



DELHI PROVINCE

Our first opportunity to venture beyond the State of Bihar came with the invitation of the Diwan of Jaipur in Rajasthan to open a Jesuit school there. He was deeply impressed by the school in Patna, and wanted us to open a similar school in Jaipur. We were rather reluctant to extend our activities so far away from Bihar, but Fr. Frank Loesh, a man of vision, saw this invitation as a special grace of God to establish the church in an area where it was practically unknown. Frs. Hussey and Ludwig reached Jaipur in June of 1945. Br. Pfiffner from Pune undertook to put up the new school building. The small Jesuit community grew, and along with it the student body. Frs. John Cosgrove and Patrick Smith were the pioneers. By 1953, St. Xavier's was a well established institution when Fr. General named Fr. Hubert Schmidt as the first rector. Over the years, the enrollment continued to grow, and today it is close to 3000.

The next big step in our involvement in the northern states came with the request from Fr. General that we should start a school in Delhi, the capital of the nation. Again, Fr. Frank Loesch was a key mover in this process, and he found an ideal location in the Cecil Hotel, which he purchased. It had buildings for a beginning, and ample property to expand. It opened its doors to 750 students in 1960. Today there are more than 3000 students, and several new buildings have been added.

When Fr. General established the "Northwest Project", Fr. Varkey Perakkatt was appointed the coordinator, and he explored the possibilities of other centers in the northern states. In 1988, he became the first Region Superior. Since then, Delhi Region grew in its outreach and number of Jesuit personnel. It extends now to 15 centers and 6 sub-centers. The number of Jesuits has increased from the original 43 to 108,

and it began its own novitiate in 2005. So today it has been elevated to the status of independent province. Fr. John Ariapilly, who was Region Superior, has now become Provincial with effect from 30 Dec. 2005. There are six schools, eight parishes and four social service centers. We sincerely congratulate the Delhi Jesuits on their excellent work, and wish them continued growth in the years to come.



**Fr. John
Ariapilly, S.J.**
Provincial of Delhi
(30 December 2005)



**Fr. Joy
Karayampuram, S.J.**
Provincial of Patna
(31 May 2006)