

# Himdhvani

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Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits - July~2021

## *From the Provincial's Desk*

During his long recovery, Ignatius found God in a new and profound way. He recognized the errors of his sinful past. He had been a true man of the world with ambition for glory and fame, with passion to serve the powers of the day, with an eye for the women he met and impressed. He now turned his energy toward serving God as the saints had done in centuries past. He began to put his journey at the service of others, to lead others to find the consolation of God's ways as he had found it.



Great things came from Ignatius' shattered leg. He found his God for himself and then gathered others to share his experience. He attracted a band of young men to join his mission of proclaiming Jesus to his world. They preached, they guided souls, they founded schools that changed the shape of Education in Europe and later around the world.

As we prepare ourselves for the feast of St Ignatius on 31 July 2021, let us reflect on our own canon shot that has shattered us. In that shattering shot, have we experienced a sudden call, an urgent need to change, to reach out, to speak an uncomfortable truth? When have we broken through our complacency? What has urged us to move off in a new direction? How have we responded to that urge? The cannonballs are works of His love. Ignatius found new life in his near death. Let us find that new life, new apostolic enthusiasm and missionary zeal inside ourselves, more quietly, more peacefully, but no less deeply as we seek to know His ways.

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM –JULY 2021

02-	Ignatian Year – a follow-up Meeting
03-	Vocation Promotion Meeting
04-	Visit to Uttar Salbari with Engineer
06-07	Provincials' Meeting – North Zone
12-13	Visitation: Sakyong
14-	Visitation: Gandhi Ashram and 5th Mile
15-16	Visitation: Manresa Jesuit Novitiate
19-20	Visitation: Alipurduar
21-	SATS Virtual Meeting at 4 p.m - PJR
25-27	Visitation: Uttar Salbari
28-	Province Consult
31-	Feast of St Ignatius - PJR

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

After pre-qualifying for the NAAC assessment, earnest preparations have started for the final stage which is Peer Team visit to the college scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> week of July, unless the pandemic once again plays a spoilsport. Staff members go to the college on alternative days to get things ready. Earlier in the month we had our Internal Assessment Test for students of all semesters. The Dean of Students **Ms**

**Nitya Rai** successfully conducted online election of Class Representatives (CRs) followed by the election of Student Council Office Bearers. **Ms Nitya Rai** and Cultural Committee coordinator **Ms Soumya Mitra** are determined to organize a Farewell for the Final Year students. With many applicants and their parents frantically calling to enquire about admissions, we have opened Provisional Enrolment window in our college website for new applicants to book their seats; already more than a hundred have provisionally enrolled themselves though admission dates are yet to be announced. On 14 June, as a Covid Response, College organised a day's event in Jalpaiguri Town when 150 households of Covid-recovered or weakened by various illnesses were provided with dry ration and some basic medicines while at the same time giving basic health check-up including BP checks and oxygen saturation using Pulse Oximeters. Earlier, **Frs Bijay Kindo, Lalit Tirkey and Sch. Anup Minj**, apart from creating awareness and pasting posters on Covid-19, also distributed sanitisers and masks in Balaigachh, Kheripara, Jamurivita and Shikarpur tea garden besides sanitising the public places. We place on record our gratitude to our sponsors for supporting us in our Covid outreach programme through the Province Curia.



Fr Lobo, our Provincial spent a day and half with the community, the first half of the second day we celebrated his birthday in the morning. Sch. Roshan Castilino (Dum) has returned to the hostel only to collect his belongings as he is sure to graduate his studies online!

*Fr Lalit P. Tenbey*

### WERY NIWAS, KURSEONG

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, Andrew Lepcha of Mahanadi who died of post covid complication was given funeral service with the full covid protocol. On 4<sup>th</sup> Senior citizens of our parish and of Anjuman Mia Islamia who had not taken covid vaccine were vaccinated with the coordination of the Task Force of the parish and Anjuman Mia Islamia with the approval of Kurseong SDO. On 6<sup>th</sup> the Task Force went to Ambootia tea estate to distribute medicine. On 7<sup>th</sup> a help desk was started in the parish to help covid patients and their families. On 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sr Apolonia AC and Sr Sally FC were given farewell by Catholic Association in their respective convents as they were transferred from Kursoeong. On 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Wery Niwas community had the monthly recollection



led by Fr. Patrick Bhutia where the Jesuits who died of Covid were prayed for and Fr. Mangal was fondly remembered.

*Fr Peter Jong Lepcha*

### HUMAN LIFE DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH CENTRE (HLDRC), MATIGARA

We are proud to share the good news that 22 out of 24 students who completed Hardware Training got the placement and two students opted to work in educational institutions. Congrats to Mr. Sandeep Lakra, Computer Hardware teacher and other support staff who mentored the students very well with 95% job placement record.

Students of Retail Management have finished their training under the mentorship of Mrs. Menuka Pradhan and they are preparing for their final exam and Job placement opportunities in North Bengal. We wish them good success in their exam and good luck to join the job sectors thereafter.

HLDRC through Lok Manch and in collaboration with several NGOs and Church organizations covered 70 tea gardens across Terai and Dooars region with pandemic health awareness programs. People's entitlements like ration are disseminated through digital and print media social platforms. The response is tremendous.

Fr. Pascal with his HLDRC team connects most of the 120 women SHGs through digital campaign and train people in managing micro groups reaching out to 1200 direct mobile users. Through this women empowerment is taking place at the micro level. The program was extended to children's study centres in 35 tea gardens as well.

The social networks also continue to provide dry food packets to the Covid positive families with the help of some NGOs. Thanks to the generous support of SOS INDIA,



HLDRC has also started children's Nutrition Program in tea gardens to improve the health of the malnourished children. Seeing the deep economic and health crisis in this region, Fr. Pascal, one of the core members of XLRI-Lok Manch covid response team, has strengthened skills training program for the youth in collaboration with ASHA Partnership. Healthcare for the poor, Nutrition and educational program for the poor children who are out of mainstream education system because of online classes and are also deprived of food served in ICDS and junior school premises due to lockdown are the proposed programs in progress with XLRI-Lok Manch.

*Fr Pascal Xalro*

### MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

After our sojourn of 20 days in Matigara, the Novitiate family returned to Manresa on 28<sup>th</sup> May with the exception of Fr Shaji Joseph, the Director of Novices. The community has strictly undertaken the guidelines and protocols of the Covid-19. All the novices had an online prayer session on 2<sup>nd</sup> of



June since we could not participate in the inaugural session on 20th May. We took the assistance of Youtube and it was organised by **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the Socius. The message from Pope Francis was very relevant to our life in the Novitiate. The Pope says, "No one saves himself, we are either saved together or we are not saved." Due to continuous and heavy rain this month two gigantic trees were uprooted in the campus, but by God's grace, we did not have any destruction.

**Fr Shaji** joined the community on 4th June. The preparation for the Vows began earnestly with the retreat. We started vows retreat for the Second Year novices and the annual retreat for the First Year novices on 6th June. This year **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the Socius, guided us to experience the core grace of our life. We concluded our retreat on 14th June.

On 15th June, we celebrated the birthday of **Fr Shaji**. We had the celebration observing the Covid rules and we were joined by the dispersed community members. Then we plunged into getting ready for the Vows Day



by beautifying the surroundings. On 21st June, three second year novices: **Ashish Basumatary**, **Sanchilit Dungdung** (RAN) and **Sushant Xalxo** (RAN) pronounced their first vows in the Society of Jesus. **Fr John Wilfred Lobo**, the Provincial and **Fr Xavier Alangaram**, the Socius to the Provincial, arrived on 20th. Two other consultants, **Fr Gabriel Turkey** and **Fr Cherian Maliekal**, and **Fr Zacheus Dungdung** and the dispersed community members joined us in the celebration on 21st June. Soon after the Vows ceremony, we had a sumptuous meal under the able leadership of **Br Gabriel Gurung**, the minister. Five first year novices (3 for Darjeeling and 2 for Nepal) joined the Novitiate community. They are in the first probation accompanied by **Fr Socius**. **Br Gabriel Gurung**, the minister, has been providing us with delicious and healthy meals. As a result, everyone of us is enjoying good health.

*Novice Anurag Toppo*

### LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

Fr Cherian Padiyara SJ, the Superior, animated a community recollection by giving a talk on the theme 'Ignatian Experience of the Holy Trinity' as part of the Ignatian year activities of the community on 29th May 2021. The

management of the college organized a workshop on developing psycho social skills to deal with Covid – 19, in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, for the faculty and students on 12th June 2021. The purpose was to inculcate in the faculty and students the values of psycho social support to Covid 19 Pandemic situations.

Sikkim University published the results of 1st and 3rd Semester examinations on 18.6.2021. the majority of the students have scored above 80%. Congratulations to the Faculty and students! The College and hostels remain closed till 31st July 2021 as per the notification of the department of Education, Government of Sikkim; however online classes and practice teaching are in progress.

*Fr Francis George*

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

St Joseph's School is on a summer break for 10 days after having the online live streaming of classes and exams for the first semester. The second semester classes will resume from 30th June. We have a new Nepali teacher appointed for the middle school who will start teaching from the second semester. We had an online interview for the post of Hindi High School teacher. We planted 700 saplings in the school campus as part of the Ignatian Year monthly programme. On 21st June we had a virtual school staff meeting on the 6th Pay Commission which was chaired by **Fr Rector**.

The Jesuits of the school community along with the college community Jesuits are involved in 'Sursum Corda Covid – 19 Relief and Care Centre' which is placed for 2 months at St Joseph's college premises. We have two new community members, **Sch Evan** for his regency at the school and **Sch. Binod** for his studies at the college. **Schs. Evan, Amit and Binod** are involved in the Parish ministry at Lepcha Busty, mentoring the youth and Crusvir children and giving them catechism classes. The school community members along with the dispersed community members had a day of online recollection on 19 June, preached by **Fr Justin Thiraveyam**.

*Fr Anuranjan*

### JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

The second wave of COVID has brought negative impact on the people. Some have to struggle for their survival due to the lockdown and the poor couldn't earn their daily bread. On 1st and 10th June Jesu Ashram team went to two villages and provided dry food materials to 17 families. We also distributed 4 oxygen cylinders to the Covid patients who returned from Covid treatment to their home. They are still in use in the villages. People in the villages are suffering from various illness, yet they do not like to go to doctors for a checkup. They prefer to remain at home and treat themselves with self-medication. Jesu Ashram sent simple medicines and vitamin tablets to the villages through our nurses.

Jesu Ashram completed 49 years of service to the poor and destitute sick, on 14th June 2021 and has stepped into the

golden Jubilee year. On this occasion to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> year of service, Fr. Provincial Fr. John Wilfred Lobo blessed the foundation of a building for a **Dispensary and General Health and social Service for Jesu Ashram Hospice**, for the better service of the poor and destitute. This project is sponsored by **Novara Centre Onlus and SOS India**. In this structure there will be facilities for the handicapped, Laboratory, dispensary, Kitchen and cooking gas for patients



and staff and nursing students, laundry rooms, and rooms for serving staff. The Jesu Ashram family expresses heartfelt gratitude to Novara Centre and SOS India for enhancing the facilities of Jesu Ashram for the service of the poor.

### ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

The community bid farewell to **Sch. Reuell Paul** on 5<sup>th</sup> June and wished him luck as he leaves for his further studies. With God's providence, Sch. Gorak Rudum was able to cross the border on 18<sup>th</sup> June and joined the community. He keeps himself busy by cataloging the library and inventory of the school. To keep the students in touch with their studies, online classes are held in full swing. The marks of the first term examination have been published. The school has started the distribution of the application forms for provisional admission to class XI.

The construction of new washrooms for the Primary section is in progress. We thank **BNL** and **Mrs. Patrizia Bianconi, SOS India** for sponsoring this project. The community is ever grateful to them. **Fr Alex Beck** keeps himself busy visiting the sick, old and suffering. This is the time that they need us the most. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** animated all the Terai community meeting to discuss our response to the prevailing Covid situation on June 25. He is also attending JES Global Colloquium 2021 which began on June 28 and which ends on July 2. We planted 300 betel nut saplings and 60 black pepper plants in the campus. **Fr Alvin Minj**, along with some generous youth of our parish, is beautifying the campus with flowers and hedges. The Community made the Annual retreat preached by **Fr Lawrence**.

*Sch. GorakRudum*

### JESUIT NIVAS, BANGALORE

**Sch. Roshan** took the first dose of covi-shield vaccine on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Jesuit Nivas community had an enriching faith sharing on 9<sup>th</sup> May and also evaluated the community life. Jesuit community kicked off the Ignatian year with a solemn Mass in the morning celebrated by **Fr Sunil Fernandes** on 20<sup>th</sup> May. The community is happy to welcome **Sch. Gerry Myrthong** from Kohima on 31<sup>st</sup> May. **Fr Charles Lasrado** took over the Principalship of St. Joseph's Commerce College from Fr. Daniel Fernandes. The community is blessed and happy to welcome all the new members of the community on 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Frs Jerald D'Souza, Roshan Pereira, Charles Lasrado, Vishal D'Souza, and Schs. Austin Rodrigues and Gerry Myrthong. Besides these, three more are yet to join the community. They are Frs. Roshan Lobo, Oswald Mascarenhas and Arun Panackal (DEL). Fr Melvin Lobo handed over the SJPU charge to Fr. Roshan Pereira on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Fr Vishal D'Souza also took charge as the House Minister and Administrator of St. Joseph's Boys High School on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Sch. Roshan starts his 2<sup>nd</sup> semester exam from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The community has become livelier with the addition of new members.

*Sch. Roshan Gyan Topno*

### MANRESA HOUSE, RANCHI

On 29<sup>th</sup> of May we bid adieu to three fathers and scholastics. On the 5<sup>th</sup> June we began our annual retreat. Since we were a big group we were divided into two groups with 30 members each. The retreat was guided by **Frs Bipin Lugun and Edwin Dang**. On 12<sup>th</sup> June **Br Felix Prakash Tete SJ** breathed his last. On 13<sup>th</sup> June we ended our retreat with Eucharistic celebration and renewed our vows. On 17<sup>th</sup> June XISS alumni had arranged vaccination for all the religious, staff and students. Manresa scholastics were obliged to take the vaccine. On 19<sup>th</sup> June we warmly welcomed the new community members, **Fr Ajit Soheng** (Asst Dean), **Fr Ajit Saras** (Minor Seminary Director), and **Sch. Amrit Toppo** (Regent). On 20<sup>th</sup> June all the outgoing scholastics shared their three years of rich experience which was very inspiring and enriching. On 21<sup>st</sup> June we celebrated the feast of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga. The Community fathers and few scholastics attended the first profession of the novices at Navsadhna Novitiate, Namkum.

*Sch Ashish Soy*

### Rest in Peace

**Fr. Ignatius Gyan Hembrom (HAZ)** (51/28) 1<sup>st</sup> June  
**Fr. Anton Weerasinghe (SRI)** (61/82) 9<sup>th</sup> June  
**Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi (SRI)** (81/63) 16<sup>th</sup> June  
**Br Francis Basumatary (DAR)** (68/35) 29<sup>th</sup> June  
**Mr Arulandu (82)**, Fr Bosco Michael's father died on 30<sup>th</sup> June

