



Pastor's Corner

St. Mother Teresa

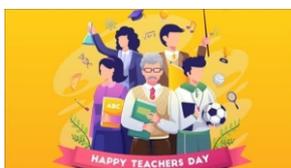
St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a Catholic nun, who in 1950 founded the Missionaries of Charity. She was canonized on 4 September 2016, and the anniversary of her death (5 September) is her Feast day.

I share this beautiful example told by Mother Teresa herself, of a man who was brought out of darkness into the light. One day in Melbourne, Australia, she visited a poor man whom nobody knew existed. The room in which he was living was in a terrible state of untidiness and neglect. There was no light in the room. The man hardly ever opened the blinds. He hadn't

had a friend in the world. She started to clean and tidy the room. At first he protested, saying, "Leave it alone. It's all right as it is." But she went ahead anyway. Under a pile of rubbish, she found a beautiful oil lamp but it was covered with dirt. She cleaned and polished it. Then she asked him, "How come you never light the lamp?" "Why should I light it?" he replied. "No one ever comes to see me. I never see anybody." "Will you promise to light it if one of my sisters comes to see you?" "Yes," he replied. "If I hear a human voice I'll light the lamp." Two of Mother Teresa's nuns began to visit him on a regular basis. Things gradually improved for him. Then one day he said to the nuns, "Sisters, I'll be able to manage on my own from now on. But do me a favor. Tell that first Sister, who came to see me, that the light she lit in my life is still burning." Happy Feast Day.

Teachers' Day

From giving us a purpose to setting us up as successful citizens of the world, Teachers inspire in us a drive to do well and succeed in life. To



recognize this hard work of our mentors and gurus, Teachers' Day or *Shikshak Divas* is celebrated in India with great pomp. In India, the day is marked on the birthday of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan who was a highly-respected teacher, philosopher and prolific statesman. Dr. Radhakrishnan went on to become the second President of India (1962-1967) and was of the opinion that "Teachers should be the best minds in the country." Let us salute our Teachers.

Sapiential Wisdom

Recently Archbishop Menampampil was asked by Ms. Nirmala Carvalho of AsiaNews: "The Pope said in



Canada that today indigenous people have more to teach us about caring and protecting the family. Is it true today in India too?" Archbishop replied: "Pope Francis has amazing expressions like the "sapiential wisdom" of the masses and ordinary believers. It is in line with this belief that we can say that indigenous communities the world

over have something to teach today's sophisticated society, namely a sense of community, equality, truthfulness, family values, social solidarity, openness to mutual correction, and respect for Nature. They seem to hear more clearly the cry of Mother Earth against our society's 'consumeristic excesses'. Most of all, indigenous communities, unburdened with the memories of centuries of self-interested struggles among sophisticated societies, are ready witnesses to the 'genuine human values' of sincerity, sympathetic understanding, and committed solidarity. They have much to teach societies that consider themselves more advanced. Hence, we pray that the Holy Father's voice is not lost among the dominant social philosophies that echo round the world." **+Lumen, CSC**



EDITORIAL

Teachers Day celebrated on the fifth of September in our country provides us an opportunity to focus our attention on Teachers and their vocation.

Teaching used to be considered our forte, although one can't anymore be sure if that's still the case. Whatever



Teachers Day Thoughts!

that, the teaching-learning environment is familiar to us. Even if we are not directly involved in teaching, we know well enough how demanding a profession teaching is. And as time passes, it gets more demanding.

Let's focus on teaching in Schools. If teaching so-called 'normal' children is a challenging job, in the case of special

children – those that are challenged either physically, mentally, or intellectually, it's a thousand times harder. A casual chat about this with the Sisters at Ferrando Rehabilitation Centre, an Institution of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in our Diocese that runs a School for children with special needs, will make one aware of how demanding a task it is to teach special children. Such cases, the Sisters emphasize, are increasing at alarming proportions. More and more children today need treatment for speech impediments, hyperactivity, cerebral atrophy, etc. The reason for this rise in cases needs another discussion and so we leave it at that.

With RTE proposing Inclusive education for children with special needs, the task of all Teachers has become demanding in a new manner.

By and large, our Institutions get good results and that's perhaps a reflection of the commitment of the Teachers in our Schools, although we are aware that results alone cannot be the index of their commitment and quality.

In Tripura, there has been a historic case involving Teachers, in which 10,323 Teachers lost their jobs and livelihood overnight. We as a body so much involved in teacher-related activities perhaps ought to have lent appropriate support to them in their moment of vulnerability.

The fishermen's struggle for justice, currently on in the southern part of the country, spearheaded by Bishops and Catholic Priests, comes to mind.

Happy Teachers Day to all Teachers.

J. Pulinathanath, SDB

Congratulations

Two new Cardinals



During the Consistory held on 27 August 2022 at Rome, Pope Francis created 20 new Cardinals among whom two were from India. We from the Diocese of Agartala offer our sincerest CONGRATULATIONS to the new Cardinals from India – His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao Archbishop of Goa and His Eminence Cardinal Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad.

Syro Malabar Church Appoints Three New Auxiliary Bishops



Sp. Alex Tharamangalam

Sp. Joseph Kollamparambil

Sp. Thomas Padiyath

The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, gathered at Mount St. Thomas, Kerala, having received prior Papal Assent according to CCEO can. 184, canonically elected Fr. Alex Tharamangalam (64), of the clergy of the Archieparchy of Tellicherry as Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Mananthavady; Fr. Joseph Kollamparambil (67), of the clergy of the Palai Eparchy and Fr. Thomas Padiyath (53), of the clergy of the Archieparchy of Changanacherry, as the Auxiliary Bishops of the Shamshabad Eparchy. This provision was made public on 25 August, 2022.

Parish News Briefs

AMBASSA PARISH

Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

"In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15)

Ambassa (Tripura) 24 July, 2022: Ambassa Parish

celebrated Grandparents day and felicitated around 40 of them. We hear a number of times the catchy phrase among the religious, priests and church circles 'growing old gracefully'. The more developed societies have



opened more and more homes for the aged to dump the elderly people, because they become a burden for the family members. Fr. Ivan D'Silva, the Parish Priest, one week earlier discussed with the evangelization committee of the parish the logistics of the celebration. In the meeting it was suggested that all those who are above 75 years of age will be called to the parish, be honored with gifts, and offer them a good lunch. So they participated in the Sunday Holy Mass and they were felicitated after the Mass. In the homily Fr. Ivan called on the faithful to pray for the Grandparents. He said, "Nowadays people have

become smart because of the mobile phone but we have become dull with respect to our elderly people". He further added, "When the parents begin to limp, when they begin to complain of aches and pains, when they begin to live on medicines, the youngsters keep far away from them because they become a nuisance in the family". During the felicitation one of the elderly people Mr. Nagendra Marak was called to speak a few words. Mr. Marak said, "I never expected that I would be called to speak, but I am grateful to our parish leaders, at the age of 80 I was honored and called to speak. I am pleased with this gesture of love and I feel I am still strong enough to spread the Word of God". At the end they were served a sumptuous meal.

Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD

AMARPUR PARISH

Installation cum Farewell of the Parish Priest

In the presence of Priests, religious Sisters and the Laity from 16 villages on the 31st July, 2022 Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, installed Rev. Fr. Lijeesh Mathew MSFS as the 2nd Parish Priest of St. Joseph Vaz Parish, Amarpur. There was a solemn entrance procession dance. In his homily the Bishop stressed



that we Priest needs to be a Good Shepherd to all by speaking the language of the people. The other concelebrants were Fr. Pratap Kerketta MSFS, the outgoing Parish Priest; Fr. Lijeesh Mathew MSFS, the newly appointed Parish Priest; Fr. Santosh MSFS, the Provincial Bursar of MSFS Guwahati Province; Fr. Anthony MSFS, the Director of FASCE India, Guwahati; Fr. Aloysius MSFS, the Associate Priest of, Sindukpathar Parish and Fr. Athikho Isaac MSFS, the Associate Priest of St. Joseph Vaz Parish, Amarpur. After the Holy Mass there was a short felicitation cum farewell programme for the newly installed Parish Priest and the outgoing Parish Priest respectively. Bishop Lumen extended his sincere gratitude to Fr. Pratap MSFS for his commendable service rendered to the faithful of St. Joseph Vaz Parish, Amarpur. He also wished the newly installed Parish Priest Fr. Lijeesh Mathew MSFS to carry forward the good work done by his predecessor. Many expressed their love and appreciation to Fr. Pratap MSFS with their genuine tears shed and small gifts presented to him. Their gestures spoke volumes of how much they loved their pastor. Indeed, it was a heart touching moment bidding farewell to a veteran missionary who knows the people's language, "Kokborok," fluently and served the faithful of Agartala Diocese for 12 years without a break. The program ended with lunch that was served to all.

Fr. Athikho Isaac MSFS

CHALENGTA PARISH

Leadership is a Choice, NOT a Craving for Position



Saint Joseph Parish Challengta, organized a one day Leadership Seminar, on the 19th August, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Seminar began with a short introduction by Fr. Harry D'Silva, CSC the Parish Priest. Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD, was the Resource Person.

He being a media expert brought about lots of insights and appropriate video clips based on the topic "Leadership". He did bring the example of Jesus Christ as a Leader. Fr. Ivan made a mention of the leadership qualities from the life Jesus Christ. He invited all the Leaders to inculcate the leadership qualities of Jesus in their ministry as leaders in the church specifically giving hope in the life of people. SRA Sisters and Leaders from different *mondolis* (Tuichanda, Basaiha, Mainama, Challengta, Hakarai Para, Jamircherra, Dainaram, and TMC) participated meaningfully during the Seminar with lots of interactions and discussions. The Seminar ended with a vote of thanks by the Parish Priest and followed a fellowship meal.

Fr. Friny Peter CSC

NANDANAGAR PARISH

Sacrament of Confirmation administered



21st August 2022, was an important day for Don Bosco Parish Nandannagar. Most Rev Lumen Monteiro CSC, was the main celebrant and concelebrated by Frs. Christopher SDB, Sebastian Palatty SDB and Dinesh Narzary SDB. The Parish Priest Fr. Christopher SDB welcomed the Bishop and all the faithful. He asked the Bishop to pray especially for the 60 candidates to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

During the Holy Mass the Bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation. After the homily the candidates renewed their baptismal promises and one by one kneeling before the Bishop the candidates were confirmed with sacred Chrism. The church was packed to capacity. During the offertory each of the candidates brought their offerings at the altar. The Youth Group of the Parish led the choir.

Fr. Christopher, SDB

KUMARGHAT PARISH

SCC Training for Village Leaders



A day's SCC training program was organized for the village SCC Leaders and Members of Kumarghat Parish. It was encouraging to see 106 people participating in the program. The Resource Persons were Fr. Lancy, Mr. Lala Darlong, Mr. Roitua Darlong, Mr. Subia D/B and Sr. Bastian FS. During the Seminar various aspects of Church & SCC were explained. The importance of seven steps and how to strengthen the SCCs in villages were highlighted and well explained. A practical demonstration was given as to how to conduct Bible sharing in the SCC unit. After the lunch village wise groups were given questions for discussion and sharing in the larger group. At the end of the sharing session the answers were collected and the evaluation of the day's program was done. All appreciated the Sessions and expressed their wish to have it more often. The training was ended by the vote of thanks by Mr. Roitua. *Sr. Bastian FS*

GACHIRAMPARA PARISH

Sisters of Our Lady of the Garden in Tripura

We are happy to inform you of the entry of a new Religious Congregation namely, the Sisters of Our



Lady of the Garden. They were welcomed to serve in Gachirampara Parish and the Parish Priest Fr. Felix Pinto OFM. Cap., welcomed them along with the parishioners on 15th August.

The Provincial Superior Sr. Grace OLG and the Procurator Sr. Soumya OLG from Indore, MP, accompanied the local Superior Sr. Emily, Sr. Asita and Sr. Rose to Gachirampara mission. Their intention to serve the people by living a simple life style is very much welcomed by the people. As they met our dear Bishop Lumen and expressed their desire to serve in the parish, we support their interest. And we wish them a happy stay in our Parish.

Fr. Felix Pinto, OFM. Cap.

KAILASAHAR PARISH

Inauguration of St. Xavier School

Kailasahar Parish was fortunate to have a new Jesuit School inaugurated on 24 August 2022. St Xavier's School, Kailasahar was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala, in the presence of a large gathering numbering 500. The Bishop expressed his satisfaction and happiness in seeing his dream of having a Jesuit Institution in his Diocese come true. The Jesuits started working in the diocese in 2018 and are present in two other centres - St Mary's school at Jampuijala and St Ignatius Loyola



Parish and social Centre at Jamtalbari. Fr. E.P. Mathew, SJ, the Provincial of Kerala, and Fr. Hector D'Souza, SJ, former Regional Superior and representative of the Kohima Jesuits, were present for this joyful occasion. Fr. Joseph Pulickal, SJ, the Principal of the School, welcomed the gathering and introduced the Guests of Honour. The occasion was made colourful with the little buds displaying the cultural diversity and richness of Tripura through dance and songs. All the invitees were served a simple yet delicious noon meal after the programme. Presently the School has five grades from Nursery to Std II with a student strength of 115. Sr. Rojamma, SJA serves as the Headmistress of the school. Fr. Provincial and Team spent a week in Tripura visiting the Centres and exploring future apostolic possibilities. *Fr. P.T. Mathew, SJ*

MARIAMNAGAR PARISH

Parish Feast

The Parish Feast day was celebrated on 21st of August 2022. As part of spiritual preparation there was Novena conducted along with holy Mass in the



evenings consecutively for 9 days. On 21st of August at 5.00pm the holy Eucharistic sacrifice was solemnized by Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, and concelebrated by Priests from nearby parishes. In his homily Bishop encouraged the faithful to walk through the narrow gate and mother Mary would help us to cross over all hazards of life. After the holy Mass there was an oath taking ceremony of the newly elected members of the Parish Pastoral Council and our dear Bishop blessed them all. Thereafter the night became colorful with the cultural program that ended with dinner for all the parishioners and invited guests. On the following day, 22nd of August, we had a solemn procession in the evening in honor of the feast of the Queenship of Mary. *Fr. Leenus, VC*

Youth Sunday celebrated at the Diocesan level



Agartala Diocese Youth Commission observed 7th August 2022 as the Diocesan Youth Sunday. The celebration was held at St Francis Xavier Cathedral Church Durjoynagar. The theme follows the National Youth Sunday's theme: 'Mary Arose and went with Haste' Luke 1:39. The Youth from all the Parishes participated for the Youth Sunday Celebration. There were about 400 delegates. The celebration began with a Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC, the Vicar General. During his homily Fr. Lancy encouraged the Youth to stand up for Christ and give their life for Christ. Added with anecdotes and meaningful stories his Gospel message to the Youth was powerful, inspirational and enriching. The Holy Mass was followed by a cultural Program wherein many Parishes presented their beautiful dances, songs and a musical skits with gospel lessons. The Youth were entertained, inspired and taught too. In his welcome address the DYD Fr. Lawrence thanked all the Youth for making it for the celebration. TTAADC EM Mrs. Dolly Reang was the Chief Guest for the cultural program. Sujoy the ADYC President gave a Youth to Youth message. He reiterated what the Pope famously once said that Youth are both the present and future of the church and he exhorted his friends to act now and contribute to the church and society. He also spoke about the importance of prayer and asked the Youth to always give God the first place in their life. The Chief Guest Mrs. Dolly Reang shared on how the Youth should achieve their goal and stand for their rights. After a sumptuous meal at 3:30pm the Youth departed for their respective Parishes. The day will always be one of the most memorable days for the Youth.

Ms. Sandhya Hrangkhawl (ADYC Secretary)

Salesian Centenary Celebration in Tripura

The centenary of the arrival of the first Salesians to Northeast India was commemorated and celebrated by the Salesians and the members of the Salesian



family in Tripura on 16th August 2022 at Don Bosco School Agartala. The celebrations began with a floral tribute to Don Bosco's statue by Chief Guest, Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, after which a warm welcome was accorded to the Bishop who was escorted to the School by the NCC cadets, Fr. Christopher sdb, Fr. Babu sdb, Sisters and teachers of the School. The solemn Eucharistic celebration which began with the entrance dance by the students of Ferrando Convent set the tone for the entire celebration of the day. The holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro and concelebrated by many other priests. Hundreds of students and teachers from all our Schools, lay faithful from different Parishes and Centres and other priests and religious from the Diocese of Agartala graced the occasion with their benign presence.

The cultural extravaganza, which was the hallmark of the celebration, began at 12:00 noon with an enchanting and soul soothing prayer dance followed by words of welcome by Fr. Sunny sdb. Thereafter followed the vibrant and enthralling performances of the students of all the Don Bosco Schools in Tripura: Baijalbari, Bishramgamj, Herma, Agartala, Mandwi, Naba Sardar, Pitra, Udaipur and Pathaliaghat, who rocked the stage with their power-packed cultural, semi classical and fusion dances of various types. The beautiful rendition of the centenary choir by the pre-novices of Bosco Home Herma, has taken the celebration to another level. Centenary celebration gifts were presented to all Priests and religious by Bro. Alexius sdb a. The cultural extravaganza came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Babu Stephen sdb, the Convener of the centenary celebration. A sumptuous meal was served to everyone present. *Fr. Babu Stephen, SDB*

Wishes

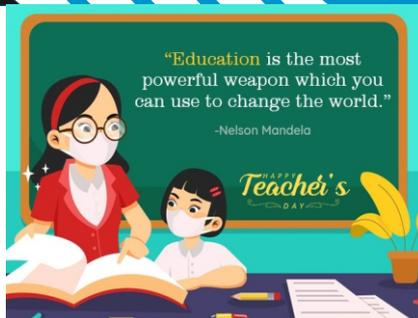
"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."

-Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Happy Teacher's Day



English



On the occasion of teachers Day LINK Wishes all our teachers 'A HAPPY TEACHERS DAY'

Flood Relief Response

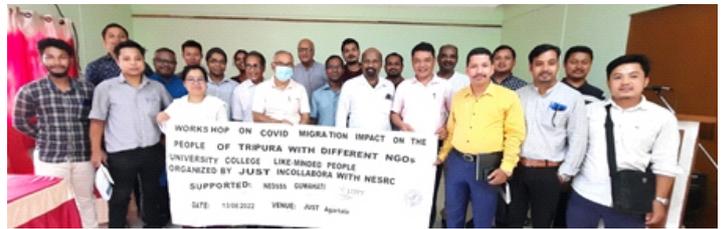
The torrential rain on 18th and 19th of June 2022 had affected many parts of Tripura especially the low land areas near the Howrah River in West Tripura.



Thousands of people became homeless due to excessive rainfall. Two persons including a woman died due to ravage by the flood at Chandrapur and Khatakhal areas near to the Capital City. More than 2,000 people were displaced due to flood in Sadar Subdivision under West Tripura. To address the flood disaster and affected people, JUST intervened in the affected areas. After analyzing the situation JUST with the support of Caritas India decided to provide "Shelter Kits and Hygiene Kits" to 600 most affected families. Shelter Kits includes Tarpaulin, groundsheet, 2 sleeping mats, 2 mosquito nets and 9 meter nylon rope. The Hygiene Kits includes 10 washing soaps, 8 bathing soaps, 5 toothbrush, 1 toothpaste, 5 packets of sanitary napkins, 1 mug and 2 buckets. For the smooth distribution JUST took the help of local leaders and its partner NGOs. The distribution took place in the month of August 2022, at Aralia, Hrishu Para, Srilanka Basti, Boldakhal and Dashram Para under West Tripura.

Workshop on Covid-19 Migration Impact on the People of Tripura

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized workshop on COVID-19 migration impact on the people of Tripura in collaboration with NESRC, Guwahati at JUST Hall Agartala, with different



NGOs, Universities and like-minded people on 13th August 2022. 28 participants attended the workshop. 4 PhD scholars from Tripura University and 2 from NGOs presented a paper on the topic. Dr. V.M Darlong Assistant Professor from Tripura University was the moderator for the Workshop. Fr. Dr. Walter Fernandes, SJ, the Director of NESRC was the special guest during the Workshop. There was a panel discussion on how to develop the economy of the village by identifying local resources through various methods, build up self confidence among the villages by giving skill training and prevent forced migration from villages. Fr. Lathees S, the Director of JUST ended the Workshop with a vote of thanks and reminded to carry forward by collaborating with all the NGOs, Scholars, Universities and like-minded people to bring out the fruits of the workshop into action. *Mr. Cyril Darlong*

Bishop's Program for September 2022

- 03: Silver Jubilee of Capitanio Home & Golden Jubilee of Sisters, Panisagar
- 04: Pastoral Program, Bagbasa Parish
- 05-08: National Health Commission Meet, Trichur
- 11: Golden Jubilee of Sr. Rita SSpS, Ambassa
- 12-15: NE Pastoral Conference, Guwahati
- 15-17: NE Bishops Meet, Shillong
- 18: Pastoral Program, Moharpara
- 25: Pastoral Program, Bodhjungnagar Parish
- 30: NESNIM Inauguration, Agartala

Our Distinguished Guests

- Bro. Elbis, Priya & Team, Divine Mercy Fellowship from Kochi
- Sr. Violet Rodrigues CSC, Area Coordinator from Bangladesh
- Sr. Grace Kaiparambil OLG, Provincial Superior from Indore, MP
- Sr. Soumya OLG, Procurator from Indore, MP
- Fr. Stany Roshan, OFM Cap., Delegate from Mizoram
- Fr. E. P. Mathew SJ, Provincial Superior from Calicut
- Fr. Peter Mulluparambil SJ, Province Treasurer from Calicut
- Fr. Sunny Kunnappallil SJ, Procurator elect from Trivandrum
- Fr. Arul J. CSC, Parish Priest from Burunga, Assam
- Fr. Paul Lyngkot SDB, Provincial Superior from Shillong