



E-SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

Vol. 40 No. 1

Nepal Jesuits

January 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr General Arturo Sosa, SJ, has appointed Fr Jimmy Bartolo, SJ, from the Euro-Mediterranean Province, as the next Secretary for Secondary and Pre-secondary Education of the General Curia.

REGION SUPERIOR APPOINTS / MISSIONS

1. **Fr. Devadhas Vargeese, S. J.**, Pokhara Jesuit Community (effective from January 1, 2025)
2. **Fr. Amit Lakra, S. J.**, Faber House Minister, Teacher Moran Memorial School, Pastor (effective from February 1, 2025)
3. **Fr. Ayar Kujur, S.J.**, Mission In Charge Pokhara & Director, SBK (effective from February 1, 2025)
4. **Fr. Arun Pradhan, S. J. (DAR)**, Gonzaga House (dependent community of Arrupe Niwas) (effective from January 20, 2025)

MISSIONED TO DARJEELING PROVINCE

Fr. Tek Bahadur Paudel, S. J. (effective from February 10, 2025)



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



January 2025

FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

*Wish you a
Happy
New Year*

I prayed to God, asking Him to bless my loved ones with happiness and prosperity throughout 2025. God replied, "Sure, but only for four days. Choose them wisely."

I thought for a moment and said, "Alright - summer day, winter day, spring day, and rainy day."

God, a bit perplexed, said, "Not four days, but three days."

I responded, "Fine - yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

Still puzzled, God said, "No, only two days."

I replied, "Alright - this day and the next day."

God smiled and said, "No, just one day."

With a grin, I answered, "Every day."

God laughed heartily and said, "So be it. Your loved ones will be blessed with happiness and prosperity every single day of 2025."

Happy New Year!

Fr. Amrit Rai, S.J.



NCC Camp

December at St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, was a rollercoaster ride of events, enthusiasm, and, let's admit, a bit of chaos—but the good kind! The month kicked off with the celebration of St. Francis Xavier's feast, where Fr. Ajay shared inspiring anecdotes about our patron saint, leaving students feeling spiritually turbocharged. Adding to the feast-day festivity, the school science fair showcased impressive innovations by our primary students and seniors from Classes 11 and 12. If that wasn't enough, the Interact Club added a "bloody" good deed to the day by organizing a blood donation camp. Talk about multitasking!

December 7 saw the Senior Sports Day, where the introduction of our first-ever school pipe band left parents awe-struck. Let's say the band set the bar high for "making an entrance." The seniors also flexed their athletic prowess, with creative pyramid formations earning extra applause (and a few gasps from nervous teachers).

In between the sporty action, Classes 3 and 4 stole the spotlight on Parents' Day. The highlight? It's a heart-touching skit that reminds everyone that paren-

tal arguments in front of children are a big no-no. The performance left parents teary-eyed yet proud as they watched their little stars shine on stage.

The grand finale before the winter holidays was the much-anticipated school mela. Despite competing with distractions like NPL matches, parents showed up in droves to enjoy the food, games, and festive cheer. Hats off to the Mela team for pulling off a mega event with flair!

Meanwhile, our Jesuit leaders were on the move. Fr. Boniface headed home to celebrate his Silver Jubilee of the priesthood, while Fr. Ajay played host to his visiting parents, who were charmed by the Kathmandu Jesuits. Fr. Raja also packed his bags for a well-earned home visit.

December's lineup didn't end there: Joint School Volleyball and Chess tournaments, a Nepali Spelling Contest, Christmas celebrations, and an NCC camp at Hattikhori kept students and teachers on their toes. With such a packed month, we've officially coined a new term—December Frenzy!

B. Rajasekaran



Cl. 3 & 4 Parents' Day



Seniors Sports Day



Xavier Day Science Exhibition



Xavier Day Science Exhibition

ARRUPE HOUSE, DEONIA



Faith Sharing group



Senior Jesuit Faith Sharing group



Glimpses from Sports Day



Parents Day Programme

December was full of many activities in the school and the community. We had the Parents' Day for seniors on the 6th and the juniors on the 7th. We had the reverse T20 game between SXS and SXD staff on the 8th in Sadakbari. The SXD team took the honors this time. Second term report card distribution was held on the 14th. In the meantime, sports and athletics prelims began during the games period and after school, culminating with the Sports Day on the 21st. A bigger number of parents attending the Sports Day was a huge encouragement for the students. We witnessed a short Christmas program for the whole school

on the last day before Christmas and winter break. There was a skit on the Nativity put up by the catholic staff and students, some Carol singing, and the appearance of Santa Claus as the biggest attraction. After the students left for home, the staff gathered to exchange gifts and have a festive meal. The community had a highly blessed month. Our community was blessed with Jesuits from Darjeeling and Nepal who came for their faith-sharing. We had the faith sharing of three groups, starting with the group of the seniormost Jesuits of Darjeeling and Nepal. All the groups had rich and meaningful sharing, resulting in stronger familiarity and friendships. They also visited Sadakbari and Maheshpur, getting to know those missions better. Jiju went to Kathmandu to attend the STAR Scholars' Conference at KU, Dhulikhel. At the conference, he presented the paper Autoethnographic Action Research as a Contemplative Practice: Awareness and Transformation of the Inner and Outer Selves. This paper has also been accepted for publication in The Qualitative Report Journal and will be part of the next issue. On the 22nd, the

Maheshpur Carol group came to sing Christmas carols at Deonia. All the Deonia faithful gathered at the school to sing and dance carols. We all joined the other Jesuits in Sadakbari to celebrate Victor's birthday and the blessing of the renovated Gonzaga House. Christmas Vigil mass was in Maheshpur, while we celebrated Christmas Mass in Dhulabari, Telgani, and Deonia on the 25th. Tomson left for Kathmandu the same day to catch up with some work. Sanjay, Jiju, and Oswald attended the wedding blessing of our receptionist, Bertha Kujur from Buttabari, on the 28th.

Arrupe Niwas Correspondent



Senior Parents Day



Junior Parents Day



Christmas Celebration



Glimpses from Sports Day

CAMPION HOUSE, MAITIGHAR

Departmental 'Family Weeks' are an evolving tradition here. December saw the Department of Major Arts and the Microbiology Department hold theirs. The BSW Department too concluded their Winter Warmth program, procuring and distributing winter clothing to selected beneficiaries.

The Partners In Education program held a Christmas get-together for its scholarship students. A generous donor presented all with a school bag each. Human Resources held a two-day conclave featuring a 'Career Expo 2024' with invited keynote speakers and panel discussions. The B.Sc/CSIT/B.I.M batch of 2019 held their Farewell Graduation ceremony as did the BSW batch of 2020. The college hosted the SXC 2024 Alumni Homecoming,' always a sentimental success.!

Campion House sources



BSW Farewell



SXC, BSW farewell



Fr. Boby presents awards to BSW students

DESIDERI HOUSE, BOUDHA

The first semester at Centre for Buddhist Studies ended abruptly when we learned that our new one-year teaching visas will not be issued until January. The last one expired in July. I had been on a tourist visa since then. My 150-day allowance expired about a week before classes ended. I have spent most of the month with the friendly and generous Jesuit community in Bodhgaya. In addition to visiting many of the monasteries here, and meeting with bhikkhus and lamas, I made side trips to the



Interfaith celebration of Christmas at Bodhgaya



Last mass of 2024 with students of Ctr.



Viewing of relic of the Budha at Rajgir

Buddhist pilgrimage sites of Vulture Peak in Rajgir, and the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University. I also paid a quick visit to Patna, where I met up with old friends at Atmadarshan and Xavier Bhawan, the retirement home. There I was able to meet Joe Vetti SJ, who was minister in Jawalakhel when I was a regent.

Fr. Greg Sharkey, S.J.

FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR



Alumni members with Principal



MMS students celebrate Christmas

An alumni meeting was organized to plan for the silver jubilee and also to strengthen the Moran alumni. Although the turnout for the meeting was not as expected, some of them made an extra effort to be present for the meeting. Of those who were present for the meeting four of them belonged to the first batch to appear for the SLC exam. Thanks to Master Kavi, a former student from Aruna Bhavan for painting the signboard for the school, which is placed in the Futani Chowk. Now the new visitors will not have difficulty in reaching our campus. Mr Prem Rajbanshi and Fr Nicholas attended the Triennial meeting held at Patna for the Jesuit schools. Having returned with newer



Fr. Nicholas & Mr. Prem in Patna

ideas and enriched experiences they shared their experiences and new insights with the other teachers. As part of the School's Silver Jubilee celebration, the school organized the Fr Moran Memorial tournament and invited the neighboring schools to participate. Altogether 20 schools participated in the tournament, 10 boys' teams and 10 girls' teams. The principals and the teachers appreciated the organizing committee for well organizing the tournament and expressed their wish and hope that it will be continued even in the coming years. All the teams played well but our boys' team outplayed the others and won the school the winner's Trophy and our girls' team too played well to reach the Final. They lost in the final and secured the Runner-up trophy. A big thanks to the generosity of St. Xavier's Godavari school and Fr Vijay Toppo for sponsoring the



Various tournaments held for the Jubilee year

Trophies, Medals, volleyball nets, and balls needed for the Tournament. The KASIN Trustee members were here to meet the students whom they are sponsoring. They interacted with some of our scholarship students. Through their visit and meeting with the students, they have motivated our students. They also expressed their satisfaction and happiness over the students' growth in different areas and appreciated the developments that had taken place in the school in recent years. We had Christmas celebrations on 23rd December. The school is closed for Christmas vacation till 1st January.

Nicholas Christuraj



KASIN group with Jesuits



GONZAGA HOUSE, SADAKBARI



Adult education classes



Fr. Tek at a SCC Holy Mass



Birthday of Fr. Victor



Baptism on Christmas Day

MIJARC- AGRO-based training was conducted on December 14 for the people in Sadkbari and Simalbari mission stations. Resource persons came from Andra Pradesh, Odisha, and Pokhara. Holy Masses were celebrated during the Advent season in different Small Christian Communities (SCC) to prepare for Christmas Day. Adult education classes are being conducted in all SCCs. Christmas was celebrated in both mission stations. There was a baptism also on Christmas day. The major events in school in December included a Science Exhibition, Junior School Parents Day, Christmas, and

the finale of the Inter-House Championship. The science exhibition was held on 3 December, under the leadership of Fr. Manu, to commemorate and celebrate the patron saint of the school. The prominent visitors at the exhibition included a few senior Jesuits from Nepal and Darjeeling. Thanks to Fr.



Fr. Mike at Science Exhibition

Anil Beck for selecting the best projects at the junior level. The Parents' Day saw amazing performances of students from nursery to class 5. Under the leadership of Sr. Nalina, the teachers prepared long and hard and the excellent result was there for all to see. As for the Christmas

celebrations, all classes were led by teachers to view the crib at the Jesuit residence. The crib scene was explained to the students and delicious cakes were shared with them. The annual Christmas lunch for the staff, their families, and the friends of SXS was served on the 24th. The grand finale of the Inter-House Championship took place on the 27th and 29th of December. The Blue House emerged as winners, dethroning the Yellow House which won the championship the last three years. The community celebrated Fr. Victor's birthday on the 23rd along with fellow Jhapa Jesuits and religious collaborators of SXS.

Jomon Jose



MIJRAG-AGRO based training



Students at Crib at Jesuit Residence



Parents Day



Parents Day

ST. XAVIER'S, SIRAHA

On December 2, Fr Anil attended a principals' meeting in Deonia and stayed in Sadakbari, where he celebrated the Feast of St. Xavier on December 3. He also had the opportunity to witness the first-ever science exhibition at the school. St. Xavier's School, Siraha, also celebrated the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. Although the principal was absent, the celebration remained lively, with Nursery and LKG students, along with their teachers, actively participating. The second-term examinations began on December 8, and the teachers worked diligently to prepare and distribute the results. On December 21, the results were shared, and the school closed for winter vacation, marking the end of a successful academic term. Overall, the students' performance was good and satis-



Festive spirit with neighbours



LKG's Carol cheers!

factory, reflecting the hard work of the students, teachers, and parents throughout the term. A pre-Christmas gathering on December 20 was a highlight of the month at the school. The event brought together students and teachers to celebrate the holiday season. Nursery and LKG students delivered delightful dance performances, and the LKG students sang Christmas carols, spreading festive cheer throughout the school. On December 10, Professors Mrs. Rajani Shrestha and Mr. Rameshwor Suwal, along with two students from St. Xavier's College in Maitighar, Kathmandu, representing the college's Eco Club, visited the school. They conducted an assessment for potential community development projects that could benefit both the school and its surrounding areas. On December 24, Fr Arul celebrated Christmas Mass early in the day at Hariban and later led the choir at the Christmas night vigil Mass at the Jesuit residence. Due to unexpected circumstances, the sisters could not participate, but a meaningful Mass



Nursery Christmas Joy

was still celebrated at the rented Jesuit residence. On December 25, Ward Chairman, Suryaman, Dr. Surendra, and Mohan surprised the community with a visit to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. More than 65 people attended the Christmas gathering at the rented Jesuit residence, including our neighbors, families of the school, mobile clinic staff, and the ward chairman. Fr Arul gave a brief Christmas message, and the sisters and school staff sang several beautiful Christmas carols, followed by a Preetibhoj.

Anil Beck



Christmas joyful vibes



SXC Eco Club going green



Panipuri- Spice meets delights

SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA, POKHARA

December was a time of blessing in the center for the students. A new foosball installation took place with the generosity of Mr Umesh Ghimre bringing a new excitement among the students. The Christmas preparation and celebration magnified the joy at the center. They kept themselves busy preparing Christmas Cards, dances, and enactment of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. They performed well in the spirit of Christmas. We invited a few guests to the program and they were impressed to see the performance of the special students. Fr Ayar gave a Christmas message to them and Fr Amit thanked all the staff, and students for their beautiful show and expressed gratitude to the invited. They gave away a Christmas gift to all students and staff followed by a joyful sumptuous meal. The Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK) boundary wall and a



Christmas dance

few broken doors and windows have been repaired. Few students shared their joy with the center on their birthdays. Ms. Puja had an operation and took a break for a few weeks as advised by her doctor and is back on duty. The advent season brought a good number of parishioners back to the church. The parish priest was fully involved in planning out from Advent to Christmas Day. He was the architect of the beautiful crib at the church gate and the decoration with the help of SBK staff and Sisters. Thanks to Srs. Martha, SPC, and Rosalia Rai, SJC for involving the parishioners in cleaning around the church compound during the Advent season. Fr Amit went to Pilar Church for the Confession and Mass and so was one from that side. There was a Pokhara religious group gathering for confession followed by the exchange of Christmas greetings and wishes. The Pilar church members came to play carol songs at St. Ann's Catholic Church. The Christmas Vigil Mass celebration was presided over by Fr Lawrence, SJ and the Christmas



Christmas spirit



Isha celebrates her birthday

Day Mass was by Fr Juel, SJ our community superior. A good number of attendees were there for the vigil night celebration. Thanks to the Cluny sisters for leading the choir group. The Christmas cakes and coffee were served by parish council members. Fr Ayar went to Tansen-Palpa to give recollection talks and confessions to Sisters. NJSI Fathers with their team stayed at Pokhara on their journey to Rukum and Lukum. Fr Amit along with the Christmas celebration accompanied a retreatant spiritually. We had a community outing to Bhurjung Khola in the lap of nature on the 27th. Wish you all a Happy New Year 2025. "The best way to predict the future is to create it."- Abraham Lincoln.

Amit Lakra



Installation of Fuss ball at SBK



Christmas celebration at SBK



Children relish Christmas meal

ST. IGNATIUS PARISH, BANIYATAR



Alter decorated by children



Young girl dancing on christmas day

Glory to God on high and peace on earth to people of goodwill. Merry Christmas and a Glorious New Year 2025 to all in the Sagarmatha Circle. In the first two-quarters of December, the parish priest (PP) was out in Jhapa primarily for the faith sharing of the Jesuit Elders of Darjeeling and Nepal. It was an enriching experience of the way some of our Jesuit Companions faced adverse circumstances with magnanimity, prudence, and maturity in their Religious life. In my brief absence, the parish affairs in Baniyatar were looked after by Fr. Boby Joseph, S.J, the Chief Administrator of Loyola Campus, Maitighar, Kathmandu. During the third week of Advent, the parish priest invited the parishioners for a general meeting to discuss the modality of celebrating Christmas this year. Soon after presenting the agenda of the meeting, one of the members present at the meeting picked up some past skirmishes and tried to obstruct the purpose of the meeting. After a few an-



Christmas carolling at a family terrace

gry words of exchange, the meeting was resumed and the decisions were made to celebrate the Birth of our Baby Jesus. One of the points was that this year we would not go for caroling Zone-wise but there could be a common carol program in the church before the Vigil Mass. The tea party after the Mass was canceled since there were no sponsors. A couple of days after, one of the members of the parish whom I least expected came forward to sponsor tea and snacks after the Vigil Mass.

A few days after Sr. Rosaline, SCCG with the help of the youth decided to have carol singing Zone-wise, and in six days we had carol in all the Zones choosing a conveniently located house in each Zone where the people of that particular Zone could gather together to enjoy the carol party. In all the Zones there was very active participation of people, except a few who chose to opt out of the scene. On Saturday, in the 4th week of Advent Fr. Juel agreed to Celebrate the Eucharist and delivered a heart-provoking homily during the Mass after which Frs. Juel and George P.M. sat for hearing confessions. Fr. George started hearing confessions an hour before Mass and he carried on with it even after Mass.



Jesuit veterans faith sharing at Deonia

Very good number of the faithful made their confession which was quite unusual given the history of the parish.

Some of the parishioners took the lead in collecting money to provide meals for all on the 25th after the Day Mass on Christmas. On this day the church was thoroughly packed to the brim. Before the meal, the youth of the parish presented a beautiful cultural program including a skit on the Birth of Jesus. Another joyful news, as the year 2024 ends, is that a Junior Bambina, Sr. Treasa, SCCG has joined the Preranalaya Community and she has already been appointed the Youth Animator in the parish. The presence of a young sister will add fuel to the youth fire in Baniyatar parish. At this juncture, the flickering wick of the parish is fanned into a flame by the fiery orations of Frs. Augustine and Boby Joseph on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day respectively. May their Tribe increase in the Society of Jesus.

Paul K.C.



A Crib at a family



Junior Sr. Tessa with children

GOOD SHEPHERD, TIPLING

December is a month of action and joy. Eight, Australian volunteers came to help in the school for two weeks. They were staying in the village and made a beautiful wooden crib for us. Fr. Peter gave them a special farewell dinner. Fr. Augustus came with three of his staff to evaluate their past work and plan out the future. They spend three days doing their work. Fr. Amrit came along with his sister Dr. Pritika, for visitation and to



Fr. Amrit-main celebrant at vigil mass celebrate Christmas. On Christmas day four St. Paul Sisters came for a visit and were our special Christmas guests. They spend a day visiting the people. Gothan Devi Primary School had an overnight educational tour of the Hot springs. Fr. Norbert joined them. The following week they had a school picnic at Dungshel waterfall. December called us for greater pastoral care. On December 4, we had one month's memorial mass for the late Kursang Ghale. Then on the 12th late Chej Jom's family too, offered mass for the departed soul. Fr. Peter and the



Kissing of Baby Jesus



Fr. Peter offering on Christmas youth of the parish were busy with carols and Christmas decorations. The church was decorated beautifully. The Christmas vigil mass was celebrated by Fr. Amrit and Baptized 33 catechumens. After mass, Fr. Peter distributed gifts. Christmas Day mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter and the church was full. After mass, we had a grand Christmas meal for all. Our Parishioners raised enough cash and cooked good food, to feed 600 people. All enjoyed the day.

Peter Chettri



Volunteers with children



Jesuits with St. Paul Sisters



Sisters are welcomed in Tipling

HRDRC, SANNEPA

In December, Fr. Amrit joined Fr. Augustus and the NJSI team to Jajarkot, earthquake-affected areas. The last bit of handing over of Smart Hubs and furniture for the schools was distributed to schools there. They also evaluated the work they had done soon after the earthquake. Then he went to Deonia for the age-wise faith sharing. He along with Frs. Bobby, Boni, and Sanctius ventured to the new road via Lele that saved a couple of hours to reach Hetauda and then to Jhapa. For the Christmas celebration and the annual visit, he went to Good Shepherd, Tipling. He was the main celebrant for the Christmas vigil mass. Fr. Juel celebrated his Christmas in his extended community in Pokhara. Fr. Thomas remained in the house, accompanied boys and girls in the center, and celebrated Christmas with them. The HRDRC community hosted a dinner for the NJS staff and their families on the 31st, the eve of the New Year 2025.

Juel Kispotta

ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE



Ms Pratikshya celebrate Birthday



Children of both homes celebrate Christmas



Ms. Karen with the girls

December 2024 has been a month of celebration in St. Xavier's Social Service Center (SXSSC). On the 3rd of December, the 33rd International Disability Day was celebrated in Jawalakhel, Lalitpur, organized by the Lalitpur Municipality. The event was inaugurated by SXSSC student, Jiledar Ali Behana, in front of a large audience. Our staff, Pratikshya Dhakal, marked her birthday on 5th December by providing a delicious meal for the children at Aruna Bhawan. The children expressed their gratitude by giving her heartfelt cards and best wishes, making it

a memorable day for everyone. Fr. Thomas and Pratikshya attended a virtual Zoom meeting with PAWA. Miss Nite Shah provided momo to the girls, and we expressed our gratitude for her kind gesture. The Gaffney day was celebrated solemnly and prayerfully among ourselves remembering the founder Father at SXSSC. Silbanti Murmu, a Staff celebrated her first wedding anniversary. As a thoughtful gesture, she shared eggs with the children, and we all expressed our thanks for her generosity. Ms. Karen visited Aruna Bhawan and conducted a creative paper craft session for the girls. The children were also engaged in making other arts and crafts. Ms. Karen hosted a festive party for the children, complete with gifts and celebrations. We are deeply grateful for her kindness and the joy she brought to the children during this special occasion. Ramlal Kisku enrolled in the BSW Faculty at Patan Multiple College. The examinations at Sampurna School began on 17 December. The children focused on their studies throughout this week, preparing for their academic assessments. On December

23, the staff and girls of Aruna Bhawan exchanged Christmas gifts among themselves. Additionally, Shree Mahalaxmi School commenced its examinations during this period. Christmas was celebrated with all staff and students from the three centers gathering at Aruna Bhawan to share in the fellowship of singing, and dancing. The event also included a festive meal, creating an atmosphere of joy and unity. On Christmas Day, we celebrated the birthday of Nabina Budhatoki.

Ms. Pratikshya Dhakal



In the Christmas mood



Jilendra inaugurates an event

KAMAL NIWAS, BAKHUNDOL

December was a special and lively month filled with unforgettable events. At the start of December Frs Augustus and David, along with their team, went out to Jajarkot for data collection. They traveled to different places, gathering important information and working hard on their tasks. In early December, Fr. Mathew was in Jhapa to visit all our schools and later joined the faith-sharing group in Deonia. This was the group of the oldest Jesuits in Nepal and Darjeeling. He also visited Damak and Siraha, and on the return stopped over at the Chepang school in Tadi. On December 6, a farewell program for the Rev. Bishop Paul Simick was held at Jawalakhel. It was a significant event where the community came together to thank and honor the Bishop for his service. The farewell was a formal but heartfelt occasion, including speeches, prayers, and best wishes for his future. Fr Augustus went to Tipling with a couple of staff. On the way back the Pajero vehicle broke down and it had to be pulled to Kathmandu for repairs. Niroj often has online classes in the evenings and sometimes physical at the KU campus. He managed to be excused from classes for the Christmas Eve Mass at the Assumption church. On December 19, Fr Augustus' birthday was celebrated at Kamal Niwas. All the Jesuits from the valley were invited to the celebration. It was a joyful event where everyone



Fr. Mathew with Principal and Children



Fr. Mathew with patients and clinic staff



Niroj & Augustus celebrate Christmas with dance



Senior Jesuits faith sharing at Deonia

gathered to wish him, sharing good food, laughter, and prayers. On December 22, Fr David went on a home visit, a personal trip to see his loved ones, showing the importance of reconnecting with close ones during the festive season. The next day, on December 23, a Christmas gathering was organized for the NJSI staff and their families. The event was full of festive spirit, with decorations, songs, and delicious food. It was a time for everyone to relax, bond, and enjoy the season of joy. This gathering created wonderful memories for everyone present. On Christmas Day, December 25, all the Jesuits came together at Campion House for a special celebration. It was a joyful occasion to share the Christmas spirit with fellow Jesuits with a festive meal, and time to strengthen friendships. Finally, on December 26, regional accountant Kiran, and Bimal were invited to Kamal Niwas for a Christmas lunch. This was a small and relaxed gathering where the festive cheer continued with good food and warm conversations. The month of December beautifully combined hard work, celebrations, and the spirit of togetherness, making it truly special for everyone involved. Happy New Year to all.

Sch. Niroj Minj

DIASPORA

MANRESA, KALIMPONG



Novices with Rt. Rev. Bp. Stephen Lepcha of Darjeeling-Sikkim diocese

The last month was packed with various occasions of gaiety and celebrations. On the 24th of November, at the feast of Christ the King, all the novices went to St. Joseph's Church, 5th mile, and participated in the Eucharistic procession of Christ the King followed by the Eucharistic celebration. On the 28th of November, the Manresa community had its first meeting with the dispersed members, in the presence of the new Superior, Fr. Santy Mathew SJ. On November 29th novice Mahesh Arban Das (NEP) discontinued the novitiate. On the 30th of November, the novitiate community went to Delo, the highest peak of Kalimpong, for a picnic. The day was indeed full of fun, laughter, beautiful memories, and expression and strengthening of our fraternal bond. On 3 December, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Xavier offered the Holy Mass which was followed by a small wishing and felicitation to Fr. Xavier. For faith sharing at Deonia, Nepal, Br. Gabriel Gurung went on the 1st of December and Fr. Patel on the 8th of December. On the 11th of December, the novitiate community went to St. Teresa's Church, 8th Mile to participate in the Golden Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Fr. Abraham and Fr. Elias, priests of Darjeeling – Sikkim Diocese. On the 7th of December, we were blessed to have Rt. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha, Bishop of Darjeeling – Sikkim Diocese, as he celebrated the Holy Eucharist for us and prayed for us. On the 9th and the 10th of December, the novices along with the novices from Cluny novitiate had a combined class taken by Novice Master, Fr. Xavier Alangaram on 'Delixit Nos', the latest encyclical of Pope Francis. It was indeed an enlightening session for all. From December 19 to 22, the novices engaged in Christmas preparation – making cribs and beautifying the campus. 23 December was a day for prayer and recollection. The theme of the recollection was 'Born to be Different' focussing on how Jesus' birth was different and how that invites us to be different and unique. On the 24th we welcomed Baby Jesus through the Christmas Vigil Mass offered by Fr Xavier. The following day, on 25 December, the novices went to St. Joseph's Church, 5th Mile, and St. Teresa's Church, 8th Mile for the Christmas Mass and celebration. In the evening the community celebrated Christmas by singing Carols, games, exchanging gifts, and agape. We were joined by Fr Santy Mathew and Br Gilbert from Gandhi Ashram.

NS. Aloysius T Antony

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

As winter deepened, Delhi's air quality worsened, prompting schools to move online. However, Vidyajyoti remained open, hosting its much-anticipated Balmela on 8 December. Over 500 children from various ministry areas gathered for a day of games, cultural programs, and joy. Balmela, eagerly awaited all year, lifted everyone's spirits. On the 14th, the POSA and Secretary for Formation made their annual visitation to Vidyajyoti, holding meetings with students and staff to



Baal Mela at Vidyajyoti

review progress. Despite an invitation from Fr. Paul Chemparathy, a visit to his place was postponed due to the visitation and subsequent mid-semester exams. As exams concluded, the college embraced the Christmas spirit. Decorations and crib-making were in full swing, and the week preceding



Christmas program at MC Sisters
Christmas featured various programs, beginning with a pre-Christmas celebration at the college. During the holidays, Christmas programs were conducted at MC Sisters' ministry places, bringing joy to the inmates. At home, a special celebration was organized for the non-teaching staff and their families. On this day, the brothers



Crib made at Jesuit residence
prepared a delicious lunch to host the guests of honor. On Christmas, everyone attended the vigil and morning Mass at different parishes, reuniting on the 25th evening for a joyous house gathering. The celebration was enlivened by carol singing in multiple languages, spreading the festive spirit. As the year draws to a close, third-years leave for their diaconate retreat, while others enter a triduum, reflecting on the year gone by and renewing their commitments.

Sch. Deepak Jans

PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

December was a month filled with joy, happiness, and full of celebration. We the 2nd and 3rd Year scholastics embark on our 4th and 6th semester of studies. On December 14 and 15, our college organized a thrilling Sports Fest. The Students from various departments participated in friendly competitions, showcasing their hidden skills and teamwork. Sch. Anurag played football representing the department. The event fostered a sense of unity and sportsmanship among the students. It was a really good opportunity to learn from others as well as teach what you know. Many scholastics participated in Sports Fest representing and supporting their departments. The festive spirit continued with Carol Singing events at Xavier's Girls Hostel, Carmelite Convent, and Gulap mala (December 18th) and Loyola Parish, Asha Kiran - sisters (December 19th). Finally, we finished our carol singing in Gurjarwani, Xavier's boys' hostel on the 20th. Our melodious voices filled the air and hearts of all with joy and happiness of the Good News. On December 22 and 23, the college organized the Xart Fest. Sch. Alex participated in a western group song representing his department. This event brought all together: the students, faculty, and staff for a fun-filled day of dance, singing, food, and merriment. Christmas Eve is a very special day for each individual and our community. We attended the Christmas Vigil Mass at the parish on the 24th. On 25 evening, Premal Jyoti as a community organised a program and the exchange of Christmas gifts. A wonderful performance was put on year-wise and individually. It was a wonderful way to come together and celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. We all made merry together, enjoyed, and shared brotherhood. On the 26th, we organized friendly football and basketball matches at Loyola School. Fathers over there provided a variety of snacks. These events promoted teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition among ourselves. We the Nepal scholastics conclude the month and year by Triduum. From December 27 to 30 we have Triduum in Sevasi, Vadodara. Kindly keep us in your prayers. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed and joyful New Year 2025.

Sch. Jay Ghale

COLEGIO NUESTRA SENORA, MADRID



Fr. General gives cake to Fr. Roy



Fr. Roy with Mathew & friends



Fr. Roy with Mathew



Fr. Roy in Paris

I did one month of Spanish language studies in Madrid. The community of Jesuits at Colegio Nuestra Senora is very supportive. Along with it I started my assignment of writing about Fe y A Nepal and would stay at the office of Entreculturas in the afternoons. During the weekend I had a chance to visit some places. End of November, I visited Paris to visit some friends. I had the golden opportunity to take part in a Birthday Celebration in Paris where I met Matthieu Ricard,

a famous Buddhist teacher who is a celebrity in Paris and around the world, and had a chance to talk with him. I was attracted by his view on Altruism to find out how close he is to the Christian view of caring for one another. In the second week of December, I had a chance to visit Cologne, a city in Germany. I traveled half an hour to reach Asbach where I gave a surprise visit to my cousin sister, a nun living and working there with a group of three nuns from Kerala. Germany was very cold and cloudy most of the time, but the Christmas lights and the markets around the Cologne Cathedral were bright. On the 23rd of December, I reached Rome. I was given accommodation in the General Curia, a grace of being an ex-community member here. I had a lot of good memories and met many of my earlier community members here. A very joyous occasion. To my surprise, on 24 December, the curia celebrated my

birthday. Fr. General presented me with a cake with a lighted candle. It was a very graceful occasion for me to receive this rare gift from Fr. General and the community of Curia. My niece and family also arrived in Rome and now I am busy taking them around and visiting many important places in Rome. I will be moving around visiting friends and families for a couple of weeks more before returning to Madrid.

Roy Sebastian



Fr. Roy with Monalis in Louvre



Fr. Roy with his niece & family in Rome



Fr. Roy with his cousin in Germany



Fr. Roy at entreculturas, Madrid

SATYANILAYAM, CHENNAI



Sch. Vinay with his friends at Queens Land

The first week of December marked the beginning of a busy and joyful season. We started preparations for the much-anticipated annual drama. On December 13, the Annual Drama was staged, showcasing the hard work and talents of everyone involved. It was a delightful evening with a lot of guests from the different parishes. The next day, December 14, we joined the CRI (Christian of Religious India) Christmas celebration held at Montfort High School, Santhome. We shared the festive spirit with many other religious nuns and priests. On December 18, we enjoyed a special get-together at Asha Niketan. It was a time for bonding and sharing joy, making the season even more meaningful. From December 20 to 21, we attended the SNRI National Conference on the theme “AI and Consciousness.” It was an enriching experience, filled with insightful discussions and learning opportunities. The Christmas celebrations continued in the parishes on December 24 and 25. The services brought everyone together to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. On December 27, we had a community picnic at Queen’s Land. It was a day filled with laughter, games, and relaxation. Finally, on December 28, we organized a Christmas get-together with the slum children. Seeing their smiles and happiness was the perfect way to wrap up the month. We are grateful for all the moments of joy and togetherness this December brought.

Sch. Vinay Lakra



06 January	Fr. Bobby Thadathil
06 January	Sch. Vinay Lakra
10 January	Sch. Lawrence Kerketta
12 January	Fr. Sanctius Beck
19 January	Sch. Ashish Ekka
20 January	Fr. George P.M.



+ Fr. K.C. Philip, S.J. (RAN 80/61) passed away on 26 December 2024 at Jharna-Ashirvad, Namkum.
 + Fr. Patrick Eaton, S.J. (CCU 82/61) passed away on 26 December 2024 at Nightingale Hospital, Kolkata.
 + Fr. L. Alphonse William, S.J. (MDU 75/57) passed away on 22 December 2024, at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.
 + Fr. Scotus Fernandez, S.J. (KAR-KHM 77/57) passed away on 10 December 2024 at Satribari Baptist Hospital, Guwahati.
 + Fr. P.J. Joseph Paimpallikunnel, S.J. (CCU 62/38) passed away on 07 December 2024 at Nightingale Nursing Home, Kolkata
 + Fr. Anthony L. Dagelen, S.J. (UMI 98/70) passed away on 07 December 2024 at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosha, Wisconsin.
 + Fr. Arul M. Varapasadam, S.J. (MDU 100/82) passed away on 04 December 2024, at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

13/01/2016	Laurier C. Harvey
15/01/2023	Casper J. Miller
28/01/2000	Robert J. Mayer