



Pastor's Corner



**AI – The Promise of a New World**

“ALEXA! Where the devil are my slippers?” This line is not a New World spoof on the closing scene of that classic movie 'My Fair Lady'. This is for real. While in the movie we are left guessing whether Eliza Dolittle would find Prof. Higgins' slippers, here in the New World, Alexa/Siri/Sophia will actually fetch your slippers for you! No science fiction this. It is “Artificial Intelligence (AI) – The promise of a New World”.



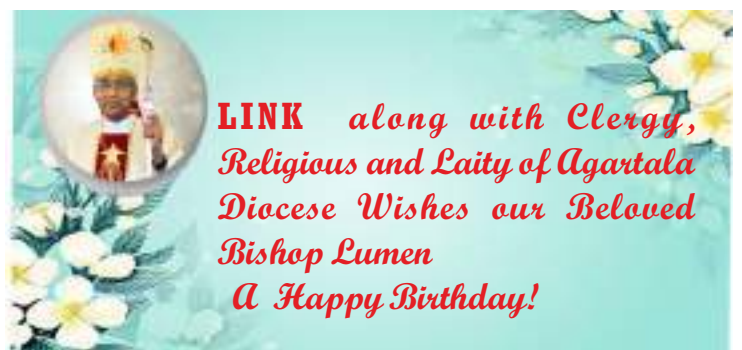
The Daughters of St. Paul organized a Seminar on this topic in Mumbai on November 12, 2022 and got in a host of distinguished panel of speakers. Fr. Dolreich opened the Seminar with a quick overview of Artificial Intelligence (AI), its brief history, types of AI – General to Super, the gamut of its applications as well as the drawbacks, legal and ethical aspects. Dr. Joanne showed the vistas of career opportunities in AI to a young, eager and ambitious audience. She explained how categories of jobs such as drivers, couriers and cashiers would soon become extinct, and why the future workforce needs to make major shifts in skilling to keep abreast of the AI potential. Dr. Amit Sethi spoke of the wide spectrum of areas in which AI would become a fixture in our lives in the near future. He described how Tesla's driverless car (Autonomous Vehicle) could be a safer bet than having a human at the wheel, and while it has already hit the roads in the US, it would take much longer in India due to our extremely diverse, chaotic traffic systems and road mapping. He also highlighted his own ongoing research in

collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital in breast cancer diagnostics, using AI to clearly distinguish cancer stages that will decidedly help in choosing the line of treatment. Dr. Sethi also mentioned the possibility of AI being used to intrude on our privacy by governments, employers and marketing companies. He spoke how governments, need to put in place laws and rules to deal with issues such as culpability if a driverless car kills a person. Dr. Fr. Gavin then dealt with the spiritual and ethical issues. He described the evolution of AI as a logical outcome of man's understanding of his own intelligence, and which served man to recognize and return to God. In as much as intelligence is a manifestation of the divine in man, it is this manifestation that receives full expression when man creates technology, including AI. (Courtesy: *The Examiner Vol. 66, Dec 10–16, 2022*)

**Gratitude**

As I celebrate yet another year of God's gift of life to me today, I feel blessed, thankful and grateful. I am overwhelmed with all the blessings I have received from God and from so many wonderful people. With an attitude of gratitude I say 'THANK YOU' to God and to each of you.

+Lumen, CSC



Editorial



**Our Bishop's Birthday:** Since the start of the Diocese the month of February has always started for us on a high and auspicious note, its first day being the birthday of our dear Bishop. At the helm of the Diocese for 27 years now, Bishop Lumen has definitely



played a huge role not only in moulding the shape of the Diocese, but also in fashioning the future of this State. We thank the Lord together with him for a life well spent and pray God's continued blessings upon him. Happy Birthday dear Bishop Lumen!

February Matters

**Assembly Elections:** With elections to the State Assembly just two weeks ahead, it is no surprise that speeches and rallies, flags and festoons, and impromptu security checks have become the order of the day in the State of Tripura. The din and the decibel keep steadily rising, promising a deafening crescendo!



By and large the Catholic Church's engagement with politics in the State has been limited to instructing the Catholics to participate in the political process, be informed voters, and encourage elected officials to act on behalf of the common good.

It is note-worthy that without engaging in party politics the Church has contributed a great deal to the building of the

nation at the national level and ushered in the upward social mobility of various sections of people, especially in interior and far-flung areas. Through its services in the fields of health care, social work, language promotion, and especially education, the Church has changed for better the quality of life in general, of countless families and communities.

At the same time, one cannot also miss the fact that there is a vacuum when it comes to outstanding political leadership emerging from among our flock. It would be unjust to lay all blame at the Church's door, although the Church, of course, would do well to consider this in a serious manner and take the required steps.

**Season of Lent:** Later this month, the Church enters into



the grace-filled season of Lent. Needless to say, the rigors of the season come as a refreshing breath of fresh air to us who are wont to be lackadaisical at best in complying with the demands that faith makes on us, perhaps, more out of ignorance rather than ill-

will. The Season of Lent has a charm of its own that no one is entirely impervious to, even the toughies. As pastors we should make sure they are not wasted. The season of Lent has so many external signs, obligations and observances that it is not easy to remain indifferent to its central invitation to 'return to the Lord'.

**J. Pulinthanath, SDB**

## Parish News Briefs

### KHUMULWNG PARISH

#### 25 Years of Faith celebrated at Khumpuilwng motha



The jubilee bells were ringing with joy to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the coming of the faith into their families on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Khumpuilwng under Khumulwng Parish. A day filled with joy and happiness as all the faithful of Khumulwng Parish from all the *mothas* have come to witness, rejoice and share their joy together with the people of Khumpuilwngpara. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by our Dear Bishop Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, and concelebrated by Fr. Valentine SVD, Fr. Valson SVD, Fr. Blasius SDB, Fr. Babu SJ and many priests and religious from the neighboring parishes. During the Homily Bishop appreciated and congratulated all the faithful for being strong in their faith and also exhorted them to be more rooted in the path of Christ and to live as true witnesses of Christ and be a soldier of Christ. After the Holy Eucharist the faithful of the Motha have felicitated our Bishop, Priests, Brothers and Sisters and thanked specially Fr. Blasius Kujur SDB, (the First Parish Priest) who introduced the faith to them and other Priests who worked tirelessly for their growth. During the short cultural programme the Jubilee cake was cut by our Bishop along with the elders of the village. The villagers expressed their special thanks to Montfort Brothers, MSMHC Sisters SJ Fathers and SVD Fathers for their generous support and guidance. The Jubilee Celebrations ended with a sumptuous meal which is shared by all.

#### Twimairang motha celebrating 50 Years of Life in Christ

Jubilees are occasions to be celebrated, to recall the

marvelous ways in which God has kept them and to bring a culture of peace and love in the place where we live. Twimairang village under the shelter of Khumulwng Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee of the faith coming to this village



through the great struggles of man of the village and now after the 50 Years of completion they celebrated the great milestone of whole village becoming Catholics on 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The celebrations began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Most. Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, and concelebrated by Fr. Valentine Dungdung SVD, Fr. Arul CSC, Fr. Hormis CSC, Fr. Blasius SDB and other priests and religious. During the Mass Bishop congratulated and appreciated the faithful of the Twimairang for their strong faith and deep desire to grow in Christ. Bishop also exhorted them to share the faith of Christ with the others by living an exemplary life and by becoming more active in the Church and Social activities. After the Holy Eucharist short felicitation program was organized and during the program Bishop released the Souvenir and cut the Jubilee cake along with the elders and children of the village. All the Guests, Pioneers and Catechists were felicitated by the faithful for their magnanimous support and contribution to the village. When we honour the past, we energize the future and the present becomes a celebration. The Golden Jubilee could well be called the Year of Gratitude, because we have so much to be thankful for. The Celebrations ended with the agape where all shared the fruit of their labor.

**Bro. Anvesh M.**

### AMBASSA PARISH

#### Media Education for the Youth Leaders

**Ambassa (Tripura) December 28, 2022:** Holy Spirit Catholic Church organized a one day session for the Youth leaders during the Christmas holidays. Prior to this the Youth Committee



decided to have the Seminar during this time. There were 35 participants from different villages of Ambassa for a one day colloquium conducted by Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD the Secretary for 'Social Communication' of Agartala Diocese and Dr. Asok Debbarma from Ambassa. Dr. Asok gave a lively class for the youth on "My responsibilities as communicator in the family & in the Church". After the class there was a workshop. Youth were divided into smaller groups of eight and questions were given for discussion. After the break they reported their findings and it was valuable for the youth. The second session was conducted by Fr. Ivan through the PowerPoint presentation and suitable video clips. He spoke on Mobile and Internet and its advantages and disadvantages. After lunch there was a planning session of electing new office bearers and scheduling a few programs for the coming year. *News Bureau, Ambassa*

### AMARPUR PARISH

#### First ever Eucharistic Procession



15 January, Amarpur: For the maiden Eucharistic procession 14 *mothas* turned up to witness their faith by walking through the entire village of Gamaku. Over 400 faithful walked from St. Joseph Vaz Parish Church to Gamaku village ground along with the Blessed Sacrament. The celebration of the Parish Feast began with the solemn holy Eucharist. Fr. Lijeesh Mathew MSFS, the Parish Priest was the main celebrant for the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Athikho Isaac MSFS gave the homily. The importance of the Holy Eucharist was the central theme of the talks delivered by Fr. Lijeesh Mathew MSFS, the Parish Priest; Sr. Leena Therese SD, the Superior of SD Community; and Mr. Rabindra Lal Jamatia, the Catechist. Thereafter, there was a sumptuous meal served for all the faithful. Everyone who participated for the mega spiritual event expressed their great satisfaction.

*Fr Athikho Isaac, MSFS*

### KAILASHAHAR PARISH

#### First ever Parish Sabha at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kailashahar



The first ever Parish Sabha of Loyola Parish is conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. Though the Parish is new and very small the enthusiasm and the active participation of the laity along with St. Joseph Sisters made it a wonderful experience. The spiritual animation by Fr. Leenus VC became a spiritual experience for many especially youth. The laity, sisters and the priests of Loyola Parish appreciate and give thanks to our Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC for his presence, accompaniment, instructions and the Eucharistic celebration. *Fr. James, SJ*

### KUMARGHAT PARISH

#### Parish Sabha cum Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ratacherra Mondoli



A three day Parish Shaba along with Golden Jubilee celebration of Ratacherra Mondoli took place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January at Ratacherra village under St. Paul's Parish, Kumarghat. On 13<sup>th</sup> the Parish Shaba commenced with hoisting the flag, followed by a Talk on Sacraments by Mr. Lala Darlong. On the second day there was a talk on "Holy Eucharist" and "Praise and Worship" by Rev. Fr. Leenus VC, the Parish Priest of Mariamnagar Parish. In the afternoon, Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, was welcomed in a grand procession. This was followed by Report by *mondolis* and Associations, after which Bishop spoke on the importance of faith in the families. In the evening there was a Marian procession around Ratacherra village. On the following day the Parish and Financial reports were presented by Fr. Lancy CSC. Later our Bishop Lumen spoke on the Year of Holy Eucharist. He also spoke on upbringing of children in Catholic faith and strengthening of community with Christian values.

Later the Golden Jubilee Memorial was unveiled and the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, who

appreciated the people of Ratacherra for having remained faithful and strong in their faith. The Parish Council Secretary Mr. Roitua Darlong thanked all who gave their services for the success of the Parish Shaba. The people of Ratacherra were lauded for their constant efforts to organize this three day "Parish Shaba" and "Golden Jubilee" of their *mondoli*.

*Bro. Jojappa*

## KATHALCHERRA PARISH

### Parish Sabha

Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra, held its annual *sabha* for two days on 21st and 22nd January 2023. It was held in Holy Cross Higher Secondary School campus Kathalcherra and logistic arrangement was done by Joseph Nagar *mondali* under the leadership of Sanjoy Sangma. The annual *sabha* began with flag hosting and Holy Mass. The theme was 'Holy Eucharist' and the Resource Person was Fr. Joseph SJ, Principal, St. Xavier School, Kailasahar, who had an input session before lunch on the first day. There was Adoration cum Confessions followed by cultural



competitions on the first day evening. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, graced the occasion by taking part in the discussions and animating the *sabha* with a session on the Year of the Holy Eucharist, and later presided over the thanksgiving Mass on the second day. A good number of people took part in this *sabha*. The *sabha* came to an end by making an Action Plan and giving away the prizes for the competitions conducted during the year. *Fr. C. Abraham, CSC*

JUST News

## Silver Jubilee Celebration by Yapri Thangha Broi Mthoh SHG



Yapri Thangha Broi Mthoh Self Help Group (SHG) celebrated its silver jubilee at Kathalia, Twikarma in South Tripura on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 under the theme 'Empowering Women'. Yapri Thangha Broi Mthoh SHG is a group formed by JUST in the year 1997 and had successfully completed 25 years this year. The group is engage in various income generation activities such as piggery, poultry farming and rubber cultivation. They have to the tune of rupees 5 lakhs in their saving account. Now the group's is under Chwngmari Society developed by JUST for taking care of the SHG's. Presently the society has 12 groups under them. Several other groups from the society also attended

the silver jubilee celebration and made it look more successful. Mr. Robert Lushai, JUST Program Coordinator was the chief guest during the jubilee celebration and the guest of honour were Mr. Lilmohan Reang (JUST Project Coordinator), Mr. Amit Debbarma & Mrs. Mina Jamatia (JUST Animators) and Mrs. Ritarani Reang, Retired Government Employee. The Group president delivered the welcome address and welcomes all the dignitaries with traditional *risa* and flower bouquet followed by special number by the SHG. All the guest delivered a short and valuable messages for the group. The SHG members also shared their experience working as a group.

February Link 2023

## Discussion on communities in forestry in Tripura Silver

A one day workshop on 'Discussion on communities in



forestry in Tripura' was organized by NESRC at JUST on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2023. Several eminent personalities such as Dr. Vincent T Darlong (Former UNO member & presently Indo-German Project Consultant), Dr. Ranjan Bose (MBBS), Dr. Ezekiel Reang (Asst. Prof. Agriculture Collage), Prof. VM Darlong (Asst. Prof. Tripura University), Mr. T Debbarma (SDFO Sadar), Mr. Subrata Paul (Forest Range Officer, Mohanpur) and several students, scholars, researchers and villagers from the state also attended the workshop and shared their views. The discussion was mainly on the impact of jhum cultivation which is a major concern for reducing vast portion of forest in Tripura. Mr. Sanat K Chakraborty, Independent Researcher, Shillong was the facilitator during the discussion. **Mr. Robert Lushai**

## News Briefs from around the World

### First-ever Blind Catholic Priest in Kenya is ordained



The ordination of the first-ever blind Catholic priest in Kenya will help show people that "disability is not inability," the Archbishop of Nyeri has said. In a Message shared with ACI Africa, CNA's news partner in Africa, Archbishop Anthony

Muheria of the Catholic Archdiocese of Nyeri reflected on the Jan. 14 ordination to the priesthood of Father Michael Mithamo King'ori, who lost his sight while serving as a deacon. "This new priest, Father Michael, will help us to

appreciate, in a very new way, the capacity, the 'enabledness,' of people who may have a deficiency of ability because of [their] situations," Muheria said. The Archbishop added that the priestly ordination of Mithamo King'ori "is a reason for great joy because in spite of his limitation, in spite of the hurdles he has had to go through, he has come out to give evidence and testimony that disability is not a hindrance to answer[ing] God's call, that disability is not inability."

In an interview with Kenya Television Network (KTN) Father Mithamo King'ori traced his priestly vocation to the grace of God and expressed his gratitude to Archbishop Muheria for giving him the hope he needed to remain focused on his dream vocation. *(Courtesy CNA, ACIAfrica)*

## Bishop's Program for February 2023

- 01-14: Health Break, Goa
- 16: Tripura Elections, Agartala
- 17-18: IGSSS GB Meet, Delhi
- 20-21: Lievens Medical College GB Meet, Ranchi
- 22: Ash Wednesday, Agartala
- 26: Mandaria Chapel under Tuikarmaw Parish
- 28-01: MSFS Provincial Assembly, Guwahati

## Our Distinguished Guests

- Sr. Mary Mathew, SMI Provincial from Guwahati
- Sr. Gracy, SMI Councillor from Guwahati
- Fr. Santosh, MSFS Bursar from Guwahati
- Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, Vicar General, Rome
- Fr. Pinto Paul, CSC, Family Ministry International, USA

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