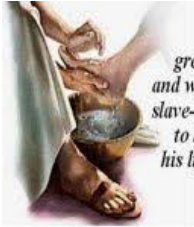




Pastor's Corner

Servant Leadership



"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:26-28

On Maundy Thursday many a Priest and Bishop took part in the Mass of the Lord's Supper during which they washed the feet of parishioners and faithful. I have always found this action as one of the most profound acts of my Priestly Ministry and now as Bishop. It is done after the Gospel which describes in detail the scene of the Last Supper at which Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. The narration ends with these words from John's gospel: "If I then your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also must wash one another's feet. I have given you an example, that as I have done, you also may do."

This was an act of service and humility.

For us, present-day disciples of Jesus, His mandate is so important, especially with Pope Francis leading us by example. (This year again the Holy Father did the feet washing service at the Regina Coeli Prison in Rome.) The Servant Leadership mandate or feet washing, means that the disciple has to be at the service of the community.

The secular world too speaks of this Leadership slightly differently, as Steward Leadership, which was proposed by Dr. Robert Clinton in 1987 as one of four biblical models. He says it is based on the role and practices of the steward as one who manages the resources of others in order to accomplish their objectives. Stewards always were slaves and servants under their masters or owners. Today it is an increasingly-used term more familiar in the non-profit and faith-based organizational world.

Kent R. Wilson says, "Although deeply rooted in Judeo-Christian heritage, the first formal application of servanthood to leadership appeared in 1970 when Robert Greenleaf, a Quaker by background,

introduced the idea of servant leadership while he was manager at AT & T. He defined it as follows: 'Who is the servant-leader? The servant-leader is servant first. [...] It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead.'" Many other writers have joined Greenleaf's call since his seminal work, making servant leadership the dominant model among Christian nonprofit leaders today.

Servant leadership may share assumptions and characteristics in common with steward leadership, but the two are not synonymous. Suffice here to say that as we move into the Easter Season the service on Maundy Thursday should be a reminder of our call to be foot-washers and outdo one another in service.



+Lumen, CSC

Editorial

An Agenda for Holidays and beyond



With most of the Board Exams done, a huge burden is off the shoulders of students and they have stepped into a well-deserved period of rest and leisure aware that they can afford to forget books at least for a brief period of time.

Time, at the hands of young people, tends to get spent purposelessly, although none of them would intentionally want it go wasted. How to spend time enjoyably and usefully is a challenge that surfaces year after year when holidays comes around. More than the young person, the parents of young people worry about it,

and related values! The proposition, attractive and desirable no doubt, also poses a challenge. The challenge is to get ready class materials in a manner interesting enough for young people to want to spend their holidays on them. For us here in Tripura where a basic catechism book in the local language is still to see the light of day, this might sound unreasonably ambitious.

Of course, parents worry all the time. When their ward is in school, they worry about his performance in studies; when he is on holidays, they worry if he will fritter away time in harmful ways. Their worry seems to be not totally ill founded. May be, everyone interested in young people ought to worry because there aren't much things around us that young people can profitably engage in during holidays. Holidays are an ideal time to acquire such knowledge that schools with their hard-to-complete syllabi find little time to impart. Holiday packages with their judicious mix of learning and fun-filled activities offer the young people an ambience markedly different from the one they are used to, throughout the year at school.

Catechism, for example. If only our young people were motivated to set aside a portion of their holiday time for learning about faith

In the twenty-one years of its existence our Diocese has made significant progress on many fronts including faith formation. The simple faith of our people is edifying and inspiring. A catechism in their mother tongue will assuredly, further strengthen that faith.



J. Pulinthanath, sdb

MOHARPARA PARISH

First Annual Youth Meeting



Youth are the future of the church. Today they are the backbone of the Church. Hence they need proper orientation and guidance to help them become assets for the church particularly in the village level. Keeping this thought in mind the Youth of Mohorpara Parish gathered for a Meeting in Singlwnq Catholic Church on 11th March, 2018. The Meeting commenced with the holy Eucharist presided by the PYA of Mohorpara Parish. The purpose of the Meeting was to evaluate the different events conducted last year. Through comments and suggestions the youth voiced out their suggestions and an Action Plan was drawn up.

Lenten Inner Healing Retreats



In Mohorpara Parish from 9th to 28th of March the Lenten Inner Healing Retreats were conducted in different villages as a part of their spiritual preparation for the feast of Easter, under the leadership of the Parish Priest Fr. Paul Choorackal, CSC. The faith renewal in the parish is happening gradually. Through the Lenten Retreats, inner healing and sacraments were given to the faithful in the Parish. People were given opportunity to share their faith testimonies and the healing experiences during the Retreats.

Fr. Arbok Lyngdoh CSC

MARIAMNAGAR PARISH

Day of Prayer

On 9th March we had a day of Prayer and Penance in our Parish.

The parishioners had time to be with the Lord and with fasting and prayer for the whole world and they had time to have their confession. The day ended with the Holy Mass in the evening.

2nd Annual Lenten Retreat



The most important charism and specific purpose of our Community is 'preaching the Gospel to the poor'. Thus through Mission Retreats, and Parish Retreats, we bring into realization the motto of our Congregation. This year the spirit filled Annual Retreat was led by Fr. Sam Thomas VC of Emmaus Retreat Centre Kolkata, and Divine Retreat Centre Team of Mariamnagar. The weekend Retreat was held from 16th to 18th March. 290 faithful participated in the Retreat and experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the Healing.

Fr. Xavier Kumar, VC

KAMARANGA PARISH

Healing Ministry

Kamranga Parish with the motto "Rooted in the Word of God" sprang into the Healing Ministry of Jesus. A Team of five people under the leadership of the Parish Priest Fr. Jomon, SVD, started a Preaching and Healing ministry from 22nd February 2018 to 18th March in 8 Centers of the Parish. The response was so amazing that many non Christians who attended sent word through our *mondoli* Leaders to ask Father and Team to come again. The focus was on the effectiveness of the word of God in healing our mind through counseling, and soul through confessions. It is said that



80% of our illnesses are psycho-somatic illnesses, A Lady who was suffering from nasal bleeding since December 2017 was totally healed by the Lord. Similarly so many who had been going to many hospitals for months and some for many years were healed by the Lord. The maria Sangho members of the Team did a commendable service with the animator of the group Fr. Jomon SVD, In all these 8 Centres around 450 people participated. So there is a great awakening in the parish to be active Catholics by being responsible parents.

Kamaranga Parish News Desk

KATHALCHERRA PARISH

First Holy Communion



On 4th March our Parish had first Holy Communion. The entire parish community witnessed 72 of their children receiving Jesus for the first time in their life. The grace filled moments were blessed with the presence of Fr. Lancy CSC, Fr. C. V. Jose CSC, Fr. Gabriel Darlong CSC and Fr. Ajith CSC. After Mass all the children received Certificate and snacks as the parish community joined in their joy.

International Women's Day Communion



As the world celebrated International Women's Day Good Shepherd Parish celebrated it at the parish level at Nepalthilla under the

leadership of Maria Sango. Sr. Suman B.S., had taken the lead as the animator. Fr. Lancy the Parish Priest offered Holy Eucharist and Sr. Philomena SCCG from Panisagar was the Resource Person. She spoke on "Making of Holy and Healthy Family." We had around 80 participants from all the villages. With the community meal the program came to an end at 2.00pm.

24 hours Adoration

As preparation for Easter we had 24 hours of Adoration at Parish Center. The Adoration service started on 22nd at 9.00am till 23rd morning with the Holy Eucharist at 10.00am. Each village and parish association was allotted the time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The response from the faithful was very positive and the need for God's mercy was very much visible. Number of people turned out for the Sacrament for the Reconciliation. The co-operation and participation was great.

Fr. Ajith CSC

Our Readers Write

Thank you, Bishop Lumen. I always enjoy receiving the LINK.
Bro. Joel Gillanza, CSC, USA

Giving Happiness - The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive. What a nice thought! I feel I still have such a long way before I reach that happiness....With so short time to improve!

Bro. Conrad, CSC, Montreal

Thanks very much for the March Link and the good news about the Ordination of two new priests for the Diocese of Agartala. I also enjoyed the story about the distraction of competition and the opening of a nice home for the Bethany Sisters.

Willy, CSC, USA

I thank you v e r y much for the Newsletter of your Diocese, and I would very much like to get a copy in future too.

Fr. Rudi, SDB, Germany

Women's Day Celebrations



Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) together with Agartala Diocese Women Commission celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March 2018 at JUST. There were about 100 women participants from different parts of Tripura. The theme was Press for Progress. The program started with a prayer and lighting the lamp by the women leaders which was followed by introductory speech by Sr. Mary David FS. The Resource Person was Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD Director of JUST. He gave an input session on the topic "Hidden power of Women". After the input session women performed a beautiful Cultural Programme.

Sr. Mary David FS

Diocesan SCC North Zonal level Meeting at Kumarghat



Diocesan SCC North Zone Meeting was held on the 28th Feb at Kumarghat Parish. There were 38 participants including 6 Priests from 7 Parishes who attended the Meeting. The Meeting began by honoring the Bible in procession which was followed with Bible sharing using the seven steps. There was reading of Reports of the SCCs' activities from different Parishes. During the Meeting it was felt that there should be training organized regularly to strengthen the SCCs in different Parishes. There were suggestions given for the growth of the SCCs. Some Parishes decided to conduct Trainings in the coming weeks. The Meeting came to an end with a concluding prayer.

Fr. Arul J CSC, SCC Zonal Coordinator

Investiture Ceremony and Farewell to Class X Students at Moharpara



On 26th February 2018, Holy Cross School, Moharpara, bid farewell to the class X students and also bestowed the responsibility of leading the School from the front. The program began at 10.30am with arrival of the Chief Guest Mr. and Mrs. Baby Joseph Baby Joseph. Chief Guest. The two of them invested the badges and sashes on the SPL and ASPL. The House animators adorned the house captains with the sashes and class teachers endowed class leaders with the badges. This was followed by the solemn oath taking ceremony. The entire Students' Council pledged themselves to keep up the hopes and aspirations of Holy Cross School Moharpara.

Thereafter was the Farewell function of Class X Students. Mr. Baby Joseph DIG of BSF, the Chief Guest, spoke on the occasion and congratulated the newly appointed Student Council Members. In his address to Class X Students he first wished them well and then emphasized the need of hard work to become successful persons. The whole Function was a color filled with a variety of cultural items. Fr. Agi Paul CSC, the Principal of the School, while bidding farewell to the Students wished them a mental cosmos where they were to be confident individuals not scared to do the most uphill tasks.

Fr. Arbok CSC

Workshop for Religious Leaders in the Diocese

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) in collaboration with the Diocese of Agartala organized a Workshop for Religious Leaders at Bishop House Agartala on 27th February 2018. There were 67 participants' (Priests, Brothers and Sisters) in the Workshop from all



the Centers of Tripura. The Resource Person was Dr. Ram Puniyani, a well known peace activist from Mumbai. He was welcomed by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, the Bishop of Agartala. Fr. Jeevan the Director of JUST introduced the Resource Person to the participants. The theme for the workshop was "Dialogue for Peace". Dr. Ram Puniyani spoke on three topics; 1. Present Conflicts and need for Peace; 2. Values of the Freedom Movement; and 3. Striving for Peace--Directions for the future. During the last sessions an Action Plan was drawn up for the way forward. The Workshop ended with a Vote of thanks by Fr. Jeevan, the Director of JUST, Agartala.

Home Based Intervention

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) has been implementing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project for the disabled at Teliamura R.D Block under Khowai District since April 2014. The JUST CBR Staff are regularly visiting and doing



Home Based Activity with the target groups like Home Based Intervention, Home Based Education activity, etc. In the Home Based Intervention JUST CBR Staff regularly help them with physiotherapy, and teaching them daily living skills. Sixteen children with disability are provided Home Based Intervention. In 16 CwDs 7 are with intellectual disability while 9 are with cerebral palsy. This Home Based Intervention has brought a lot of qualitative change in the lives of 16 children with disability.

Mr. Cyril Darlong

State News Nuggets

Tripura: BJP wins 35, CPI (M) 16, IPFT 8 Seats in Tripura Assembly Elections



"The verdict of the people of Tripura has lead to the formation of a BJP-IPFT alliance government in the State. After 25 years in government, the Left Front has been voted out of office. The BJP has, apart from other

factors, utilized massive deployment of money and other resources to influence the elections. The BJP was able to consolidate all the anti-Left votes virtually appropriating the erstwhile main opposition party, the Congress.

The Polit Bureau thanked the 45 per cent of the voters who extended support to the CPI (M) and the Left Front. The Party will carefully examine the reasons for this electoral setback and take necessary remedial measures. The CPI (M) assures the people of Tripura

that it will continue to champion the cause of all sections of the working people and uphold tribal-non tribal unity."

"The victory of @BJP4Tripura is not an ordinary electoral victory. This journey from 'Shunya' to 'Shikhar' has been made possible due to a solid development agenda and the strength of our organisation. I bow to every BJP Karyakarta for working assiduously on the ground for years," the PM tweeted.

Mr. Biplab Kumar Deb, the 48-year-old state party chief is the Chief Minister of Tripura. He said to **Times Now**, "We want to develop Tripura. We will work for people of Tripura".

Tripura Times

Our Distinguished Visitors

- Dr. Ram Puniyani from Mumbai
- Sr. Jolly, FS Provincial from Rangia, Assam
- Sr. Philo, SCN Provincial from Patna, Bihar
- Sr. Reena, SCN Prov. Councillor from Patna, Bihar
- Sr. Taurina, FMM Provincial from Delhi
- Sr. Teresa, FMM Provincial from Mumbai
- Sr. Susheela, UFS Superior General from Mangalore
- Sr. Lilly Pinto, UFS General Councillor from Mangalore
- Sr. Mary C.J., UFS Provincial from Dimapur, Nagaland

Bishop's Program for April 2018

- 01: Easter Mass, Don Bosco Parish, Nandannagar
- 04: FCC Chapel Blessing, Sindukpathar
- 06: FSM Convent Blessing, Laximi Para
- 07-08: Kawnpui *mondoli* under Gachirampara Parish
- 09-12: NE Bishops Council, Dibrugarh
- 15: Sikam Twisa Motha under Khumulwng Parish
- 16: Catechists Training, Champaknagar
- 21-22: Parish Feast, Kathalcherra
- 24-26: Caritas India Meeting, Delhi
- 29: Servant of God Msgr. Kroot celebrations at SFX Cathedral
- 29-02: Caritas GB Meet, Bengaluru