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No 8

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

October-November ~ 2019

From the Provincial's Desk

November 5th is the feast of all Jesuit Saints and Blessed. This day, the whole Society of Jesus remembers the countless Jesuits who lived wholeheartedly for the greater glory of God. This day we give thanks to God for the lives of those countless men who humbly sought God in all things. They were icons of radical freedom. They found love and truth in Jesus Christ and in His Church. The feast invites us to share in the radical freedom they experienced. As we celebrate the feast, let us not hide behind our own attachments and compulsions but look at our Saints and Blessed sensing in them their liberty which beckons us out of our own imprisonment. The prayer of St Ignatius, "Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me," underpins our own self-offering. Let this prayer remind us to be companions of all our Saints and Blessed, sharing their joys and sorrows and delving deeper into the mystery of God's love.



Provincial's Program

NOVEMBER 2019

- 12 Jubilee Celebration – Siliguri
- 14 Community Meeting and Mass – Rajganj
- 16 Community Meeting and Mass – Alipurduar
- 19 Jubilee Celebration – Kurseong
- 21 GAS Community Meeting and Mass – Kalimpong

Workshop for Superiors

Fr R.C. Chacko conducted a three-day workshop for Superiors of Darjeeling Province and Nepal Region from 8-10 September, 2019.



Sitong Mission

The school staff went for an outing to Pokribong. The teaching staff attended a day and half seminar on basic skills on psychology with the NP school staff. The land of Sitong Mission has been registered in the name of Hayden Hall. Fr Immanuel attended a two-day SCC seminar at Divya Vani, Darjeeling. He gave a talk on Kerygma to the faithful of Darjeeling and Kurseong deanery.

Fr Hendricks Immanuel

Meeting of JEPASA Coordinators of South Asia

The curia hosted the annual meeting of JEPASA Coordinators of South Asian Conference from 18-22 September.

Blessing of Province Infirmary/Senior Home

Fr Provincial blessed and inaugurated the Province Infirmary/Senior Home on 2 October. On the same day thirty-one

Him Dhwani Notice: Please e-mail your news for HD to dar.socius@gmail.com by the 25th of every month.

Darjeeling and Nepal Jesuits began their annual retreat there under the guidance of **Fr Cherian Maliekal**.



Uttar Salbari

Fr Provincial was in the community for his annual visitation on 6 and 7 August. **Mr Bhattacharya**, the Manager of Mogulkata Tea Estate, was the Chief Guest for the Independence Day celebrations in our School. He was very much impressed by the Parade and the program. He had helped **Fr Peter Pappu** at the beginning of the mission and he was very impressed by its progress.

The School team participated in the 'Fr Brennan Football Cup tournament' organized by St Vincent de Paul School, Hatighisa. Our team lost in the semi-final.

Monica *Diwas* was celebrated as Mothers' Day in the Parish on 24 and 25 August. One hundred and ten mothers participated in the program. **Fr Bijay Kindo** gave an inspiring talk on privileges and duties of mothers. **Fr Ajay Lakra** was the main celebrant for the Mass on 25 August. Mothers from Totapara T.E. and Gandrapara T.E. got the joint first prize in the Bible quiz competition.

Fr Bijay Kindo gave a day of recollection for the Holy Cross Sisters at Binnaguri on 7 September. **Fr Basil** was in Chennai for treatment of his eyes in early September. **Fr Sanjeev Lakra** was very helpful to **Fr Basil** during his stay in Chennai.

Fr Lawrence Thanislaus, the new PCE, visited the community and the school from 21 to 23 September. He had a meeting with the community and the school staff separately. Congratulations to **Fr Bosco** for excellent results in 1st year B.Ed. exams.

Fr Basil Toppo

Inigo Sadan, Bangalore

We celebrated 'Karam' and 'World Indigenous Day' at Jigni Parish, Bangalore in collaboration with the Indian Social Institute (ISI) Bangalore. Many *adivasi* migrants in Bangalore attended it. We had a one-day outing to Mysore and it was an exhilarating moment for each one of us. Remember us in your prayers.

Sch. Ramhorchan

HLDRG-LPC-PJG

HLDRG organized the following seminars and programs in the month of September:

1. A seminar on PF and Pension for 90 leaders of Binaguri and Haldibari tea garden communities on 7 Sept. **Mr**

Lazrus Ekka was the resource person, ably supported by **Mr Bipin Kishore** and **Mr Basil Ekka**.

2. SHGs awareness and entrepreneurship development program for 75 women of Chengmari Tea garden on 15 Sept. **Miss Nishita Lakra** and **Miss Smriti Ekka** were the resource persons
3. Twenty-seven of our students came for a job placement interview by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on 20 Sept after completing 100 hours of intensive training at Carron in Nagrakata Block of Jalpaiguri district. Ten were selected to join the company. **Mr Durgadas Karmakar** an HLDRG staff from Dahmipur coordinated the program.
4. A Community Leaders Workshop was organized on 21 Sept at Udichi hall at Malbazar to strengthen the community action programs of 10 blocks in the Terai and the Dooars tea gardens. It was attended by eighty selected leaders who pledged to take forward minimum wages campaign in tea gardens under North Bengal Labour Rights campaign Forum (NBLRCF). **Miss Shanti Suman Tigga**, facilitated the program.

Fr Pascal was busy with the visit of the Lok Manch National team. It was a timely visit for strengthening advocacy on land-related and Food security issues with the community leaders. **Fr Tommy** completed another fifty-four houses for the poor and the destitute. **Fr Zack** continues to guide personal and group retreats at LPC. He was the Chief Guest for Diocese level Karam Feast at Mailanijote parish. **Fr Pascal**, **Fr Tommy** and **Fr Alvin** along with **Mrs Binita Mothay** from Hayden Hall and **Mr Basil Ekka** from HLDRG attended JESA Convention from 26-28 September in Delhi. Soon after this program **Fr Pascal** made his Eight Day Ignatian Retreat at the Senior Home in Matigara.

Fr Pascal ratxo

St Vincent's, Hatighisa

The community had a monthly recollection on 30 August. **Fr Lawrence** inspired us with his insights on Spiritual Exercises. **Fr Lawrence** attended a meeting of the heads of minority schools in Calcutta on 14 September. He visited Loyola School as the Province Co-ordinator for Education on 22 September. **Fr Alex** attended a three-day workshop for Superiors at Matigara. **Sch. Raja** had a day of recollection at Premanjali along with other scholastics on 14 September. **Fr Provincial** visited the community on 25 September for the *memoriale*. JEPASA coordinators of the South Asian Assistancy visited our mission on 22 Sept.

St Vincent's won the first prize for singing in the diocese level Karam festival held at Faudi Jote on 22 Sept. **Fr Ajay Raj Lakra** was the main celebrant for the Mass on the occasion of St Vincent de Paul and Karam feast on 29 Sept.

St Vincent's football team were the runners-up in the Bossaer's Cup football tournament 2019. The School celebrated the feast of St Vincent de Paul on 27 Sept. **Fr Alex** offered the holy Mass followed by a cultural program by students and a sumptuous lunch for all the teachers.

Work for the renovation of the Jesuit residence began on 22 Oct. thanks to the initiative of **Fr John Wilfred Lobo**, our Provincial **Fr Joe Victor**, the Treasurer and **Fr Alex**, the Superior of the community. **Fr Lawrence** gave a five-day retreat to two FC Sisters at Hatighisa. **Sch. Raja** attended the Province retreat which was held at Matigara from 2 to 10 October. Our school staff along with **Fr Lawrence** and **Sch. Raja** went for an educational tour to South India on 25 October. **Fr Alex** took the parish youth and Christ Teen groups separately for an outing to Darjeeling. Thanks to **Fr Binoy Lama**, **Fr Donatus**, and the members of St Joseph's college community for their hospitality.

Sch. Rajasekar Pilendran

Manresa Jesuit Novitiate

Fr Shaji attended the annual Novice Directors' Meeting at Ananda Jyoti, Andhra Pradesh. After returning to the Province he attended a workshop for Superiors at Matigara. The second year novices came back from their hospital experiment on 14 September from Jesu Ashram and M.C. Sisters' home in Takdah with enriching experiences. Deacons **Chrisbin** and **Samir Rai** of the Darjeeling diocese made their Diaconate retreat under the guidance of **Fr Roshan**. There was a grand celebration of **Fr Roshan's** birthday on 7 September. The novices went for an outing to St Xavier's parish in Sakyong and visited 'Crus dada' accompanied by the Novice Director and the Socius on 26 September. As a preparation for the long retreat the first years went for a pilgrimage on 3 October to St Mary's Grotto, Kurseong led by **Fr Roshan**.

We had a number of Jesuits coming to make their annual retreat here in Manresa: **Fr T V George** of Calcutta province, **Fr Nicholas Tete** of Ranchi province, **Frs Dennis & Lalit** of Darjeeling province and **Sch. Deepak** of Nepal Region. **Br Francis**, our minister came back on 11 October refreshed both physically and spiritually after his health check-up and annual retreat at Matigara. **Fr Roshan** went to Thimphu to make his annual retreat. We were very much blessed to listen to a talk by **Sr Sang Ock Gabriel Kim**, a Notre-Dame sister from South Korea, who shared about the origin and spread of Catholicism in South Korea and the prominent role played by the laity. Five first year novices are doing their long retreat. Three Second year brothers went to Hatighisa for mission experiment and two are looking after the house.

Samson Basumatary and Justin Kashung

St Peter's, Gayaganga

In view of 'Nirmal Bangla Mission' the whole school campus and surroundings were cleaned up by the students. Phansideva Health Organization conducted a free medical camp for all the higher secondary boys and girls. Much a waited surveillance cameras have been installed in the high school. The students of the High School participated in district level 'Science Exhibition Competition' and became first in Darjeeling district.

'Caritas India' conducted a seminar on 'United for Child protection and Go Green and Keep the Earth Clean' for the students and the teachers of the Primary School on 20 September. The students and teachers also planted trees on that day and went for a rally to create awareness on maintaining a clean and green environment. The staff of St Peter's Primary School went for a pilgrimage to South India

during the puja holidays and came back with rich experiences. There was a seminar organized by Seva Kendra (caritas India) on POCSO Act and Right to Education for the Primary School teachers on 18 October.



Teacher's day was celebrated in the parish also. This was an occasion to honour the teachers and to pray for them. The feast of Karam was celebrated meaningfully in the parish on 15 September. **Fr Peter Pappu** was engaged in organizing the annual meeting of JEPASA Coordinators of South Asia. They visited us on 22 September. A seminar was organized in the parish on 'Theology of the Body' for parish youth on 3 October. A three-day Charismatic retreat was held in the parish. The preachers were **Fr Raphael Lakra** and his team.

Fr Cherian Maliekal directed an eight-day retreat for Darjeeling Jesuits at Matigara.

Sch. David Donald Minz

St Joseph's School, North Point

This year the PD quiz team made us proud by winning the Inter-School PD Bill German Quiz on 7 September. **Fr Emma SJ** (MDU) was here on 13 and 14 to give a two-day orientation programme for the teachers on Basic Counselling skills in order to help themselves and to help the students. We were the runners-up in the Burns Inter-School Swimming competition held at DGH. North Point conducted the First Edition of **Br Eric Memorial Quiz** where 37 schools participated and our quiz team won the final in style. **Prof Arulmani** from St Joseph's College, Bangalore was the quiz master for the event.

The NP athletics team ended the year on high by winning the 2019 athletics meet held at St Augustine's, Kalimpong. The win is so special that one of the senior boys broke the record in 1500 meters, which was held from 1971 by a DGH boy. On 21 October three companies namely: IAS, IELTS and Global Reach conducted a half a day seminar for the classes X and XII boys on Career Guidance. On 22 October the NP Book club organized a Book Exhibition in the Library, which was well appreciated by all. **Fr Leo SJ** went to Delhi to attend a meeting on POCSO organized by the Assistency and on 25 October, **Fr K L George** joined him to attend the National Seminar-cum-Workshop on Educational Rights of Minorities organized by ISI, Delhi.

Fr Leo

St Joseph's College, Darjeeling

For the second consecutive year, the College women's team were runners-up in the Harkamaya Open Football Tournament held in Darjeeling. The Department of Nepali organized Rupnarayan inter-college debate competition on 'Communication has become the source of positive thinking' on 21 September. Students of St Joseph's were adjudged the best competitors. A workshop on Cyber Security was organised by the Dept of Computer Science and Applications in collaboration with Indian School of Ethical Hacking on 26 September. The Department of Mathematics organised a talk by Prof. Manoranjan Singha on "Kuratouskis's 14-set theorem-a diagrammatic presentation" on 27 Sept.

'Confluence 19', an inter-college youth festival was organised by Threshold Entertainment, an event management company based in Darjeeling in association with the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration at Ghoom Jorbunglow College. St Joseph's College emerged as the "Champion College". **Subashini Sharma** from the Department of Botany was crowned "Swarshree 2019 at GDNS on 29 September 2019. The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism hosted a public campaign on 'Our Waste our responsibility' at Chowrashta on 1 October. The event began with a rally from Darjeeling Railway station and ended at Chawrashta.

An international seminar on 'Correlative advancement on analytical and applied physics' was organised by the Department of Physics in collaboration with the IQAC of St Joseph's College, Darjeeling from 21-22 October, 2019. A *multi-disciplinary group of scientists* exchanged their knowledge and experiences on the given themes.

Ms Janet Richter gave a talk to the students of English Dept. on the politics of English language on 22 October 2019. **Mr Dilip Ghosh**, the famous film Director of "Commando had an interactive session on film making with the students of Mass Com on 24 October

Fr Donatus Kujur

Dhyan Ashram

A weeklong workshop on Basic Communication was organised by **Fr P. J. Joseph, SJ**, the director of Chitrabani. The workshop had 10 eminent resource persons, and all of them alumni of Chitrabani. The course generated in us an interest for using technology for effective communication. It also inspired us to become good writers, reporters, photographers and constructive critics.

Schs. Romiyo and Kuldeep

Gandhi Ashram School, Kalimpong

The school organized inter-class quiz competition on 16 September. **Mr Anit Thapa**, the Chairman of GTA visited Gandhi Ashram School on 30 September. This year, in place of the annual school concert, the students spent a month studying different local hill tribes in order to understand their history, language and culture. On 25 Oct. they submitted their projects in the form of an exhibition and through songs and dances in a program called "Annual Inter-disciplinary Project: Indigenous Cultures of the Hills". The parents and local members of the Samaj were present in our amphitheatre to witness this unique project.

Fr Binod Kerketta, SJ

Housing Project

The Social Housing Project of the Jesuits of North Bengal, THE SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS POOR, with the financial support from SELAVIP, completed the construction of 60 new houses for the homeless poor in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong Districts of North Bengal. Over the past nine years, the dreams and aspirations of over 360 homeless poor families in tea gardens and villages in the plains as well as in the hills to have a house of their own, have been fulfilled. The housing project has given a sense of belonging to the beneficiaries to live in safe and secure homes with due dignity and honour. The Jesuits of North Bengal and the beneficiaries will ever remain indebted to SELAVIP for their great love and generosity.

Fr Tommy, S.J

'Magis'

A memorable Magis program for Darjeeling youth was organized at Chopra from 8 to 11 October, with **Fr Brian D'Souza**, National Coordinator of JYMSA, and his team from Bombay as resource persons. One hundred and one youth from different parishes and colleges of Darjeeling Province participated in the event. The aim of Magis program was to promote the spirit of Magis in a way that could help people become better persons in and through love.

In the inaugural Mass on 8 October, **Fr John Kennedy**, the main organizer, traced the origin of Magis and emphasized the importance of the spirit of Magis for the youth. On 9 Oct., **Fr Wilfred Lobo**, Provincial, addressing the youth, stressed on what they can become.

The program focused on spiritual growth, mental maturity, leadership and social and personal issues. Prayer, worship and adoration conducted **Fr Brian D'Souza** and his team brought healing to the youth. The 'Magis circle' – the spiritual conversation - enabled the youth to understand each other and experience the unity bound by the Magis spirit. At the end, the Magis members resolved to impart the Magis spirit in their own respective parishes and colleges by conducting mini Magis programs and getting the spirit of Magis translated into community activities and in daily lives.

Fr John Kennedy

REST IN PEACE

Fr Alphonsus Benedict D'Souza SJ (KOH)	78/62	06/09/2019
Fr Edward Jeganathan Anthony, S.J. (MDU)	83/62	10/09/2019
Fr Aloysius Thoppil, SJ (AND)	56/31	01/10/2019
Br Paschal D'Souza, SJ (GOA)	83/59	24/10/2019
Shri M.L.A Arockia Doss (Uncle of Fr H Immanuel)	95 years	5/9/2019
Shri Benedict (Cousin of Fr Hendricks Immanuel)	58 years	30/9/2019
Shrimati Julia (Mother of Fr Mangal Kerketta)	82 years	29/10/2019