



October 2013 Vol.17 No.10



Pastor's Corner

The Incredible Potential Within

Once there was a king who received a gift of two magnificent falcons from Arabia. They were peregrine falcons, the most beautiful birds he had ever seen. He gave the precious birds to his head falconer to be trained. Months passed and one day the head falconer informed the king that though one of the falcons was flying majestically, soaring high in the sky, the other bird had not moved from its branch since the day it had arrived.



The king summoned healers and sorcerers from all the land to tend to the falcon, but no one could make the bird fly. He presented the task to the member of his court, but the next day, the king saw through the palace window that the bird had still not moved from its perch. Having tried everything else, the king thought to himself, "May be I need someone more familiar with the countryside to understand the nature of this problem." So he cried out to his court, "Go and get a farmer." In the morning, the king was thrilled to see the falcon soaring high above the palace gardens. He said to his court, "Bring me the doer of this miracle." The court quickly located the farmer, who came and stood before the king. The king asked him, "How did you make the falcon fly?" With head bowed, the farmer said to the king, "It was very easy, your highness. I simply cut the branch where the bird was sitting."

We are all made to fly to realize our incredible potential as human beings. But instead of doing that, we sit on our branches, clinging to the things that are familiar to us. The possibilities are endless, but for most of us, they remain undiscovered. We conform to the familiar, the comfortable, the mundane. So for the most part, our lives are mediocre instead of exciting, thrilling and fulfilling. Let us learn to destroy the branch of fear we cling to and free ourselves to the glory of flight.

+Lumen, CSC



Editorial

Heart-Warming Propositions

The first thing that strikes one is the simplicity of his language. He has an astonishing capacity to use ordinary words and common imageries to convey extraordinary truths. Little wonder, the much talked about interview of Pope Francis published about ten days ago has been called "an extraordinary moment in journalism."

There are other reasons why even a far-flung, small Diocese like ours must take note of this piece which the celebrated



Jesuit Catholic weekly of USA, 'America' published under the title, 'A Big Heart Open to God'. While each and every point the Pope makes seems to fit the Tripura situation like a fiddle, let me point out just one.

Francis insists that as ministers of the Gospel we need to "walk with the people through their dark night"; we need to descend into our "people's night, into darkness, but without getting lost." He repeatedly uses the expression, "to accompany" the flock.

Although the larger picture of today's Tripura is one of rapid progress and growth, one can sense a growing insecurity, and a deepening angst among the minority tribal communities of the State. The widespread threat to their land, language, culture, heritage and future, makes it all a dark night of hopelessness and fear.

Although one is not sure if it's significant, statistics show that most members of the Church belong precisely to these tribal communities. Like in the past even now, by and large, the people have kept these life-issues separate from Church matters. Their struggles with life problems are often referred to as 'politics' and hence anathema for church and church personnel.

"Walking with the people' and "descending into people's night" in this context, perhaps calls for a change, both of attitude and lifestyle. It must find us believing and being involved in the agonies of our people with at least as much commitment and passion as we display for province newsletters and project proposals, in-house celebrations, year planners and well-matched balance sheets. In the present day Tripura context, one wonders if it is possible for the Church to 'accompany our flock like the good Samaritan' without getting enmeshed in the rigmarole that the community is compelled to live with and struggle against.

J. Pulinthanath, sdb

Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra KCYM SEMINAR - 2013



On the 11 August KCYM members gathered at the Parish Centre for one day Seminar on the theme '**Catholic Youth : Challenges & Opportunities**'. The Resource Person for the Seminar was *Mr. Uttam Debbarma*, SDO, Department of Electricity, Manu. Giving the example from his personal life he motivated the youth to live a life of prayer and hard work. In the following session *Fr. Lancy D'Souza* highlighted the role of youth in family prayer. The day began with the Eucharist and ended with the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in which about ninety five youth from different *mondolis* participated. **Paul Sangma**

St. Alphonsa Parish, Khumulwng Bishop embraces prodigal children at Khumulwng

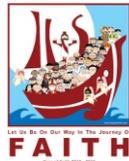
Union with the family is a joyful celebration. Away from the Catholic Church for about 7 years, the people of Khumulwng *motha* realized the importance of unity and harmony with the church. There are about 40 Catholic families. The Parish Priest initiated the reconciliation process by presenting leaders to the Bishop. Prayer Service was held in the chapel before they formally confessed and requested Bishop for forgiveness and inclusion in the church. It was a month long preparation by visiting and reconciliation services. A day of fasting, prayer and confession on 24th August by the community helped to celebrate and rejoice



with the Bishop who presided the Holy Eucharist at ADC Khumulwng later that day. After community apology they made the profession of faith and the Bishop forgave them and accepted them with open heart by blessing them and the Khumulwng chapel. A short thanksgiving felicitation program and a grand meal concluded the joyful occasion. Indeed it was deep sentiment of home-coming and loving embrace.

Catechists celebrate Year of Faith

13 catechists of the Diocese participated in the celebration of Year of Faith at Pastoral Centre, Champaknagar from 28th to 30th August organized by *Fr. Joachim Kullu SVD*. It was an evaluation and assessment of their ministry along with revitalizing their faith and ministry through various input sessions. The program began with a Recollection Talk, Adoration and Confession by *Fr. Arun SVD*. *Fr. Joachim SVD* spoke on the importance of Year of Faith and other ministerial concerns; catechetical concerns were dealt by *Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD*; and importance of Bible knowledge by *Fr. John Bosco SVD*. Bishop *Lumen Monteiro CSC*, in his Talk and Holy Eucharist reiterated the catechists' prophetic role and participation in the work of evangelization. One of the attractions of the program was preaching competition for the catechists. Good preachers were given prizes. It enhanced their preaching capacity besides evaluation and assessment. They were called, revitalized in faith, and sent out to the mission and evangelization. **Fr. Arun Minj SVD**



St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw Parish Feast Day celebrated and Jubilee inaugurated



St. Mary's Church, Tuikarmaw celebrated the Parish Feast on 8th September. The preparations began with nine days of novena and a grand celebration of the feast on the tenth day. All the novena days were celebrated with the particular themes. The Parish Sabah from 5th to 7th September with the theme "Walk in Faith with Mary" was well attended. There were 346 village representatives present for the three days of parish Saba from

11 *mondolis*. There were 4 special sessions simultaneously conducted for Youth, Children and elderly Adults separately based on different needs. *Fr. Robert CSC* inaugurated the Sabah and advised the people to be deeply rooted in faith. *Fr. Bosco* and his team animated the youth and the elders on family and marriage. *Fr. Hormis John CSC* enlightened the people on sacraments and *Fr. Lancy CSC* on SCC. In the Saba's concluding address *Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD*, summarized the activities and taught the people to walk in the light of faith. During the novena days sacraments of baptism and communion were given for 42 people. On the feast day Sacrament of confirmation was administered. The 10 long days of celebration came to an end with community meal on the feast day for everyone. **Mr. Indrajit Sangma**

News from the Diocese

Visit to Central Jail, Agartala

Though the Prison Ministry Sunday this year fell on 11th August, a visit to the Central Jail at Agartala was made on 18th August, because the requisite permission from the Jail authorities could not be processed in time. *Fr. Emmanuel CSC* (Principal, Holy Cross College Agartala), *Sr. Elizabeth FMA* (Secretary, CRI Agartala), *Sr. Eva BS* (Principal, Bethany Convent School Khayerpur), *Sr. Aquila FMA*, *Sr. Sapna BS*, *Sr. Caron BS*, *Mrs. Martina Majumdar*, 2 Pre-novices and *Fr. Ronald SDB* spent about 2 hours with the jail inmates in two sessions. We interacted with the male inmates in the big "Anando Bhavan" auditorium and then with the female inmates in their section of the Jail.

The purpose of our visit and the Mission and Motto of "Prison Ministry India" were explained. A flex poster that was placed on the backstage screen illustrated the Flag and the Logo of "Prison Ministry India". Events from the life of *St. Maximilian Kolbe* were narrated. We sang hymns and offered refreshments to the inmates and wished them goodbye.

Fr. Ronald SDB, PMI Coordinator

Tripura boy India's new Edison

Fifteen-year-old Tripura schoolboy Parinaha Chakraborty has come up with an innovative way of using a wind mill to generate electricity that can light up bulbs inside a moving train. Parinaha came up with the idea after travelling on a meter gauge train that did not have electricity, water or toilet facilities



even though such trains cover distances up to 200 km, often at night. "The conventional energy mechanism is obsolete in these trains," says Parinaha, who travelled with his parents from Agartala to Dharmanagar on the northern end of Tripura last year sitting in one such train in pitch darkness. That's when he started thinking how to improve the lighting. Last December, he hit upon the solution an incredibly simple and effective one that involves installing a windmill in front of the train. Using the speed of the train, the windmill produces mechanical energy which can easily be converted into electrical energy that can light up low voltage bulbs inside the train. Meanwhile, the young innovator, who is a student

of Class IX of Shiksha Niketan H S School in Agartala, has got a pat on the back for his innovation from none other than President Pranab Mukherjee who interacted with him during his visit to Tripura. Mukherjee had, after assuming office as President, asked central universities to establish innovation centres which would be breeding grounds for inventive ideas. According to Tripura University Vice-chancellor A K Ghosh, their University's Innovative Club has achieved a lot of success, having accredited almost 60 grass root innovations like Parinaha's which are in the process of being registered under the IPAct. *Story by: Matters-India*

News from JUST (Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura)

Awareness Program on Health, Hygiene and Herbal Remedies Health Camp Program

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized a one day free medical health camp on 20th August 2013 at Lakhidanpara Ompi RD Block Gomoti District Tripura. The health camp was organized with the objective of providing free medical examination



and distribution of free medicines to the people in the interior places. More than 50 patients with various types of diseases like malaria, skin disease, acidity, jaundice, gastroenteritis and common cold were treated during this health camp.

Construction of Low Cost Toilet

Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) in collaboration with Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in the month of August 2013 constructed 15 Low Cost sanitary toilets in five different locations for the community of Naisingpara Relief camp. The low



cost toilets were constructed as most of the families of Naisingpara Relief Camp do not have proper sanitation facility. So the people of the camp mostly practice open defecation, which causes diseases to themselves and spreads to others. The people are happy and making full use of it. Every care has been taken by the community people themselves to maintain the toilets. The long awaited dream has come true with the completion of the construction of 15 toilets with the help of the people at the camp. The construction of the toilets will be of some help to reduce the health hazards in the relief camp.

Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD

News from North East India

North East Regional Pastoral Conference

NERPC, the apex body of Bishops, Major Superiors, Vicars General and Diocesan Clergy, met for their Annual Meeting at Social Forum at Guwahati from September 9-11. The Theme this year was Church in the North East: Opportunities and



Challenges. Fr. Paul Parathazham, renowned Cultural Anthropologist, was the Resource Person. 141 members were present. Then the Bishops Council met at Archbishop's House Shillong for our regular meeting which reviewed the major Seminaries and all the Commissions of the North East.

North East Regional Catholic Council

NERCC had its 4th General Body Meeting with the theme 'Lay Leadership in Public Life' from

September 14-15 at Social Forum at Guwahati. IAS Catholic Dr. Christy Fernandez, the Secretary of the former President of India Mrs. Pratiba Patil, was the Resource Person. CBCI Secretary of the Office for Laity Fr. Chinadurai gave the keynote address. The biennial meeting took up issues of concern and chalked out an action plan.



Our Readers Write

Thanks once again for the wonderful LINK. I love to get news from people and places I have been blessed to know over the years. I long to return once more to see the great progress that I know is being made in Tripura. Blessings on you and your people! David Schlaver, CSC, USA
Thank you so much for Link. Every month without a fail on the first day itself it is waiting in the Inbox. A lot of activities and programs from various parishes are mentioned. The Diocese is really growing in a full swing. Jessy, Dahanu MS.

Thank you for sharing the September Link. Very informative. Nelson, IGSSS, Delhi
Thank you for the LINK and corresponding joke. My father thought it was hilarious! Ben, USA
Thank you for the September LINK. It has come like a milkman bringing fresh milk just after lighting the gas stove for the morning coffee. There is so much that is happening there. May God bless your vision for the Diocese. Amo, CSC, Yercaud
Thanks for the Link. Karen Jacca, Switzerland
I have just read the hard copy of your August LINK. I read them all with interest. It keeps me in touch with the Church of the North East, always dear to me. Descary, CSC, Pune
Greetings from Karachi! It is always a pleasure for me to acknowledge receipt of LINK. I wish to thank you for

the September LINK that arrived promptly on 1st, a Sunday morning. It is amazing how much news and views are packed in the 4 pages. Though our situations are widely different, yet one thing is common: it is marvelous to see how much progress has been made in our Churches during the last 70 years, as noted by your Editor. We salute our missionaries who worked in difficult circumstances. Today, we work amidst new challenges. But the Church is steadily being built up. +Evarist, Pakistan
Thanks again for LINK... one could do away with diary knowing that LINK will tell us when the new month has come... so regular it is. Conrad, CSC, Canada



UN names charity day in honor of Blessed Teresa

Hundreds of people who gathered to observe the death anniversary of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata on 5th September also observed the UN's first International Day of Charity designated to honor the Catholic nun. "Those who want to please Mother Teresa on her feast day should emulate her charity first at home and then among the poor in the neighborhood," Sister Prema the head of the Missionaries of Charity said in Kolkata. She was speaking after a morning prayer program marking the 16th death anniversary of Blessed Teresa.

Hollywood biopic on Mother Teresa

A Hollywood biopic on Mother Teresa will hit the international screens in March next year. **The Letters** is an independently produced feature film based on the real-life letters Mother Teresa wrote to a longtime spiritual director over the years. Written and directed by William C. Riead, film stars Juliet Stevenson of Bend It Like Beckham fame in the lead role of Mother Teresa. The other iconic names are Max von Sydow who has shared screen presence with the likes of Ingrid Bergman, and Golden Globe award winner Rutger Hauer.

India's Youngest CEO



Meet 17-year-old, Sindhuja Rajamaran, a Tamilian who became the youngest CEO at the age of 14 in India. When girls of her age would go to school, study at home and spend time on social networking sites, she would be seen working, busy taking meetings with colleagues, taking tough decisions to raise the profitability of her company, a Chennai-based animation company called Seppan. Sindhuja was in Lucknow as a panelist at the All India Management Association Convention to shape young minds. When she arrived at the Scientific

Convention Centre the venue for the program there were not many to receive her. It was after sometime that the organizers recognized her and ushered her inside the auditorium where she was the main speaker for the final session. And when the moderator introduced her, people were surprised. Her advice to youngsters was simple and precise: Keep the hunger of growing and pursue your dream with sincerity.



mattersindia.com

Manipur tribe sets world record for mass Bible reading

The Gange tribe in Manipur has set the world record for the largest mass bible reading. This was approved by record bodies such as the Limca Book of Records, Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records. Determined to set a record, 7047 participants took part in the mass bible reading as part of the Gange Gospel Centenary celebration on December 16, 2012 at Chiengkonpang in Churachandpur district of Manipur. Braving the cold wintry breeze, participants read the entire book of Romans from Chapter 01-16, starting at 1:27pm. The reading concluded at 2:53pm, taking a duration of 1.27 hours. **Source: Morung Express**

Indian kids to speak at UN

Phynjoplang and Rida Khrim are best of friends. Brought up in an orphanage in Meghalaya, they share each other's dreams and vision. Now they are heading to the UN to talk about inclusive education for both disabled and abled children. Phynjoplang, 14, was born with speech and hearing impairment, and Khrim, a 20-year-old tribal woman who also suffers from mild physical disability is his interpreter and "best pal."

When Phynjoplang stands in front of hundreds of world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly on Sep 24, Khrim will convey his ideas of making the world a better place to live in. "There should not be any discrimination. I will demand inclusive education for all at the UN," Phynjoplang conveyed through Khrim in sign language.

The two friends will join nine other children for an exciting journey to New York where they will put forward their demands on behalf of India's millions of children for proper healthcare, safe drinking water, well-equipped schools and protection from abuse and neglect. They will begin their 10-day journey to New York on September 17 sponsored by a child advocacy group "Nine is Mine." mattersindia.com



The new 'popemobile' is a 1984 Renault4 with 180,000 miles on clock



Pope Francis plans to drive around Vatican City at the wheel of a "popemobile" that is a lot like him: frugal, clad in white, and with a fair bit of mileage. The 1984 Renault 4 economy car with 300,000 km (186,000 miles) on the clock was given to him by a 70-year-old priest from northern Italy, Father Renzo Zocca, who took the pope for a spin inside the walls of the tiny city-state. **UCANews**

Visitors at Bishop's House

- ▲ Sr. Prabha, SSpS Provincial from Guwahati
- ▲ Sr. Janet, SSpS Councilor from Guwahati
- ▲ Fr. Augustine, SVD Provincial from Guwahati
- ▲ Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan, Prison Ministry India, Bangalore
- ▲ Sr. Asha Preethi, UFC, Prison Ministry NE Regional Coordinator
- ▲ Fr. John Babu Halder from Kolkata
- ▲ Mr. Alexis Dilip Gomes from Kolkata
- ▲ Mr. M. P. Philip from Kerala

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 2013

- 01: Clergy Meeting & Recollection, Agartala
- 02: Bethany Convent Jubilee, Depacherra
- 04-07: Episcopal Ordination, Diphu
- 09: Pastoral Animation Meet, Moreau House
- 12-13: Eucharistic Procession, Bodhjunnagar
- 19: Gorangonagar Chapel Blessing, Baijalbari
- 20: Mission Sunday Parish & PP Silver Jubilee, Kathalcherra
- 26-27: Parish Sabah, Moharpara Parish
- 29-30: Caritas GB Meet, Delhi