



## BUXAR DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

September-October, 2017 (Bishop's House, Nayee- Bazaar, Buxar, Bihar-802101, INDIA [www.buxardiocese.com](http://www.buxardiocese.com)) Vol. 11 No.5

# SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## LEADERS BEHIND THE SCENE



The month of November starts with the remembrance of our great, but anonymous heroes. The All Saints' Day and the All Souls' Day are symbols of honoring all the leaders behind the scene. These great souls probably did not attract the attention and adulation

that we confer to the front line leaders and were without being widely known. But in fact they were people who worked generously without receiving/claiming credit or fame for themselves. No person with grateful heart can afford to leave them in oblivion, as often enough they are the reason behind our success.

Two Examples to clarify the point:

1. Just a month back I participated in an event organized by the Church. Thousands of people, predominantly from different dioceses of the state along with a number of them from different regions of the country had gathered to reflect on how the Christian way of living can be made relevant in today's troubled times. Almost all these delegates were accommodated at different Christian families; food and transportation were the responsibility of these host families. Everything went well as planned. However, one could notice that majority of them, exercising their leadership from behind the curtains, were content with their role.
2. Recently we had a sigh of relief hearing that one of the abducted Catholic priests was released after many months from the clutches of his abductors. Though the head of one state is reported to have played the prominent role in

obtaining his release, more than one world leaders, groups and individuals have pooled their energy together to make the impossible possible. They did so, not being in the lime light.

Such are the unsung heroes who really carry the world forward. This type of leadership, in fact, is a Christian virtue. The Lord said, "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" Mt. 6/3. However, this is not the way the world often thinks. Hence, the Apostle Paul says, "For the wisdom of this world is folly with God" 1 Cor. 3/19. The same idea is expressed in a different way by poet Rudyard Kipling in his poem "If":

*If you can meet with triumph and Disaster  
And treat the two imposters just and same,  
If you can talk with the crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much:  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And – which is more – you will be a man, my son!*

Let us never lose our life in the rat race of promoting ourselves, wishing to be the bridegroom in every wedding and the corpse in every funeral! Life is beautiful and worth it when we do our duty, keeping the objective of raising the other, even at the cost of losing one's own prominence. "He must increase; I must decrease" John 3:30. Entering into the month of November, celebrating the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, let our thoughts be around "What type of a leader I would like to be"?

**+Sebastian Kallupura**  
Bishop of Buxar

## WEAVING

*Rufflings of the H. Spirit: One cannot miss the charismatic rippling in the diocese, obvious as reported in this issue. It is so, not only because of the arrival of the H. Spirit Sisters, who have dared to opt for a new style of living and functioning, by being immersed in the life situation of the people, but also because of what happened through the charismatic retreats of the presbyterium as well as that of the faithful in Bhojpur deanery - not to mention what is happening now through charismatic prayer/healing sessions in the parishes. The testimony of Pankaj Raj speaks volumes.*

*Missionary Thrust: This year Mission Sunday has passed off so quietly without much fanfare, except for the glaring model of Itarhi parish. However, the "Leaders behind the Scene" (Shepherd's Voice) and what took place at Cochin (Kerala Mission Congress) are good enough to keep our hope alive.*

*Mortality: Saddened by the demise in the recent past of many of our near and dear ones, especially those priests who had emptied themselves for the mission here, All Souls' Day will be made ever meaningful. Though death snatched away Mother Teresa, last year we celebrated her sainthood. Notwithstanding the fact of the brutal murder of Sr. Rani Maria FCC in 1995, on 3/11/2017 about 12000 people are to congregate in Indore to celebrate the beatification of the martyr. It may be unbelievable that the murderer now is the follower of Christ, doing what Sr. Rani Maria would have been doing, if she were to be alive! Behold the silver line for the persecuted.*

*We Celebrate: Life is to be celebrated - "Gaudium Evangelii". It was demonstrated in the Jubilee and Parish Celebrations, prompting one to say, "It is good to be here". Congratulations to the Jubilarians and those responsible for such golden moments. Nay more, our dear visitors added glow to our life by their presence.*

*Therefore: All the above and much more will be reflected in the report/findings of the Diocesan Perspective Plan, copies of which will reach shortly every parish.*

*We look forward to more celebrations (Jubilees, Birth Days, Christmas etc.) while more hard and serious work is in the offing. Be ready to welcome the Diocesan Education Team. Dear Folks, encouraged by the past, we move on, led by the Spirit.*

J.A.

### I. MAJOR EVENTS!

#### The Holy Spirit Sisters welcomed in the Diocese:



*The 3 seated are at Nadaon Village*

The Holy Spirit Sisters (SSpS) of Jarsuguda Province reached out to Buxar diocese. The three sisters, Srs. Seline, Sangita and Rajni who came to stay in Nadaon village of Buxar parish were given a warm welcome at Nadaon village by the villagers, parishioners of Buxar, and the priests and religious of Buxar and neighboring parishes on 14<sup>th</sup> of Oct.

There was a well participated Mass, presided over by Bp. Sebastian in the open space that the parish has at Nadaon. The villagers were overwhelmed and had no words to thank the sisters for their readiness to be part of them. There were welcome speeches, garlanding, offering shawls and 'aarathi' for them. For the time being the sisters will stay in a small rented house just next to our land and later build a small house for themselves there. The Provincial, Sr. Regina and all her Counselors were present on the occasion. The Diocese thanks the SSpS. sisters being part of its mission and extends a warm welcome.

Name	Designation	Ph. no	E-mail ID	DoB
Sr. Selin Josep	Community Leader	9439863875	Josephselin2@gmail.com	25/12
Sr. Sangita Purty	Pastoral	8018625115		09/01
Sr. Rajni Soreng	Teacher	8763184619	Sorengrajni2@gmail.com	08/02

### **Priests' Retreat:**

It was a great experience for all the priests of diocese of Buxar and the Bishop to be part of a Charismatic Retreat at *Fathima Matha Susamachar Kendra*, Patna. The presbyterium decided to join this Charismatic Retreat for Bishops, priests and religious directed by Fr. Jose Vettiyankal VC and Fr. John VC from Bangalore Logos Centre. The retreat started on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. and concluded on 3<sup>rd</sup> of Oct.

### **Samaritan Sisters' New Residence:**

After being in Buxar at the service of the Differently-Abled children for the last four years, the Samaritan Sisters now have a house of their own. The sisters had stayed in the neighbouring house adjacent to the jail wall in Buxar and started working for this most needy group. They built a school in a plot close by with the help of well wishers and benefactors (School - KINDER MISSIONS WERK, GERMANY and Residence – PROPAGANDA FIDE, ROME & MISSIO AACHEN, GERMANY)



Now after four years, they have built a small residence for themselves on the top of the 'Samaritan *Vishisth* School' building which was blessed on 15<sup>th</sup> of October with the Eucharistic celebration by Bp. Sebastian.

In the afternoon, the grand opening of the double storey building took place. While the local MLA, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tiwari cut the ribbon, Bp. Sebastian blessed the school building in the presence of a large number of people from Buxar town that included politicians, civil authorities, police officers, a big group of well-wishers, neighbours and parents. During the cultural programme that followed, the Differently-Abled children put up an impressive show. Many from different walks of life appreciated the sisters for their commitment to such children of the area. In fact, this is the only school for such children in the district of Buxar. The best of it all was that the neighbours who have

accepted the sisters as their own were not just invited guests there, but part of the whole organizing team! Congratulations, Sisters. May the Lord continue to bless you and your special ministry that calls for a lot of patience and commitment.

### **Kerala Mission Congress**

Our Bishop participated in the Mission Congress and BCC convention at Vallarpadam Kochin on 6-8 Nov. organized by the Latin Dioceses of Kerala. It was a faith-experience for all the participants. About 4000 delegates from 14,000 BCCs of 12 Latin Dioceses of Kerala came together for three days of inputs from different Church scholars and for sharing among themselves. The twelve Latin Dioceses had invited twelve bishops from the Mission Dioceses of India and had a chance to hear from the missionaries. Finally, at the last Eucharistic Celebration on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, each of these Mission Dioceses was linked with a diocese of Kerala for their mutual support and enrichment. Buxar diocese is linked with the Diocese of Calicut. As a mark of this twining, both bishops exchanged mementoes. God is at work in forming his people through a communitarian way of life.

### **Deanery Level Charismatic Retreat:**

The Bhojpur Deanery organized on 20 - 23 Oct. a Charismatic Retreat at Dumraon Parish. Fr. Akshy



IMS with his team from Durgawati led the community in prayer and renewal. About 600 faithful from all over Bhojpur deanery participated in the retreat. The Dean, Fr. Charlie and his organizing team led by Fr. Bhaskar did a wonderful job. Certainly, the parish priest, Fr. Francis Quadros and his committed associates were very much behind the success of the entire event.

### **Mission/Vocation Sunday Mela at Itarhi :**

When it comes to doing something different or applying some innovative methods to celebrate occasions or to raise a little fund for some charitable purpose the *Fatima Mata* Church, Itarhi shows the way.

The priests and religious on 29<sup>th</sup> October, with all out support of the youth of the parish, celebrated Mission Sunday along with Vocation Sunday by conducting a *Mela* in the campus. It had all the ingredients – games, food, music and so on for the visitors of all ages. If the youth were entertaining all the visitors through various games, the women group was busy supplying *chhola* and *chaai*. The whole effort was entertaining and fulfilling at the same time. The purpose to collect a little extra fund for the mission work was not missed out. Prior to these funfairs, Eucharistic celebration was arranged and special intention for vocation was kept. On this occasion the Salasian Frs. also celebrated the release of one of their priests, **Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB** from the captivity of terrorists in Yemen.

(Bro. Justin Lakra (Administrator) Ph. 7033449856

DoB - 14/04)

(Fr. Rajesh Xalxo (Head Master) Ph. 8462946016

DoB – 15/10)

### Bible Mahotsav:

Both deaneries organized Bible *Utsav*, inviting the toppers from each parish to participate in 10 items.

It



*The participants with the Bishop*

was obvious that the parishes who had their own Bible festival – the way it was supposed to have been - performed better than the others. Those who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> participated along with their animators in the Diocesan Bible Mahotsav at SD on 23 September. The Bible procession from the front of SD concluding in the Hall marked the beginning of the celebration. Our Bishop welcomed the participants and invited all to “Eat the scroll, tastier than honey” (Ps. 119:103, Ez. 3:3) and to live and proclaim the word. One could not but be overwhelmed by the festive atmosphere – the two bunches of plantains on the tree, adorning the front part of the stage, could not be missed by anybody. The presentations lasted from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

At the end Bishop gave away prizes to all the participants, as all of them were well prepared and performed quite well. The toppers from the parishes participating in 10 items were: 1. **Shahpur** – 1<sup>st</sup> prize: five; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: three \* 2. **Durgawati** – 1<sup>st</sup>: two; 2<sup>nd</sup>: two \* 3. **Dumraon** – 1<sup>st</sup>: one; 2<sup>nd</sup>: two \* 4. **Chenari** – 1<sup>st</sup>: one; 2<sup>nd</sup>: one \* 5. **Buxar** – 2<sup>nd</sup>: one \* 6. **Amulya** – 2<sup>nd</sup>: one. The participants as well as the animators earned the admiration of all present. Fr. Christhu, CMF and Meera Devi (Catechist) led 20 toppers from the diocese to participate in the Inter-diocesan Bible event.

**Fr. Christhu** reports: “The Annual Inter-Diocesan Bible Festival was organized at NJN, Patna from 26<sup>th</sup> evening to 29<sup>th</sup> evening of September 2017. Nearly 80 children from 4 Dioceses (Patna, Buxar, Muzzafarpur and Bettiah) participated in the event. Those three days were a time of encountering the Bible with fun, exploring their talents, building a bond of brotherhood and sisterhood and overall fun and merriment. In spite of the neck to neck competition, our children proved that they were not less than anybody and topped the table with 11 first prizes, 7 second Prizes and 3 third prizes. Hats off to Buxar Diocese and all those involved in preparing them.

**Logos Bible Writing:** Sr. Rachana CJ (Shahpur), Jayanti Tirkey (Piro) and Ursula Minj (Piro) have written/copied the first 8 books of the Bible. The Diocese will honour them for having completed such a herculean task! KUDOS to all the three, a genuine example for others!

### List of Winners in LOGOS BIBLE QUIZ 2017

Name	Group	Parish	Status
Sushma Kumari	A	Durgawati	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Sudhir Kumar	A	Itarhi	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ajit Kumar	B	Itarhi	1 <sup>st</sup>
Shubham Kumar	B	Itarhi	II
Pankaj Raj	C	Durgawati	I
Roshini Kumari	C	Itarhi	II
Ursula Minj	D	Piro	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Gajadhar Prasad	D	Itarhi	II
Swasti Kumar	E	Itarhi	I
Patlu Prasad	E	Itarhi	II

Those who scored I & II in each group have been awarded by the diocese. The parish can do the same for those who scored well and also for all those who wrote the exam at the parish level. A

couple of those who did well will be participating in the exam on 19/11 at Bareilly organized for the Hindi belt. The efforts of those who motivated and encouraged the people to participate in the Logos programme are to be appreciated. If such steps were taken in other parishes too, many more people could have benefited from such opportunities.

### Episcopal Ordination

The diocese of Bettiah has now a new Shepherd



with the Episcopal ordination of **Bp. Peter Sebastian Goveas** on 19<sup>th</sup> of October. The 3 hours long ceremony on the pleasant morning of that auspicious day saw almost the whole of Bettiah diocese assemble in the church campus. To be part of the solemn ceremony many priests, religious and parishioners travelled a long way from the diocese of Bhagalpur, who gifted one of their priests for Bettiah diocese's leadership. As many as 9 Bishops besides, Nuncio's Secretary decorated the dais for the ceremony presided over by Archbishop William D'Souza of Archdiocese of Patna.

Congratulations to the priests, religious and the faithful of the diocese on being blessed by the new shepherd and wonderfully conducting the august ceremony!

## II CELEBRATIONS!

### Claretians' Feast:

Priests, Religious and the faithful from the area congregated under a tent in Nuaon Mission on 24/10 to celebrate the feast of St. Antony Mary Claret, the founder of Claretian Congregation. **Fr. James A.** was the main celebrant of the Eucharist, which was followed by agape for all. If a few Hindu friends also from the neighbourhood turned up to express their solidarity on the occasion, it shows that the three priests there are laying a strong foundation for the future of the Church in *Nuaon*. They need our prayerful support.

### Jubilee Celebrations :

**a)** Sr. (Dr.) Prema SND's Golden Jubilee was celebrated at Sasaram parish on 28<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Sr. Prema served at the *Nav Jeevan* Health Centre, Sasaram for 23 long years and the people of the place really acknowledged it with their whole hearted co-operation and involvement in the jubilee celebration there. After the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Bp. Sebastian, the Sasaram community, well wishers and parishioners together put up an impressive cultural programme. The SNDs served a delicious meal to all. The presence of the family members of Sr. Prema, certainly, added colour to the celebration. Congratulations, Sr. (Dr.) Prema! You deserve it. Sr. Pushpita, it was a wonderful celebration. The team work of the sisters, parish team, school team and collaborators was very much visible. This is how a Mission continues and bears hundred fold!

**b)** **Satna Major Seminary**, from where theology students used to come to our parishes for mission exposure, celebrated its **Silver Jubilee on 4/10**. Representing Buxar diocese Fr. James joined them in solidarity.

**c)** The former Parish Priest of the Cathedral Church Fr. **Ivan Joseph**, now back in his Varansi Diocese, celebrated Golden Jubilee of his priesthood on 19 Oct. at Varanasi. Fr. Amalan with many priests and religious from our diocese participated in the joyful celebration. Bp. Sebastian had gone to Varanasi to wish him the previous day.

### Parish Day Celebrations:

**a)** **Amolia** - As it has been happening every year without fail, this year too Amolia had a very impressive Parish Day celebration on 21<sup>st</sup> of Oct. On such occasions, Amolia church finds it difficult to accommodate the people; but all adjust. At the Mass 12 children received their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and were Confirmed. The leadership of the laity on such occasions is very spectacular here. After the Mass, all the employed people of the parish were specially honoured. This is really a motivating factor for the children of this rural parish. Before they left the place at 2.00 pm, all had a sumptuous meal, for which each family had contributed. It is reported that some amount is even left over after all the expense was met. Congratulations, Fr. Sebastian and your committed team.

**b) Buxar** - Cathedral parish arranged a meaningful as well as very devotional Novena of Our Lady prior to its Parish Day and Feast Day celebrations on 10<sup>th</sup> of September. The Novena, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September was an expression of our devotion to our Mother. The faithful from different villages of the parish took up the responsibility of leading the prayers on those days. On the Feast day that was celebrated on 10th Sept. the church was full with the faithful who came with their special offerings. After the meaningful Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Bp. Sebastian, all shared the sweets and 'Nasta' offered at the altar during the Mass. It was followed by special cultural items and games for different groups- a sign of the community being built up at Buxar. Congratulations to the PP Fr. Raja and his team on their pastoral initiatives.

**c) Shahpur** had its eventful Parish Day celebrations on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. During the Mass, Bp. Sebastian Confirmed about 30 children and a



few received 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Right from the beginning, the day had an ethos of celebrations. Prior to the Parish Day celebrations, the parishioners went through a spiritual renewal guided by Fr. Akshay IMS and the team from Matridham, Varanasi. More than a thousand people participated in the 'Preeti Bhoj' that was a symbol of generosity from one parishioner. The PP, Fr. Bhaskar is indeed a creative Pastor and good at mobilizing people and resources. Congratulations to one and all!

### III SEMINARS/MEETINGS !

#### Youth Seminar:

Our new Buxar Diocesan Youth Director, **Fr. Christhu, CMF** arranged a youth seminar at Sewa Dham from 25-26 of October. It was well participated by some 50 plus Catholic youth.

To help our youth in their career guidance, to regroup themselves, making them aware of their strength and weaknesses and motivating them for a meaningful life, **Fr. Ozzie Saldanha, SJ** travelled all the way from Patna. **Fr. Anand Kumar** along with **Fr. James Amakatt**, and **Bishop** chipped in to motivate the youth and appealed to them to use their talents in the service of the church and society at large.



Special thanks to Fr. Sudeep SJ, Buxar Diocesan Social Work Director who provided the financial resources for the event. Congratulations to Fr. Christhu and the youth coordinators.

- ❖ 15 youths (11 boys & 4 girls) belonging to the parishes of the diocese participated in a one-day seminar *cum* workshop program on "Building Leadership for a New India," organized by St. Xavier's college XTTI, at NJN, Patna on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. There were about 241 young boys and girls from different colleges of Patna for the programme. The whole program was led by Fr. T. Nishant, the principal of St. Xavier's XTTI and Mr. Anshuman, an advocate from Patna High Court.

#### Diocesan Marriage Programmes

- ❖ Marriage Convention took place at SD on 27 October. Parents and the candidates for marriage were given teachings on the sacrament of marriage, through the media, discussing, sharing and instruction by Frs. Bijoy, James A., Sr. Suja SND and Sanjeev master (Buxr). It was followed by self-introduction leading to negotiations for alliance. Since the physical presence of the candidates was very helpful, one wished if all the parents had come with their sons/daughters, marriage matching would have run smoother! Folks, take the tip for the next convention.
- ❖ Another Marriage Preparation from 28 Sept. – 3 Oct. was conducted at SD. **Fr. Bijoy SDB, Sr. Suja**

SND and **Bro. Francis** (Disciples) were the resource persons.

- ❖ **Fr. James A.** attended on 16-19 October the Annual Canon Law Society Conference at Madurai along with 130 other members from all over India, including **Cardinal Oswald Gracias**, the Founder.

## IV VARIA !

### News At a Glance:

- **Regents' Recollection:** Fr. James Amakatt, the V.G and in-Charge of the seminarians of Buxar diocese, conducted a one-day recollection for all the Regents of the diocese on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Bishop met them individually.
- **Fr. Anil Benet** on holidays from his studies in Rome was in the diocese in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of September before he took off for home visit. His visit to Buxar and other parishes was well appreciated. He was very thoughtful to share some material and spiritual pleasantries of Rome. He had a lucky escape after hitting a calf on Amulya road – something to recall while back in Rome!
- **Jail Ministry:** With a short break caused by law and order problem in the Buxar jail, **Fr. A. Gotluri** has resumed his ministry on 7/09, though he has to find his way for a stable ministry to the prisoners.
- **Congratulations to Sr. Cynthia CJ (Chirag)**, who has reached the UNO, New York, to serve as Associate NGO Representative for Charity Federation. Sr. Cynthia, though your service for the legal aid to the people in and around Buxar will be missed, we believe that you have a greater call at the international level. We wish you all the best!
- **BUDSSS** took initiative to plant a number of saplings in the campus of a Government School in Buxar. The students were motivated to take care of the plants. Bishop, along with SD and BUDSSS staff, was present on the occasion. Save our mother earth through green revolution.
- **Ms. Africa** and **Laura**, the representatives of *Manos Unidas* were extended a hearty welcome by Bishop. They visited different areas of the diocese for possible linking hand in hand to minister to the poor. Fr. Sudeep and team organized the programme.

- **Fr. Dheeraj** and his team of laity from **Santwana Community** on 13 Oct. conducted special prayers during the daily adoration of the Bl. Sacrament in the Cathedral Church. Thereafter Bp. Sebastian celebrated the Eucharist, consecrating all the families in the diocese to the care of Our Lady of Fatima.
- **Seminarians** - Bros. **Manoj** and **Susai** having completed their studies from Morning Star College have applied for diaconate. They are scheduled to be in the diocese by end of November for pastoral ministry.
- The three catechists are now back in the diocese after their training at NJN. Congratulations to Catechist, **Rajkumar from Shahpur** on the completion of his training.
- Hearty Welcome to the **Camera Team, led by Maria** from Aid to the Church in Need, who will be in the diocese on 26-28 November.
- SG joins all concerned in thanking God for the release of **Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, SDB** from captivity on 12/9. Speaking about the meaning of his captivity and ordeal, Fr. Tom says: "God wanted me also to pray for my captors and for their conversion and peace in the world".

### Visitors' Galery:

- ❖ **Fr. Cyriac Neerakkal** OCD, the former Provincial of Malabar Province on 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- ❖ **Sr. Regina SSpS** and her Counselors from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- ❖ **Sr. Saveria**, the ICM Provincial on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- ❖ **Sr. Jane Livesy**, the Superior General of the CJ on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- ❖ **Sr. Valsa AC**, the Assistant Provincial of the AC on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- ❖ **Manos Unidas** team, **Ms. Africa and Laura** 31<sup>st</sup> Sept.-3 Nov.

### Those Gone before Us!

- ❖ The curtain fell on the 79 years of the earthly sojourn of **Fr. Bob Schmidt, SJ** on 26/9/2017. On the following day his mortal remains were laid to rest at XTTI cemetery after a Requiem Mass presided over by Bp. Sebastian Kallupura, joined by **Bp. Cajetan** of Muzaffarpur, priests, religious and people. He will be remembered as a 'Guru' giving guidance to priests and religious through retreats and individual counseling. Another Jesuit friend of ours in no more!

- ❖ **Fr. Sudeep Chacko SJ**, Director of BUDSSS officiated the funeral ceremonies of his beloved mother Thresiamma on 14/10 in Kerala. She has gone for her eternal reward on 12/10. Hearty condolences, Fr. Sudeep. Fr. James A. represented Buxar diocese at the funeral. Fr. Sudeep was back in his office on 27/10
- ❖ **Tragic Death:** Vikrama and family from Babhani village (Buxar) were heart broken when his daughter's only son (4) fell from their terrace and died later in the hospital. We pray for the deceased child's parents and other near and dear ones in *Chilibili* village, Itarhi that they may have the grace to accept this painful situation. **RIP**

### **A Testimony : Perseverance Pays !**

I am pankaj Raj son of Kamla Devi and Robert Raj of Durgawati Parish. Right now I am pursuing my Masters Degree in nanobiosciences at University of Grenoble Alpes, France.

Having done my primary schooling from St. Mary's School Kudra, I went to St. John's High School Ranchi for matriculation. Four years of St. John's have great influence on my life. I feel that my character and attitude towards life is the result of nurturing of St. John's. Thereafter, I was enrolled in St. Xavier's School Doranda for Senior Secondary. These years were the most struggling period of my life till this day. During this period of time I was in severe depression. Life had become very harsh for me and for my family. I was on medication for a long time. By God's grace, I became normal. At the same time after my senior secondary, I qualified Central University Jharkhand's entrance test and was registered in Integrated M. Tech in Nanotechnology. When I was in the third year at CUJ, I was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. Till the day I am on medication. I had taken many tests for my master's study. And finally, I was selected for the session 2016-17. But I could not join the program because of financial constrains. My admission was deferred for the session 2017-18. By God's blessings, I received a scholarship from the Ministry of 'Social Justice and Empowerment' for my overseas studies. My journey from Durgawati to France is not less than a miracle, thanks to the concerted efforts of my family, well wishers, our dear Bishop Sebastian and Shri Uday Narayan Chaudary, who stood by me to tide over the last minute hurdles that caused me join the college one month late.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **November**

- Catechists' Gathering on 14
- Regents' Recollection in Koath on 17-22
- 22 Golden Jubilee celebration of Srs. Prabha & Prema SND, Buxar
- 25 Silver Jubilee of St. Xavier's School, Jagdishpur.
- 26 Christ the King Procession, Shahpur (Bhojpur Deanery), at Chenari (Rohtas Deanery)

#### **December**

- 05 School Secretaries and Principals Meeting, Buxar.
- 08-09 Priests' Recollection
- 27 Priests' & Brothers' Christmas Gathering, SD
- 29 Sisters' Christmas Gathering, SD

### **Happy Birthday!**

#### **November**

- 08 Fr. Josey Mathias, SJ
- 27 Fr. Charlie Issac

#### **December**

- 06 Fr. Arogyaswamy G.
- 22 Fr. Stephen, SJ
- 23 Fr. Anand

### **Bishop's Programme**

#### **November**

- 01 Rosarian General visits, Buxar.
- 04 Feast Day Mass, Sohaon, Varanasi diocese.
- 06-08 Out of the diocese.
- 16-20 CCI Meeting Bangalore.
- 22 Golden Jubilee of Srs. Prabha & Prema SND, Buxar
- 24 Consult
- 25 Silver Jubilee of St. Xavier's School, Jagdishpur.
- 26 Christ the King Procession, Shahpur.
- 27 Bihar Forum G. B. Meeting, Patna.
- 28-29 BRBC Meeting, Patna.
- 30 Golden Jubilee of Tripolia Hospital, Patna.

#### **DECEMBER**

- 05 School Secretaries and Principals Meeting, Buxar.
- 06 Patna Sewa Kendra Jubilee, Patna.
- 08-09 priests' Recollection
- 10 Carmel School, Buxar.
- 24-25 Christmas Ministries.
- 27 Priests' and Brothers' Christmas Gathering.
- 29 Sisters' Christmas Gathering.
- Dec. 30- Jan. 04 Ordinations, Kerala.