



Pastor's Corner

India celebrates its Teachers Day on September 5 since 1962, the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, a prominent thinker, philosopher and an educator. Teachers Day is celebrated as a tribute to the valuable contribution made by teachers to the society by imparting knowledge and enlightening and shaping the career of students.

Teaching has long been considered an isolated profession with little opportunity for collaboration. Teachers are a valuable resource and each one possesses expertise in strategies and methodologies that can be a benefit to others.

But teachers are also learners. Yahaya Ibrahim of Singapore, who studied at the famous teacher's training college in Kirkby, UK asks: "How do you use your hands? Whether you're a cook, a tailor or a surgeon, you need good hands. Sometimes, I ask a mother, which of your daughters can cook well, and she will point to one and say, that

Teachers as Leaders and Learners

one has good hands. The first H and second H have to work together if we are to be successful in life... In UK, that's where I learned about early childhood education and started asking the question everywhere I went."

Ibrahim was first posted to Malacca where he took up his first teaching post. "One thing I always emphasized was discipline. If I ask you to bring your homework, your job is to bring your homework. I am not interested in whether you have finished it or not. You could finish it tomorrow. But if you didn't bring it, I would make you stand on the chair. Today, I have many of my former students who are now in high positions coming up to me and saying they are what they are because of the way I treated them. They thank me for it," he says.



TAN SRI Dr Yahaya Ibrahim, 82, retired Govt. teacher, says "I believe that you need to keep learning and developing yourself no matter what your age. Because when you stop learning, you become old. But I don't only preach lifelong learning, but lifelong contributing. Your knowledge can only make a difference if you use it to help others in the area you love most and which you are best at."

I like to end by wishing all our Teachers a Happy Teachers Day, at the same time reminding them of the powerful metaphor of the teacher as a bridge by **Nikos Kazantzakis** who says, "Ideal teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own."

+*Lumen, CSC*

Editorial



About ten days ago I was part of a workshop that tried to fine-tune liturgical expressions in Kokborok language. The program, attended by a section of clergy and some Kokborok experts, was in many ways unique. It did bring to light quite a few linguistic and liturgical insights although it did not always succeed in coining new words and expressions that might have engendered use of some hitherto uncelebrated concepts in Kokborok liturgy.

If Wittgenstein's claim "the limits of my language are the limits of my world" (*Tractatus*) is true, the Kokborok liturgist, indeed, has reasons to worry. Many concepts, including some rudimentary ones like 'worship', 'adore', and even 'celebrate' are yet to find entry

into Kokborok lexicon.

How absence of such key concepts impacts the belief of worshippers, and thereby society itself, could be an exciting study in itself. Such a state of affairs also places a new responsibility on the young shoulders of believers who constitute only a microscopic segment of native speakers. Rather than continuing to lament the loss of real and unreal worlds (*Koloma et al*) of yesteryears, they must take up the task of uplifting an emaciated liturgy, by identifying words that resonate, and connotations that satisfy; they would thereby be lending the skeletal form with a depth and character that

Kokborok Liturgy Matters!

supremely befits liturgy.



Because liturgy is more than a set of well-dressed words, their search for adequate linguistic vehicles must be complemented by uncompromising adherence to truths of faith. Kokborok ears and hearts have the right, like other tongues of the world, to enjoy and benefit from the indescribable wealth the Word of God and the Sacraments provide.

The workshop I attended ten days ago was a beginning, merely. One devoutly wishes that more such efforts would soon make the 'impoverished Kokborok liturgy', a thing of the past.

J. Pulinthanath, sdb

Bodhjungnagar Parish

New P.P. at St. Andre

St. Andre Parish community is grateful to God for having given them yet another Parish Priest. Amidst a large community of faithful gathered, Most



Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala installed Fr. Mariaraj, CSC as the new

Parish Priest. All the village leaders and representatives from different villages were present on the occasion. At the felicitation program after the Holy Eucharist the Parish community thanked Fr. K.J. Abraham, CSC, who tirelessly served the Parish for the past eight months, before being elected Provincial of Holy Cross. Though the time he spent at the parish was short, the community gratefully remembered the great contribution he made to the parish through his ever living spirit, enthusiasm and spirituality.

The community warmly welcomed Fr. Mariaraj as their new pastor and assured him their support, cooperation and prayers. Fr. Mariaraj has done his Licentiate in Sacred Theology of Consecrated Life and Masters in Spirituality at the Claretian Institute for Consecrated Life in Asia (ICLA), Manila, and prior to this appointment he was the Rector of the Holy Cross Seminary at Pune.

Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC

Bagbasa Parish

Youth Seminar at Panisagar



A Youth Seminar was organized on 8th July, 2012 for all the youth of Bagbassa Parish. The Seminar focused on Leadership and Career. Ms. Sara Pangchopi, from Diphu animated the

session. The program included, group work, workshops, and input sessions. Number of young people from different centers of our parish participated in the Seminar. The Seminar gave them an opportunity to know one another and learn the leadership skills for their life and their involvement in the society and the Church.

Fr. Sojan Augustine, CSC

Mandwi Parish

Mandwi Thrice Blessed

15th August 2012 opened with the flag hoisting in the Don Bosco School compound at 8.30am to mark the 66th Independence day of our country. Major Abishek Singhal of Assam Rifles was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Soon after at 10.30 am the Catholic faithful gathered together in the Church to honour the Assumption of Mother Mary.

The day was special for the faithful in Mandwi as it was the day that the Bishop Lumen Monteiro csc, would install Fr. George Rodrigues sdb, as the new Parish Priest. Priests and Sisters from the nearby parishes as well as brother Salesians joined in the celebration. Fr. P. Joseph sdb of Nandan nagar in his homily reminded the congregation of the humility of Mary which earned her the title of being called blessed by all generations. He drew attention to God's choice of Mary who praises God, for raising the lowly to great heights, and called upon the people to pray for their newly appointed parish priest.

The 250 people who had gathered stayed in silence and in awe right through the installation ceremony. The silence was profoundly felt, but in it was also serenity that filled one's soul. The usual movement of children moving around or crying was absent today as though some power was moving and soothing them to understand the purpose of the moment. Many came out expressing this fact, frankly acknowledging that the service to them was very beautiful. There was nothing that was extraordinarily done, yet, the power of the moment held everyone spell bound.

The Bishop in his concluding words informed the faithful that this particular day was chosen by Fr. George as he had come to experience the great love and help that Mother Mary had given him all through his life. With words expressing gratitude, Fr. George thanked all those who had lent a helping hand to make the day a



success. After the Mass, lunch was served to all. It was the parishioners who donated the rice. This was prepared in advance the same morning, by the parish council members, so that they could all be present at the Eucharistic celebration.

Truly it was a day that was thrice blessed, with celebrations that were international, national and local and a day that will be remembered for long!

Dn. Luke, SDB

Depacherra Parish

Pastors day with the Bishop

Bishop Lumen was here in our parish for his pastoral visit from 3-5 August, 2012. On the first day he had Mass for Burburia *mondoli* and



had a good discussion with the *mondoli* people, even though it was late in the night.

On 4th August, he went to Isachari and had Mass with the people there. After a sumptuous lunch there, he went to Bhagavantila and met a small portion of the faithful who had a discussion on the *mondoli* development.

The grand finale was on the following day, Sunday, when the parish community celebrated pastors day (Vianney Day) at the Parish centre. Bishop offered Mass for the people in the morning and reflected on the life of the holy man John Mary Vianney, inviting the priests and people to emulate his holy life. Bishop joined in the evening felicitation program that was well organized by the people. Bishop Lumen expressed his great satisfaction at the practice that has been going on in this Parish since the past 4 years and encouraged the people to keep it up.

Fr. Bosco Lathees

LINK Congratulates:

Fr. Francis Carvalho, a veteran missionary of the Andaman Islands is the new Superior General of SFX, Pilar Fathers. The priest had studied cultural anthropology in London. Fr. Carvalho has worked several years in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, besides serving as the society's vicar general and novice master.

2 New Bishops in the Syro-Malabar Church:

Mgr. George Rajendran SDB as the Bishop of Thuckalay is the Principal of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong. He has civil degrees of I.T.I (Electronics), B.Sc., M.A. (Education), B.Ed. and M.Ed.

Mgr. Jacob Muricken as the Auxiliary Bishop of Palai is the Pastoral coordinator of the Eparchy of Palai. The new Auxiliary of Palai is assigned the titular See of TINIS by the Apostolic See.

**NEWS FROM THE JUST****Teachers' Training Program**

JUST organized a Teachers Training program for the Bru Teachers of Balwadi schools at JUST Hall from 7th to 9th August under Ride-B project assisted by the European Union. Mrs. Nandarani Debbarma was the Resource Person and trainer. There were 13 teachers taking part in the program. The trainees were taught action songs, rhymes and many other topics. It was very fruitful for the teachers as they learned many things new.

Daniel Debbarma

Leadership Training

On 16th August a training program was conducted on Leadership at Uruwakami. Debasis Debbarma was the Resource Person of the program. There were altogether 38 participants present in the training program. Points explained in the training were the importance of a good leader, Skills and talents a good leader should possess to lead a group and inter-relationship between a leader and his fellow mates. The Training was indeed a success and the participants were grateful to the organizers.

Debasis Debbarma

Graduation Ceremony of Holy Cross College, Agartala. TRIPURA

The historic first Graduation Ceremony of Holy Cross College, Agartala, the first Catholic College in the whole State of Tripura, Northeast India was held on August 9th, 2012 at 11.45am at the College and School campus at Durjoynagar. The function was a grand success due to the prayerful support of confreres and friends from all over the world and the support of the administration, staff and students of Holy Cross School. 42 students graduated with their BA and BCA degrees. His Excellency, Dr. D.Y. Patil, Governor of Tripura presided over the function. Prof. Arunoday Saha, Hon. Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University, (A Central University) was the chief guest. Other dignitaries included Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala, Fr. Robert Mathias, CSC, the Vice-chairman, Holy Cross Educational Foundation, Fr. Felixraj, SJ, the Principal of the 153 years old St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and Prof. Tamo Chattopadhyay, from Notre Dame University, USA. A host of dignitaries, principals, priests, sisters, brothers and guardians graced the occasion. The representatives of the graduating class, Merelyn Darlong and Arijit Debbarma had all praise for their College and they committed themselves to keep the flag of the college flying high and give their 100% to the society, because they have received much. (www.holycrosscollege.in)

Women's Commission Dairy

The months of July and August women's Commission organized various programs, in the different parishes. Theme of the programs were, Gender in the family at Bodhjungnagar, Nandannagar and Bishramganj Parishes, Women Leadership in the family at Mandwi, Sabroom, Khumlwng, Gandacherra and Tuikarmaw Parishes. The Resource Persons were Sr. Susheela Xess, Ms. Gita Debbarma, Sr. Juliana, Sr. Mukta, Fr. Sunny, and Fr. P.J. Joseph. The topics covered are Women Leadership in the family, Sign for the healthy Christian family, tips for the healthy family, parents responsibility in the family, Gender equality in the family and society, Gender responsibilities in the family, Gender development in the family.

Sr. Susheela Xess

Global Class Room Training

Global Class Room is an organization which provides training to School Teachers at various levels. It's a 3-year program accredited to the Dublin University, Ireland. At the completion of the program the Teachers will be given a Diploma in Teacher Education by the Dublin University. At present, discussions are on to affiliate this program with Don Bosco University, Guwahati, so that teachers may get an Indian accreditation.

This year too, the Global Class Room came to Tripura and Meghalaya to impart training to the Teachers of our schools. Bodhjungnagar, Tuikarmaw and Panisagar were the centers in



Tripura for the training. The Teachers had 15 days of inputs and were given various teaching methods during that time. Second half of the program was mainly

observing the teaching practices of the teachers. The Resource Persons gave various suggestions so that they could make learning more interesting to the children.

Holy Cross School, Tuikarmaw: Holy Cross School, Twikarmaw held this program for the second year for its teachers and teachers from Holy Cross School, Depachera. The resource persons were Miss Daphne Woods from Ireland and Mrs. Caroline Kolek who came from the English Union of teachers, Southampton, England.

Holy Cross School, Panisagar: Mr. Tommy and Ms. Dorothy were the Resource persons for the Global School Room this year at Panisagar. There were 55 participants this year in the Panisagar school for this programme, which included teachers from Panisagar, Kathalcherra, Bagbassa and Ambassa.

St. Andre School, Bodhjungnagar: Bridin Nic Aogain, Ann Marie Lynch and Michelle Fitzpatrick were the Global School Room Teacher Education volunteers who came to Bodhjungnagar. They trained the teachers from Montfort Champaknagar, Notre Dame Holy Cross, Moharpara and the host school.

Frs. Sijomon, CSC, Sojan, CSC & Jilson, CSC

- ◆Fr. Sebastian Alackapally, CMI Prov. from Jagdalpur
- ◆Dr. Shampa Nag, Dr. Bency & Ms. Rodi, from Caritas Delhi
- ◆Mr. Stephen Gangmei, from Caritas Guwahati
- ◆Sr. Jozy, SCG Prov. Superior from Guwahati
- ◆Fr. P. A. Augustine, SVD Prov. Superior from Guwahati
- ◆Sr. Ventura Fernandes, FS Regional Superior from Rangia
- ◆Fr. Valeriano Vaz, Archdiocesan Procurator from Goa
- ◆Mr. Jim Manjoran, Architect from Goa

NEWS FROM THE JUST

Many greetings from missio Aachen and many thanks for sending LINK. It has reached me without fail since November 1996! And I always enjoy reading it. It warms my heart and keeps me in touch with the NE, my "mother region" in India! *Margarethe, Germany*

After reading about the power outages in India, I was surprised to receive your wonderful newsletter. You manage to get it out each month right on time. Congratulations! *Tony Krisak, USA*
Another hit! *+P K George, sdb, Miao Diocese*

Your August Link is at hand; many many thanx! *Harry D'Silva, CSC*
Thank you very much for the Link of August. *Vincent Furtado, OFM, Cap.*
Thank you for August LINK. It helps us to keep up contact, as does my reply. To bring out a newsletter every month is not easy. One has to be creative and be it may be for hours. Thank you for the labour of love.
+Evarist, Karachi

Kokborok Course

Intensive Course on 'Communicative Kokborok' (basic) for priests and religious
30 October to 13 November 2012

Don Bosco Peace Centre, Agartala
(non-refundable registration fee: Rs. 200; course fee: 2800; inclusive of lunch)
Register early to ensure a seat)

NEWS BRIEFS FROM ALL OVER

Rally and Demonstration in New Delhi on 1, August 2012

Demanding Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims, thousands of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims rallied from the Ram Lila Maidan to Jantar Mantar in



the heavy downpour, demanding the repealing of the unconstitutional Constitution (Scheduled Caste) order, 1950 and reinstate SC status for Christian and Muslim Dalits. The adverse climate could not alter the determination of these thousands of people who have been struggling for the past sixty years for their constitutional rights.

The rally began with the prayers by Mr. Alwan Masih (General Secretary, the Church of North India) and Maulana Rafeeqe Alum. Meanwhile various delegations comprising representatives from the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, National Council of Churches India, and the National Council of Dalit Christians, visited the Central ministers of India Mr. A. K. Antony, Mr. Salman Khurshid, Mr. Kapil Sipal and Mr. Mukul Wasnik, and have submitted memorandums and discussed about the issue.

This rally and demonstration on 1st August was organized under the leadership Most Rev. Neethinathan Bishop, Chairperson, CBCI office for SC/BC Fr. Devasagayaraj, Secretary, CBCI office for SC/BC, Rev. Sunil Raj Philip, Mr. Samuel Jayakumar (NCCI), and Mr. V. J. George, Prof. Mary John, Adv. Franklin, and Fr. Bosco (NCDC).

(*csfnews*)

Archbishop Onaiyekan Named 2012 Pax Christi Laureate

Nigerian Prelate Lauded For Promoting Justice, Peace and Inter-Religious Dialogue



Archbishop John Onaiyekan, the 2012 International Pax Christi Laureate, will be honored in Mechelen/Brussels, Belgium, on, October

31, for his efforts in promoting understanding through dialogue between peoples of different beliefs in Africa and, particularly, in his country, Nigeria. "Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan's consistent and tireless efforts in advocating for justice, peace, inter-religious dialogue and action earned him the 2012 Pax Christi International Peace Prize.", reported the organization. (*Zenit.org*)

Nuns pray for peace as Assam continues to boil

The Daughters of St. Paul in Guwahati



Saturday invited their neighbors to pray for peace as the Assam violence saw no let up even after a month. In a

fresh outbreak of violence on August 25, unidentified people killed five people who were going to their village from a relief camp in Chirag district, one of the four districts of the Bodoland. One person is reportedly missing. The death toll in the clashes between indigenous Bodo tribesman and Muslim settlers since July 20 has gone up to 88. Some 500,000 people are now living in relief camps. (*Sr. Lissy Maruthanakuzhy*)

BISHOP'S PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

- 01-02: Pastoral Visit, Mariamnagar Parish
- 03: Clergy Meet and Recollection, Agartala
- 05-06: Balasore Bishop Jubilee, Orissa
- 07-08: Caritas Visit, Orissa
- 09: Dumacherra Chapel Blessing, Kathalcherra Parish
- 10-13: NERPC, Guwahati
- 14-15: NE Bishops Meet, Shillong
- 23: Machli Reang Chapel Blessing, Kumarghat Parish
- 25-29: CBCI Standing Committee Meet, Bangalore
- 29-30: Parish Feast & Confirmations, Kamaranga Parish