



Pastor's Corner

4 things you cannot recover

These past weeks I missed a few flight connections and had to be a 'stand by' flier truly an anxiety-increasing experience! But it is also very interesting to watch some people move in and out while others wait and whine about missing flights. The story below is not about missing flights or anxious 'stand by' fliers, as you will notice...it's about life!

God bless. +Lumen, CSC

A young lady was waiting for her flight in the boarding room of a big airport. As she would need to wait many hours, she decided to buy a book to spend her time. She also bought a packet of cookies. She sat down in an armchair, in the VIP-room of the airport, to rest and read in peace. Beside the armchair where the packet of cookies lay, a man sat down in the next seat, opened his magazine and started reading. When she took out the first cookie, the man took one also. She felt irritated but said nothing. She just thought: "What a nerve! If I was in the mood I would punch him for daring!"



For each cookie she took the man took one too. This was infuriating her but she didn't want to cause a scene. When only one cookie remained, she thought, "Ah, what would this abusive man do now?" Then, the man, taking the last cookie, divided it into half, giving her one half.

Ah, that was too much! She was much too angry now! In a huff, she took her book, her things and stormed to the boarding place. When she sat down in her seat, inside the plane, she looked into her purse to take her eyeglasses, and, to her surprise, her packet of cookies was there, untouched, unopened!

She felt so ashamed! She realized that she was wrong... She had forgotten that her cookies were kept in her purse. The man had divided his cookies with her, without feeling angered or bitter, while she was very angry, thinking that she was dividing her cookies with him. And now there was no chance to explain herself... or to apologize."

The moral of the story. There are four things that you cannot recover:

- The stone after the throw.
- The word after it's said.
- The occasion ... after the loss.
- The time...after it's gone.



Editorial

Family Agenda

At this time of the year, parents of students spent a great deal of time worrying about the admissions of their children. The tension one undergoes prior to passing the examination pales in comparison to the tension he and his family go through to get admission to the institution and course of their choice.

With each passing year, the clamor for science stream at the higher secondary stage seems to reach frantic levels.

At times, even more than the students themselves, it is the parents that are insistent on their children taking up science. Despite the many instances of students with no aptitude or marks for science making a mess of their career because they have been pressurized by their parents to take up science, there seems to be no change of attitude whatsoever. They are convinced there is no life, and no future, beyond science.



This not only shows an unwillingness to depart from stereotyped thinking, but also lack of courage to tread less assuring paths. Oblivious to the fact that today there are non-science streams that also offer abundant employment opportunities, the parents nurture in their hearts 'the science dream' for their sons and daughters right from their kindergarten days onward.

The microscopic size of our families is a factor here for sure. Having mostly one child or maximum two makes it difficult for the parents to leave even a small margin of uncertainty as far as the future of their children are concerned. At post *Madhyamik* level, the science stream comes along as a panacea to all ills and as a sure springboard to a secure future for their teenager. One can hardly find fault with their choice!

Career guidance for parents and counseling for families take on much importance in this context. Is there something that we as a diocese, perhaps, the Family Commission, can do about this?

J. Pulinthanath, sdb

Offensive and False

The Tripura Times (a local daily) of June 5 gave its readers a rude shock when it reported in its headlines *Pope Benedict XVI Converts to Islam*. It went on to speak of the former pontiff's personal decision to change his name. The news item was not only in bad taste but was absolutely false and offensive. Together with the spokesperson of the Diocese of Agartala, I swung into action and shot out a letter of displeasure which was published in the following day's newspaper (see below) with an apology by the daily's owner. +Lumen, CSC

"The front page of yesterday's (5 June 2013) edition of 'Tripura Times' carried an article on Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI that hurt the sentiments of the Catholic Church. We feel sorry that a story that does not have an iota of truth got into the front page of a Daily we are long associated with and respect. We hope steps will be taken to ensure that such fake stories which tarnish the image of the Paper and hurt the sentiments of people are not featured in the daily."

AFSPA Act

The announcement "With the improvement in the law and order situation, and with militancy being largely controlled, the AFSPA can now be enforced in 32 police station areas instead of 40" by Tripura Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar Panda at Agartala is certainly welcome news for our State. In addition to pointing out to an improved situation (which itself is good news), the draconian AFSPA Act had been an infringement on our constitutional right to move around freely. In the name of the Act the security forces often resorted to excesses that impinged on the citizens' freedom. The Act provides unlimited powers to the security forces to shoot at sight, arrest anybody without a warrant, and carry out searches without hindrance and insulates the security forces from legal processes for any action undertaken under the Act. Ms. Irom Chanu Sharmila of Manipur has been demanding withdrawal of the Act and is on an indefinite hunger strike for last 13 years. Tripura has shown the way; may other States follow!

+ Lumen Monteiro, CSC

Gachirampara Parish Installation and Send off

The celebration on 2nd of June, 2013 had two faces. At first Fr. Prasanna Kumar was installed as the new Parish priest of St. Francis of Assisi parish, Gachirampara. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC. On the other hand a loving



programme was also organized in honour of Rev. Fr. George Godwin, who is being transferred from here to Bangalore. Fr. Godwin served the Parish and the mission for six years. Now he is being appointed as one of the Councilors of Karnataka Province Capuchins. The presence of Fathers and Sisters from various parishes and communities added more meaning to the celebration. The day was made more colorful and delightful by the Assisi school hostellers, through their singing during the Holy Eucharist and cultural items. Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro and parishioners spoke well of Rev. Fr. George Godwin. Fr. Prasanna, OFM Cap.

Mandwi Parish Installation and Send off

Fr. Remol Marak, SDB, was installed as the new Parish priest of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Mandwi on 26th May 2013. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, whose anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination it was on that day. Rev. Fr. George Maliekal, SDB the Provincial Superior of Silchar Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco and Fr. Cyril Turkey the Economist were also present.

The occasion also served as a day to say THANK YOU to Fr. George Rodrigues, SDB, who after serving as Parish Priest and Diocesan Youth Director, was moving to Delhi on a Congregational assignment. The Liturgy, the cultural programs, the flowers, the gifts and the speeches that were given spoke volumes of the people's love for Fr. George. All the *mothas* of Mandwi Parish were



present along with a large number of Salesian Fathers, Fr. Arun SVD and a group of Sisters from the Diocese.

Link News service

Ambassa Parish Pentecost Parish Feast



The solemnity of Ambassa Parish Feast is celebrated on the day of Pentecost Sunday every year. This Feast attracts the parishioners in huge numbers. The solemnity is marked with the Sacraments of Baptism,

Confirmation, marriage rectification, reception in the church, and first Holy Communion. This year too Sacraments were conferred except the Sacrament of Confirmation due to the absence of our dear Bishop.

As the celebration began the Church was filled with people while several others had to participate by standing outside the Church. Fr. Cyprian Pinto svd, was the main celebrant and Fr. Jeevan Kennady svd, broke the Word for us. The feast day celebration culminated with the sharing of a sumptuous meal. Fr. Nabin Lakra, svd

Tuikarmaw Parish Village Chapel Feast celebrated

Poticherry is one of the villages under St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw. The Village Chapel is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The *mondoli* dates back to 63 years when some faithful came from Bengal (present Bangladesh) and sowed the seed of faith in their community. Now the community has



grown to be 65 families. The *mondoli*'s feast celebration took place for four days in a big way with three days of novena and Eucharist and a grand celebration on the feast day. A special mention is to be made a *Noatia mondoli* that was born with this feast. During the novena days 69 people were administered the sacraments of initiation and 11 marriages were rectified. There were dance, Bible skit

and Bible Quiz competitions conducted and at the end of the feast day the winners were awarded with prizes. MC Sisters and Adoration Sisters along with the Catechists prepared the people for the feast. The main celebrant on the Feast Day was Fr. Jeevan SVD. CSC Frs. Kanikkai, Gaspar and C. Abraham CSC concelebrated the Feast Day Mass. 30 children received their first Holy Communion on the Feast day. The celebrations ended with a fellowship meal for the whole village.
Fr. Abraham, CSC

CONDOLENCES

LINK and the Diocese of Agartala express their heartfelt condolences to the Montfort Brothers on the loss of Bro. Joy Alex, SG and pray for the repose of his soul.

Convent Blessing at Baijalbari Khowai 8th June 2013

Srs. Vincensa, Pushpa and , Theresa, SCV, of Sisters of St. Vincent De Paul (with Generalate at Mananthavaday, Kerala) arrived at Baijalbari in the second week of April 2013. 8th of June 2013 was a red letter day for the three Sisters and for the mission of Baijalbari. Around 340 hostel students of Don Bosco hostel and other private hostels assembled at the mission grounds of Baijalbari and welcomed His Lordship Bishop Lumen Monteiro with great exuberance and joy. Rev. Fr. George Maliekal, SDB the Provincial Superior of Silchar Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco and Fr. Cyril Turkey the Economist were also warmly welcomed by all. Besides the children there were a sizable number of



Baijalbari Catholics, Salesian Fathers, and a small group of Sisters.

At 5.45 pm Bishop Lumen Monteiro prayed and blessed the temporary Convent, while Fr. George Maliekal, SDB inaugurated the same. Bishop Lumen expressed his gratitude to the three pioneering Sisters from Mananthavady. Besides he expressed his appreciation to Fr. Paul who facilitated the coming of the Sisters and who got the Convent ready in a short time in spite of the repeated cyclonic storms and other calamities.

The Convent blessing was followed by the Holy Eucharist in which twelve priests concelebrated. A short reception and cultural program followed which was made colourful by various dances of the hostel children. His Lordship appreciated the smartness of the children. The function reached its conclusion with a vote of thanks by Sr. Vincensa, SCV, who impressed everyone with her fluent speech in Kokborok. All those present were given snacks and thus the program had a fitting conclusion. *Fr. Paul,*

News from JUST (Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura)

IGA for SHGs

JUST introduced a new Income Generation Activity (IGA) namely turmeric cultivation for SHG with the support of its donor agency MISEREOR. The objective is to promote sustainability of SHGs through IGAs. Turmeric is chosen as it is a tropical herb and can be grown on different types of soil under irrigated and rainfed conditions. Rich loamy soils having good drainage are ideal for the crop. The condition suits Tripura hence, the donor agency of the project and Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) have particularly encouraged the SHGs to cultivate Turmeric all throughout the 6th phase of the project from 2012 to 2015. Firstly, the main strategy is to start cultivating among 100 SHGs functioning under JUST and later to encourage cultivating individually among the SHG members in order to sustain the project and their livelihood. Accordingly, the SHGs cultivated about 20000 kgs of Turmeric in 2012. These groups have achieved incredible success in 2012. Few groups sold their produce and few groups decided to wait for another year to sell their produce. Seeing the incredible success of the previous year, in May and June 2013 the SHGs from Jampui and Khowai areas together cultivated an additional of about 6000 kgs of Turmeric. The SHGs are now hoping that turmeric cultivation would fetch them good income and support their family and thereby sustain their livelihood.



Visitors at Bishop's House

- Bro. Richard Cardoza, SVD from Orissa
- CSC Brothers Saroj, Ratan, Liton, Ujjal and Nipu from Bangladesh
- Sr. Pushpa's family from Orissa
- Fr. Gaspar CSC, General Administrator from Rome
- Fr. Alwyn and Mr. Stephen from Chennai

Health Camps conducted at six relief camps

Under KFB project six medical camps were organized from 20th May, 2013 at different relief camps namely; Kaskaopara, Khakchangpara, Hamsapara, Ashapara, Khasithaipara and Naisaupara. Dr. Motilal Debbarma, and Mr. Milan Debbarma, Medical Representative (MR) along with Mr. Bruno Msha Project Coordinator examined 373 patients. Of which 178 were male and 195 were female who came for checkup were suffering from various diseases like Diarrhea, Fever, Jaundice, Colic, TB, various types of skin diseases, white discharge, malnutrition, etc. After the medical camp, the camp inmates extended their gratitude to JUST for conducting such Health camps in times of need.



Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD

NESCOM Organizes Two-Day Workshop on Media

North East Social Communication (NESCOM) organized a two day workshop in North East Social Forum, Guwahati, on 28-29 May 2013, for the media persons of the NE region. Fr. Joe Eruppakkatt ssp and Mr. Michael Peria, experts in Journalism and New Media respectively, addressed the 55 participants. The participants tip toed into the hall to learn journalistic skills and to be at home with social media and web apostolate. Fr. Gilbert ssp, the organizer said in the inaugural speech, "let us be a communicating church to be relevant today". Most Rev. George Palliparambil, the Bishop of Miao, and the Chairman of NESCOM while celebrating the Eucharist for the participants on the second day, expressed his joy and satisfaction at the overwhelming response to the workshop.



"Francesco Effect" mesmerizes Church

It seems Pope Francis is attracting huge gatherings at the Vatican Square for the Wednesday audience and Sunday Angelus! Even on other days, the roads to the Vatican are really filled with people moving toward the Vatican Square, indicating that the Italians have accepted the Holy Father in their hearts. Recently a friend of mine, Fr. Davis CMI, who was blessing houses in a parish, told me that he noticed every house has a picture of the new Pope. When he asked them how they felt about the Holy Father, they answered with a broadened smile, 'carissimo' (beloved) 'Il Papa tre grande (the Pope is great). Pope Francis is changing the Catholic Church with an infectious style that he had practiced on the streets of Buenos Aires. He is now applying them to the Universal Church. The whole Church is being shifted from a bureaucratic set up to a small parish. He prefers to call himself the Bishop of Rome rather than the Pope of the Universal Church. *(India matters)*



Cathedrals and Dioceses around the World synchronize to Year of Faith Event in St. Peter's Basilica 19 million join the Pope in India



On Sunday June 4 at 5pm Rome time, cathedrals and dioceses around the world synchronized with the Holy Father in

Rome during the Worldwide Eucharistic Adoration which took place in St. Peter's Basilica. The Year of Faith event is the first time in the Church's history that such a celebration was held simultaneously around the world. The initiative, which was under the theme of "One Lord, One Faith" involved also parishes, religious congregations and lay associations around the world. The Holy See also invited those participating across the globe to pray for two intentions by the Holy Father. The Pope's first intention was: "For the Church spread throughout the world and united today in the adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist as a sign of unity." Pope Francis second intention focused on those suffering around the world, particularly those who are victims of slavery, war, human trafficking, drug running, and violence.

The Diocese of Agartala joined in this historical event with Bishop Lumen leading the Adoration at St. Joseph Church Agartala while several Parishes and religious communities also joined Pope Francis in prayer.

Brazil's World Youth Day will be bigger than the World Cup

World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro is less than six weeks away. The event is crucial, not just for the Church almost half the world's Catholics live in Latin America and yet this is where the Church faces the toughest competition with dynamic Evangelical movements and the rise of secularism - the result of growing affluence in the region but for Brazil as well: the World Youth Day is the first of three huge events that will bring the South American giant into the limelight of international attention.

The other two events are: the FIFA World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016. *Vatican Insider* caught up with Brazilian cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life Your Eminence, are Rio and Brazil all set for the WYD?

In terms of facility preparation things are going very well. Initially, the police, particularly in Rio, focused their attention on the World Cup and the Olympics as they had not quite realized the scope of this event. Whilst the World Cup will attract 300-500 thousand spectators, a million and a half to two million people will be here for the WYD. *Vatican Insider*

Uttarakhand floods update

A total of 33,192 people, stranded due to



floods in Uttarakhand, were rescued in the ongoing multi-agency rescue and relief operation even as thousands are still

trapped or missing in the hills.

Almost everyone from the worst hit Kedarnath town has been rescued, media reports.

Today, the focus of the rescue efforts will be on Gaurikund and Rambara more than 5,000 people are believed to be trapped in this narrow valley. The NDRF team reached Rambada this morning.

According to the Home Ministry statement, a total of 50,422 pilgrims were still stranded at various places and over 13,000 people are said to be missing. *mattersindia.com*

Urbaniana University to honor Menampampil

A University in Rome has decided to honor Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, a promoter of non-aggressive evangelization, for his "shining example" of dedication and commitment to Christian mission. In a letter addressed to the retired archbishop of Guwahati, Assam, the Pontifical University of Urbaniana said it wants to confer on the Salesian prelate an honorary degree in Missiology for developing a new way of evangelization during his "long and fruitful pastoral care." The University, the letter adds, recognizes and encourages new methods and ways to spread the Gospel among people who have not heard Christ's good news. It has invited the archbishop to Rome to receive the degree when it starts the new academic year in November. It also wants him to present a paper on the occasion.

The prelate is known for introducing the Asian Church to a new way of evangelization, which he calls "whispering the Gospel to the soul of Asia." *mattersindia.com*

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR JULY 2013

- 01-15: Mission Appeals, USA
- 15-20 FABC Bishops Leadership Seminar, Bangkok
- 21: Parish Mass, SJC Agartala
- 27-28: St. Alphonsa Parish Feast, Khumlwng
- 29-30: PSC Meet, Caritas Delhi