

XIC Congratulates
Alumnus Fr. Peter Rapose (JR - 01) on the success of his
Hindi Musicial drama -‘Nyay Ka Masiha’.

‘The Messiah of Justice’,
Nyay Ka Masiha

About the musical drama:

When heroic stories of the past are retold, they inspire and infuse heroism, better still when their relevance continues even today. Such is a story of Fr. Constant Lievens, a Belgian Jesuit missionary retold in, “*Nyay Ka Masiha*” (The Messiah of Justice), a musical drama produced by a group of Goan priests in Ranchi, Jharkhand under the auspices of *Shubhsandesh Kala Kendre*, a cultural centre run by the Pilar Fathers. Deploying Goa’s own *Khell Tiatr* genre popular in Goa, the priests belonging to the Society of Pilar have made a sort of record by introducing *Khell Tiatr* in the Hindi language in Jharkhand. Going to remote places of Jharkhand the drama is received with much applause and acclaim by the throngs of crowds numbering from a thousand to even over three thousand at some of the venues.

What St. Francis Xavier is to Goans, Fr. Constant Lievens is to the tribal people of *Chotanagpur* (*Chotanagpur* is a plateau in eastern India, which covers much of Jharkhand State as well as adjacent parts of the State of Orissa, Bihar, and Chattisgarh, and is basically inhabited by tribal people) who fondly call him the Apostle of Chotanagpur and *Nyay ka Masiha*, the Messiah of Justice. And this musical drama in Hindi with a mixture of *Sadri* language (*Sadri* is a dialect of the Hindi language commonly known and used by most of the tribes in Chotanagpur) is based on the life of Fr. Lievens, who came to Chotanagpur in 1845. It showcases his life and work in Chotanagpur vis-à-vis the socio-cultural-political and religious life of the tribal people of Chotanagpur (There are about 30 different tribes in Chotanagpur consisting of around 7,087,068 (2001 census) tribal people in Jharkhand alone). While intended to bring about a social re-awakening, the musical drama is doing something with ease, driving home the message of Liberation, Justice and Peace.

The musical drama is thus targeted to bring about a social awareness to empower and motivate people to combat exploitation, corruption, injustice prevalent in society following Christ’s methods of Justice and Peace.

The musical play is well synchronized with dialogues and singing. The story flows with suspense, comedy and drama. With a young and spirited cast, entertaining and enthralling music, and an effective use of sound and light, the drama is intended to entertain and promote the values of Justice and Peace. Among the actors, Pilar Fathers Fr. Deonis Dung acting as the powerful

Zamindar, Fr. Rocky Fernandes as his assistant and Fr. Allan Noronha as the local postman are a treat to watch. So far the musical drama has been staged at 16 different venues and Parishes in Jharkhand starting from November 3, 2007. The musical drama is adapted by Fr. Peter Raposo sfx, Fr. Prabodh Bilung sfx and Fr. Peter Tigga sj; music by Pravir Simes; directed by Fr. Peter Raposo sfx and Fr. Allan Noronha sfx; and produced by Fr. Rocky Fernandes sfx, Director of *Shubhsandesh Kala Kendre*, Ranchi, Jharkhand, India. “With the kind of response and invitations we have received, we intend to take the musical play to many other villages”, says Fr. Rocky Fernandes. And who knows *Khell Tiatr* in Jharkhand may as well be here to stay.

Fr. Peter is a member of the Society of Pilar, currently working as Secretary and Spokesperson of His Eminence, Telesphore P. Cardinal Toppo, Archbishop of Ranch...