

### Pastor's Corner



What's on your mind?" asked Ben's father as he stopped at Ben's room to tell him good night. Ben put his hands behind his head and stared at the ceiling above his bed.

"Oh, I've just been wondering if I should be a missionary."

"You don't seem very excited about the idea," said Dad.

"It seems like such a hard job," said Ben, propping himself up on one elbow. "I have this feeling that I might not be any good at it. What if God calls me to do something I can't do!"

Ben's father thought for a moment, then reached over to Ben's desk and picked up his baseball glove. "What's this?" he asked. Ben laughed.

"Don't be silly, Dad! It's my ball glove."

Dad walked over to the corner of the room. He propped the glove against the wall, found a baseball, and threw it at the glove. Though the ball hit the centre of the glove, it rolled to the floor.

Dad picked up the glove and looked at it in disgust. "This glove is a total failure," he said, shaking his head. Ben laughed and laughed. "Oh, Dad, you know it can't catch by itself! It has to have a hand inside."

Dan smiled at Ben. "You're just like this glove," he said. "God has a purpose for your life, Ben, just as there is a purpose for this glove. You put your hand inside

### Ready for 'HIM'



the glove to give it guidance and strength-you give it power to catch the ball. In the same way, God will give you power to do whatever He calls you to do. Don't worry, Son, God will never prop you in a corner and leave you alone. It's His mighty hand that does the work when you are willing to be used."

*Mother Mary, whose Birthday we celebrate this month, teaches us to put our lives in His hands- she put herself in God's hands and the Almighty did marvels in her life. And it is not just in her life - He has done it in mine and yours too!*

*Wishing all our Teachers a Happy Day on 5th September.*

**+Lumen, CSC**

### Editorial



Having birthed an ebullient September, the wet and sultry August languishes away, and suddenly a sense of 'beginning' envelops the tiny State of Tripura - it's the beginning of yet another season of festivals, fervor and frenzy!

The September 5<sup>th</sup> festival, 'Teacher's Day', celebrates not only teachers but also the noble profession of teaching.

In Tripura, 'the teaching job' is many things: sole source of livelihood for some, sure pathway to respectability for others, and the definitive answer to a much-made prayer for most.

The irrepressible ring in that telephone call which screams into your ear, "hello, ang chakri mankha" (I got job) is the echo of some ultimate consummation finding words.

And for the government, 'the teaching job' is just about the only 'instrument' it has in

its armory, to both cajole and confront its die-hard, *chakri*-hungry subjects with, as and when required.

But thanks to teachers and to education, things aren't the same, any more!

Today one comes across a tiny but growing brigade of extremely talented and eligible young things here in Tripura. On their lips they have the MBA mantra and in their hands tickets to the Bengulurus, New Delhis and other *Eldorados* of the Subcontinent and beyond.

But the vast majority belongs to 'another tribe.' They subsist on their daily morsel of *andolan* and unemployment, and the occasional candle-lit procession that even gives a perspective to it all.



### To Str, with Love

But aren't we here witnessing unprecedented Class stratification of what used to be an egalitarian society? Never before has the distinction been so decipherable as it is today.

Undoubtedly, the lowly teaching profession has had a role in taking forward the community. It now has the mission to ensure that widening fissures and unfathomable chasms found within the community are somehow bridged.

**J. Pulinthanath, sdb**

### Happy Teachers Day

"Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth." -Helen Caldicott



## News from the Parishes

### Gachirampara Parish

#### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL INDEPENDENCE DAY Celebrations Report

The 64th Independence Day of our country was celebrated with patriotic feelings at St. Francis of Assisi Eng. Md. School, Gachirampara. Fr. George Godwin OFM Cap. hoisted the national tricolour and urged the students to work towards building an India free of all kinds of disparities. A colourful drill display, march past and entertainment program were part of the celebration.

Fr. Dominic Lobo OFM Cap.



### Quote

Another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.

-- Kurt Vonnegut

### Khumlwng Parish

#### St. Alphonsa Inspires Parishioners

"I have given myself completely to Jesus. Let Him do whatever He wants with me. My only desire in this world is to suffer for love of God and rejoice in doing so...." These words of St. Alphonsa inspired the parishioners of St.



Alphonsa Parish, Khumlwng to suffer and bear little pain in preparing for the Parish feast on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Novena prayers for each day were prepared and conducted at all the villages at same time. On the feast day, the Holy Eucharist began at 9am with a beautiful entrance dance leading the celebrant to the beautiful and attractive decorated altar. The huge congregation could feel the presence of St. Alphonsa. The main celebrant Fr. Robert CSC, the JUST Director, reminded the congregation that there is meaning in suffering and sacrifices as St. Alphonsa did in her life. After the Mass a felicitation program was organized consisting of cultural items by all the villages and various hostels.

### Youth Awareness Program

'Unity in diversity is the beauty of our nation' was the focus of the key note address to the youth by Shri. Deepak Kumar Sinha, Secretary for the National Youth Project- Tripura State Council. He was speaking at the Youth awareness programme held at the Parish premises on 7<sup>th</sup> August. He emphasized that universal brotherhood and mutual co-existence are the greatest religion, in which there is no distinction whatsoever, and welcomed the Youth to join the National Youth Project to promote universal brotherhood and mutual coexistence. Later in the day Legal Awareness and the Fundamental Rights of the youth were brought to light by two advocates of Shri Ashok Debbarma and Shri Amit Debbarma. The entire session was interactive in nature, doubts were cleared and queries answered. The President and Secretary to Sudha Ganga Women Organization, Agartala, Smt. Swapna Puddha and Smt. Ratna Singh were also present for the occasion and spoke to the youth. I thank the Parish youth, especially youth leader Ms. Jaya Rupini for taking special interest to make the event fruitful and successful.

Fr. Arun MinjSVD

## News from JUST

### Certificate distribution Program:

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, Certificate distribution ceremony for the Tailoring and Embroidery participants was organized by Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura at Forest colony Damcherra under North Tripura District. 15 trainees received the Certificates. Fr. Robert Mathias, CSC the Director of JUST was the Chief Guest of the program. Sr. Simon Teresa was also present in the ceremony. Fr. Robert thanked FVTRS for providing such opportunities to the drop-out girls for building up their career.

**Foundation of the Baijalbari Suari Cluster:** Laying of the foundation for Baijalbari Suari Resource Centre was held on 27<sup>th</sup>

July at Baijalbari. Fr. Paul, SDB blessed the foundation stone. The aim of this infrastructure is to create a platform for common discussions, conduct training programs and meetings. It will also serve as a store house of their finished products like handloom, weaving products, and other products. 10 SHGs under one cluster have taken this initiative of constructing their own infrastructure. 20 Resource Center Leaders were present for the great occasion. Fr. Paul encouraged them to go ahead in life and to stand on their own feet to improve their economic conditions.



**Medical Camp:** A day-long medical Camp was organized at Naisingpara on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The Resource Person of the program was Dr. Anut Debbarma. Mr. Daniel

Debbarma the project manager coordinated the program. The patients suffering from different health concerns benefitted from the camp. During the camp it was observed that majority of the patients have come



with waterborne related diseases like malaria, dysentery, cough and cold.

The devastating fire which occurred three months back still continues to increase the water borne diseases to a very high degree. The camp inhabitants are found having scabies, ring worm and furunculosis (boils). The lactating and nursing mothers are found anemic. Children are affected with worm infestation and malnutrition. Though we could not provide much of quality consultation camps such as these help the community during this rainy season.

Mr. Kollol Datta

## HAPPENINGS IN THE DIOCESE

### Global Schoolroom

Global Schoolroom is an initiative designed to help Irish Teachers share their educational experience with their counterparts in the Developing World and vice versa. To this end, a Global Schoolroom Team

from Ireland was in Tripura from 4<sup>th</sup> July to the end of July and the Team was divided into 3 groups to conduct the course in 3 different centers. Under each center, Teachers from the following schools participated.

North Tripura - Holy Cross Panisagar, St. Arnold's Ambassa, Holy Cross Kathalcherra and 2 Feeder Schools

West Tripura - St. Andre School Bodhujungnagar and Notre Dame Moharpara

South Tripura - Holy Cross School Tuikarmaw and Holy Cross School Depacherra

This process would take place in the coming three years at the same time in the same place. After the successful completion of the courses and the assignments the teachers would be awarded a Diploma Certificate from the University of Dublin, Ireland apart from B. Ed, for which the process of affiliating this program either to the NEHU or to Don Bosco University Assam is underway.

*Fr. Sojan Augustne, CSC, Secretary, Education Commission*

### Hearty Welcome to Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) to Tripura

Agartala Diocese in Tripura is blessed with the presence and ministry of yet another Women Congregation when the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC), Ernakulam Province, opened their first Community in St. Francis de Sales Parish, Sinukpathar.

The FCC Sisters have shown daring missionary spirit, the joy of giving themselves to the missionary journey in Tripura. We are blessed to have them as our collaborators. FCC Congregation has an important place in the Catholic Church, especially in India, as they have given us the first Catholic woman Saint of India in the person of St. Alphonsa. They have also missionary martyrs like Sr. Rani Maria who gave up her



### Catechists of the Diocese get Recharged

A three day Refresher Course was held at the Pastoral Centre for the Catechists of the Diocese of Agartala from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July. These days were charged with reflective sessions for greater effectiveness in building and making the Church grow through the spread of the Word of God. The Director of the Pastoral Centre, Fr. Arun Minj, svd was very accommodative to see to the needs of the Catechists who came to participate in the program. The themes that were dealt with during the Refresher Course were: Importance of Prayer in our life, The practices of piety, Disciples as leaders, Marriage irregularities, The Catholic church and its hierarchy, The Liturgy and its meaning and the Word of God. These themes were dealt by competent



personnel such as Fr. Joachim Kullu svd, Fr. Cyprian svd, Fr. Hormis, CSC, Fr. J. Pulinthanath, sdb and Sr. Susheela. A greater part of time was given to experiential sharing of the strengthening of the Catechists' faith in their journey. The Catechists also had the privilege of seeing on the screen the places of St. Paul's work and St. Peter and the persecution of Christians. This was a climax to remind the Catechists that in their work of building the kingdom they have to suffer which is intrinsic to their life.

The Catechists had rich experience of the spiritual in their work of evangelization. Thanks to the Animators for their time and the animation given to the Catechists.

*Fr. Thomas Lakra, SDB, Secretary, Catechetical Commission*

### Holy Cross College Celebrates Its Second Birthday

Holy Cross College was officially inaugurated by Shri Manik Sarkar, the Hon. Chief Minister of Tripura two years ago at Agartala. It is into its third year now and it is provisionally affiliated to Tripura University (A Central University). The second anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the College were held on **August 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am**. The **Program** lasted for 95 minutes. It began with a prayer to the Almighty after which the ceremonial lamp was lit by the dignitaries which symbolized the completion of two years of the college. Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, the principal welcomed all dignitaries present. The **Chief Guest** of the function was Prof.



Arunodaya Saha, the Hon. Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University. In his message to the students, faculty, parents and guests, he exhorted them to imbibe the values of generosity and concern for others and to be open to the Holy Cross way of educating the hearts as well as the minds. He was in high praise of the college and said, *out of all the colleges affiliated to the University, Holy Cross stands apart in its discipline and excellence*. He said, *"Holy Cross College is a college with a difference"*.

The audience was spell bound by the performances of the students who entertained all present by their lively dances, and melodious songs. Sweets were distributed to all present at the end of the function to make the day sweet and joyful.

*Holy Cross College Reporter*

life in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The official Opening Ceremony was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at 10.30 am in the presence of Priests, Religious, Parishioners, students, parents and well wishers in East Harina SFS School campus. The Sisters' place of stay, a modified administrative block of the school, was officially opened by Sr. Liza Mary, FCC, the Provincial Superior and the House was blessed by Fr. Francis Thadathil, MSFS, the Provincial Superior, NE India Province. It was followed by a cultural program put up by teachers and

students to welcome the Sisters. Fr. Tomy Thekkel, MSFS, the Parish Priest warmly welcomed the Sisters and other guests and Sr. Liza Mary, FCC expressed her gratitude for giving them an opportunity to serve the people of Tripura.

The first community of FCC consists of four members, Srs. Betty Jose (Superior), Sony Kurian, Anni Varghese and Anna Grace. They will help the MSFS Fathers in education, pastoral and health care ministries as collaborators. We wish them a fruitful ministry in Tripura in the years to come.

*Fr. Tomy Thekkel, MSFS*

## World Youth Day concludes in Spain

Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass in front of a million-strong young crowd in Madrid to mark the end of the World Youth day celebrations on Aug 21.

The Pontiff announced that Rio de Janeiro in Brazil would be the venue for the 2013 World Youth Day.

"I hope you were able to sleep despite the inclement weather," the Pope said before the mass, a fitting finale to the six-day event. "I am sure that this morning you lifted your eyes to the sky more than once, not just your eyes but also your heart," he said.



The youngsters greeted the Pope and gave him gifts from their respective regions. He received salt and bread from a young Polish woman, a flower garland from a Japanese woman, a bowl of rice from a South Korean, a sombrero (a broad-brimmed hat) from a Honduran and coffee beans in a banana leaf from a young man from Australia.

The Pope greeted youths in Spanish, French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Polish. "World Youth Day is an opportunity to know Christ better and to make sure that, rooted in him, your enthusiasm and happiness,

your desire to go further, to reach the heights, even God himself, always hold a sure future, because the fullness of life has already been placed within you," he said.

Meanwhile, the sheer scale of the celebrations sparked angry demonstrations at a time of economic hardship in Spain, with unemployment for under-25s in Spain running at more than 45 per cent. Thousands of protesters marched in central Madrid almost daily to protest the cost but organizers say most of the cost will be covered by a registration fee from the pilgrims and the event is a big tourist boost. **Source: Catholic Herald**

## Thousands attend bishop's funeral

Some 50,000 people Aug 1 attended the funeral of Bishop Vincent Kympat of Jowai, who died of a heart attack.

### Visitors at Bishop's House

- Fr. Francis Thadathil, MSFS, Provincial, Guwahati
- Sr. Lisa Mary, FCC, Provincial, Ernakulam
- Sr. Daria, FCC, Provincial Concillor
- Bro. Sesuraj, CSC, Vicariate Superior, Bangalore
- Bro. Alfred, CSC from Chennai
- Fr. Roy Thalackan, CSC, General Assistant, Rome
- Sr. Ventura, FS Regional Superior, Guwahati
- Fr. Tom McDermat, CSC, Dhaka
- Fr. Biju Thomas, CSC, Kottayam

Salesian Archbishop Dominic Jala of Shillong, who led the funeral Mass at the Bishop's House, Jowai, hailed the deceased prelate as a man of the people who worked for a laity-based Church.

Bilhan Kympat, the bishop's elder brother who was staying with him, said he had gone looking for the prelate when he did not turn up for lunch and found him lying unconscious in the bathroom.

The priests in the house called a doctor who advised them to shift the bishop to a nearby government hospital. The doctors there declared him dead at 3 pm. He was 64.

Father Stephen Francis, diocesan

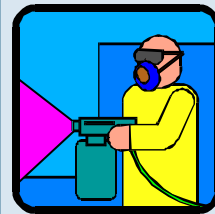


spokesman, said the bishop was keen on forming small

Christian communities in parishes. He had been visiting priests and people in remote parishes until three days before his death. "Such visits helped build the Church and empower lay people," the priest added.

Salesian Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati, who led the funeral services at the St. Theresa's Cathedral, said Bishop Kympat was "very close" to his

## Announcing JOB-ORIENTED TRAININGS FOR YOUTH



Don Bosco Tech India, in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India is initiating a 3 - month

residential vocational training in (1) Hospitality and (2) Sales & Marketing at Don Bosco Peace Centre Agartala for youth belonging to BPL category in the age group of 18 to 35. Admission for the first batch begins on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The training will be followed by placement.

### Eligibility:

Class X Pass and above  
Willingness to migrate for placement

Contact: 09435065246, 9436126649

Email: jpulinsdb@gmail.com

1 the trainee must be a Class X Pass

## Bishop's Program for September 2011

- 04: New Pastor's Installation, Bodhjungnagar
- 05: Teachers Day Departure to Kohima
- 08: Episcopal Ordination, Kohima
- 09-11: NE Bishops Meet, Kohima
- 12: NEDSSS GB Meet, Guwahati
- 12-15: NERPC Meet at Inspiration, Guwahati
- 15-17: CCI Meet, Inspiration, Guwahati
- 18: Parish Mass
- 25: Confirmation, St. Joseph's Agartala
- 30: NESNIM at Holy Cross, Agartala

people. "He was gifted and talented and creative in his suggestions and actions," he told the gathering. The death, he added, was "a great loss" for the entire Church in northeastern India.

Vicar general Simeon Sungoh said the deceased prelate urged his priests to lead a life of transparency, truthfulness and accountability. (ucanews.com)