



Pastor's Corner

Need to Change from Within



Two farmers, Ravi and Kamal, were good friends until a dispute arose between them over a piece of land. Unable to settle the issue among themselves they went to court over it. The court decided in favor of Ravi. Kamal was bitter and put poison in Ravi's well, not a fatal dose but enough to give an obnoxious taste. Ravi was very angry. His neighbors heard about it. Some refused to get involved. But others were supportive and declared that Kamal should be made to pay for what he had done. Ravi was about to go by night and poison Kamal's well when a stranger arrived at his house.



On hearing the story, the stranger agreed that it was a pretty nasty situation, but he would not agree with retaliation. "Poison is not a thing to be played around with" he declared. "I've a better idea. I'll show you in the morning." His idea was to clean the well. He offered to help. Reluctantly Ravi agreed. It was a messy business and took them two whole days. After they ran fresh water several times the stranger took a cup of water and declared it was clean. Ravi also drank but insisted he could still taste the poison. To which the stranger replied, "Take it from me. The water is perfect. But you will continue to taste the poison till you forgive your neighbor. You got rid of the poison in the well, but not the poison in your mind and heart!" That evening Ravi went over to his neighbor and made his peace with him. When he came back he tasted the water and this time it tasted good. (Adapted from Flor McCarthy) Metanoia, the key word of the Lenten Season is the Greek word for repentance which literally means "to change one's mind." This "change" of "mind" necessarily entails a profound interior conversion--like in the story above, getting rid of the poison in your mind and heart--the need to change from within! +*Lumen, CSC*

Editorial

Extra-Lenten Challenges



Lent, more than other seasons, makes us realize that words matter. Just as words ordinarily help us grasp concepts, lack of words becomes a hindrance in our endeavor to grasp or convey concepts. Sometimes a word can make a world of difference, indeed.

Having stepped once again into what is perhaps the most challenging season of the Liturgical year, we are eager to travel through Lent in the most meaningful way we can think of. As Church personnel, we are eager to ensure that every individual under our care truly experiences in his or her own life, the 'conversion' that is at the heart of the Lenten observance.



As members of the Church we take advantage of the many helps it provides the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the many liturgical rubrics and rituals of the season, Lenten practices and obligations, and of course, the very focused, carefully chosen Readings of the Mass. The profound beauty and depth of the season comes across to us through these passages and practices.

It must immediately be noted that a considerable amount of concepts and ideas that clarify the meaning of the Mysteries celebrated during Lent and Easter remain unexpressed in Kokborok language for lack of vocabulary that can adequately convey them. If this is the case with Kokborok language, which is both the leading indigenous language of the State and also an officially recognized state language for the past 37 years, other indigenous languages of the State must be in worse situations. Certainly one does not envy the position or status of the indigenous languages of Tripura.

But then, one does not also envy the depth of knowledge of Bangla of most indigenous speakers who need to speak that language. Can the Church afford to get embroiled in the language controversy of the State, a controversy that is almost entirely propelled and kept alive by non-language issues? What are its implications for the Church? What are the things at stake here?

Lent, more than other seasons, shows us that a reasonable understanding of the greatest tenets of our faith are at stake here. The Paschal Mysteries of the Lord, the articulation of which are challenging enough for even an advanced language, runs the risk of being watered down to ridiculous levels when its vehicle is an impoverished tongue.

Rather than deterring us from engaging with the language, it should encourage us to delve deeper into it, even if it means distancing ourselves a little from the 'official' positions and processes of the State that have for 37 years only minimally delivered in this respect. *J. Pulinthanath, SDB*

New Apostolic Nuncio to India Arrives

The New Apostolic Nuncio to India His Excellency, Most Rev. Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, arrived in India on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. He was received at the Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport by Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, and a host of Officials from the CBCI and Nunciature, with a flower bouquet. We accord a warm welcome to our beloved



Apostolic Nuncio. *Bishop Theodore Mascarenha, SFX*

## KUMARGHAT PARISH

### Annual Parish Sabha at Masli Reang



On January 28- 29 we had the Annual Parish Sabha at Masli Reang. The theme for the Sabha was "Let your light shine". The Sabha began with the hoisting of the parish flag by Fr. Arul CSC. The half day Retreat was preached by Fr. Xavier. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, was warmly welcomed in the afternoon. The Parish Priest Fr. Arul CSC presented the annual Parish Report, which was followed by mondoli leaders annual Report. Fr. Jilson CSC gave the Financial Report of the Parish. Finally our Bishop gave his observations and appreciation for the many programs conducted during 2016. Then we had Adoration and Confession. There was Bible Quiz after supper which was conducted by Mr. Lala Darlong.

On Sunday morning, the election of the Parish Secretary and Asst. Secretary was held. Mr. Dharmendro Marak was elected as Parish Secretary and Mr. Tibash Marak as Asstant Secretary. This was followed by Holy Mass. At the beginning Bishop Lumen inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup> year preparation of the Golden Jubilee of St. Paul's Parish, Kumarghat. 88 persons received Confirmation and over 20 children received first Holy Communion during the Mass.

Fr. Jilson Tom CSC thanked the organizers of the Parish Sabha, the Parish Council Members, Fathers, Sisters and the lay faithful. The Parish Sabha was a rich experience in praying, learning, and living together for three days in Masli Reang village. It created a strong family spirit among the participants. We thank Almighty God for being with us throughout the

programme. *Regent Stephen, CSC*

## KATHALCHERRA PARISH

### "Do this in memory of Me" -Mt. 22:19

Good Shepherd Parish Kathalcherra experienced the presence of Jesus in and through their various celebrations beginning with the feast of Mary Mother of God and ending with the Annual Parish Sabha.

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> January** Don Bosco Youth Club organised the **25<sup>th</sup> year Silver Jubilee** celebrations at Puranbari village. Mr Jiten Chaudhury the honourable MP was the Chief Guest and Rev Fr Robert Mathias the Provincial Superior of Holy Cross North East Province was the Guest of honour.

**On 12<sup>th</sup> January** we celebrated the **Silver Jubilee of religious life of Sr Simira, VSDB** at Chailengta. All the Councillors of VSDB Congregation from Shillong were present. Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, the Parish Priest, was the main celebrant of the Eucharist.

**From 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January** there was **Garo Sabha at Joseph Nagar** mondoli. It was the first of its kind. Priests Frs. Cornelius Marak, Lyngdo Marak Bro. Celestian Sangma and Lius Marak from Garo Hills, Tura, had come to animate the Sabha. A large number of Garos from different villages attend the program where insistence was on the faith practices, family bond, and education.

**From 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> January** we had **Maria Songho Sabha** at Garo II village. Three days of celebration was an enlightening moment. Fr Lancy D'Souza, CSC, was the Resource



Person along with Sr Punitha, SJA, from the Women Commission of Agartala Diocese. New office bearers were elected.

**On 28 and 29 January** at Puranbari village **KCYM Youth** Sabha was organised. Fr. Lancy, CSC, gave the session on Eucharist and Fr. Lawrence



Darlong enlightened the Youth about Media speaking on the theme 'The use of Internet'. The theme for KCYM Sabha was "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me- Philippians 4:13. New Office Bearers and Committee was formed for KCYM.

## From 10-12 February Parish Sabha

was held at Koraticherra mondoli. More than 500 faithful participated in the Sabah. Fr Cyprian SVD was the

Resource Person. He spoke on 'Eucharist and Reconciliation: "Do this in memory of me"'. Rev Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, DD was the main celebrant of the Eucharist on the final day. Rev Bishop was present for all the sessions for two days! *Fr. Iswar CSC*

## BODHJUNG NAGAR PARISH

### St. Valentine's Blessings for St. Andre Parish



In the Month of February our Youth were waiting to celebrate Valentine's Day with modern meaning, even forgetting that he was a priest who encouraged true love fulfilled through the sacrament of marriage. St. Andre Parish and the Parish Priest were busy in marriage preparation and sacrament of marriage all throughout the month. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, marriage preparation for 'would be couples' of this month was held. There were 18 couples who attended the class together and fixed the different dates for their marriages. It was a joyful occasion to witness the marriages with the St. Andre choir group with their melodious singing and prayerful atmosphere of the sacrament of marriage. *Fr. Binoy, CSC*



## Diocesan Minor Seminary, Champaknagar Academic Year Begins

Feast day of Conversion of St. Paul was the appropriate occasions on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to begin the Seminary academic year with 16 seminarians. Selected candidates were invited to join the seminary on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Bishop Lumen Monteiro appreciated and encouraged the candidates to be faithful, committed and dedicated to the call to priesthood in the inaugural Holy Eucharist. He reiterated that there is more joy and satisfaction in self-sacrifice to the priesthood. Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD encouraged them to be strong in their vocation. Rector Fr. Arun Minj SVD, emphasized that seminary is the root of all formation where a seminarian purifies and strengthens his intention and desire to the priesthood. The Seminarians appreciated and thanked Bishop and the Fathers for the encouragement, guidance and support to their vocation in the felicitation programme. *Fr. Arun Minj SVD*



## Youth Commission 10<sup>th</sup> National Youth Convention (18-22 January) Mangalore

17 Youth, Fr. Walter PYA Gachirampara, and DYD Fr. Lawrence Darlong, along with other North East Youth under NERYC participated in the National Youth Convention held at St. Joseph's Engineering College, Vamanjoor, Mangalore, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2017. The theme of the Convention "Touched by Jesus, Walking his Way" reverberated several times from the Resource Persons, calling upon the Youth of India to walk in the Lord's way. The main topics discussed were "Youth to Youth Evangelization, Media Advocacy, Youth Empowerment, Socio-Political leadership". Bishop Henry



D'Souza the Chairman of ICYM, showed great hospitality to the Youth. Meeting the Youth from other regions, dancing, singing, worshiping and praying together made the event a joyful celebration of oneness in faith. Panel discussions, enriching Talks, Homilies by Cardinals, Bishops, Deacon and Priests inspired, challenged and motivated the Youth. Celebration of the Eucharist in Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Rite, brought awareness to many Youth of the existence of other Rites in India. The rich diversity of India was brilliantly displayed, during the cultural programs. In fusion with the other North Eastern Youth, our dancer-youths captivated the audience with Hojagiri, the folk dance of Reangs. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, the nation's Catholic Youth took to the streets of Mangalore for a 'peace march' followed by a concluding Thanksgiving Mass at St Aloysius College grounds. Cardinal Oswald Gracias along with the concelebrant Bishops and Priests presided over the Eucharist

for the lively Youth. Exchanges of 'bye-bye' filled the ambiance as the Youth began to depart from Mangalore towards their respective Dioceses and Regions.

## Youth Ministry Training Program at BETHEL Shillong

Sr. Regina Mareem, MSMHC The Regional Youth Director of NERYC (North East Regional Youth Commission) organized a Youth Ministry training program from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017 for the youth animators and Youth leaders of North East. Michael Jamatia (DYP), Sujoy Uchoi (Cultural Secretary) Loknamoni Reang (Zonal Youth President North) and Fr. Lawrence Darlong attended the Training Program. The resource persons provided lot of inspirational insights to the leaders to take forward their Youth Ministry with commitment. In



the course of the Program, The RYD, DYDs, DYPs had a meeting chaired by Rt. Rev. John Thomas Kattrukudiyil, Bishop Chairman of NERYC. For our youth the training program was very educative, enriching, fruitful and transforming. *Fr. Lawrence Darlong*

## Second Edition of 'Aitorma Maharaja Bir Bikram Memorial Lecture'

The second 'Aitorma Maharaja Bir Bikram Memorial Lecture' was held at Holy Cross College Jubatara on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. The Keynote lecture on the topic "Tripura's Changing Indigenous Communities Pitfalls and Possibilities" was delivered by Archbishop (Dr.) Thomas Menampampil SDB, DD, noted scholar, historian, and anthropologist. Prof. Arunoday Saha, Former Vice Chancellor, Tripura Central University was the Chief Guest and Fr. (Dr) Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, the Chairman at the function. Shri Bijoy Hrangkhawl, noted leader also spoke on the occasion. The program was organized under the aegis of Aitorma, the Kokborok monthly. *Fr. P.J. Joseph, SDB*



## West Zone SCC Meeting at Baijalbari

The 7<sup>th</sup> West Zone SCC for 8 Parishes Evaluation and Planning Meet began with Bible enthronement and sharing on 11<sup>th</sup> February. 'Work for the Kingdom of God' was the life word and 'Finding and bringing back the lost sheep' was the theme of the Bible sharing. The results of the evaluation and action plan show that some of the parishes such as Khumulwng and Nandannagar are seriously implementing the tasks, while others are yet to begin. Secondly, Youth participation in Church activities is very alarming; consequently number of youth fall prey to immoral life and addiction to alcohol. It is the need of the hour that we give importance to the catechism and faith formation of the children and Youth. Students need to be regularized to the Church irrespective of places. It is the responsibility of everyone to enlist youth students and keep track of them in collaboration with the parishes of their study towns or cities.

*Fr. Arun Minj SVD*

## Training on Entrepreneurship



Training on Entrepreneurship was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> January for the SHG Women entrepreneurs. The training was conducted at JUST

Hall. The Resource Person was Mr. Sibprasad from Envision Consultancy Services. 50 SHG Members took part in the Training. The Resource Person talked about 4 'W' and 1 'H' namely, *What, Where, When, Whom* and *How*. He mentioned that every product has its highest value demand to the low value depending on the needs of the consumer. Therefore in order to work effectively every entrepreneur must be innovative based on the need of the consumer. *Innovation is the most*

*important skill that every entrepreneur should possess in order to grab the attention of the consumers. It does not matter what the product is but how do we process it is what matters*" said Mr. Sibprasad. The Resource Person further mentioned that there should be a certain strategy to be followed in entrepreneurs. To be a good entrepreneur, one should move step by step to increase the level of production to be successful. It was a great learning opportunity for the SHGs women.

## Workshop for BDPOs

In the month of January 2017 JUST conducted a capacity building workshop for the Block level Disabled People's Organization (BDPO) leaders under CBR Project at JUST Training Hall. The Workshop was conducted for 2 days from

30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017. The Resource Person of the Workshop was Mr. Sudheendra Kumar, Program Officer CBR Forum Bangalore.



There were altogether 15 participants taking part in the Workshop. The Workshop was organized for capacity building and strengthening of the BDPO members on their Rights. During the sessions the Resource Person briefed the process of developing action plan at State level and also discussed on the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016. **Mr. Vincent Debbarma**

## News Clips

### Catholic educators must teach the 'grammar of dialogue'

**Pope Francis** has urged all those involved in **Catholic education** to be builders of a more united and peaceful world. In an address on 9<sup>th</sup> February to the **Congregation for Catholic Education**



that is holding its Plenary Assembly, the Pope pointed out that institutes of education have meaning only in relation to the formation

of the person. He called on all educators to help young people to be builders of a more united and peaceful world. "*Gravissimum educationis*" he recalled highlights the fact that education is at the service of an integral humanism and that the Church, as a mother and an educator, always looks to the younger generation from the perspective of an integral formation of the human person. Pope Francis stressed the need for a culture of dialogue saying, *our world has become a global village in which each person belongs to humanity and shares in the hope for a better future for the whole family of nations*. And, the Pope reminded those present, more than others, Catholic institutions have a mission to offer horizons that are open to transcendence. **Vatican Radio via CNUA**

### Day of the Sick at Lourdes

"God doesn't ask us to be super-heroes," assured Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on February 11, the 25th World Day of the Sick. During an international Mass at Lourdes, France, in the Basilica of Saint Pius X, the Holy See's Secretary of State invited each one to renew his "here I am" to God. It is also "to thank the Lord for all the people... who come to this blessed place to find relief and hope." In face of "fears" aroused by sickness and death, he continued, "God doesn't ask us to be super-heroes, neither does He ask us to deny what we are living with difficulty, by wearing perhaps the mask of one who is above all that humiliates or limits him/her." On the contrary "God asks us to give Him credit and to trust in Him; He asks us not to fear because He comes, because He makes Himself close, because He doesn't forget us, because we are important to Him, because we are those with whom He wants to share His life. ...Fear not, for I am with you" said the Cardinal. **Vatican Radio**

### Paraguay: Women Religious Work Where Priests Can Rarely Visit

When the Missionary Sisters of the Teaching and Atoning Savior from Peru arrived toward the end of the 20th century, it caused a

veritable sensation in the rural enclaves of Virgen del Carmelo de Villa Ygatimy, a sprawling community northeast of Paraguay's capital of Asunción. Today, the Sisters serve some 20,000 faithful through about 100 "chapels," which is the name used for the scattered parishes of the Ciudad del Este Diocese, which is the size of Belgium. Mother María Luján, a sister originally from Argentina, reported: "Three priests work in Curugaty. They make it out only three or four times a year." Meanwhile, Sisters perform marriages, baptisms and funerals in rural parishes that do not have a priest. They conduct liturgies of the Word and administer the Eucharist to the sick. This is precisely the charism of the Missionary Sisters of the Teaching and Atoning Saviour: to work in those places that have not seen a priest for months or even years. More than 400 Missionary Sisters of the Teaching and Atoning Savior work at 38 missions in remote and inaccessible places in various Latin American countries. They often drive for hours on unpaved roads or even go by foot, ride donkeys or take ships to visit a deserted village or farm inhabited by just a few families. It is said that there, where the paved road ends, is where the work of the missionary Sisters with their special charism begins. **By Jacques Berset**

## Bishop's Program for March 2017

- 01: Ash Wednesday, Agartala
- 04-05: New Cemetery Blessing, Gandacherra Parish
- 07-09: NE Bishops Council Meet, Jowai
- 11-12: PP Installation, Gachirampara Parish
- 18: UFS School Foundation Blessing, Lokicherra
- 19: Pastoral Visit, Amarapur Parish
- 20-21: CBCI-CARD Meeting, Delhi
- 22-24: Caritas Health Conference, Delhi
- 25-26: Parish Sabah, Kamaranga Parish

## Our Distinguished Visitors

- Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, SDB, from Guwahati
- Frs. Basil Vaz, Valerian Fernandes &
- Eugene D'Silva from Mangalore Diocese
- Sr. Kulandai Mary & Sr. Jancy OSB, from Bengaluru
- Sr. John Baptist, RNDM, from Shillong
- Fr. Maria Arokiam, SDB, General Councillor for South Asia
- Sr. Mary CJ, UFS, Provincial &
- Sr. Mary Dukru, UFS, from Dimapur