

**Pastor's Corner**

**Happy Teachers Day**

**Editorial**

**A Convention in the Offing**



Teachers Day is celebrated with pomp and gaiety across India on September 5 every year. The day was established by our then President Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, who was not only the President of India, but also a great scholar and teacher. For all students of India Teachers' Day is like an occasion and an

opportunity to pay tribute and gratitude to their Teachers for their continuous, selfless, and precious efforts in shaping the future.

Teachers have the very important responsibility of shaping the lives of young, impressionable children. With this responsibility comes great pride and joy. Therefore all Teachers should strive for what can be considered to be a "good teacher."



A good Teacher can be defined as someone who always pushes students to want to do their best while at the same time trying to make learning interesting as well as creative. A positive or negative influence from a Teacher early on in life can have a great effect on the life of a child. Teachers, especially at the elementary level, must be very creative with their teaching styles. Not every child learns the same way, nor are they interested in the same things...

William Arthur Ward said the right thing about a Teacher: "The mediocre Teacher tells. The good Teacher explains. The superior Teacher demonstrates. The great Teacher inspires." As we celebrate Teachers' Day and honor our dedicated Teachers let us be reminded of what a great Teacher must be!

I end with this Poem on what a Teacher is...  
 Someone who is wise  
 Who cares about the students and wears no disguise.  
 But is honest and open and shares from the heart  
 Not just lessons from books, but life, where you are.  
 A Teacher takes time to help and tutor  
 With English or Math or on a Computer.  
 It's my Teacher who's patient even in stress  
 Who never gives less than the very best!  
 Not that I was the perfect student  
 But you were the perfect Teacher for me!  
 HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY. +Lumen, CSC



We have been informed by the Youth Director of the Diocese that there's going to be a Youth Convention in the Diocese this December. This is certainly a welcome piece of news for many reasons.



Youth Conventions are generally characterized by a great deal of energy, enthusiasm, and joy. That is because it is an event of the young, organized by the young and organized for the young. That itself is reason enough to pick up your backpack and head for the Convention venue.

But there is more. Much more. The truth may be that all of us in the Diocese, the young and not so young, stand to gain much from it. It offers us many opportunities as a Church, as a people. The inability to soar above petty differences and come together on a common platform has been the bane of the indigenous people of the State. The fissiparous tendency that regional political parties display even in these critical times is ample proof of that.

The Convention offers the Youth a wonderful opportunity to show the elders that it is possible to come together and work united for a cause despite being different in many ways. The young people can show the rest of us that our many languages and related linguistic issues need not necessarily divide us or become obstacles to holding meaningful celebrations in the state and in the Diocese. The young people have an opportunity to prove that it only takes a little broadening of the mind and a little opening of the heart for dreams to turn into reality.

So there is much more to the coming Convention than the many visible and palpable excitements that Youth Conventions never fail to provide.

Will December once again find obstinate narrow points of view fighting for dominance? Or will December prove to be a breath of fresh air, a magic casement that opens up a thousand unexplored possibilities to a restive community?

Will it, or won't it? The very thought is exciting.

*J. Pulinthanath, SDB*

 LINK wishes all our Teachers a Happy Teachers Day and thanks them for their dedicated service in the cause of education.

## TUIKARMAW PARISH Blessing & Inauguration of Chapel at Hatipocha



13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 goes to the history marked with red letters for the people of Hatipocha. As they accomplish the long standing dream of theirs of building a house of God to pray and to worship together. St. Lawrence mondoli Hatipocha is one of the oldest catholic community in our parish. The members of this catholic community belong to Garo Tribe. During the past few years this particular community has shown lots of improvement in their spiritual and faith practices. During this year the preparation for their feast day began with three days of Novenas and inner healing prayer service from 10<sup>th</sup> of October to 12<sup>th</sup> of October. The faithful did experience God's blessings in their life. During the evening hours various competitions like Bible Skit, Bible quiz, Dances, Singing, etc were conducted. On the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 the newly built village chapel was blessed and inaugurated by Most. Rev. Bishop Lumen. Bishop in his message to the people appreciated their efforts to build the house of God, and reminded the people to thank God and remain ever faithful to the commandments of God. People felicitated the Bishop, parish Fathers, Sisters, and other persons who are responsible for building the chapel. The faithful acknowledged the selfless service and hardwork of Fr. Abraham C, CSC the Parish Priest. The entire celebration was concluded with festive meal.

*Fr. Alfred, CSC*

## KHUMULWNG PARISH Parish Feast Day celebrated

The Parish feast was celebrated for two days. First day was the Parish

Sabha which began with praise and worship led by Fr. Jomon SVD, followed by inaugural ceremony in which leaders of all sub-centres were asked to light the lamp. Members of the Maria Sangh and Youth also lit the lamp and presented the Report of their activities throughout the year. Our Bishop Lumen was present for the reporting and gave his input to the leaders. The Parish account reports too were presented in detail. The Parish Sabha was concluded with an Action Plan for the coming year. On the second day was the solemn Parish feast Mass which



began with a cultural entrance dance and Bible procession. Over fifty people received the Sacrament of Confirmation and fifteen children received first Holy Communion. Bishop Lumen Montero in his homily called parishioners to draw inspiration from St. Alphonsa and King Solomon to be faithful, committed, and to seek God's wisdom and grace. The cultural felicitation was well orchestrated by the youth. The Parish celebration ended with festive lunch at parish premises.

*Fr. Arun Minj SVD*

## KUMARGHAT PARISH Thanksgiving celebration

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 was a thanks giving day in the life of Sr. Catharine Darlong along with her parents and relatives in her home town Sr. Catharine is belong to Betcherra village under Kumarghat parish. Though Sr. Catherine Darlong made her Final profession in the religious

Congregation of Our Lady of Fatima, she gives thanks to God the Almighty for having called her to serve HIM in Religious life. There was a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration at Kanchancherra Village Fr. Arul J. CSC the Parish Priest was the main celebrant. In his homily spoke



about God's call and thanked Sr. Catharine Darlong's parents for offering the first fruit of their beloved daughter for the service of God. Fatima Sisters and MC Sisters were present for the event. *Sr. Amali, FS*

## DEPACHERRA PARISH Pastoral Program



On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017, we were privileged to welcome our beloved Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC to our Parish. In the evening Bishop was warmly welcomed by the hostellers of Karbook Holy cross and Depacherra. Each hostel children sang for Bishop welcome song and Bishop gave them a motivational talk.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> July Sunday morning Bishop celebrated Eucharist at Nabin Para. During the mass 76 faithful received the sacrament of conformation. Bishop's visit was a memorable event for the people of Nabin Para. *Sr. Kanthi*

## Media and Values

Belonia 02 August, 2017: Holy Spirit School Students had one day training session on Media Friendly Values. Sr. Prabha the Principal of Holy Spirit School organized the one day training session on Media for the higher classes. 56 students and 5 Teachers participated in the Session.



First the Principal introduced the Animators Frs. Ivan D' Silva, Cyprian Pinto and Lourdu Mareddy and welcomed them with a traditional shawl. She introduced the students to the topic. Fr. Ivan the Commission Secretary for Diocesan Social Communication dealt elaborately on the topic Media & Values. He involved students for interaction, taking their questions, doubts and ideas, making the class motivating. He said, "Media values at times can be misleading if one is not trained in media". He projected certain interesting short clips on values to explain reality in the family, society and created reality in the media. At the end of the Session Fr. Cyprian questioned the participants, 'what are the values they have learned and how the media values affect their daily living'?

Belonia is situated in the border of Bangladesh and students are updated with the recent knowledge of mobile and internet. Media education to students at right time certainly helps them to understand the values created by media. *News Desk, Ambassa*

## Catechists get Renewed with a new Guard



As soon as Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD shouldered responsibility as in charge of the Catechists, he organized a three day Renewal programme from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August at Champaknagar. 32 Catechists participated. The renewal programme began with a Talk by Sr. Teresa MSMHC

followed by confession and adoration. Bishop Lumen Monteiro in his homily instructed about the duties and responsibilities of a Catechist. Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD inspired them with the spirit of mission and evangelization. Fr. Abraham V.C. reiterated the proclamation aspect with the biblical basis. Fr. Paul C.R. CSC led them with a charismatic praise and worship session. The Renewal programme ended with Evaluation and Action Plan.

*Fr. Arun MinjSVD*

## Zonal SCC Animators Meeting



The North Zone SCC Animators Meeting was held on 17th August in Bagbasa. There were about 20 present for the Meeting including Fr. Arul J, the Zonal coordinator of North Zone. The Meeting began with Bible enthronement.

Local Catechist John Halam was leading the Meeting. Some important points like how to rejuvenate the SCC groups in the Zone were discussed. All 20 present, actively participated in the Meeting and took some concrete decisions. Next Meeting will be held in Gachirampara in November. *Fr Francis Xavier, CSC*

## FMA's celebrate 145th Foundation Day and Profession Anniversary



The fifth of August is always dear to all of us Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The day brought lots of cherished memories of our "FIRST YES TO GOD". It was on this day in 1872 that the first FMAs, also known as the Salesian Sisters made their first profession in the presence of Don Bosco our Founder, and

the seed of the Institute was born in the tiny village of Mornese in Italy.

At Nandanagar, Bishop Lumen Monteiro celebrated the Holy Mass, as the Sisters sang 'Lord I offer my life to you' and walked in procession towards the altar with lit candles. After the Holy Mass the boarders felicitated all the Sisters. Sr. Celine D'Cunha FMA, our Superior, articulated words of admiration for Bishop Lumen and presented him a bouquet of flowers and a small gift as a token of our appreciation. There was a sumptuous meal prepared for everyone. Many friends, teachers, and past pupils extended their loving greetings to the Sisters. *Sr. Rihun Sten, FMA*

## Marriage Enrichment by Family Commission



A great opportunity was brought to the married couples of our Diocese by the Family Commission. We had a Marriage Enrichment program from 13-15th of August 2017 in Agartala. A Team of 8 people and one priest, plus 3 couples who belong to the Couples for Christ movement came from Kolkata. It was attended by 30 Couples, some of

whom brought their children along. Though in those days Tripura was affected by heavy rainfall still these Couples attended the whole program. We congratulate them and their Parish Priests. It was really an enriching experience for them. *Fr. Bosco Lathees*

## 6th Graduation Day of Holy Cross College

Holy Cross College Jubatara, organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day on



12<sup>th</sup> August at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan. The program commenced with the lighting of the *diya* followed by a prayer song and a dance. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, Principal of the College expressed his solidarity for the flood victims of the State and

then welcomed the dignitaries with bouquets and mementos. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, gave the Benediction and implored God's blessings upon the outgoing graduates and their families. Rev. Fr. Robert Mathias, CSC, Chairman of Holy Cross Educational Foundation presided over the function and urged the students to follow the footsteps of Blessed Basile Moreau, Founder of Holy Cross who insisted on the education of heart and mind. Mr. Tathagata Roy, the Hon'ble Governor of Tripura was the Chief Guest. Praising the education system of the Catholic fraternity

across the world, the Chief Guest invited the students to excel in every sphere of life. Rev. Dr. John Denning CSC, President of Stonehill College, USA, was the Graduation Day Speaker. Congratulating the graduates on their success he advised them to engage in voluntary service to the society and the nation as a whole. Rev. Dr. Arokiasamy Xavier, S.J., Principal of Loyola College, Chennai, was the Guest of Honour and he urged the graduates to venture out in the world which is filled with opportunities. Lalita Reang and Bosco Debbarma, graduate representatives, spoke of the proud legacy of Holy Cross College by narrating their day-to-day experiences at the College. The program concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Rev. Dr. Shaji M.L., the Vice-Principal of the College. *HCC News Desk*

### Our Readers Views

I wish to thank you for the message and the LINK. It is an inspiring publication. I appreciate your enlisting of challenges of the nation. It is relevant as the nation stands at the cross roads in need of resilience and appreciation of human and environmental dignity. The Editorial is an eye opener that makes me too dream with you all to form a church sans tribalism but essentially Catholic. Congrats and appreciation to Fr Pulinthanath. *Fr. Sunny Joseph, Delhi*

Thank you Bishop Lumen for the Link; I feel like being the "family of the groom". *Marilyne and Chacko, Canada*

Congrats. A new outlook to Link. It is interesting and informative. *+John Moolachira, Guwahati*

Again on the dot! Congratulations and best wishes for a record in the Guinness Book of World Records for your faithfulness in taking out a Diocesan Newsletter on the first of each month! *Conrad, Montreal, Canada*

Every month the same day Link is among my mails. It's like a regular appointment to share the activities that keep us busy. *Lieve Hoogewys, Belgium*

### Bishop's Program for September 2017

- 02-03: Installation of new PP, Sindukpathar Parish
- 04: Clergy Meet & Recollection, Agartala
- 05: St. Mother Teresa Feast, MC Agartala
- 08-12: NERPC & NECC Meet, Guwahati
- 15: Holy Cross Congregational Feast, Agartala
- 17: Confirmations at Bodokathal under Bodhjungnagar Parish
- 23-24: Parish Sabah & Feast, Kamaranga
- 25: FRC Nandanagar, Parents Day Program
- 26-30: Standing Committee Meet, Bengaluru
- 30-01: St. Francis of Assisi Feast Gachirampara Parish

### Peace Rally by JUST

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) together with Holy Cross School, Kumarghat at Pabiacherra H.S School organized a Peace Rally and Mime Play in Kumarghat Town on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The Peace Rally was flagged off by Mr. Banoj Biplab Das SDPO of Kumarghat. The Peace Message was delivered by Chief Guest Smt. Vanlalduati SDM of Kumarghat. There were approximately 280 participants in



the Rally. Fr. Jilson the Principal of Holy Cross School Kumarghat, expressed his gratitude towards all the participants for attending the Peace Rally in order to promote peace, love and harmony among the different communities and people of Tripura.

### Free Medical Health Camp

A free Medical Health Camp was organized by JUST on July 25, 2017 at Satirampara, a very remote village under Ganganagar R.D Block in Dhalai District. 108 Villagers benefitted from the Health Camp. JUST Ganganagar Project Staff led by the Project Coordinator Mr. Lilmohan Reang along with Dr. Philip Reang, Medical Officer from Ganganagar PHC examined the patients and distributed free medicines to the Villagers. The Villagers who attended the Health Camp were mostly women and children. Most of them had complaints of fever, headache, cough, stomachache, skin diseases, gastric, etc. Most of them were malnourished. Vitamin-B Complex was distributed to all those who were malnourished. *Mr. Vincent Debbarma*



### India News Clips

#### India's 14th President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind

At a glittering ceremony Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, 71, former Bihar Governor, was sworn in as the 14th President of India on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Mr Kovind, who is a Dalit, is a farmer's son and his humble origins and simple lifestyle was stressed by BJP leaders.

#### India's 13th Vice President

Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance candidate, is India's 13th Vice President. President Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office to Naidu, 68, at a brief ceremony in the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan attended by political leaders cutting across party lines on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August. While he is the 15th Vice President, he is the 13th person to hold the constitutional post. His predecessor Hamid Ansari and the first Vice President S Radhakrishnan had held the post for two consecutive terms.

### Our Distinguished Visitors

- Sr. Franceline SD, from Jowai
- Fr. Maxim SVD, Regional from Guwahati
- Mr. Josh Goralski from USA
- Mr. Allen Fernandes from Goa
- Mr. Jose A.V. from Patna
- Fr. Penser Xavier and Dn. Arulraj from TN
- MSFS Frs. Santosh & George Thomas from Guwahati