

# DIOCESE OF AGARTALA

## Agartala Diocesan News Letter

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### Seven Principles to learn from Eagles

Note: I have always been fascinated by the eagle's story since I first read it--it's not new but meaningful. {Found it on FACEBOOK.} It is about leadership and spirituality, and hence all of us can use it. +*Lumen, CSC*

**1. Eagles fly Alone and at High Altitudes.** They don't fly with sparrows, ravens, and other small birds. MEANING: Stay away from narrow-minded people; those that bring you down. Eagles fly with Eagles. Keep good company.

**2. Eagles have an Accurate Vision.** They have the ability to focus on something as far as 5km away! No matter the obstacles, the eagle will not move his focus from the prey until he grabs it. MEANING: Have a vision and remain focused no matter what the obstacles and you will succeed.

**3. Eagles do not Eat Dead things.** They Feed only on Fresh Prey. MEANING: Do not rely on your past success; keep looking for new frontiers to conquer. Leave your past where it belongs, in the past.

**4. Eagles Love the Storm.** Once it finds the wind of the storm, the eagle uses the raging storm to lift itself above the clouds. This gives the eagle an opportunity to glide and rest its wings. In the meantime, all the other



birds hide in the branches and leaves of the tree. MEANING: Face your challenges head-on knowing that these will make you emerge stronger and better than you were. We can use the storms of life to rise to greater heights.

**5. When a Female Eagle Meets a Male Eagle** and they want to mate, she flies down to earth, picks a twig and flies back into the air with the male eagle in hot pursuit. Once she has reached a height high enough for her, she drops the twig and lets it fall to the ground while she watches. The male eagle

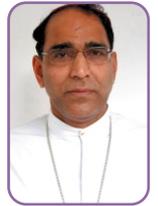
chases after the twig and catches it before it reaches the ground, then bring it back to the female eagle. The female eagle grabs the twig and flies to a much higher altitude and drops the twig again for the male eagle to chase. This goes on for hours with the height increasing each time until the female eagle is assured that the male eagle has mastered the art of picking the twig which shows commitment. Then and only then will she

allow him to mate with her. MEANING: Whether in private life or business, one should test the commitment of the people intended for partnership.

**6. Eagles Prepare for Training.** They remove the feathers and soft grass in the nest so that the young ones get uncomfortable in preparation for flying and eventually flies when it becomes unbearable to stay in the nest. MEANING: Leave your Comfort Zone, there is no growth there.

**7. When the Eagle Grows Old,** his feathers becomes weak and cannot take him as fast and as high as it should. This makes him weak and could make him die. So he retires to a place far away in the mountains. While there, he plucks out the weak feathers on his body and breaks its beaks and claws against the rocks until he is completely bare; a very bloody and painful process! Then he stays in this hiding place until he has grown new feathers, new beak and claws, and then he comes out flying higher than before. MEANING: We occasionally need to shed off old habits no matter how difficult.

YES, NEVER GIVE UP. BE AN EAGLE.



Pastor's Corner

### Mother's Recipe



The Mother Teresa celebrations held recently in the city not only gave a good feeling to those that

**Editorial** participated in them but also brought to focus, to some extent, Mother Teresa's mission of ministering to the most marginalized and abandoned sections of humanity.

The canonization ceremony in Rome and the numerous local-level celebrations commemorating the same were occasions to hear what people thought about Mother. People from a variety of backgrounds and ideologies spoke their opinions of the saint with wrinkled face and feeble hands.

There was a pattern in what most said. They voiced their appreciation for her commitment to her mission of service to the poorest, her unflinching

determination to surmount difficulties that came her way, her deep faith in Jesus and her austere lifestyle.

Surely, these are extraordinary qualities for a person to possess in an age of casual creeds and half-hearted beliefs, like ours. They also show she truly deserves all the tribute they paid her.

And yet, at the end of all our saying, after we have seemingly made sense of what Mother Teresa is all about, she still remains quite unlike the rest of us, and beyond the reach of most of us.

Perhaps it is because the revolution that Mother Teresa is, all about doing it, rather than talking about it. She stands in direct contrast to the peculiar penchant most of us have for addressing issues and problems with a

volley of words, a barrage of speeches and a series of seminars.

Saint Mother Teresa challenges us to first get our hands dirty and our clothes smelly before we dare pontificate on service to the poor.

This saint woman who came twice to the land of Tripura has a peculiar relevance to it because it is almost common knowledge that Tripura today needs more leaders who actually walk the talk.

**J. Pulinthanath, SDB**



CONGRATULATIONS to  
**Fr. Robert Mathias, CSC, the newly appointed Provincial Superior of Holy Cross NE Province.**

## PILGRIMS OF MERCY



Experiencing the loving Mercy of God during this Year leads one to the ultimate

goal of being more merciful like the Father. As many initiatives help our brothers and sisters in the parishes to do this, the pilgrimages to the Don Bosco Church at Nandannagar continued. The evening celebration of the holy Eucharist begun on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 for the faithful who desire to attend daily, continued without any break during this period too.

The faithful from distant Kumarghat Parish made many sacrifices to make the pilgrimage of Mercy on 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Forty people led by the Catechist were very exemplary in their prayer. They were led in prayer and Adoration by Fr. Abraham VC from Mariamnagar. He also celebrated the Holy Eucharist for them. Fr. Harry D'Silva CSC was available for confessions.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 80 parishioners of Khumulwng Parish accompanied by their Parish Priest Fr. Arun SVD made the pilgrimage, taking advantage of the Peace Rally in honour of Mother Teresa, which they attended earlier in the day. Fr. Arun himself animated them and celebrated the Eucharist for them. Fr. Harry D'Silva, the Parish priest, enabled a group of fifty faithful from St. Xavier's Cathedral Parish to make a meaningful and devout pilgrimage on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Fr. Abraham VC animated them and led them in Adoration. Fr. Harry celebrated the Eucharist.

As the Year of Mercy is coming to a close in another 45 days it is time to ask ourselves: Have I become more merciful? Have my people in the parish benefitted from this year long celebration? *Fr. Sunny, SDB*

## AMBASSA PARISH

### SCC Zonal Meeting

Ambassa: August 25, 2016-- Small Christian Community chosen members from 7 parishes along with the Priests gathered for the SCC Zonal Meeting at Ambassa. The August 23rd incident at Agartala which had created fear among the tribal people all over Tripura wherein many were



injured while having a political rally and consequently moving away of

the tribal students from Agartala to their native place was still fresh among the participants of the SCC. Regardless of rumors and fear, 40 members were present for the Zonal Meeting. Fr. Ivan D' Silva, svd the host of the gathering welcomed everyone. He affirmed "we are here for a cause, that is, to make our Church a participatory one". The Coordinator of the Zone Fr. Arul CSC welcomed and proposed the agenda of the day. The gathering began with Bible Sharing and followed by other important discussions and reporting.

### Free Medical Health Camp at Kolasori

August 25, 2016: Shalom NGO in collaboration with Catholic Church Ambassa, conducted a free Medical Camp at Kolasori village, under Dhalai District of Tripura. Though the village is 2kms from the District headquarter the development in the village is totally neglected. There is no proper water supply, no sanitation facilities, School doesn't function, no health centre and poverty to the core. It was in the news that government health workers had reached to the village distributing deworming medicines. But the people in the villages say that no one has come till date. When our Health Team reached with the medicines we found women and children with multiple diseases. We could attend to 54 patients especially children. Dr. Ashok, the main person to treat the patients said, "Lack of hygiene and waterborne diseases are the cause for illnesses". He further stated that "continuous health awareness and proper developmental works would help the people to live healthy life".

*News Desk, Ambassa*

## BODHJUNG NAGAR PARISH

### Catholic Children's Program

The gathering was held at Our Lady of Holy Cross School, Borkathal. The Holy Eucharist was presided by Fr. Binoy CSC, the parish priest, who

emphasized the need to transfer faith to the little ones and the responsibility of the parents to facilitate children to go to the church and to sow Jesus in



their hearts. The theme of the gathering was "Let the children come to me". There were over 250 children gathered from different *mondolis* along with the Youth and some members of the Maria Sango. The full day program was animated by Fr. Binoy, Br. Viky, Sr. Lucy, Sr. Mitali and Sr. Josena SABS, and other Holy Cross Sisters who were gracious enough to render all help including the school premises. Children took part in many Competitions under the banner of the Silver Jubilee of the Parish. The program ended with prize distribution to the winners. *Fr. Binoy CSC*

## KUMARGHAT PARISH

### Chapel at Saidacherra after St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Sadaicherra village is blessed with a new chapel. Fr. Arul CSC inaugurated and Fr. Jilson CSC, blessed the new chapel named after St.



Teresa of Calcutta. The new chapel has brought tremendous joy to the

faithful. Working together in building the new chapel brought unity among the people. The new chapel inspired some people to receive baptism and some relapsed Catholics to come back to the church. The faithful of the village expressed their gratitude to God for getting a beautiful chapel. They also thanked the donors, Fathers, Sisters, and all those who contributed to construct the chapel and organize the program.



## Leadership Training program

In order to enhance the leadership quality of the leaders of different *mondolis* of the Parish, a leadership training program was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of August at the Parish Centre. The Resource Persons of this training were: Frs. Arul and Jilson, and Mr. Roitua and Lala Darlong. This training began with 'ice breakers' followed by a movie on the life of Jesus. On the following day after the Holy Eucharist, many topics on leadership were discussed. Group discussion and role play were also had. There were forty participants. The participants were enthusiastic and interested to learn about leadership and accounting. *Regent Stephen, CSC*



## AGARTALA PARISH

### Bishop's Pastoral Visit of Cathedral Parish

21 August 2016: For some it may sound like stale news but for us at the CATHEDRAL PARISH it was a "red letter day" when we had 8 First Holy Communicants and 16 *Confirmandi*. Our dear Bishop Lumen was welcomed with a bouquet of flowers at the Cathedral gate. The Liturgy, the Altar



Decoration, and other details were all shared by the faithful and the Bethany Sisters. In his homily the Bishop stressed these points: the importance of the Sacraments, the Holy days of Obligation, and need to take pains to grow in Faith. Reflecting on the day's gospel he averred that people tend to take life easy; but Jesus shows us to take the

non-luxurious, narrow door, bearing on our shoulders the daily crosses that come our way. We come to Church to worship, not to judge one another but to obtain peace in our hearts. Quoting the words of Jesus, he said, "those who are first now, will be last; and last ones will be first."

*By our Reporter*

## KATHALCHERRA PARISH 'The Lord be with you'

➤ The month of September for Kathalcherra Parish was a month of celebration and experiencing God. The month began with Teacher's Day celebration in the



Parish School. Chailengta, Dhumacherra and Kathalcherra Holy Cross Schools celebrated Teachers Day by on 5th, acknowledging and appreciating the Teachers for their contribution in the education field.

- We also celebrated Holy Cross feast day on 4th September. Fr. Iswar, CSC, enlightened the people by sharing the history and spirituality of Holy Cross.
- On 11<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated the Girl Child Day. The Hostel as well as the girls from different villages participated in the Holy Eucharist. Various games and competitions were organized by the Bethany Sisters.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our Congregational Feast in the School as well in the community. A beautiful cultural program was organized in the School. Teachers working in the Schools, Priests and Sisters from different Parishes also joined the

celebration and the meal.

- Two days of Retreat on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> was organized in the Parish Centre. More than a thousand people participated in the Retreat. Fr. Rodney, Mr. John and Mr. Apurba from Kolkata were the main Preachers. They conducted a spiritually strengthening and nourishing Retreat for our parishioners. The theme was 'The Lord be with you'. *Fr. Iswar, CSC*

## TUIKARMAW PARISH

### Parish Feast

St. Mary's Parish Tuikarmaw celebrated its Parish Feast on 11<sup>th</sup> September. The feast day began with flag-hoisting and Novena



prayers and Mass on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016. The flag with Mother Mary's

image was blessed and hoisted by Fr. Alfred D' Souza, CSC, the Assistant Parish Priest.

Different *mondolis* were given responsibility to organize the Novena and the Mass. Each day the Novena was on different themes on Mother Mary and Priests from different Parishes were invited to celebrate the Eucharist. On the Feast day the Holy Eucharist was presided over by our beloved Bishop Lumen, with Frs. Lancy, Abraham and Alfred, as concelebrants. Eight children received First Holy Communion. In his homily the Bishop invited people to draw inspiration from Mother Mary and get united to work for the kingdom of God. After the Holy Eucharist the flag was lowered by our Bishop and all shared in the festive community meal. *Bro. George S.*

## News from the Diocese

**Inter Religious Discourse:** On the occasion of Sree Krishna Janmastami (the birthday of Lord Krishna), an inter religious discourse was organized by the International Association for Religious Freedom, (IARF) Agartala Chapter in Sri Krishna Saradeshwari Matt, Akhaura Road on 28<sup>th</sup> of August. Different religious heads were invited for this Discourse. The Catholic Church was represented by Frs. Harry D'Silva CSC, Lawrence

Darlong, Cyprian Pinto SVD, and MC Sisters Ann Lawrence and Stany. While the Hindu, Islam, and Baha'i religious leaders put forward their religious beliefs, we Catholics shared our faith with them that Jesus, the Son of God, has come to this World to give life to all in abundance. (Jn. 10,10) Fr. Harry blessed the congregation with the prayer that "all may be one" and live in peace, brotherhood and harmony especially in the land of Tripura. The Discourse came to an end sharing sweets and smiles. *Fr. Cyprian, SVD*

## Mother Teresa 'a much-needed Model for our times' -says Tripura's Marxist Chief Minister



Agartala, 12 Sep 2016: Calling the newly canonized Mother Teresa "a much-needed model for our times that is so

full of selfishness and insensitivity," Sri Manik Sarkar, the Marxist Chief Minister of Tripura said the best way to pay one's respect to Mother is to "do what she did". "There is no better way to honour Mother Teresa than by imitating her actions and becoming more kind and compassionate to the poorest segments of our society." He was speaking at the concluding function of Tripura's two-day celebrations on the occasion of the Mother's canonization. The solemn Civic function held at Rabindra Bhawan in Agartala on 11<sup>th</sup> September brought together a large number of dignitaries, young people, and friends of Mother Teresa. In his speech, Sri Sarkar underscored the universal relevance and appeal of Mother Teresa.

Bishop Lumen Monteiro spoke about the connection that the State of Tripura has with Mother Teresa. Mother had visited the State twice at the invitation by the former Communist Chief Minister, Nripen Chakraborty, in connection with setting up of her institutions-- Sishu Bhawan in 1978 at Agartala and Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre in 1982 at Kumarghat.

An inter-religious prayer was also held on the occasion. Religious leaders from various faiths --Hindu, Islam, Buddhist, Bahai and Christian--spoke of Mother Teresa as a holy Catholic Nun, but also as a person whose life

enshrined the best that is found in every religion. Mr. Gautam Lewis, a London-settled Pilot and a photographer by profession shared the story of his life which began at Sishu Bhawan in Kolkata where he was cared for by Mother Teresa as a handicapped child. Dr. Ashoke Kumar Pradhan, one of the doctors who treated Mother Teresa in Kolkata was also a special guest at the function.

Mother Teresa celebrations in Tripura also included a colourful Peace Rally on 10<sup>th</sup> September. The Rally had thousands of students walk through the main streets of the Town, carrying placards that spoke of Peace and of Mother Teresa. A daylong International Film Festival was held in which movies on Mother Teresa from seven countries were screened after the Rally.

Sr. Celine D'Cunha, FMA, the Convener of the Agartala event called the canonization of Mother Teresa "a reminder to the world to pay greater attention to the neglected, marginalized and the poorest" and emphasized that "Agartala celebrations are focused on this mission of Mother Teresa and our obligation to follow her path of service."

*J. Pulinathanath, SDB*

### Catholic Health Association of Tripura (CHAT) News

The religious Sisters working in health care try to reach to the poor and the needy mostly in the interior villages which are inaccessible by road. As a part of the Community Based Rehabilitation Program, Ferrando Rehabilitation Centre Nandannagar organized medical camps for eyes and ears, Health camps to identify, detect, and provide comprehensive eyes and ears care to the poor people in rural areas. In Kalachari



under Kamalpur Sub Division, they screened and treated 86 people. 570 students were treated

at Ambassa English Medium School.

Bethany Health Centre at Kathalcherra conducts regular outreach programs in the villages. In the medical camps conducted at Pritimonypara, Nandirampara around 58 people were treated. Health awareness on various issues is also given.

The Holy Spirit Sisters at Ambassa take care of the patients visiting the dispensary. Along with the Parish Priest Fr Ivan and Dr Ashok they conduct medical camps on weekly basis. In the recently conducted camp around 50 people were benefitted.

*Sr Prema, BS*

## JUST News Roundup

### SHG Peace Clubs

JUST has initiated formation of Peace Clubs among the Self Help Groups (SHGs). About 85 SHG members took part in the program. There are four Peace Clubs formed among the SHGs so far. The Coordinator explained about Peace Project in North East India, its goals and also the necessities of peace clubs in our society. Fr. PratapMSFS, Parish Priest of Amarapur and Sr. Amali program Manager of JUST also spoke on the importance of peace in the society and capacitating the SHG Peace Clubs as peace promoters in the family, villages and the society as a whole. The SHG members were also taught about the six pillars of integrated human development, Micro credit, Civil Society building, Health, Ecology, Gender development and Peace building which was already in practice with the SHGs.

### Livelihood Support to Women

JUST has been actively involved in bringing qualitative change in the lives of the particularly vulnerable tribal group namely Reangs, under Ganganagar R.D Block. As part of the development initiatives, women are formed into Self Help Groups (SHGs). Different capacity building trainings are organized for the women. At the same time they are also offered livelihood support to enhance their economic life. Hence, JUST distributed raw materials comprising of 10Kg of thread to each SHG so that they could take up weaving as a livelihood. The SHG members will use the thread to weave *Pasras* and *Risas* and then sell them to get money. This small initiative is to enhance their income, and thereby the quality of life of the women and their families.

*Mr. Vincent Debbarma*

### Bishop's Program for October 2016

- 02: Canonization celebrations, Kolkata
- 04-06: DFNEI Convention, Nongstoin
- 08-09: Parish Feast, Gachirampara Parish
- 10: Vocation Camp, Pastoral Centre Champaknagar
- 11-12: Parish Sabah, Moharpara Parish
- 13: Feast Mass, Fatima Bhavan Damdamia
- 16: Mission Sunday, Mariamnagar Parish
- 17-21: Caritas Field Visit, MP Region
- 22-23: Silver Jubilee, Bodhjunnagar Parish
- 26-28: Caritas India GB Meet, Delhi
- 29-30: Parish Feast, Baijalbari Parish

### Our Distinguished Visitors

- Sr. Marcella AC Provincial from Kolkata
- Sr. Ann Imelda, AC, from Kolkata
- Fr. Stanislaus SVD, Mission Secretary from Rome
- Sr. Ancy, SSpS, Provincial Bursar from Guwahati
- Sr. Anama Philip FMM, Xavier Board Member from Bangalore
- Jacob Mar Barnabas, Syro Malankara Bishop of Gurgaon
- Fr. Jigmy from Guwahati
- Relatives of Fr. Lourthu CSC: Kulanandai, Sandhya and Victoria from TN
- Bro. Jim Thekkan, SG, from Tanzania
- Sr. Mary CJ UFS Provincial, and Sr. Elsie from Dimapur
- John Rogers, SJ, Kolkata Province