



Pastor's Corner

What's all the fuss about?

Reuben Tellis tells this story: A farmer came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. The restaurant owner was shocked and asked the man where he could get so many frog legs! The farmer replied, "There is a pond near my house that is full of frogs millions of them. They all croak all night long and they are about to make me crazy!"



So the restaurant owner and the farmer made an agreement that the farmer would deliver frogs to the restaurant, five hundred at a time for the next several weeks. The first week, the farmer returned to the restaurant looking rather sheepish, with two scrawny little frogs.

The restaurant owner said, "Well... where are all the frogs?" The farmer said, "I was mistaken. There were only these two frogs in the pond. But they sure were making a lot of noise!"

Next time you hear somebody criticizing or making fun of you, remember, it's probably just a couple of noisy frogs. Also remember that problems always seem bigger in the dark. Have you ever laid in your bed at night worrying about things which seem almost overwhelming like a million frogs croaking? Chances are pretty good that when the morning comes, and you take a closer look, you'll wonder what all the fuss was about.

+Lumen, CSC



CONGRATULATIONS: Sr. Pauline SJA elected new Superior General

Agartala Diocese congratulates Sr. Pauline Adampukulam SJA who was recently elected the new Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy in Switzerland. She is the second Indian to be elected as the Superior General of the Congregation in its history of 363 years of existence. She succeeded Sr. Bernadette Marie Walsh who hailed from England. Sr. Pauline, a diligent leader was the first Regional Superior of the Bhubaneswar Region in 2002, bifurcated from Visakhapatnam Province. The Region was elevated to a Province on 19th March 2006. The SJA Sisters first came to the NE in Agartala Diocese, under the leadership of Sr. Pauline



Editorial

Off into Uncharted Terrains, Yonder!

There is a greater awareness today of the need to 'include' everyone particularly those that are prone to be naturally left out the physically challenged, for example. Where there was only a staircase earlier, chances are there is a ramp today. This, of course, is keeping in mind those on wheelchairs. Today filmmakers and web designers are urged to adopt 'universal design' for their creations and thus ensure everyone equal involvement and access.



There is something evidently 'Christian' in this. It reminds us of Christ's sensitivity to those far removed from the centre-points of power and existed apologetically on the fringes. He resolutely cut through structures, customs and persons that tried to prevent him from reaching out to the most vulnerable situations and persons on the peripheries.

There are peripheries around us too: linguistic peripheries, economic peripheries, cultural peripheries, and information peripheries. There are mainstreams too linguistic, economic, and cultural. As Christian entities - church, diocese, parish, congregation, our obligation to be inclusive should perhaps make us sensitive to everyone, especially microscopic minorities that often languish on the outskirts of our mental horizons.

In a vastly varied milieu such as ours, the subtle struggles for space and supremacy assume equally varied forms and call for careful analysis. Whose interests do most of our programs serve? Whose language gets used most? Whose ideas finally get implemented? Often it's that of the bunch of mainstream cronies that surround us and enjoy the advantage of knowledge, proximity, access and voice.

A wonderful test, commonly ascribed to Mahatma Gandhi, could assist our efforts to be inclusive. "When in doubt, think of the face of the poorest man you have seen..." The much-quoted method remains valid beyond doubt, even to this day, especially when we are in doubt which language to use, which ministry to give preference to, which tribe or area to focus on... **J. Pulinthanath, sdb**

**Kathalcherra Parish
Mondoli Leaders' Seminar**

Good Shepherd - Kathalcherra organized two-day **Chalok Seminar** on



6 and 7 April for all the *mondoli* leaders of the Parish.

The two-day Seminar was attended by 70 representatives from the different *mondolis* of the Parish. Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD, the Resource Person for the Seminar highlighted the role of leaders in leading the Sunday Service at local church in the absence of a priest. He emphasized the role of *chalok* in making the community pray, adore and worship on Sunday and other weekday gatherings at different local units. The leaders clarified their doubts with regards to liturgy, significance of altar and very many symbols used at church services. This year being the year of Faith it was an occasion to build faith of the community through common sharing of ideas, opinions and expressions.

SDM's visits HCHS

HCHS Kathalcherra was delighted to welcome Sub



Division Magistrate Shri. Bimal Reang in its premises on the 13 April 2013. During his address he invited the students of the

School to make use of conducive environment for learning and growth. Giving a realistic picture of the competitive world outside, the SDM called on the students to be determined, focussed and goal oriented. He applauded Holy Cross, for taking the lead in introducing smart class room teaching - learning method in the LTV subdivision. **John Darlong**

**Bodhjunnagar Parish
Feast of the Ascension and
Sacrament of Confirmation**

The faith community of Saint Andre Parish Bodhjunnagar celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord in a simple yet meaningful manner. The Parish community that gathered at Holy Cross Church, Borokathal was

privileged to have Most. Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC who graced the occasion not only by presiding over the Holy Eucharist but also by administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Parish Priest and the faithful gratefully acknowledge Rev. Bishop for setting apart time to be available for two-day visit to the parish and Confirming 90 of our faithful. May the Holy Spirit be our guide and wisdom and Lead us Onward. **Fr. Jilson Tom, CSC.**

**Agartala Parish
Diaconate Ordination Lawrence
Darlong**

May 1, 2013 was a red-letter day in the



Diocese of Agartala as the Ordination to Diaconate of Lawrence Darlong took place at St. Joseph Parish, Agartala. Lawrence Darlong is the first 'son of the soil' to be ordained a Deacon

in and for the Diocese of Agartala. Life is a precious gift from God and the same gift is more valuable and worthwhile when it is given back to God in loving service. Deacon Lawrence Darlong resolved to serve God's people by responding to God's call.

At 8.30 am the Ordination to Diaconate took place and our Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, presided over the Holy Eucharist along with 15 priests. In his homily, Bishop Lumen explained who a deacon is and the important services that deacons render to the Church by assisting the priests. A large number of faithful from his home Parish and from St. Joseph Parish witnessed the ceremony. It was a first time-experience for many!

After the Mass a short felicitation program was arranged, during which our bishop sincerely extended his heart-felt gratitude to the parents of Deacon Lawrence Darlong, namely Mr. Zonunthara and Mrs. Sadhana for their generosity towards the Catholic Church. Deacon Lawrence Darlong also expressed his sentiments of gratitude to the Almighty, to his parents, to our Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC and to the gathering.

The program came to an end with the cutting of a huge cake. Deacon Lawrence Darlong will be going to St. Peter's Seminary Bangalore to complete his IV Theology.

**Deacon Pappy Valan CSC
Khumlwnng Parish**

Lay Preachers for the Laity

The parishioners of St. Alphonsa expected priests and religious for preaching the Word of God. They were surprised to learn that this time lay preachers would be enhancing their faith. They welcomed them wholeheartedly. The Team preached for 3 days starting from 3rd to 5th May. Their preaching comprised of Word of God, singing lively hymns and dancing to the tune of devotional music track. There were about 300 participants coming from various villages halting in the Church. The faith renewal preaching, food and lodging were worked out meticulously by the Parish Priest. The parishioners benefited a lot by getting acquainted with the Bible and strengthening their faith. We, the parishioners are grateful to the lay preachers as well as to Fr. Sunny SDB for organizing such faith formation program in our Parish.

Marian Devotion in May

Marian devotion began with



celebration of Holy Eucharist on 1st of May at 6:30am. All the villages of the parish began rosary simultaneously on the same day. Some of the villages formed

smaller groups and began rosary in the family every evening. It is an opportunity to visit every family and enhance unity and harmony. Marian devotion has enhanced faith and united the parishioners. The parishioners have decided for mega rosary procession from 5 villages gathering at the church and concluding with Eucharistic Adoration joining Pope Francis at 5pm on 2nd June confirming unity and faith with the Church. **Fr. Arun Kumar Minj SVD**

FRC Nandanagar are Winners of the NGD-2013

National Games for the Deaf were held at Aurangabad in Maharashtra from 1st to 5th April. 1,117 participants from 25 States took part in the event. Ferrando



School for Speech and Hearing Agartala was present with 6 students accompanied by 3 staff to represent the State of Tripura. The Team returned with great joy bagging three Gold medals and one Silver medal. Mr. Lois Hrangkhawl bagged 2 Gold medals and a Silver medal while Ms. Mallika Das secured one Gold medal for High jump. We the staff and students take this opportunity to thank our dear Bishop and all the LINK readers for supporting us always with your valuable prayers and encouragements. **Sr. Sini, MSMHC**

Auxilium Girls School has 12 new buses

“Auxilium Girls' School has 12 new Buses” - The event that made headlines in some of the newspapers in Agartala was indeed welcome news to the members of Auxilium family. Till March 2013, the school had hired 13



buses for the school children. But all those buses were in a pathetic condition. Knowing the sorry condition of the buses Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Animator and Principal of Auxilium Girls' School, approached the Association of Salesian Cooperators asking them to take up this important mission at the service of the school. After much prayer and

The ceremony of handing over of 12 new TATA School Buses was held on April 8, 2013. On the following day we had the blessing of the buses by our Bishop Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro in the presence of Fr. Davis our Parish Priest as well as the members of the Association Salesian Cooperators, the Transport Staff, some of our teaching and non-teaching staff and well wishers. Bishop Lumen was very appreciative of the initiative taken by the School.

April 11, 2013 the inauguration of the Academic year was a day of much excitement and boundless joy and happiness for all. The entire school campus was filled with fresh new life, of beauty, of greatness, of wonder and awe. 12 Brand New Tata School Buses brought much joy and happiness, broad smiles and thrills to all the children. Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Principal, welcomed everyone warmly back to school and introduced all the new Staff who were given a warm and thunderous welcome. She exhorted us all to nurture the dream to become great, to stay focused and to achieve greatness through hard work and commitment.



Sr. Marylang Suchiang, FMA Renewal, a new experience

On invitation from Fr. Sunny, the Secretary of the Evangelization Commission, the 'Christanjali Pariwar', a charismatic renewal group based in Kolkata and with many years of experience was in our Diocese from 19th April till 6th May 2013. During this time, John D'Rozario, Rose Mary, Terence and Rahul, constantly traveling, reached out to seven of our parishes for renewal programs during this Year of Faith. Bishramganj, Gondacherra, Kathalcherra, Bagbasa, Moharpara, Ambassa and Khumulwng Parishes hosted the group. With attractive music, the proclamation of the Word with emphasis on conversion, reconciliation and new life, their Sessions brought tears to many eyes. The enthusiasm could be seen in those who participated. Having conducted many renewal and 'healing' sessions all over India and abroad, they must have found our numbers rather small. But they were enthusiastic about the response and expressed the possibility

of having more such programs particularly for the youth. It was a first time experience for them as well as for our people and we feel it was a positive one.

Go, and make Disciples

The three day program on 'New Evangelization' at ASHA Agartala,



was a great opportunity for the 29 participants to encounter Christ and understand the true meaning of Discipleship. Fr. Vijay Shantiraj, National Secretary for Evangelization CCBI, and Fr. Panneer Selvam, both from Suvarta Kendra, the National Centre for Evangelization at Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh, superbly led the very responsive group through the 10 Sessions into the heart of the meaning of being a Disciple of Christ: to make Disciples for Christ. References from the Bible, Vat II, the Papal Encyclicals, and other documents reiterated the need for every Disciple of Christ to be making other Disciples for Christ. Power-point presentations, dynamics and an interactive method of the sessions made the three days seem to go fast. The pastoral plan of Jesus, His methodology and type of relationship a Disciple develops were all integral parts of the well-developed theme. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Frs. Jeevan Kennedy, P J Joseph and Cyprian Pinto. Thanks to Fr. Robert and his Team for hosting the program organized by the Evangelization Commission and making everything very convenient. However, it was unfortunate that due to various reasons like the anticipation of the reopening of the Govt. schools, a number of people who were listed could not attend and only 11 parishes were represented. **Fr. Sunny Palamthattel, sdb**

Newspaper Office attacked, 3 killed in Agartala

Three employees of a local daily were killed when its office was attacked by unidentified men in Agartala. The incident happened on May 19 when three to four men armed with sharp weapons stormed the office of 'Dainik Ganadoot' 's at Ujjayanta Palace Complex area. This is for the first time in Tripura that miscreants have attacked a newspaper house and killed its employees inside the office in broad daylight. The incident triggered tension in Agartala. Congress called a 12-hour Agartala *bandh* against the deteriorating law and order in the city.



Fr. Joe Mannath sdb, New National Secretary of CRI



A man of experience, wisdom and international fame takes over as the new National Secretary of CRI, replacing the erstwhile secretary Bro. Mani Mekunnel SG. The 1 lakh and 30 thousand religious of India is the largest and most powerful entity not only in the Indian Church but the Indian society as a whole. The 30 member CRI National Executive, which met in Bangalore on 25th April 2013, has appointed JOE MANNATH as the National Secretary of the Conference of Religious India for the next 4 years. Fr. Joe Mannath SDB is well known to the Indian Church through his writings, animation programs and consultative services especially in the field of guidance and counseling. *Source: CRIB*

India: stamps with personalized touch

Gone are the days when letters carried stamps depicting landscape or national leaders. From May 10, city people have a chance to send letters to their dear ones with a personalized touch. Yes, you could now have your initials on a stamp and use it as postage. All a person has to do to get 'My Stamp' is to fill in a form and be photographed at the Philatelic Bureau, Road head post office. To avoid misuse, the Postal department will require the person to



be featured in the stamp to be present while ordering it. However, no political or religious content will be entertained.

Courtesy thehindu.com

“The Miracle Man”



Where there is a will there is a way, goes the famous adage. This young officer has literally proved it using modern technology. When many scorned or ridiculed him, he did not lose his heart. He pursued his goal with devotion and commitment and the results are there to see. He is a harbinger of change and has brought joy to the people of Tousem, a Manipur subdivision, considered one of India's most backward, by giving them what they needed most a motorable road that connects them to the outside world. The opening of the 100-km “People's Road” a couple of months ago has earned him the sobriquet “The Miracle Man”. The 28-year-old IAS officer Armstrong Pame used Facebook to raise funds for building a 100-km public road. Armstrong Pame, the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) of Tousem, which lies in Tamenglong, his home district, and the first IAS officer from the Zeme tribe of Nagaland, is the man who was instrumental in single-handedly taking on the ambitious project of building the road without any state government aid. The road connects Tousem with the rest of Manipur, as also with Assam and Nagaland. *Source: Gem*

Francis Welcomes Benedict XVI Back to Vatican



P o p e E m e r i t u s Benedict XVI arrived back to the Vatican, where he was welcomed at the door of the M a t e r Ecclesiae Monastery by his Successor. The first to greet Benedict, then, were Cardinals and Bishops, including Cardinals Giuseppe Bertello, president of the Governorate of Vatican City State, Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State, and Angelo Sodano, Dean of the College of Cardinals. The Pope and Pope Emeritus went together to the chapel in Mater Ecclesiae. Benedict XVI left the Vatican on Feb. 28 and has

been at Castel Gandolfo since then. "He chose to leave the Vatican immediately after his resignation to physically remove himself from the process of electing his successor," Vatican Radio reported. Benedict XVI will live in Mater Ecclesiae with his personal secretary, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, and the four consecrated women who do the housekeeping and prepare his meals. *Vatican News*

Visitors at Bishop's House

- Christianjali Parivar Members from Lucknow
- Fr. Mathew Manaluvila, OIC from Raipur
- Sr. Cecilia Sad, VSDB Superior General from Shillong
- Sr. Kerydian, VSDB from Shillong
- Sr. Lucy Rose, FMA General Councilor from Rome
- Sr. Veronica Kansei, FMA from Rome
- Fr. John Karuvelil, SJ from JDV Pune
- Frs. Vijay Santiraj & Panneer Selvam from Suvarta
- Ms. Ismal Pereira, Mr & Mrs. Vincent Lopes
- and Mrs. Santan Almeida from Vasai
- Fr. Jose Aricatt from Irinjalakuda Diocese
- Fr. Anto Aricatt from Palghat
- Bro. Sekhar Das, SFX, from Pune
- Mr. & Mrs. Keve, from Die Wochen Zeitung, Mumbai

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR JUNE 2013

- 02: Installation, Gachirampara Parish
- 04: Clergy Meet & Recollection
- 06: Convent Blessing, Baijalbari
- 07-08: Regional NRM Program Inaugural, Guwahati
- 09: Parish Feast, Bishramganj
- 11: Diocesan NRM Program Inaugural, Agartala
- 12-mid July: Mission Appeals USA