



**Pastor's Corner**

*Isn't it amazing that George Carlin comedian of the 70's and 80's could write something so very eloquent and so very appropriate? Written in America, it still makes sense for us. Read on! +Lumen, CSC*

**A Message by George Carlin:**

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not

**LINK condoles the untimely death of Fr. Bijoy John, CSC, and extends our sympathies to N.E. Holy Cross & to the bereaved family.**

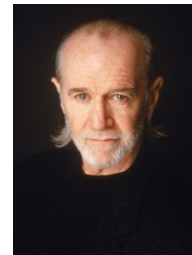


**The Paradox of our time!**

better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow



relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when

there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete..."

**Editorial**

**Engaging 'Facebook Tigers'**



In a few months time Tripura will have switched over to the election mode. There is an assembly election round the corner and there is

nothing quite as important as that here in any given five-year period. It's a time when political parties try might and main to garner votes and thereby divide society into splinter groups as if existing divisions were not enough. Divisions, of course, no longer make news in Tripura. And neither does it make sense to expect a society, already split into numerous factions on the basis of political parties, ethnic identities, religions, denominations, and language, to be alarmed at divisions that keep happening in its ranks.

But there is a division that's happening right under our nose. It would be silly for us to feign ignorance about it because, in fact, we seem to contribute toward it. Among the tribal youth of the State, we can see emergence of an elite class. However slow its growth, this is one phenomenon that is certain to polarize youth into the 'opportunity haves' and the 'opportunity have-nots'.

Adequate schooling with a trendy accent in English, fearlessness to fly into the big metros of the country, some political string-pulling capacity, and of course, an active Facebook

account are all that's needed for admittance into the elite club.

But for the latter group, whose teeming thousands form the vast majority, it's about the brass tacks of life: food, clothes, shelter and luck permitting, some dignity.



The Church seems to have known this all along and been emphatic about its predilection for poorer sections of society. In fact, the distribution of Catholic mission centres across Tripura is a forceful proof of this preferential option for the weak and marginalized.

And yet the unsettling truth is that a good percentage of English-muttering tribal youth that roam the streets of Agartala have passed out of our many institutions spread across the State. Their privileged positions should make it possible for them to offer leadership to their Madhyamik-plugged fellow youth that throng the villages or to those still languishing in badly-run Bangla schools in rural areas.

For a moment, let's suspend disbelief and suppose this happens. Would we really want our simple village youth exposed to these urban-bred Facebook tigers? Well, not really, considering the moral ineptitude of some of those passing out of our schools.

It's something that should make us pause and re-examine the nature and outcome of the education we are imparting.

*J. Pulinthanath, sdb*

## Khumlwng Parish

### Parish Feast amidst cultivation:

The celebration began with 9 days of Novena in all the villages of the parish simultaneously. Though people are busy in cultivation yet they gathered in the village chapels every evening to pray through St. Alphonsa. A day of SCC Training and Women leadership in the family and the Church were given to the parishioners by Fr. Lancy CSC and Sr. Susheela SSpS respectively. We thank them for their valuable classes.



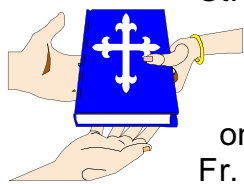
On the Feast day people came from all *m o t h a s* and participated in the celebration. The Eucharist began with an entrance dance and the Bible procession.

Every village had a chance to make the intercessory prayers. The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Arun Minj SVD, while a thought-provoking homily on St. Alphonsa was given by Fr. John Bosco SVD. The felicitation program after the Eucharist was really colourful. We enjoyed the tribal dances of Kaipeng, Hrangkhwal, Jamatia and Debberma tribes. In addition there were the mind-blowing dances by children of at least 5 private hostels. The sense of unity in diversity through the Catholic Church prevailed throughout the celebration. We pray through the intercession of St. Alphonsa that we may remain faithful and committed.

*Fr. Arun Minj SVD*

## Kumarghat Parish

### Parish Feast



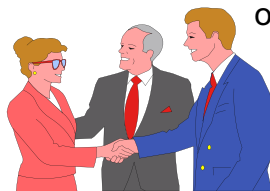
St. Paul's Parish Kumarghat celebrated its patronal feast on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2012.

Fr. Homis John, csc, was the main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist. People from different villages came in large number to grace the

occasion and to receive blessings. After the Eucharist there was solemn procession arranged. The procession was followed by a cultural program with a rich variety of entertainment. Fr. Hormis in his key note address explained the brief history of the Parish and how this Parish has played a major role in spreading the gospel. The significant event of the day was the release of the Parish Census 2012. Fr. Thomas Pereira, csc, has done a mesmerizing work in collecting the Parish census. The census was released and the first copy was handed over to Fr. Hormis John Vicar General of the Diocese. People appreciated Fr. Thomas Pereira for his devoted work in. The feast day came to an end with a fellowship meal which was shared by over 600 people.

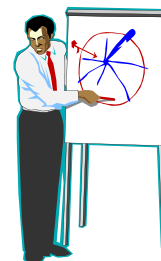
### Women's farewell

The Maria Sangha, (Women Association) of the Parish gathered to bid adieu to members of women associatio



## News from the Parishes

n of Holy Cross Parish Bagbasa. It was indeed sentimental to bid farewell to their long companions. A day long program included prayer service, cultural show, presentation of accounts; and the day ended with a fellowship meal.



### Leadership Seminar

One day Seminar for the village leaders was conducted at Kumarghat Parish.

The leaders of the different villages were present for program. The day included two sessions. Fr. Paul Puduserry, csc, in his first conference spoke on the leadership of St. Paul as an apostle of the gentiles. He explained how St. Paul played a role in spreading the church. The second session by Fr. Hormis John was on the sacraments and the role of the village leaders in sustaining the faith. He laid emphasis on the role of the village leaders in spreading the Word of God among the people.

*Fr. Agi Paul, csc*

## Congratulations

### Link congratulates:

- Fr. Heinz Kuluke, SVD, the new Superior General of the Congregation



- Archbishop Prakash Malavarapu, the newly appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Visakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh



- Bishop Gerald Lobo, the first Bishop of the

newly erected Diocese of Udupi in Karnataka.



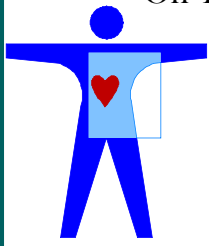
Pranab Mukherjee, newly elected President of India

"We are facing two wars: the war against poverty and the war against terrorism. Poverty must be eliminated from the dictionary of modern India".

-Pranab Mukherjee, at the taking of Oath as the 13th President of India.



## Health Awareness Program:



On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012, JUST organized awareness program on Health, Hygiene and Herbal remedies under IDEA project at Kulai Gondacherra

Para, Ambassa. Sr. Rose was the facilitator of the program. Mr. Vincent Debbarma, coordinator of the project attended the program. 25 participants attended the program. The topics included awareness on Health maintenance in a proper and

Hygienic way. Sr. Rose interacted with the people explaining them about diseases caused by unclean food systems. She also explained them about different types of fruits which contains vitamins and their benefit on our Health. All the people took active part in the program.



Vincent Debbarma

## Water Testing

On 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 water quality testing was done by the trained Community

## News from the JUST

Mobilizer under the guidance of the Project Coordinator at JUST Field Office, Naisingpara. Water from Block- H of Naisingpara was collected for the testing purpose which people used to drink every day without knowing the effect of it on the health. During the test it was found that the water contains a lot of iron which is not so good for drinking. The people were made aware of the same and asked them to boil or filter the water for drinking purpose.

LilMohan Reang

## News Briefs from all over

### Two Indian laymen, Devasahayam Pillai and Puthenparampil Thommchan, placed on sainthood road

In a historic move, Pope Benedict XVI put two Indian Catholic laymen on a fast track to sainthood. The Pontiff recognized Devasahayam Pillai, an 18th century Hindu convert to Catholicism in Tamil Nadu, as a martyr for faith and made him a venerable, the second stage in the Catholic Church's four-tier canonization process.



On the same day, the Pope named Puthenparampil Thommchan of neighboring Kerala State, as a Servant of God, the initial stage where Rome gives green signal to start the process. (csforum)

### Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith gets new Prefect

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed German Archbishop Ludwig Mueller to head the Vatican's powerful orthodox office. The 64-year-old will replace American Cardinal William Levada,



who retires from the helm of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith after seven years in the job. The important office was previously held by Pope Benedict, then known as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, between 1981 and 2005.

(UCAN-india)

### Indians involved in 'God particle' discovery



Some Indian scientists and research institutes were part of the discovery of a new sub-atomic particle

that is crucial to understanding how the universe is built. The long-sought particle, known as Higgs boson or God particle, is also partly named after an Indian scientist Satyendra Nath Bose. Bose, who studied at Presidency College, Calcutta, had worked with Albert Einstein in the 1920s and made discoveries that led to the most coveted prize in particle physics. The work done by Bose and Albert Einstein, later added to by Peter Higgs, led to this discovery. The Higgs boson or 'God particle' has been baffling scientists ever since Peter Higgs came out with the concept in 1964. (Times of India)

### 3 CHF Missionaries to Ghana laid to rest in India



India has become the biggest mission sending country in world. The call of the Lord is strong enough to risk any difficulties in fulfilling their role.

The tragedy of Holy Family Sisters is to further energize the Congregation in their missionary drive. Among the 21 CHF missionary Sisters to Ghana to support the West African mission three were snatched in a road accident on June 22. The mortal remains of these three Sisters, Sr. Annie Elvina 67, Sr. Kripa Paul 36 and Sr. Dhanya 58 were brought to India on 29 June, 2012 in a specially arranged craft and placed at the Chapel of Holy Family Generalate Mannuthy, Kerala, where the Congregation's founder Blessed Mariam Theresa was buried. Cardinal George Alencherry led the funeral services. (UCAN-India)

### Pope Visits Missionaries of the Divine Word

On July 9 Pope Benedict XVI made a private visit to the "Ad Gentes Centre" of the Missionaries of the Divine Word, located in the village of Nemi, close to his summer

## Visitors at Bishop's House

- ✕AC Srs. Mirabelle & Marcela from Kolkata
- ✕CSC Fathers from Meghalaya
- ✕Fr. Binoy's CSC Parents & relatives from Kerala
- ✕Bro. Joy Alex, SG from Guwahati

## LINK Mail Box

Thanks for the July LINK. Why not invite Bihar students to Agartala to study where electricity never fails? All the best for your work. +**Dominic Lumon, Imphal**

Thanks for the Link of July 2012. You always have something inspiring to tell your Readers, each time when the Link is out. **Mariaraj, csc, Pune**

Thanks for 'The Link.' Your introduction to the Link brought out in brief the social reality in our country. Such inequality is definitely prevalent in every nook and corner of India. May our rootedness in Christ help us to fight such inequality. The editorial was too simplistic. The editor could have used a better vocabulary in his editorial. The Link continues to keep us informed about the developmental works and spiritual programs in your Diocese. **Rui Pereira, csc, Goa**

Thanks for the July Link. It is quite news-filled one. I enjoyed reading it. Congratulations for being on time with lots of wit and wisdom. **Davis, csc, Shillong**

Wow!!! Well in the West but not missing a beat of the East. Congratulations - well done to you and your team. **Joseph, IGSSS, Delhi**

I used to enjoy and have fun reading your informative and very inspiring link. **Sebastian Periannan, Banagalore**  
Such a pleasure to read LINK. **M. Aranha, Mumbai**

**Mother of all sporting event at Isles of Wonder**



## News Briefs from all over

### Generic drugs to be free for most Indians

Health activists in India have welcomed an ambitious government scheme to provide free medicine to more than half of the country's 1.2 billion people. The 270 billion-rupee (around US\$5 billion) scheme, announced a week ago, aims to give free and regular access to



essential drugs, explained federal health secretary P K Pradhan. It will benefit poor people in nearly 600,000 villages and 779 cities.

The new plan provides a central pool that will procure generic drugs for most diseases and distribute them through government public health centers. It will also dramatically increase the scope of India's healthcare program by covering the urban poor.

**Ucanews.com**

residence of Castel Gandolfo. As VIS explained it was in that building, then called the



International Centre of the Society of the Divine Word, that the Vatican Council II Commission on Missions met from 29 March to 3 April 1965. Among the participants was a young theologian and expert of the conciliar assembly, Joseph Ratzinger. Since January 2010 it has taken the name of the "Ad Gentes Centre"

The Holy Father was welcomed on his arrival at Nemi by Fr. Heinz Kulupe, superior general elect; Fr. Antonio Pernia superior general, and Fr. Giancarlo Girardi, procurator general. He then went to the chapel to meet with the 150 participants in the general chapter of the order and the community of the Mother House in Rome.

A Vatican Radio report described the visit as a "very personal trip down memory lane" as he returned to the house overlooking Lake Nemi, the setting of his fondest and "most memorable" recollections of the Second Vatican Council.

**(Zenit.org)**

**Thousands laid down their lives so that our country is breathing this day**

**Never forget their sacrifice...**



**Happy Independence Day!!**

## Bishop's Program for August 2012

- 03-04: Pastoral Visit, Depacherra Parish
- 05: St. John Vianney Feast, Depacherra
- 09: Graduation Ceremony, Holy Cross Agartala
- 10: CDC & Edu. Commission Meet, Agartala
- 12: Installation of PP, Bodhjungnagar Parish
- 15: Installation of PP, Mandwi Parish
- 17-20: With Architect Jim & Fr. Val
- 18-19: Pastoral Visit Tuimairang, Khumlwng Parish
- 22: MC Sisters Society Feast, Kumarghat
- 25-26: Pastoral Visit, Gachirampara Parish