in view of the preparation for the forth-coming Province Congregation on 25 February. The parish organized a week long catechism classes for the catechumens from 22 February to 1 March. There will be another from 1 - 8 March. We are taking turns to go to different villages and Mass Centres for the Lenten Services, Way of the Cross followed by the Eucharist. The response of the faithful is encouraging.

-Fr. T. Masillamani

PRABHU JISUR GIRJA, KOLKATA

The Community

The much needed repair of the exteriors of both the buildings at Prabhu Jisur Girja is on in full swing. **Fr. P.J. Joseph** re-joined the community on 8 February. **Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj** is away till 21 March in Jharkand for his field work for his doctorate. **Fr. Engelbert** is still in the infirmary at St. Xavier's and doing well, but longing to be back at PGJ once again.

Fr. Detienne was with us from 8 to 24 February for the publication of his book, Lalpere Golpaboli, an anthology of essays from Amader Jibon, and to renew his literary ties with Kolkata. Anna, the niece of **Fr. George Camileri**, is with us for a month, working as a volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity.

Chitrabani

Two short films on Mother Teresa are in the making; also another on the Brothers of the Missionaries of Charity, and a video series, "Called and Consecrated". The Bengali Service of Radio Veritas Asia organized a Listeners Meet on 15 February at Krishnagar. About one hundred listeners from across West Bengal and Bangladesh attended.

-Fr. Pat Eaton

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERVICE

The LTSers have taken Green Army Kolkata (GAK), the environmental cell of the LTS, one step ahead. They are committed to the beautification of Girin Banerjee Park, a park entrusted to the LTS by KMC, near Hind Cinema. They regularly visit the park in small groups, plant saplings and water them.

In the first phase of the GAK project, they visited the Park every Sunday and spent time in planting and watering. In the second phase, along with the gardening, they initiated individual and small group interaction with the local people who visit the park. Through this friendly dialogue they educate the people regarding the need for more greenery and 'Oxygen Factories' and get them also involved in the project.

During his trip to south India in February as PCF, **Fr. John** also found some time to visit St. Aloysius School, Mangalore and St Mary's School in Kerala and worked out the modalities for initiating LTS Units in these schools. Both the schools will begin LTS Units in June.

The Young Adults in the LTS are busy preparing for 'Feminisia' LTS World Women's Day celebration to be held on Sunday 8 March at the LTS Centre.

-Sch. Arun Lucas

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, KOLKATA

School

The School Alumini (ALSOC) has been very active during the month of February. On 1 February, it organized Fr. Adrien Wavreil Memorial Sit and Draw and Essay Writing competitions. About two hundred students participated. A week later they also organized West Bengal State Level Karate championship in which four hundred students from all over Bengal participated. St. Xavier's secured the Runners-Up trophy. Shri Surajit Kar Purkayastha, IPS, the Commissioner of Kolkata Police, addressed the participants and gave away the prizes. On 8 February, the annual Inter-Alumini cricket tournament was held. St. Xavier's Alumni emerged victorious in the final match.

The School Staff went on a picnic on 14 February to Ludlow Jute Mill near Sankaril Railway station. About two hundred class ten students and two hundred class twelve students are busy writing their ICSE and ISC board examinations respectively.

College

The Annual Sports Day of the college was held on 7 February. Shri Somen Mitra, IPS, Special Commissioner of Police, was the chief guest and Mr. Chandan Roy Choudhury, Secretary General-Bengal Olympic Association was guest of honour. The highlight of this year's sport day was the active participation of the students from Raghapur.

A one day Retreat was organized for the AICUF students on 8 February. Over a hundred spent the day in praying and reflecting on their vocation. Fr. Gregory, the Parish Priest of Picnic Garden, preached the retreat.

Basha Divas was celebrated by the Bengali Literary Society of the College. The celebration commenced on 20 February with a torch-bearing rally from Dhaka University and concluded on 21 February at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. At the concluding cultural function, 'Lalpere Golpaboli' a Bengali book by **Fr. Paul Detienne** was released.

Fr. Leeming Hostel Day was celebrated as Cofradia, Brotherhood Day, on 22 February under the able guidance of **Fr. Peter Arockiam**, the Superintendent of the Hostel. Two Ex-Hostelites were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour. Both reminisced their hostel days and paid their tribute to the Fathers who touched their lives.

Fr. Dominic Savio participated as one of the panelists in the Pre-Budget discussion organized by Door Darshan on 25 February. A Workshop on Observational and Computational Astrophysics was organized by Fr. Eugene Lafont Observatory and the Physics Department in collaboration with St. Joseph's College, Bangalore from 3 to 6 February. It was the second milestone in the efforts of scientific collaboration and exchange of ideas and resources between Jesuit colleges of India.

Community

Fr. Paul Carlose travelled to Kerala to be with his ailing father. His father's condition is improving gradually and he asked for our prayers for his speedy and complete recovery. **Br. Chintamani Das** is busy taking care of the sick members of our province. **Frs. P.C. Mathew** and **Aloysius Carvalho** have come for their treatment while **Frs. Englebert, Mathew Schillings, George D'Campo** and Mark Robson are recovering gradually. They solicit our prayers.

Fr. Joseph Kulandai preached a recollection to the Ursuline Sisters on Consecrated Life. **Fr. Xavier Savarimuthu** conducted a Triduum for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The AICUF organised the Ash Wednesday Mass for the college students.

-Frs. Joseph Kulandai & M.S.Arockiasamy

SXC RAGHABPUR CAMPUS

St. Xavier's College Raghapur Campus participated in the annual Sports of St. Xavier's College, Park Street on 7 February and won the third prize as the most attractive contingent in the departmental parade. Their theme was 'Education for all - 'sokoler jonnyo siksha'. The students also participated in the events of 100 meter run for men and women, 400 meters relay for men and won prizes.

The students also enjoyed and participated in the events of Xavotsav (23-25 January), and Xavollash (21-22 February). In Xavollash, the students won third prize in the quiz contest and participated in the dance competition. On 21 February, the students of Raghapur Campus walked in the historic rally called 'Samhati' with the students of Dhaka University to celebrate 'Bhasa Dibosh'. The next day of Xavollash was celebrated at the Raghapur Campus and the students participated in the inter-college competitions with the students of St. Xavier's College, Park Street, Ashutosh College, and Shymaprasad College.

Apart from these cultural activities, the college is also planning to give students a number of vocational training which will help them to achieve financial independence. On 7 February, the Principal, **Fr. Felix Raj**, held a meeting with the teaching staff of the Raghapur Campus. Others present at the meeting were **Fr. Dominic Savio, Fr. Joseph Raj** and **Prof. Ashis Mitra**. The teaching staff of St. Xavier's College, Raghapur Campus, gave suggestions for a counseling

cell for the girl students, skill based training like pisciculture, hardware training, mobile repairing, and primary teacher's training etc. The faculties from the Commerce Department proposed to have remedial classes and Prof. Ashis Mitra gave his suggestions for a foundation course. Fr. Principal proposed to have a Community College in Raghapur.

On 17 February, **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, Provincial, visited the Raghapur Campus of St. Xavier's College and met the students and the staff. The Parish Priest of Raghapur, **Fr. Patrick Walsh**, was also present. Fr. Veluswamy through his inspiring speech enlightened the students regarding the importance of education and how to serve the nation. Fr. Patrick Walsh and Fr. Joseph Raj also gave motivational lectures to the students. The teachers shared their experience with Fr. Provincial.

-Dr. Tinni Goswami

ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, MANGALORE

Life in St. Aloysius College has been amazing. We had a wonderful Christmas celebration. I feel blessed and lucky to be here. The classes have been in full swing along with many extracurricular activities. The semester is almost coming to an end. The days are quite busy with studies.

I was extremely happy to be visited by **Fr. Provincial** on 5 February. He spent a couple of fruitful days over here. It was a time of blessing. **Fr. John Rogers**, our PCF, visited me in Mangalore on the 21- 22 February. We are presently preparing for our college day celebration to be followed by the end semester exams.

-Sch. Rakesh Mondol

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

On 11 February, we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes solemnly together with our neighbors. The celebration culminated with the solemn candle-lit rosary procession. Our celebration in the evening brought all the more joy to us as many of our Fathers from different Provinces, who came to Chennai for a meeting, joined us in the procession. The same evening, I was happy to meet two of our Province men, **Frs. Mourlin** and **Salvator**. On 12 February, the community welcomed our PCF, **Fr. John Rogerse**. As I am the only man from our Province, I had enough time to talk with him.

On the academic side, we the second year philosophers are fully occupied with our dissertations, expositions and completing other given assignments. The first years are also busy preparing for their second internal exams.

-Sch. Fuljames Dungdung

GONE TO THEIR REST

Br. Geo Pulickal (DEL, 62/41) on 04.02.15
Sch. Johna Karaiba (KHM, 25/06) on 09.02.15.
Br. Michael Thannivelil (KER, 67/47) on 09.02.15
Bishop Thomas Bhalerao (PUN, 82/63) on 13.02.15
Fr. Agnelo Pinto (GOA, 75/60) on 03.03.15