



11 May 2020

# FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

## EMBERS IN THE DARK: IMAGES OF HOPE IN A CHANGE OF ERAS



The sterling efforts of the Patna Jesuits in responding to the situation arising out of the country-wide lock-down in the wake of the COVID 19 crisis is an image of hope in the midst of several resistances to reach out to the least, the last and the lost (Mathew 25).

Right from Lockdown 1.0, beginning with Patna, all the Jesuit communities in the dioceses of Patna, Buxar, Bettiah and Muzaffarpur have contributed their mite for the relief and support of marginalized groups through the distribution of pre-cooked meals and dry rations.

The effort to keep the embers burning, now that migrant labourers from Bihar have returned, continues. Our schools are being requisitioned as quarantine centres by the local administration in remote areas. To this we have readily offered our support and space.

This presentation, through words and images, is our contribution, along with collaborators and like-minded persons/groups, towards this process of reconciliation of humanity in a world broken by COVID 19. It is a drop in the ocean considering the magnitude of the situation. Nonetheless, I believe, that this small drop makes a huge difference to those thirsting for consolation. We are grateful to the Good Shepherd for having allowed us a share in these Paschal Mysteries, beginning with lock-down 1.0, leading us to bring the hope of the Resurrection during the Easter Season of lock-down 2.0 and 3.0. May the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost heal our broken world and keep the embers of hope ever-burning.

Donald Miranda, SJ  
Provincial, Patna Jesuit Province



## PATNA JESUIT PROVINCE RESPONSE TO THE COVID CRISIS

The Covid-19 crisis has brought in multiple problems. Apart from fighting against the virus that is killing lives, the situation has forced us to .....

### FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

*“Even if we are saved from Corona virus, we will die of Hunger”*

*“I haven't eaten anything for three days”.*

This heartrending cry of the poor spurred us, the Patna Jesuits, into action, to fight against hunger caused by this pandemic. This is the cry of the thousands of migrants and other poor people who have been devastated not by the sickness but due to the adverse impact of the enforced lockdown. Overnight, people lost their livelihood and with that their dignity too.

Responding to the hunger situation, the Patna Jesuits took efforts on a war-footing to provide people with food and dry rations. As on 30th April, 2020, we have provided hot meals to **21,000 persons** in collaboration with IRCTC and **8588 families** have been provided with dry rations to help them tide over the lockdown period.

### FIGHT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS

*“United, We Shall Overcome”*

Joining the world and the nation in its fight against the spread of the Corona virus, the Patna Jesuits have taken proactive initiatives to help the poor and the most vulnerable people to protect themselves and to control the transmission of the virus.

As on 30th April 2020, we have provided **7500 masks**; More than **16000 Soaps** were given along with ration kits. Two of our schools, St. Xavier's School, Gaunaha in West Champaran District, and Raj Rajeshwar School, Barbigha, Sheikhpura District, have been converted to Quarantine Centres by the government.





# SNAPSHOT OF THE RELIEF WORK OF PATNA JESUITS



Districts Covered

10



sanitary items

16000+



Community Kitchens

03



Persons/families given dry ration

8588



Jesuit Communities Involved

22



Masks Distributed

7500



Persons/families given cooked food

21,000



Quarantine Centres

02



Volunteers engaged

676



persons/families given financial aid

28

Amount Spent already - approximately

Rs.41,62,789





## AWARENESS CREATION

Creating awareness about Govt. welfare schemes, sanitation, hygiene, social distancing, isolation etc. is done through passing on information, phone calls, and occasional visits of field staff, SHG groups, and volunteers.

Teachers of the village schools are telling people to stay at home and maintain social distancing and also avail the government help provided to the needy

## MEDICAL SUPPORT

Providing medical support to those who are chronically ill and need regular medicines

## GENEROSITY OF STAFF

St. Michael's School & St. Xavier's College of Education have earmarked one day salary of the teaching staff besides earmarking a specified amount to help out through our SA centers specially in Sasaram and Sakri.

## INTERVENTIONS OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTRES

The SA centres of Patna Province are helping out through volunteers and our staff besides the people who call for help by either directly helping or reaching out through government agencies in getting help from government schemes/ ration distribution. The directors of our centres contact police, the BDO, and other government officers to direct them to the needy people and places. For example, Jesuit community Aurangabad, facilitated 867 families for govt. ration and helped 115 to get new ration cards. Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya, has directed BDO to the needy.

## FINANCIAL AID

28 families were given Rs. 500 each as emergency financial help

## ALUMNI CONTRIBUTION

The Alumni of St. Michael's distributed dry ration to 950 families in the school campus as on 30 April 2020





- Networking with Govt. Agencies:  
Officials district to village & IRCTC provided meals
- Networking across FAITHS ;  
Buddhists Monks, Bodhgaya & Muslims
- Networking/ Collaborating with women  
religious- with in the community and outside
- Networking with Diocesan Bodies
- Networking within our institutions / houses:  
Jesuits, Staff, Alumni, SHGs, Volunteers, etc.)
- Collaboration with Donor Agencies,  
NGOs & Benefactors – family, friends, others
- Networking among Jesuit Institutions





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## Stories From The Field

In the first week of the lockdown, we were not doing anything much other than taking stock of the situation in the villages. On the 03rd of April, Fr. Juno, SJ, Director, Manthan, visited a village (Murgiya Chak) to find out the situation. In my interaction, one old lady told me, "We may be saved from corona virus, but we will die of starvation for sure". Another woman told me, **"I have not eaten anything for the last three days"**. These two voices made me to think loud and take steps to reach out to the needy as soon as possible. Then we came in touch with the Indian railways catering department and started distributing cooked food to people in different villages. I also requested our friends, well-wishers and the Province to help us to respond to the situation. All of them helped us generously. My deepest experience during the lock down is that that "our hearts are opened" to the reality and to the least and the last.

- Fr. Juno Sebastian, SJ, Dir, Manthan

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Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya, : We have found that poverty is hidden in villages. Outwardly, certain houses may suggest that they are not poor. Households which depended on income from migration, found themselves in difficult situation. The sudden fall in their income, caused much hardships in their life. Such was the case that we encountered in Belaganj. The young man who migrated to Delhi for work used to send money home for his wife and three children. For the last two months, he could not send money. He is held up in Delhi. The family found it difficult to manage. A few days, they managed with borrowing rice from neighbors. This household does not have ration card either. As a result, the household experienced much hardship. The mother found it difficult to feed her children. In desperation, she called up the help line number of labor commissioner who contacted us in turn to help this family. This experience helped us to encounter poverty hidden in many households which are not so easily visible to naked eye. Even the neighbors do not have patience to know the actual situation of the one living next door.

- Fr. Anto Joseph, SJ, Community Leader, JS,  
Bodhgaya & Dir, BDVS, Patna



## DETAILS OF RELIEF WORK BY EACH COMMUNITY

S.N.	INSTITUTION / HOUSE	TYPE OF RELIEF & SUPPORT PROVIDED	DISTRICT	TYPE OF COMMUNITIES REACHED / HELPED
1	ARA : CHS & PARISH	Dry ration kit- 400 families	BHOJPUR	Musahar tolas and a few Christian families
2	AURANGABAD: ST. IGNATIUS SCH & SVS	facilitated.. 867 families for govt. ration 115 to get new ration cards sponsored dry ration kits distributed to the poor by Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya	AURANGABAD	20 village centres of Aurangabad & Poor in Shergatti block, Gaya
3	BARBIGHA : Raj Rajeshwar School	The school is turned into a quarantine centre for migrants on 08 May	SHEIKHPURA	Quarantine center for migrants from Sheikhpura District
4	BETTIAH: KREA - K. R. & St. Xavier's Schools	Dry ration kit -200 families 600 masks distributed Sponsored dry ration to SS, Ratanpurwa	WEST CHAMPARAN	Daily wagers of 10 villages of 5 blocks
5	BETTIAH: READ	Dry ration kit - 315 families Donated Dry ration to AD, Muzaffarpur & JSB, Gaunaha ; provided cloth for stitching masks in SHG, Gaunaha	WEST CHAMPARAN MUZZAFFARPUR	Widows, elderly, poor without ration cards, villages in 7 blocks of West Champaran
6	BODHGAYA: JEEVAN SANGHAM	Dry ration kits- 402 families sponsored by inter-religious friends group -Buddhist Institutions, Muslims, Jesuit institutions and individuals	GAYA	Musahars and poor in Shergatti , Barachatti, Bodhgaya Belaganj blocks & Gaya town
7	CHENARI : HOLY FAMILY MISSION	Dry ration kits- 130 families 30 masks- bank employees 50 gamcha - police men Sponsored by St. Michael's, Patna	ROHTAS	6 Musahar tolas
8	DANAPUR : CHURCH	Dry ration kit - 2 families	PATNA	Christian families
9	GAUNAHA: JSB & ST. XAVIER'S SCH	Dry ration to 270 families 3700 Masks stitched SHG & distributed St. Xavier's Sch - quarantine centre from 28 April 2020 – 148 persons	WEST CHAMPARAN	Poor in Gaunaha, Manguraha, Sunarbasti, Badaharwa, Serwa, Masjidwa, Sirsiya, Jamhauri, Sherpur of Bagaha -2 block
10	KHAGAUL : MANTHAN	Meal to 19500 people in 47 villages Dry ration kits- 535 families Distributed 2200 masks	PATNA	Mostly musahar tolas in Khagaul, Bihata area of Patna district
11	MUZAFFARPUR: ASHA DEEP COMTY COLLEGE	Cooked food – 1000 people Dry ration kits– 365 families 100 masks distributed	MUZAFFARPUR	Musahar tolas in Bishudatpur, Mohamadpur, Dumari Pakri, and Dharampur
12	PATNA: KURJI PARISH	Dry ration kits – 35 families Rs. 500 – 6 families collaborated with parish lay units and parishioners to reach relief to many	PATNA	Christians and others in kurji parish area
13	PATNA : FATIMA MATA SUSAMACHAR KENDRA	Donated Rs. 6,50,000/ for dry ration distributed by Jesuit, lay and women religious NGOs 24 X 7 prayers by the prayer team	PATNA	Physically challenged, daily wagers in and around Patna
14	PATNA: SANJIVAN NIWAS	Dry ration kits -104 families Rs.500 each to 22 families Donation to Sr. Veena & SXCMT, XTTI	PATNA	Daily labourers, poor musahars of Mukhdampur & Digha area
15	PATNA : ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL & SXCE	Dry ration kits- 950 families by alumni Dry ration kits– 45 fly by college staff One day salary of the teaching staff of school & college School donated Rs.3,33,000 & college Rs. 20,000 for dry ration to Prabhat, Sakri and Chenari Jesuits	PATNA MADHUBANI DARBANGA ROHTAS	Widows, physically challenged, elderly, poor in Patna & musahars in Madhubani, Darbanga, & Rohtas Districts
16	PATNA: ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL	Earmarked 5 lakhs for relief Donated 1 lakh SXCMT for dry ration	PATNA	Poor in Digha – Ashiana area
17	PATNA : XTTI – ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY	Dry ration kit - 1950 families & spent Rs 4,16,515 as on from Jesuit, women, as 30 April donation religious, other	PATNA	Poor in Digha – Ashiana area



S.N.	INSTITUTION / HOUSE	TYPE OF RELIEF & SUPPORT PROVIDED	DISTRICT	TYPE OF COMMUNITIES REACHED / HELPED
18	RATANPURWA : SEVA SADAN	Dry ration kit - 634 families Distributed 300 Masks Donations - MISEREOR, KREA, Bettiah; FSMA Srs	WEST CHAMPARAN	9 dailit hamlets of Chuitaha, Bagaha -2 block
19	SAKRI – PRABHAT	Dry ration kit to 254 families Sponsored by St. Michael's Rs.20,000 from local MLA	MADHUBANI & DARBANGA	widows, physically challenged, sick & 28 musahar villages
20	SASARAM: SCH & PARISH	Dry ration to 170 families	ROHTAS	Poor in the villages
22	PATNA JESUIT SOCIETY (PJS) St. Xavier's, Gandhi Maidan Marg W, Patna 800 001	<u>Partners in Mission</u> Sr. Dorathy, PBVM - 1280 families Sr. Veena, - 126 Sr. Florine, ICM - 200 Sr. Leema, ICM - 120 Muslim men of Kanghaiya Tola - 100 Manthan, SJ centre - 225  <b>Total families helped 2051</b> Sr. Dorothy - 3 community kitchens gave meals to 415 persons	PATNA	daily wagers, slum dwellers, rag pickers, rickshaw pullers, vendors, domestic workers of Bhawar Pokhar, & Naya Goan Kamala Nehru Nagar Slum; workers of unorganized sector of Kanghaiya tola, Patna City
23	UP: VARNASI- VIDYA NIWAS	Fr. (Dr). Prakash Louis wrote articles in journals highlighting the plight of the poor amidst the pandemic  Worked under the Bishop of the Varanasi Diocese, collaborating with other priests and religious to distribute relief to the poor	VARANASI	Widows, physically challenged, daily wagers, poor families across faiths in Varanasi diocese
24	BANGALORE : XAVIER NILAYA, Candidate House	Our candidates served as volunteer packing relief materials for the Karnataka Jesuits at St. Joseph Boys' School & St. Joseph's College		Candidates served as volunteers to pack relief materials at Jesuit Institutions

**जरूरतमंदों के बीच रतनपुरवा मिशन के द्वारा बांटी गई राहत सामग्री**

टी न्यूज संवाददाता फूल बराजी  
मनमोर/पंच०:- मंगलवार 1 लोक डाउन के दौरान अब विच पूछे नहीं रहेंगे। मिशन के जा रहा है इस लोक डाउन में किसी भी गरीब असाहाय पूछा नहीं रहे इसको देखते हुए चिउटाहा थानाक्षेत्र के हर इलाके में जरूरतमंदों के बीच राहत



**दैनिक भास्कर** पटना

कजरी, विवाह-गीत और नानी से फोन पर जनेऊ गीत भी सिख रही हूँ।  
टकराते हैं, तो उससे सुखद इस संकट सुनने को मिले।

**दैनिक भास्कर**

किताब का पहला अध्याय खुदाबक्श के बारे में लिखा और आखिरी खुदाबक्श के बड़े बेटे सलाउद्दीन।  
गवर्नर हेनरी व्हीलर ने किया था जिनके नाम पर व्हीलर सीनेट हॉल है। 1955 में इसे गवर्नमेंट ऑफ बिहार ने टेक ओवर कर जुड़ा है यह था डॉ

**इंडिया को प्रजेंट** **संत जेवियर्स ने गरीबों में बांटे फूड पैकेट्स** जरूरतमं खाद्य सा सिटी रिपो क्रिएटर प्ले स पाटलिपुत्रा स्टे रहने वाले जर खाद्य सामग्री

यूनैटेड नेशनल श्रव पृथ्वी दिवस पर व्यक्त करने के को को-ऑर्डिनेटर को आमंत्रण मिला सिटी रिपोर्टर. पटना सामग्री का वितरण किया गया है।

**जेसुइट सोसाइटी ने 13 गरीब टोलों में कराया भोजन, राशन भी बांटे**

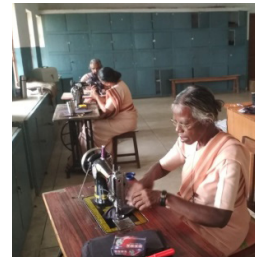
मिशन के सदस्यों ने उपहार और खाद्य सामग्री जैसे वस्तुओं में भी मदद

**Feeding the poor residing in slum areas**

Faryal Rumi  
Patna: The nationwide lockdown is really hard on the poor people who earned their livelihood on daily wages. In this period of crisis, a voluntary organization has been feeding the poor especially those who live in the slums.  
Manthan, a voluntary organization of the Patna Jesuit Society (PJS), claims to give while serving the cooked food to needy persons," said Fr. Juno. He also thanked the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for helping the Manthan to reach out to the needy people and provide them cooked food.  
Fr. Juno said, "Covid-19 has badly affected people from all walks of life. The poor sections are worst hit from this pandemic. When we reached Murayyachak Musahar, an old woman said she had not eaten anything for the last three days. This is a very painful situation," he recalled.  
He said Manthan had been working in more than 50 Musahar villages under the



**HELPING HAND**



# “UNITED WE OVERCOME”

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COLLABORATORS

The COVID-19 crisis has once again proved that unity is strength. This level of reach out was and is possible only due to networking and collaborating.

We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to all generous friends, families, benefactors across religions-Buddhists, Muslims, etc., donor agencies, government officials, village leaders, police personnel, media friends, Our staff, students, alumni, animators, SHGs, volunteers, Women religious, diocesan bodies, NGO's, & all our Jesuit Institutions/ Houses



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