



Link

DIOCESE OF AGARTALA

lead Us Onward

Agartala Diocesan Newsletter



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Pastor's Corner

Let Democracy evolve into Cosmocracy



Cosmocracy is an interesting concept. "Cosmocracy is democracy for the entire cosmos" says Vir Singh. "It helps us to be on higher and transcendental paths of our duty. It also helps humanity to occupy a central role and exercise cosmic responsibility in helping life (the entire biodiversity) to blossom throughout, as evolved by nature. Human virtues consciousness, love, compassion, ethics, aesthetics, spirituality, sense of responsibility, imagination, wisdom, creating joy, etc. which evolution has nurtured over its long journey of creativity also happen to be of potential value for sustaining eco-democracy for all living species on Earth."

In an article in the Times of India on May 4, which was Eco-

philosophy Day to pay tribute to Henryk Skolimowski, **Vir Singh wrote:** "In Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy as government of the people, by the people, for the people, there is no place for non-human forms of life. Crying 'people, people, and people' does not denote any respect for overall life. Human species is just one of the innumerable species prospering on Earth due to which Earth is a Living Planet and also perhaps the most beautiful planet in the cosmos."

"Human destiny would be at stake if non-human species are squeezed out of our vision. Of course, human species are born with virtues to take care of and ensure welfare and sustainability of all species, without which our own welfare has no meaning and our own sustainability



will be unsustainable. Thus, governance for democracy by people is okay, but not only for people and of people. If we make Lincoln's definition more meaningful by saying "Democracy of life, by the people, for life", it would define eco-democracy or cosmocracy. Cosmocracy is conceived for the whole cosmos and is evolutionary in its designs and meaning." Let democracy evolve into cosmocracy! **+Lumen, CSC**

A Killer in our Campuses



One often hears the word 'tablet' in conversations across the State today. This despite the fact that English did not really flourish in Tripura like it has done in some neighboring NE States. 'Tablet' is the euphemism for drugs and its entry into everyday parlance disturbingly indicates that drugs are invading even interior villages of Tripura. It was certainly not the case, until some years ago. In fact, the State stood out from the rest of the States in NE for its healthy indifference to drugs. The scenario in Tripura has turned alarming very quickly. The Government and Administration too seem to have realized the gravity of the situation. It has become quite a normal thing to hear of young people getting arrested for their role in drug

related incidents. The incomprehensible things happening around us in this regard baffle us: "I knew Seraphina, Nature gave her hue... she turned to harlotry, this I took to be new". Soon, we would need to also admit that we do not possess adequate capacity, experience and expertise to handle this crisis effectively. Drug addiction has entered our campuses - schools, hostels and other settings where young people gather. It calls for extra caution on the part of guardians and parents. Unsupervised rented homes in which students stay are especially prone to this temptation. As the Scripture says it is only by putting on 'the armor of God' and 'the breastplate of righteousness' that a young boy or a girl of today can remain upright and disciplined. Is drug-addiction of our children the natural fall out of our amoral pursuit

Editorial



of success and profit? Of our egging them on to succeed at all costs? Sort of reminder that we've got priorities all mixed up?

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Congratulations!



LINK congratulates our new Deacon Praveen Yedanapally on his Ordination to the Diaconate with his Companions at ORIENS Theological College, Shillong, and welcomes him to the Diocesan Fraternity of Agartala.

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In many places the Church has been on the vanguard of tackling and curbing the spread of this menace. In Tripura, at the moment, the Church perhaps lacks the wherewithal required to treat or rehabilitate addicts; but it is eminently equipped to initiate measures that will perhaps prevent future generations from going the drugs way. **J. Pulinthanath, SDB**

CATHEDRAL PARISH SCC Training at St. Francis Xavier Parish



There was a felt need to train our Zonal Leaders and Parish Council Members regarding SCC. Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC, the co-ordinator for the SCC in our Diocese willingly accepted to train the group on 5th June. We had extended the invitation to the neighboring parishes and with their positive response we had 42 participants. The Session began with half an hour of Adoration and Praise and Worship along with the veneration of the Holy Bible. There was a well prepared Input Session, Chart presentation and a magic show through which he drove his point on SCC. The group actively participated and at 1.30 pm we had the holy Eucharist followed by a fellowship meal. A follow-up program is envisaged in the near future. **Fr. Sahaya Lourdu Raj, CSC**

MOHARPARA PARISH Parish Youth Convention



The Youth of Moharpara Parish gathered for a 3-day annual Youth

Convention from 17th to 19th May in the Parish centre. The function commenced with lighting of the lamp, welcome speech by the Youth President and Keynote address by the Parish Youth Animator. The Sessions throughout the three days centred around the theme Strengthen Yourself in Faith (Jude1:20). 190 Youth from different sub centers took part in the Convention. On the second day of the Convention the new Office Bearers were elected. In the evenings the participants were entertained through different competitions and cultural programs. The participants were given a chance to experience God's love and forgiveness through the Holy Eucharist, Adoration and Praise and Worship moments. The Convention came to a close with the solemn Holy Eucharist presided by Fr. Laurence Darlong DYD. Soon after the Holy Mass there was a prize distribution, vote of thanks and agape meal shared by all. We thank all the Resource Persons: Fr. Joe Paul, Fr. Paul CR, Fr. Lawrence Darlong, Mr. Amar Prem Jamatia Parish Secretary, Mr. Uttam Debbarma, Dr. Ashok Debbarma, Mr. David Debbarma, Mr. Sumanta Debbarma and DEXCO Team. **Fr. Arbok, CSC**

KUMARGHAT PARISH Youth Fest 2019



In view of the Golden Jubilee celebration of St. Paul's Parish Kumarghat, two days Youth Fest was organized at the Parish Centre on 7th and 8th April. 160 Youth participated in the Fest. The theme was "SCC and the Church". Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC (PP) and Fr. Aneesh Mathew CSC, Fr. Lawrence Darlong (Diocesan Youth Coordinator) along with his Team organized the two days Sessions. Through these animations the Youth were made aware of their role in the Church and relevance of the Word of

God in their daily lives. The final day during the Holy Eucharist Fr. Lawrence Darlong shared the Word of God and requested the Youth to become agents of evangelization in their own setup. After the Mass Evaluation and Action Plan was conducted by the Diocesan Youth animation Team and followed by a grand agape.

Fathers Day Celebrations



On May 5th Father's Day was organized in the Parish. Before the Holy Eucharist there were Talks given by two Youth enumerating the role a Father in the family. They thanked them for working hard for the well being of the family and setting a good role model to them. They requested them to involve in Church activities and prayers. After these Talks one Dad addressed the gathering by taking the example of St. Joseph, how he looked after the Holy family in all the crises moments. 130 fathers were present. At 10am the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC. After the Holy Eucharistic there was an interactive session with the fathers. It was a well attended program in the Parish.

SCC Training Programs



Over the last few weeks four SCC Training Programs were conducted in the Parish at Twinaisa (Reang Village), Kanchancherra (Darlong Village), Ratacherra and Masli Garo I (Garo Villages). We had very good response with many attending the programs. They

expressed the desire to have many more such programs in the days to come. The Resource Persons were Mr. Piangloma Darlong, Mr. Lokoram Reang, Mr. Paul Sangma and Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC. The participants were told about the new concept of the Church "We are the church and we are the moving Church" and our response to it.

Maria Sango Annual Sabah



In the view of the upcoming Golden Jubilee of Kumarghat Parish and this being the mother Parish for the four parishes of Ambassa, Kathalcherra, Gachirampara and Bagbassa, the Maria Sango Annual Sabah at the Zonal level was held on 1st and 2nd of June at Kumarghat Parish. The participants from all these Parishes numbered 247. In spite of heavy rains women gathered enthusiastically and participated fully. The theme was "Behold I am the Handmaid of the Lord" Lk: 1: 38 (*ami Prabur dhasi*). It began with Bible enthronement and followed by welcome address by Fr. Lancy the Parish Priest. The special invitees were Fr. Jeevan Director of JUST and Sr. Mary David Secretary of the Diocesan Women Commission. Fr. Jeevan spoke on the theme "I am the Handmaid of the Lord", while Sr. Mary David explained the POCSSO Act with

many examples and incidents. Women were very attentive and enlightened by the Talks. Later in the afternoon Dr. Margaret Debbarma in charge of Kumarghat Health Centre took a session on health and hygiene. Reports were then presented from all the Parishes. At 6.15 in the evening there was a candle light Rosary Procession followed by Eucharistic Adoration. After supper they had cultural program. The next day Pentecost Sunday was celebrated solemnly. After the Holy Mass there was Evaluation and Action Plan. The program came to an end with Lunch. *Sr. Amali, FS*

GANDACHERRA PARISH

One day Animation Program on Leadership for Catechists

On 27th May, 2019 in order to enhance the leadership quality in the Parish our Catechists were given one day animation by Fr. Bhuban Sarkar, PP of Depacherra Parish. The training program began with ice breaking session, followed by many topics on how to be effective Catechists in leading the people in God's faith. The Catechists were very happy and enthusiastic to learn about more on the Catholic faith. The program ended at 4pm with final hymn to Mother Mary. *Catechist Thocken Uchoi*

One day Animation Program for Maria Sangho

On 28th May, 2019 a one day Animation program for Parish Maria Sangho was organized by Fr. Bhuban Sarkar. During the Session the importance of family and family prayer was insisted by the Resource Person. The important outcome of the

animation was twofold; women leadership in group, family prayer and visiting different villages to strengthen the faith. The animation program strengthened the zeal and enthusiasm of Women's participation and involvement in the church. The program was conclude with a Marian song by Maria Sangho at 4pm.

Mrs. Meena Uchoi



One day Animation Program for Parishioners

St. Arnold Parish, Gandacherra organized one day orientation program for Parishioners on 16th June. The Parish Council Members and Secretaries from different *mondolis* were present for the program. It was a wonderful day for the parishioners. Fr. Binoy John, CSC from Bodhjunnagar Parish was the Resource Person of the day. He guided the parishioners on how to be united and plan out for a better functioning of the Parish. About 50% of the parishioners were present for the program.

After the lunch the Parish executive members were elected under the guidance of Fr. Prasad, the Parish Priest. The program ended at 4.00pm with the final blessing by Fr. Prasad. *Mr. Rajendra Reang*

Diocese News Nuggets

Inauguration and Blessing of Auxilium Home, Agartala

May 19, 2019 was a memorable day for the members of Auxilium Family, Agartala. In the presence of very many eminent Guests and Invitees the newly built Residence cum Hostel for Girls "AUXILIUM HOME" was inaugurated and blessed. The entire programme was centered around the theme: "The Lord himself will build a house for us" and "Now is the time to give thanks for all that God has done for us". The Residence was solemnly inaugurated by Sr. Elizabeth

George FMA, Provincial of Shillong Province and Sr. Alphonsa Kurisinkal FMA Provincial of Guwahati Province, who was the pioneer of FMA presence in Tripura and who was responsible in buying the land, way back in 1998-99 and putting up a small residence that served the community for almost 20 years. Present for the occasion were Sr. Ivy D'Souza, former Provincial of the undivided Province of Shillong, Sr. Isabella Suja, former Provincial of Shillong, Sr. Christina Kharkongor the first Principal and Animator of Auxilium Girls School, and the Members of the Provincial Council and other Sisters who had come from Shillong, Bishramganj as well

as from Mandwi.

"Auxilium Home was solemnly blessed by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD, Bishop of Agartala, in the presence of several priests and religious from nearby parishes and religious institutions. Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils, Staff Members, and friends and well wishers of Auxilium were also present. The well built house, aesthetically designed and beautifully maintained, and gracefully decorated was the attraction of the day. After the blessing there was the solemn holy Eucharist in the spacious and



wonderfully and artistically decorated School auditorium, presided over by Bishop Lumen with several priests from the Diocese of Agartala concelebrating. After the holy Mass there was a short felicitation ceremony, which was coordinated by Sr. Celine D' Cunha, the Animator of the community, during which our Bishop Lumen was congratulated and felicitated on his 23rd Episcopal Ordination Anniversary to be celebrated on the 26th of May. All the major Superiors, Sisters, Priests, Cooperators and Members of Managing Committee were also felicitated. Sr. Celine also gave a brief history of the house and the struggles and challenges that the pioneers had to face in establishing the institution with just 43 students in 2003, which has now become a premier educational institution in the State catering to 2,300 girl children, 'Giving wings to young dreams and aspirations.' A tasty meal was served for all in the open ground beautifully decorated with lights and music. The newly blessed home is dedicated as a token our thanks and gratitude Mother Mary.

FMA Correspondent, Agartala

Networking Meet for Peace



JUST organized a Networking Meeting of NGOs on 11th May for Peace Promotion in Tripura. In the Meeting, representatives of 12 NGOs and senior Journalists took part. Explaining the objectives of the Meeting, Fr. Jeevan Kennady Director of JUST said, NGOs and CBOs can play a role as peace mediators. In his key note address, veteran

Journalist and Executive Editor of Tripura Times, Mr. Manas Pal, detailed about different aspects of conflicts and peace process. "Resolving conflict is not the mandate of an NGO/CBO, it rests with the Government and concerned stakeholders. However, NGOs and CBOs have definite roles as peace facilitators", Pal commented. Other Speakers focused on different aspects of Conflicts, Peace Initiatives, and the role of NGOs as peace facilitators. JUST is working as an umbrella organization for NGOs in nurturing peace in the State. Participants also shared their experiences on Peace Promotion and came out with suggestions for a way forward in Tripura.

JUST Distributes Health Care Materials to Students

To promote health and hygiene among the community 350 children from 10 JUST Coaching Centers under Ganganager R.D Block in Dhalai



District were provided health care materials such as toothbrush, toothpaste, bathing soap and a pair of footwear each by JUST. The Project Coordinator Mr. Lilmohan Reang visited the Centers and distributed the health care materials to the students. During the distribution Mr. Lilmohan Reang told the students to make full use of the materials and always maintain health and hygiene. He advised them to shower at

least twice a day with soap, and to brush their teeth daily. The students as well as the guardians were very excited to receive such type of materials and assured to make full use of them. **Mr. Cyril Darlong**

Our Readers Write:

Every month, year after year the Link in my mailbox is a sign of connection, a sign of bonding. Sharing news opens my mind and helps me to focus on other items. Very often I have to take my map to find the location of the different Parishes you visited to find out what community is living there and to find out their goal of life. It's again and again a small kind of exploration...in another world. *Lieve Stiers, Belgium*

LINK tells us we are in June. ; The quotation from Fr. Cullen falls right at a time when climate change is on everyone's lips and worries. Here it is spring but looks more like winter! *Conrad Auger CSC, Canada*
Always look forward to your Link and reading the news from your end. It is a joy for me and i am very proud of you. May the good Lord Bless you and your Ministry always. *Magda Azaraih, Mumbai*

Bishop's Program for July 2019

- 02: Clergy Meet & Recollection, Agartala
- 06-07: Chapel Blessing, Tuikarmaw Parish
- 08: NEDSSS AGBM, Guwahati
- 09: Caritas India PSC, Delhi
- 10: Forum Directors Meet, Delhi
- 11: New Directors Meet, Delhi
- 13-14: Pastoral Program, Gandacherra Parish
- 21: First Holy Communion, Nandanagar Parish
- 23: ADPC Meet, Agartala
- 27: KB Translators Meet, Agartala
- 28: Parish Pastoral Program Agartala
- 28-31: DDC Program, Kathmandu Nepal

Our Distinguished Visitors

- Sr. Marianne Farina, CSC, from University of California, Berkeley, USA
- Sr. Pushpa Gomes CSC, Area Coordinator from Dhaka
- Fr. Pius, CMF Provincial from Shillong
- Fr. M K George, SJ Provincial from Kerala
- Fr. Baby SJ, Province Procurator from Kerala
- Sr. Anita FCC, Provincial from Aluva, Kerala