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Pastor's Corner

Listen to your Heart

"Listen to your heart, not only your head" is the advice of Luke Johnson, Chairman of StartUp Britain to all entrepreneurs. I think that the advice is not only meant

for those in the corporate world. It applies to us, leaders in ministry, who have to use motivation, persuasion and sternness alongside with education and rational thinking.

Often times I see myself needing the ability to persuade, inspire and entreat a rare gift that cannot be acquired solely through classroom study, books or computers. The core of any achievement will

depend on personal relationships and I try to maintain them. It is these interactions that are dependent more upon charisma than calculation.

"Managers who lack charm", says Luke Johnson "will not gain true loyalty for their team...computers and robots will not choose the

right partner for a new venture or convince bankers to fund it. It requires passion to persuade and generate excitement."

Our very own Pope Francis is a leader with passion, charism and charmand down to earth. His expressions, "*Good morning! I greet you. Thank you so much for all this. Pray also for me; but always! Pray in favor, not against! May the Lord bless you.*" Father Lombardi calls this a genre that might be termed "conversational," comprising not only the Pope's interviews with journalists but also his off-the-cuff homilies at daily morning Masses, of which the Vatican publishes only summaries with verbatim excerpts.

Pope Francis' style has proved to be both simple and profound. By riding in a modest car and living in an unadorned apartment, he sends a clear message: material possessions are fleeting. Choose to attach yourself to God, not the things of this world. By reaching out to workers at the Vatican and calling upon ordinary Catholics in moments of crisis, he lives out the Lord's command to love our neighbor.

Pope Francis has been wonderfully adept at calling us to these Christian principles. He has won over many disaffected Catholics, and his words of compassion for the suffering, for gays and lesbians, and for unbelievers have already reshaped the image of the church in the world. **+Lumen, CSC**



Editorial

Our very own 'LOGESONG'

The long wait for the revised edition of 'Logesong', the Diocesan Book of Prayers and Hymns of the Diocese of Agartala, is hopefully over. Here are some thoughts on a book that has

now become part and parcel of the Catholic Church in Tripura.

It's an excerpt from the 'Preface' found in the new edition. 'For the last 30 years 'Logesong' has indeed proved to be an invaluable 'Companion' to the ever increasing number of Catholic faithful in Tripura, assisting them in their endeavour to grow in faith and evolve as a worshipping Community.

The fifth revised edition of *Logesong*, like its earlier editions, signals growth, not only in the number of the faithful, but of faith itself as evinced by the perennial longing in our hearts to commune with the divine ever more perfectly, ever more experientially. It is hoped the new edition of the book, that

contains some additions and changes, will be of great help to the faithful in their endeavour to pray, sing and to experience the divine.

After the revised text of the Holy Mass, it is perhaps the psalm-based Sunday

Morning Prayer (Lauds) that will prove to be the singular contribution of the fifth edition. It enables the Kokborok speaking faithful to join countless tongues and peoples who have throughout history communed with God using the sentiments of these timeless compositions. One hopes it will engender a prayer habit that is more vigorous and scripture-based.

There are instances, in this volume, where the Church's concern for cultural rootedness of the faith comes vividly alive.

These sporadic attempts however, serve at least to remind one of the great deal of work that yet needs to be done in this direction. One wishes for a liturgy that while being fully consonant with the teachings and traditions of the Church, has the unmistakable flavor of a place and its people.

The new edition retains the 'multi-lingual' nature of the compendium that began in the previous edition. With the exception of English and Bengali, all languages included in the book are passing through turbulent times. A volume of this sort, however defined and limited in scope, is bound to impact the language scenario of the community. Current trends in the given languages and dialects, therefore, have been considered while compiling *Logesong*.

"May the peoples praise you, O God; May all the peoples praise you!" (Ps 67:5)

J. Pulinthanath, sdb



Congratulations:

LINK congratulates Sr. Linet, SJA, the newly appointed Provincial Superior of the Anney Sisters in Bhubaneswar. Our own Sr. Suchita SJA from Kamaranga is elected Councilor.

Tuikarmaw Parish

Tuibruma, a village belonging to St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw, celebrated its patronal Feast St. Raphael. The Feast was celebrated with three days of Novena prayers and Eucharistic celebrations from 26 to 28 September and a day of Solemnity celebration on 29 September. Tuibruma is one of the youngest communities in the Parish having 35 members. There Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion were administered during the Novena days. There were 150 people were present for the four days celebration from various villages encouraging this young community and to receive God's protection and blessing. The feast day mass was celebrated by Fr. C. Abraham and Fr. Suresh CSC and the celebration came to an end with a community meal for everyone. **Fr. C. Abraham, CSC**

Depacherra Parish

Silver Jubilee Celebration - Bethany Convent Depacherra

Bethany Sisters, Bishop, Fathers,



Parishioners and invited guests gathered to celebrate 25

years of establishment of Bethany Convent at Depacherra on 2nd October 2013. Festivities began with the Thanksgiving Mass presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC. The Bishop in his homily thanked and appreciated the pioneering works of Bethany Sisters in the Diocese and wished the Sisters to remain faithful to the vision of the pioneers. After the Holy Eucharist, a short felicitation program was organized in the Parish Hall. Sr. Lillis B.S, Assistant Superior General of the Congregation, presided over the program. Bishop Lumen was the Chief Guest and Sr. Christine Noronha, B.S, Procurator General of the Bethany Congregation and Sr. Joy B.S, Provincial Superior of the Bethany North East Province were the Guests of Honour. Bishop Lumen in his speech shared some of the beautiful memories he had cherished by being associated with this mission and appreciated Sisters for their hard labour in the initial years. Sr. Lillis the, Asst. Superior General, in her address recalled how she as then Provincial of North East Province accepted the Depacherra Mission despite hardships and extreme challenges. Sr. Joy, while appreciating the great services

of the Sisters, also thanked the Holy Cross Fathers for their support and cooperation. Fr. Emmanuel, CSC, representing the Holy Cross Fathers, appreciated the collaboration of the Sisters. The program ended with the vote of thanks and wishes to march ahead towards the golden years. **Sr. Benny, B.S**

Charismatic Retreat - Faith awakening

"Your faith has healed you; go in peace", are the familiar words of Jesus, which come to us in Faith and Trust. In response to the felt need of the faithful of Depacherra Parish, a Charismatic Retreat was organized from 24th to 27th September. Fr. George, S.J. and his team, though their powerful preaching enkindled the faith of the people. People gathered in large numbers children and youth, young and old, sick and healthy, strong and weak many of them experienced healing and were strengthened in their faith. Even the torrential rains did not deter the faithful from attending this Retreat. On the last day many people came forward to give witness to what the Mighty God has done to them. This Retreat has brought a spiritual renewal to the Parish and we raise our hearts in gratitude to God for the all the blessings that our Parish experienced during the Retreat. **Mr. Oshim Uchoi**

Kathalcherra Parish Charismatic Retreat 2013

Good Shepherd Parish organized a 3-day Charismatic Retreat and Renewal in view of Jubilee Year from 19th to 21st September. The Retreat, organized at the initiative of *Maria Sangha*, was attended by over a thousand people on the final day. Fr. George and Team from Kolkata Retreat Centre were the Resource Persons. Praise and worship, prayers and preaching by the charismatic group, moved the crowd to recommit themselves to God and renew their relationship with the family members. The renewal of marriage vows, Sacrament of Reconciliation, personal testimony of *metanoia* and Healing are some of the touching moments of the Retreat.

Twin Silver Jubilee

Good Shepherd Parish Kathalcherra celebrated "Twin Silver Jubilee" on 19 and 20 October the Silver Jubilee of the Parish and Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC, the Parish Priest.

The celebrations began with the inaugural ceremony on the 19 October in the evening with a colorful cultural program. It was a time to honor the Founding members of the mission who were instrumental in sowing the seed of faith. Bishop Lumen Monteiro highlighted the growth of Church at Kathalcherra. Fr. K.J Abraham CSC brought to the memory of the people the hard work of various missionaries, catechists and teachers. Sr. Eva BS narrated the contribution of the women religious at Kathalcherra and Catechist Moia Darlong thanked the missionaries for the seed of faith at Kathalcherra. Fr. Hormis John CSC, the founding father remembered the beginning days and thanked God for the growth and cooperation of people at Kathalcherra. The Jubilee Celebration

was blessed with the presence of very many founding members of the Kathalcherra Mission both priests and religious.

The presence of the mother and 6 family members of Fr. Lancy added more fervor to the celebration of Jubilee. Fr. Suresh too was greeted on the completion of Silver Jubilee of Ordination.

The celebration on the next day began with the blessing of the Jubilee stone, the ringing of the Darlong Bell and the Solemn Eucharist presided over by Bishop Lumen followed by greeting and fellowship meal.

Moharpara Parish

Parents' Day Celebration at Notre Dame Holy Cross School

3rd October 2013 was a day of rejoicing for the whole School community at Moharpara. Many days of preparation came to its fruition that day. Our Chief Guest was local MLA, Smt. Gouri Das and the guest of honour was Smt. Tanushree Debbarma, the D.M. & Collector of the newly created Khowai District. Our special guest was Fr. George Jacob CSC who represented the Provincial Superior. Kudos to all the students and teachers who actively participated. Smt. Tanushree and Smt. Gouri Das were very much impressed by the performance of the students and they had many words of appreciation for the good work that is being done by the School in this interior area in spite of many constrains. From their part they promised to extend their help for the development of the School.

Zonal Sabhas are on...at

Moharpara Parish

Area-wise gatherings (*sabhas*) are conducted at Moharpara Parish for better participation of the parishioners. The main purpose of these gatherings is Faith Formation, Leadership Training and yearly Fellowship among the people. The first *sabha* was at Toidu area (from 5th to 7th October) where about 80 participants attended. The second was at Hadupa (16th to 18th October) for the neighbouring *mondolis*. The third was at Twithampui (25th to 27th October) where there was a huge gathering along with Bishop Lumen. The last one will be at Cechua (November 29th to December 1st).

Fr. Hormis John, csc

Bagbasa Parish

Parish Feast

On September 13th 14th & 15th in view of our Parish Feast we organized three

days programme for the parishioners under the title 'Mother Mary, a model for women in the family and the Church, assisted by Holy Cross Family Ministries India. Special gratitude to Fr. Robert CSC, the Coordinator and Fr. Arulraj CSC for the support to our new parish. 125 people participated in the Seminar and concluded the programme with the parish feast. Fr. P. V. Joseph CSC was the main celebrant for the Feast Day Mass while Frs. Sojan and Paul concelebrated.

Maria Sangha Conference

The Annual Parish level Maria Sangha Conference at Saitha Village was held on October 4th, 5th & 6th 2013. Fr. Jeevan SVD the Director of JUST was the chief Resource Person and Sr. Joy BS the Provincial Superior of the Bethany Sisters addressed the gathering. The theme of the Annual Convention was, "The Family as the foundation for vocation in the church". This programme was assisted by Holy Cross Family Ministries India thanks to Fr. Robert CSC. 100 women participated in the programme. *Fr. Paul Choorackal, csc*

Jeevadhara Minor Seminary, Khumulwng

Future Disciples for the Diocese

'God calls the weak to make strong' was the theme of the Vocation Camp held at Diocesan Minor Seminary Champaknagar from 14th to 16th October '13. We are convinced that even in this modern and consumerist world God continues to call people to carry out the mission. Puja celebrations blurred the streets and the cities but God called 24 candidates deep within hearts for the Vocation Camp. The Vocation Camp this year was a mixture of games, sports, competitions and varieties to sessions. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC invited the young candidates to be generous to respond to the call. He also gave lots of important information about the Diocese. Fr. Hormis John CSC (Vicar General) prepared the ground by speaking on the 'call of

God in the Bible'. Fr. Cyprian SVD spoke on the importance of vocation in one's life. Fr. Bosco SVD brought awareness as to how priests and religious can make use of the mass media for the proclamation of the word of God. Fr. Buban Sarkar (Secretary to Bishop) reiterated the need of diocesan priest for one's diocese. Fr. Blasius SDB (Rector, Pre-novitiate Mariamnagar) spoke about the importance of responding to the call. Fr. Arun Minj SVD spoke on 'Priesthood is the most beautiful and satisfying life'. It was a real celebration of vocation for the candidates. I thank all the resource personnel for their generosity in guiding the Vocation Camp. Let us continue to pray that many more youngsters come forward to carry out His mission.

Fr. Arun Minj, SVD, Rector

News from JUST (Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura)

Repatriation

On 30th September 2013, fifty six families from Naisingpara, twenty eight families from Ashapara and two families from Hezacherra Relief Camp repatriated to Mizoram. The families repatriated on their own decision as a Self-repatriation. A list of 120 families were selected by Mizoram Government and sent to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Kanchanpur for repatriation without the knowledge of MBDPF. Out of 120 selected families, 86 families have repatriated to Mizoram. The MBDPF leaders and members extended their full cooperation and help to the Government authority in the repatriation process.

Strategy development workshop for engaging the Bru leaders

On 17th and 18th September 2013 a Workshop on Strategy Development for engaging the Bru leaders to develop the process was conducted at Naisingpara, JUST field office. 33 participants took part in the programme from different relief camps. Arul Selvan programme Coordinator of Peace project facilitated the Program. Mr. Lalrinpuia Molsoi was the resource person for the program. The major aspects discussed in the program were, Education and its importance, Health and Hygiene, Need for Repatriation and Expectation from the Govt. of Tripura & Mizoram.

The participants expressed their basic and necessary needs for the betterment and peaceful life. They felt that they are living on a no man's land, as there was no consideration for their life from both the Govt. This program had indeed helped them to improve the plan and way of living. They expressed their needs and enquired about the possible ways to avail the above-mentioned needs from both the Govt. They long for a peaceful life with all the necessary facilities like education, health & Hygiene, Psychosocial support etc.

Vincent Deburma

Agartala Diocese Family Commission

The **Family Commission** organized a 'Training Programme for Couples' from 11th to 13th September at ASHA. The programme was organized to train some married people from different Parishes of the Diocese so that they would be of some help to their Parish to guide the families. It was conducted by Fr. John Babu Halder, CSsR and Mr. Dilip Gomes from Calcutta Archdiocese. There were 30 participants from 11 Parishes. The participants were very happy with the programme and promised to help couples in their Parishes. A Central Team was formed to see the overall activities in the Diocese. Many regretted for not bringing their life partner for the same. They said they look forward to have many more such programmes. *Fr. John Bosco Lathees*

AICU Organizes Diocesan Eucharistic Procession

The 5th State Level Holy Eucharistic Procession was held at St. Andre Parish, Budhjungnagar on 13th October 2013 with the theme, "Rooted in Christ, Strengthened in Faith" (Col. 2:7). The Eucharistic procession was jointly organized by the Catholic Laity of Tripura under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Jeevan Kanady SVD, the advisor to AICU and St Andre Parish under the leadership of Fr. Jilson, CSC as Convenor and host Parish Priest. Neither the erratic climatic conditions nor the distance of the venue could affect the determination of the faithful who numbered over 5,000.

The program began on 12th evening with a candle lit Rosary Procession participated by around 400 people. The Holy Eucharist on 13th morning was presided over by Most Rev Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, the Bishop of Agartala Diocese. 40 priests joined in the concelebrated Mass together with a large number of religious Sisters from all over Tripura. The 3-kilometer long trek was attended by all priests, religious and faithful who travelled from every nook and corner of the State of Tripura. Undeterred by the scorching sun and high humidity, the faithful proclaimed and witnessed to their deep faith in the Savior through prayers and hymns. The Procession concluded with Bishop Lumen invoking God's blessing upon all the faithful. *Diocesan News Bureau*

FCC Provincial Visits Sindukpathr Parish

Sr. Annis Vallipalam, the FCC Provincial (Ernakulam Province), accompanied by

one of the Councillors made a visit to Sindukpathar from September 16 to 22. The maiden visit of the Provincial was in view of making an assessment of their life and ministry as well as to plan for the Hostel and Convent at Sindukpathar. Fr. Francis Thadathil, MSFS Provincial accompanied them. The FCC mission at Harina (where the Sisters live) was initiated by Sr. Lisa Mary, the previous Provincial. Currently the community has four Sisters, who are involved in pastoral and educational ministries. The Sisters are learning to adjust with the new situations of the missions in northeast. Let us also accompany them with prayers as they continue to offer their committed service to the mission at Sindukpathar.

(Courtesy MSFS Provincial Letter FT 53)

Faith Formation and Leadership Camp

It is Hindu festival season in Tripura. All educational institutions are closed and students are on vacation for two weeks. While teachers as well as students enjoy the festive season by visiting friends, engaging in amusing activities, Holy Cross North East Province under the banner of Holy Cross Educational Foundation organized a three day faith formation and leadership training camp at Agartala Holy Cross School from 5th October to 8th October. Ninety Catholic students from six Holy Cross Schools in Tripura State took part in the camp. The students, both boys and girls, actively listened to and participated in all the workshops which were based on faith formation, ethical formation, pedagogy for academic excellence, becoming leaders in the school, setting smart goals in life, emotional issues of teenagers, etc. During this year of Faith, the Holy Cross Educational Foundation took this step with the purpose of training Catholic leaders for the future Church of Tripura. The response from the students was very encouraging.

The concluding function with variety entertainment was attended by Sr. Lillis, General Councilor of the Bethany sisters and three prominent catholic leaders of Agartala Diocese, who gave meaningful messages to the students. There was a great satisfaction expressed by the students in their evaluation and they hoped to attend similar camp in the future. The camp came to an end with a colorful candle procession and taking of oath

to spread the light of Faith as they return to their own places. *George Jacob, CSC*

Blood Donation

Program at Depacherra

Blood Donation an initiative of the Diocese in the year of faith with the theme "Donate Blood and Save Life" was organized in Depacherra Parish on 5th of October 2013. Dr. Roy along with his Team from Government District Hospital, Udaipur was present to carry out the procedure. Many people came forward but after screening doctors could only take blood from 25 people. We thank all our parishioners and sisters who concentrated people about the benefits of donating Blood. *Sr. Benny, B.S.*

Program at Bishramganj

A Blood Donation Camp was organized at Catholic Church (Don Bosco Centre) Bishramganj on 10th October 2013 as part of the programme organized by the Catholic Diocese of Agartala in collaboration with the Tripura State Blood Transfusion Council. During the 'Year of Faith' which is being celebrated this year, the Catholic Church of Tripura wants to share life with others as Jesus Christ showed His love for all humans. Twenty one persons from Bishramganj Parish donated blood on this day. *Fr. Hormis, CSC*

News from North East India

Seminar cum animation of Pontifical Mission Organization

A daylong Seminar cum animation for the diocesan directors of Pontifical Mission Organization was organized by the Regional secretary Fr. Athnas Kerketta MSFS, in MSFS Provincialate Narengi, on 1st of October. Such a program is organized for the first time in the Region. Directors of 13 dioceses participated in the program. The Resource Person was Fr. Faustine Lobo, the National Director for the Pontifical Mission Organization. He explained to the Diocesan Directors their roles and responsibilities. The Pontifical Mission Organization has four societies: The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith, The Pontifical Society of the Missionary Childhood, The Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle and the Pontifical Missionary Union. Fr. Bhuban Sarkar represented the Diocese of Agartala. All the Diocesan Directors enjoyed the program and appreciated the insights gained through the sessions. (*Fr. Bhuban Sarkar*)

Bishop Paul Mattekatt Installed

It was the Apostolic Nuncio in the presence of Major Archbishop Cardinal Alencherry and all the Bishops of the NE Region who ordained and installed Bishop Paul Mattekatt as the 4th Bishop of Diphu Diocese at a colorful function with heavy downpours of rain right through the ceremony.



Ruby Jubilee



Holy Cross Fathers Hormis John and George Kallungal celebrated their Ruby Jubilee on 27th October.

Both are Parish Priests in Agartala Diocese. Both were present at Tuithampui on 27th October along with Bishop Lumen to celebrate their priestly Anniversary with the people of God. Link wishes the Jubilarians AD MULTOSANOS.

Visitors at Bishop's House

- Dr. Ms. Yolande, from Family Centre Mumbai
- Fr. Arulraj, CSC, from Family Ministry Bangalore
- Sr. Mirabile AC, Provincial Superior from Kolkata
- Sr. Agnelite AC, Treasurer from Kolkata
- Fr. George S.J. and Sr. Manjusha H.C. from Patna
- Fr. Nirmal Gomes SDB, from Siliguri
- Frs. Mathew, Philip & Mathew from Palai Diocese
- Fr. Simon Tellis VG from Karwar
- Fr. Ambrose Fernandes PP from Karwar
- Fr. PT Abraham CMI, Architect from Kerala
- Fr. Lancy's family members from Mangalore

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 2013

- 01: All Saints Day Mass
Xavier Board Meet - Inaugural Mass
- 02: All Souls Day, Depacherra
- 03: Parish Mass, Gandacherra
Meet benefactors
- 04-08: Caritas India Field Visit, Uttarakhand
- 09: DPC Meet, Agartala
To Kamaranga
- 10: Year of Faith Janthum, Kamaranga Parish
- 11: Meet FMM Provincials
- 13-15: Caritas India PSC, Delhi
- 16: Boarders Day, St. Mary's Champaknagar
- 17: Confirmations, St. Joseph's Agartala
Blood Donation Camp, Agartala
- 18-23: SCC National Convention, Goa
- 23-24: Christ King Feast, Depacherra Parish
- 28: Meet FS Superior General