



**Pastor's Corner**

### Your Attitude determines your Altitude

A balloon merchant was selling balloons among the students at the primary school level. Whenever his business was dull he would take a colorful balloon and fill it with helium and send it to the sky. When the school children see the colorful balloon soaring up in the sky, they would come to the balloon seller and buy several balloons. One day a boy came and asked the balloon man: "What color does make the balloon rise fast in the sky?" The man said: "The color doesn't matter. What matters is what is inside!"

Attitude is an inside activity. It is your attitude that determines your altitude in life. It is not chance, but choice, that determines the course of your life and its destiny.

Altitude reminds me of something else, the English word UP, meaning toward the sky. But this two-letter word perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word. It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for



election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends and we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers, and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To know about the proper uses of UP just look it UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it wets UP the earth. When it doesn't rain for a while things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so ... Time to shut UP!

+Lumen, CSC



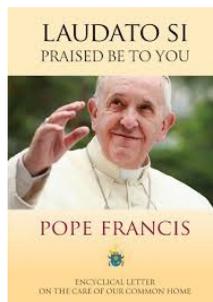
**Editorial**

### Stopping before the abyss

Two weeks ago, the Catholic Church became "arguably the leading moral voice" in mankind's common project to 'preserve and care for the natural environment.' According to culture critics, the publication of *Laudato Si*, on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 could turn out to be a watershed in the history of the Church, because they feel this encyclical is destined to go down as "a major turning point", the moment when "environmentalism claimed pride of place on a par with the dignity of human life and economic justice as a cornerstone of Catholic social teaching."

If we complacently think these are important documents that need to be studied and discussed by scholars, scientists and makers of international policies, but not really for us, we are getting it wrong. The pontiff insists this encyclical is for "every person" who lives on the earth. We would do well to see what role we as educators and leaders of people can play to ensure that 'every person' within our circle of influence becomes an active player and vigorous contributor to this global agenda of combating global warming.

Church



But the truth is that we are as indifferent as the rest of the world. Take for instance our educational institutions. In the education we render, how much importance do we give to values and causes? Although we do lip service to a Value based Education or Integral Education, when results come out, say of class X and Class XII, it is all about who has got the highest percentage and who has not. I have not come across an instance in our educational institutions where a boy or girl is awarded for being 'environmentally the most sensitive student' in the institution, or for having the 'most acute sense of economic and social justice', or for upholding 'dignity of life', etc.

Having received the authoritative teaching that *Laudato Si* is, or any Encyclical is, we are a little more morally bound to make the teaching of these values an integral part of our education process.

How can we call our educational institutions 'Catholic' when in them we continue to ignore these very Catholic teachings of the Church and do not make the slightest effort to incorporate them into the syllabus, or at least as an additional activity?

Some of the past Encyclicals have impacted the world in very significant ways. One hopes this will be one such. Ignoring '*Rerum Novarum*' or '*Humane Vitae*' would certainly lessen the quality of one's Catholic life, but turning a deaf ear to the clarion call of '*Laudato Si*' could not only affect the quality of Catholic life, but very life itself.

J. Pulinathanath, SDB

**St. Andre Parish, Bodhjunnagar**

**Marian Procession**

St. Andre Parish, Bodhjunnagar had a grand conclusion of the Month of Rosary on May 31, 2015. A month long family



rosary program was concluded with a Marian Retreat Led by Fr. Bennet at Borkathal. There were 300 members of 'Maria Bodol' (Women guild) gathered at 8.30 a.m. on May 31 for the Retreat. The Lord's Day began with Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Bennet. The day-long program came to an end with a 4 K.M. long Marian Procession. There were about 1000 men and women who participated in the Marian procession. Rev. Kanikkai CSC in his message at the start of the procession emphasized the need for Family prayer. The theme for the day was, "A family that prays together stays together". It was a faith witness for both participants and viewers on the road and in the villages. It was the hottest day and it rained in the surrounding villages but we were led by God like the Israelites with a cloud over us protecting us from rain and heat of the sun. Thanks to Holy Cross Family Ministry who funded the whole program. May Mother Mary intercede for all of us.

**Parish Secretary, Mr. Subrai Debbarma**

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Gachirampara**

**Women Empowerment programme**

On 24th May a program was organized for the Women of the Parish. A large group of Women from the main centre and from the sub-stations participated in the one day program.



The Role of Women in Evangelization, Mending the Family, and Self sufficiency were the highlights of the program. They were also encouraged to mushrooms for the support of the family. The day ended with a fellowship that was organized by women. Special thanks to Sr. Punita, SJA, who visited the Parish for the first time; she was the Resource Person for the program.

**Fr. Prasanna Kumar, ofm cap**

**Mary Help of Christians Parish, Mandwi**

**Parish celebrates twin Feasts**

As we were looking forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost day this year, it fell on the day of the feast of the Mary Help of Christians and aptly Mandwi Parish has celebrated the twin feasts on 24<sup>th</sup>



May with a grande ur and joy. It w a s also a day to say 'thank you' to Fr. Suman Kiro SDB who left the parish for his new ministry to Mizoram. There was intense preparation for two days. During this preparation more than fifty youth stayed in the parish and participated in various competitions such as - Bible quiz, Bible skit, singing competition, dance competition, group discussion, Adoration, prayer service, etc. The expenses for the youth program during these two days of preparation were met by the youth themselves. On 24<sup>th</sup> of May, Holy Eucharist began at 11:00a.m. and it was presided over by Rev. Sunny SDB, the Parish Priest of Nandanagar Parish and the Secretary of the Evangelization Commission of Agartala Diocese. Fr. Sunny emphasized on the need of openness to the Spirit of God in our parishes and families and living with the Spirit everyday in our Christian life. Mother Mary is the best example for us to follow. There was a short cultural program during which some incentive award was given to some who are regular for Sunday mass and other church activities with a view to encourage others too. It was followed by fellowship meal.

**Fr. Dinesh Narzary, SDB**

**Immaculate Conception Parish, Moharpara**

**Education- a means to change**

After a long summer vacation the students are back to School. In the middle of the academic year the School shines in so many ways. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June we welcomed Sr. Johnsi, SSps, who would be substituting the Headmistress Sr. Rini SSps for a short term. On 9th June we also welcomed

novice Sandhya SSps. We wish all the best for their pastoral and academic experiences at Moharpara.

As the TBSE declared the Madhyamik results on 4<sup>th</sup> June, Note Dame Holy



Cross School was filled with joy-- 8 secured first division and 8 second division out of 39 students. We congratulate the teaching staff, parents and students,

for making our School proud.

School extension work is going on in full swing and we look forward to a new concrete roof in two weeks' time.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of June Fr. Hormis went to Hadupa to introduce SCC group. Many attended the first SCC meeting.

**Fr. Ishwar, CSC**

**St. Francis de Sales Parish, Sindukpathar**

**Pastoral visit of our beloved Bishop**

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015, it was a special day for the parishioners of Sindukpathar Parish. Bishop Lumen Monteiro celebrated the Holy Eucharist during which he administered the Sacrament of Baptism to



29 Catechumens; while 20 of them were administered Confirmation 4 couples had their marriages blessed. The preparations for receiving the Sacraments began three months in advance and thank all the FCC Sisters, Mr. Maniklal Molsom and the local leaders for their tremendous hard work. The instruction sessions systematically dealt with the meaning of the Sacraments and the Rite of initiation. In his homily, Bishop Lumen emphasized and explained the great responsibility of every baptized to live their faith and witness to their faith by the power of the divine spirit. The liturgy was very lively with good singing, especially knowing that this is a new Christian community and are not too familiar with Catholic traditions, music and prayers.

After the Holy Eucharist a cultural program was conducted by the youth. The whole community was very happy to welcome the new members to the



family of the Church. The celebration came to an end with a fellowship meal for all the parishioners. It may be good to mention that though rain was forecasted for the day and several places around had rain in the morning, we had a huge shower only after the whole program was over... a miracle indeed!

*Fr. Joy MSFS*

### Good Shepherd Parish, Kathalcherra

#### Kabi Alvida na Kehana

People come into the fibre of our being, stay awhile and disappear leaving their foot prints. It was with a heavy and sad heart that the people at Kathalcherra including the parishioners, staff and students bid a tearful adieu to their beloved principal/assistant parish priest Fr. Valerian Castelino CSC on 15th June. Kabi alvida na kehana... we will miss you father... the sweet sad melody rent the air throughout the farewell programme beginning on 12th May at Holy Cross Higher Secondary School premises. Fr. Lancy, the Secretary of the School, Sir Birendra the staff representative and Roliana from the student community highlighted their Principal's good nature, success, achievements and his love for the institute, and expressed their heartfelt gratitude. The newly introduced band the brainchild of the principal played the tune as he arrived and accompanied him to the residence on his departure.

It was a delightful scene to see a sea of people gathered at the Parish Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> June to bid farewell to Fr. Vally from the parish community. The thanksgiving Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Thomas Periera CSC, representative of the Provincial, Fr. Robert CSC and Fr. Prasanna Capuchin, along with our PP Fr. Lancy and Assistant Fr. Jerome. The Parish Secretary Mr. Piangloma was the master of ceremony. Words of appreciation and

thanks, song and a token of love were given by various committees and *mondolis* each expressing their close association with their beloved Father and the love and generosity they experienced through him. Speaking on behalf of the Parish community as a whole Mr. Lokoram Reang mentioned all the newness Fr. Valerian brought in the school and in the parish as well. Fr. Lancy, the parish priest voiced out his sentiments mentioning his daily recourse to God in prayer, administrative capacities, team spirit, loving nature. In return Fr. Valerian thanked everyone in brief.

*Sr. Dr. Prema, BS*

### Zonal level SCC Meet at Gandacherra

Zonal level SCC meeting was held for the first time on 13<sup>th</sup> of June at Gandacherra Parish Centre. There were 40 representatives including Fathers, Parish Secretaries, Catechists and SCC Leaders who attended the meeting. The meeting began with Bible sharing followed by reporting on the growth of SCCs from representatives of Kamanga, Ambassa, Gandacherra, Kathalcherra, Kumarghat and Bagbassa Parishes.

The participants were happy to know from the reports that the number of SCCs are increasing steadily in different parishes in the Zone. The SCCs are becoming vibrant and active in the parishes.

Then Fr. Arul and Fr. John Bosco spoke about the recent workshop on SCC in Shillong. Some points from their sharing are: Challenged by the Word of God, We have been helping others in their suffering. It's time to look at our own family life in the light of Word of God. Due to nuclear family set up, the number of children in the family is reduced to one and the child is not able to experience and learn the social values. And this nuclear family set up is a threat to each

tribal community, for it puts different tribal community at the point of exit from the world.



The Zonal level meeting was a joyful moment to get together to strengthen the Small Christian

Communities in every parish in line with the teaching of Vatican II. At the end of the meeting suggestions were given to strengthen the weak SCCs and form new SCCs by conducting training programs in different parishes. Fr. Bosco, the Parish Priest of Gandacherra was thanked for his generosity in hosting the Zonal Level SCC meeting at Gandacherra Parish.

*Fr. Arul CSC, Zonal Coordinator*

### JUST Programs

#### JUST distributes fingerlings to SHGs



On 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015, Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST), distributed two thousand fingerlings to 20 Halam families of different SHG groups formed by JUST under Ampu and Jampuijala R.D. Block. Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD the Director of JUST, was the Chief Guest of the distribution program. Mr. Deepan Gurung, the Coordinator of JUST organized the program with the help of the field staff. The distribution program began at 9:00am. The objective was to enhance the income of the underdeveloped and marginalized Halam families.



## Awareness on Malaria

During the month of May 2015, 30



mikings on Malaria awareness were conducted by JUST through IMCP-II Project. 20 mikings were done in Dhalai District and 10 mikings were done in Khowai District. Besides miking, 5 Community Message Dissemination (CMD) were done in Dhalai and 3 CMDs were done in Khowai. 5 infotainment activities were done in Dhalai and 3 infotainment activities were done in Khowai. In addition 387 fever cases were tested with RDTs and 80 Pf positive cases were treated.

*Mr. Deepan Gurung*

## Our Distinguished Visitors

Sr. Shirley, SCC, Provincial from Guwahati

Srs. Sheela & Prabah, SCC, Provincial Councilors from Guwahati

Mr. Kushal Nyogi, CRS Staff from Lucknow

Francis & Martin, NEDSSS Staff from Guwahati

Mr. Ceschare Dieller, Italian COUNSUL General from Kolkata

Fr. Sebastian Thekanath from Sanjoepuram, Delhi

Fr. Augustine, SVD, Provincial Superior from Guwahati

Ms. Anna Langwesser from Germany

Sr. Berndetta, SSpS, from Haflong

Mr. Biswas, CA from Kolkata

Thanks for your mail and the enclosed LINK June 2015. *Fr. Jolly, Caritas Delhi*

Thanks for the Link. You are amazing in keeping up the chain of LINK. *Emma CSC, Agartala*

Happy to read your story in the Link. *Arul Raj, CSC, Bengaluru*

Liked the message in the Pastor's Corner. The Editorial was quite apt and inspiring. *Sr. Clara, BS, Guwahati*

Thanks for another inspiring Link. *Willy CSC, Easton, USA*

Thanks for LINK, all the news of course and also for the lesson on human relationship. *Conrad, CSC, Canada*

I received your kind email with LINK attached. Thank you very much. *+Andrew Marak, Tura*

Thanks for the LINK. Your missionary diocese is always bubbling with joy and activities. *Tony SFX, Rome*

Thank you for the June Link. Nice to read so many activities taking place in our Diocese. *Ivan SVD, Ambassa*

## Global News - Tidbits

### Laudato Si - The Encyclical by Pope Francis on the Environment



In Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si*, 'On the Care of our Common Home' he called for strong action on climate change, advocated for phasing out toxics, and embrace zero waste alternatives to a throwaway culture. He warned that "the Earth, our home, seems to turn more and more into a huge garbage dump" and calls for bold solutions that are rooted in our "deepest convictions about love, justice, and peace." As Cardinal Peter Turkson, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace explains, "This encyclical letter explores the relationship between care for creation, integral human development and concern for the poor. The timing of the encyclical is significant: 2015 is a critical year for humanity. In July, nations will gather for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. In September, the U.N. General Assembly should agree on a new set of sustainable development goals running until 2030. In December, the Climate Change Conference in Paris will receive the plans and commitments of each Government to slow or reduce global warming. The coming 10 months are crucial, then, for decisions about international development, human flourishing and care for the common home we call planet Earth."

### Bishop's Program for July 2015

- 01: Clergy Meet & Recollection, Agartala
- 03: FSM Convent Blessing at Boys Town, Bodhjunnagar
- 04: Holy Cross College Blessing Phase II at Jubatara
- 04-05: UFS Convent Blessing at Lokicherra, Tuikarmaw Parish
- 8<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August: Appeals in USA