



E- SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

Vol. 34 No. 2

Nepal Jesuits

February 2019

Region Superior's Schedule

- 30 Jan. - 3 Feb.** Visit to Kalikot, Far-West Nepal
04 - 08 Feb. Visit to Tipling
09 - 11 Feb. Vicariate Pastoral Leadership Training
12 - 14 Feb. Visit to Jhapa
22 - 28 Feb. JCSA, Goa



IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

Roots and Wings 2019
 April 3rd to May 9th
 Sacred Heart College,
 Shembaganur, Kodaikanal



Assistancy Appointments Between 1st Aug 2018 – 31st Jan 2019

JDV Pune:

- Fr (Dr) Jesuraj Rayappan SVD Appointed to Theology Faculty, Dept. of Historical Theology, JDV Pune, wef, 1st June, 2018.
- Fr Ilanko Xavier M (MDU) Permission for Doctoral Studies in Ign. Sp. at JDV, along with other works wef, Sep 2018.
- Sr (Dr) Fabian J. Kaviyil UMI Appointed as Lecturer in the Spirituality Dept. of JDV Theology Faculty, wef, 8th Oct, 2018.
- Fr Dolichan Kollarath, SJ (KER) Permission to continue as Associate Research Professor of Boston College, USA. 14th Oct, 2018
- Sr (Dr) Patricia Santos RJM Appointed as Lecturer in the Pastoral & Moral Dept. of JDV Theology Faculty, wef. 1st Jan, 2019.

VJ Delhi:

- Fr Caesar D'Cunha (GUJ) Appointed as Acting Minister of VJ, Delhi wef, 22nd Jan, 2019.

ISI-B:

- Fr Joye James K, (KER) Sec. JHEASA residing at ISI_B Community

ISI-D:

- Fr Ravi Sagar (KHM) Appointed to the Legal Cell of ISI-Delhi wef 16th Jan, 2019
- Fr Ryan S. Rodrigues (KAR) Begins Postgraduate Studies in Sanskrit & Pali at Pune Univ. residing at Loyola Pashan.
- Fr Martin Puthussery (CCU) Appointed as coordinator of Displacement & Migration, for Global Ignatian

Advocacy Networks (GIAN), for SA.

-Fr David M. Solomon (DUM) Appointed as coordinator of Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources, for GIAN, for SA.

-Fr Swaroop K. Lumnesh (KAR) Appointment as coordinator of Ecology for GIAN, for SA. w.e.f. 1st Dec, 2018 for three years.

-Fr Joseph Sebastian (PAT) Appointment as coordinator of Right to Quality Education for All, for GIAN, for SA, w.e.f. 1st Dec, 2018 for three years.

-Fr Jagdish Parmar (DAR) Appointed as co-ordinator PWPN & EYM for SA, wef, 13th July, 2018

Assistancy Seminar on Interculturality Organizing Team:

-Fr Joe Arun (MDU) Co-ordinator; Team members: Fr Ajit Tirkey (RAN), Fr M.K. George (KER), Fr Nitin Monteiro (KAR). Appointment on 16th May, 2018.

Addition to Core-Team on Fundamentalism:

-Frs Vincent Shekhar (MDU) JSD Sec.; Arun Kumar (KAR) JEPASA Sec. wef, 4th Jan, 2019.

Assitancy Secretaries:

-Fr Arun Kumar (KAR) JEPASA Secretary w.e.f. 1st Dec, 2018. For 3yrs

-Fr Brian D'Souza (BOM) JYMSA Secretary w.e.f. 1st Dec, 2018. For 3yrs

JRS:

-Fr Jeyakumar (HAZ) Assigned as additional support to JRS TN, Finance Team, till 31st Dec, 2018

-Br Sandesh Gonsalves (GUJ) Assigned to JRS Mission wef 25th May, 2018, residing at Jor Bagh, N.Delhi.

Gratitude of services rendered to Common Houses and Works:

-Fr Xavier Soreng (RAN) GIAN for Mineral Resources, as Coordinator SA Level.

-Fr Anthony Dias (BOM) GIAN for Displacement & Migration as Coordinator at SA Level.

St. Xavier's School and Community

Fr. Tej and Martin went for a short outing to Suri, to see our working places. While going, they had difficulties with the vehicle because of the bad condition of the road and at the end everyone returned safely. Fr. George, Fr. Mathew, Fr. Sanjay and Fr. Tomson went for a short home visit and for the different official works and now everyone is back in the community. Martin completed his annual retreat and Fr. Ignatius guided him. We celebrated Fr. George's birthday on 20th of January in the company of our valley Jesuits. We had winter camp for the small children where many of them participated and it was organized by our staff members. We started our regular classes from 20th of January and teachers are busy with exam papers and different works in the school. Now a lot of changes have taken place in the school. Please, all of you come whenever you are free and get familiarized with the new facilities. Offices are in the new building on the ground floor and classes 10, 5, and 8 are on the upper floors. Many are sick in the community and also our school staff members because of the change in the climate. We hope all of them will get well soon. Fr. Etienne is back in the community after completing many of his works in India. Fr. Tomson and Fr. Mathew are keeping well and playing regularly and the rest of us are not keeping well; please, keep us all in your prayers.

Moris Martin

Fr. Geissler resigns from Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith

By Vatican News

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Luis Ladaria Ferrer, accepted the resignation of Father Hermann Geissler on Monday, 28 January.

In a press release on Tuesday, the CDF said Fr. Geissler "decided to take this step to limit the damage already done to the Congregation and to his Community."

Fr. Geissler is a member of the Opus spiritualis Familia religious community.

Doris Wagner, a former member of the same community, has accused Fr. Geissler of improper conduct that allegedly took place in 2009.

Fr. Geissler, the communique reads, "affirms that the accusation made against him is untrue, and asks that the canonical process already initiated continue. He also reserves the right for possible civil legal action."

Courtesy:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2019-01/accused-priest-hermann-geissler-resigns-from-cdf.html>

St. Xavier's Godavari

Winter is the most wonderful time of the year. During winter holidays the community members went to different places and took turn to guard the house. Fr. David was out to Poonhill for a short trekking and visited Chitwan. Fr. Bill Robins was out to Gyalthung for short visit. Fr. Samuel and Sch. Devadhas attended REGAE II meet at Kolkata. After the meeting Fr. Samuel made his annual retreat and Sch. Devadhas went home. Mr. Laxman Gurung, our staff went through arthroscopic surgery due to sports injury on his knee. SXG Winter Day Camp lasted for two weeks and concluded with cultural show and exhibition. Our students went to Netherland for Educational



Tour. They had several group discussions with the students there on current social issues. The students lived in host families and also prepared Nepali Food & Recipes in European Kitchen. They had wonderful experience there. On Jan. 22nd our students were back from Netherland



Nepali food in European Kitchen

after the student exchange programme. Thanks to Sr. Seema and Mr. Subarna K.C who accompanied them. After winter holidays classes 11 and 12 resumed the classes on 16 Jan and 1 to 10 students on 23 Jan. For few days a bit of snowfall in Pulchowki hill attracted the youth of Kathmandu valley to experience cold and snow. "To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold," says Aristotle.

David Ekka



Moran Memorial, Maheshpur

ST. XAVIER'S PARISH

On the Feast day of the Baptism of Our Lord, Fr. Norbert baptized 13 faithful in Gherabari. There were four marriages regularized in the parish church last month. Ms. Asha's (one of the parish staff) mother passed away on January 16. Funeral Mass was in the Parish church.

MORAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL



Family day for classes 1 and 2 took place on Jan 26th. Children performed dances and sang songs to their parents. We also had parents meeting for some selected parents whose children need extra care. The participation of the parents for the meetings was very satisfying. We followed the Spiritual Conversation method for all the meetings and we found the method very effective. After some years of gap, we had Science and Art exhibition on January 26. Students and teachers participated actively in the exhibition. Students used their creativity and critical



thinking in the best way possible. It was a moment of new learning. We invited the students of neighbouring schools for the exhibition and the response was very encouraging. Class-wise picnic was organized by each class teacher: Satasidham, Jamunkhadi, Ketchakbadh, Selfie Danda. For some MMS school compound also was picnic spots. Everybody enjoyed the class picnics. Thanks to Fr. Dennis who made the school buses available for our children.

Boniface Tigga

Campion House

From Xavier/College Day on 3rd December 2018 to Kavi Goshti - the Poets Meet- on 25th January 2019, SXC had it all: exams, fetes, Christmas celebrations, winter holidays, Parents-Teachers Interaction days, cultural evenings, educational tours, student exchange programs, result distribution, rains and the lowest maximum temperature in decades.

The Xavier Day/College Day, when the entire college family gathered outdoors for a two-hour long program of dances, songs, speeches, awards distribution, and a skit on the life of St. Francis Xavier was made memorable by Fr. Greg Sharkey's insightful speech on love. Greg was the Chief Guest of the day. The Department of Management organized their Zest Fest on 13th and 14th of December. This annual event gives opportunities to the BBS & MBS students to showcase their competitive spirit and wonderful talents.

SXC has thirty-two catholic students and they took charge of the Christmas celebrations this year. They selected their prayer partners at the beginning of Advent, constructed a creative crib and put up a Christmas program which was performed for all the departments on 23rd and 24th. The attractive crib in front of the grotto drew the curiosity of many students and teachers. The Christmas program included a short play based on the parable of the Prodigal Son; the actors won many accolades for their performance. The message of God's unconditional love was, of course, clearly communicated.

Class 12 students organized a cultural program for their parents on 4th January, the day before the winter break. The performances were a tribute to the invaluable role that the parents play in a child's holistic development. The poems and speeches eulogized the unconditional love and care that only the parents can give to a child. Watrin Hall was filled to standing room only.

Parents-Teachers Interaction (PTI) days are gaining in popularity. In December, we had two days of PTI; the parents of three sections of Class 11 and the remaining six sections participated in it on 7th and 28th of December respectively. It is encouraging to hear that many parents have requested the administration to conduct such programs oftener.

The A Level, Plus Two and most of the Bachelors and Masters departments had their term/semester exams in the second and third week of December. The students, along with their guardians, collected their results when classes resumed on 21st Jan; some with smiles and others with teachers.

During the winter break, seven students from the Department of Management along with the Head of the Department participated in a student mobility program in St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Giving the students and staff opportunities to visit and interact with renowned colleges and universities worldwide has been one of the main goals of the college administration in the last few years.

Forty-nine A Level students, three staff members and a guide made an eleven-day educational tour to Mumbai, Goa, Kerala, Kanyakumari and Bangalore. The students had the time of their lives. For the teachers, the tour was great because the students conducted themselves as authentic Xavierians and thank God, no untoward incidents occurred. In fact, the manager of one of the hotels we stayed said amazingly, "We seldom see groups like yours, disciplined, responsible and having so much fun."

Pravaha Kavi Goshti had its 21st gathering during which eminent Nepali poet and culturist Mr. Tulasi Diwas, popular poets Dr. Ravi Nepal, Laxman Gyange and Jeevan Khatri and popular singer Menuka Paudel performed to a packed audience. The stage witnessed the talents of College's own budding poets as they competed in the poetry reciting competition. Anita Khatri of Class 12 was the winner this year.

Prahaha Kavi Goshti is also the day when SXC hands over St. Xavier's Sahitya Puraskar (St. Xavier's Literary Awards). This award is given to the winner of the keenly contested inter departmental literary competition. Each year a literary genre is chosen. The academic year 2018-19 was the year of the short story. The awards were grabbed by Ms. Sudha Adhikari of Class 11 (Nepali) and Ms. Neha Shrestha of Class 12 (English). Both were facilitated on the day of the Pravaha Kavi Goshti.

Fr. Cap is recovering slowly and steadily from his back spasms which occur only spasmodically these days. Dr. Bhulund Thapa, who has taken a very special interest in lending care to Fr. Cap, has ordered Cap to limit his movements within the Campion House premises. Cap, being a Jesuit (in the dictionary sense of the word) re-presented the case to his local Superior and got permission to extend his movements till his office in the campus, but only after the spasms stop completely. In the meantime, Cap is done with can-not-be-numbered- times of readings of his favourite Charles Dicken and John Grisham novels and, currently, he is under the spell of a biography on Sir Winston Churchill. Carrying these books from his room to the sunny terrace keeps Cap fit, surely; however, this scribe cannot but pray that Cap's reading addiction may not cause a relapse of his spasms. The book on Churchill is only 1200 pages thick!

While this scribe was gallivanting during the winter holidays, Anup kept company with Cap and vice-versa. The scribe rues the fact that he missed out on some London cuisines prepared by Anup in honour of St. Xavier's Jawalakhel and Kamal Niwas communities who partied in Campion during the holidays. Jiju, who returned to the community after finishing his annual retreat in Kalimpong in time to resume the classes on 21st of Jan, had a double grudge: he not only missed out on the London tastes but also discovered that the 19-year single-malt whisky bottle was empty as its content had evaporated into thin air (or thick bellies?).

Jomon Jose

St. Xavier's Deonia Community

We had a Spiritual atmosphere in our community as we began the New Year 2019. On 2nd of January Fr. Samuel began his annual retreat and ended up successfully under the guidance of Fr. Arul on 10th with the birthday celebration of Sch. Akhkesh. Likewise, Bro. Clarence too had his annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. Arul fruitfully and then Fr. Arul left for India and would return to Deonia on 30th. On 8th we began the



fifth cycle test. We also had a good number of guests; Fr. Juel, Fr. Jiju, Sch. Devadhas and Sch. Paleshwar as they passed by for their different mission. On 19th Staff and supporting staff had a Picnic to Mini-Mountain. And, on January 26th the School premise was colorful as the students put up the Science and Art Exhibition. Fr. Vijay, the Principal of Sadakbari was the Chief Guest



for the event. It was wonderful and everything was done House-wise in class rooms. On the same evening Fr. Dennis, Fr. Boniface and Fr. Vijay left for Kathmandu for a Meeting with Mr. Praveen Joshi, an auditor.

Ravindar Bara



Gonzaga House

Class resumed on Jan. 6 after the 2nd term break. On 12 we had 2nd Term Report Card Day. A good number of Parents and Guardians came with their children to see their progress reports. This time there was

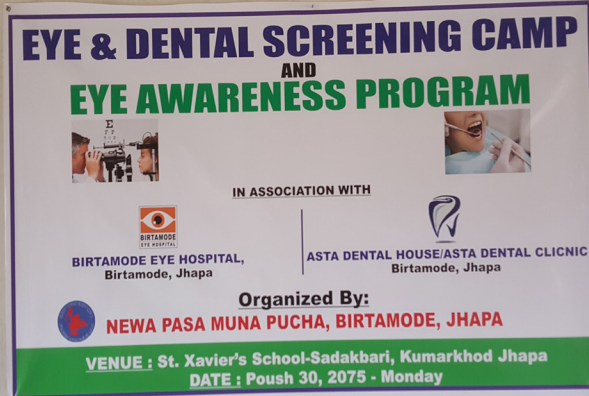


a time frame 11-12.30 so everybody made it on time. On 14th we had a medical camp for the staff and students with collaboration with *Newa Pasa Muna Pucha* in association with Birtamode Eye Hospital and Asta Dental Clinic/Asta Denta House from Birtamode. There were Doctors, Nurses, Technicians and volunteers from New Pasa Muna Pucha. All the students were screened class wise. Thanks to *Newa Pasa Muna Pucha* for helping us out. School is having Parents' day on Feb. 1st afternoon.



Bro. Irenius is coordinating it along with the class teachers. Remedial classes after school hours continue unaffected by the regular preparations for Parents' Day. Fr. Vijay inaugurated the Annual Science and Art Exhibition in St. Xavier's Deonia and same evening travelled to Kathmandu with Frs. Boniface and Dennis for a meeting in Kathmandu and after meeting came back by night bus and collected the costumes from Moral Memorial School for the Parents' day. Siddhanta Shrestha, an A Level graduate from St. Xavier's College, Maitighar has come back for the second time. He is a great help in the school.

Vijay Pratap Toppo



Shishu Bikas Kendra, Pokhara

The New Year 2019 brought new events in SBK. There was Mass celebration at the church thanking God



for all the blessings he has showered upon the people and sought God's blessing in the future. Fr. Bobby, the community superior graced us with his presence in the beginning of the year. He made his annual retreat and then checked the account of the place. On 7th January, SBK classes resumed. Students came with beaming faces to meet their long unseen friends and did hi-five with them with great joy. Fr. Paul and Rishi Dai went to Pokhara Municipality to clear the land and property tax of SBK. A group of Japanese visitors paid a short visit to SBK who were school mates of late Fr. Ookie in Japan. On Makkar Sankranti holiday SBK remained closed. On the same day the first Catholic of Bagale Tol, Pokhara of St. Ann's Church, late Mr. Joseph's death anniversary was celebrated. Many parishioners participated in the Mass.

sports spirit of our students along with the parents. The Ward Chairman, Mr. Rudra Baral, Bagale Tol president Mr. Hirakaji Shrestha and Community lady president Mrs. Pancha Kumari Gurung were the distinguished guests for the event. They highly appreciated the service rendered to our students by SBK Institute. They were captivated till the end by our students' talents and mentioned in the speech that SBK has made a difference in the lives of these students, "Making the impossible – possible". They congratulated all the members involved: Fathers, Sisters and Teachers in making this day a happy one for the children. The adventure play stow was beautifully decorated which attracted the parents and guests to have selfie. All the Catholic religious groups of Pokhara were present for the Sports Day to support and elevate us to make the unabled children – able. The parents were extremely happy to see their children singing, dancing and playing games in a team spirit. The tears of joy rolling down in the cheeks of parents, shouting at the top of their voices, "Syavas Mero Chora, Syavas Mero Chori", and putting one's own collar up were the expression of happiness among the parents and guests. Students made parents "Khushi". Fr. Amit had captured all the students in the camera and after few days screened the photos and video clippings for the children. Students jumped with joy after seeing their dances and games. The spirit of singing, dancing and playing continues among the children in the winter.

Amit Lakra



Miss Bibyana a Korean volunteer and benefactor inaugurated SBK – Maya Café where she teaches the students how to make special coffee and bake cakes. Students enjoy learning them and at the end of the day they get a share and taste what they have laboured for. It has become now the most sought after activity for the students. The Maya café has a new poster. 19th Jan. was a special day in the history of SBK for the children. It was the Annual Sports day. Students performed songs, dances, drill and many other games activities. Special chief guests were invited to witness the



Nepal Jesuit Social Institute [Kamal Niwas]

As this month is the beginning of the year, NJSI started with the planning of the projects for the whole year. Numerous request applications were submitted to us from different parts of the county. So, with the systematic process, NJSI staffs were divided into groups and moved to various districts such as Sindhuli, Dhading, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha to ratify the needs of the people. Lots of need assessment were done where we acquired genuine necessities of the people. After that accordingly, we planned out the means from which we could facilitate them. Usually, we focus on the sectors in which we have been involving: livelihood, construction, wash, education. On 27th January, NJSI put up a farewell program for Miguel Santiuste, representative from Xavier Network. He guided NJSI for a year in developing

the strategies of the projects in a methodized way. He even helped in enhancing the mechanism of the finance department. In the program Nepal Jesuit Society also was present and Fr. Amrit S.J put forward his farewell message for Miguel. We wish him a luck for his future endeavour. Pilar, a South Asia Coordinator of Xavier Network visited NJSI at the last week of this month. The NJSI team had a small sharing session with her where she shared all the approaches, they have been providing in education sector at Haiti. It was a new experience to us and were able to analyse our efforts to upgrade it in future as well. In spite of her short visit, Fr. Roy showed her around some places where NJSI has reached.

Ms. Shristi Thapa

St. Ignatius Parish, Baniyatar

This winter was extremely cold at Baniyatar yet Frs. Anup and Anil came to say Mass for our faithful. Since schools and colleges were in winter holidays Parish Priest made use of time to visit families and meeting the complete families. Our Legion of Mary Group is very sincere in their parish ministry; they go with the Parish Priest to visit sick and old and pray for them. It is a great consolation for old and sick. We lost Urkit Lama who met with accident; a truck went over her. She had a small child who is studying at Lubhu in class 5. It was a very sad moment for her husband and entire faithful as this process took nearly 4 days to get the body. Huge number of people from all over Kathmandu and Dhading came to pay the last right for her departed soul. Parish Priest is busy at present, as quite many faithful moving and making their own houses; therefore he is changing their zones and making the Parish Register updated. Thanks to Kamal Niwas Community for providing music instruments for practicing music as young kids are taking interests to learn. Prernalaya Hostel girls are back from two weeks of winter holidays and once again life is back in Church activities and classes.

Tej Kalyan Kujur

St. Joseph's, Bangalore

This month the BNSCC (Bengaluru Nepali Speaking Community) celebrated its first marriage of Mr. Andrew and Ms. Rose. It was a joyful occasion for the Nepali speaking community. The Karnataka province organized Magis Youth program. There were 700 youth hailing from 18 provinces. It was a mega program organized so systematically under the leadership of Fr. Brian Prier. Raja was part of the program and contributed as animator. The MSW 1st year students went for outreach camp to Sindagi, Bijapur. It was an enriching program. The students interacted with villagers and experienced the hospitality of the poor people. It was a heart moving experience for everyone. As the winter decreases, exam pressure creeps in. We are beginning the mid semester exam by the end of January. On 21st we celebrated the birthday of our beloved Principal Fr. Victor Lobo.

B. Rajasekaran



HRDRC, Sanepa

This year the winter came by hastily and lingered on for months. But many of the community members relocated themselves out. They made several trips to India and to East and West of Nepal. Fr. Bobby went to Pokhara to make his annual retreat. He stayed with the Jesuits of Pokhara. Meantime, Fr. Juel left for Kolkata to attend the REGAE II workshop in Dhyan Ashram, Kolkata. After five days of workshop he returned to Deonia community and completed his editing work on Sagarmatha for January issue and other Socius works. He then went to Premanjali, Matigara, India for his annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. John Kennedy of Darjeeling Province. He finally came back to Curia on 18th January. As he made in and out of Nepal, he paid brief visits to his mother and uncle at their respective places in West Bengal. Fr. Dilip left for Chattisgarh for home visit. All along when others were out Fr. Amrit guarded the house. However, his elder sister and her family visited him and stayed in the community for few days. Meanwhile, he availed himself for hearing confessions to CJ Sisters and their Tertiaries at St. Mary's. By 18th January most community members were back except Fr. Dilip who would be back soon. HRDRC hosted a birthday dinner in honour of Fr. Bobby on 20th January. It also arranged for an insightful meeting for the Superiors and Directors of the works with Praveen Joshi, the auditor. He explained the group about the emerging tax laws, and how to conduct hereon the daily affairs with regard to finance and necessary documents. Fr. Victor made a short visit to our community as he reached Fr. Sanctius here. Fr. Juel joined Fr. Arulandam for a handing over ceremony of a Women's Centre in Sindhuli on 29 January.

Juel Kispotta



Good Shepherd, Tipling



Christmas in Tipling saw a historical-first Crib Contest among the parish families. HRDRC kindly contributed the prizes. The SCC groups brought their joy to the season caroling throughout the village and throughout the season. An effigy representing the old year was sent up in flames, literally, and the New Year welcomed. The season was celebrated too, with a communal parish feast after Mass. The SJ community hosted another dinner for staff the following day. The high school held a marks proclamation day at the end of the second term, attended by parents and teachers. This was another historical event and "hysterical" for some. Every student now has a school/homework diary. NSET organized an elocution contest in our high school just prior to the proclamation of marks. Fr. Ayar was a wise and fair judge. The Youth Group spent a day of recollection, sharing, liturgy and of course picnicking, after climbing up to *Crus Dara* overlooking our valley. Fr. Tek selected some of them for para legal training and for a para legal presentation in the *Dalit* village of Airon. Fr. Stephen SDB visited us with thirteen of his students, some of whom are from Tipling. He celebrated the Mass of the Epiphany for the parish. The Australian based, Jesuit inspired Cardoner group, sent 16 of their youth to camp on our grounds for eight days. Four of them will stay on to help out in our two schools, one for three months and the other three for five. The SJ community has a free, temporary, internet connection to one of its computers for the time being. This is due to the generosity of the local Municipality office, 'until further notice'. Roadwork to Tipling has resumed to the satisfaction of all. It is within the sight and sound of us as you read this. Fr. Ayyar made a quick visit to his home village in Jharkhand to attend the ordination of an old friend from the same village. Tipling and its surroundings are under a light covering of snow as this is being written. More is expected. Come and play.

Jesuit Sources, Tipling

Desideri House

The period from the first week of December until the last week of January has become the busiest time of year at Desideri House. We had a series of house guests throughout these weeks. After the visit of Mr Chris Fussner, the NJS friend and benefactor from Singapore, we welcomed Mrs Liz Morris OAM, formerly the Australian Consul in Nepal. Liz was here to do some consulting work for an INGO. After Liz we briefly hosted Prof Bill Waldron from Middlebury College, here on sabbatical, then Prof Pati Hernandez, who teaches at Dartmouth College. The next guest was Fr. Alan Wong SJ, a Jesuit from the Australian Province who has recently returned from doing an STL at Boston College School of Theology & Ministry, and is now managing the operations end of the Cardoner Project, which brings a significant number of Australian students to Nepal each winter, and send volunteers to Tipling.

Our current guest is Mr Manose Singh, Nepal's most famous bamboo flute (bansuri) artist — and our landlord. Manose flew in from California, on his way to performances in Brisbane, Australia. He came for a number of family wedding celebrations, and to discuss some renovations and additions to the house. He leaves tomorrow, leaving us just enough time to ready the room for the arrival of Mr Peter Church, an employee of the US Department of Defence who assigned to the US Embassy until a few years ago. Peter will stay with us while on short term assignment at the embassy. He expects to be here until February 7th or so. While here he hopes to renew his acquaintance with his many Jesuit friends in the region — especially the tennis-playing ones. St Ignatius College, Riverview, the famous Jesuit high school in Sydney, Australia, sent two groups of students for an immersion program this year. In the past Desideri House handled the “Riverview Blue” group, while others facilitated the visit of “Riverview White”. Last year the new rector of Riverview, Fr. Jack McLain SJ, asked us to take charge of both groups. Running their program is a breeze, because of the able assistance of Sardar Chandra Rai, who coordinates their visits to western Sindhuli villages for school camps,

then arranges their treks in the Annapurna region. Before Riverview even returned from trek we welcomed four Australian members of the Cardoner Volunteer Corps. Three of their number will spend five months helping out at the schools in upper Dhading. The fourth will move on to another placement after 3 months. This is the second year of the CVC program. We provide an orientation on arrival and handle some of the logistics of their volunteer stint. Just a few days after they landed, a group of 15 students from Cardoner Project arrived to begin their volunteer experience-immersion program. Bijay Rai, an Assumption parishioner and partner in Axis Nepal Travels handled the details of their trek to Tipling, where they spent a week with the Tipling Mission fathers. The Boston College Nepal Program continues to draw an increasing number of students for the second semester of school year. Until 2013, the program was restricted to the autumn semester. We've been very fortunate this year to have very bright, likable and cooperative students who make the most of their time in Nepal. It helps that the local homestay families with which they stay in Boudha are very welcoming, generous and enthusiastic. Just before Christmas we got the very welcome news that the Canadian government has accepted the resettlement application for the family of refugees who have been sheltering at the cathedral for the past six years. Reaching this point took the combined efforts of a good number of people, and the prayers of many more. We have been fortunate to have the help of Jesuit Refugee Services in the USA, of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC, and of St Monica church, the Jesuit parish in Richmond, BC. Fr. Robert Wong SJ, pastor of St Monica's, has been instrumental. His community will, God willing, be ready to welcome this family within the year. My contacts with the local office of UNHCR on behalf of this family have led to a request for help from local UN officials. There is a great need for medical assistance to the Rohingya refugees sheltering in Kathmandu. There are over 350 Rohingya here, most in the Kopan and Budanilkantha vicinities.

Gregory Sharkey SJ

Regis College, Toronto

After the winter break, Augustus and Manu started the New Year with the last phase of theology at Regis College. This year Regis conducted Cultural Fest 2019 on the third week of January. This event brought Regis Family together over cultural music and dinner. Last week, Erik Oland, the provincial of Jesuits of Canada made his official visit to Regis College; and the community welcomed him with the provincial's dinner and talk. Also, Timothy P. Kesicki, the President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and United States was present for the event. They both addressed the scholastics and shared their experiences on the restructuring of provinces and theological education apostolates of the North American conference. The temperature these days are below zero and still falling due to snow showers.

Manu Mathew

St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru

A Work camp in Bizapur, Pannur, and Mudgol was organized well in advance. All the leaders were asked to share their experiences. Community days in Asha Kiran was celebrated. Coordinators were Rex, Francis Xavier and Prabhu. The aim of community days was not merely to compete but to enjoy, and know each other better. Therefore, the activities were not so competitive but inclusive. All the members were able to participate in all activities. It was organized systematically: time table was wonderful. It was relaxing and enjoying. Movie was not made optional so it was good. The theme 'Pozzo' was well appreciated by all. March-past was unique and creative. The organizers thanked all for the active participation especially Manish for arranging flag, and Avin for media. Shyness was not there. All enjoyed dancing around the fire. Many suggested they were scared to watch the horror Movie so comedy Movie could be screened next. The Cultural tour helped us exposing to different cultures, and temples. One among us was grateful for all the opportunities that the Society of Jesus is providing and he felt within a sense of belongingness. Accommodation for staying in different places was good. Historical places were quite enriching. Recreation committee did good job entertaining all in the bus; and snacks were provided in correct time. Some said bus was comfortable. Some said that it was worth spending time with the pre-Novices. Many shared that the communities that we stayed made us feel at home. Many were taken up by Fr. Superior's dance in *Wonderla*. Many said they were deeply touched seeing the Father dancing; becoming one like us he danced with Scholastics. Many felt close to Fr. Superior and shared feeling of gratitude for his guidance and encouragement. Cultural tour helped us to know each other especially whom we don't know much. Visiting the historical places widened our minds to horizon. It was said that this year the uses of mobile was less. A Tridum in Asha Kiran was organized. Points that was given by Fr. John were practical and inspiring. Many shared that his personal experiences during the talk was touching. Talks were simple, understanding and questions that he gave for the reflections were inspiring. Many felt that the spiritual life was deepened. "Pray until happens" - such quotes were inspirational. Grouping helped us to know each one's strength and struggles. Guided meditation and adoration was really good. This Tridum helped us to reflect our vowed life. Some said that it reminded the novitiate life. Above all the theme was appreciated for its relevance. For Christmas, the kitchen in charge of 'kushua' preparation said that living groups would work. Three

volunteered for crib making namely Nelson, Dominic and Suronjan. One suggested that along with the entrance gate, kitchen side gate also could be decorated since people come this side in Christmas. Refectory decorations was left to OSF to decide. Get together with the neighbours (Non-catholic) was arranged. Fr. Michael, Chief Guest spoke on involvement and togetherness. He congratulated all for actively involving and making the events meaningful. He appreciated coordinators for their well organization. He traced on the power of thinking positively. He also told us to be open and reach out to the people. At last he thanked all.
Niroj Minj

Fr. Paul C. speaks from Guyana

Belated Happy New Year!
I hope that you are fine. Although I could not keep up the correspondence during this graces filled season you were surely in my prayers. After the Christmas and the New Year celebration, and a two-day Region days of the newly formed Jesuit Region under the British Province (Barbados-Guyana-Jamaica) I am taking a break traveling to the interior. Right now I am in Lethem, the southern part of Guyana. It is a small township gateway to the Amerindians, one of the aboriginals of South America. A dusty network of roads with an airstrip badly in need of facelift and a population of about 2000 people – it is a big village on the bank of a big river TAKATU dividing the land of Guyana from Brazil. St. Ignatius is the oldest mission here – as old as the village which is on the bank of this river. Some 4 to 5 small flights covering one hour come from Georgetown daily for this is the main entry to Brazil from Guyana. Yesterday I visited a nearby village driving through the Savanah, the vast plain grass land, overlooking by the blue hills. Some settlements are below the hills – poor thatched houses with few people living with pigs, chicken and ducks. It reminded me of the Nepal villages. The people are very friendly. Most are Catholics. However, many have been conquered by the local protestant groups. St. Ignatius has 16 parishes to look after by 2 priests – some taking long hours driving by the trails to reach. Where the priests could not be available local lay Ministers conduct the communion services on Sundays. Tomorrow (Jan 11th) I leave for another nearby mission, some 3 hours by the bad roads. It is called Isoltion where we have a parish with some social/educational apostolate. All the school are under the government; the church/Jesuit schools were taken over by the government in the late 1970s. It indeed is the land where "the harvest is plenty but the labourers are few". May God bless this nation.
Once again season's greetings.

Paul Chemparathy S.J



Father General in Guatemala

On Sunday 27 January, after a visit to a Jesuit church that is very popular because of the Guatemalan people's devotion to the Christ of Mercy and Saint Jude, Fr. Sosa went to the Colegio Javier to meet about 40 Jesuits working in Guatemala. His message, on this occasion, can be summarized as follows: "[to feel and act] as one body, united despite the diversity of its members, its tasks and its charisms and which has the Lord as its head". He urged them to be a body that was "constantly listening to his Word and discerning in common the signs of the times."

The next day, the 12 works of the Society in Guatemala had the opportunity to depict their commitments. Most of these works are related to education. However, pastoral work in the parishes and churches of the Society was also depicted. The influence of all these institutions on the country is immense. They are all oriented towards the proclamation of faith that seeks justice and reconciliation in a society deeply fragmented by various forms of exclusion, racism, violence against women, corruption and impunity. Father General, in his address, encouraged all present to "continue to work with determination in the service of the Kingdom, with an emphasis on human formation and education that enables citizens to commit themselves to the common good." He further urged those present to foster vocations to public service, so as to make present in political action a contribution to the social order that promotes the common good.

In the homily during the Eucharist, he stressed the need for "intellectual depth in the analysis, reflection and study of social reality". He also emphasized the need for "spiritual discernment to discover where the good Spirit acts", that is where, like what Jesus did, there is healing, protecting and building of human life. The last stop of the Guatemalan journey was the visit to the Puente Belice educational project. This is a special formative experience for young people from extremely vulnerable neighbourhoods in the city. It is a project that gives them the opportunity to combine education and work.

Courtesy: <https://sjcuria.global/en/more-travels/432-a-human-formation-that-leads-to-a-commitment-to-the-common-good>

Prayers for the departed Souls



*Mrs. Elizabeth Tigga age 99, mother of Fr. Boniface Tigga passed away on 31 January 2019 in Chattisgarh.

*Br. Augustine James, S.J., (MDU), 75/51, passed away on 30 January 2019 in Dindigul.

*Fr. Larumbe Domingo SJ (GUJ), 85/ 67 passed away on 26 Jan, 2019 in Loyola, Spain.

*Fr. Timothy J. Shepard, S.J. (UMI), 73/53 died on January 25, 2019, in Clarkston, Michigan.

*Fr. Francis A. Prokes, S.J. (UMI), 95/70 died on January 22, 2019 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

*Fr. Eugene F. Merz, S.J. (UMI), 87/70 died on January 16, 2019 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

*Fr. John R. Crocker, S.J. (UMI), 88/71 died on January 8, 2019, in Clarkston, Michigan.

Those who served in Nepal

Fr. Richard C. Curry, S.J.	05/02/1972
Fr. John H. Lane, S.J.	21/02/2000
Fr. Eugene L. Watrin, S.J.	29/02/2004



Fr. Thomas NP, S.J.

02 February