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No 2

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

February ~ 2020

### *From Provincial's Desk*

A lot has been written and said about the recent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC), and National Population Register (NPR). There have been many contradictory statements by politicians and even by some eminent journalists. In most cases they smack of either selective understanding based on what they wish to convey or not to convey.

But the fact of the matter is that the statements of many leaders and of those who follow them have lost sight of the fundamental principles of our Constitution. The language used by a number of responsible leaders is very exclusive.



Archbishop Soosapakiam rightly says, "The Constitution includes the basics of the Gospel and hence it is the duty of every believer to protect it." Yes, our Constitution is a sacred text written with the blood of innumerable martyrs who transcended the barriers of caste, religion, region, ethnicity and language. In the context of innumerable protests, I hope sense will prevail over our leaders to consider peaceful reconciliation of conflicting interests, healthy public discourse, and respect for dissenting views at the heart of democracy.

#### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

##### February 2020

- 01 - Meeting of Education Commission
- 04 - SASAC Meeting at Chimney
- 08 - Province Consult
- 12 - Young Priests' Meeting
- 13-14 - JEPASA Meeting
- 19 - GB Meeting of LCE
- 21-29 - JCSA Meeting at Godavari, Nepal

##### March 2020

- 01- 05 Fr General's visit
- 05 - Leave for Kohima for Jubilee
- 09 - Return to Matigara

#### PROVINCIAL'S APPOINTMENTS

- Fr Nicholas Christuraj: Nepal
- Fr Dennis Soosai: PhD, Loyola College, Chennai
- Sch. Ashish Soy: B.A (HINDI), St Xavier's, Ranchi

- Sch. Amit Kullu: B.A (GEO) SJC, North Point
- Sch. Romiyo Anthony: BSc (CHE), SJC, Bangalore
- Sch. Kuldeep Topno: B.A (SOC), St Xavier's, Ahmedabad
- Sch. Lawrence Mudiappan: Philosophy, Satyanilayam, Chennai
- Sch. Arif Beck: Philosophy, Satyanilayam, Chennai
- Sch. Prabhu Bengra: Philosophy, JDV, Pune
- Sch. Barnabas Hembrom: Philosophy, JDV, Pune
- Sch. Gorak Rudum: Regency Year 1, Nepal
- Sch. Evan Basnet: Regency Year 1, Pre-novitiate, Matigara
- Sch. Reuell Paul: Regency Year 1, St Vincent's School, Hatighisa
- Sch. Sujit Minj: Regency Year 1, St Peter's H.S. School, Gayaganga
- Sch. Pankaj Kerketta: Regency Year 2, St Joseph's School, Mungpoo
- Sch. David Donald Minj: Regency Year 2, St Joseph's School, North Point
- Sch. David Ekka: Theology, Regis College, Canada
- Sch. Roshan Topno: M.A. (ENG), St Joseph's College, Bangalore

### ST PAUL'S CHURCH, KURSEONG

To make Christmas a meaningful experience of sharing, the *Nari Sangh* set up a gift stall to distribute clothes, kitchen utensils, footwear to the poor and the needy. The *Nari Sangh* pooled their resources and bought some of the materials and others were given by some kind individuals. Each person who came to the stall could take home for free any one item. Six-hundred individuals benefited from it. **Mrs Jennifer George Lepcha** was the person behind this novel way of distributing Christmas gifts. **Mr Sudhir Bhitrikoty** prepared a PowerPoint presentation remembering with gratitude the past year and especially all parishioners who died in the year 2019. It was shown to all the parishioners on 31 December. The youth went for a picnic to Singla on 12 January. Seventy of our parishioners participated in an anti NRC, CAA and NPR rally in Darjeeling on 22 January. In order to encourage the youth of the parish, videos are being produced on three *bhajans* taken from the album *Timro Charanma* brought out by St Paul's, Kurseong in 2016.

*Fr Peter Jong Lepcha, SJ*

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

The Winter Camp for 2020 began on 2 January at NP with the help of a few generous teachers and student volunteers. There are about five hundred students enthusiastically taking part in the camp. There was a medical camp on 26 January for the students of the camp and their parents. The students who went for an Exchange Programme with Singhania School, Mumbai returned after ten days on 20 January. The team was accompanied by **Fr Anuranjan**. **Fr K L George** and **Fr Pramod Dabhi** returned to the community after their home visit on 20 and 16 January respectively. **Fr Leo** attended a meeting of 'The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India' from 3-7 January in Kolkata.

*Fr Leo Raj, SJ*

### ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

The parish celebrated **Fr Peter Pappu's** Golden Jubilee of joining Religious life in a grand manner on 5 January. **Fr Simon Kerketta** was the acting Parish Priest from 9-30 January during the absence of **Fr Peter Pappu** who went for a visit home. **Fr Amrit Rai, SJ**, the Regional Superior of Nepal visited the community on 21 January.

St Peter's primary and high schools reopened on 6 January after a brief Christmas break. The Primary School staff went for their annual picnic to Upper Dudhiya on 22 January.

The High School reopened on 5 January with the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of the entire school building. **Fr A. Xavier**, from NBSXC conducted a meaningful orientation programme for the staff. The annual staff picnic on the banks of Balason river close to Panighatta was a relaxing time for all. Annual sports day was on 22 January. **Mr Rajib Pramanik**, the District Inspector of Schools, Siliguri was the Chief Guest of this mega event while **Sr Sherly FCC** graced the occasion as a guest of honour. The local newspapers

gave due coverage to the event. St Peter's higher secondary school stood second in the Science Exhibition held at North Bengal Science Centre in which over 69 models were displayed by various CBSE, ICSE and State Board Schools and Colleges of North Bengal. The school celebrated the 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day of India with much fanfare. It was a joint venture by five schools in the campus. Nearly 5000 students participated in the parade, drills and dances. Many parents and the general public also witnessed the events. **Mr Sujit Lama**, the Officer-in-Charge of Goshpukhur Police Station was the Chief Guest and **Mr Debarghya Guha**, Manager of Gayaganga Tea estate was a guest of honor.

*Sch David Donald Minj*

### ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

New Year as well as the *Parivar Diwas* was celebrated on 1 January. The main celebrant **Fr Roshan Kiro** inspired the couples present with his inspiring sermon. On 3 January the community celebrated **Fr Lawrence's** birthday. **Fr Pascal** went home on 9 January to be with his aging mother for a few days. **Fr Alvin Minj** joined the community on 16 January. He was officially welcomed on 26 January in the parish as well as in the community. The Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated in the School on 10 January. The main celebrant was **Fr Lawrence**. The annual sports day as well as Republic day was celebrated on 26 January. The celebrations began with the Holy Mass offered by **Fr Pascal Ekka**. The Chief Guest for the day was **Mr S.N. Chatterjee**, visiting Lecturer of North Bengal University & the Director of Finance & Marketing, West Bengal Tea Development Corporation, Siliguri. The staff went for a picnic to Dipukhola on 22 January. The hostellers also went to Dipukhola for their picnic on 30 January. **Sch Raja**, with the help of the hostel boys, cultivates an organic and self-sufficient vegetable garden in the hostel premises. This project positively energizes the students to study better. It is interesting to note that more students want to stay in the hostel. We have to restrict the numbers due to lack of space in the hostel.

*Sch. Rajasekar*

### NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

The New Year began with some significant changes in the College. **Fr Deven Yonzon** took over as the new College bursar. **Br Bronney Chettri** took charge as the new Estate Manager. **Mr Asim Mitra**, one of the senior members of the department of Commerce and Management became the first Vice-Principal at the Siliguri Campus of the College. We place on record our gratitude to **Fr Gabriel Tirkey** who shouldered the responsibility of the College bursar (besides being the community Superior) and **Fr Ajay Raj Lakra** who was In-Charge of the Siliguri Campus for two and half years apart from working initially as Estate Manager of the college and Asst. Hostel warden for six months. The College also remains indebted to **Dr Arindam Metia** who left the College and joined Raiganj University. He taught at the College for twelve years and was the Dean of Students and HOD of Commerce Dept.

Keeping in mind the atmosphere currently prevailing in the country, the College organised a program on the theme of National Integration, wherein many stalls were prepared displaying artefacts and food items from different states and a variety of dances were presented. **Dr Shankar Roy**, the MP of Jalpaiguri constituency graced the occasion and gave an inspiring speech. On 27 and 28 January the College celebrated its cultural fest 'X-travaganza' with gusto. **Fr Edu Arockiaraj** was the external judge on the first day. Our College band and Siliguri based 'Zero Hour' band entertained the audience on the second day.

**Fr Gabriel**, the community superior, after suffering recurrently from physical ailments, had to be taken to Bengaluru for a proper diagnosis and treatment by **Fr Victor**, the Province Treasurer. He is still undergoing check-ups at the time of reporting. **Sch. Arvind Bhengra** has been staying with us for a fortnight, honing his legal skills by undergoing a short internship at Jalpaiguri District Court.

*Fr Lalit*

### UTTAR SALBARI

**Fr Victor Pitchai**, the Province Treasurer was with us on the last day of 2019 and on the first day of 2020! Ninety-seven Krusveer children of the parish went for a picnic on 23 January accompanied by **Fr Bosco**, **Fr Bijay Kindo**, **Sr Bertha**, **SABS** and the animators. Forty-seven youth of the parish went for a picnic on 27 January accompanied by **Fr Bijay Kindo** and **Fr Bosco**. The Bible Sunday was celebrated in the Parish on 26 January. Each one in the church read the day's Gospel reading from their own copy of the Bible.

The outgoing students of the school were given farewell on 25 January. The Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January. **Mrs Bhagyashree Oraon**, the local Pradhan and an alumna of the school was the Chief Guest.

**Fr Basil** attended a meeting of the North Zone Jesuits involved in ecological issues from 28-29 January. **Fr Sebastian Minj** has been busy getting the papers ready for upgrading the School to Higher Secondary. **Fr Bijay Kindo** directed the diaconate retreat of **Bro Niranjan Tirkey** of Jalpaiguri diocese from 25 to 31 January.

*Fr Basil*

### MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE

**Fr John Wilfred Lobo**, the Provincial, made his annual visit to Manresa on 26 November 2019. He also interacted with the novices for about an hour. He came back to address us again with *Memoriale* of the visit 3 December on the feast day of St Francis Xavier. He celebrated the feast day Mass in the evening. All the Jesuits working in Kalimpong joined us for the festive meal.

The novices had an outing to Darjeeling. They were accompanied by **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the socius. **Fr Shaji**

**Joseph**, the director of novices, attended a meeting of the Province Formation Commission on 8 December and **Fr Roshan** attended a meeting of young priests of the Province on 10 December at Matigara. The co-workers had a picnic on 12 December. **Br Francis Basumatary** accompanied them.

We celebrated Christmas warmly and experienced the silence of the night, when our Lord was born. We kept a vigil ending with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at midnight and welcomed the New Year 2020. **Br Francis** celebrated his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday on 2 January. The Jesuits working in Kalimpong as well as **Fr Jayantilal Patel** joined us for a delicious meal. On the same day **Fr Amid Kujur** joined us. He will be the acting Minister of the community until **Br Gabriel** joins us in April.

On 6 January, the first-year novices went for their village experiment. Two of them went to Sittong and three to Sakyong. On the same day, **Sr Bernadette Lepcha, IBVM**, came to make her eight-day retreat under the guidance of **Fr Master**. On 14 January, **Fr Master** left for Kerala. **Fr Socius** visited two of the first-year novices at Sittong on 23 January. He also visited the other three on 25 January at Sakyong.

*Novice Earnest Kharbani*

### PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

After a period of excitement and fun during the College Cultural Fest, Christmas and the New Year, we are now set for serious preparations for the examinations. We bid farewell to our superior **Fr Shekhar Manickam SJ** who has been appointed as a Regional Secretary, General Curia, Rome. We are awaiting the arrival of our new superior **Fr James Savarimuthu SJ**.

*Schs. Arif, Valerian, and Ealio*

### REGIS COMMUNITY, TORONTO

We had a day of Community Discernment on 17 December soon after our final exams. We spent the day reflecting and discussing how our community life could be improved. On 26 December 2019, I went to New York along with three other scholastics. It was a good Christmas break after the Fall Semester.

We had our annual Triduum from 2-5 January at Guelph. The theme for the Triduum was "To Know Jesus More Intimately, So As To Love Him More Deeply." It was just right before our Winter Semester which began on 6 January with full enthusiasm and vigor.

Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) organized a Memorial Service for **Fr William Bourke** at Rene Goupil House in Pickering, Toronto on 19 January. Fr Bourke's sister, nieces and nephews along with relatives and friends were present for the ceremony. The main celebrant of the Mass was **Fr JP Horrigan**. We honored the family members of Fr Bourke with "Khadas".

*Sch. Oshish Tirkey*



### INIGO SADAN, BANGALORE

Winter vacation was short and sweet. We visited a couple of tourist attractions in Bangalore, 'Rock Garden' and 'Tibetan Colony'. The New Year celebrations were indeed very special. **Sch. Arbind** went to the Province for vacation cum internship. Life in the community is sailing smoothly.

*Sch. Ramhorchan*

### VINAYALAYA, MUMBAI

All the juniors had a wonderful opportunity to visit the neighboring religious institutions where the poor and the neglected are looked after, praying and singing carols. We attended the Ordination ceremony of two Jesuits at Manickpur, Vasai on 28 December. We had a Triduum guided by **Fr Jerome D'Souza, SJ**. His talks focused on the Vows. It was a spiritually energizing experience for all of us. We are now busy with our assignments and regular classes along with preparing for the Assistancy level examinations.

*Schs. Amit and Lawrence SJ*

### SATYANILAYAM, CHENNAI

**Sch. Reuell Paul** presented a paper 'Stories as Philosophies - Lepcha Phronesis and Mythic Mountain', in Satya Nilayam Research Institute (SNRI) on 13 December. A philosophizing session was held on 'CAA: Issues and Implications' by **Prof. Bernard D' Sami** on 20 December. **Schs. Rajan and Francis** along with other Scholastics went to IIT Madras for singing carols. A Human Excellence program was given to the Scholastics by **Mr Felix Daly** on 3 January. On 10 January a philosophizing session was organized at Satya Nilayam on the issues regarding transgender. The main

speakers were **Jeeva Rangaraj**, a transgender activist and **Naleena Prasheetha**, a student from the department of Visual Communication, Loyola College. It was an eye-opening experience for us as they shared their personal struggles for rights and respect. On 11 January a creative prayer service was organized at Satya Nilayam in solidarity with those protesting against the recently enacted Citizenship Amendment Act. We wore our cassocks and took a procession reciting the rosary and holding placards rejecting CAA and upholding the Constitution of India. After the rosary, a short street play was performed, followed by adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. A good number of like-minded people and people of goodwill from outside Satyanilayam participated in it. The entire program was streamed live in the social media. We were privileged to have **Sch. Arbind Ekka** (currently pursuing B.A.L.L.B.) among us for three days. Pongal was celebrated in the community on 15 January. The preparations for the internal tests and assignments kept all of us busy after the Pongal celebrations.

*Sch. Christ Rajan Minj, SJ*

### CLIVE'S HOUSE, TRICHY

**Sch. Vinod** went to a mission station in the diocese of Ooty for Christmas ministry while **Fr Alphonse** went to Bangalore to celebrate the Christmas Mass with the students from North East India. Pongal was celebrated in the college on 9 January. It was a wonderful experience for us to see the cultural dances and various exhibitions on different tribes of Tamilnadu. We had three memorable days of community building activities. We went to **Fr Peter Pappu's** house on the occasion of his family celebrating the Golden Jubilee his religious life. We are now busy preparing for the mid-semester examinations.

*Sch. Vinod Kerketta*

### DHYAN ASHRAM, KOLKATA

We had our Triduum from 1-3 January directed by **Fr Anmol, SJ**. **Fr Etienne Degrez SJ** taught us a course on the charism of the Society of Jesus from 6-12 of January. We participated in a rally against CAA and NRC on 20 January. We began from St Paul's Cathedral and ended at Dharmatala. It was a unique experience for all of us.

*Sch. Romiya*

### REST IN PEACE

**Br Pascoal Colaco, SJ (BOM)** 78/55 30 December, 2019

**Fr Errol D'Lima, SJ (BOM)** 77/61 05 January, 2020.

**Br Arockiasamy Sebastian, SJ (MDU)** 72/52 19 January 2020

**Fr Thomas Pullenkav, SJ (CCU)** 80/37 20 January 2020

**Fr Lankapalli Prasad, SJ (AND)** 34/53 27 January 2020

**Note:** The Senior Home, Matigara is available for the Clergy and the Religious for making personal or group retreat.