



### Pastor's Corner

#### When 'giving' becomes a sacrifice

Mother Teresa tells a story how one day she was walking down the street when a beggar came up to her and said, 'Mother Teresa, everybody is giving to you, I also want to give to you. Today, for the whole day, I got only thirty cents. I want to give it to you.' Mother Teresa thought for a moment: 'If I take the thirty cents he will have nothing to eat tonight, if I don't take it I will hurt his feelings. So I put out my hands and I took the money. I have never seen such joy on anybody's face as I saw on the face of that beggar man at the thought that he too could give to Mother Teresa.' Mother Teresa went on: 'It was a big sacrifice for the poor man, who had sat in the sun all day long and received only thirty cents. It was also beautiful. Thirty cents is such a small amount, and I can get nothing with it, but as he gave it up and I took, it became like thousands because it was given with so much love. God looks, not at the greatness of the work, but at the love with which it is performed.'



In these days as I am in the US raising funds through 'appeals' in some parishes, this story of Mother Teresa made so much sense. There are people I meet who are just happy that they can 'give a small amount for your work'. Why not just be humble and accept whatever comes so that the giver is happy? And indeed, adding this to the kitty makes all the difference. As I often say, nothing is too little to be received! And that 'the small amount does make a big difference.'

God bless.

. +Lumen, CSC



### Editorial

#### Of Tongues, Hearts and Unsaid Reasons!

The first two weeks of June had over a dozen church personnel grappling with basics of Kokborok at our premises. The motley group, united in their passion for learning, consisted of absolute beginners (*one was barely a week old in Tripura*) as well as some that had, even if perfunctorily, engaged in Kokborok for a couple of years.

It felt like a step in the right direction on many counts. Of course, every effort at learning a new language deserves to be lauded because knowledge of another language, we know, however rudimentary, is but an advantage.



That alone perhaps just about justifies their decision to give a new language a try. But trying to pick up the basics of a beleaguered tongue like Kokborok, however, makes one suspect other motives.

In fact, the enormous enthusiasm the learners displayed and their readiness to put in any amount of work seemed to betray 'other reasons, even extra linguistic ones'. Undoubtedly it was this, having a reason - that changed what could have been a tedious and tiresome fortnight into a joyous interlude.

It takes an extra measure of determination for Church personnel, laden with multiple responsibilities, to be able to leave his or her station of work for two weeks at a stretch. Perhaps it was the commitment-driven desire to immerse oneself in the immediacy and intimacy of people's lives and their given settings, and an eagerness to attune one's ears and heart better to the voice of the people, that made the attendees of the Kokborok Course show up day after day.

It augurs well for the language-conscious Church of Tripura. *J. Pulinthanath, sdb*

## Agartala, Ambassa, Bodhjungnagar and Bishramganj. Four Parishes get new Pastors

- Fr. Joachim Kullu, SVD, Chancellor of the Diocese was representing Bishop Lumen as he installed Fr. Blasius Kujur SDB, as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish Bishramganj. The occasion was also the farewell for Fr. Sunny who served as pastor for seven years.
- Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, installed Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD, as parish priest and entrusted all the duties and responsibilities of parish priest to him, during the Holy Eucharist on 8th June, Pentecost Sunday. The occasion was the Parish Feast and Farewell for Fr. Jaibu SVD, who had been Parish Priest for 3 years.
- Don Bosco Quasi parish Nandannagar witnessed another momentous event as Fr. Hormis John, CSC the Vicar General of the Diocese officiated the Holy Eucharist, invoking God's blessings and installed Fr. Joseph Palmattathil, SDB as its second Parish Priest on 8th June. Fr. Hormis on behalf of Bishop Lumen Monteiro thanked Fr. Devis Aricatt SDB, the former and first parish priest for his untiring service in the preliminary juncture of the parish. After the Holy Eucharist the faithful gathered to welcome their new pastor.
- Fr. Harry D'Silva CSC was installed as the new parish priest of St. Joseph's Parish Agartala on 15th June by Fr. George Jacob CSC, Provincial Administrator of Holy Cross. The occasion also served as a farewell for Fr. George Kallungal CSC, who served as pastor for one year.

## Sacred Heart Parish, Bishramganj New Chapels Blessed



Our parish was blessed doubly as we had new chapels in two of our village communities. On 10<sup>th</sup> May Bishop Lumen Monteiro was present with hundreds of people in the village of Duigoria, near Gabordi to ask for God's blessings upon the new building. The beautiful "St. Eleanor's chapel" was built with lot of love, both of the donor for his dear wife and of the Parish community especially the people of Duigoria, for the faith. We hope that this will become a centre where people can pray and

proclaim the Word.

On 11<sup>th</sup> May, in spite of the heavy rains, about 350 people gathered at Sonkhola, a village near Nitya bazaar in the Killa area to witness the blessing of the new "Our Lady of Hope chapel" by Bishop Lumen Monteiro. The village is small and the community is new and the new chapel gives hope to a renewed vigour and enthusiasm for the spreading of the faith in these remote areas. The blessing of the two chapels brought the whole parish community together as the newly elected Parish Pastoral Council, the Women and the Youth committees of the parish took active interest in helping the zones to organize the functions. Both the functions were marvelous manifestation of the faith and unity of the communities.



## Youth Convention

There were some 80 participants in the Annual Convention for the Youth of the Parish held at Bishramganj from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May. It was indeed a beautiful experience of young people coming together as brothers and sisters to deepen their faith. Mr. Francis Thanda Uchoi, Fr. Sunny, Mr. Daniel Debbarma Fr. KK Joseph and Fr. Remol Marak, the DYD animated the young people. Elections were held for the new Executive Committee which has a term of two years. **Fr. Sunny, SDB**

## St. Arnold's Parish, Gandacherra

### Marian Procession

The parishioners of St. Arnold Parish gather together to pray with Mary during the month of May. Maria Sanga group in the parish took the lead in organizing and animating the Rosary from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 31. The statue of Mother Mary was carried from house to house, a special task to deepen our parishioners' faith, like Mary. After the Rosary a Gospel text was read daily and Fr. Bennet gave a brief homily based on that every day. Special intercessory prayers were offered for the diocese, parish, parish school, evangelization, etc.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of June a procession was arranged from Holy Spirit Convent to the Parish Church. People partook in the procession with profound religious fervor. After the Holy Eucharist there was a fellowship meal for one and all which was prepared by Maria Sanga group.

On June 8, Pentecost Sunday was celebrated in St. Arnold Parish with devotion. Representatives from each *mondoli* filled the Church. The Liturgy was well prepared and the parish youth helped out the congregation in using the new Kokborok Mass. They also composed new tunes for Gloria and Holy. At last, Fr. Bennet invoked the Holy Spirit upon the congregation and all were filled with his seven-fold gifts. **Sr. Juliana, SSps**

## Holy Spirit Parish, Ambassa

### Parish Feast

The feast of Pentecost is celebrated as Parish feast in Holy Spirit Church Ambassa in a magnanimous way. This year too the feast was celebrated in grand manner on 8<sup>th</sup> June with the installation of the new parish priest Fr. Ivan D'Silva, svd, and bidding farewell to assistant parish priest Fr. Nabin, svd.

Bishop Lumen presided over the Holy Eucharist and welcomed the new parish priest and also thanked Fr. Jaibu Mathew, svd, the former parish priest who served the parish for last three years. Bishop also thanked all the parishioners and prayed for the Diocese of Agartala which was erected as a new diocese on Pentecost. Since the feast of Pentecost is a symbol of unity Bishop Lumen emphasized the need for unity in his homily.

The parishioners had gathered in large numbers for the celebration of the parish feast. Many priests were also present: Frs. Cyprrian svd, Benjamin svd, Robert csc, Suresh csc, and Emmanuel, csc. The multiple celebrations ended with a short reception program and agape thereafter. **Fr. Nabin Lakra, svd**







### Our Readers Write

Thanks for the LINK and the beautiful and inspiring message. **Fr. Dolphy Pais OFM Cap., Bangalore**

Thank you for the LINK. **Terrie, Mumbai**

Thank you for the on time LINK, every month without fail. I wonder at your timeliness!! **Sr. Clara BS, Silchar**

Thanks for the diocesan news update. Your cover story is very touching. **Sr. Teresa Joseph MSMHC, Guwahati**

I received your kind email and the JUNE "LINK". Thank you for your great concern. **+Andrew Marak, Tura**

Thank you for your beautiful LINK...What a beautiful lesson indeed from the porcupines. **Conrad CSC, Canada**

I am delighted to read your fable about the porcupines; it's a lesson I have also discovered in life and ministry. **Tony Krisak, USA**

I keep reading LINK as usual. It keeps me in touch. **Descary CSC, Canada**

## St. Andre Parish, Bodhjungnagar

### Women Leadership Seminar

At Saint Andre Parish there were series of women empowerment programs, leadership programs, and Faith Formation Seminars conducted. On April 27<sup>th</sup> 60 women attended at Bodhjungnagar; on 25<sup>th</sup> May 100 women participated in Barkathal church; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June on the Feast of Pentecost. At this 97



women along with few men took part in the programs. Fr. Jilson CSC the Parish Priest, Sr. Meri Halam CSC animator of women in the parish and Catechist Ananda Debbarma were resource persons to empower, teach different roles and responsibilities of women in the family, church and in the society. The Seminars did help the women of our Parish to stand tall for their own rights, to know their self worth and role in society and in the building up of God's Kingdom.

**Sr. Meri Halam CSC**

## St. Joseph's Parish, Agartala



15<sup>th</sup> June 2014 was a historic day for St. Joseph Parish, Agartala as it welcomed the new pastor and bid farewell to the outgoing pastor and assistant pastor. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. George Jacob CSC, the Administrator of the Holy Cross Province. On behalf of our Bishop he installed Fr. Harry D'Silva, CSC as the new parish priest. It was also a day to thank Frs. George Kallungal, CSC, the outgoing Parish Priest and Arun D, CSC the Assistant Parish Priest for their valuable service to the parish and the faithful.

Both the Fathers expressed their joy in serving in the parish and were happy the way they went about doing the pastoral work. The people also expressed their gratitude to have both of them in the parish. They also thanked Fr. Arun for conducting the live Way of the Cross (enactment of the Way of the Cross), for the first in St. Joseph Parish. Fr. Harry, CSC a veteran missionary in Mizoram, is back in Agartala Diocese. He had worked in Kathalcherra parish earlier. In his address he exclaimed that he is happy to be part of the parish and promised to work for the enhancement of the faith of the faithful in all the possible ways. It was a memorable day with 10 Priests concelebrating the Holy Eucharist. We wish Frs. Harry, George and Arun our prayers and God's blessing in their respective ministries. **A Parishioner**

## Glimpses from the Diocese

### Retreat and Training to guide Families

We had yet another opportunity to remind ourselves about the year of the family in the form of a training program organized by the diocesan Family Commission. We had 4 days of training program for the volunteers of our Diocese in Bodhjungnagar. First two days we had training for 10 people from different parishes animated by Fr. John Babu and Mr. Dilip from Kolkatta. On the third day we had training for 30 leaders of the parish, animated by those 10 people of the first training. The Training of Trainers was guided by Fr. John Babu and Team. Different topics were dealt during the program like: Church teachings on marriage and family; Natural Family Planning; Conjugal Love, and so on. The Parish Priest Fr. Jilson supported in all the possible ways. **Fr. Bosco, Commission Secretary**

## Jana Unayan Samiti

### Tripura News

### JUST trains Farmers on Animal Husbandry



Jana Unayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) assisted by Caritas India conducted a Training program to the members of Farmers' clubs on

different patterns of animal husbandry from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in 22 villages under Hezamara R.D. Block. The objective of the training was to make the farmers aware of different patterns of animal husbandry. The farmers were trained in protective and curative

measures to safeguard their livestock from different diseases. 300 farmers took part in the training program on different days. People were given awareness regarding vaccination and vitamin tablets which can prevent their animals from catching various diseases.

### Training on Vermi Compost



During the month of May and June 2014, Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) with support of MISEREOR Germany conducted 5 trainings on Vermi compost. The trainings were conducted at Burburia, Rabindrapara, Kathalia, Lungkham and Jantaraipara in West and South Tripura for the SHGs as a means to start an IGA. The process in preparing Vermi compost was explained to the participants in details. Altogether 99 SHG members attended the training and learned the processes of preparing Vermi compost. **Vincent Debarma**

### BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR JULY 2014

- 18: Return from USA
- 19-20: Parish Pastoral Program, Sindukpathar
- 21-25 Caritas Theo Team and ARC Meet, Delhi
- 26-27: Parish Feast, Khumlwng
- 29: Clergy Meeting & Recollection, Agartala

### Francis has caused faithful to flock to Rome

Upcoming Documentary Explores Uniqueness of South America's First Pope by

Ann Schneible



A new documentary is taking a closer look at the beloved and often challenging figure of Pope Francis, who, in just one year, has captured the attention of the world. *The Francis Effect*, which will premiere on Salt and Light Network on May 31, explores a variety of key issues pertaining to this pontificate, from his historic election, to his impromptu press briefings; from his institutional changes to the curia, to his

emphasis on the core teachings of the Gospel.

"It was very clear early on in the pontificate of Pope Francis that something was different, and people were paying attention in ways that they hadn't in the past," said Sebastian Gomes, the writer and director of the documentary. "As the months went on, we saw that the 'Francis effect' was developing and it was here to stay." While significant attention has been paid to some of the superficial changes made to papacy his new shoes, his relocation to the Santa Marta residence, etc. the team at Salt and Light saw the opportunity to delve further. One of the central qualities of Pope Francis' pontificate, Gomes said, is the emphasis on the idea that the "entire mission of the Church is not for the Church," but for the whole world.

### Sr. Soumya FCC, Bags the National Florence Nightingale Award for Nurses, 2014

Sr. Soumya of the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) of Vijayawada Province, Andhra Pradesh, has won the prestigious National Florence Nightingale Award for Nurses 2014 by the President of India. She has been working in the Jeevadhan Hospital, run by the Congregation at Kamareddy for more than a decade. She could save many precious lives through her devotion, care and concern.



Congratulating her the other day at CHAI Central Office, Rev. Dr. Tomi Thomas, the Director-General observed, "The award truly recognizes her devotion to work and her respect for the gift of life." Thanking the Director-General for his congratulatory words, she said smiling with all humility. "My mission in life is to serve as many ill people as I can to bring glory to God in the highest. May the Lord bless me with the strength to do so. **Courtesy CHAI**

### Pontifical Yearbook

The Pontifical Yearbook has published all figures relating to Church life around the world. The volume is published annually and collects together data from the Holy See's central offices. **This year's figures are of particular interest because they refer to the first year of Francis' pontificate. He was elected Pope on 13 March 2013. The figures relating to the "official" life of the Church the legal-institutional aspect that is include the period that runs from March last year to 22 February 2014.** Two



new Episcopal sees, an eparchy, an apostolic exarchate and an archiepiscopal exarchate were established in this period and a territorial prelate was elevated to the status of diocese. **Zenit.org**

### Visitors at Bishop's House

- Sr. Ventura FS, Regional Superior from Rangia, Assam
- Srs. Diana & Rosy from Lathur, Maharashtra
- Sr. Gemma Dkhar MSMHC from Nongpoh, Meghalaya
- Fr. Sebastian Ouseparampil, Director of DAN, Nagaland
- Fr. Varghese, Director of Social Forum, Guwahati
- Mr. Lukose, Quality Manager of Caritas India, Delhi
- Fr. Babu Hawldar CSsR & Mr. Dilip from Kolkata