



DIOCESE OF AGARTALA

Link

Lead Us Onward



Agartala Diocesan Newsletter

Vol. XXII - No. 07 - July 2018

Pastor's Corner At Gadget's Mercy!



Are you one of them who are at the gadget's mercy? I myself was a victim of such an embarrassing situation recently when my 'smart phone' played truant...somebody who tried to help me 'set it right' had all my contacts deleted! Imagine my plight as I couldn't contact my Secretary to get me a ride from the airport as I didn't have his cell number registered in 'my hard drive' I mean memory!

The other day I found this interesting piece in the newspaper written by Ms. Radhika Chadha, a consultant in strategy and innovation from Delhi.

She writes, "Legend credits the Egyptian god Theuth with the invention of geometry, astronomy, games and dice. His greatest invention, though, was writing. According to Plato, the Pharaoh Thamus admired many creations of Theuth, but he disapproved of the concept of writing and refused to support it. Thamus is believed to have said (and I paraphrase): Writing will create forgetfulness in the learners' souls, because they will not use their memories; they will trust that which is written and not remember of their own will. Your invention is an aid not to memory but for reminder!"

Alas, the pharaoh's curse is alive and well after all these millennia. A couple of mildly embarrassing incidents recently made me realize how true his prediction is, and how dangerous a dependence on external devices can get. The first was when I took an old buddy out for lunch in my new car. It was a gesture of remorse I

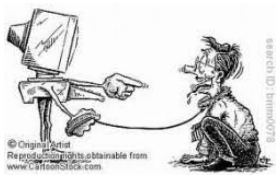
had forgotten her birthday for the first time in years and she was worried about my health. I had to sheepishly admit that I had had a systemic breakdown in my cell-phone, that is, which meant that all my reminders had gone awry. When we emerged, I had the sinking realization that I couldn't summon the car from the parking valet I had no clue what the new car's number was. 'It's not your fault,' my friend told me comfortingly, if a tad maliciously; 'after all, you hadn't had the time to feed in the number into your cell-phone.' Rescue finally came by a call to my young son whose memory has not (yet) been atrophied by a reliance on gadgets!!

+Lumen, CSC



Editorial

Those Virtual Killing Fields!



Some years ago, before the advent of the mobile phone and proliferation of the Internet, in

one of our diocesan level meetings, it was decided that 'media education' as understood elsewhere was quite irrelevant for the rural youth of Tripura. At that time, it seemed to make sense, as the youth in the villages then hardly had access to any of the media material we are today swarmed by television, internet, or smart phone. The most sophisticated gadget found in the villages those days was the tape recorder and the cassette player, and very rarely a television. VHS players, VCPs and VCRs were just making their presence felt. Internet was a dream and mobile phones, not even a dream.

It was also usual when talking about young people, to differentiate rural from

the urban. By urban one meant those 'townish'-looking, jean clad, chic boys and girls who possessed a smattering of English, pursued big ambitions, travelled outside the State and were generally found in the Towns; with their penchant for fashion, fun and fierce looking bikes, they were a class apart. They got easily differentiated from the rural youth, whose world was often limited to the villages and small townships near home. They only nursed modest dreams, were less informed, more spontaneous, hardworking and lacked the shrewdness of their counterparts in the town, or so one thought. Notably, the town youth had more access; be it access to offices, educational facilities, or to simple amenities of modern living, the town youth enjoyed an advantage over rural youth who often had to put up with lack of proper communication facilities, conveyance and considerable distances.



Fast forward a decade or two; the scenario has undergone a sea change, to put it mildly. Thanks to Internet the leveler, we now see

chronic backbenchers in village schools, whose GK level is appallingly low, surprisingly adept at handling even complicated smart phone-based issues. Their competence is best visible in the way they engage social media. But unfortunately, technical competence does not necessarily bring with it things like values, moral integrity and responsibility, it seems. And without these the social media platform degenerates into a perilous place, a convenient, 'free for all' arena where one can play out fantasies, engage in a make-believe world and give vent to suppressed emotions.

That's what we are seeing today; virtual spaces becoming malice-driven killing fields. In this 'no holds barred' onslaught, bruises are sure to happen; to oneself and others. Perhaps time has come to do media education for the young and the not so young, and also for education to moral responsibility, integrity and honesty.

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

AMBASSA PARISH SCC Seminar



Ambassa, May 27: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Ambassa organized one day seminar on Small Christian Community for the Parish leaders. Leaders from different villages got together to know more about the SCC and strengthen the groups further. Resource person Fr. Ivan D' Silva, svd and Dr. Asok Debbarma gave the input session before they really practiced the seven steps method in different groups. Resource persons explained them, that "SCC is not the Bible alone neither the social work, it is the Christian Way of Life". Dr. Asok said, "What is important is coming together, share the life and share the resources". There were around 90 participants from different sub-stations for one day interaction on SCC. Group wise exercise was helpful for the participants to learn concretely how the 7 steps of Bible sharing work. Towards the end of the session few members were selected for the parish SCC committee. The group decided to hold the general SCC session every 6 months in the parish.

Parish Feast



Ambassa, May 20: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Ambassa celebrated its Parish Feast with great pomp. A huge number of parishioners gathered for this annual celebration on the Feast of Pentecost. Ambassa parishioners were preparing for this yearly feast much ahead of time to make it more solemn. Unfortunately the night before the feast there was down pour of rain which lasted until morning 8:00. But this did not hamper interest of the faithful from going to the

Church. By 9:30am Church was filled to capacity. Bishop Lumen and other Priests were led to the Altar by a beautiful dance. During the Holy Mass Bishop gave first Holy Communion to 86 children who were preparing themselves since 6 months. The Parish also congratulated Bishop Lumen because 22 years ago on the feast of Pentecost, he was ordained as a Bishop and the new Diocese was born. The Parish Priest Fr. Ivan D' Silva, svd, thanked everyone who participated and collaborated for this event.

News Desk, Ambassa

TUIKARMAW PARISH Abangcherra new Village mondoli



31st May 2018 was a red-letter day for St. Mary's Parish Tuikarmaw. A new mondoli at Abangcherra Village under Julaibari Block was inaugurated with St. Anthony of Padua as its patron. Bishop Lumen CSC was the main celebrant. The people were very happy to welcome Bishop for the first time in their village. Bishop administered the Sacraments of Initiation to the new people. In his message the Bishop welcomed the faithful to the Catholic Church and invited them to live their faith and bear witness to the values of Jesus. On this day, their new village chapel too was inaugurated. Frs. Shaiju CSC, Abraham CSC, & Alfred CSC were present for the occasion. The people greeted Bishop on his Episcopal Anniversary. The celebrations ended with a community meal. *Secretary*

KHUMULWNG PARISH Youth Revival Retreat



St. Alphonsa Parish Khumulwng organized a Charismatic Youth Revival Retreat from 28th to 30th of June with the theme "Restore us, O God of our salvation" Ps 85:4. Fr. Xavier VC, Fr. Paul CR, CSC, Fr. Arbok CSC and Fr. Lawrence Darlong were the main preachers of this Retreat. They all touched the hearts and minds of our forty youth

with their Sessions like, importance of the Word of God, Holy Eucharist and its meaning, importance of Confession and Youth and the Church. To make this Retreat livelier Mr. Rajiv from Moharpara added his melodious voice. The preaching, singing, praise and worship helped our Youth from the monotony and dryness of dead prayer. It also filled the hearts of our Youth with the wonderful music of worship. Our Youth are deeply grateful to all the preachers who touched their hearts.

Farewell and Welcome



Anyone who arrives has to leave because we are all pilgrims on a life journey. This earth is the place to do our work and move on. On 17th of June we bade farewell to Fr. Arun Minj SVD and also welcomed our new parish priest Fr. Valentine Dung Dung SVD to St. Alphonsa Church Khumulwng. The day we began with the Holy Eucharist presided by Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC and concelebrated by seven priests. During the Holy Eucharist there was Installation of the new parish priest, followed by a short cultural program. During the program our Bishop, the new parish priest and some leaders expressed their gratitude and love towards the old and the new parish priests. At the end Fr. Arun poured out his emotional sentiments of gratitude to the Khumulwng faithful. the program ended with the Agape.

Fr. Stany Pereira, SVD

KUMARGHAT PARISH Multiple celebrations on 3rd June



The Community of St. Paul Parish celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the Religious of Sr. Pushpa M.C today. Sr. Pushpa in her talked shared her experience with the people, how she had close relationship with St. Teresa

of Calcutta and how it had helped her to lead a fervent Religious Life during her 50 years in the Congregation. On the same day Sr. Ventura FS celebrated her Birthday with the Parishioners. Sr. Ventura was the Superior General of the Congregation of Fatima Sisters for 12 years. The Parish community wished her many more years of fruitful Ministry. Sr. Himani FS and Sr. Rahel FS were given Farewell. Sr. Himani worked as a Headmistress in the School and helped in the Parish. The Parish Community thanked her for the dedicated services to the parish. Sr. Rahel was also given a farewell. The parish was enriched by her ministry. The Parish warmly Welcomed Sr. Savita FS and Sr. Nijera FS and prayed for their new Ministry in the parish. *Fr. Arul, CSC*

MANDWI PARISH

Parish Feast with Mariam Procession and Retreat

On 27th May, Mary Help of Christians



celebrated the Parish feast with great enthusiasm and religious piety. Before the Parish Day celebration Catechist Anando, Sister Felisita FMA along with Fr. Hubert SDB, went to all the villages and catechized especially those who would receive first holy Communion and Confirmation. On 26th May, Marian Procession was held. Many people from different villages came and took part in the Procession. This shows how people love Mother Mary. 27th May was a memorable day for the people of this parish. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, presided over the Holy Eucharist. The Honorable Tribal Welfare Minister, Mr. Mevar Jamatia and the local MLA Mr. Birendra Debbarma, were present on this occasion. On this day 75 people received the Sacrament of Confirmation and 35 children received the first holy Communion. After the Holy Mass, we had a short and meaningful felicitation. It was a great day for all the people to come together and show their unity and brotherly love.

On 10th June, we had a one day Retreat conducted by the Family Mission from Kerala. Many people from different *mothas* came and experienced the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit. On all these occasions God showed his love for the people. The weather was very good. People really felt the blessings of God.

Sister Felisita Rynshon FMA

Annual Maria Mela



Ambassa, 10 June: The Annual 'Maria Mela' was organized in St. Paul Kachuchara Village for the Women of Ambassa Parish. More than 90 participants from different sub-stations of the Parish were represented. The programme had begun on 9th June with a candle light procession honoring Mother Mary. Children, young and old had joined in the long procession. They carried the statue of Mother Mary and with singing and Rosary they walked in the procession.

Later in the evening there was Bible Quiz competition.

On the following day, Fr. Ivan D' Silva, svd, the Parish Priest talked on 'Importance of Family Formation'. Some of the points highlighted are: "Family Prayer, Moral formation, Sacred Space, Domestic Church, Family Saint, Family Faith tradition and Family Visit". At the end of the Session Women made an Action Plan for the coming year, such as, Family Prayer, Bible reading, Family visits and help to the poor families. Dr. Asok Debbarma the Resource Person spoke on "Health & Hygiene". The local community organized the whole programme of accommodation and food. They too conducted few games for the Women after the Holy Mass. *News Desk, Ambassa*

JUST News Nuggets

JUST supports Storm and Flood affected People



On 29th May 2018, with financial support from Caritas India, Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) distributed Rs. 2,000/- each to the families fully affected by storm and flood and Rs. 1,000/- to the families partially affected. The support was given for 32 fully affected families and 42 partially affected at Belcherra Village under Khowai District, 16 families at Dumrakari, 15 families at Radhanagar and 2 families at Tamakari under West Tripura were also helped. On 30th May, 19 families from Nairengbari under Jirania

Subdivision, West Tripura, were given cash as relief. Again on 1st June 2018, 5 families fully affected and 26 partially affected at Dumrakairik, 2 families fully affected and 64 families partially affected at Radhanagar, 3 families partially affected at Tamakari and 4 fully affected and 1 family partially affected at Bodhjungle were given money support.

State Level Networking Meet with NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, and Opinion Leaders for Peace Building in Tripura



Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) organized a State level Networking Meeting with NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and opinion leaders for peace building in Tripura at JUST Hall, Agartala on 25th May 2018. The welcome address was given by Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD, Director of JUST. The Meeting was inaugurated by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro Bishop of Agartala, and Chairman of JUST and Caritas India. There were 14 NGOs who presented and introduced their organization during the Meeting. There were 3

external Observers for the Meeting, who gave back the feedback after the presentations. The 3 external Observers were Mr. Jaydip Chakraborty Junior Editor of Tripura Times, Prof. Dr. Sr. Marina B.S., of Holy Cross College Agartala and Prof. Dr. Vincent from Loyola College Chennai.

The participating NGOs have decided to extend Networking with more NGOs by forming Core Groups and to be effective agents in Tripura for peace building.

Mr. Cyril Darlong

Useful News Nuggets

Online Analytical tool to monitor foreign contributions under FCRA

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched an Online Analytical Tool to facilitate closer monitoring of the flow and utilization of foreign contributions received by various organizations registered or permitted under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010. This web-based Tool enables

decision-makers in various Departments of Government to scrutinize source of foreign funds and their actual use in India. It gives them capacity to take data-driven and evidence-based decisions regarding the compliance of the provisions of the FCRA, 2010. It has analytical features to conduct big data mining and data exploration. Its dashboard will be integrated with the bank accounts of the FCRA-registered entities through the Public Financial Management System for updation of transactional data

on a real-time basis. Each FCRA-NGO conducts multiple financial transactions in receiving and spending the foreign contribution. Therefore, there are hundreds of thousands of such transactions annually which can be monitored effectively through this tool. It will, therefore, help the stakeholders in Government to better regulate acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions. (CNUA)

Vatican News Nuggets

Singapore summit is truly historic say Korea Nuncio

The Apostolic Nuncio to Korea and Mongolia, Archbishop Alfred Xuereb hailed June twelfth's "truly historic" summit between the Leaders of the U.S. and North Korea, saying the Church is "full of hope and confidence" but warning we're still at the beginning of a long process. Speaking from Seoul in an interview with Vatican News, Archbishop Xuereb said that the Korean people and the local Church had been anxiously awaiting "these truly historic events." He described the summit as "marking an important page at the beginning of a long and arduous road" (towards peace).

At the same time, said Archbishop Xuereb, "we are hopeful because this beginning was very positive, very good" and we've moved from rhetoric and words like "fire and fury" and "the complete devastation of North Korea" to more conciliatory words that speak about peace. He also said the Catholic Bishops of Korea have proposed a novena from the 17th to the 25th of June to pray for peace, reconciliation and unity on the Korean peninsula. (Vatican News)

Musical celebrates saint who made China his home

SVD missionary St. Joseph Freinademetz believed 'love is the only language that everyone understands'. The Society of the Divine Word has made a musical about St. Joseph Freinademetz to reflect the spirit of his mission in China. This year marks the 15th anniversary of his canonization while next year will be the 140th anniversary of his mission. The musical was staged in Putonghua at St. Margaret's Church of Happy Valley of Hong Kong in April. Rev. Joseph Tan Lei Tao, the producer, told ucanews.com that the musical reflected the saint's fire and his primary conviction that "love is the only language that everyone understands." St. Freinademetz was born in 1852 in Badia, then part of Austria but now in Italy, and was ordained in 1875. He was assigned to the community of San Martin de Tor, not far from his home. During three years in San Martino, he always felt a calling to be a missionary, and in 1878, with the permission of his parents and his bishop, he moved to the Society of the Divine Word, where he received training as a missionary. In 1879, he and friend

Johann Baptist von Anzer boarded a ship to Hong Kong, where he arrived five weeks later. Ngan Lai Nor, director and screenwriter of the musical, told ucanews.com that St. Freinademetz wrote a letter to his congregation in Europe describing those days on the ship as very lonely. Rev. Tan said St. Freinademetz was based in Sai Kung until 1880 and set up a chapel on the island of Yim Tin Tsai in 1879. "He learned Cantonese and Hakka dialects and dressed like a Chinese with a long beard and shaved his head with a braid behind," he said. In 1908, there was an outbreak of typhus, and he helped wherever he could until he himself became infected and died at the age of 56 in south Shandong, where he was buried. Rev. Tan said: "Modern people have shied away from suffering, but Freinademetz was not afraid. He left his comfort zone, made many sacrifices and came to an unfamiliar country to preach. This missionary fire is out of love." St. Freinademetz was beatified by Pope Paul VI in 1975 and declared a saint by St. Pope John Paul II on Oct. 5, 2003. Ucanews.com

Our Readers Write

Thank you for your bulletin. It is really good and a lot of information also is available. Thank you. *Pius Thuruthiyil cmf, Shillong*

Thank you for promptly delivering the link to the inbox every 1st of the month. I am so glad to hear all the new from your part of the world. The story of the frog is indeed novel and communicates a powerful message. Thank you. *Biju Kavukatt Kozhikode, Kerala*

I appreciate the regularity of the LINK that reaches me on the first day of every month without fail. Special thanks to the Office bearers of LINK. *OJ Varghese, Karur, TN*

Our Distinguished Visitors

- **Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, SVD Provincial from Guwahati**
- **Fr. Augustine, SVD, from Guwahati**
- **Bishop George Palliparambil, SDB, from Miao Diocese**
- **Fr. Paul Lyngot, SDB, Provincial from Shillong**
- **Sr. Bindu Thomas, MSMHC, from Lesotho Africa**
- **Fr. Gaffney, CSC, Vice Chancellor of NDU Dhaka**
- **Fr. Roy, MSFS, from Nagaland**
- **Mr. Jojo Mathew, ALS-IAS from Delhi**
- **Sr. Archana, IBVM, Principal from Loretto Delhi**

Bishop's Program for July 2018

- 01: Parish Feast, Kumarghat
- 03: Consultors Meet, Agartala
Clergy Meet, Agartala
- 08: Parish Pastoral Program, Nandanagar
- 09: Academic Year inaugural, Nogaon
- 10: NEDSSS AGBM, Guwahati
- 12: SAMS Academic Inaugural, Bodhjunnagar
- 14: ADPC Meet, Agartala
- 15: Dhupcherra *mondoli*, under Mariamnagar Parish
- 16: Bethany Foundation Day, Agartala
- 22: Confirmation at Thaionkapara *mondoli* under Depacherra Parish
- 28: St. Mary's Hostel, Champaknagar
- 29: Parish Feast, Khumulwng